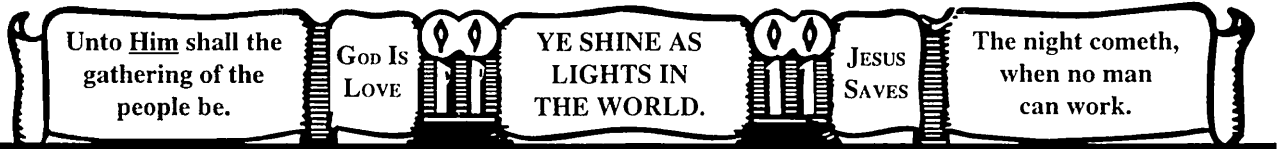


FAITH AND VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



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HITHERTO AND HENCEFORTH **SURVIVING THE WINTER**

"The Lord hath blessed me hitherto." Josh.17:14

*Hitherto the Lord hath blessed us,
Guiding all the way;
Henceforth let us trust Him fully,
Trust Him all the day.*

*Hitherto the Lord hath loved us,
Caring for His own;
Henceforth let us love Him better,
Live for Him alone.*

*Hitherto the Lord hath blessed us,
Crowning all our days;
Henceforth let us live to bless Him,
Live to show His praise.*

—Frances Ridley Havergal

By Sis. Angela Gellenbeck

An article which appeared in the *Faith and Victory* sometime back in the 70's impressed me as a child and has been the subject of my meditations recently. The article, *A Message In The Sky*, tells of a hand that appeared in the sky over Russia writing a message. In the message the phrase, "It is winter among my people" stood out causing me to question the Lord as to what could be the meaning of these words.

Probably the thing that we associate most with winter is cold. Whether or not one understands all the conditions and patterns of winter one thing you do know—you must somehow survive. Some people actually enjoy winter weather but most of us just endure it. We welcome the coming of the longer days, warmer temperatures, and the green, flowering and fruitful summer.

But I'm thinking about spiritual winter. God's people are enduring cold, dark, harsh and precipitous conditions. My mind went to what Jesus said in Matthew 24:11-13. "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." When we think of waxing cold we think of something warm standing in a cold environment until slowly it becomes the same temperature as its environment. We are definitely living in a spiritually cold environment. Jesus explained this would happen because of iniquity abounding. He also spoke of false prophets and many deceptions deceiving, if it were possible,

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the very elect. (verse 24.) In this frigid climate God's people live and endure. In our part of the world we don't experience the severe persecutions that are going on against Christ's true followers in other parts of the world. But we are experiencing death. Literally, when one is freezing to death one begins to feel extremely drowsy and sleepy. You read of people who had to beat on their buddies to keep them from freezing to death. We cannot hibernate! We have only one choice left. Stay active and stay fed.

In this wicked environment where evil is called good and good is called evil we must exercise our senses to discern good and evil. Exercise! What happens to the muscles when there is no activity? Atrophy sets in. The muscle becomes useless. It shrinks in size. Where is our spiritual discernment in this evil time? Can you make decisions for your home and family to guide them safely around the pitfalls of worldly entertainment? Can you discern the religious spirits that seek to beguile through the flesh? Can you tell when it is God's Spirit and when it is not?

Are we exercising ourselves unto Godliness? (I Tim. 4:7.) Godliness with contentment; good works and demeanor consistent with a profession of godliness; things that pertain to godliness: godly speech, godly attire, godly music. When we are so in tune with godliness, the error will begin to loom so clear. We will hear the voice behind us saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it." (Isa. 30:21.)

Do we exercise ourselves to always have a conscience "void of offence?" (Acts 24:16.) That means "listening every moment to the Spirit's call" and not covering for any action, thought or motive of which the Spirit may convict us. It means to prove that which is good and to abstain from fleshly lusts that war against the soul. It means to listen to the warnings from those who watch for our souls.

We need to regularly exercise ourselves unto the spreading of the gospel. Testify, witness, care for the lost. Pray earnestly and fervently.

Exercise is so important. Physically, exercise can regulate blood sugar, reduce cholesterol, improve your night's sleep, maintain bone density and reduce excess weight. Spiritually, it means the difference between life and spiritual death.

Keep fed. To maintain our spiritual life we must live as Jesus did. He said we must eat His flesh and drink His blood or we would have no

life in us. (John 6:53.) The key to understanding what it means to eat His flesh and drink His blood is in verse 57: "as I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me." How did Jesus live by the Father? He abode in His Father; He was united to His Father. As His Father worked in Him, so He worked; as Father spoke, so Jesus spoke. He said, "I can of mine own self do nothing." (John 5:30.) He trusted in His Father; He obeyed His Father; He communed with His Father. His obedience took Him to suffering and death. We cannot do differently. Through the Spirit dwelling in us, through obedience, through faith, through communion, through feeding on His Word, we will live and survive and endure. We must have His life, His love, His holiness, His wisdom. We must learn the wondrous secret of abiding in the Lord. We must be filled with His Spirit. Without that, we lose energy, we deteriorate, starve and freeze to death!

It may seem like a dark picture presented here. But the Scriptures give us great hope. We are promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us, He will be with us, even unto the end of the world. (Heb. 13:5; Matt. 28:20.) He said He would keep us from falling and present us faultless. (Jude 24.) We can continue firm unto the end. (Heb. 3:6.) We can endure hardness as good soldiers. (II Tim. 2:3.) We can learn obedience through the things that we suffer. (Heb. 5:8.) We can, like the Israelites, multiply and grow the more we are afflicted. (Ex. 1:12.) Psalm 75:6 says that "promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south." That leaves one direction from which promotion can come: the cold, biting, north. Winter.

We don't have to succumb. We don't have to wax cold. We can be burning, shining lights in the cold darkness. For within Zion dwells the One Who is a consuming fire. We don't have to try to warm up to puny sparks which the efforts of men have kindled. (Isa. 50:11.) We can be filled with burning love. By God's grace, we can survive the winter.



BALANCED

By Sis. Naomi Jennings

I feel impressed to write on the subject of being balanced. The word "balance" has several meanings. "An equal weight, power, advantage; That which renders power or authority equal;

To adjust matters in an equal way. Not over do or under do."

