FAITHAND ICTORY

Church of God Servant

Unto <u>Him</u> shall the gathering of the people be.

God Is Love

YE SHINE AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD. Jesus Saves

The night cometh, when no man can work.

Volume 78, No. 7

78th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

\$3.00 Per Year

Nov., 2000

WAITING ABOVE

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

Waiting above, our loving Lord and Master Yearns for His saints to come and be with Him, Reigning in love o'er sorrow and disaster: All that we suffer through earth's shadows dim.

Ages have passed since upward He ascended, O'er death and sin a Victor'er to reign, Throughout the years with heaven's glory blended, There interceding for our tears and pain.

Down here below the world is ever churning In its pursuit of pride and vanity; Error and darkness ev'rywhere is turning Men from the truth to more iniquity.

Still Jesus waits in Heaven, longing, yearning 'Til at His Father's Word He will descend, For His true saints whose hearts within are burning Looking for Him, their Saviour, Lord, and Friend.

Contents

Purity of the Mind	З
Editorials	4
Prayer Requests	5
Meeting Reports and Notices	6
Letters from the Readers	7
Foreign Mission Reports	10
Obituaries	11
What if You Meet Them Again?	13
An Attitude of Gratitude	14
Question and Answer	15
Window to the Past	16

From Him proceeds the Father's wondrous Promise, His Holy Spirit, Comforter, and Guide, Giving us pow'r to live and be His witness,— In life's dark hours He's ever at our side.

Vain is the world, its riches, lust, and pleasure: All of its boast, its pomp, and outward show; Only in Christ is found the real treasure; In Him the only safety we can know.

Soon He will come, we know not of the hour, Come to receive His Bride forevermore And to bring judgment by His holy power On the unjust who would not Him adore.

Let us be true, not by the world distracted, Always in pray'r that we might worthy be, And to escape this sinful world's destruction, So we can stand before Him faithfully.

We who are risen with Him in salvation:
Oh, let us seek those things which are above;
Our joy and hope hold fast 'mid tribulation
'Til that great dawn shall break in endless love.

We desire to set forth some wonderful truths from the Scriptures concerning our Lord Jesus Christ who is now in the heavens, interceding for us at the right hand of the Father and yearning for the time when He will come to take us away to be with Him forever.

An important prophecy of this is found in Psalm 110:1, which reads: "The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool."

The first Lord is Jehovah, the eternal Self-Existent One, the Father. The second Lord is His Son Jesus Christ whom He made Lord of all. The Lord God Jehovah said unto our Lord Jesus

"It has been a long wait."

Christ, "Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool."

Now the New Testament writers are very explicit with this scripture. Hebrews 10:12-13 speaks of Christ, saying, "This man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool."

Ephesians 1:19-22 speaks of the "Working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come; And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church."

When God raised up Jesus from the tomb, it was in His plan, not to have Jesus to operate and work in a visible way on earth, but to be transported to the heavens above, out of human sight. There He must tarry and wait until the heavenly Father would decide when to finish the work of salvation and gather His holy bride, the Church of God, the holy and redeemed of all ages, unto Himself forever.

While at this exalted position at the right hand of God in the heavenly places, Christ fills the office of an intercessor or High Priest for those who are on earth.

The 4th verse of this 110th Psalm expresses it thus: "The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek." Romans 8:34 says, "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." Hebrews 7:24-26 likewise declares: "But this man (Christ), because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became (was made fit and proper and qualified for) us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens."

The writer in Hebrews speaks at large con-

cerning this thought of Christ being at the right hand of God. In fact, it is the main theme of the whole book. He used the type brought out in the High Priest's yearly entrance into the Most Holy Place of the Jewish tabernacle with blood for the atonement of the sins of the people. This was a type or a figure of Jesus entering into the heavens after offering Himself as a sacrifice, spilling His blood as an atonement for sins forever. He says in Heb. 9:11-12, "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." Praise His precious Name! Further on in verse 24 he said, "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us."

So we see from all of this that Christ is in heaven at this time, still interceding for us here in this world, and still waiting and yearning for the time when the Father will decree that He should come in power and glory to destroy the world, bring judgment to the ungodly, and to receive the saints of His love to be with Him forever.

It has been a long wait. Christ loves His holy people who give up all the world to follow Him. He yearns to come and be united with them, His holy bride. But He tarries in submission to the Father's will. It is all up to the Father when the time will be.

In Mark 13:32 it is recorded that Jesus said, "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father." It is all in the decision of the Almighty Father as to when that great day will be, and the Son submissively awaits His decree.

From His exalted throne in the heavens at the right hand of God, Jesus pours out His Holy Spirit upon His saints. All who cleanse themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God, can receive the fulness of this blessed Holy Spirit. Peter said concerning this Holy Spirit in Acts 2:33: "Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear."

Ten days after Jesus had passed from human sight and ascended up into the heavens, He sent the Holy Spirit upon the one hundred and twenty saints who were gathered in prayer and supplication waiting for the promise of the Father to come.

In Acts 3:19-21 Peter told the people who were in wonder about the lame man healed. "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive (or contain and hold) until the times of restitution of all things." This refreshing comes in the Holy Spirit, and, the Lord Jesus, who was preached unto them, comes in the person of the Holy Spirit to bless and refresh and preserve their souls. Oh, how wonderful it is to experience the fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit as we look up to our wonderful Lord and Saviour who is appearing in the presence of God for us!

In conclusion with this wonderful lesson, let us consider what the beloved apostle Paul said in Colossians 3:1-4: "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life. shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." Oh, how we need to guard our affections and keep them centered on our blessed Saviour who sits on the right hand of God! We must live a spiritual life with our hearts and minds and interests in heaven. Paul said in Philippians 3:20-21, "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." The word "conversation" in the Greek means "citizenship." This means that our commonwealth, our possessions, our real joys and treasures are in heaven. This physical, this earthly, this material realm has faded from our affections and joys. We are but pilgrims and strangers here, having here no continuing city, but we seek for one to come. Let us be diligent to keep our hearts centered on Christ.

The time is drawing near. Soon He will receive the signal and decree from the Father to descend from Heaven with a shout and receive His holy Bride. May we all be diligent and watchful in all holy conversation and godliness, and be found of Him in peace.

