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

God Is Love

YE SHINE AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD. Jesus Saves

The night cometh, when no man can work.

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GREAT GAIN

By R. Rothman

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." I Tim. 6:6-8.

The apostle here tells us what goes with godliness to make it great gain. Discontented people give the impression that their religion is to them great loss. Salvation always brings with it a degree of contentment. but this is a Christian grace that all may cultivate with advantage. When one is truly contented with such things as he has, he is safe from many evils of the world. "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition." I Tim. 6:9. The Psalmist says, "A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked." Psa. 37:16.

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Contentment is by no means want of true ambition. It is rather a blessed state in which man makes the best of his opportunities and whether at the first round or top of the ladder is contented in the assurance that he has done and is doing his duty. But the Christian has a contentment far superior to anything the world can offer. He truly knows that all things are working together for his good if he loves God and thus can rest under the shadow of the Almighty as does a child on the bosom of its mother. "Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother; my soul is even as a weaned child." Psa. 131:2.

A man may be perfectly contented with himself and with God and still be striving and watching and praying. The apostle tells us that he had learned in whatever state he was therewith to be content (Phil. 4:11), and yet he never ceased his industry nor his prayers and supplications. We may get a good idea of contentment from Heb. 13:5-6. "Let your, conversation [conduct] be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Someone has said that "to have achieved contentment is to have conquered the world, to have mounted the highest round of the ladder, to have climbed the mountain. Contentment lives long, is healthy, does not quarrel nor snarl, and puts

the best face on matters. It is pleasant to live with, and a good substance to work upon; it is not hasty, nor greedy, nor slovenly in its work."

Some people are discontented because their lot is humble in life, and they think that were they only somebody great or rich they would then be content. But these people will never be content under any circumstances, unless they themselves change. What makes them discontented in one state will do the same in another. "Is that great animal better," says a saint of old, "that hath two or three mountains to graze o'er than a little bee that feeds on dew and the manna of flowers and what falls every morning from the storehouse of heaven, clouds, and providence? Can a

man quench his thirst better out of a river than a full urn, or drink better from the fountain that is richly paved with marble than when it wells from the hillside and fresh green turf?"

Then away with discontent! Think ye, Christian soldier, that thou art better than thy Master—more worthy of ease?

"And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." Matt. 8:20.

"The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever. They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied." Psa. 37:18-19.



GOD DOES NOT ACCEPT EXCUSES

By Sis. Naomi Jennings

Adam and Eve were placed in the beautiful garden of Eden. They were permitted to eat of all the wonderful things that God had provided for them, but they were given this one specific instruction. "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Genesis 2:17. However, we find that later, after they disobeyed the Lord and they heard the voice of the Lord walking in the cool of the evening, they went and hid themselves from His presence. In Genesis 3:11-13 it says, "And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman. What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." What an excuse! The man made an excuse. but God didn't accept it. Then the woman made an excuse, and God didn't accept it either. Our failure to obey the Lord cannot be justified by an excuse. We are responsible for our actions and blaming someone else does

not clear us of that responsibility. Much suffering and misery resulted from the disobedience of Adam and Eve.

In the 15th chapter of I Samuel we are told that Samuel anointed Saul to be king and then he was given the charge in the 3rd verse, "Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass." We find in the 9th verse that Saul did not do as he was commanded. "But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly." Then the Lord told Samuel that Saul had not done what the Lord had commanded him. The 13th verse says, "And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD. And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"

Here comes another excuse in verse 15. "And Saul said, They have brought them from

the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed." In the 30th verse it says, "Then he said, I have sinned: *yet* honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God."

First Saul disobeyed the Lord, then he was dishonest, thirdly he made excuses and fourthly he was full of pride and wanted to be honored before the people. Samuel told Saul that he had rejected the word of the Lord and the Lord rejected him from being king over Israel, Oh, how sad! Saul should have humbled himself before the Lord and said "Lord, I failed You, please forgive me." Let us not give excuses when we fail but call on the Lord for mercy and admit our failures and ask Him to help us. Don't be too proud to beg or dig. It's digging, begging and praying time. God is not pleased with all of the excuses that we hear today. "It's no harm for this." "It's all right to let down a little here." "Everybody else is doing it." "We'll get more people." Oh, God, have mercy is our cry.

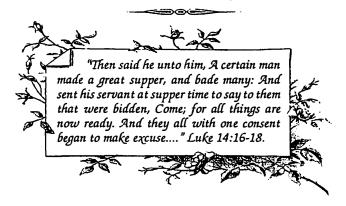
We heard a message a few weeks ago entitled *Lord*, *Wake up Zion*. Zion, we as God's people, really needs to wake up. Isaiah 52:1 says, "Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion;..." We need to be awakened and then arise and go forward.

In Nehemiah 9:24-27 it says, "So the children went in and possessed the land, and thou subduedst before them the inhabitants of the land,... And they took strong cities, and a fat land, and possessed houses full of all goods, wells digged, vineyards, and oliveyards, and fruit trees in abundance: so they did eat, and were filled, and became fat, and delighted themselves in thy great goodness. Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations. Therefore thou deliveredst them into the hand of their enemies, who vexed them: and in the time of their trouble, when they cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven; and according to thy manifold mercies thou gavest them saviours, who saved them out of the hand of their enemies." The children of Israel had been disobedient, and in the time of their trouble they cried to the Lord and He had mercy on them. God wants us to cry unto Him when we fail. He will forgive but He doesn't want lots of excuses.

