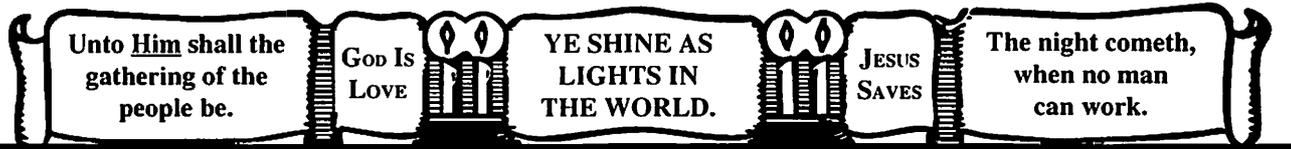


FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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“We Sought Him Not After the Due Order”

By Bro. Clifford Cole

“How could it be that we were all so wrong?” David asked himself as the confused crowd milled around the stricken form of Uzza. God was obviously displeased with *something* they had done, but what? This sad story is found in I Chronicles 13. Uzza had only tried to steady the ark when it rocked on the cart as it was being transported. God had smitten Uzza as soon as he touched the ark.

Let’s turn back a page or two and go back in time about thirteen years and observe what happened in chapters eleven and twelve. Here we find that about 340,000 men of war, elders and counselors from all twelve tribes, gathered themselves together with David after King Saul’s death in battle. The roster includes some incredible feats. What king wouldn’t want such men behind him? Some “could use both the right and left hand in hurling stones and shooting arrows;” one band of men is listed “whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as

swift as the roes upon the mountains.” One of the chief captains “lifted up his spear against three hundred slain by him at one time.” Three of these mighty men of war “brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem” and gave to David to drink. Another man “slew two lion-like men of Moab: also he went down and slew a lion in a pit in a snowy day. And he slew an Egyptian, a man of great stature, five cubits high: and in the Egyptian’s hand was a spear like a weaver’s beam: and he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian’s hand, and slew him with his own spear.”

In chapter 12, verse 32, we find a group of men who were especially valuable to King David: “And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.”

Combine all 340,000 men listed in chapters eleven and twelve of I Chronicles. Consider their accomplishments, skills and understanding. God surely was blessing them all and proving that He was behind what they were doing. It is a wonderful story, and this epic brings to a close the many years that David had to run for his life.

Stepping forward again thirteen years, King David’s longing for the ark of God reached a point that he realized he must do something about it. The ark had been in the house of Abinadab for several years and it only seemed proper to bring it back to its rightful place. The

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start of chapter thirteen tells us, "And David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader. And David said unto all the congregation of Israel. If it seem good unto you, and that it be of the Lord our God, let us send abroad unto our brethren everywhere, that are left in all the land of Israel, and with them also to the priests and Levites which are in their cities and suburbs, that they may gather themselves unto us: And let us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we inquired not at it in the days of Saul."

All these thoughts were swirling around in David's mind as he looked down on the still figure of Uzza. God had been blessing the kingdom so wonderfully these thirteen years. Everyone, it seemed, was behind whatever David set out to do. Had not all of his counselors and advisors been unanimous in their consent to bring the ark back to its former resting place? "*Perhaps that was just the problem,*" mused David, now kneeling down beside Uzza. "*I asked everyone but God. In the heat of my spirit, I forgot to ask the Counselor Who never overlooks a single detail.*" Sadly, David rose to his feet and gave the command to carry the ark aside in the proper fashion to the house of Obed-edom.

"The ark of God remained with the family of Obed-edom in his house three months. And the Lord blessed the house of Obed-edom, and all that he had." "And David made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched for it a tent. Then David said, none ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the Lord chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever." Further down in chapter fifteen, David addressed the Levites, "For because ye did it not at the first, the Lord our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order."

This time around, the Levites were successful in bringing the ark up to Jerusalem. No one died and everyone rejoiced that the ark was finally home. This hard-learned lesson remained with David the rest of his life. We read that he always (except for two more occasions which also had disastrous results) sought counsel from God before he attempted to do anything or engage in battle. God was always faithful to tell him if he should do a certain thing and exactly how he should go about it.

Is it safe to undertake a cause or form an opinion on any matter by just consulting with our own private feelings and past experiences?

