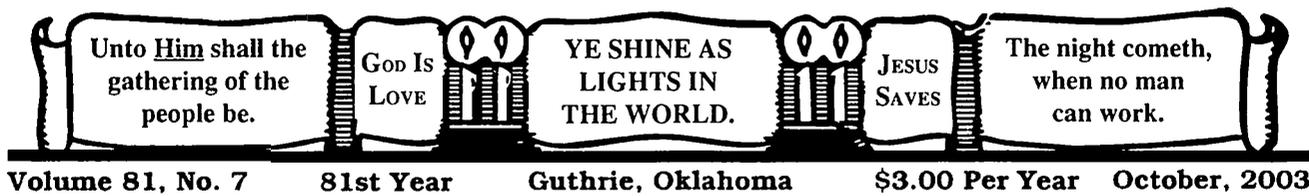


FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



THREE ATTITUDES

By D. O. Teasley

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:13-14, Authorized Version. "My brethren, I do not consider myself, as having taken (it). But one thing I know, that I forget the things behind me, and reach for the things before me; and I run straight for the goal, that I may obtain the (prize) of victory of the call of God from on high, by Jesus the Messiah." —Syriac. "Brethren, I do not reckon myself to have attained it: but one thing I do; even forgetting the things behind, and stretching forth towards the things before, I press along by the line, towards the prize of the high calling of God by Christ Jesus." —Emphatic Diaglott.

The scene from which Paul draws the foregoing picture is the foot race, so celebrated among the ancients. He here represents three attitudes. The attitude of the runner to the starting point is that he forgets it, leaves it behind. His attitude (present) as he runs from the starting point to the goal is pressing forward along the line. His attitude toward the goal is stretching forth toward it, running straight for it. In the stadium a white line marked the ground from the starting place to the goal. On this line the runners were obliged to step, and he who stepped off this line did not run lawfully and was not crowned even if he did reach the goal first. This scene represents the whole of our present life—the past, the present and the future. After the runner in a race has left the starting place, he entirely forgets it as he presses onward in the race and thinks of the prize and the honor awaiting at the goal. Neither do his past circumstances, financial surroundings, failures, disappointments, business or friends occupy his mind. He does one thing ("this one thing I do"), and that is to put forth his utmost effort to win the race and gain the prize.

Let us now see what practical benefit we can derive from this strong and beautiful illustration.

ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PAST "I FORGET"

Dear reader, Have you forgotten the past things—every trial, disappointment and discouragement? If you have not, let me exhort you

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today, even now, to do this one thing—to forget everything of the past that will not help you gain the prize of eternal life.

How much have you ever gained from meditating on past failures, disappointments and discouragements? If you have sinned and God, by forgiving your sins, has put it behind you, what good can you gain by grieving over it? Failures and accusations are unpleasant to meditate upon.

Grieving over the sins and the failures of misspent days is a poor way to occupy your present, precious moments. "Let

"Think of your past failures only as things left behind, as weights laid aside at the starting point."

us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Heb. 12:1-2.

The starting place of the Christian race is where we lay aside every weight, where God forgives our sins, relieves us of the burdens that satan has laid upon us, looses our bands and sets us free. Like a man who runs in a race, from the moment we leave the starting point we should trouble ourselves no longer about the things that lie back of us for the greatest accomplishments and the highest achievements of a life in sin are of little value compared with the grace of God. Of how little value then, yea, how worthless and what a hindrance to meditate upon the failures and the sins of the past! Think of your past failures only as things left behind, as weights laid aside at the starting point.

"And Joseph called the name of the first-born Manasseh (forgetting or making to forget, see margin): For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house." Gen. 41:51. Joseph is a fair type. He had so completely forgotten the trials and the disappointments of his former life through the joy of his present surroundings that he called his firstborn son "Forgetting." He had forgotten not only his toil but also all his father's house. His father's house is a type of the worldly friends and the kindred ties that hinder us in the Christian race. Jesus says, "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my

disciple." Luke 14:26. "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." Matt. 10:37. This does not mean that a man who runs in the Christian race should not love his kindred nor provide for those of his own household, but that he should forget them and forsake them in every connection that would hinder him in the race of life or tie him to the present, evil world.

While Job kept his eyes upon his troubles he feared to forget his complaint or to leave off his heaviness and comfort himself, but when he got his eyes upon God, "Then Job answered the Lord and said, I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withholden from thee." As long as your attention is given to your trials or to your discouragements and despondent feelings you are not likely to see above them, but if you will forget those things that are past and will set your eyes upon God, victory is certain. "For then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot; yea, thou shalt be steadfast, and shall not fear: Because thou shalt forget thy misery, and remember it as waters that pass away: And thine age shall be clearer than the noonday; thou shalt shine forth, thou shalt be as the morning. And thou shalt be secure, because there is hope; yea, and thou shalt dig about thee, and thou shalt take thy rest in safety. Also thou shalt lie down, and none shall make thee afraid; yea, many shall make suit unto thee." Job 11:15-19.

Satan has hindered many dear souls from enjoying the blessings of God and from pressing on in the Christian race by pointing them to sins of the past—sins which God has forgiven. What if the mistakes of your life have been many; what if you have been in the depths of sin; did not Jesus forgive the vilest of sinners? Did He not say to the adulteress who was caught in the very act, the vilest of sins, "Neither do I condemn thee; go and sin no more"? Hath not the Lord said, "Though ye have lain among the pots, yet shall ye be as the wings of a dove covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold"? Psa. 68:13.

"Fear not: for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the re-

proach of thy widowhood any more. For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. For the Lord hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God. For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer. For this is as the waters of Noah unto me; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should go no more over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee. O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours and lay thy foundations with sapphires. And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord." Isaiah 54:4-17.

A discouraged person will often help the devil by bringing up things of the past that have been forgiven and trying to repent of them. The accused and despondent soul will often wander down by the dark shores of the sea of forgetfulness and finding there a bark of discouragement will launch it and sail out through the fog and mist of past life hunting for something over which to mourn. Often some mistake or sin of the past, which, like an ocean derelict, has long since been forsaken and forgotten is found and pulling it ashore the discouraged soul who is anxious to do something invites friends and

brethren to help in asking God to take notice and forgive. But God will not visit such a scene. What He has forgiven He has forgiven forever, and He cannot forgive it a second time, "for," says He, "their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." (Heb. 8:12.)