Purity Of The Mind

Many people seem to have difficulty in keeping their thoughts pure and their minds free from things they know are not according to the life of a Christian. If we closely follow the Word of God on this, as well as on other lines, we will have no trouble whatever. We are told to "gird up the loins of our mind." We can have the master over them if we just will. It depends much on what we permit our minds to feed and dwell upon. We will always have pure, holy and good thoughts and our mind will be pure and stayed on God and heavenly things if we obey the injunction in Phil. 4:8, "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Why allow our minds to dwell on impure or unholy things when there are so many good things of which to think?

If we would keep the loins of our minds girded up

and, as an impure or unholy thought comes, banish it at once, there would be no crop of impure thoughts, for the soil of our minds would be continually kept pure. Nor should we listen to impure or unholy language, for it will make a greater or less impression on our minds that will have a reflection, and often when we want our minds for clean, pure thoughts, the enemy will try to bring these things to us to scatter and hinder the pure, holy thoughts we want for our profit. Neither should we indulge in, nor listen to impure and unprofitable stories or gossip. All these things have their influence, and the reflection on the soul and spiritual life is harmful.

Let us guard our thoughts as well as our words. Let every thought be so pure that we would not be ashamed to have it written out that all might see it. This is not impossible, for He whom we serve has promised that every thought shall be brought into subjection to the obedience of Christ. (II Cor. 10:5.)

—J. M. Byers

FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend camp meetings), by Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044 (USPS184-660).

(Periodical postage paid at Guthrie, OK)

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation						
1. Published t	-		1104 - 660	1		
Paich &	٧1	ctory	<u> </u>	9/28/00		
	-		11	\$3.00/Year		
7.Commit	블	scapt August) Agence d Rodon Clima d Publishing (Street		Wayne Murphey		
Paith Publishing House, Inc.				Templants		
Cuthrie.	Ľ	OUAN COUNTY OK 73044 Asten d Hastpains & Green Barrers Chip of P	Active designation	(405) 282-1479		
T Company	-	. و جدب موسو سندور ب استطالها ب سارایه				
Same as line #7						
& fur homes	-	Complete Starting Addresses of Publisher, College and Manage	gay (see) (to pay him a steel)			
Principal fraction and analysis analysis and analysis ana						
Same as line #7						
The state of the s						
Wayne Murphey Faith Publishing House, Inc., 4318 S. Division, Guthris OK 73044						
Paith Po	ιbì	ishing House, Inc., 4318 S. E	ivision, Gothfie Ox	73044		
Same 61						
-	-	need black. If the publishers to control by a comparison, or		o providently influence by the set by a companion, part for and appeared by sent to make of		
** ****	3		and the second section of the second	and address on section made of		
Part America	_		Company Melling Address			
	.bl	ishing Nouse, Inc.	4318 S. Division, Guthris OK 73044			
	_					
	_					
	_					
11. Names Barr		ne, languages, and Other Secondy Printed Charley of and these of Texas Assessed of Second, Interpretation, or				
Con Sens	•	e or team of these American of Service, Management, or A communication	Complete Staffing Address			

(This is	۰.	non-stock, non-profit, relig	loue and charitable c	orporation.)		
		•				
13. You former plan conjugates by interpreted augmentations of constant of the control of control (Charles and Charles). And conjugates control of the conjugates conjugates control of the conjugates conj						
G Has had	ö	agus During Proceeding 13 Mileston Burken Proceeding 13 Mileston Burken Proceeding 12 Mileston (Publisher Wood Andrews Co.)		-		
		Extent prof Hotors of Caradillan	Average He. Copies Bank house During Presenting 12 Months	tto. Coping of Sings isone Published Inseres to Filing Cale		
s Tourne		1 Copus perpess and	2977	2926		
	tti	Particular County and Describe Particular Pa	2620	2571		
	B	Pero Shit, disabet education's past and adheren expensive for Charles Statements Statement and Pero Statements	49	·51		
		Salari Tirongh Contact and Contact, Street Version, Constitution, and Color Han-1887 S. Pall Charleson.	,			
		Court Country Strates Through the USEFE	12	8		
* June 1981 4	'n	Response Commission (Authority)	2681	2630		
Afres .		Quantity Charty on States on Form 2011				
		In County on States on Facts 8841				
27.20			9			
ARM HOLD		Other Circum Middel Through the VOPA	. 0	<u> </u>		
Free Dantille (Contract or	=	Charles to tital '		39		
Tent Proc Dustrians (But of 10% and 10%)			48	39		
Tani Dankadan (from of 16st and 16g)						
* Copus and Durchand			2729	2669		
Company of Company				259		
Sees plant of the and his			2977	2928		
Party Par (18s. declar	7	ter Amparitet Citydrige No. Amparitet Manaret al Communica	1005	1003		
C Samuel and Williams and the country of the countr						
Wayne S. Murphy - Publisher 9/29/00						

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 518, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044 Office phone numbers: 405-282-1479, 800-767-1479; fax number: 405-282-6318; home phone: 405-282-6170. Internet address: http://www.faithpublishing.com

Postmaster: Please send address corrections to: Faith Publishing House, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044.



Have you ever wondered what attraction is offered in idol worship? It seems pointless to the place of embarrassment for enlightened people to bow before wood and stone. But there must be some type of consolation in it. The payoff which Satan offers for reverence to earthly substance rather than God, is the feeling of security. Security is such a premium in this shifting world that people are willing to trade things of eternal value in order to obtain it.

The abortion pill, RU 486, which the Federal Food and Drug Administration recently approved for sale in the U. S., offers a feeling of security—the immunity of avoiding responsibility for acts committed. The President's administration backed the decision to legalize the substance, and abortion rights supporters celebrated it as a long sought victory. Perhaps to some the decision was just another national news story, but when reading in news articles the words "historic moment" and "milestone," you realize just how big of a god it has become in the hearts of certain people. In a sense, many have accepted, endorsed and offered obeisance to this abortifacient.

Perhaps its acceptance, if viewed in a generous light, could be attributed to a lack of understanding on the part of some, who fail to realize its horrible significance. But it is hard to allow that excuse in regard to the leaders of our nation. The criteria for leadership should be knowledge and enlightenment—a vision as to where to lead our nation in the people's best interest.

All around the world people hunger for good leaders, in churches, civic organizations, state and national offices. Which brings us to the question, "What is a good leader?"