Job said "Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity." Job 31:6. Integrity means: The quality or state of being complete, unbroken, wholeness, entirely perfect, sound, upright, honest and sincere. Job wanted to be all of these; so do I. God wants all of us to be balanced, honest, sound and perfect. We need God to keep us balanced. It's very easy to over do or under do.

In Lev. 19:35-36 it says, "Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure. Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have:..." God is calling for us to be fair, equal, honest and sound.

"Ye shall have just balances,..." Ezek. 45:10. God has always told His people to be just in business; don't cheat for your gain and be honest in your judgment.

God wants us to be balanced in talking. He said, "let your words be few." I have had to apologize for speaking when I should have been quiet. God visits us when we are quiet. He said, "let your conversation be holy." He teaches us not to be quick to criticize, pray before making a judgment. We could make the wrong one.

"For our conversation is in heaven;..." Phil. 3:20. I love having a good holy conversation. When I speak out of order the Holy Spirit is right there to reprove me. It takes time to be holy and prayerful.

"Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is abominable? Shall I count *them* pure with the wicked balances, and with the bag of deceitful weights?" Micah 6:10-11.

"Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right." Prov. 16:8. God wants us to be honest in our business affairs. The devil doesn't care if you cheat a little on your tax. His aim is to help you think, "Well, the government is taking too much of my money." Maybe they do but we must be honest. God will take care of that. He knows if you are going to be balanced by giving some back to Him. God wants us to be balanced in giving. We say it all belongs to God. If God could get what belongs to Him there would be no shortage in the work of God. Some may say, "I give my ten percent." That's not an even balance. Ten percent was under the Law but God is calling for us to be

balanced by asking, "Lord, what would you have me to give?" There is nothing wrong with having money in the bank but be sure you let God be the overseer.

Another thing many of us are unbalanced in is shopping. We must have clothes and food but there is a little voice that tells you when to stop. I was in the store just before Christmas and there was a beautiful dress for 80 percent off. I tried to tell myself, "That is a good sale," and it was. Then I said, "Lord, I don't need that dress," and walked out.

Food is a must but we should be balanced on that because food will kill you just like alcohol or drugs. I was praying for my husband one day and I said, "Lord, he is killing himself drinking." And he did. But God said to me, "You are killing yourself eating." I took note that I was not balanced in my eating. So I changed my way of eating. Food is good, very good, I love to eat but God showed me, "If you want My blessing you must be balanced." Thank the Lord! When we eat right, we'll have more money for the Lord. Many people don't know it but there is a blessing in giving.

We can be unbalanced in our use of time. We sing a song that says, "My life, O Lord, I give to thee, my talents, time and all." That is not so with many people. They give God the money they have left and the time they have left. God is not pleased. We have too many seats empty on Sunday nights and Wednesday prayer meeting. I understand and the Lord understands when the old and sick are unable to attend night services but there are far too many seats vacant in camp meeting. Sometimes it seems there are only the ministers and the cooks. God forbid. We as saints should arrange our vacation for at least one camp meeting a year. It is unbalanced when we have no time to spend for the Lord.

When you have attended camp meeting and given sufficiently to God, then you are free to seek God where to go on vacation. Everyone needs a vacation. We all do. Our ministers and pastors do too. They also get tired. We should support our pastors. They have the burden of the church; they have the burden of the members. They have to get up and go pray for the sick night or day. They have a big job. When we don't support them, we are not balanced.

God help us to be stirred this year, 2003. We should sing from the heart, "Let us go back to our father's praying ground." It's time!

FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21, and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ—the same gospel that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for the body. James 5:14-15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from sin and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way as the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Ex. 25:2; I Chron. 29:9; II Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Freewill offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House. All donations are tax deductible.

A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

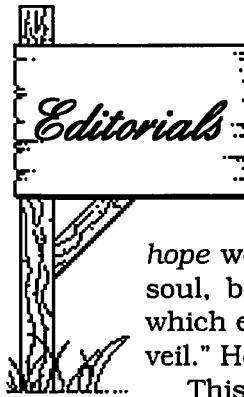
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"That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil." Heb. 6:18-19.

This passage of scripture is filled with powerful knowledge for the human soul that is seeking God. It is weighted with truth that has the ability to dispel the skepticism of the skeptic and it will calm the imposing fears that the enemy attempts to thrust into the mind of a child of God. For every person who is searching for truth, let his heart come to rest on these promises of God.

Two immutable things: God has not only made the promise of His faithfulness but He also has confirmed His promise with an oath. "...because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself." We understand that the Word of God will not pass away and the oath that God sware by Himself is backed by all of His power and His eternal existence.

Strong Consolation: The fact that God confirmed His promise with an oath seems to be superfluous. His Word was sufficient but I believe He did it for the benefit of mankind; for our consolation. He wanted us to be assured of His love for us and of His intention to carry through with His promise.

Fled for refuge: We have an adversary from whom we are fleeing. He delights in bringing tormenting doubts and fears about God to the mind of his subjects; he blinds their eyes so they can't see the truth; he keeps them in bondage through the power of evil habits and addictions; he traps and ensnares them in sinful situations and in the end would have them eternally lost. But we have fled from his oppressive bondage to the city of refuge. Figuratively speaking, this city has "No Trespassing" signs posted for sin and uncleanness. Jesus Christ is the door and when we come through it we are washed pure and clean by His precious blood and allowed to enter the city of refuge.

Lay hold upon the hope: While we were in the miserable, wretched state of sin, the Spirit of the Lord also talked to our hearts. Perhaps He

used the preaching of the gospel to come to us in the form of a message or a tract or book or the influence of our parents or a friend. In some manner the seed of the gospel message came to us and we were able to grasp the fact that there is a way out from the bondage of the enemy. As we begin in honest to reason with the Lord and become aware of His true nature and how much He has done for our freedom, hope begins to spring up in our heart.