If a man should come to God and obtain forgiveness of his sins, live a faithful life for a while and finally backslide and be lost none of his former sins would be mentioned to him nor would he be punished for any of the deeds of his former life but only for those committed at the time of, and after, his fall. Neither will the Lord forgive only a part of our wrong doings. When He forgives, He forgives all and forgives forever.

So the only possible way out is to resist the devil and all accusations; cut the shorelines and consign the past to the waves of forgetfulness; make an eternal abandonment of all past sins and mistakes that God has forgiven and set your face Zionward.

ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PRESENT "I PRESS TOWARD THE MARK."

The present is the most important of all times. Today is the day of salvation; now is the accepted time. What we did yesterday is done forever and tomorrow may never come. The man who grasps present opportunities and does his best today has no time to get discouraged about yesterday nor to worry about what shall be on the morrow. Yesterday belongs to eternity; today belongs to us; satan's time to do good is tomorrow.

"Wait not till tomorrow's sun
Beams upon your way
To do a good and cheerful deed
That you can do today."

To press forward does not mean to press backward. Forward to the Christian is upward. When the apostle penned the immortal words, "I press forward toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus," he considered that behind him was the world with its follies, disappointments and misery. He had no time to consider that which was behind. The present was too valuable to waste one moment on the things which he had already counted as refuse that he might win Christ. So, forgetting the past, he was wholly occupied with the thought of reaching the goal, where to him and all the faithful will be granted a fadeless crown, a diadem of glory, an eternal home at God's right hand forevermore.

Dear reader, Do these things have any at-
(Continued on page 11.)

**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.

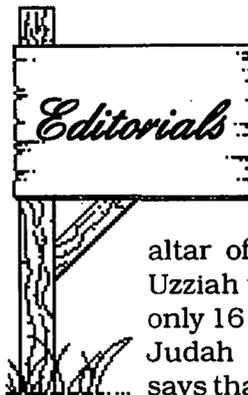
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"But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the

altar of incense." II Chron. 26:16.

Uzziah was made king when he was only 16 years old and he reigned over Judah for 52 years. The Scripture

says that he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. He built towers on the walls around Jerusalem and with cunning men devised powerful weaponry to defend the city. They invented engines to shoot arrows and great stones and mounted them on the walls. He had an army that made war with mighty power. By the help of the Lord, his army was able to break down the walls around many of his enemy's cities and his name spread far and wide, even into Egypt. It says, "For he strengthened himself exceedingly." King Uzziah had many wells dug for his cattle and he also loved husbandry and had many vineyards. As long as King Uzziah sought the Lord, God made him to prosper and he was "marvellously helped."

While God was blessing King Uzziah, pride began to build in his heart. Other kings rebelled against God and worshipped idols, but this king literally took the worship of God into his own hands and did not follow the pattern of worship that God had instructed the children of Israel. He intruded into the temple to burn incense himself, usurping the responsibilities of the consecrated priests, the sons of Aaron.

When he was withstood by 80 priests of the Lord and was told to go out of the sanctuary, he became angry. While he was holding the censor in his hand and was angry with the priests, the Lord caused leprosy to rise up in his forehead right before their eyes. King Uzziah left the sanctuary, but he carried the curse of leprosy with him the rest of his life. He was not able to live in the palace any longer and was cut off from the house of the Lord.

The enemy of our souls will use any means to overthrow a person. If he cannot get one to go into sinful rebellion against God in one way he will try to cause them to deviate from the Lord in another way. It is important that even those professing Godliness be on their guard against the spirit of pride. Christ has set a pattern of

humility for His church and given instruction for His followers to not be as the Pharisees "and love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues." (Matt. 23:6.) Pride will motivate one to assume titles and positions that God is not pleased with. Jesus said, "But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren." Matt. 23:8. In Psalm 111:9 it says in reference to the Lord, "...holy and reverend is his name."

"But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." Matt. 20:25-28.

Over and over throughout history man has attempted to usurp the position in the church that is given to Christ and the Holy Spirit. When that occurs we find that the Spirit of the Lord withdraws Himself and the followers suffer and go into darkness as a result.

When one's heart becomes exalted it also is accompanied by hardness. Self becomes the object of focus and Christ and others are put into the background. They become defensive and unmerciful toward others, thinking themselves more holy and pure. They are sure that they are right and others are wrong and they are unable to be entreated. Strife and contention begins to manifest itself. They are willing to divide the people of God rather than endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace by forbearing one another in love and being submissive one to another as the Lord would have His people be.

When they come to worship the Lord, they do not afterward go to their home justified like the publican did when he went to the temple to pray and humbly entreated the Lord for mercy. Jesus said, "...for everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Luke 18:14.

May we not fall prey to this trap of the enemy, but worship the Lord with a humble heart and with a sincere love for our brother and for the work of the Lord. Let us possess the same spirit of God and likewise be longsuffering and not willing that any should perish. With a meek, obedient attitude in our heart we will be in a

position to truly have a vision of the glorious Church of God, because we are a true part of it.

— — — — —
We are still taking orders for the limited production of the *Evening Light Songs Concordance*. This is a complete word index to the hymns in the *Evening Light Songs* book. It also contains an index to the songwriters and composers. Bro. Clifford and Sis. Patsy Smith, as well as other saints, have devoted many hours to compiling and preparing this exhaustive resource. If you would like one of these 431 page volumes bound in heavy paper cover, please let us know. The cost will be \$18.00 plus shipping charges of \$2.70 will apply to mailed copies. We plan to begin shipping the orders in October.

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We have received our form rollers for the Harris offset press back from the roller company that replaced the rubber coating on them. They are performing much better than the old ones that were getting hard and beginning to break up on the edges.

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The *Bible Lessons* and *Beautiful Way* Sunday school materials for the fourth quarter were mailed in the month of September. The theme for this series of lessons is our worship to God. The lesson titles are: The Almighty is Worthy of Our Worship, The Worship of God by Sacrifice, Communion with the Lord God, Fervent Love and Devotion to God, Loving Esteem for the Word of God, Fear and Reverence for God, Live and Worship in the Spirit of God, God is Greatly to Be Praised, The Blessing of Prayer, The Value and Benefit of Fasting, Assembly of the Saints for the Worship of God, Glorifying God and Walking Humbly With Our God. The *Bible Lessons* quarterlies are only \$1.00 per quarter or \$4.00 for a one year subscription.