The Bible tells us, "For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in the multitude of counselors there is safety." We understand, then, that we can't trust our own thinking and be successful. What if, however, we consult *everyone* we can think of that could have any beneficial words of wisdom before we arrive at a conclusion? Is that enough to move out on? Remember, David sought counsel from everyone he could think of when he wanted to bring the ark of God to Jerusalem. There were a multitude of good men around him—some who were considerably older than he and had much needed wisdom and understanding of the times. If there was a single dissenting voice in the matter of bringing the ark to Jerusalem, we do not know about it. The decision to go ahead with the plan was so obviously right that no one, apparently, spoke up with the suggestion, "Let's pray about it first."

This "obvious thing to do" syndrome sounds eerily familiar, doesn't it? Years before, Joshua and all of the elders and leaders at that time "took of their victuals (*looked at the evidence the emissaries of Gibeon produced*) and sought not counsel at the mouth of the Lord." Imagine the dismay Joshua felt when he realized he and the princes (*elders*) had been tricked! "And all the congregation murmured against the princes."

We do well today to not only consult with each other and hear each other out when there are differing viewpoints on important matters, but also to ask ourselves this simple question, "Have we truly sought God about this?" Even if all human counsel agrees, we will escape some real pitfalls when we simply do not trust what we *all* think *has* to be the right answer. We can do what the folks in Acts 13:2-3 did, "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed (*again*), and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."

Another good example of tarrying together before our great Counselor is found in Acts 15:28, "For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us...."

I'm thankful that we are in the habit of seeking each other's counsel while we seek God's counsel. There is absolute safety in doing this. God does not reveal everything every time to any one certain individual. The folks who gathered together in one place just before the day of Pentecost had only one item on their agenda—get rid of *whatever* might be in the way of God's way so that God's promise to them

would feel welcome. "And when the day of Pentecost was *fully* come, they were *all with one accord in one place*. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting...."

Is it possible for everyone to be in agreement with each other and the Holy Spirit on any certain matter like we read in so many places in Acts? We know that it is God's will for it to be so judging from Jesus' prayer for us to "be one" even as He and His Father are one. The require-

ments for this are evident in the Scriptures: "Be in one accord in one place (*lose my own individual opinions on all matters*) with prayer and fasting" until God's answer becomes apparent. Let's personally ask ourselves these questions: "Am I willing to take the time for this to happen? Am I willing for "my idea" to be laid on the altar and sacrificed?" May the Lord help us to recognize the unanimous decision of all that come together *only* after God has spoken His mind and not before, even if the answer at first might seem so obvious to the collective senses.



Making the Best of Our Opportunity

Sis. Charlotte Huskey

Jesus said, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." John 9:4.

Will our opportunity to share the gospel be prohibited in the next decade? Young people are being taught that, "Christianity is the enemy of progress." Matt Kaufman reported in the *Citizen* magazine, "What is taught in many college classrooms today is that Christianity brought on the Dark Ages, held back science, imposed superstition, promoted slavery, oppressed women and minorities, fostered brutal imperialism and generally caused or aggravated a host of evils throughout history." What kind of opportunities will believers have when the generation of students who believe that Christianity brought on the world's ills take over our nation's leadership? Some of today's leaders seem to have that opinion already.

World Net Daily reported that Anthony Mirto and Ernest Simpson, with Gideon's International, were criminally charged after handing out Bibles near a school in Key Largo, Florida. Their first charge was for trespassing. When that charge was dismissed, the Monroe County officials then charged the men under a state law that bans anyone from being within 500 feet of school property without authorization or legitimate business. "This obviously is unconstitutional for several reasons," Cotman said. "The First Amendment gives you a right to be out there and engage in speech. Does this mean that anyone who uses the sidewalk or highway is in violation?" Is giving a Bible to a minor already a crime to our political correct officials? If so, we have strayed far from the principles that made our nation so great and gave Ameri-

cans religious freedom. How many of these freedoms will be ours in a few more years? Should we not be making better use of our opportunities while we have the liberty to do so?

We have many songs in the *Evening Light Songs* book that encourage us to spread the message of salvation: "Do we well, my precious brethren? While they starve and die for bread; we with heaven's richest blessings are so bountifully fed. If we tarry till the morning, mischief shall our souls be fall. Go and tell earth's dying millions, there is bread enough for all." *ELS* # 451.

"Have we done what we could leading souls out of darkness into light that is shining through heavenly gates?" *ELS* #254.