We need look no further than the Bible and the example of God as leader, which was offered by the Psalmist David who said, "He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." Psa. 23:3. Where are the paths of righteousness? The 2nd verse of the Psalm explains it. "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters." Every good leader has the vision and ability to take his followers in the direction of prosperity and peace. A leader must know the way of righteousness himself in order to lead others to a place of tranquility.

If one is willing to face the truth, it must be admitted there is no tranquillity in the act of killing an infant. Besides destroying life, what are the results of abortion? Often it is confusion and guilt in the mind of the mother who killed her child. In fact, those who abort their babies often suffer severe psychological symptoms, technically termed, "Post Abortion Syndrome." Depression with crying, anger, problems with relationships, self-destructive behavior, eating disorders, feelings of emptiness and loss, flashbacks and nightmares—all are a price one pays. One woman, having aborted her child, said that every time she hears a baby cry, she thinks it is hers. Her conscience is laden with the burden of guilt.

These are facts we should expect our leaders to be aware of so the decisions they make will lead to a place of peace, not sorrow. Perhaps this is why the apostle Paul wrote in I Tim. 2:1,2 "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

We were deeply saddened to hear that on Oct. 15, Bro. Edward Davenport passed away. Bro. Davenport had a deep love for the Lord and served Him faithfully for many years. We will miss his cheerful presence. If you would like to send condolences to his wife, Sis. Olive Davenport, her address is: 1406 W. Trenton St., San Bernardino, CA 92411.

On Oct. 25, Bro. Michael Smith, his wife, Sis. René, and their two young sons, left from Will Rogers Airport in Oklahoma City on a missionary trip to Ghana, West Africa.

Sis. René plans to leave Ghana to return home with their two sons in early December, but Bro. Michael will travel on into Nigeria to meet the saints there and attend the Church convention in Asana, on Dec. 14-17. After the convention, Bro. Michael will return home.

Let us join our prayers together for this

family's safety, the Lord's blessing on their labors, and the progress of God's Kingdom in Africa.

We recently received a shipment of 10,000 pounds of paper from our paper supply company. The purchase of this quantity of paper is a necessary expense in order to keep the Gospel going out in printed form. It is one which would not be possible without the support of those who take an interest in this work. We appreciate so much all who have sustained the efforts here with prayer and means. Your letters of encouragement are a blessing. It is the pleasure of all who work at the Print Shop to dedicate ourselves to the worthy cause of spreading a message which will change lives. May God bless each of you, and if in any way we can be of service, please let us know.

Yours for Christ, -Bro. Wayne Murphey



Al—"I have back problems and am in pain most of the time." —Sis. Jeanette Mooney

FL—"I have an unspoken request for which I am looking to the Lord to help."

—Sis. Marilyn Evans

CA—"I have cancer. Pray for me, please."

-Sis. Hattie Singleton

MO—"My eyes have glaucoma in them and it is getting difficult for me to read. Please pray that the Lord will touch my eyes."

—Sis. Laura Jarvis

FL—"Some of you (ones we knew and corresponded with last year) may remember our emailing for prayer last October when the father of two friends we work with had a motorcycle accident. The man eventually died and the family was left devastated. Late last night we received a phone call from the same family telling us their mother was in a serious motorcycle accident late yesterday evening and is in the hospital unconscious, unable to breathe on her own, with brain injury. They operated on

her last night and she is in much need of prayer this morning. We told them we would again pass along this prayer request. It will be one year October 22nd since their father's accident. They are very upset and traumatized, to say the least. Their mother's name is Carmen Pollard. We are not sure of her spiritual condition, but this family surely needs prayer. Thank you."

—Kevin and Cheryl Smith NY—Pray for Dave and Wendy Hoag whose three-year-old son drowned in a pond.

OK—Pray for the family of Larry Eck, the son of the late Bro. Waldo and Sis. Beatrice Eck. Larry passed away October 25.

MO—Katryna Simmons has a serious case of scoliosis and needs prayer.

Standing Prayer Requests

Sis. Lydia Bennett Sis. Alscene Breckenridge Bro. Jon Busbee Sis. Mamie Butcher Bro. Nathan Carver Sis. Estelene Cramer Bro. Daniel Davis, Jr. Bro. Dale Doolittle Sis. Elaine Dunn Sis. Eleanor Fingerle Sis. Esther Gordon Bro. Huey Gordon, Jr. Bro. Ben Harrison Bro. Howard Hill Sis. Mary Hughes Sis. Janice Johnston Sis. Earnestine Jordan Sis. Helen Lambright Sis. Betty Lassché The Lounds sisters Sis. Mattie McIntyre Sis. Bertha Miles Sis. Virginia Myers Sis. Dollie O'Neall Bro. O. C. Porter Sis. Melba Powell Bro. John Robinson Sis. Rose Samons Sis. Myrtle Savoie Bro. Rudolf Schmidt Bro. M. Agenemoh Sidi Sis. Violet Sinkhorn Sis. Kay Stover The Mitch Taylor family Bro. Curtis Williams, Sr.

Bro. Max Williamson Sis. Esther Wilson

CASSETTE TAPE AVAILABLE

A ministry song tape entitled, "I'm Climbing the Ladder," sung by Bro. Jimmy and Sis. Mary McDonald is now available for sale. The cost of the tape is \$10.00, postpaid. Make check or money order payable to The Church of God Evening Light. The money will be used to complete the chapel in Alcoa, TN. Mail orders to: The Church of God Evening Light, 322 Lindsey St., Alcoa, TN 37701.

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

WICHITA, KS, MEETING REPORT

God is always faithful to His saints. He provided ministers to deliver the Word that He purposed during our fall meeting. His Word was used to remind us, stir up our pure minds and it caused us to examine ourselves. We thank God that He knows how to revive us. May we all profit by what we heard and move up a little higher.

We thank all who came to help in the meeting.
—Sis. Shirley Knight

FALL REVIVAL IN GREEN BANK, WV

The Church of God in Green Bank, WV, will be having revival services beginning Friday, November 10th, through Wednesday, November 15th. Services will be at 7:00 p.m. nightly. Bro. Ivan Eck will be holding the revival. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information call Bro. Toney Samons at (304)456-3017.