Job 23:8-10 says, "Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." God knows the way that we take and He is there to help us. Satan is loose—he is destroying so many. How sad! God wants us to admit our faults and weaknesses, and He will give us strength and courage.

When the prophet Nathan confronted King David about the sin he committed with Bathsheba and for killing her husband, Uriah, King David humbled his heart and repented of his sin. God blessed David and restored him. He did not excuse himself, but he humbled to his God and God heard his prayer. We have a faithful Savior who is loving and kind. In Psalm 51:1-3 is recorded the prayer of David. It says, "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me throughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me." Thank God, David was an example to us of a man who was willing to humble his heart and confess his sin. We have the same privilege to take everything to God in prayer.

Pray for me, that I will continue to be obedient and honest before my Lord.



FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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••••• Single copy, one year \$5.00 Package of 5 papers to one address, one year \$20.00 Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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.

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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.

In order to comply with Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

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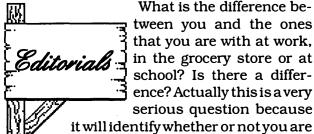
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What is the difference between you and the ones that you are with at work, school? Is there a difference? Actually this is a very serious question because

it will identify whether or not you are living for the Lord or for self. Jesus wants us to be different and His teachings in the fifth chapter of

 M_{\cdots} Matthew distinctly show what some of those differences should be. In the thirteenth verse He said, "Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." Too many people today are living for self and their claim to Christianity is vain. Many of the religious leaders are also living for self and their following continues to live in sin and will be destroyed in the end.

God is looking for that rare soul who will deny the selfish, earthly desires and seek Him with their whole heart. There are some who want to live for the Lord, but they also want to gratify self and as a result their salt has lost its savour.

It is imperative that a real change takes place in the heart of a man. When one truly repents there will be a distinct difference. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Corinthians 5:17. If the "old things" are still showing up in a person's life, they need to do some more repenting until God makes them "new."

Romans 12:2 says, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." There are groups of people today that advocate very strongly about not being "conformed" to this world and yet they leave out the part about being "transformed." Others pretend to place great emphasis on being "transformed" or "born again" and yet they are not proving what is "that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" and their lives are conformed to the world and God is displeased.

In Romans 12:2 the Greek word which is translated into English as transformed means to change. Our English word metamorphosis comes from this Greekroot word. In II Corinthians 11:14-15 it says, "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." The different Greek word translated into English as transformed in these two verses means to disguise. There is a fundamental difference between being changed and being disguised. Even sinners, many times, can tell the difference and God always knows the difference. The fruit of one's works will prove whether they are living for self and the flesh or if they are genuinely changed and living in the kingdom of God.

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" II Corinthians 13:5. It is important for all who profess godlines to examine themselves and be sure that Jesus Christ is in their life and that His smile of approval and His blessing is upon them.

It is a beautiful and rare sight to behold one who has truly been transformed and placed in the Church of God by a heavenly birth. They are clothed with garments that are fairer than the lilies. They have put on robes of righteousness that are not spotted by stains of the world. Their righteousness is not their own but it is the righteousness that can only come from the glorious Son of God. They are clean and pure from the inside out. The fruits of their life are peaceable, sweet and pure and are directly traceable to the Spirit of God working in their hearts and minds. Joy and freedom has replaced oppression and bondage and a new song is coming from their lips motivated by deep feelings of gratitude and thanksgiving. They have discovered the "Pearl of Great Price" and their desire to posses it is so intense that everything else has become secondary. I Peter 2:9 says, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." God places great value on His children and is preparing a place for them that is far more glorious than this world can imagine.

On April 5-13 the Lord permitted Bro. Michael Smith, Bro. Galen Kelly and two of his children, Benjamin and Alison accompanied by our daugh-

ter Elizabeth and Neta and I to visit the saints in the Philippines. Our heart rejoiced to see them encouraged and bravely meeting the difficult battles of life that face them in a country that is plagued with much poverty. We thank the Lord for those who are giving their time and efforts to proclaim the Gospel message to their people. Their efforts are being rewarded by new converts and new congregations that are springing up. The Philippines is ripe for the Gospel and the sacrifice the saints here have made for them has not been wasted but has been met with a concentrated effort on their part to further establish the Church of God in their country. There is a plea for more chapels to be built in areas where new congregations are established and pastors are laboring. One brother who is laboring in an area where the land is in greater demand and the prices are higher asked me if I thought it was possible for them to obtain a chapel. I tried to explain that while it was not within my power to supply their need, they should look to the Lord and have faith in Him to grant their request. One very talented young pastor who has been a radio announcer and is now giving his time to minister the gospel has a 30 minute radio program on Saturday evening that has produced good results. His dream is to own a small radio station that will cover a highly populated city area of the Philippines. He could obtain an FM station that would be a franchise from a station in Manila and could carry repeat programming as well as what programming he would like to produce for the Church of God. Upon inquiry I learned that the franchise could be purchased, which would also include the major equipment needed, for about \$5,000 dollars.

The meeting that was held over Easter weekend was blessed of the Lord. The saints gathered in under the tabernacle from the various congregations and enjoyed fellowship with one another and the Lord. They sang some songs in English and some in their own language, Tagalog. The Bible studies and messages were effective and souls were seeking for a better understanding of the Truth and for more of the Lord. While language did present somewhat of a barrier, their love for us and for the Lord was unmistakable. Pray with us that the Lord will bless this work and refine for Himself a people in the Philippines who are without spot and blameless.

The Lord enabled us to replenish our stock of two small books, Emma Bailey Seeks Truth and The Great Sacrifice. The first book by Mable Hale relates the experiences of young Emma Bailey's encounter with the tongues movement. While she gave herself over to that spirit it left her feeling ashamed of her own actions as well as the conduct of others who were under its controlling influence. But God was faithful to her honest heart and sent the light of His Word to bring deliverance from this binding spirit and revealed the Truth of His Holy Spirit. This 24 page booklet has a price of \$1.00. The Great Sacrifice is a message delivered at Monark Springs Camp Meeting, July 1950 by Bro. Fred Pruitt. This 32 page booklet also has a price of \$1.00. If you would like either of these books be sure to let us know.

There is a continual need for articles and testimonies for the paper that are inspired by the Lord. You may never know this side of eternity how helpful it may be to a soul who is struggling and in need of the words of encouragement that you could offer. Sure, it takes time to draw your mind in and write the thoughts that the Lord inspires but its value could prove a real blessing to you as well as others. Ask the Lord what He would have you to do.

We thank the Lord for what He has blessed us with in the way of bindery equipment. We have not been able to devote as much time to it as we would like but the Lord did help us find some new motors at a very reasonable price for a couple of the machines. We installed and temporarily wired the motors to the Smythe building-in machine and the casing-in machine. It was a feeling of elation to see the machines come to life and the multitude of moving parts begin operating in unison. The Lord is still helping us to gather the required equipment and we are thankful for His mercy. Lord willing, we plan to return to Pennsylvania to pick up some parts and equipment that was not included in the earlier shipment and then go on to Delaware to bring back more needed machinery that we have located. Continue to remember us in prayer that all will come together and work properly for His glory and the benefit of His people. —Bro. Willie E. Murphey wemurphey@yahoo.com



LA—Pray for my niece who has had six bypass operations. Remember her soul and body.

—Sis. Guy Domin

CA—I have muscular degeneration and would appreciate your prayers.

—Bro. Ivan Forbes WV—Keep me on your prayer list. My legs are hurting day and night. Also remember my family. —Sis. Melba Powell

LA—Remember Sis. Krystal Purvis in prayer. She has a serious need in her body.

Philippines—Please ask the dear saints to pray for Sis. Dinah Duremdes. She has a lung and liver ailment. Her hands and fingers are also swollen and the skin cracks. Also remember Sis. Abigail, she has severe Eczema.

—Sis. Nellie Tibayan OH—Pray for the daughter of Paul Brown. She was in a very serious motorcycle accident and has sustained multiple broken bones and injuries and needs the help of the Lord in soul and body.

Standing Prayer Requests

Carlos Arriago
Sis. Mamie Butcher
Sis. Helen Carson
Bro. Hubert Corteway
Sis. Waneta Creel
Sis. Elaine Dunn
Sis. Evelyn Fredrickson
Bro. Troy Gentry
Bro. Jeff Gutwein
Bro. Robert Hetland
Bro. Lee Hilton
Bro. Doyle LaCroix
The Lounds Sisters
Sis. Ruth McMakin
Sis. Marie Mitchell

Sis. Melba Powell Sis. Anna Severs Sis. Catherine Shaffer The Mitch Taylor family

MEETING DATES

Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—May 28-June 6
Holly Hill, SC—May 30-June 6
Green Bank, WV—June 11-17
Jefferson, OR—June 11-20
Tulsa, OK—June 13-20
Alcoa, TN (Sister's Retreat)—June 18-20
General Southern

(Loranger, LA)—June 27-July 4
Fresno, CA—July 2-11
National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 16-25
California State (Pacoima)—August 20-29
Myrtle, MO—July 30-August 4
Spooner, WI (Tent Meeting)—August 25-29

MEETING NOTICES

OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING

The annual Oklahoma State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held May 28-June 6, at the campground located east off of Sooner Road on Lake View Road, which is a little over four-tenths of a mile south of the intersection of South Division and Sooner Road.

As is customary, the first service will be held Friday evening, May 28, at 7:30, with three services daily thereafter. Early morning prayer services and youth meetings will be held as announced.

An invitation to attend is extended to everyone. Your presence will be appreciated. Provisions will be made for those attending.

The meeting will be operated by freewill offerings. If you would like to make a contribution, you may do so by sending it directly to the state treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, 1023 E. Prairie Grove Rd., Guthrie, OK 73044.

For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Stanley Dickson, (405) 260-8822.

HOLLY HILL, SC, CAMP MEETING

The Holly Hill, SC Camp Meeting will be held from May 30th through June 6th, Lord willing. We would like to cordially invite each one to come and be with us during this time. The daily schedule for the services is planned as follows: Morning Prayer Service at 8:00 a.m., Breakfast at 9:00 a.m., Morning Service at 10:30 a.m., Lunch at 1:00 p.m., Supper at 5:30 p.m. and Evening Service at 7:30 p.m. If you are planning to attend, we request that you call Sis. Rena Mae Crummie at (803) 496-5768 or Sis. Cheryl Smith at (803) 492-7975 ahead of time so we can make sleeping accommodations for all. All are welcome!

