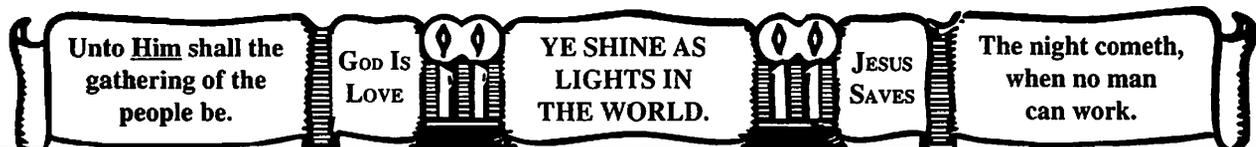


FAITH AND VICTORY

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WHAT IF PLANTS HAD A WILL?

By Sis. Julie Benson

Recently I have been doing a little landscaping for someone and was looking to the Lord for wisdom and strength. The Lord was very faithful to supply that and more. He truly is worthy of our trust.

The Lord has created so many beautiful plants. The more I study them, the more I realize I have a lot to learn. Each plant requires a different environment in order to flourish. In the following illustration I hope we can see how important it is for us to grow in the place the Lord has put us, and to understand what can hinder us in our growth.

Now, for just a moment I would like you to imagine you have a perfectly landscaped yard and wake up one morning to find that your plants have a will. What if...the shade-loving plants grew discontent and wanted to be out in

the beautiful sunshine, so they ran over to the sunniest part of the yard? What if...the sun-loving plants grew tired of that old hot sun and settled down in the shade? This makes me think of what can happen to a mother, faithfully taking care of the duties at home, and the father, out working to make a living, when they grow discontent in the role that God has placed them in.

What if...the crepe myrtle wanted to be like the maple tree—so big and tall, with great big beautiful leaves, while its own leaves are so tiny, and it doesn't grow nearly as tall? So, in its own wisdom, it runs to the top of a hill and overfertilizes itself, trying to grow big leaves. This reminds me of how foolish I look being discontent, trying to change things through my own wisdom.

What if...the big shade tree grew tired of holding out its branches, which shaded the shade-loving plants below, didn't recognize its importance and decided to lay down, leaving the little plants below to die in the hot sun? This makes me think of Christians, who have been in the way for a while, giving up, thus, influencing those in their care or looking on—children, grandchildren, the congregation, etc. It also reminds me of Christian in *Pilgrims Progress*. Apollyon tried to persuade Christian to turn back by offering him better wages. Apollyon knew the negative effect it would have on others.

What if...the pansy (an annual which blooms for less than one year) had the attitude, "I am not going to bloom because I'm not going to live

Contents

What If Plants Had A Will?	1
What Are You Willing To Live For?	2
Creating An Interdependent Family ...	3
Editorial	4
Creating An Interdependent Family (Continued)	5
Prayer Requests	6
Meeting Reports and Notices	7
Letters from the Readers	9
Obituaries	10
The Bible Looking Glass	12

long anyway," and refused to show its beauty? This reminds me of people who get focused on a certain situation and choose to feel sorry for their self, rather than let the grace of God shine through them. It also makes me think of people, babies, etc., who may not have this attitude, but who are like annuals. They may not live very long, but they play a very important role in life and are very beautiful.

What if... the tulip, (one of deer's favorite snacks,) feared to poke up its head because an animal might come along and bite it off? Fear is something that hinders a lot of people from doing the Lord's will. Sometimes, to be beautiful for the Lord, we may have to stick our necks out. This is not easy to do, but look at those who were martyred for Christ's sake and how Christianity grew as a result. Lord, help me!

What if... the weeping willow, (a tree that requires a lot of water,) decided it didn't want to drink any more water, thinking it could live all right *without all that water*? May we never get in a place where we think we no longer need to pray, eat and drink of His Word at home or at church. With this attitude we will starve ourselves spiritually and die.

What if...the tree on top of the hill grew weary of all the wind, and not realizing that the wind made it stronger, went to a place where it was easier to stand? When the Lord allows a trial to come my way He does it for a purpose. He wants to strengthen me. He wants my roots to go a little further down in the ground.

We may see what a disaster it would be if our plants had a will. But just think, the Lord gave us a will. His desire is for us to serve and trust Him even though we may not see the whole picture. We are "...The planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified." Isaiah 61:3. When we are right where He wants us, we grow beautifully and completely, thus bringing glory to His name. This brings peace to our hearts because we are fulfilling His purpose.