AKRON, OH, FALL REVIVAL

Our fall meeting date is November 14-19, with services running nightly at 7:00 p.m. Bro. Ed Wilson will be the evangelist. All are welcome. Please pray for our meeting if you cannot be present.

For further information, contact Bro. Keith Fuller at (330) 864-1128 for Bro. Clyde Cox at (330) 864-5798.

ASSEMBLY MEETING, LORANGER, LA

The meeting is to begin Wednesday night, November 22, 7:30 p.m. Services will be 10:30

a.m. and 7:30 p.m. daily through Sunday, November 26th.

Please pray with us that this opportunity will be anointed with God's presence. Come receive challenges and blessings.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Bring bed linens if possible. Power and water hookups are provided for those with campers. Meals will be served and expenses met by freewill offerings.

From Loranger, go two miles south and about three and one-half miles east on Hwy. 40.

For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about 10 miles east of the Tickfaw exit (take Hwy. 442 east which runs into Hwy. 40).

For more information write Nelson Doolittle: 51367 Narretto Rd., Loranger, LA 70446. Phone: (504) 878-6111. The chapel phone is: (504) 878-2788.

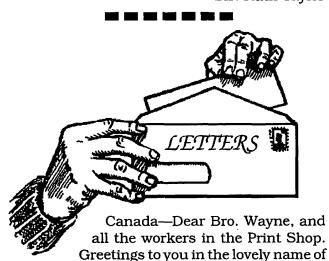
CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The annual California State Assembly Meeting at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA, will convene, Lord willing, Friday night, December 22 at 7:30 p.m. There will be three worship services daily, 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., commencing Saturday, December 23 and continuing through Sunday, December 31, 2000.

We expect another profitable meeting through your prayers and the support of all who can possibly attend.

For information or assistance, call Bro. Herbert Clay, (818) 897-1396, or the Sunset Guest Home, (818) 899-2022.

-Sis. Ruth Taylor



Jesus. He is faithful and will watch over us.

We are glad for the people of God. "Therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but

fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God." Ephesians 2:19. We will glorify His name as long as we live here in this world of sin; after that for ever and ever!

We hope and pray that the moving of all the machinery from the old to the new Print Shop went well, and you will have more and better room to work for the Lord now.

May God richly bless all of you at the Print Shop and the work you are doing to spread the dear Word of God.

-Bro. and Sis. George Schroeder

LA-Dear Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary: I have been asked if I really believe there is a God in heaven who sent Jesus of Nazareth to the earth many years ago to live and teach humanity, then suffer and die for the sins of all, be crucified, rise from the dead and then ascend unto the Father God. I've also been asked if I truly believe that the Holy Spirit Jesus promised to mankind is here to lead anyone who will follow Jesus to the best of his understanding and ability. As I answered, "Yes" to these questions it brought on another question more difficult to answer, which caused me to look deeper into myself. That is, "Why do you believe?" when, as one has expressed it, "...the whole world just seems to be spinning out of control." About the same time I was asked these questions, I read of a minister in Nigeria at an evangelistic conference who said something like this: "We are living in a generation when everything nailed down is coming loose." He was referring to the likeness of current conditions to those recorded in the book of Amos, in the Old Testament.

Saying that we believe the Bible was written by men inspired God sometimes is countered by the thought that even among the followers of Jesus there were real disagreements. But I am robbing myself if I stumble over that. The Old Testament scriptures tell us many times about how prophet after prophet was sent by God to warn the people against their sinful ways, and that if they would only obey they would be spared, yet they would not and the result was just as God's prophet said it would be.

One modern-day young man, who was intelligent, a college graduate, but rebellious, was finally won to the saving grace of Jesus Christ after he spent much time and money going overseas to the land where Jesus lived...all just to prove the Bible and the teachings about this Jesus were a myth. His name was Josh

McDowell. After much time he was so convinced, having done much research, finding historical evidence that the Bible is true, that he then began wanting to tell other youth. He began speaking at many universities of his struggle to find the truth, and that it was not really all the research that was the compelling evidence that changed him, but rather the saving grace of Jesus Christ. He was here not long ago at Louisiana State University, and I do pray someone was helped by his visit.

BUTWHY DO I REALLY, DEEP IN MY HEART, BELIEVE? It is because of a real change God has brought within me, something I could never bring without Him. I am sure He will yet have to be skimming off more dross, and the Scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments speak very plainly of what has to be done for me to be purified. It is a slow process, but I want it to be thorough. The message given to the rebellious children of Israel in Isaiah 1:25 was, "I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy sin:" so that message speaks to me today. And Proverbs 25:4 says, "Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer (refiner)." II Timothy 2:20-21 speaks of the different kinds of vessels, some to honor, some to dishonor. Malachi 3:2-3 asks important questions: "Who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver:..."

The "skimming" already done in my life has taken a long time, and I am sure there is yet more to come. I truly want to be open and ready for the Holy Spirit to show me the way. I am finding sometimes that the hard and hurtful things that are sure to come at some time or another, can be the very things we need to help us grow stronger. We can hurdle anything with God's presence and His help. There is no other way.

May God's blessings be upon you, and please pray for me.

—Gertrude Pickett

CA—Dear saints: Holy greetings. We thank the Lord for the peace and joy salvation gives us. Only in the Lord can this be found. We think of the time the seventy returned with joy because the devils were subject unto them. The Lord told them to rather rejoice because their names were written in heaven. Truly that is something worthy of our rejoicing.

We are still praising the Lord for His merciful kindness to us this past summer. While we were making preparation to visit relatives and friends, and attend the Monark Springs Camp Meeting, the Lord through His spirit, spoke the words, "In the hollow of His hand." I knew they were directly meant for my encouragement. What consolation and assurance it gave just to know that we would be safe in the hollow of His hand. What better place to be, what safety! The enemy cannot get to us as long as we remain there. God allows him to come just so close and no further. Praise the Lord.

Isaiah 40:12 tells of His majestic power. "Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?"

Who wouldn't feel safe dwelling in the hollow of a hand so majestic? Our desire is to remain there. Pray for us.

Christian love, —Sis. Olive A. Davenport

Washington D. C.—Dear brothers and sisters of Faith Publishing House: We enjoy the opportunity of reading the Faith and Victory....