We desire earnest prayer for our congregation since we no longer have a pastor. Please pray that the Lord will send us a pastor, according to His will, and that He will continue to bless us and meet with us. He is so faithful! We look forward to seeing all who can come to our meeting

GREEN BANK, WV, CAMP MEETING

The annual Green Bank Camp Meeting is scheduled to begin on Friday evening, June 11 and conclude Thursday evening, the 17th, Lord willing. Services will be held daily at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Two meals will be served daily: breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and the noon meal immediately following the morning service. Young people's meeting is at 6:00 p.m. There are no afternoon services scheduled. Special minister's meetings as well as sister's and brother's meetings are sometimes scheduled during the week.

All are welcome to attend this meeting. If young people attend without parents, please make sure they are accountable to an adult in attendence who will see that they are attending scheduled services and that they are behaving properly. Dorm space for girls and boys is provided as well as rooms and private homes for others. Please bring your own bedding and towels, and come prepared for cool weather with a jacket, and if you have room you may want to bring a heater and a fan! The weather is very unpredictable in June in West Virginia.

It would be nice if you could call with notification of your plans to come to help us be betterorganized with sleeping accommodations. However, if you decide to suddenly drop by, please do so. We welcome you.

We are praying for the Holy Spirit to meet us here in this meeting. In preparation for this, we are asking you to help us pray for special anointing in our services. We have isolated saints and new contacts that frequently attend our meeting seeking special guidance or blessings. In addition to this, we feel that all those in attendence need a special blessing and souls need to be saved.

The campground is located just off Route 28 and 92 in Arbovale. Signs will be posted to direct you to the grounds. Camper hookups are also available. For information, please call Bro. Toney Samons at (304) 456-3017, or 456 5421. E-mail at toneysamons@yahoo.com.

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 11th at 7:30 p.m. and will continue through the 20th. 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 Bro. Cliff Smith at (503) 581-4575 or Bro. 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, SISTER'S RETREAT

The 2nd Annual Weekend Sister's Retreat will be held June 18–20, 2004 for sisters beginning at the age of 21 years-old. There will be two full days of sessions. On Friday, we will have a session in the morning and a session in the afternoon for all individuals attending. On Saturday, there will be a total of eight sessions—four (2 sessions for the married and 2 sessions for the single) in the morning and four (2 sessions for the married and 2 sessions for the single) in the afternoon. We need eight willing individuals to step forward and volunteer to run a session on Saturday. Please call Sis. Mary McDonald or Sis. Carrie Porter to let them know if you would like to volunteer.

We would appreciate it if you would send in topics and ideas that you would be interested in discussing, either by postal mail (Evening Light Church of God, 322 Lindsay Street, Alcoa, TN 37701) or e-mail (tnsistersretreat@yahoo.com).

This retreat will be supported by freewill offerings. 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 motel, we can provide you with information regarding surrounding motels in the

area. If you have comments or would like additional information, please contact either Sis. Mary McDonald at (865) 977-6997 or Sis. Carrie Porter at (865) 984-2348 or send an e-mail to tnsistersretreat@yahoo.com.

GENERAL SOUTHERN, LORANGER, LA

Lord willing, this meeting will begin Sunday June 27th, with services daily through July 4th. Come for a blessing and please support this meeting in your prayers.

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 met by freewill offerings.

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

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

For more information write Nelson Doolittle: 51367 Narretto Road., Loranger, LA 70446. Phone (985) 878-6111. The chapel phone is (985) 878-2788.

FRESNO, CA. CAMP MEETING

The Church of God at Fresno, CA schedule of camp meeting is from July 2-11, 2004. We pray that the Lord will awaken and stir souls more than ever throughout this camp meeting season.

—Sis. Gladys Foster

NATIONAL CAMP MEETING MONARK SPRINGS, MO

The National Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO, July 16-25, 2003. All are cordially invited to come and bring others to enjoy the blessings we are expecting from the Lord.

The Monark Springs campground is located approximately five miles east of Neosho, MO. It is one mile east and 3/4 mile south of the intersection of Highways 86 and 59.

If you travel to Neosho by bus, you may telephone the campground, (417) 472-6427, or Bro. Mike Hightower, (417) 451-3636, for transportation.

The camp meeting is conducted on a freewill offering basis. There is no charge for meals or

lodging on the campgrounds. You are welcome to come and enjoy the meeting. We are confident God will supply every need. Meals will be served in the dining hall. Dormitory space and trailer spots are available on a first-come basis. Family units are also available.

The business managers are Randel Bradley (see address and telephone number below), and Mike Hightower, 13974 Newt Dr., Neosho, MO 64850. Phone, (417) 451-3636.

Instructions For Making Dormitory Reservations

Call DeLoris Bradley (620-226-3390). If not at home, please leave a message on the answering machine, or e-mail <rdbradley@ckt.net> I will call or e-mail to confirm.

Please provide the following information so I can accommodate each one better:

Name and phone number

Date of arrival

Date of departure

Number of adults and children in party Things to keep in mind:

Bring your own bedding if possible.

If you leave after the weekend be sure to let me know even if you are returning the next weekend.

No young people or children are to stay alone in cabins or family units.

After Wednesday the rooms start clearing out, so you might want to keep that in mind.

We have a boys' and a girls' dorm—if your child is staying in one of these we ask that you feel the responsibility of staying also for at least one night.