Hope is an anchor: When the mention of an anchor is made, our mind automatically thinks of the anchor that is an important part of any ship or boat. I don't know whether Noah's ark had an anchor or not but there are drawings by the early Egyptians showing conical shaped anchors attached to ropes. I remember in my childhood days a small fishing boat that had a rope attached to the handle of a metal one gallon paint can filled with concrete which served as an anchor for that small craft. That type of anchor would simply be a dead weight. Larger vessels use anchors that are designed to secure into the floor of the lake or sea and therefore have much greater holding power than a simple weight would provide. Tall radio towers have anchors for their guy wires that are secured into the ground. Oil derricks use what they call a "dead man" to anchor their guy wires to. I like to think of the anchors that are used by rock climbers called "pitons." The lead climber may scale the face of the rock and when he reaches a suitable place he will then drive pitons into the cracks and secure a rope and then drop it to the other climbers below who will then be able to climb with the aid of and safety of a rope. In these illustrations the anchors are all secured to this earth, which to the natural man, may seem very stable. But the spiritual man realizes that even this earth is not the most stable thing to tether to. Life passes away and earthly things decay. We look for something even more stable and enduring than earth. We find that our hope in Christ provides an anchor even in eternity.

Sure and steadfast: By having our hope anchored in those "two immutable things," we are actually anchored in God Himself. Nothing else is more sure or steadfast. Life is filled with change. As we grow from childhood to adulthood and then into senior citizens we experience many changes. It is wonderful to find that God is not subject to change like mortal man is.

Entereth into that within the veil: "Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec." Heb. 6:20. "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession." Heb. 4:14. Jesus has taken the line of our hope and anchored it securely in the eternal God. As the high priest would go into the most holy place, in the presence of God and offer sacrifice for the sins of the people, Jesus has ascended into the heavens and is at the right hand of God making intercession for us. "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*." Heb. 9:11-12.

Our hope in Christ will anchor and steady our course in this life and safely carry us into the presence of God. Even death cannot separate the child of God from the object of his hope, it will but unite him with his dear Saviour to live forever in the presence of God and His precious saints. May each reader be encouraged to possess and cherish this bright hope.

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The Lord has blessed us to be able to print the songbook *Gospel Anthems* and also *Echoes from Heaven*. We are currently waiting for the cover stock to be delivered to complete these books. They have already been assembled. *Gospel Anthems* is a collection of 101 cherished songs selected from the *Evening Light Songs* hymnal. This heavy paper bound book is useful for gatherings and services conducted outside the chapel. *Echoes from Heaven* is a collection of 195 songs and hymns that include the songs published in the *Select Hymns* songbook and were not incorporated in the *Evening Light Songs* hymnal. It also has a heavy paper binding.

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The Lord has blessed Sis. Janie Woodruff this last month since the stroke she had January 13. She has been able to return to her work here in the Print Shop. The Lord is helping her recover and we give Him the Glory. Continue to remember her in prayer.

As we mentioned in the February issue of the *Faith and Victory*, we are starting a new list of names for the standing prayer list. If you would like to have your name placed on the list, give us a call or write us of your desire.

I appreciate the prayers of the saints for the work here at the Lord's Print Shop. Without the help of the Lord, this work could not be carried on. Your prayers entreating the Lord in our behalf does make a difference. I recognize His hand on our lives and the business that is conducted here is for His glory. God has answered prayer more than once for matters that we have earnestly taken before His throne. Those answers inspire us to believe that He has many good things yet in store for His people and His work as we keep our hand is His.

—Bro. Willie E. Murphey
wemurphey@yahoo.com



SC—Please remember my mother, Helen Underdown, in prayer. She has been very sick. She has pneumonia and is not doing well. She soon will be 75 years old, Lord willing, and as you know, this can be hard on someone her age. She is very short of breath and extremely weak. I know God can heal regardless of age or condition. Please pray for her. —Cheryl Smith

WI—Dear Saints: Seth, our son, left for the war in the Gulf region today. He did not say that he was saved but he has been making moves that way for some time now. Please pray for him that through this ordeal he will reach out to his loving Saviour and receive the free gift of salvation. Pray for his safe return to his wife, Breezy, and his son, Isaac. Pray for us as we wait to hear news from him. Our confidence is in God. He

does all things well. He will be with him when we can't. Praise our loving God!

—Bro. Bryan and Sis. Sheri Rich

AR—Remember me in prayer. I have a lot of problems in my body. —Sis. Dorothy Critcher

OK—My wife is not very well in body. She has some heart problems and also her lower back and hip hurt. Her feet and limbs are badly swollen and cause pain. We feel that we need the prayers of God's people as our bodies become less able. Please remember us in prayer. I am not free from infirmities either.

—Bro. and Sis. T. V. McMillian

WV—Please pray for my wife and me to do God's will wherever He leads us.

—Bro. Dewey and Sis. Linda Conley

MO—Continue to remember Bro. Mike Hightower in prayer. He has suffered from some severe physical problems. The Lord has wonderfully helped him for which we are thankful. We are looking to the Lord for complete healing.

TX—Remember Sis. Jan Wood. She recently lost her home to a house fire. Also, more recently, her son Charles has had some severe chemical burns to his face, throat and lungs and is in serious condition. Remember him soul and body.

OK—Sis. Burnice Williams has suffered a heart attack. Remember her in prayer

Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Jon Busbee
Sis. Mamie Butcher
Bro. Hubert Corteway
Sis. Waneta Creel
Sis. Elaine Dunn
Sis. Evelyn Fredrickson
Bro. Lee Hilton
The Lounds Sisters
Sis. Ruth McMakin
Sis. Anna Severs
Sis. Catherine Shaffer

"And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before." —Job 42:10

MEETING DATES

- Oklahoma City (Revival)**—March 2-5
- Minister's Meeting (Guthrie, OK)**—March 6-8
- Guthrie, OK (Revival)**—March 8-12
- Shawnee OK (Revival)**—March 12-16
- Miami, FL (Spring Meeting)**—March 30-April 6
- Wichita, KS (Spring Meeting)**—April 11-20
- Oklahoma State (Guthrie, OK)**—May 23-June 1
- Holly Hill, SC**—June 1-8
- Tulsa, OK**—June 8-15
- Green Bank, WV**—June 13-19
- Jefferson, OR**—June 13-22
- Alcoa, TN (Sister's Retreat)**—June 20-22
- General Southern**
 (Loranger, LA)—June 29-July 6
- National (Monark Springs, MO)**—July 18-27
- Myrtle, MO**—Aug. 1-6 [Note date change.]