Love, —Victor and Alice Phillips

KS—Dear ones: We are thankful for the *Bible Lessons* booklet and the *Faith and Victory* paper. We receive encouragement and good information from both pieces of literature.

We thank God for answered prayers, for the privilege of prayer and for all His blessings.

-Sis. Naomi Dickerson Hiebert

MO—Greetings dear saints: I write to you in the love of the Lord. Without Him nothing is possible. How thankful and humbled I am for His goodness to me. My desire is to serve the Lord faithfully and completely all the way. The trials and battles are still there, I just have a refuge and Savior now to lead me through. Thank you, God. As long as our eyes remain on the cross there is victory.

The scripture says, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20. Praise God we are never forsaken even though there are only a few. I would like to encourage anyone who can to visit the small congregations where those few are gathered. What a blessing it is when saints gather together to worship the Lord.

Webb City would like to send an invitation to all to join them in worship. Any minister or saint burdened for the work in Webb City is welcome to come whenever possible. We thank the Lord for the monthly burden He has given Bro. Gordon Humphrey and Bro. Ivan Eck.

We love the Lord, and pray He will open wide the doors and fill all the seats to overflowing in every house of God.

I am thankful for the precious, faithful saints at Webb City who have stood firm for so many years. They are such an encouragement to me.

Your sister in Christ, —Carol Stanley

ID—Thankyou for the book, Food For Lambs. When I ordered it I did not know how I would need it! My twelve-year-old son has gotten saved since then, and also my fifteen-year-old son who had backslidden. He went on to sanctification after the Lord used the book, The Redemption of Howard Gray, to show him how. (We taught him since childhood but it took a seeking heart and just the right words, plus the Lord revealing it to him.) He is thrilled to have the attractiveness of the world and its ways muted in his heart....

Sincerely, —Patricia Evans

Nigeria—Dear Bro. Wayne: Love and greetings in Jesus' dear name from me to you. I am writing to inform you that I arrived back in Lagos, Nigeria, October 5th. It was a very nice trip to the U. S., and I thank God for it. God answered prayer, so I give all glory to Him for all He has done.

I was happy in getting to have fellowship with the brethren in the Guthrie congregation. It was a real wonderful and blessed time in the presence of the Lord. I wish I had more Sundays to be there to continue to receive of Him in His presence, and to also attend the midweek services.

I will be traveling to Asana in a short while in order to get everything prepared for the convention. Bro. Michael Smith will be highly expected. Please pray for this event.

Once again, thank you for everything you did. May God bless and reward you real good.

Yours in Him, —Bro. Anietie Essien

GA—Dear friends: I just read a tract, A True Story, about a girl that passed away of a broken heart which was brought on by the separation of her parents.

Please send me some copies of this tract and any others you may have. Also, send me the paper, Faith and Victory.

Nineteen months ago I dedicated my life to the Lord. I serve Him with all my heart.

It's my goal to witness to people and to share my faith in Jesus Christ.

I had lived a life of sin and I completely ruined my life. I was near death. God reached down and picked me up and saved me. Now each day I humbly serve Him as I wait in hope of eternal life.

Thank you very much, and may God bless you, —Michael Irick

OH—Dear Bro. Murphey: Thank you so much for sending me the *Faith and Victory* paper. I have really enjoyed it down through the years and I still enjoy it very much. I am sure that God will continue to bless you and the workers there at the Print Shop for your labor of love.

I am still praying for all of us day and night. Please continue to pray for me and all my loved ones.

With much love, —Sis. Janice A. Shaw

KY—Greetings in Jesus' name: I trust this finds all my brothers and sisters in the Lord with victory.

I am happy to report that I am still on the winning side, praise God. I am also rejoicing that I was able to be in two meetings—one in Duncannon, PA, and the other in Danville, KY, where Sis. Angela Gellenbeck is pastor. I got to meet some more of my brothers and sisters at both meetings. Oh what a blessing it is to be with God's dear people. I am so happy to be in the Church of the living God. I wandered in the wilderness for years, but thanks be to the faithfulness of the Holy Spirit, He brought me out. I am at home with the family of God. Praise be to my heavenly Father. I have no desire to be anywhere else.

I was meditating recently and this thought came to me. If we leave God's Church and go out and start another, it would be like leaving our Christian family to start another one. That is what the world is doing with marriage and God is not in it. He purchased the Church (His Church) with His precious blood. (Acts 20:28.) He is the head of the Church that He purchased. Now the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the Church. (Ephesians 5:23.) If

there are two heads trying to rule the home there will be confusion, the same as the Church having two heads. I tell you, it won't work. God is not in confusion.

I know I have brothers and sisters in the wilderness, just like I was, but thanks be to my merciful God, He called me out and I am out to stay with my family. He is wanting to call others out too. (II Corinthians 6:14-18.)

Pray for God's work in Garrison, KY. He surely is blessing us here. I have some precious souls I desire prayer for.

Yours in His services, —Sis. Mary Hughes

LA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in Jesus. I was saddened to read of Bro. Kimble's death. The Church will miss him. He was so active in the work of the Lord.

I was sad, too, to hear of the saints' losses in the fire, but very thankful that it was no worse. I had received a call the night of the fire and did much praying for the saints and the Publishing office, that God would spare them. We lost our home and car and almost everything we had in a fire thirty-five years ago, so I know what it's like....

We have met an eighty-four-year-old lady who has trusted the Lord all of her life. She is very ill and needs special prayer.

In Christ's love, —Sis. Sybil Goldsberry

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus, to whom we bow the knee.

I don't know whether I mentioned that I had a heart attack about two months prior to my wife's death. I have received all kinds of advice, but the only thing that I have changed is what I eat, and how much I eat. Except for an occasional physical reminder, and limited walking ability, I feel very well....

Keep up the good work. I enjoy the Faith and Victory and the Bible Lessons. I pray daily for you and your helpers.

Grace be with you and your staff. Christian love.

-Your brother. Bob Mickelson

OK—Dear Bro. Wayne and all co-workers: Greetings of Christian love. I trust everything is going well at the Print Shop and all the workers are encouraged.

Find enclosed a check in memory of my dear mother and dear Bro. Fred Pruitt's birthday, both of which were on October 4th. My mother was born October 4, 1874. When we were raising our family and money was scarce, we would sometimes send Bro. Fred a little birthday offering. Real quick we would get a thank you letter telling us what he had done with the money. He usually bought gas and went somewhere and preached. It is sad we don't have more people like Bro. Fred.