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5-6.

We are in a mess if we depend on our own understanding and strength. If we find ourselves in any of these places, the Lord is willing to prune, fertilize, water, transplant and nurse us back to health. I thank the Lord for being such a patient and wonderful Landscaper. He's still working on me.

What Are You Willing To Live For?

By Bro. Don Elwell

Have you ever thought about what you are willing to die for—your faith, spouse, children or family? Many people talk about what they are willing to die for, but more important is, what they are willing to live for. Most important for your time on earth is, what godly principles you are willing to live before a dying world.

Ten years ago I was called by the Lord to teach in an extremely liberal school district. During that time God has demonstrated to me the power of living His standard. I have been blessed to see co-workers and students come to the realization of a living God. My personal highlight is of a former student who used to be an atheist. After graduation she emailed me and shared about her *own* faith!

We daily find opportunities to talk with people about God's way of living, however, the preponderance of our witness is demonstrated by how we live His standards. I am persuaded that living His standards have inspired many

souls to admit that God is alive and well. This influence is not of ourselves, but the power of God working through our lives, only to the degree to which we yield our will to Him.

"It is easier to fight for one's principles than to live up to them" Alfred Adler. Do you ever find it to be that way? I believe it is possible to be zealously affected to "...earnestly contend for the faith..." in a manner that does not glorify God. Remember James and John when they wanted to burn down the entire village? (Luke 9:52-56.) Let us remember that living the standard is far more powerful than proving what is wrong with the doctrine of others. The world yearns for proof of what God can do, not what is wrong with everybody else.

What is your occupation? Is it the same as your vocation? I often question myself, "Are you a teacher who is a Christian, or are you a Christian who teaches?" The subtle difference contains the power to drastically change the

landscape of the workplace. The standards of God should be present in the workplace, before the work! Are you living for your job or for God? The very essence of faith can be demonstrated to your family and co-workers in this way. Make no provision for yourself in the work of the Lord. God will take care of it. (Luke 10.)

We worry about our young people, as ministers we worry about the body as a whole. If we are sold out to the Lord, to the point we will live what we believe instead of espousing it with our mouth exclusively, I am persuaded the power of Jesus will reside upon our life. We can bring conviction, peace, hope and joy simply by living the standard. There are appropriate times when the Spirit gives utterance and we must speak the words of God. Too often the commandment to "be still and know I am God" is not followed.

Living the standard is to be still. The power of God will be manifested through His Spirit.

You want to make sure, young people, to obtain and maintain salvation. Do you want others to know and own God's truth? Resist the temptation to "fight" with them, and live it. There is a reason Jesus was around for more than a week. He needed time to live it, demonstrate the power of a life lived for God. If all He needed to do were tell a few people and fight with those who were wrong, would it have been possible for God to shorten His time on earth?

Living holiness is far more difficult and costly than it is to talk about it. It is even easier to reason the Scriptures with those who oppose this beautiful truth. May God help us to recognize our need to live the principle. The fruit of conviction is yielded from the seeds of consecration. (Matthew 19:21.)



Creating An Interdependent Family

Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Genesis 2:23-24.

Years ago husbands and wives were dependant on each other for survival. Today, however, married couples must make a special commitment to not have an independent attitude because it is possible to survive alone, or because the world elevates independence. Many think it is a sign of strength or maturity to live independently. People are advised to: "Set goals for your life and don't let anything get in your way." "Move out on your own. Get away from what is hindering you." "Do what makes you feel fulfilled." Husband, wife, brother, sister, children, no one is as important as doing what you must with your life. "Be independent" is the cry of our age.

Did Christ work independently? He said He always did those things that pleased His Father. (John 8:29.) "I can of mine own self do nothing:...I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." John 5:30. Now if Christ, who has all power in Heaven and Earth, could not do things alone, dare we mortals of the dust think we can go through life independent of those with whom God has put us?

An interdependent family begins with the parents depending on one another. God made the man to have certain strengths and weaknesses and the woman to have other strengths and weaknesses. The husband is to depend on his wife for emotional strength and other needs. The woman also has many needs that are to be supplied by her husband. Their diverse strengths should complete each other. As they depend on each other the interdependent bond becomes stronger.