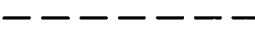


MEETING NOTICES

SHAWNEE, OK, REVIVAL

The Shawnee, OK, congregation would like to announce our Spring Revival, March 12-16. Lord willing, Bro. Steve Elwell will be our minister. Everyone is welcome. Night services only begin at 7 p.m.

Jesus says, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." So with that promise we are expecting to receive many blessings. Come and receive yours. —Bro. Bill McMakin (405) 275-2575.



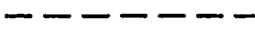
MIAMI, FL, SPRING MEETING

The saints in Miami, FL, will be having their annual Spring Meeting. The dates are March 30-April 6. There will be nightly services at 7:30 p.m. and two services on both Sundays.

Come praying and expecting a blessing. We are praying for the Lord to send the ministers of His choosing.

The church's address is 235 NW 47th St. Lodging and meals will be provided. Motels are also available.

Contact Bro. Robert McIntyre at (305) 233-2166 or Bro. Charles Clay at (305) 235-4271. The chapel phone number is (305) 758-0160.



WICHITA, KS, SPRING MEETING

Lord willing, the Wichita, KS, Spring Meeting will be held April 11-20. Both Sundays we will have three services. Monday-Friday we will

have two services at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Everyone who can come is invited to come. We are looking to God to send the ministers of His choosing. If you can't come, please pray that the devil will stand rebuked and the Lord will have the right of way and bless in every way as He sees fit. The church address is: 1701 N. Ash St. The phone number is (316) 267-9582. You can contact Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at (316) 778-1848 or Bro. Theodore McCray at (316) 682-5132.



JEFFERSON, OR, CAMP MEETING

Once again, we look forward with anticipation for what the Lord has in store for the Jefferson, OR, meeting which convenes June 13 at 7:30 p.m. and will continue through the 22. A 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. service will be held during the week. Afternoon services are added on weekends. Lodging, meals and RV hookups are available. For more information contact Cliff Smith at (503) 581-4575 or Bob Wilson at (541) 327-3621.

Special thanks to the saints and ministers who have supported and have carried a burden for the people here. The Lord taught us that we could do nothing without Him; therefore, we are leaning heavily upon Him to meet the challenges of our day.



ALCOA, TN, WEEKEND SISTER'S RETREAT

A weekend sister's retreat is being planned for June 20-22 for sisters beginning at the age of 25 years old. So that we can have an idea of what you would like to discuss at this retreat, we would appreciate it if you would send in topics and ideas that you would be interested in discussing.

For some time I have had a burden for the sisters. Please pray that the Lord will have His way and bless this retreat.

Accommodations will be provided. However, if you would like to stay in a hotel, we can provide you with that information.

If you would like additional information, please contact Sis. Mary McDonald at (865) 977-6997 or Sis. Carrie Porter at (865) 984-2348. If you wish to send your comments via postal mail you may write to Sis. Mary McDonald, 117 Dawnybrook Drive, Maryville, TN 37804.

CHANGE OF MYRTLE, MO CAMP MEETING DATE

We would like to notify the saints that there has been a slight change in the date of the Myrtle camp meeting. Instead of beginning on Wednesday following the Monark meeting and continuing through Sunday, it will begin on Friday this year and continue through Wednesday of the following week. The date for this year's camp meeting is August 1-6.

The change has been made to give more time for preparation for the Myrtle meeting following Monark and to give those desiring to attend more time to rest between the two meetings. We extend a hearty invitation to all to attend the Myrtle camp meeting this year. Please come and stay the whole meeting if possible.

— Bro. Harlan Sorrell



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

OK—Dear saints: I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanksgiving to our dear Lord and Savior for how He has been helping me. On January 13th I suffered the effects of a stroke. It was not a real severe one and I am so thankful for that. I appreciate how the Lord has been blessing me to recover. He has strengthened me and is steadily helping me to improve.

All along my journey the Lord has been so good to me and I truly appreciate that. I can never thank Him enough for His faithfulness. I think of the scripture in Psalm 34:8 which says, "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him."

Your prayers are very much appreciated as I need His help so much. Please remember me in prayer that I will stay faithful to Him.

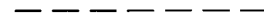
—Sis. Janie Woodruff



CA—Dear Bro. Murphey: My mother, Sis. Melia Viser, passed away on Jan. 3rd at 1:45 a.m. My brother and I and her close friend spent the evening in prayer with her. She was in an

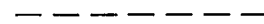
unconscious state but I believe she could hear us. Thank you for your many prayers. She always encouraged us to support the paper and the Lord's work. May God continue to bless you and your staff.

—Bro. Don Viser



KS—Dear ones: Just a note to express my gratitude for the *Bible Lessons* book and also the *Faith and Victory*. Each night I read the Bible Lesson for the week. Thank you so much for the literature. The lessons are a blessing. God bless each of you for your faithfulness. In His love,

—Sis. Naomi Dickerson Hiebert

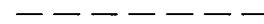


LA—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings of Christian love to all the workers there at the printing office. I trust the Lord's presence is felt there each day in a special way as you labor in His cause putting out the gospel to a lost world. The little paper and literature sent out from there tells the wonderful story of Jesus, His love and power to save. Oh, if all that read it would be hungry for the spiritual food it contains they could get their soul fed and made a fit subject for Heaven.

This sinful world is in so much trouble all because of sin. Distress of mind, trouble, suffering and sorrow on every hand. Many people don't know which way to turn for help. Oh, if they only knew Jesus and the rest and comfort He could and would give them. I'm thankful for all His children who have sought Him and found that wonderful rest and peace to their soul right here in a world of turmoil and unrest.

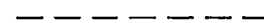
Be encouraged. The great reward is awaiting all the faithful ones. In Christian love,

—Sis. Alta Flynn



MO—Dear ones: Trust this finds every one there encouraged to press on for the Lord. I'm thankful that I have Him in my heart in these trying times. He's a precious Father and Guide.