Christian love, —Sis. Margie Wall

OK—Dear friends: We would like to give you a report on our grandson, Garrison Miles. He had open heart surgery in July to repair a hole in the wall (septum) between the top two chambers of the heart (atria). When they did the operation they found he didn't even have a septum at all. He had a three-chamber heart. They were able to take part of the sac around the heart and make him a wall and more veins to put in a septum. God sustained him through surgery and he made an amazing recovery. He has just been given the clearance to resume riding his bike and other activities.

We want to thank God and you dear friends and relatives who stood by him with your concern and prayers. God truly did "abundantly more than we could ask or think."

Love and prayers,

-Carl and Berniece Miles

MISSION REPORTS



From India...

September 19, 2000—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings to you again in the glorious name of Jesus. We thank God for His protection and provisions towards His children.

Our Onam Festival holidays were last week and we conducted special meetings in five places—at Karickom, Vilayanthur, Kalayapuram, Thrikkannamangal and Nadukkunnu. On September 13th, we conducted a special meeting for our young people at Thrissur. About 200 young people attended this meeting.

Please continue to remember us and our needs in your prayers.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

Kwale, Nigeria...

September 12, 2000—Greetings in the dear name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The congregation of the Church of God in Kwale has been experiencing shockingly sudden deaths of some of the saints since this year of 2000. The first was Bro. Godwin Enu, followed by Sis. Kate Enu, the last born daughter of Bro. Titus Enu. Two faithful sisters were next, Thereza Nwaikwu and Comfort Esumei.

The congregation is quite intact since the death of our beloved elder, Bro. Titus U. E. Enu. The gospel work is moving fine, and God is adding to the Church in a very big way by His grace.

Kwale is the largest of all the Church of God congregations in Nigeria, and a mother congregation to nine congregations within Delta State. We are still receiving a call from many towns within the State to come and evangelize their area.

We have been, and will continue to pray unto God for provision for the Lord's work to be carried out effectively for the interest of souls here, and according to the divine appointment He gave unto us. (Acts 26:16-18.)

Fäithfully yours in Him,

-Pastor, Felix M. O. Ezelie



February 14, 1904 in Anderson, SC, a baby girl was born to Bennie and Janie Hamilton. They named her **Pauline**. She was the third child of six, four of which have preceded her in death.

Thus began the life of Pauline. The family moved to Oklahoma in 1906, to Tulsa and then to Tullahassee in 1910. She received her education at Davis School and University.

Pauline married at an early age and was the mother of two sons. Her husband and sons preceded her in death.

Even though she was raised in a Christian home and learned to respect the saints, Sis. Pauline came to the Lord later in life. It seems she wanted to get it right. She had a love for the Lord's people, especially the ministry. She loved to come to church and go to camp meetings. She always wanted to know when and where the next camp meeting was.

She departed her life on earth August 20, 2000.

She leaves to cherish her memory, one sister, Bessie Mann, and a host of nieces, nephews, saints and friends.

Pauline's eulogy was given by Bro. Cleophus Jordon. Burial was in the Pleasant Grove Cemetery, Tullahassee, OK.

Louis Kimble was the 8th child born out of love to the late William Kimble and Lorena Jennings Kimble, February 9, 1948, in Independence, LA. He departed this life on September 13, 2000.

Louis was educated in the Tangipahoa Parish public schools. He attended Hammond High School, formerly known as Greenville Park High School. After high school, at the age of 18, Louis traveled to New Orleans where he met and married his soul mate for life, Diane Oscar Kimble. Together they had four children: Reginald Lee, Shawn O' Quinn, Louis Jr., and Joy Monique.

Louis was a good provider for his family when he came to Kenner, LA; he worked at John Paul Caterers with his love for cooking. He later worked for T. L. James Paving Co. He became a mason of cement out of Local 567 before starting his own business.

As a child in Hammond, LA, Louis had an experience that impacted him and set the course for the rest of his life. At the age of nine, he had an earache and two Church of God ministers, Bro. Pinkerton and Bro. Salvatore, came and prayed for his healing. The Lord healed him. Louis grew up and went out into the world, but that experience never left him. Conviction seized his spirit in 1976, and he turned to the Lord, surrendered his life, and trusted the Lord to be

his Savior, Sanctifier, Healer and Keeper for the rest of his life.

In 1978 he was called to the ministry and labored faithfully in that capacity the rest of his life. Through his labors, the Lord raised up works in New Orleans, LA, and Water Valley, MS. He pastored both congregations, also oversaw the work in Tuscaloosa, AL, and was a Church of God evangelist on demand across the country. In the early 1980's, he with Sis. Sanders, Bro. Hargrave, Sis. Fuller and others, formed a missionary team to work in Honduras, Central America, where he pastored the Politilly congregation until his death. Only recently, in his weakened condition, he revived the tent missionary work and was involved with it until his illness prevented him. Having a love for young people he supervised the annual Church of God Youth Roundup, which he was instrumental in founding.

"Uncle Louis," as he was affectionately called, was a man who intensely loved all people, especially young people. One sterling, Godgiven ability he possessed was giving. He helped people to the point of self-sacrifice and personal loss. He loved to cook and no one around him was going to go away without eating a homecooked meal, especially his famous beans and rice. His home was opened to all; he and Sis. Diane took in many people through the years, and sacrificed their own comforts to make others comfortable. Louis had charisma and was able to relate to all people regardless of their station in life.

Louis loved life with intensity. For many years he ran his own concrete business, K&J Contractors. He loved his work and was no stranger at all to hard work. He had a leisure side, too. Being a true Louisianan, he loved fishing, shrimping and hunting.

Louis loved his wife and his family. He knew how to court his wife and taught us to court our wives and shower them with love. Louis loved music, especially singing. He was a member of singing groups over the course of his early life and sang in the church in his latter life.

Finally, he loved Jesus best. His favorite song during his illness was "O Lord, I'm Trusting You." This song characterized his life and his death. His resolve to live was very strong; he wanted to stay here for the work of God, his family, the saints and his friends. But God wanted him. Near the end when he realized that his earthly work was done, he asked us to

release him. He released our hands, put his hand in Jesus and took the final journey. He fought a good fight. He finished his course and he kept the faith. He now has his crown of life.

Preceding him in death are his parents, William and Lorena Kimble, and one sister, Marie.

Louis leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife. Diane: his sons. Reginald (Demonica) of St. Rose, LA; Shawn of Atlanta, GA, Louis, Jr., and his darling daughter, Joy Monique, both of Kenner, LA; mother-in-law, Gloria Bell, Chicago, IL; grandchildren, Angel, Nita, Reginald Jr., Mia, Ashley, Josiah, Da-Juan, Jeremy, Briante, Rashawn and Zacharias; brothers, Neil (Natha) Kimble of San Francisco, CA; Leon (Annie-Bell) Kimble of Vinton, LA; Ernest (Patricia) Kimble of LaPlace, LA; Charles Kimble of Hammond, LA; Thomas Kimble of Sacramento, CA; sisters, Dorothy (Louis Jr.) Scott of Hammond, LA: Bobbie Dean Smith of Sacramento, CA; Rose (Chocolate) Dunn of Independence, LA; brothers-in-laws, Henry Johnson, Edward Gray, James Hardy, Rodney, Leroy, Leon, Stephan and Renard Richardson; sisters-in-law, Ethel West, Debra Jackson, Wanda Carter, Gwendolyn Williams, Letha Richardson and Alvanette Trepagnier; god-children, Terri Eugene, Dongerial Sarah, Ronnie Landfair, Dianne Fuller, Charles Fuller, Sherol Miles, Quiniece Moore, Ladell Bingmon, Jennifer Pomerlee, Annetta Pierro, Louis Scott, David, Rachel, Jeremy, Michael and Hershel Hargrave, Crystal Johnson, Juanita Jasmine, Glenda McPhail, Lanita Hicks and Aaron (Tubb) Adams.

Funeral services were held in the Pilgrim Baptist Church, Kenner, LA, on September 22, 2000, officiated by Bro. Keith Fuller and assisted by other ministers. Burial was in the Bellgrove Cemetery, Kenner, LA.

Thank You

To my dear family—the saints: Please accept this letter as a heartfelt expression of my gratitude to you.

I have witnessed I Corinthians 12:26, "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it;..." during my husband's illness and home-going. Your concern shown by way of flowers, cards and letters, phone calls, visits, offerings and food helped me to really feel a part of this family, the family of God. Your spiritual care, fasting and praying for Louis, myself and

our home, means more to me than words can express.

I realize a great void has been left since Louis' home-going, I desire a continued spiritual support from each of you as I endeavor to be true to God. Again, thank you each one! May the blessings of God richly rest on you because of your willingness to show love to us (me) during this difficult time. God is my strength, because of your support and prayers.

Your sister in Christ, —Sis. Diane Kimble

What If You Meet Them Again? By Mary Murphey

I paused to count my cash one day before entering the drive of a fast food restaurant. As I glanced through my purse, I was startled by a motorist who zoomed around my vehicle and crammed his car into the space just ahead of me.

It wasn't that I minded him going first. It was the way he went about it!

I wondered if he would have acted so rudely had we met inside the restaurant. Would he have cut in line with the same disregard? I doubt it. Meeting head on, with no "insulation" between, tends to make us remember our manners. It's harder to be obnoxious face to face than when shielded in the steel cocoon of a car.

Cars are not the only buffers for enabling bad behavior. Distance is another. It's easier to "speak one's mind" to someone in a letter or over the phone than it is to unload on a person who is present. Most people who have been taught any manners at all are a trifle reluctant to be nasty and be seen at the same time. But let a little distance come between and restraint diminishes.

Ever felt like firing off an irate letter to your congressman? Maybe you were disgruntled over a political decision and wanted to file a passionate protest. In our representative form of government we have a right to voice our opinions, and should, but in what manner? How about with the courtesy we would like to be shown if filling the role of public servant?

Did you ever consider what might happen if you met someone face to face after insulting him from a distance? Just suppose the occasion arose when you needed that person's assistance? How awkward it would be to have to clamber over the barrier of shame that bad behavior had built!

I like a quote from Ari Kiev, who said, "If you wish others to respect you, show respect for them...,approach everyone you meet, irrespective of his station in life, as if he or she were the most important person in the world...." Who knows, they may be, especially if you meet them again.

Why not consider each encounter with others as an opportunity—an occasion to build positive relationships by treating people with regard? That's what we're supposed to do in a civilized society. And if we find ourselves facing those folks in the future, we'll be glad then that we treated them with respect.

Remembering that God is watching our behavior is another mighty motive for minding our manners. We're scheduled to meet Him face to face one of these days, and I sure do want a good report card for conduct. Even in drive through situations. Don't you?



An Attitude of Gratitude

By Sis. Connie Sorrell



A grateful heart is beautiful to the Lord. In His Word He tells us to pray and let our requests be made known with thanksgiving. (Philippians 4:6.)

Through praise and thanksgiving, David captured the attention of God. Take any Psalm he wrote and see how he honored the Lord. In Psalm 28:7 we read, "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him."

David knew this secret: that the Lord enjoys helping those who rejoice in Him. Victory is won in the heat of a trial when we can rejoice in the Lord's help. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." (Psalm 34:19.) Rejoice in the deliverance the Lord provides!

When the Lord is honored in our hearts, our lips will portray that reverence. The names of our Lord God, Jehovah, and His Son, Jesus Christ, should only be spoken in prayer or in praise. Never as a byword.

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." (Exodus 20:7.)

According to this third commandment, to abuse the name of God is sinful and shows terrible disrespect and ungratefulness to the Lord. It will bring punishment at the final judgment.

Divine wisdom will teach Christians the proper manner in which to speak the Lord's name.

"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name." (Malachi 3:16.) We are to think upon the Lord's name with Godly fear.

Our practice should be to find happenings in daily life that bring a word of thanks. When a person appreciates life, his own and that of others, his attitude will confess it. He will be careful not to offend others, especially our heavenly Father. "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;...Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." (Colossians 4:2, 6.)

Our words and our actions ought to honor the Lord and show respect for others. Friendships thrive on sincere compliments. Giving and receiving politely is important.