"The Shepherd dear, aloud doth weep Because one lamb afar doth roam; The ninety-nine He'll safely keep, We'll seek that lamb and bring it home." *ELS* # 323,

Jesus said, "...Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16. There are children in every neighborhood who do not know of Jesus' saving grace. Some have only heard the name "God" or "Jesus" used in cursing. In my childhood, most every child had a grandparent, aunt or uncle who had some Christian principles. Today two or three generations of the same family are, or have been, incarcerated. The majority of other parents are so busy serving the American idols of sports, entertainment, sensuality, the arts or material prosperity, that they are not taking the time to train their children in what is most necessary. Some do send their children to church where they are

(Continued on page 10.)

FAITH AND VICTORY 12 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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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.

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

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

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

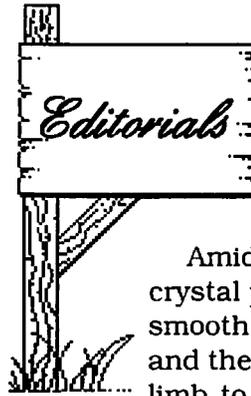
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"Christ is our Captain,
he'll pilot us o'er, Life's rag-
ing sea, to that bright,
happy shore;

'Mid the rough billows,
tho' fast they may come,
Safely he'll gather us home."

Amid the gentle melody of the crystal pure water rippling over the smooth stones of the nearby stream and the colorful birds dancing from limb to limb in the lattice work of tree branches overhead, Adam and Eve communed with the Master Creator in the splendor of their Garden paradise. As they reposed in this rapturous setting, their peaceful thoughts were not suddenly interrupted by the whine and needle sharp stings of mosquitoes. Oh, what changes have taken place in the lives of mankind since our forefathers yielded to the beguiling arguments of the wicked one and were driven from the beautiful Garden of Eden. Sorrow and suffering have afflicted the habitation of all the generations of man following that woeful day. Many today would like to duplicate those blissful conditions with the wealth they possess. But alas, all the silver and gold in the world will not purchase an environment of such pristine glory.

The habitation we find ourselves in today is beset with many evils. Sin is running rampant in our land, and the hearts and minds of the people are filled with violence and wickedness. Multitudes of humanity are in a mad rush to perdition. Yet, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, God still has a people who love Him and their foremost desire is to please Him and do His will. They are not following the downward course of this world, for their focus is on the precious Son of God. It is not easy to counter the momentum of the masses and live a holy life, but by the power of God working in us we are well able to be overcomers instead of losers. One song says, "Like a rock in the billows I would fearless stand And defy the threat'ning blast; For the Savior holds me by the hand, Till the raging storm is past."

While our soul is attached to this mortal house of clay, we are going to have trouble. The book of Job declares, "Man *that is* born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble." Job 14:1. The wonderful thing about being a child of God is that we have Him to help us with these

hard times. Our resolve should be like the three Hebrew children when they were required to bow down before the golden image or be thrown into the fiery furnace—"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver...But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." Daniel 3:17-18. These young men were not being rebellious, they were devout worshippers of the true God of Heaven, and God did not fail them. He allowed them to go through the furnace, and He was with them all the way. Their courage in this trying time is still being told of and has been an inspiration to many troubled souls through the years.

David was beset with many troubles in his lifetime and his testimony was, "This poor man cried, and the LORD heard *him*, and saved him out of all his troubles." Psalm 34:6. What reassurance and confidence this should give us as the dark clouds rise on our horizon. God is still on His throne, and He takes delight in helping those who call on Him and trust Him. Sometimes the Lord does not immediately take us out of the trouble but gives us grace, power, protection and comfort in the midst of our fiery trials.

When David was having trouble, notice what he was doing. "Now, behold, in my trouble I have prepared for the house of the LORD an hundred thousand talents of gold, and a thousand thousand talents of silver; and of brass and iron without weight; for it is in abundance: timber also and stone have I prepared; and thou mayest add thereto." I Chronicles 22:14. David was not waiting for times of prosperity to do something for the Lord, He had a vision of building a beautiful temple for the Lord and was busy gathering supplies to fulfill that dream. When one is in the depths of trial, if they will occupy themselves in the service of the Lord, it will most certainly bring Him nearer to them.

Paul and Silas had their share of trouble. They were beaten and had their feet held fast in the stocks of the inner prison, and there, in the darkness of the midnight, they began to sing praises to God. Their bruised and bleeding bodies did not take away the joy that filled their heart. Their voices in the darkness caused God to move on His throne and bring deliverance from their bondage.