—Sis. Wanda Atnip



OK—Dear saints:

"Lightnings flash, thunders roll
yet he keeps my weary trembling soul;"

Truly that song has new meaning to us. As most of the saints know we recently faced a severe test of affliction with our oldest son, Trenton. He woke me up during the early hours of the morning on Jan. 10th with a sickness and a hurting in his stomach and right side. At first I assumed it was just sore muscles, but the pain

continued and became very intense. At times it was so intense that it hurt him to stand straight and walk or even sit straight in the recliner. The lightning flashed and the devil's thunder of fear rolled the following week as our son was unable to attend school.

As the illness progressed we could tell that this wasn't just the flu and realized that unless the Lord came to our rescue there would be dark days ahead. I felt so weak in faith and told Danny, "I don't have the emotional strength for this battle." The Lord gave me the scripture, Hebrews 12:2, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;..." I stood on that scripture and told the Lord that He was going to have to begin and finish my faith. **Praise God!** Step by step He did just that.

He helped me get hold of the scripture where God told Paul, "...my strength is made perfect in weakness." II Corinthians 12:9. When the devil caused me to feel weak, I would quote that scripture to the Lord. I was weak but thanks be to God, "Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world."

On Friday, the 17th, Bro. Ed Wilson told us what it appeared to be. At that point we realized we were staring the possibility of death in the face. We asked Trenton if he still wanted to trust the Lord and he assured us that he did. At that moment the Lord inspired our hearts with song number 334 in the *Evening Light Songs*.

"On the word of God I calmly rest,
With a sweet assurance in my breast;
For I know it is His holy will,
Each promise to fulfill."

"Trusting him, I'm not afraid,
For He careth still for me,"

I cannot say that I was totally without fear but that was the song the Lord gave us and we stood on it. About 2:00 the next morning, after being up with him, the Lord gave me the song number 98,

"The vict'ry is mine, the vict'ry is mine,
I will not forget, His promise is yet,
The same as of yore, a bountiful store,
To those who will trust, and they shall be kept."

This song impressed me with the understanding that the promises that had worked for the saints in the past were just the same today and would work for me; there was "a bountiful store," enough for any battle we are in. Praise God!

Saturday Trenton was much improved and we felt the victory was coming. Whenever he would begin to get uncomfortable we would start singing and immediately he would relax and sleep. Then about 10:00-10:30 Sunday morning he had the most intense, severe pain he had endured. We called some of the congregations for prayer and started fighting the devil in the name of Jesus and asking the Lord to rebuke him. Trenton dozed and I decided to try to catch a nap with him. As I laid down the Lord brought the scripture II Samuel 22:31 to my mind and I looked it up. "As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him." Verse 30, "For by thee I have run through a troop: by my God have I leaped over a wall." When the pain started again, I started asking God to help us run through a troop and leap over a wall. Thank the Lord, He did just that. Sometime around 12:30-1:00 p.m. Trenton had his last intense pain. The Lord had performed a miracle and the following Wednesday he went to school. How can I ever praise my Lord enough, He's done so much for me!

However, our battle was not completely over. After being in school three days, Trenton came down with heavy congestion, a cough and fever. Sunday afternoon, I went out walking and praying, feeling very disappointed that Trenton would have to miss school again. The Lord gave me the scripture in II Chronicles 20:12, "Neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee." Immediately the Lord added the scripture in Psalms "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth." Once again Jesus was the Creator of my faith.

Monday morning Trenton was doing better but by evening his chest had tightened up and it hurt for him to breath. Of course the devil was there to paint pictures of pneumonia and gloom began to set in. All of a sudden the Lord caused me to hear the song Rodney was recording on a tape. "I care not today what the morrow may bring, if shadow or sunshine or rain, the Lord I know ruleth o'er everything and all of my worry is vain." The Lord had once again met my need and His strength was made perfect in my weakness. The next day Trenton was greatly improved. He is back in school and back to his old self.

"To God be the glory, to Him it is due.
His help is unfailing, to us He is true."

We love the family of God so much and appreciate how you helped hold up our hands when they were weak. Thanks for your prayers, calls, fastings and love. God heard your prayers and had mercy on us. Thank the Lord!

—Bro. Daniel, Sis. Anita and Trenton Adams

From India...

Feb. 22, 2003—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to you dear ones again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your kind letter dated February 5. May God bless those who have a burden for the Lord's work in India.

God blessed our convention at Vilayanthurand Nellimattom last week which helped for the revival of the congregations. Convention at Thrissur will be starting next week. All of our congregations are doing fine. We just started to build a permanent tabernacle building in our General Convention ground. We remember the dear saints in all nations. With love and prayers,

—Bro. John Varghese

From the Philippines...

Feb. 16, 2003—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings of Christian love to you dear brother, to the saints abroad and to all the Print Shop workers who faithfully labor for the Lord's kingdom. Thank you dear ones for sending the *Bible Lesson* manual for January-March (1st quarter). Last Tuesday morning the 13th I received the *Faith and Victory* paper. Again, in behalf of the Muntinlupa Church of God, deep in our hearts, we say "Thank You."

On March 2, the first Sunday, we will have our 3rd year "Thanksgiving" service. The Muntinlupa Church of God is now 3 years old and with your continuous prayers and support, we hope to win more souls to Christ through the coming years with the challenge that "each one, bring one."

The Sunday School teachers requested some Bibles to be given to their junior pupils and to some of our Bible Study prospects who are now continually attending our services. We don't have a budget for that but we hope again that God will provide.

Sis. Connie Sorrell's article in the *Faith and Victory* "Preparing for the Final Exam" was the one I shared this afternoon with our sisters who stayed for our song practice. We are practicing

some songs that we plan to sing in our thanksgiving worship service. I love all the messages in the *Faith and Victory* paper. I was blessed. Before I was a preacher of the Word of God, I thought that pastors and ministers were lazy people because all they do is read and read. Christian magazines and Bible commentaries are piled in front of them. I thought, they are using this as an excuse for not helping their wives with the work at home. Now I know it's not that since I am working in His vineyard, I am reading a lot. I spend more time in reading and then I walk and go visiting. I still remember before I was married, I told my father and brothers who are pastors, that I will never marry a preacher. Now God called me to work for Him. Oh, I praise and thank God for His calling, I am now experiencing the unspeakable joy of serving Him.