— — — — —
We are still in need of articles and testimonies that are inspired of the Lord to publish in the paper. As the winter months come on and there are fewer meeting notices there is more room for the saints of God to share how He has been blessing in your life. Pray about what the Lord would have you write. It might be just the encouragement that some other soul needs to find the victory in their life.

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Last month I mentioned that we had sold out of two more of our hardback books. The *Evening*

Light Songs and *What the Bible Teaches*—and explained about the need for obtaining equipment to do the hard cover binding here at the Print Shop. To do this bindery work would require at least three pieces of expensive machinery. I have been searching for information about what machines would be necessary to perform these operations and their availability.

In my searching I have found one machine in Miami, FL that has been removed from a plant. This machine is a Kolbus casemaker. It will take the book boards and glue and wrap the covering around them producing what is called the case or the hard cover for the book. This machine, while reported to be in good mechanical condition, had the control panel and other assemblies disconnected from the main machine. It will require major rewiring to bring it back into service and can be obtained at a greatly discounted price. I believe the Lord could help me to rewire the machine and put it into His service. I have called the German manufacturers' USA offices and they say that most of the parts are still available and I ordered a wiring diagram.

If the Lord will make the way clear, I would be willing to go get it to save on shipping costs. It is estimated to weigh about 5,000 pounds. Please help me pray that the Lord would provide the means to obtain this equipment if it be His will. I realize that this is only the first step in achieving the ability to produce our hardback books, but it is a major component in the chain of equipment necessary for their production. Two other major machines that will be necessary are a Smyth book sewing machine to sew the sections of the book together and a casing-in machine to build the book block into the case. While other smaller operations are required these are the three main ones. I believe that the Lord will help us find these other machines also at affordable prices when it is His will.

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



OK—I need prayer for my body. I know the Lord can heal for He has healed me many times. Thank you,
—Sis. J. M. Jefferson

IN—My daughter that I wrote to you about asking for prayer that she find a job has found a very good one not far from her home and she likes it real well. Jobs are hard to find here. Thank you for your prayers for her. Our God is always the one to look to in every kind of need.

I have some problems I need prayer to help me overcome. Please pray for me. I love the Lord with all of my mind, body and soul, but I need His help.

Thanks again for your prayers. It pays to serve the Lord fully and completely.

—Sis. Anna Blanchard

CA—Remember my cousin, Beverly Cordoza. At this date (9-16-03) she is still in the hospital and is not doing very well. My son, John, is not well either, so I would like you to continue special prayer for them and my family.

—Sis. Doris Pihaylic

Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Jon Busbee
Sis. Mamie Butcher
Bro. David & Sis. Marie Christian and family
Bro. Hubert Corteway
Sis. Waneta Creel
Sis. Elaine Dunn
Sis. Evelyn Fredrickson
Bro. Troy Gentry
Bro. Jeff Gutwein
Bro. Lee Hilton
Bro. Doyle LaCroix
The Lounds Sisters
Sis. Ruth McMakin
Sis. Melba Powell
Sis. Anna Severs
Sis. Catherine Shaffer
The Mitch Taylor family

“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.” Psalm 8:3-5.

MEETING DATES

- Holly Hill, SC (Revival)**—Oct. 5-12
- Pomona-Baldy Mesa, CA (Revival)**—Oct. 16-19
- Guthrie, OK (Revival)**—Oct. 18-22
- Springfield, MO (Revival)**—Oct. 24-26
- Fresno, CA (Fall Meeting)**—Oct. 26-Nov. 2
- Sapulpa, OK (Fall Revival)**—Nov. 2-8
- Loranger, LA. (Assembly)**—Nov. 26-30

MEETING NOTICES

HOLLY HILL, SC, REVIVAL

As the Lord leads, a revival meeting is planned in Holly Hill from October 5th-12th, 2003. The revival will begin Sunday morning October 5th and end after Sunday morning October 12th, 2003. Services will be nightly at 7:30 p.m. We are looking to the Lord to send the ministers of His choosing. Pray with us that the Lord will have His way and will bless us with His precious presence; that He will save the sinners, heal the sick, teach and uplift the saints here.

The chapel is located on Bayview Street between Camden Road and Eutaw Road, Holly Hill, SC. We give a hearty invitation for you to come and be with us. For more information contact the pastor, Bro. Carl Shaffer (803) 492-3256, Bro. Floyd Crummie (803) 496-5768, or Bro. Alvoid Pratt (803) 492-3366.

**POMONA-BALDY MESA, CA,
 FALL REVIVAL**

It is time again for our Fall Revival 2003 and this year will be our 90th Anniversary for the Pomona-Baldy Mesa Congregation. We are encouraged to share the blessings of God.

Welcome to our Fall Revival 2003 and the commemoration of our 90th year of worship. Our meeting will be from Thursday, October 16, 2003 to Sunday, October 19, 2003. Services will be held nightly Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at 11:00 a.m. there will also be a commemorative service with dinner and activities following. Sunday school will begin at 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship is at 11:00 a.m. Dinner will follow this service as well. Afternoon worship will be the closing service at 2:30 p.m.

A very special invitation is extended to anyone who formerly attended the Pomona/Baldy Mesa congregation.

Please pray for us and come if you can.

—Pastors, Travis and Alice Johnson
 Phone: (760) 956-6330
 Phone: (760) 261-2564

SPRINGFIELD MO, REVIVAL MEETING

Lord willing, there will be a revival meeting held at Springfield, MO Oct. 24-26. Bro. Charles Chandler has felt a burden to be with us for these services. They will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings and on Sunday services will be at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. A noon meal will be served on Sunday. An invitation to attend is extended to everyone. Come praying for the Lord to give a rich outpouring of His spirit and join us as we worship the Lord together. The chapel is located at 444 E. Evergreen St, Springfield, MO. For further information contact Bro. Randy and Sis. Tammy Sorrell at (417) 723-8035.

FRESNO, CA, FALL MEETING

The Fresno, CA fall meeting is planned for October 26 to November 2, 2003. On Sunday, October 26 the service schedule is as follows. Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., general service at 10:30 a.m., afternoon service at 2:00 p.m., evening service at 7:00 p.m. The evening services throughout the week will begin at 7:00 p.m. except for the last Sunday, November 2. Pray that the Lord will bless this meeting. The chapel is located at 388 N. First, Fresno, CA. The phone number is (559) 486-9977. For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Charles Taylor, at (559) 348-9029.

SAPULPA, OK, FALL REVIVAL

The Church of God congregation in Sapulpa, OK extends a warm WELCOME to everyone for our Fall Revival, November 2-8, Sunday morning through Saturday. Evening services will begin at 7:00 p.m. Bro. Michael Smith has a burden for the meeting.

On Saturday, before the revival begins, November 1st, at 6:00 p.m., we will have a special young people's gathering and cookout at Bro. Rick Rhoades' home at 2730 East 3rd Street, Tulsa, OK 74105. The Rhoades' family phone for directions and RSVPs is 918-747-7186.

LORANGER, LA, ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Loranger, LA Assembly Meeting is scheduled to begin Wednesday night, November 26, 2003, at 7:30 p.m. Services will be 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. daily through Sunday, November 30, 2003. All are welcome. Please come praying for a visit from the Lord.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Please bring sheets and linens if possible. Power and water hookups are provided for those with campers. Meals will be served and expenses will be 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 ten miles east of the Tickfaw exit (take Hwy. 442 east which runs into Hwy. 40.)

For more information, contact Bro. Carlos Doolittle, 20231 Hwy 40, Loranger, LA 70446. Phone (985) 878-8122. The chapel phone is (985) 878-2788.

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MINISTERS MEETING NOTICE

Plans are being made for a national minister's meeting to be held in Guthrie, OK March 5-7, 2004. This meeting will be for the purpose of prayer, teaching and edification.

Bro. Keith Fuller has agreed to coordinate the preparations for the meeting. Any suggestions or questions may be directed to Bro. Fuller at telephone number 330-864-1128 or his mailing address at 244 Storer Ave., Akron, OH 44302.

The expenses for this meeting will be met on a freewill basis. Financial support can be directed to Sis. Brenda Wilkins, the OK State Treasurer. Her address is: 1023 E. Prairie Grove, Guthrie, OK 73044.

Further announcements will be made in the *Faith and Victory*.

In Christ, —Bro. Stanley Dickson
405-260-8822

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BOLEY, OK, MEETING REPORT

The Boley, OK Church of God, Evening Light Saints, would like to thank everyone who participated in our camp meeting last month. All the ministers who gave of their time and filled our hearts with the Word of God were greatly appreciated. We were blessed by the generosity of many and would like to thank all those who donated to the Church. The dinners were a great success thanks to the many volunteers who brought and helped serve the food. We look forward to next year!

Submitted by, —Sis. Savannah King and Sis. Anna Mae Thompson, Pastor



**LETTERS
FROM
OUR
READERS**

OK—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings in the name of the Holy One who shed His blood for us. The Lord has recently encouraged my heart with the thought of us being made nigh to Him through His blood. We usually value things by the price that we have paid for them. So we know that God put a great value on our souls because He paid such a great price for us. It cost God His only begotten Son and it cost Jesus shedding His blood and giving His life for us. Since we know He did this because He loved us, that gives us boldness to come to Him for all of our needs, both spiritually and physically. He says in I Corinthians 6:20, "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." He says in Revelation 1:5-6, "...Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

God values us so highly that we become His peculiar treasure. (Psalm 135:4.) Because of this, He put Jesus in charge of the care and ruling of His people. "...And the government shall be upon his shoulder:..." Isa. 9:6. Before He gave Peter the care of feeding His sheep and His lambs He wanted to be sure Peter loved Him. (John 21:15-17.)

In Ephesians 5:25 it says Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it. Therefore He only chooses those that are filled with the Holy Ghost to feed and lead His people. (Acts 20:28.) Jesus is the Chief Shepherd. (I Pet. 5:4, Heb. 13:20, Heb. 3:6.) It is a good thing to be under the care of the Great Shepherd. (Rev. 7:17.)

With Christian Love, —Bro. T. V. McMillian

OR—Dear Bro. Willie: I trust this finds all at the Print Shop well and happy in your service for the Lord. I remember you in my prayers every day. I am very thankful for God's goodness to me. His blessings are more than I can realize. (Psalm 40:5.)

God bless. Love and prayers,

—Bro. Bill Busch

SC—Sept. 19, 2003—Just wanted to send a follow up to my e-mail for prayer that I sent out last week about this time. It didn't look so good then, but the Lord had mercy and hurricane *Isabella* missed us completely and we give God much praise and thanksgiving.

We were earnestly praying that the Lord would just turn the whole thing back out to sea. Well, He didn't quite see fit to do that, but He did definitely lessen the strength of the winds, etc., so we are very thankful for that and we pray for those that did get hit.

We certainly thank each one that took the time and energy to agree with us in prayer. May God bless you for that. God is so good to us! May we pray for each other.

—Carl, Rebecca, Cynthia and Ladonna Shaffer

From India...

Sept. 21, 2003—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to our dear saints everywhere in the marvelous name of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your letter dated Sept. 5 and the enclosures were noted with much appreciation.

During the second week of September we arranged youth camp meetings, one at Chalakudy in the north and another at Karickom in the south. "The mind of Jesus Christ" was the theme of the meeting in the north and "Temperance" was the theme of the meeting in the south. Both were very profitable meetings as many young people attended.

The Evening Light Gospel Team (E.L.G.T.) of our church worked in different new areas to spread the Gospel. This week the work was at Adoor. One of our ministers, Bro. N.K. Boaz's oldest son, Sijin, of 25 years was killed on the evening of September 17th in a motor accident. Remember that family in your prayers.

The tabernacle building work is progressing. It has to be completed before our General Convention in January. Our prayers are for our dear saints all over the world.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

From Nigeria...

Sept. 2, 2003—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey: Greetings to you and the other dedicated workers of the Faith Publishing House in Jesus' glorified name. We will not cease to thank God for the great spiritual benefits we have been deriving from the printed materials you make a lot of sacrifice to produce with the active support of the saints in the U. S. We know that we

have made no meaningful contribution towards the Faith Publishing work but have rather been always at the receiving end. However, our prayer has been for God to bless and sustain the valuable services you are rendering in the interest of souls. We thank all the saints abroad, without whose assistance we wouldn't have the printed gospel reaching us. May God bless you all.

A labourer in the Vineyard,
—Bro. F. Naths-Igbanibo

From the Philippines...

Sept. 10, 2003—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings of Christian love to you and your children. Regards to all the workers at the Print Shop. We hope you are all under the loving care of our dear heavenly Father.

May you extend my thanks to all the saints who are contributing for the mission work. We appreciate their love for others. Thank you so much also for all of the reading materials you are sending us. They are so helpful for us in teaching the congregations for their spiritual growth.

I am happy to report to you that the work here is moving forward. Six precious souls were immersed again in water baptism last Saturday and others are preparing to be baptized this coming fellowship meeting to be held Sept. 19-21. I conducted a Pastor's Seminar for six days at the campground. I feel exhausted but thank the Lord for renewing my strength. The pastors were so thankful for the knowledge they have gained to help them to be more effective in their preaching ministry. Four pastors are now in Llanera today. They will stay there for 15 days to evangelize the whole town. I rented a house for them to stay in and bought kitchenwares, bedding and food. I just arrived home in Sibut yesterday afternoon. I plan to go back to be with them tomorrow. We plan to evangelize all the towns and barrios where we have congregations—to strengthen the saints and to teach the Truth to all the people, convert for repentance of their sins and accept the Saviour for their salvation.

After finishing all the congregations we plan to go to other places and open new congregations, and preach the pure Word of God to the people. People are so happy to hear the Truth. Most of them have said they did not know that the Church of God is the Church recorded in the Bible and established by our Lord Jesus Christ, composed of people saved from their sins.

Again, may I say, thank you so much for your unwearied support.

Your brother in Christ, —Matias S. Tanguan

Sept. 13, 2003—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings of love to you in the lovely name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. I would like to give God praises for all He has done for me. I thank the Lord most of all for His healing touch upon my body, outside and inside. Thank you for your prayers and the saints' prayers for my sickness. I am so glad I am now sitting and sending a letter to you. I glorify His name.

You know Bro. Willie, with joyful heart I want to thank our almighty God as well as you. I know God will give us anything that is good for us. We pray that His overflowing blessings be in your life, to your whole family and to all the saints who give support to the mission work. We pray too that God will continue to bless our gospel work here in Manila.

We love you! Your sister, —Nellie Tibayan

Honduras Mission Report...

Sept. 22, 2003—Dear saints: We would like to once again inform you of the present Honduras missionary work and the plans for the next few months there. We thank each of you for your faithful support for this work and want you to know that the Lord is blessing.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Lenita Wall are there now. Sis. Lenita is helping Sis. Judy in the school. Bro. Doug is trying to get the downstairs portion of the mission house finished so there will be more living space for those who are staying there at this time. Bro. Doug reports that he has the windows ordered and the doors built. (Ready-made doors were too expensive.) The wiring is finished. As soon as the downstairs is finished they will have their shipment of furniture and personal belongings shipped to them. The shipping charges are quite expensive.

The Wall family is enjoying the children and young people and are making many friends. Sis. Judy and the Walls are feeding a couple of village boys who don't seem to have much direction right now. Bro. Doug is also trying to spend time with them, teaching them how to work, etc.

The following account is from a recent e-mail from Honduras, "Sin seems closer here because we live in such a small community. Things are stolen; there are drugs in the area and a bar on the hill. There is a 40-year-old man who has kidney failure. Some of the brothers have been to see him. Just last week he got saved. He has four young children.

"The saints have been going over to a little village, Milton. A lady there has recently been

saved and can't come to services. When the saints visit her others from that community join the services.

"The school seems to be going well. One little boy likes it so well that he walked two and a half miles to attend school after he missed the bus. Another young man desires to finish 12 levels before he is too old to attend, so he is at least doubling his work load."

Sis Judy is doing well, keeping very busy. She appreciates having the Walls there to help her with the mission load.

Bro. Keith just returned from a trip to Honduras. He was working with the public school officials who are incorporating our Christian curriculum into their schools. As it stands now, we plan to use one of their schools to start a pilot project by February, 2004. We first plan on opening a school in the town of Oak Ridge to about 30-40 eight year old children. Then we will build from there as the Lord blesses. It is a wonderful opportunity to present the gospel to the children as there are no restraints in our teaching them. They plead for help as their schools are of very poor quality.

Presently there are two teachers available for this new project. When funds become available, we will begin construction of the new learning center. There will also be expenses for the curriculum, the building materials and the school furniture.

Bro. Keith plans to return to Honduras in October to attend to more details for the new project and to help Sis. Judy close the school term until it reopens in February. Plans have also been made to have a tent meeting in one of the villages.

Bro. Ted Bock, Bro. Dave and Bro. Hershel Hargrave, Bro. Doug Wall, Bro. Keith Fuller and Bro. Toney Samons are now on the Honduras Missionary Board of Trustees. If you have any questions feel free to call any of us. If you have offerings that you would like to give to any of the Honduras Missionary needs: the present school, the upkeep of the present missionaries there or the new project in the public schools, you may send them to the Faith Publishing House or directly to the Church of God, Honduras Missionary Fund, P.O. Box 157, Green Bank, WV 24944. If you desire, you may designate how your funds should be divided.

We operate solely on your prayers and support. We thank you for what you are doing to make this missionary field a blessing. May God bless each of you.

Church of God, Honduras Missions

—Bro. Toney Samons

THREE ATTITUDES

(Continued from page 3.)

traction for you? Would you gain them? Then spend your present moments in blissful meditation on these eternal things. It will help you, at this present moment, to press forward. Allow nothing to occupy your mind that will draw you backward. Think only on those things that will help you onward. Lay aside every weight and run with patience the race set before you, looking, not backward to the discouragements, failures, or sins of the past, but to Jesus, who is the author and finisher of the Christian's faith.

ATTITUDE TOWARD THE FUTURE "REACHING FORTH."

Our attitude toward the future is the well-spring of our hope. We should not allow the past nor the present to dim our eyes to the bright star of inspiration that shines invitingly before us. Take from the Christian the hope of heaven and immortal glory, and you take from him his all. We have often heard it said that if there were no future reward the joys of salvation in this life would be worth living for. It is true that the joys of salvation here are worth all that it costs to obtain them, but we should remember that joy here is founded to a great extent on what we hope for in the future. If there were no future world and we knew that there was none, there could be no salvation and no present joy; so present joy is founded on future realities. Therefore to reach forth to the future is to add to our present strength and joy. It is true that many have overlooked the privileges and the joys of the Christian in this life. It is true that, though surrounded by sin and sorrow, we may, by abiding in the Savior's love, enjoy perfect victory and complete happiness right here in this world, but after all, the brightest and best of our hope and joy is the unfading crown which we shall receive after we have reached the goal in the land where trials and temptations shall never come and where we shall be surrounded no longer by temptation and sin, but by righteousness supreme and eternal.

The Greek word which in Phil. 3:13 is translated "reaching forth" points out the strong exertion made in the race wherein every muscle and nerve is strained and every particle of strength is exerted in running.

The apostle Paul considered that to him the winning of the prize was all-important. He had left the world with all it was worth behind him. He was pressing too swiftly along to enjoy the pleasures of life, therefore he must win Christ or lose

all. He was running for life, running for his life.

Dear reader, If you are in the Christian race, your all is at stake. You have no time to doubt or falter. The cause that you have espoused is of too great importance for you to stop and consider the suggestions of satan. Take your New Testament, read it through and mark the one bright hope that inspired the early Christians to forsake their all and follow Christ; the hope that strengthened them in the hour of affliction and temptation and helped them to say in persecutions and afflictions, in imprisonments and bonds, "None of these things move me." The hope that helped them to fearlessly face the wild beasts in the arena, to stand firm in the flames, and in the presence of frowning judges who demanded their allegiance to heathen gods, to frame the fatal sentence, "I am a Christian." When you have finished marking you will have found that the one thing which inspired them all under every circumstance of life to stand loyal to their Lord was the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, the crown that lies at the goal—heaven.

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“...IF HE REPENT, FORGIVE HIM”

Will you kindly explain Heb. 6:4-6: also Heb. 10:26-27? Do these scriptures have reference to the unpardonable sin? And is it impossible for persons having been sanctified, who wilfully fall away to obtain an experience of salvation again? C. R.

Answer. Explanations of these scriptures have been given before, but since many, on account of these texts, are accused of the devil and troubled to think that they themselves are in the spiritual state described, and since many have never read the explanations given, it may be well to give space to this subject again. Heb. 6:4-6 reads as follows: “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame.”

This certainly refers to a state in which it is impossible for people to obtain an experience of salvation again. But why is it impossible? Because such cannot be renewed unto or brought to repentance. They cannot be induced to repent. If they could they could be saved, for no truth is plainer in the Scriptures than that salvation is for everyone who will repent. God is ever ready to do according to the doctrine of His Son whom He hath sent and the teaching of the Son is: “...If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.” Luke 17:3-4. “...Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” John 6:37. “...Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” Rev.22:17. “Whosoever will,” whether he be a backslider or not, may have eternal life. “...Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Acts 2:21. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins...” I John 1:9.

These scriptures plainly show that whosoever repents and desires salvation is welcome to it, and the one who repents after having been saved and then overcome by sin is not excluded. But it is asked, How about a person who sins

after being sanctified? It matters not if he had been sanctified if he only repents. The same scriptures apply. The same “whosoever will” includes such a one. The Holy Spirit is what convicts and works repentance in people. (John 16:8.) Jesus said, “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him:...” John 6:44. “...He shall save his people from their sins.” Matt. 1:21. Who are His people? They that come to Him. He will not refuse them but save them.

Why multiply texts to show that God is willing to save all who will repent? He who begins a good work in the sinner, namely, convicts and works repentance in him and draws him to Christ is willing to save him. It is forever established, therefore, that the one who repents may have salvation by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ no matter whether it is a first coming of Christ or whether it is after he had been sanctified.

From this standpoint we will proceed with the passage in question. It speaks of a class who cannot be made to repent. It does not say it is impossible for them to be saved but impossible to renew them unto repentance. Repentance comes first, and of course, if they will not repent, they cannot be saved.

As to who constitute this class, notice that the apostle is very elucidative in his description. “Those who were once enlightened,” “have tasted of the heavenly gift,” “were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,” “have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come.” To “fall away” after having such an experience is simply to ignore the Son of God and crucify Him afresh. Falling away does not mean when one merely is overcome by sin during a battle with the enemy in which the heart still purposes to belong to God and seeks repentance and favor with God again as soon as possible. “Out of the heart are the issues of life,” and falling away would mean to drift carelessly into that state where the soul becomes listless, drawn away, perhaps, with the love of the world—a state in which the soul loses that earnestness to serve God, or that quickness to repent after having grieved Him, finally failing to realize his duty of living for God or walking in the light until he departs out of the reach of any entreaty to turn

him from his course. He becomes as one that beareth thorns and briars, who is rejected and whose end is to be burned.

Some who have been in the light of this reformation have thus fallen away. But those whose condition is not herein described and who still have a will to serve God should not apply this to themselves. Satan is ever ready to bring a gloom of discouragement upon any who have become despondent in their efforts and failures to have victory. Resist the devil: be of good courage; have confidence and faith in God's wonderful love which is able and willing to save you. He has no pleasure in your destruction but that you turn to Him and live.

Now to the other passage. "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries." Heb. 10:26-27.

This scripture is somewhat parallel to Heb. 6:4-6. As the difficulty was to understand the term "fall away," so the expression "sin wilfully" troubles a good many. A careful notice of verses 23 to 29 will help us to understand "sin wilfully," so read them carefully. It cannot mean to be simply overcome by sin while endeavoring to serve God, though all sin is more or less wilful. To "sin wilfully," as used here, is defined in verses 28 and 29. It means to deliberately turn from Christ, despising His law, as Moses' law

was despised, to tread under foot the Son of God, to count the blood of the covenant an unholy thing and to treat the Holy Spirit with contempt. To do this voluntarily with a will, not as when yielding to sin under temptation, but as a choice of the soul is what is meant here. There is danger of falling away in such a state, and on this account the apostle urges us to exhort one another, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is,

It is asked whether these scriptures have reference to the unpardonable sin. They amount to the same thing, and a person is brought into an unpardonable state; that is a state in which he will not repent, nor can he repent: for he wilfully has chosen to despise the Spirit of grace.

Again, we will say these texts need discourage no one who means to serve God. As we have said all sin is more or less wilful, but there is a certain kind of wilfulness that is here meant, a wilfulness that is the choice of the soul in reference to turning against Christ after having had the experience the apostle describes. Some may backslide through discouragement and remain backsliders for some considerable time, and yet this wilfulness be lacking, it being not a matter of choice in remaining away from God.

Verse 27 means that there remains a fearful and impending judgment for those who become adversaries in the manner described.

G. T. Sept. 24, 1903 —Andrew L. Byers



THE PETITION OF THE OUTCAST

By E. E. Byrum

"No one cares for me, and nobody loves me," is a common expression of the one who is an outcast, being forsaken by friends and society. Such persons feel that they are forsaken by both God and man, and their feelings can scarcely be described. In many cases there seems to be nothing for which to live, while death means only to step into deeper darkness and eternal despair.

King Manasseh turned aside from the way of righteousness and did evil in the sight of the Lord. His wickedness was of the deepest dye. The Lord warned him and the people, but they would not harken.

For a time the Lord permitted their enemies to prevail over them. Manasseh was bound with

fetters and carried into captivity. While in exile, or banished from his kingdom, suffering pain and humiliation, he became awakened to his condition. He then began to humble his heart in prayer. The Lord heard his petition and answered.

"And when he was in affliction, he besought the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, And prayed unto him: and he was entreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord he was God." II Chronicles 33:12-13.

Another one who had the experience of being an outcast was Hagar, who fled from the

face of her mistress, and the Lord sent an angel after her. It was recorded that "the angel of the Lord found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way of Shur. And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence comest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress, Sarai. And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands."

After her child was born she again became an outcast and wandered away into the wilderness with only the portion of a bond servant, which was some bread and a bottle of water. Soon "the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs. And she went, and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bowshot: for she said, Let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against him, and lift up her voice, and wept. And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? Fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is. Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation. And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink. And God was with

the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer. And he dwelt in the wilderness of Paran: and his mother took him a wife out of the land of Egypt."

These instances should be an encouragement to those who are friendless, penniless and to whom the future seems dark and dreary. It was because of their prayer, penitent plea, or anguish of soul that the Lord was construed to lend a helping hand in time of great distress.

Another very striking illustration of the mercy of God is shown in the instance of the prodigal son. (Luke 15:11-24.) Jesus said, "I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Luke 15:10.

It often happens that those in such a deplorable condition as to have become outcasts are so desperately discouraged as to believe that they are forsaken by God and man, sometimes even doubting the existence of God, but many in such a condition have ventured to pray, "Oh, God, if there be a God." Their state of wretchedness caused them to think there could scarcely be a God of mercy. However, there is hope for such if they come in humility of heart and penitence, no matter how great their desperation and despair. There is a way by which they may find favor in the sight of God, and that is through earnest, humble prayer.



REPENTANCE

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit:..." Psalm 51:17.

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Proverbs 28:13.

Behold here an individual on his knees, weeping. He is in great distress of mind; he has retired from the busy walks of life and come to this place of solitude to give vent to his feelings. His groans break the surrounding silence; they return in soft but melancholy echoes to his ears. Above his head are seen descending particles of heavenly light: a little in the rear stands the plow, imbedded in the opening earth.

This is an emblem of Repentance. The man bowed on his knees represents the true penitent whose soul is humbled under the mighty hand of God. He withdraws from the vanities of the

world; he is sick of sin; he breaks the silence of solitude with his inquiries of, "O, that I knew where I might find him!" He does not in the pride of self-righteousness, exclaim, "God, I thank thee that I am not as other men," etc. Oh, no! Too deeply he feels the plague of his own heart.

As the plow enters the hard soil and lays bare furrow after furrow even so has conviction penetrated the heart of the true penitent and laid bare its deceitful folds and discovered its once hidden depths of pollution and guilt. He abhors himself in dust and in ashes; he can only say, "God be merciful to me a sinner." The

plowshare of God's convicting spirit has entered and broken up the fallow ground of his heart; hence he brings the sacrifice with which God is well pleased—that is, "a broken and contrite heart"—and the light of Jehovah's countenance falls full upon his soul as an inward token of divine acceptance.

Repentance consists in a change of mind or purpose wherein the penitent "ceases to do evil" and "learns to do well." The prodigal repented when he said, "I will arise and go to my father," and departed. The farmer's son, who, when he had refused to go and work in the vineyard and afterward altered his purpose and went, repented. Saul of Tarsus, when he refused any longer to obey the mandates of the chief priests and scribes and inquired, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" repented. Thus we see it consists in actually doing the will of God. It is not mere anxiety; Simon Magus had this; nevertheless he was still in the "bonds of iniquity." Nor mere trembling; Felix trembled yet retained his sins. Nor remorse; Judas had this and died in despair.

Repentance is the gate of heaven. It is the condition upon the fulfillment of which depends eternal life. "You repent, and I will forgive." Hence the ambassadors of heaven have invariably directed the attention of sinners to this as a first step toward obtaining the favor of God and every promised blessing. The prophets

in their denunciations; John of the Desert in his fiery exhortations; the Savior in His divine instructions and the apostles in their warm appeals, enjoined upon every soul "repentance toward God."

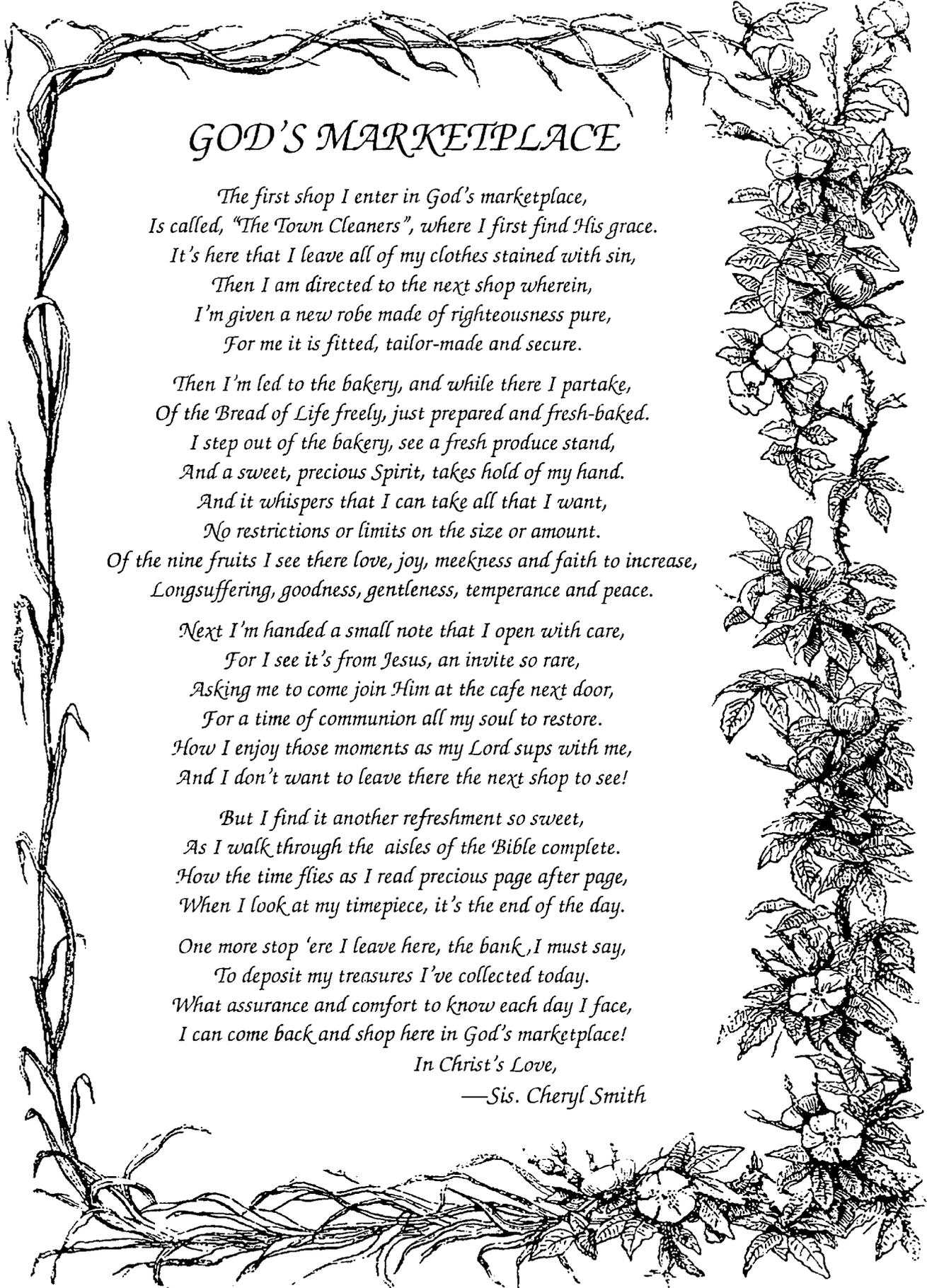
Through this gate all have passed who have

at any time been recognized by the Almighty as His servants. The children of Israel passed through it typically, when they ate the bitter herbs—before they beheld the pillars of cloud and of fire in the wilderness; Isaiah, ere he touched the sacred harp of prophesy; Elijah, ere he ascended in the chariot of ethereal fire; Ezekiel, before he gazed upon the visions of the Eternal; Daniel, before the Angel of God pronounced him "Blessed;" Paul, ere he was "caught up to the third heaven;" and John of Patmos, before the glorious Revelations of "Alpha and Omega" filled him with wonder and astonishment; and "the hundred and forty-four thousand," ere they sung the song of Moses and of the Lamb. Repen-



On bended knees, replete with godly grief,
See, where the mourner kneels to seek relief;
No, "God, I thank thee," freezes on his tongue,
For works of merit, that to him belong:
Deep in his soul conviction's plowshare rings,
And to the surface his corruption brings;
He loathes himself, in lowest dust he lies,
And all-abased, "Unclean, unclean," he cries.
From his full heart pours forth the gushing plea,
"God of the lost, be merciful to me!"
The light of life descends in heavenly rays,
And angels shout, and sing, "Behold, he prays."

tance is a sacred duty; God "now commands all men everywhere to repent." Why? "Because all have sinned and come short of the glory of God;" and, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."



GOD'S MARKETPLACE

*The first shop I enter in God's marketplace,
Is called, "The Town Cleaners", where I first find His grace.
It's here that I leave all of my clothes stained with sin,
Then I am directed to the next shop wherein,
I'm given a new robe made of righteousness pure,
For me it is fitted, tailor-made and secure.*

*Then I'm led to the bakery, and while there I partake,
Of the Bread of Life freely, just prepared and fresh-baked.
I step out of the bakery, see a fresh produce stand,
And a sweet, precious Spirit, takes hold of my hand.
And it whispers that I can take all that I want,
No restrictions or limits on the size or amount.
Of the nine fruits I see there love, joy, meekness and faith to increase,
Longsuffering, goodness, gentleness, temperance and peace.*

*Next I'm handed a small note that I open with care,
For I see it's from Jesus, an invite so rare,
Asking me to come join Him at the cafe next door,
For a time of communion all my soul to restore.
How I enjoy those moments as my Lord sups with me,
And I don't want to leave there the next shop to see!*

*But I find it another refreshment so sweet,
As I walk through the aisles of the Bible complete.
How the time flies as I read precious page after page,
When I look at my timepiece, it's the end of the day.*

*One more stop 'ere I leave here, the bank, I must say,
To deposit my treasures I've collected today.
What assurance and comfort to know each day I face,
I can come back and shop here in God's marketplace!*

In Christ's Love,

—Sis. Cheryl Smith