Jonah certainly found himself in a predicament. He was trying to run away from serving the Lord and was thrown into the troubled sea.

A huge fish was prepared to catch him. Jonah made an altar of prayer in this most peculiar place, and in his distress he called mightily on the Lord. His prayer was heard and answered. The ears of the Lord are especially tuned to a sincere prayer of repentance.

"Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." Psalm 50:14-15. If we expect the Lord to help us in our troubles, it is only fair for us to fulfill our promises to Him and others. The Lord deals truthfully with us, and we must also be faithful in our obligations. There may be times that we are unable to meet our obligations. Indeed, that may be the nature of our trouble, but as we do what we are able, God will honor our effort. Our soul can be clear before Him, and we may freely seek His help.

A thankful person is much more likely to notice what God is doing for them. Their mind is dwelling on the more positive things of life and that promotes faith in the heart and brings the Lord close to them. A negative person fails to see the hand of God, and it is much harder for them to believe in their time of trouble. When the Lord does answer their prayers, they probably will barely notice because they are so consumed with themselves.

The soul that is in trouble should be encouraged to seek the Lord. There is much comfort that may be obtained from the Scriptures, for the Lord knows the weakness of mortal man and has abundantly provided the source of encouragement they need. As we resist the devil and draw nigh to Him, we can be assured that He will draw nigh to us. For, "...in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are pleasures for evermore.*" Psalm 16:11.

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The Lord blessed us to mail *The Beautiful Way* papers and *Bible Lessons* for another quarter on June 18. The lessons beginning July 1 are about Jesus: The Son of the living God; Our Savior; Our Redeemer; Lord of All; The Great Physician; Our Bridegroom; The Prince of Peace; The Gospel Seed and Four Kinds of Ground; Jesus' Teaching Concerning Adultery; Jesus Christ Warns of Hell Fire; Teaches Us Forgiveness; About Prayer; Christ's Warnings Against Covetousness; and The Bread of Life.

The 64-page *Bible Lessons* quarterly or *The Beautiful Way* junior and primary children's papers are available from Faith Publishing for

\$1.50 plus shipping for a single issue, or a one year subscription is available for \$5.00. If you would like these materials to aid your study of the Scriptures, then be sure to let us know. We believe they will be a blessing.

Oklahoma has been receiving an unusually large amount of rainfall this early summer, and on June 30, the Cottonwood Creek, that flows through Guthrie, once again overflowed its banks. The water did not get as high as was forecasted, and we thank the Lord for that. We still own the property where the Print Shop used to be located, and in light of the forecast for a major flood, we sandbagged the entryways to the building. We appreciate the Lord sparing us from damage in this flood.

Sis. Waneta Creel, a sister in the Guthrie congregation, had over one foot of water flood into her home. It has done much damage, and she would like to be able to permanently move from her present location. Pray that the Lord will work things out for her regarding this burden. Remember her for the needs of her physical condition also. She is not a well person, and the added stress of this disaster has been very taxing to her.

The US postage rates have gone up significantly on periodicals, and the international periodical class has been completely discontinued. These changes are having a major impact on our publications and the cost of sending materials. We have been considering the various possibilities available to us and are praying that the Lord would direct us in these changes.

To mail a single *Faith and Victory* of the previous size, to most countries, will now cost \$1.80 in postage for each issue. For this reason we feel we should reduce the number of pages to 12 and use a lighter weight paper to bring the total weight below one ounce. This would reduce the postage to 90 cents each. Also, folding the paper in half would allow the domestic papers to be mailed at a lesser rate. We desire your prayers that the Lord would give us wisdom in these matters.

According to our usual policy, we will not publish an August issue of the *Faith and Victory*. We hope to see you at the National Camp Meeting at Monark Springs, MO.

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



LA—Bro. Waymon Skaggs of Rolla, MO is very ill. Please help us pray for them. They love the Lord and are trusting Him. Pray that their faith holds fast. —Sis. Gladys Cashio

WV—Dear Ones, We would like to send out an urgent prayer request for Kevin's Uncle, Nelson Waid, who lives in West Virginia. He has 12 blocked arteries, and the doctors are planning to do a four-way bypass on Monday afternoon. We would surely appreciate it if you all could add him to your prayer lists, and if you would, please pass on this request to others to pray. Thank you so much, and God bless,

—Bro. Kevin, Sis. Cheryl and Zachary Smith



Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Carlos Arriaga
Sis. Mamie Butcher
Sis. Gladys Cashio
Sis. Helen Carson
Sis. Waneta Creel
Sis. Dorall Forbes
Sis. Evelyn Fredrickson
Bro. Troy Gentry
Bro. Lee Hilton
Bro. Mark and Sis. Darlene Knight
Sis. Juliette Lounds
Sis. Melba Powell
Bro. Jerry Quave
Sis. Olene Rector
Sis. Anna Severs
Sis. Cheryl Smith
Bro. Michael Smith
Bro. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor
The Mitch Taylor family
Sis. Anneta Williamson
Sis. Lula Williamson

SPECIAL NOTICES

MESSAGES BY BRO. OSTIS B. WILSON

Bro. Ostis Wilson spent his entire life preaching, teaching and ministering in many congregations throughout the United States. He was gifted of God and an esteemed minister, noted for his in-depth knowledge of the Scriptures and his ability to preach in a clear, straightforward and effective manner. His life was one of service to others, which he did with humility of spirit and magnanimity of heart. Whereas his messages covered a wide range of subjects, his overriding theme seemed to center around Christian conduct.

A 12 CD collection of 529 messages delivered by Bro. Ostis Wilson are now available. Cassette tapes of these messages, recorded over a 17-year period, have been compiled into this convenient collection recorded in MP3 format at 48 kbps. This format will play on MP3 players and microcomputers using Windows Media Player, or comparable media player software.

This collection also contains an index that includes the track number, followed by the message number and title, the date the message was preached, the length of the message, and a general category under which the message is classified.

You may obtain this edifying collection for only \$22.00 from Bro. Clifford Smith, 7298 Park Terrace Dr. NE, Keizer, OR 97303. Phone: (503) 581-4575. Email: cliffordsmith@comcast.net

The messages are also available on the internet for download, or they can be listened to at www.churchofgodeveninglight.com



Collection of 12 CD's containing 529 messages by Bro. Ostis Wilson.

MEETING DATES

- National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 20-29
- Myrtle, MO (Camp Meeting)—August 3-8
- Boley, OK (Camp Meeting)—August 15-19
- California State (Pacoima)—August 17-26
- Spooner, WI (Tent Meeting)—August 22-26
- Wichita, KS (Fall Meeting)—September 16-23
- Holly Hill, SC (Fall Meeting)—Sept. 30-Oct. 7

MEETING NOTICES

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 20-29, 2007. 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 no answer, 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

MYRTLE, MO, CAMP MEETING

The Myrtle Camp Meeting will begin, Lord willing, on Friday morning, August 3 and continue through Wednesday morning, August 8, 2007. We would like to invite everyone to come and stay for the whole meeting. There will be two services daily, 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., and afternoon services during the weekend, as announced. The last service will be the Wednesday morning service. We are praying for a Holy Spirit led and anointed meeting and ask the prayers of all the saints for this meeting. All who can are urged to come and be a part. We have electrical hook-ups for campers and motor homes, a dormitory for the brothers and one for the sisters, and a limited number of cabins. Please bring your own bedding, if convenient. Provisions will be made to care for all who come. The meeting expenses will be met by free-will offerings.

For more information contact Bro. Harlan Sorrell, (417) 938-4336, or Sis. Carol Sorrell, (417) 938-4493. The campground phone number is (417) 938-4682.

CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The California State Camp Meeting will be held this year from August 17-26 at the campgrounds located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA 91331.

The first service will begin 7:30 p.m. Friday, August 17, with three services daily thereafter. For more information, contact either the Sunset Guest Home at (818) 899-2022, Bro. Paul Phillips at (661) 251-6956, or Bro. Herbert Clay at (818) 897-1396.

BOLEY, OK, CAMP MEETING

The camp meeting at Boley, OK, Lord willing, will held August 15-19. There will be services nightly, Wednesday through Saturday, at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday there will also be services at 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. On Sunday, Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m., morning worship at 11:00 a.m. and afternoon service at 2:30 p.m. There will be no service Sunday night.

All are cordially invited. Come praying that the Lord will pour out a special blessing to each one. For further information contact Sis. Savannah King at (918) 667-3654. Sis. Anna Mae Thompson, Pastor.

SPOONER, WI, TENT MEETING

Lord willing, this meeting will begin Wednesday, August 22, at 7:00 p.m., with services daily at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. through Sunday, August 26.

Come for a blessing and to be a blessing, and please support the tent meeting with your prayers.

There will be some accommodations, but please call for arrangements. Bring your own bedding and linens if possible. Be prepared for cold nights. We give everyone a special invitation to come and be with us to enjoy God's many blessings of love. For more information contact Bro. Ron and Sis. Martha Zacharias at (715) 635-2994.

WICHITA, KS, FALL MEETING

The Wichita Fall Meeting will be held September 16-23 if the Lord so wills. God and the Holy Spirit will be the director and leader of the meeting. All who feel led to come, please join us and help in the battle.

On Sundays we will have three services and Sunday School, which starts at 9:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday there will be two services daily—11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The chapel is located at 2509 North Grove St. You can take 21st St. from the West or the East to Grove St. and turn to the North and go 3 blocks to 2509. If you need to contact someone, you may call: Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at (316) 778-1848 or Bro. Theodore McCray at (316) 682-5132. The chapel phone number is (316) 267-9582.

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HOLLY HILL, SC, FALL MEETING

The saints at Holly Hill, SC would like to announce that our fall meeting will start on September 30 and go through October 7, Lord willing. For further information contact Bro. Floyd Crummie (803) 496-5768 or Bro. Clinton Crummie (803) 496-7354. For sleeping arrangements contact Sis. Beverly Pratt (803) 496-3057.



LETTERS
 FROM
 OUR
 READERS

SC—Greetings from the saints here at Holly Hill, we are happy to report that we are still pressing onward. The Lord has been good to us and He is still blessing His work here.

We had such a wonderful and joyful time in the Lord during our camp meeting. The Holy Spirit led in every service. Several souls sought help for their need. We are so thankful for the ministers that the Lord sent our way.

Pray for us here at Holly Hill. There are some sick saints here that we would like prayer for. Pray that we will stay in the Truth. Yours in Christ,
 —Bro. Floyd Crummie

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 OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings of Christian love. We are so glad and thankful to be in and to be a part of the family of God. It is wonderful to have God as our Father and Jesus as our Brother. In order for this to happen, Jesus took part of our human nature

that we might be partakers of His Divine nature. This was all brought about by Jesus shedding His blood for us, and by us believing and accepting His blood as atonement for our sins. "...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." Revelation 1:5-6. When He puts His divine nature in us, it helps us to love Him supremely. It also helps us to love all of the children of God. (1 John 5:2.) "...Because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Romans 5:5.

At this present time my wife and I are both experiencing a furnace of affliction, but the Lord is in there with us. My wife has congestive heart trouble, also one of her eyes hurts so she can't read much. The light also affects her eye. About two weeks ago, I injured my back working in a flowerbed. We both have to use a walker to get around in the house. But the Lord gives grace. Carol (*his daughter*) lives next door to us and helps us out a lot. James and she are very good to us. The family of God in other places are remembering us in prayer, also our dear pastor and his wife and the congregation here. We love and appreciate them all very much and appreciate their prayers and feel the effects of their love and prayers.

Your brother in Christ, —T.V. McMillian

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 OK—Dear Print Shop workers and Saints: I am just about ready to walk again. Through fasting and prayer I will reach healing. I thank God and His Son for healing. I was anointed and prayed for. I request prayer for my sister, Darlene Adams, and myself.

I am thinking of the song, #252 in the *Evening Light Songs* book. The chorus says, "Hold fast to the Savior, he's all in all: ... Hold fast to the promise, you'll never fall."

Pray for all of the sick and suffering. With Christian love,
 —Sis. Mary O. Jones

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 OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: We would like to give thanks to God for how He has helped us these last two years. It was April 17, 2005 when our van was flipped over in a terrible wreck. The Lord has healed all four of us of many injuries. God deserves all the glory for each instance of healing. While I was pretty

much bedfast, the Lord visited me with songs each day and let me know I would not be an invalid. His mighty power worked healing in my kidneys, colon, breast bone, knees, stomach, neck and ears. He did a definite work in my back also, although I am still waiting for the healing to be complete. The Lord has strengthened me to be able to walk two to four miles a day. I'm able to do my household duties, it just takes a little longer. God is a refuge in the storms of life. We desire your prayers that we would be faithful to him. —Bro. Frankie and Sis. Lynne Millis



Making the Best of Our Opportunity

(Continued from page 3.)

joyfully entertained, but so seldom are taught the truth of God's Word.

What parent, grandparent or caregiver will stop what they are doing when a child tells a lie and take the time to help that child know the significance of being honest? The story is told that President Abraham Lincoln walked five miles to pay back a penny that someone had over paid him. Lincoln knew the importance of honesty because what God's Word said was an important part of his childhood training. President Lincoln walked five miles and today, when transportation is so easy, will parents bother to immediately take a child back to the store when they have brought something home without paying for it? Even parents who are teaching their children to be honest are likely to say, "Let's put this away, and we will take it back to the store when we go again." Is the right lesson learned from this?

It is very sad that so many children are growing up ignorant of what is, and what is not, acceptable to God. We think of the drug addicts, criminals and cannibals as being in gross darkness; but so are the children who do not know their responsibilities before God or the saving grace of Jesus. Who will take the time to teach these children that there are "Commandments" that God requires them to obey? Who will help these children see the truth? Who will help them find forgiveness in Jesus and a clean conscience? Today we have an opportunity to teach the children in our communities, churches and schools. Let us not let this chance be wasted.

Recently I read the book titled *The Pastor's Wife* by Sabrina Wurmbrand, which describes what happened in Romania before freedom was taken from the people. Christian students were not allowed to speak of anything related to

Jesus or the Bible. Among other segregations and rude treatments, the Christian children were expected to attend mandatory school field trips on Sunday mornings to keep them away from church. Disrespect was sharply imposed on Christian parents, pastors and teachers. Similar things that took place in Romania are happening in our country. This year, Rio Linda High School in California suspended students for wearing shirts that had quoted Scripture printed on them. A student attending Oakridge High School in Michigan was reprimanded and sent home for writing "I'm straight" on a piece of tape and putting it on his shirt. Children are gathering attitudes from worldly entertainers, teachers and peers that Christian parents are ignorant. Moreover, many other exalted thoughts against God are acknowledged and given space. Our children are under pressure to be silent about the Truth. How many days do we have left to work for God legally?

Scott Davis, youth manager of Exodus International, said this about our youth being so confused and uncertain as to who they are, "With the growing acceptance of homosexuality among today's youth, the average age for a student to identify themselves as gay is around 13. If we don't pay attention to the youth, we're going to simply lose anything we might protect or gain in this decade." The world sees the need of giving attention to the youth. How much more should we, who are in the light, see it? We must be alert to their needs and take advantage of all the opportunities God gives us to bring understanding to this generation. Are we going to do all we can to reach the children while we have the chance to save them from a life of misery and an eternity in Hell, or are we going to procrastinate and wait for a better day?

Moses relates the story in Deuteronomy chapter one concerning Israel missing the promised land when the spies discouraged the people from going in to possess it. Have we been discouraged because of what other groups are doing, or do we feel that people will not accept God's Way? Do we believe Jesus Who said, "...Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest?" Do we believe the fields are ready to harvest or have we accepted discouragement and, like Israel, refuse to go forward, therefore not reaching the children of this generation? Deep in our hearts, do we feel unable or unwilling to make the sacrifice?

3. Wanted an apology for their carelessness.

Instead, I obeyed, took off my glasses, and was blessed because:

1. I had supper ready just as they came in to eat.

2. Nothing unpleasant was said.

3. One volunteered to sweep the floors for me.

That was a great lesson to me from the Lord. Do not let the little bitty faults or trials in life take away from happy fellowship and the joy of working together. Have a forgiving heart, like the Lord. "If thou, LORD, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But *there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared....in his word do I hope...for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.*" Psalm 130:3-7.

Glasses of criticism will magnify troubles to the mind's eyesight. (Matthew 7:3-4.) If we keep focused on the work to be done, the Lord will sweep away problems in His own time and way. Just take off your glasses and serve the family of God!



When you are the neediest,
He is the most sufficient.
When you are completely helpless,
He is the most helpful.
When you feel totally dependent,
He is absolutely dependable.
When you are the weakest,
He is the most able,
When you are the most alone,
He is intimately present.
When you feel you are the least,
He is the greatest.
When you feel the most useless,
He is preparing you.
When it is the darkest,
He is the only light you need.
When you feel the least secure,
He is your Rock and Fortress.
When you are the most humble,
He is the most gracious.
When you can't
He can.

I received a get-well card from one of our grandsons and his dear wife. It was so good I read it often and always take courage when I do. I want to share it with others. Your brother in Christ,
—T. V. McMillian