Bro. Willie, please pray for our fellowship on March 2 that all who will come to worship with us will experience the presence of God in their lives and hear God's voice for them to obey.

Again, thank you for caring. Your service to Him serves as an inspiration for us to go on laboring in His kingdom. We love you. May God bless you! Your sister,

—Nellie Tibayan



Hannah Pearlene McMillian Whitson
Gerald was born to Robert Wesley and Cora Mixon McMillian on October 10, 1921. She departed this life at her home in Hanceville, AL on February 2, 2003, at the age of 81 years.

She was united in marriage to Silas Whitson on September 14, 1935. To this union five children were born: Two daughters—Betty Whitson Herron of Warrior, AL, and Sandra Whitson Melot of Hanceville, AL; three sons—

Charles Marion Whitson of Birmingham, AL, James Harold Whitson of Birmingham, AL, and Marshall Gene Whitson of Hayden, AL.

Sis. Pearlene received Jesus as her personal Savior at the age of 28 and spent many hours in prayer for her family and loved ones. Silas and Pearlene enjoyed many happy years together rearing their children and working in their yard and flower and vegetable gardens. She was preceded in death by her husband, Silas Whitson. Sis. Pearlene is survived by her five children, eight grandchildren; Ricky Herron, Barry Herron, Mistie Whitson McAdams, Gina Whitson Gamble, Stephanie Whitson Vinson, Monica Whitson, Amber Whitson Martens, and Warren Whitson and ten great-grandchildren, as well as her personal caregiver Margaret Powell. After Silas died Sis. Pearlene devoted much time to writing gospel articles and tracts and placing religious books in many public libraries. She was united in marriage to Bro. Emmett Gerald in September 1986. Bro. Emmett and Sis. Pearlene pastored a small congregation in Enterprise, Alabama, and enjoyed visiting the elderly or shut-ins and buying and delivering groceries for the needy in many surrounding communities.

Bro. Emmett preceded her in death and she is survived by three stepchildren: Velda Wisner of Oklahoma City, OK, Brenda Ballard of LA, and Richard Gerald of LA; and ten step-grandchildren.

Sis. Pearlene was preceded in death by three sisters: Linnie Meadows Brown, Leora Haynes Frink and Mary Rogers; and by four brothers: Amos McMillian, Samuel McMillian, Forest McMillian and Austin McMillian. She is survived by two sisters: Melia Earnest of Winfield, AL and Hallie Taylor of Fayette, AL; and one brother: Thomas Vada McMillian of Shawnee, OK.

Her funeral service was conducted by Bro. Larry Abbott and Bro. Carl Shaffer, assisted by Sis. LaDawna Adams. Interment was in the Oakhill Cemetery in Jasper, AL.

With Heartfelt Thanks

We want to thank everyone for the letters, cards, calls, prayers, visits and words of concern and encouragement during the time of Mother's declining health and her passing. We felt your love and we know that God will bless you for reaching out to Mother and us.

—The Family of Pearlene Gerald

Melva Geneva Hood of Guntersville, AL, was born on November 20, 1927 to Sarah and William Byars. She departed this life on January 31, 2003. Melva married Monroe Hood on December 2, 1950 and to this union two children were born; a son, Rodger Hood and a daughter, Martha Hood. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Rodger and Melody Hood of Hoschton, GA and daughter, Martha Hood of Scottsboro, AL. She is also survived by her four grandchildren; Joelle Hood of Columbus, OH, Dorenda Hood, Shona Hood and Derrell Hood of Hoschton, GA. Melva Hood is also survived by two brothers; James Byars of Forestdale, AL and Joel Byars of Cullman, AL; two sisters, Frances Peak of Huntsville, AL and Willene Allison of Knoxville, TN.

Sis. Melva Hood had an earnest desire to trust the Lord for the healing of her body. When it became apparent that Sis. Hood could no longer stay alone because of her frail health, she had a lot of fears of the future. But the Lord was so faithful to Sis. Hood and He calmed those fears. The Lord carefully prepared each step of the way. The doctor and nursing home honored her desire to not have any medical intervention. And throughout all of the changes Sis. Hood remained calm and cheerful. It was always a delight to visit with her and the staff at the nursing home called her "their little angel." She will be greatly missed by the congregation of Enterprise, AL.

Funeral services were held on February 2, 2003 at Cullman, AL. Bro. Michael Williamson officiated. He was assisted by Sis. LaDawna Adams.

— — — — —
Opal Louise Mackey, daughter of Lorin and Gertrude Mackey, was born October 18, 1916 in Clarkston, WA, and departed this life at 9:00 p.m., on Wednesday, February 12, 2003, at the age of 86 years, three months and 25 days.

She was united in marriage to Earnest L. Kelly on April 29, 1939, and to this union was born two sons: Gail Randolph Kelly and Earnest Eugene Kelly. She was preceded in death by her husband Earnest on November 21, 1954, and also her parents.

Opal is survived by her two sons, Gail Randolph Kelly of Fairview, OK and Earnest Eugene Kelly of Orlando, FL; one brother, Lorin Mackey of Oklahoma City, OK; six grandchildren; and fifteen great-grandchildren.

In her younger years, she was very musically inclined. She wrote the musical reading "Mary" and numerous other writings and played the piano and organ beautifully. Her musical interest continued through high school and into college where she majored in music at LCU in Chickasha, OK.

From her early childhood she loved the Lord and had an earnest desire to find that there were people in the world living as the Lord would have them to live. She found those people. She was a member of the congregation of The Church of God at 5900 NE 23rd Street in Oklahoma City, OK. Her heart was in Mexico missionary work from the time the Lord gave her a definite call to Mexico until her death. Though the Lord released her from active duty on the mission field in December, 1975, she continued in the work by translating, printing and distributing Spanish literature and cassette tapes to Mexico, Central America and South America.

Funeral services were conducted at Bill Eisenhour Northeast Chapel, Oklahoma City, OK, on Feb. 17, 2003 by Sis. Maxine Busbee and Bro. Leslie Busbee. Interment followed in the Memorial Park Cemetery, Oklahoma City, OK.