There is a mens' dorm, ladies' dorm and a ladies' dorm for the handicapped.

We want everyone to come and enjoy the fellowship of kindred hearts while we worship the Lord together.

Come praying that the Holy Spirit will have full reign in all that we as a group do, from the dorms to the kitchen, and in cleaning and keeping our grounds orderly. Parents or guardians, please keep your children in services with you. I believe God would be pleased if we observe these things and will meet with us under the tabernacle in a greater way.

Love and prayers.

—DeLoris and Randel Bradley 1540 2000 Rd Bartlett, KS 67332

MEETING REPORT

BOLEY, OK, MEETING REPORT

The Boley Church of God. Evening Light Saints, would like to thank everyone who participated in our Spring Meeting this 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 gave 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!

—Sis. Savannah King



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

AR—Dear Bro. Willie: We are so thankful for the Lord working things out for His trusting children, so be of good courage and look to the Lord in all the needs that may come or arise.

When we look back to the year 1937, that night when the Lord talked to our heart and made a wonderful change in our life. We just have to marvel at His ways of dealing with us even yet.

Do remember us in prayer. With love to all, —Bro. Roy & Sis. Virginia Harmon

KS—Dear Bro. Willie and saints: I am pressing, climbing, rejoicing and enjoying my journey to the world above. We had a study recently about heaven, and we were all asked to tell what we want most to see when we get to heaven. It was a good discussion and so interesting to hear what different ones thought or felt. It surely stirred up our minds and caused us to really think about the joys and beauty of heaven. I truly want to make it my home. May God bless all of His dear children. —Sis. Shirley Knight

OK—Dear readers: Are you experiencing some hardship, affliction or tribulation? "Praise changes things." The turmoil and problem may remain for a season, but after praising and giving God thanksgiving our outlook and atti-

tudes will have a pronounced turnaround. Please note the following article entitled *Praise Changes Things*.

"Nothing so pleases God in connection with our prayer and our praise and nothing so blesses the man who prays as the praise which he offers. I got a great blessing once in China in this connection. I had received bad and sad news from home and deep shadows had covered my soul. I prayed, but the darkness did not vanish. I summoned myself to endure, but the darkness only deepened. Just then I went to an inland station and saw on the wall of the mission home these words: 'Try Thanksgiving." I did and in a moment every shadow was gone, not to return. Yes, the psalmist was right, 'It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord." Henry W. Frost

"Count your many blessings and it will surprise you what the Lord has done."

"When the clouds above us hover, and the hosts of hell are near, Shout His praises, hallelujah! Christ will make them disappear."

-Sis. Carol Jantz

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings to you this beautiful spring day! The Lord has been so good to us. I have absolutely no complaints with His dealings and His plan. Serving the Lord is a wonderful way to live.

-Sis. Kay Stover

LA—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta—Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. What a privilege to love, serve and trust Jesus!

—Sis. Dorall Forbes

LA—I would like to give my testimony to glorify God and to give hope to anyone who is under satan's bondage.

During our fall meeting in 2002, I sought the Lord for help with accusations from the devil. The Lord broke down a lot of the cage that he had me in. Since that time I have had many battles with accusations, fears, doubts, anxiety and plain terror, but God has been steadily giving me victories. He is teaching me how to recognize and defeat the enemy.

Many times God has met me with verses, songs, thoughts, messages and books that have given me the strength I needed to gain the victory. One thing I am learning is that the devil doesn't let his victims go without fierce battles. There are times when one is resisting him that

they feel like they are trampling all over God and that they are sinning. But there is victory and healing in Jesus. God has much more power than satan has and God is able to deliver!

Verse three of song number 126 in the *Evening Light Songs* says, "Tho' raging storms about me sweep, and fiery billows roll, to thee, dear Lord, I humbly trust the keeping of my soul." Some verses of Scripture that have been anchors for me are: Philippians 3:13-15, II Timothy 1:7, Ephesians 6:16, Psalm 71:1, Psalm 143:8 and Proverbs 16:3.

To anyone who may be suffering the torments of satan, I recommend reading *The Holy Spirit and other Spirits* and *Rays of Hope*, both by D.O. Teasley and *The Secret of the Singing Heart* by C. W. Naylor. Also, two taped messages to listen to are *Guilt* by Bro. Ed Wilson and *The Balanced Life* by Bro. Donald Sharp. I can provide copies of the message tapes for anyone interested.

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." Isaiah 12:2-3.

Pray for me. Love, —Sis. Christy Doolittle

OK—Dear Bro. Willie: Special greetings to the saints at the Print Shop. I am still saved and encouraged. We had a good meeting in April. Have you met Sis. Mary McDonald? We are rejoicing in her message. Give my love to the saints. I am yours in Christ Jesus,

-Sis. Mary O. Jones

Honduras Missionary Report...

OH—Dear Brethren: Greetings in Jesus' name. During the month of February, we traveled to Honduras. Included in our company were Sis. Bonnie Riley, my daughter, Neysa; my sons, Andrew and Mark; my son-in-law, David Hargrave and Daniel Haley, a friend and brother in Christ. Our main purpose was to assist in the opening of the schools and to encourage the brethren. We were thankful to see the improvement of Sis. Lenita Wall and to find her looking forward to helping in the school. While the fevers were rampant on the island at this time, the Lord was merciful to the saints and their families.

Bro. Doug Wall has been faithful in working with the building projects. It was a delight to see the progress made on the missionary home. He

made significant progress on the lower level of the building where Sis. Judy and Sis. Bonnie will reside. The Wall family lives on the upper level. Bro. Doug and Bro. Jim Wall and the local brethren have done a wonderful job in building a learning center in the public school facility in Oak Ridge. The learning center should facilitate several groups of children using Christian curriculum. Our burden is that the Lord will use the school project to reach families in the area. Presently, we have about 45 children enrolled in the new school and about the same number in Guiding Light School, which is the congregation school. We could have many more children, but present resources do not provide for this.

The need for qualified help in this endeavor is great. Sis. Bonnie and Sis. Judy are serving the children in Oak Ridge while also assisting Sis. Lenita in the congregation school in Politilly. They also are receiving help from some young sisters in the congregation. There is such a demand to learn English, using any method, until the demand has opened up a wonderful opportunity to introduce the children and their families to Jesus, through Christ-centered curriculum. There is a waiting list of children wanting to get into the program.

While there, the education officials asked if we could train their teachers to teach English. There is a demand on the island for these services. Also, the director of schools has requested us to come to his home state of Olancha to bring the gospel. He has offered his home as a base for the workers.

During our stay, the Lord led Bro. David to hold several nights of meeting in Politilly and Milton. The anointed word was preached and the response at the beginning of the meeting was very good. However, the enemy opposed the meeting in Milton for this reason and we finished out the services in Politilly with good attendance and interest. On the final Wednesday we were there, we had the ordinance service that proved a blessing to all. Most in attendance had never been in an ordinance service.

The fields are white and the laborers are few. Let us remember the Lord's request that laborers be sent into His vineyard. In Honduras, there is a door of opportunity and I am convinced that it exists in many places. How long this is going to last, we do not know. Let us take heed to the words of the song, *The Debt We Owe*. "Much grain now is falling ungathered while many stand idle and wait . . . "

—Bro. Keith Fuller

From Honduras...

April 10, 2004—Hello from Honduras. I was surprised to come back to the house one day and discover there was a green parrot in the kitchen. Sarah and Andrea bought it from a peddler that came to our village. Unfortunately, we had no cage so the parrot was free to entertain itself by chewing on books. It is a young one and seems very tame. It is beautiful. Its vocabulary is not much more than "Hola" (hello in Spanish). It laughs and cries like a small child throwing a fit.

Lenita's services are in demand. Ladies come over wanting her to make and decorate cakes, to show them how to decorate cakes, make rolls, sew or use her kitchen equipment. She enjoys working with them.

We were about to get our first large cluster of ripening yellow bananas from a tree here in the yard, but I notice someone else beat us to them. The cluster was cut down with a machete and taken away.

My pig is growing. It prefers sugar cane, bananas and boiled crab bodies over its regular pig food. One rainy day the rain water in the gulley washed a large enough hole for the pig to escape. Its freedom was short-lived.

Doing business here requires considerable stamina. Simple errands that are very quick and convenient in the States require a major effort here. If you want help at a bank, be prepared to stand in line for an hour. Literally.

If you want some official business that requires a government document (such as signing up for phone service), you need a government stamp to go on that document. The stamp may cost about \$5. No, you can't get it at the government office where you are doing your paperwork. You have to go to the bank to buy the stamp. Ready to wait in line?

Oak Ridge School—Our pilot program of having the ACE English curriculum in the government school is underway. The school officials set aside a classroom which we converted into a setting more suited for individual learning rather than a lecture environment. The classroom was painted and new lighting was installed. We built cubicle style desk areas for the students.

The pilot school is in the nearby fishing village, Oak Ridge, on the south side of the island, about a 10 minute drive from Politilly.

The school officials are pleased with our English program at Oak Ridge, but they want more of it. They would like more students enrolled in the program.

There is still enough religious freedom here to not only mention God in school but to actually lead the children in prayer. Furthermore, the school officials are pleased!

Sis. Judy and Sis. Bonnie have a problem with some of the children coming to class and then not returning for the next two or three classes. Sometimes new students will come to class wanting to learn English even though they are not enrolled. There are only so many students the class will hold. As of now, they only have classes there three days a week. We are short of teachers here. When Sis. Judy and Sis. Bonnie are at Oak Ridge, that leaves Lenita with the help of one or two local girls in the Politilly school. One girl has finished English up to the third grade and the other to the sixth grade.

Mission House Progress—The downstairs kitchen is functioning now. It is so nice to have a place to ourselves and for the teachers to have their own place downstairs rather than sharing a kitchen. It was the first time for me to build cabinets, and I was surprised at how complicated it was. I forgot to put in any drawers, so perhaps I can put some in another cabinet I plan to build by the stove.

We need to seal the upstairs kitchen and bathroom floors badly. The floor is tongue and groove. Dirt and grit sift through into the kitchen below. If we spill much water or the toilet overflows, it will drip through into the kitchen and entry area below.

We also need additional storage space badly. The table saw, air compressor, building materials, mission supplies, furniture and boxes are filling the living area downstairs so there is no room to use it. I am hoping we can build something that can be used for storage and a workshop.

Mary, a single mother from Milton, sought salvation a few months ago. She recently had her fifth child, a tiny girl. The baby still has no name. It may take a few months to get her named. She needs prayer and we need wisdom. We would like to see her boyfriend get saved and for them to make a family for the children. Her only son is faithful to come to service. Doug still drives over five times a week to pick up any who want to go to service. There is still opposition to us there so the numbers of people wanting to come have dropped.

There are many services here in Politilly that are so full that we don't have enough song books or Bibles to go around. Very few of the young people have their own Bibles. We feel that is a hinderance to their spiritual growth.

We have been told that some international investors plan to build a casino here on the island. That, added to all the corrupt influence of the tourists (at least the younger set), is bringing the morals of the natives way down. It is sad to watch.

Please take a look at our updated web page: www.ChurchofGodMission.com.

We appreciate your prayers and support.

—Bro. Doug and Sis. Lenita Wall

From India...

April 21, 2004—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to you dear ones in the marvelous name of Jesus Christ, our chief Shepherd. Thank you for your letter dated April 6. and may God bless each dear one who prays and supports our ministry in India.

Our VBS during the first week of April ended with good results. A little over 100 children and young people attended. Ten teachers directed the class. "Ye are my friends" (John. 15:14) was the main theme of VBS. The children were given the opportunity to accept Jesus as their Friend.

God opened a new field for us in a hill area by name Vadasserikara. On the 27th of April we plan to go there with the Gospel as a team. Our prayers are for the ministry of God in all the countries.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

From The Philippines...

April 21, 2004—Dear Bro. Willie: Warm greetings of love in Jesus' dear name! We thank God for your safe trip back home. Thank you dear brothers and sisters for sharing with us your precious time, wisdom and talents. We value your sacrifices in coming to fellowship with us here in the Philippines. We are blessed for having you with us. We thank our dear Lord for allowing you to visit us, and we know you did it for love. Thank you for loving us. You inspired us and encouraged us to go on and face challenges and trials that will make us stronger in Him. You made an adjustment for time, food and culture. You were supposed to be sleeping in America but you were awake because you were here in the Philippines. We are grateful; you tried to understand us when we talked to you. We pronounce English words differently, and although we express what we want to say in wrong grammar and crooked English. you still understand. We hope and pray that you will plan another visit to us for the coming year. Some of our brethrenhere in Muntinlupa Church of God wish to see you too. but the time did not permit them. They said they don't lose hope, maybe next year, in God's will, you can come again.

Bro. Willie, we started our VBS last week, April 12. We have our classes in the afternoon. We will end on the 24th, having a short program. The parents wish to see what their children have learned. Please pray for us and may these children be used as an instrument for their parents to know more about God and His will.

Two souls are added to the Lord's church here in Muntinlupa. These two were among those souls whom you baptized at the camp meeting. These two young people are Bro. Joel Palomar, 25 years-old and Bro. Anthony Ababon, 11 years-old. May they continue to seek and do God's will.

Please give our regards and tight hugs to Sis. Neta, Sis. Elizabeth, Sis. Alison, Bro. Galen and Bro. Benjamin Kelly, Bro. Michael Smith and family and to all the loving saints there. We miss you!

We love you all! God bless you. With much love and prayers, —Sis. Nellie Tibayan



Miranda Elaine Johnson was born on February 8, 2003 to the union of DiTanyon L. Johnson and Melinda S. Johnson. Our precious daughter departed this life the 20th of February, 2004.

Miranda brought joy and happiness to all who knew her during her short life. She will be remembered for her beautiful smile and cheerful, happy disposition.

She is preceded in death by her grandfather, Robert L. Johnson and three great-grandfathers, Edward V. Davenport and Robert L. Johnson, Sr., Both of CA; Ralph L. Posey of Akron, OH and one great-grandmother Ethelene Couch of Sunnyvale, CA. She leaves to mourn her passing her loving parents, DiTanyon and (Continued next page.)



Saints in the Philippines sing unto the Lord.

Melinda; grandmothers, Elaine Carter of Canton, OH and Lois Johnson of Rialto, CA; grandfather, Judge Allen G. Carter, Sr. of Massillon, OH; great-grandmothers, Olive A. Davenport of San Bernardino, CA and Loretha Johnson of Rialto, CA; Lutherine Posey of Akron, OH; uncles, aunts, great uncles and great aunts, cousins and others.

Moslette Kern, the youngest of twelve children of David and Mary (Hall) Stubblefield, died February 11, 2004. She was born on February 10, 1910 near Guthrie, OK. Her mother died when she was five years old and by prior arrangement, she was raised by her eldest sister, Florence Stubblefield-Perkins (Aunt Sis) and her husband. Her father and siblings preceded her in death.

Moslette attended Faver High School in Guthrie, OK. After graduation she attended Langston University, graduating with a degree in Home Economics in 1934. She taught Home Economics at Dover High School.

Moslette moved to San Jose, CA in 1937 where she continued her career in secondary and adult education. She was active in and helped to develop the San Jose County Social Services Programs and served as a coordinator for the Foster Grandparent program, receiving citizenship awards, writing for the local news-

paper and traveling the world. She raised foster twins on a small ranch. The women still respectfully and lovingly refer to her as Mother.

She united in marriage with Donald E. Kern of Santa Clara, CA. He preceded her in death.

Moslette's sister and guardian, Florence Perkins (Aunt Sis), was a devout Christian. She and her sister were members of the Church of God, Evening Light Saints in Guthrie and Oklahoma City. After returning to Oklahoma in 1991, she enjoyed the fellowship with the saints of the Church of God in Spencer until her death.

She was a long time resident of the Golden Rule Nursing Home in Shawnee, OK. Due to illness she moved to the Specialty Hospital of Midwest City.

She departed this life on Wednesday, February 11, 2004. She leaves to cherish her memory: two nieces, Doris J. Mukes of Spencer and Mae Davis of Oklahoma City; five nephews, Vernon Stubblefield of CA, Orville Luster of San Fransisco, CA, Walter Luster, Jr. of Carson City, NV, Maurice Luster of Spencer, OK and Dennis Walker of Newton, KS; a host of grand nieces, grand nephews, foster grandchildren, other relatives and friends who loved her dearly.

Funeral services were officiated by Bro. Charles Chandler. Burial was at the Chapel Hill Cemetery, Oklahoma City, OK.

The Family That Prays

By Bro. Toney and Sis. Jeanie Samons

V. Training Our Children

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6. This verse offers parents hope in a world of evil and corruption. It is a promise from God that if we will fulfill our responsibility as parents it will not be in vain. There are no guarantees that our children will be saved because, just as God gives us a choice to serve Him, we must let our children have that same privilege. But if we train them as they should be trained, it will follow them and will affect the choices they make. The challenge is to find the time to devote to this responsibility and to know how to impart truth in a way that is palatable.

"To train" means to create a taste for. Our role as a teacher requires us to not only impart

information and instructions, but to do it in such a way that our children will be attracted to this information. We must first be a partaker of the fruit if we expect our children to have a taste for God. Just as a good cook uses creative ways to prepare foods in an interesting and tasteful way, we must seek to find interesting ways to teach our children about the truth of God's Word. There are tools available to present the stories in the Bible in a way that will captivate little children's minds in a way that will never leave them.

The more time you spend in training, the less correction will be needed. The Bible says that under the Law system parents were to teach them when they rose up and when they went to bed and all times in between. In order to train a child you have to have control of him.

One of the first and most important lessons your child must learn is to respect your authority. God expects you to take charge in your child's life. If you don't, at an early age, you probably will never regain control later. We will always be under authority of some kind. We have parents when we're young, teachers when we go to school, bosses when we enter the work force and all of us are or should be under the authority of God. Teaching our child that lesson starts very early in his infancy. We must lovingly let our little babies know that we are in charge and in control. They must learn that your "no, no's" are meant to be obeyed and that consequences will follow if they are not. I know that modern thought is to let a child find his own way and don't suppress his individuality. This is a sure formula for delinquency later.

Another important part of training is establishing boundaries. Every good parent will put a fence around their yard to keep their children from straying out into the street or to keep danger from entering in. How much more should we build boundaries around our children's lives to protect them from the evils of this world. Establishing boundaries begins very simply; such as, "Don't touch, it will burn," "Don't go into the street, you may get run over." As our children mature, our job as a parent is to help them continue to establish boundaries in every area of their life. They must be taught to control their emotions such as anger, fears, etc. They should also learn to control their appetites and their mind. Ultimately our children will be required to establish their own boundaries, but in this intermediate state we must do that for them. There is a security in a child's life when he knows what the boundaries are and is forced to remain inside them.

Along with boundaries, there are also rules and regulations necessary to a home. The principles taught in the Bible are our guidelines for establishing rules in the home. The rights and wrongs taught in the Bible are our first authority for these rules. Some of the rules that should be implemented in our home are things such as teaching children to be constructive, not destructive. Examples of this might be in the upkeep of their rooms, their toys or their clothing. They should also be taught respect for the rights and property of others. This would include respecting older people, not interrupting conversations, never exploiting other's belongings or infringing on other's privacy. Teach

them to respect closed doors and not to plunder in other's houses or property. Children should definitely be taught good manners, how to keep clean and develop good habits.

Remember that in this training you are also training their emotions. This is a very delicate part of our children and can be mishandled so easily. It is true that in training we need to have strictness and consistency, but we must also, most importantly, communicate our unconditional love to our children. We are not punishing them; we are correcting them and pointing them in the right direction. Always use affection with your training. Do lots of hugging with your discipline. Listen to your child, as long as they respectfully present their thoughts. Do not let them argue with you or use disrespect or anger with you. Your child should feel your disappointment and disapproval of what they have done wrong, but the unconditional love should not be affected by this if it is handled in the right wav.

Ephesians 6:4 tells us "...provoke not your children to wrath...." You very easily do this by harassing them with your mouth or abusing them with your correction. You do not accomplish anything with this kind of treatment. When correcting your children make sure that you are not angry. If you are angry or embarrassed with the existing circumstance, wait until you have calmed down before disciplining the child. Be careful of inconsistency with correction. When you set rules, make sure they are enforced. Do not be unfair with your children; correcting one and then not correcting another for the same offense. One of the worst things you can do to your children is to play favorites in any circumstance. Never push your child into behavior that is unrealistic for his ability or age. You must let them be children, adolescents and teenagers and be realistic in their abilities at those ages. For instance, do not spank a child for spilling milk accidentally or punish an adolescent for being clumsy or a teenager for a mood-swing now and then. These are all a part of growing up.

And last, don't hesitate to call on God to help. We do not have all the answers for every given situation. He has promised us that if we lack wisdom, to ask Him and He will give it to us liberally. Take courage; it is possible to be good parents with the Lord's help. We would like to again say, we will not be perfect, but we can be effective.