Many opportunities present themselves to bring a word of thanks from our mouth. When someone opens a door for us to pass through, smile, and say, "Thank you." When driving on the busy streets and highways, give others room and be helpful when possible, even in such matters as learning to flow with the traffic, not push or obstruct it. Be friendly to store clerks and smile at strangers.

The list could go on and on because everyone appreciates courtesy and respect, including our Lord and Saviour. Just think of the many ways we can show gratitude to Him!

In the gold and red glory of the sunrise, "My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up." (Psalm 5:3.)

Do we have food to eat? Clothes to wear? A house to live in? "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content....But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Philippians 4:11, 19-20.)

Strength to work is a blessing from the Lord. "...We command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread....brethren, be not weary in well-doing." (II Thessalonians 3:12.)

Thank the Lord for a paying job and for the opportunity to share the Lord's love with coworkers. Be cheerful, not weary, when at work. Endeavor to show God's goodness to others.

The Lord does care for our spiritual, physical and temporal needs—the whole person. When we have a need, we are told to "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and

supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Philippians 4:6.)

Let us remember to thank the Lord for all the benefits of salvation.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction." (Psalm 103:2-4.)

All good benefits in life come from our Creator. We owe Him respect and reverence. Such a mighty, loving God is to be honored by our lives and praised with our lips.

QUESTION AND ANSWER BY BRO. OSTIS B. WILSON Reprint

QUESTION: Who are the elders in the Church? When are they elders? Does ordination have anything to do with being an elder? What is a bishop and what is a deacon? If a minister has a rebellious child, does that take away his gift?

ANSWER: We have several questions in one here, but they are all related, so maybe we can discuss them all together.

It seems apparent from the Scriptures that the term "Elder" and the term "Bishop" are used interchangeably and apply to the same officer in the Church.

We are not to confuse the present use of the term "Bishop" with what it was in the early Church of the Apostolic period.

F. G. Smith in his book *The Revelation Explained*, on page 94, quotes from the historian Waddington who says, "...and it is even certain that the terms 'Bishop,' 'Elder' and 'Presbyter' were, in the first instances, and for a short period, sometimes used synonymously, and indiscriminately applied to the same order in the ministry."

On page 95 of the same book he quotes from the historian Milman who says, "The earliest Christian communities appear to have been ruled and represented, in the absence of the apostle who was their first founder, by their elders, who are likewise called bishops, or overseers of the church." Further he quotes from D'Aubigne's History of the Reformation on page 96, "The church was in the beginning a community of brethren, guided by a few of the brethren." And again, "All Christians were priests of the living God, with humble pastors as their guides."

It will be noted in all these quotations from these historians that they are going back to the beginning and describing how it was then. That is what we must do to get a proper understanding of these officers in the Church and their functions.

We can certainly be sure that when the Church was brand-new and fresh from the hand of God that it would be perfect and exactly like He wanted it. As it was then, so must it be now.

We must go back to the beginning of the New Testament Church for our pattern and not allow our vision to be clouded by all the paraphernalia that has been attached to these terms by ambitious and aspiring men down through the apostasy and the Dark Ages and their present day usage which has come on down to us from that time.

The Holy Scriptures also attest to this. In Titus 1:5 we read Paul's instruction to Titus, "...set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee."

Then verse seven says, "For a bishop must be blameless, etc." It is clear here that the terms "Elder" and "Bishop" are used interchangeably.

We find in Titus 1:6 that the qualifications for an "Elder" (Bishop) is that he must have faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

In I Timothy 3:4 we read, "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity."

But these are conditions that change. Sometimes unruly children, through the prayers of their parents and the saints, settle down and behave better. Sometimes, however, they become more rebellious and leave home.

In different ways these conditions may change. Also, children have been known to get saved, shape up and do well. So, let us not give up on them, but pray for them and be all the help to them and their parents that we can. Perchance God may undertake in the matter and solve the problem in the best way and to the best interest of all parties involved.

I hesitate to say that a minister having a rebellious child would cause his gift to be taken away. However, if conditions became bad enough it would perhaps shut him down in exercising his gift for the time being until conditions changed to clear him for going ahead in his calling.

In Acts 20:17 we read concerning Paul, "And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church." We see here that at least some congregations had a plurality of eldersmore than just one. Also, in verse 28 of this chapter we learn something else about the elders—the most important thing. That is that they were divinely appointed and qualified by the Holy Ghost and that they were the overseers of the Church of God. Their specified duty in this verse was to "...feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." Also in the next three verses they are warned about some who would come in among them, and some of their own number who would break rank, and draw away disciples after them. These elders are charged with the responsibility of watching and standing guard over the Church and protecting it against schisms and divisions, false and erroneous doctrines.

(To be continued next month.)

FAITH AND Order Blank VICTORY \$3.00 PER YEAR (11 Issues) Mail this form to start or renew your own subscription — give a friend a gift — - or do both! It only takes a minute. ZU VICTORY Your Name_ Address_ FAITH AND ____ State ____ Zip _ Start or renew my Faith and Victory subscription. Send a 1-year gift subscription VICTO to the person named below: Gift to Address _ _____ State ____ Zip _ Mail Order Blank and remittance to: VICTO Faith Publishing House P. O. Box 518 Guthrie, OK 73044 11/00 FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY



Excerpts Taken From Nov., 1975 Faith and Victoru

"In the August 24th lesson about forgiving, you gave the definition of forgive." It means to give up resentment against or the desire to punish; pardon; to overlook an offense. I read it over and over and meditated on it for a week before I began to see that I was short on that line. There was an individual who had been quite a trial to me at times, and I could see that a little resentment had built up in my heart against that one. As soon as I realized this, I went on my knees in prayer until God took it all away. It means much to have a forgiving heart. The enemy will slip something in if we don't watch carefully."

-Sis. Thelma Busbee

Tamaulipas, Mexico—"Dear Bro. Pruitt: May God bless you in Christ. We are in agreement with you in the gospel publishing work which God has directed you to do. We believe that, by your acts, you are a Brother who loves the Lord. I desire to meet you, and hope to be permitted to see you some day. May God bless you richly."

In Christian love, —Efrain Huerta (Editors note: Bro. Efrain is a present worker here at the Print Shop, running a printing press and operating the paper folders. We are thankful for his very willing labors, which also extends to his wife, Sis. Leonora, and their family, who are very helpful in the printing work.)