The family of Sis. Opal Kelly would like to thank all for your prayers, words of comfort and all expressions of love at this time and during her illness.

— — — — —

M. Vivian McClain, 87, of Clinton, IL died Saturday, Feb. 1, 2003, at 9:25 p.m., in the Crestview Healthcare Center, Clinton, IL.

Services were held at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 4th, in the Calvert Funeral Home, with Bro. Michael Smith officiating. Graveside services were at noon in Rosamond Grove Cemetery.

Sis. McClain was born Sept. 13, 1915, in Brownstown, IL, the daughter of David Whitacre and Laura Alice Hawks Smyth. She was affiliated with the Church of God. She and her husband farmed in the Pana area for many years. She married Arthur Lee McClain on Sept. 19, 1933, in Effingham, IL. He passed away March 22, 1971.

Surviving are her daughters, Helen M. Pavlak of Clinton, IL; Nancy L. Boone of Pearsall, TX; Rosemary E. Zuberi of Plymouth, MI; Susan P. Tidwell of Wagoner, OK; eight grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her son, Carl D. McClain, grandson, James Patrick Pavlak, son-in-law Bill Pavlak, and two sisters, Ora Parsons and Edith Wall.

— — — — —

Roy Lee Meek was born June 16, 1932 at Calvin, OK to Jess and Lillian Meek. He passed away Friday, January 10, 2003 at his home in Jenks, OK. He married Dorothy Perkins, September 27, 1953. This union brought six children. He is preceded in death by his parents, a sister, a niece and son Terry Lane Meek. Roy is survived by his wife Dorothy, his children; Jerry and Cynthia Meek, Ted and Renee Meek, Charles DeWayne and Elizabeth Meek, Terri and Scott Wolf, and Beverly Anderson, he is also survived by twelve grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, one brother Troy and Violet Meek, four nieces, four nephews, several cousins, and he is also survived by the Perkins family of which he was a member for many years.

Funeral services were held January 14, 2003 at the Frankhoma Pottery Road Church of God at Sapulpa, OK. Interment was at Green Hill Memorial Gardens at Sapulpa, OK. Officiating were Bro. Charles Lowe, Bro. Curtis Williams and Bro. James Bell.

We, the family of Roy Lee Meek, deeply appreciate the sympathy showed to us when he passed away. Whether it was coming to visitation, the funeral, a card, offering, phone call, e-mail, thought, words of encouragement, food, home visits, flowers, prayers or whatever we thank you. —Dorothy Meek and children

Dealing With Problems

By Bro. Bill Busch

What is the real problem? Most of the time it is very likely that there is not complete submission to the will of God on the part of one or more of the parties involved. In Deuteronomy 1:17 we read, "Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it." So we need to bring the problem to the Lord and trust Him to give guidance. "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?" Jeremiah 32:27.

Should we, by our own wisdom, make judgments as to this or that about a problem? "For

the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God." I Corinthians 3:19. Many times when the Israelites were in trouble and didn't rely on God to guide them He allowed false prophets to lead them into situations very disastrous for them. The carnality in man is used by satan to make us want to have our own way and rely on our own wisdom and abilities. As it is written, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom:..." Psalm 111:10. So we need to be aware at all times what wisdom we should be using.

Are we troubled by some act or speech of a brother or sister? Only God knows all the cause behind the act or speech, and above all, He knows the intents of the heart in the matter. We need to ask ourselves, "Is my perception unbiased in this matter? Did some speech or action of mine contribute to this problem?" If I am free of blame or responsibility I can take the matter to the Lord and trust Him to work everything out in the very best possible way. Only He knows what would be best for all concerned and He is able to accomplish His will in any and every situation or circumstance if **all** is committed to Him.

So the solution to any problem is to submit all to God's guidance and wait on Him to give direction.

Where Are You When God Wants To Talk?

By Sis. Elaine Dunn

I awoke one night from a dream in which a question was presented to my mind and I would like to share it with you. It sent me to the den with my Bible and also sent me to my knees. The question was this: Where are you when God wants to talk to you? I still shudder when I think on all that was brought to my attention that night from God's Word.

First I want us to think on Adam. Read Genesis 3. Yes, God wanted to talk with Adam as He had before and entered into the garden with the question, "Adam, where art thou?" And we know the story of Adam. We know why he was hid. There was sin in his life and he had to hide his face from God. Does the Father ever have to ask you, "Where art thou?" Remember we hide because of sin and wrong doing. Could it be the Father wants to talk to you today and sin has caused you to hide from Him?

Second, we want to think of Paul/Saul.

Read Acts 9. He was doing right in his own eyes. Obeying the laws and killing God's people. He was the right one and the rest would die. But the Lord wanted to talk to Saul. And what measures He had to use! Yes, He had to strike him down and smite him blind. It was so hard to get his attention. So sad! Only when Saul was down could the Lord speak to him. His question to Saul was, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me? It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." Then Saul heard and listened. Friend, my heart shudders when I think so many times that someone thinks they are right and all others are wrong. Oh the measures God has to use then. God help us to be careful here and keep an open heart and mind and ears that can hear the words of the Lord!

Then last, my mind goes to the Word about a prophet. Read Isaiah 6. Oh how unworthy this one felt. He felt his need of a touch to his lips. But God spoke after his lips had been touched with a coal from the altar of God saying, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" Here we find the prophet answered the voice of the Lord with, "Here am I send me." How precious!

Oh, my friend, if the God of all mercy wants to talk to you today where will He find you? Will you be hid because of sin or would you be the only one right and He would have to strike you down to get your attention? Could we be as the unworthy, humble prophet? Hear and answer with the Spirit of God on our lives, "Here am I send me."

Just think of the questions of the Lord. "Where art thou?" "Why persecutest thou Me?" and "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" Very serious questions!

Oh, if God wants to talk to us may we have ears to hear the Word of the Lord. The best friend in the entire world we can talk to is Jesus. Are we a friend to Jesus? Can He talk to us without looking for us or striking us down? May we always keep a clean and humble heart that God can always find and have our hearts and ears ready to listen to our Father. I can't help but think how special it was for my father to sit down and have a talk with me. We had these heart to heart talks even on his deathbed. I could learn and gain guidance from our talks and how much more do we need to talk to God!