Bro. Vada McMillian says Colossians 3:12-21 is a recipe for a good family. It says, "Put on...bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful....Wives, submit...Husbands, love...Children, obey...Fathers, provoke not your children to anger...." Now this is quite a list of things to do. We are to be merciful, kind, humble, meek, forbear (patient), suffer long, forgive, love and be thankful. Wow! If a family will strive to obey these scriptures it will

(Continued on page five.)

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Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

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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.

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

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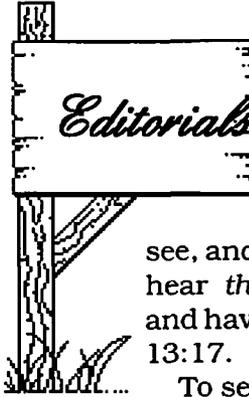
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"But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see *those things* which ye see, and have not seen *them*; and to hear *those things* which ye hear, and have not heard *them*." Matthew 13:17.

To see and hear the words of the Messiah as He taught the people on the side of the mountain or from the boat anchored near the shore would have indeed been a day to remember. However, there were those present at these historic occasions who failed to see the significance of the gracious words that emanated from His righteous lips. For their hearts were hardened by unbelief and they missed the glorious message of the Gospel.

For many years since these words were uttered the only written records lay bound in the possession of evil men who had no inclination to share them with the people. But in the process of time God raised up men and women who had such a yearning to read the Scriptures in their own language that they were willing to hazard their lives to translate, print and possess copies of the sacred writings. Their zeal has given to us a treasure that we should sincerely thank God for.

Today a copy of the sacred Scriptures may be found very easily, at least in this country, and yet there are very few that are willing to avail themselves of the precious truths Jesus taught. But those who are willing to read and obey their righteous principles will be able to find eternal life.

There is a story of a minister who visited the cottage of a young lady that was approaching the door of death because of a serious illness. With soft, serious words he inquired of the young lady, "As you pass through the valley of the shadow what is your hope for eternity? Lifting her thin fingers she affectionately placed them on the Bible that lay near her and said, "Christ here!" Then gently placing her pale hand on her breast she said, "Christ here!" Finally she pointed upward and with a countenance that beamed as one who was nearing the portals of glory she softly whispered, "Christ there!" What beautiful hope fills the heart of the child of God.

"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." James 1:25.

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The covering material that we will be using on our hard back books comes in rolls of various widths. From these rolls the material will need to be cut into sheets that are about 36 inches long so they will fit into our paper cutters and be trimmed to the appropriate size for the books we are binding.

Our search for a solution to this sheeting problem led us to find a manual rolling knife trimmer for a very reasonable price that we believe will be satisfactory for the present need. The trimmer was located north of Denver, CO and on the evening of April 6 my daughter and I left to pick it up. The Lord gave us a safe trip for which we are thankful.

— — — — —

Recently the representative from our paper supplier told us one of their customers ordered a large shipment of paper and then canceled their order because they lost their printing job. This resulted in the paper supplier having some extra paper in their warehouse, which he offered us at a reduced price. In light of our needs and the better price, we placed an order for about \$5,000 of paper. We were happy for the improved price and we trust the Lord will continue to help us meet the challenges of printing the Good News of Jesus Christ—the best answer for the problems that plague mankind.

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



Creating an Interdependent Family

(Continued from page three.)

without doubt be a strong interdependent family.

God said, "...Ye are called in one body...." Therefore He designed the family to work together as a body. Every member of the family has its importance, just as every part of the body has its important function. Every family has a managing system and God has chosen that to be the parents. We could liken it as father the president, and mother the vice president. Each member of the family has talents. A good manager recognizes each individual's abilities and gives responsibilities accordingly. This gives

every member of the family space to develop and be important to the family. Being needed and important is a basic need of every person. When these needs are satisfied within the family, it will work together interdependently.

What would happen if one foot tried to go forward and the other foot backward? What would happen if the left arm was broken and the right arm didn't compensate for its functions? The family must be in unity and work together so that the whole will be blessed. If one member cannot, or does not, do its part the others must compensate for that incapability. "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it." I Corinthians 12:26.

According to God's Word the husband and wife become one flesh, one entity at their wedding. The husband is to leave the security of his parent's family and cleave to his wife to fill that emotional void. The wife must do the same. The children are created from this union so they too are the same flesh. The idea that if we aren't compatible then we will separate, is not an option. An interdependent family can never be established if separation is even thought of as an option. Gone must be the thoughts that often intrude upon a woman's mind that she would be happier alone with her children. Perhaps she could do well financially, but the family would be without its head. How can a body operate without a head? Also the husband must not think that he has a right to seek morally pure emotional satisfaction elsewhere if his wife doesn't supply it. He is the head, but how can a head operate without his body? What will happen to his family that is left without his protection and guidance? Christ said, "...For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Matthew 19:5-6.

An interdependent family must work together underneath the authority of the father, just as Christ worked underneath His Father's authority. The role as the father being head of the home has been subtly destroyed through the past fifty years. Comic strips, jokes, stories and an abundance of reports of abusive fathers have created an attitude that fathers are inad-

equate, not trustworthy and even dangerous. "Bad father-child relationship can produce long-lasting spiritual damage in the life of the child. That damage will cause multiple negative repercussions in other spheres of that child's life for years to come" says child psychologist, James Dobson. We can see this in the attitude of incarcerated persons. Most of them are angry. Many are angry at their parents, especially their fathers. Also the majority of women who have pushed ahead the liberation of women were deeply offended by their fathers. By this we can see how important the roles of fathers are in the interdependent family.

"Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." Colossians 3:21. A father or mother whose spirit is not controlled by the Spirit of Christ will almost certainly provoke their children to anger. When this happens, communication is broken down weakening the interdependence of the family. Let us each one die daily that Christ may live through us to bless our families as we press on to our eternal reward operating as only one body.



WV—Our God still hears and answers prayer. We sincerely appreciate the phone calls, cards, letters and many prayers for our daughter, Lynette, during her recent heart attack. The Lord miraculously spared her life for which we are thankful. I am reminded of the scripture, "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." She is home now and much improved. Please continue to pray for her. Sincere appreciation,

—Bro. Mancil, Sis. Shirley Doolittle and family.



CA—I would like for the Saints to remember me in prayer. I am recovering from a stroke that

has affected my left side. The Lord has helped me improve and I desire prayer that He will give me a complete recovery. —Sis. Ruth Shehee



KY—Dear Saints: My wife and I would like to thank every one of you for your prayers and support. It has helped us so much! We are home, for which we give much thanks to our Lord and Savior Who promised us that He would never leave us nor forsake us. Praise God! While Jaden is improving daily, he still needs prayer. His right eye is still crossed and he is unable to close his left eye all the way or move the upper left side of his lip. We thank the Lord that His walking is better and his mouth is able to close. Continue to pray for his kidney, and also that the tumors will never come back. We love you all and appreciate your prayers for us as well. Love and prayers,

—Bro. Matt, Sis. Sarah Howard and Family



Germany—Dear Bro. Willie, I have an urgent prayer request for my daughter, Karoline Kessler. As some of you already know, she has epileptic seizures from time to time. The seizures are very severe and often occur without warning. Sometimes she is injured from falling which means she has to suffer additionally. She is very weak right now and her mind is affected as well. Please pray for her. She is trusting God completely for the healing of her body. Please pray for us as well that we may bear the burden with her. We feel like it is described in 1 Peter 5:8-9, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."

This request I write in order to resist the devil steadfast in the faith. So please add her name to the Standing Prayer Requests of the Faith and Victory paper.

Your brother in Christ, —Wilhelm Laukert



Germany—Bro. Alen Laukert has recently returned home from another missionary trip to Ghana and is seriously ill with malaria. The fever and chills have caused him to be in a very weakened condition. Earnestly pray that the Lord will spare his life and heal him from this disease once again.

Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Carlos Arriaga
 Sis. Gladys Cashio
 Sis. Helen Carson
 Sis. Waneta Creel
 Sis. Patsy Doolittle
 Sis. Dorall Forbes
 Bro. Troy Gentry
 Bro. John Gutwein
 Bro. Lee Hilton
 Bro. Jaden Howard
 Sis. Leta Inman
 Sis. Karoline Kessler
 Bro. Mark and Sis. Darlene Knight
 Sis. Melba Powell
 Bro. Jerry Quave
 Sis. Olene Rector
 Sis. Marilyn Rendall
 Sis. Ruth Shehee
 Sis. Cheryl Smith
 Bro. Michael Smith
 Bro. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor
 The Mitch Taylor family
 Sis. Norma Tiller
 Sis. Annetta Williamson

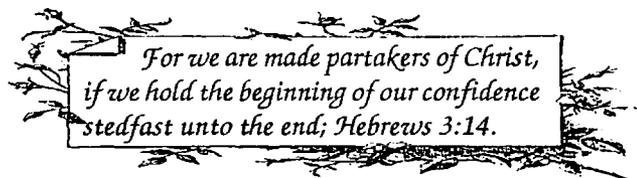
MEETING REPORTS

BAKERSFIELD REVIVAL AND CD'S

We want to thank God for a wonderful revival in February. The presence of the Lord was felt by those who attended. The singing and Word of God was inspiring and challenging. We thank the saints for their prayers and it is our desire that fruit will be manifested in changed lives as we live the gospel.

The youth from the congregations in Bakersfield and Pacoima have made a CD, entitled, "Exalt His Name", It is available for \$12.00. Enclose \$1.00 for shipping. The address is Church of God, P.O. Box 70701, Bakersfield, CA 93387, or Request by e-mail. cox.h@sbcglobal.net. PH. (661) 836-6574.

—Sis. Tina Cox



MEETING DATES

Webb City, MO (Spring Meeting)—April 27-30
Los Angeles, CA (Spring Revival)—May 2-4
Vanceburg, KY (Spring Meeting)—May 15-18
Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—May 23-June 1
Holly Hill, SC (Camp Meeting)—June 1-8
Tulsa, OK (Camp Meeting)—June 8-15
Green Bank, WV (Camp Meeting)—June 13-19
Sisters' Retreat (Okmulgee, OK)—June 20-21
Jefferson, OR (Camp Meeting)—June 20-29
Fresno, CA (Camp Meeting)—June 29-July 6
General Southern (Loranger, LA)—
 June 29-July 6
National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 18-27
California State (Pacoima)—August 15-24
Spoooner, WI (Tent Meeting)—August 20-24

MEETING NOTICES

WEBB CITY, MO, SPRING MEETING

The Church of God at Webb City, MO extends a hearty invitation to everyone to attend their Spring Meeting, April 27-30. Lord willing, Bro. Bob Wilson will be with us. Services will begin Sunday, April 27 at 10:00 a.m. with dinner served afterwards. Sunday night's service will begin at 6:00 p.m. and Monday through Wednesday will begin at 7:00 p.m. Please pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The chapel is located at the corner of Tracy and Devon, three blocks East of the Praying Hands Park. For additional information contact Bro. Daniel Adams at (417) 793-6329 cell, or Bro. David Ray at (417) 673-4038.

LOS ANGELES, CA, SPRING REVIVAL

Our Spring Revival, Lord willing, will be held May 2- 4 at the Church of God chapel located at 1381 Walnut St., Los Angeles, CA 90011.

May God inspire you as you pray for this endeavor with a burden for the cause of God in this place. Worship Services will be Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. with extended singing, Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Please accept a warm welcome from the congregation. Also, we hope you are inspired to bring someone with you. For further information contact us at (760) 261-2564 or pastorx2@hotmail.com. In His service,

—Pastors Travis & Alice Johnson

TENT MEETING, PORTLAND, OR

Lord willing there will be a tent revival meeting at Lents Park in Portland, OR Wednesday, May 14 through Saturday, May 17. Services will be held each night at 6:30pm. Further information can be obtained from Bro. Steve Elwell (503) 702-6503 or Bro. Don Elwell (503) 754-0585. Please pray for God's Word to be delivered with convicting power.

VANCEBURG, KY, SPRING MEETING

The Vanceburg, KY, Church of God congregation, Lord willing, will hold a Spring Meeting, May 15-18. There will be morning services at 11:00 and evening services at 7:00. We encourage all who feel a burden to come and support the meeting. The meeting is conducted on a freewill offering basis. There will be meals prepared daily on the grounds. This meeting will be held on Ruggles Campground in Tollesboro, KY. We are depending upon the Lord to lead and direct in sending the ministers of His choosing. Accommodations will be provided; please bring bed and bath linens. There are RV and camper hook-ups for those who wish to bring them. For those who may desire to rent a motel, they are available within 20 miles of the grounds. For further information and to make reservations, please contact Bro. Dallas Cooper at (606) 796-3645 or (606) 202-1366.

Driving directions to Ruggles Camp from Maysville, Vanceburg, or Flemingsburg: Take Highway 9 (AA Highway) toward Tollesboro (13 miles East of Maysville, or 17 miles West of Vanceburg.) At the intersection of Highway 57 in Tollesboro, turn South toward Flemingsburg. This turn will be between mile markers 28 and 29. Go South approximately 3.5 miles and look for the intersection of Highway 1237. There is a large "Ruggles Camp" sign at the road. Turn to the left (East) and proceed approximately 1.5 miles. On the right there will be a smaller "Ruggles Camp" sign; turn to the right and follow the lane into the campgrounds.

From Flemingsburg, take Highway 57 North into Lewis County, and watch for the intersection of Highway 1237. There is a large "Ruggles Camp" sign at the road. Turn right (East) and proceed approximately 1.5 miles. On the right there will be a smaller "Ruggles Camp" sign, turn to the right and follow the lane into the campgrounds.

OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING

The annual Oklahoma State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held May 23-June 1, at the campground located east off of Sooner Road on Lakeview Road. This 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 23, 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

We would like to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to all to attend our Holly Hill, SC camp meeting to be held from Sunday, June 1 through Sunday, June 8, 2008. Lord willing, we will have two services daily, and meals will be provided for all. If you would like to come and need accommodations, please call Sis. Beverly Pratt at (803) 496-3057 or Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Smith at (803) 492-7975 to make arrangements. Please come if you can, and if you aren't able to come, please pray for the precious Holy Spirit to lead, guide and bless in this meeting. We are looking forward to what the Lord has in store for us, and we welcome all who can come and be with us.

In Christ's Love,

—The Holly Hill, SC Congregation

GREEN BANK, WV, CAMP MEETING

The annual Green Bank Camp Meeting is scheduled to begin on Friday evening, June 13 and continue through Thursday evening, June 19, Lord willing.

Services will be held daily at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Two meals will be served daily, with breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and the noon meal immediately following morning service. There are no afternoon services scheduled.

All are welcome to attend this meeting. Dorm spaces are available for the young people,

as well as rooms and private homes for others. Please bring your own bedding and towels. Come prepared for cool weather. You may want to bring a heater or fan as we have unpredictable weather in June. It would be good if you could call ahead so we can better arrange accommodations. Please provide as much of the following information as possible: name and phone number, date of arrival and departure, number of adults and children in party. However, if you decide to suddenly drop by, you will be welcome. Accommodations will be provided.

The campground is located off Route 28 and 92 in Arbovale. Signs will be posted to direct you to the grounds. Camper hook-ups are also available.

For further information, call Bro. Mike Carpenter at (304) 456-3250 or Bro. Jim White at (304) 456-4192.

Come praying that the Holy Spirit will have full reign in this meeting.

SISTERS' RETREAT 2008

The 2008 Sisters' Retreat will convene, Lord willing, June 20-21 at the Church of God chapel located at 1515 East First Street, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

There will be two full days starting at 8:00 a.m. The theme for this year is "A Rare and Beautiful Treasure." The retreat will be supported by freewill offerings. Donations should be made payable to: Church of God-King's Daughter c/o 117 Dawnybrook Drive, Maryville, Tennessee 37804.

Reservations for accommodations can be made at Days Inn in Okmulgee at (918) 758-0660. Make your reservation in the name of *Church of God-Sister's Retreat* so you can get the tax exemption.

Pray that the Lord will bless in this setting. For further information you may contact Sis. Mary McDonald (865) 977-6997. For directions, call Sis. Sherry Warren (918) 733-1306.

GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMP MEETING

Lord willing, the General Southern Camp Meeting at Loranger, LA will begin Sunday, June 29, with morning and evening services daily through Sunday, July 6. If you can join us, come praying for a blessing.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Electrical and water hook ups

are available for those with campers. Meals are provided 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. (At the exit, take Hwy. 442 which runs into Hwy. 40.)

For more information, contact Carlos Doolittle at (985) 878-8122. The chapel phone is (985) 878-2788. Please do support this meeting with your prayers.

JEFFERSON, OR, CAMP MEETING

Everyone is invited to attend the annual camp meeting in Jefferson, OR. The meeting will start the Friday evening of June 20 and end on Sunday morning, June 29. Service times will be at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., and a 2:00 p.m. service on the first weekend and last Saturday. For accommodations or directions, you can reach Bro. Bob Wilson at (541) 327-3621 or Bro. Clifford Smith at (503) 581-4575. Your presence would be a great encouragement to the saints here in Oregon.



**LETTERS
 FROM
 OUR
 READERS**

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings of christian love. We trust the Lord is blessing all of you there at Faith Publishing House. I have been rejoicing in the thought of what a great privilege it is to become a child of God. If a child or a son, then an heir of God and joint heirs with Jesus. That affords us with God's love and care for us while we are here in this world, and then gives us hope of eternal life in the world above that He has prepared for them that have Him.

The Scripture says, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:" John 1:11-12. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; *(Have a glorified body. Philippians 3:20-21)* for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." I John 3:1-3.

Your brother in Christ, —T. V. McMillian

MO—(3/28/08) Greetings of love to the workers at the Print Shop and Saints everywhere. Thank you for your love, prayers and all that you have done for me during my illness. I'm still in the battle, but the Lord is helping me. I can not thank Him enough for all He does for me. This is the right way and definitely the way to go.

Thank you Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta for continuing to print the Gospel that is pure for a lost and dying world. May the Lord renew your courage everyday. —Sis. Leta Inman



Samuel Luther Chrisman was born January 2, 1910, in Beaver, OK to Nova Lee and Ethel Husted Chrisman. He passed away at his home in Enid, OK, March 15, 2008, at the age of 98 years, 2 months and 13 days. He was married to Carolina Eck, and to this union was born five daughters and one son.

As a young man he sought the Lord and was saved, but later became discouraged and gave up his faith and became a slave to sin, which brought him much sorrow and trouble. He lived in San Francisco, CA and worked in the shipyard as a welder. He later lived in Idaho for a number of years before returning to Enid in 1963. He was tired of sin and its binding chains and, seeking the Lord earnestly, found peace and victory over sin and its downward course. He started worshipping with the saints of the Church of God in Enid, OK, and was faithful to attend services with the congregation there as long as he was able. He enjoyed singing sacred songs and he also loved to recite the words to various songs at times when he was in the church services.

He is survived by four daughters, Ida Penn of Dixon, IL; Obara Hipkins of Dallas, TX; Virgie Mittelman of Horse Creek, CA; and Alberta Pfaff

of Marietta, OK; one son, Robert Chrisman of Enid, OK; one sister, Zula Pellow of Enid, OK; one brother, L. D. Chrisman of Nowata, OK; 13 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and 6 great, great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Carolina, one daughter, seven sisters and five brothers.

Funeral services were held in Enid, OK, officiated by his pastor, Bro. Leslie Busbee. Burial was in Memorial Park Cemetery, Enid, OK.

Michael Clark Goldsberry

Funeral services for Michael Clark Goldsberry, age 58, were held Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at Cox Funeral Home Chapel in Bastrop, LA with Bro. Bill Fowler and Bro. Dale Jordan officiating. Interment followed at Mer Rouge Cemetery in Mer Rouge, LA.

Formerly of Neosho, MO and West Monroe, LA, Mike was a long time resident of Bastrop. Mike, an Army veteran, was born on September 17, 1949 in Craig County, OK to Ben and Sybil Horton Goldsberry. He died Friday April 11, 2008 following a long and courageous battle with cancer.

He was preceded in death by his parents and 2 step grandsons. He is survived by his wife, Peggy Calhoon Goldsberry, step-daughters, Dayna Duplissey and husband Steve, Dawna Kitchens, Darla Leonard and husband Will; step-sons, Quincy Evans, Wilbur Evans and wife Ashley; all of Bastrop. Ten step-grandchildren and Mike's siblings: Sharon Savoie of Pearl River, LA, Roger Goldsberry and wife Melissa of Ochomogo, Nicaragua, Judy Myers and husband Jim of Jasper, TX, Coni Hollingsworth and husband Clay of Monroe, LA, Kristi Goldsberry of West Monroe, LA, and several nieces and nephews. Nephews served as pallbearers. The family appreciates the calls, concern and prayers of the saints for both Mike's well being during his illness, and for his soul. The Lord is so merciful to hear and answer when we call.

Juliette Lounds, Aunt Judy as she was fondly called, took her flight to glory, the sixth of March, 2008, at the age of 92 years, 6 month, and 1 day. She was the fifth of ten children born to George W. and Gertrude B. Lounds on September 5, 1915. Her parents and eight siblings, Henry Lounds, Oretha Price, Jesse Lounds, Stanley Lounds, Alberta Lounds, Melia Viser, Mary Lounds and Rosetta Lounds preceded her in death.

Aunt Judy was born, reared and educated in Oklahoma City. She was employed at Tennyson Cleaners, Mathews Service Station, Capital Day Nursery and as a foster grandparent for the State Department. After her retirement, Aunt Judy attended the Metropolitan Better Living Center and lived in the Temple Garden Senior Complex. She thoroughly loved and enjoyed the staff and fellow clients at both facilities.

Aunt Judy accepted the Lord as her Savior at an early age. She faithfully attended the Evening Light Church of God. Where she exemplified a quiet and loving spirit.

Because of her longevity, Aunt Judy ended up being the matriarch of the family. With her easy-go, even temperament, she was everyone's favorite. If the family was traveling to New York City or San Francisco, Chicago or Miami, she was on that plane or in that car.

Aunt Judy leaves to cherish her memories, one brother, Carl Lounds; four nieces, Lula Lounds, Dorcas Borders, Gertrude Lounds, and Omer Jean Price; four nephews, George Lounds, Stanley Lounds, Donald Viser, and Paul Viser; and a host of great nieces, great nephews and friends.

Memorial services were officiated by Bro. Charles Chandler on March 10, 2008. Interment followed at Trice Hill Cemetery, Oklahoma City, OK.

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband *also*, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: *but* a woman *that* feareth the LORD, she shall be praised." Proverbs 31:28-30.

Lula Mae Jackson Williamson, Age 88, died at her residence in Denham Springs, LA on March 18, 2008. She was born on May 22, 1919 in Batchelor, LA to Harry S. and Emma Jackson. She was a long time resident of Hammond, LA. She is survived by her children and their spouses, Nell and James Davis of Baton Rouge, LA; Sarah and Carroll Short of Batchelor, LA; Maxine and Harvey Pruitt of Guthrie, OK; John and Alice Williamson of Denham Springs, LA; Judith and Jim Crouse of Baton Rouge, LA; Geraldine and Bob Dean of Guthrie, OK; and Dennis and Barbara Williamson of Denham Springs, LA; 17 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; and 4 great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Max Forbes Williamson, son, David Harry Williamson;

brothers, Levi and Harry Jackson; and sisters, Veva Myers and Ione Myers.

Funeral services were held at the Oak Grove Church of God in Loranger, LA on Saturday, March 22, 2008. Officiating the services were Bro. Ed Wilson of Neosho, MO, Bro. Melvin D. Doolittle, Baton Rouge, LA and Bro. Steve Elston of Loranger, LA.

Interment was in the Oak Grove Church of God Cemetery.

Sis. Lula Williamson's children and all of her family thank all of the Saints of the Church of God who have held her up with their prayers over the years. Many of the children of the Saints who grew up with her children have been so supportive over the years and we children are very thankful for that support and feel blessed that we have so many dear friends who have remained friends through the years. We children realize the blessing we had being reared in a loving and true Christian home. We know the lives that our parents lived and the examples we were given, and thank God for that privilege.

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The Bible Looking Glass

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

*The Bible is a looking glass,
A mirror bright and clear:
It shows us what we are, what class
Of saint or sinner here.*

*It shows how sinful and how vain
Our hearts so proud can be,
And ev'ry ugly, evil stain
Of dark iniquity.*

*Let's look into the Looking Glass,
Just what we are to see,
And make ere from this life we pass
Corrections full and free.*

*The Bible is a two-fold view:
One side reveals the Christ:
The other shows an image true
Of things that we have priced.*

*It shows the way of holiness
That leads to Heav'n above,*

*And righteousness and godliness
And faith and hope and love.*

*And then it shows the downward way
Of worldliness and pride,
And warns us of the price we'll pay
If we in sin abide.*

*Take down this Looking Glass and see
What kind of man you are,
And what you need to better be
Through Christ, the Morning Star.*

*Look into freedom's perfect law,
Continuing therein;
Forget not all the things you saw,
Reproving you of sin.*

*Obey and measure to its line
Of love and holiness;
And let Its light so sweetly shine
As t'ward life's goal you press.*

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