Always know, no matter what tomorrow holds, we can rest in the consolation that He holds tomorrow in His hands! God bless you as you listen for Jesus to speak! Pray for me!

Neither Do I Condemn Thee

"Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more." John 8:11. That no doubt was a joyful moment for the poor woman who had been taken in the act of adultery. Under the Jewish dispensation, the penalty was death. This woman knew that according to man's law she was worthy of death. She expected no doubt to hear Jesus say to the people who had brought her to Him, "Your law is just, and she has violated that law; therefore she must die." But Jesus did not say anything of the kind. He knew the hearts of the people and that they were no doubt a great deal worse than the poor woman whom they had brought to Him.

It is generally the very lowest class of people who will go about seeking the faults of others. It has been so since the foundation of the world and will be to the end of time. Today it is not the consecrated, godly man who will say to a fallen brother or sister, "You are down and must stay down; if you try to get up, I will knock you back again." It is not the consecrated, godly man that is constantly looking back to what a man or woman was before his or her conversion and judging their present by their past.

It is not the consecrated, godly man who will get up and say, because a man or woman has gone astray, that it was because they did not have the proper training when a child. How many a father and mother has been sent heart-broken into the grave because of the profligacy of their children whom they have labored hard to bring up in the right way. No, it is not always the parents' fault that children go astray.

The men who brought the poor woman were prepared to stone her to death. They had the stones in their hands no doubt. But as Jesus gave His opinion; "He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone" they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one from the eldest even unto the last and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. "When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, He said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more." It must have been a joyful moment in the woman's life and the joy can only be measured by those today who have heard the voice of Jesus say to us, "Go, and sin no more."

The great tendency of the professed followers of Christ is to pick up the stones which ungodly people have hurled at Christians, and, not satisfied with the woundings made by the ungodly lies; throw them with all their might, causing fresh wounds, instead of trying to bind up the broken hearts caused by the woundings of the ungodly.

—W. E. Quinn



Have You Taken It To Jesus?

*Have you taken it to Jesus?
Have you left your burden there?
Does He tenderly support you?
Have you rolled on Him your care?
O, the sweet unfailing refuge
Of the everlasting arms;
In their loving clasp enfolded
Nothing worries or alarms.*

*Have you taken it to Jesus,
Just the thing that's pressing now?
Are you trusting Him completely
With the when, and where and how?
Oh, the joy of full surrender
Of our life, our plans, our all;
Proving, far above our asking
That God answers when we call.*

*Have you taken it to Jesus?
'Tis the only place to go
If you want the burden lifted
And a solace for your woe.
Oh, the blessedness to nestle
Like a child upon His breast;
Finding ever, as He promised
Perfect comfort, peace and rest.*

—Mrs. E. L. Hennessy
Bro. & Sis. Emmet Gerald sent this to me.
—Sis. Wanda Atrip

SITTING UNDER HIS SHADOW

It is pleasant when weary from the toil and heat of the day to sit down in the shade of a tree and rest.

There is much struggle and toil, in a spiritual sense, along our pilgrim way. Sometimes we grow weary and the way seems long. There is a tree under the shadow of which we may rest. Many have found rest there. When the trials were fiery, the heat intense and the burden heavy, many have sat down under the shadow of this tree and found sweet rest.

"As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste." To sit down under the shadow of Christ is the way to calm and rest our weary spirits. "Come unto me," Jesus says, "and ye shall find rest;" "in me ye might have peace." In the very midst of affliction, yea, even in the seven times heated furnace the shadow of Jesus can be found.

We recently have learned more fully what it is to pass through the furnace fire and to have a burden in the heart and on the hands but we also have learned more fully the sweetness of the rest found under the shadow of Christ. There we can lay our burdens down and rest.

The words "sat down" are very suggestive. They suggest leisure, time. If we find rest under the shadow of Jesus we must take time to sit down. Here is where I sometimes have failed, and maybe you, too, have failed in this respect. If we would find the rest that Jesus gives we must linger in His presence. Just passing by under His shadow may give momentary relief but not rest. Deep, full rest is found only when we become calmed and composed and sit down. As long as the soul is in high tension, rest from Jesus cannot enter in but when all is relaxed and we sit down in the secret of His presence, we will find rest. It is then that we can eat His pleasant fruits and be refreshed. I have found it so. —C. E. O.—GT 3/2/1911

My Father

In His blessed hands I rest,
Knowing He will do His best.

Giving me strength to endure each day,
Guiding me along life's treacherous way.

I am made safe by His love,
Shielded from my foes by God above.

Until I can meet Him there,
I trust my life into His care.

He is my strength, my King,
O' to hear those angels sing.

For deeper love I have not known,
Than that of my Father calling me home.

—Sis. Tara Ward

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A HUNGRY TRAVELER

Upon a road with spirit dim
 One day a hungry trav'ler went,
 Returning from Jerusalem
 And its environment.

To worship God he there had gone
 His hungry soul to satisfy,
 To find in temples made with stone
 God's presence to be nigh.

But now returning, read he there
 Isaiah's vivid prophecy
 Of One who did our burden bear
 Of dark iniquity.

It seems I see him, head bowed low
 Above the written Word divine:
 Its contents searching, bent to know
 The fullness of each line.



“He was oppressed, and
 he was afflicted, yet he
 opened not his mouth: he
 is brought as a lamb to
 the slaughter, and as a
 sheep before her shearers
 is dumb, so he openeth
 not his mouth.”

Isa. 53:7

“Ask, and it shall be given you;
 Seek now and ye shall surely find”
 God saw his yearning heart so true
 And his inquis'tive mind.

And then a man of God appeared,
 Sent by the Holy Ghost:
 The hungry soul became quite cheered
 To be his gracious host.

He heard of Jesus and His love
 The Lamb who was for sinners slain,
 Who conquered death and reigns above
 For our eternal gain.

His heart believed the message true;
 He went rejoicing on his way;
 The man of God passed from his view
 Oh, what a happy day!

For all who seek with all their heart
 To find the Lord's redeeming grace:
 To them the Saviour will impart
 The sunlight of His face!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee