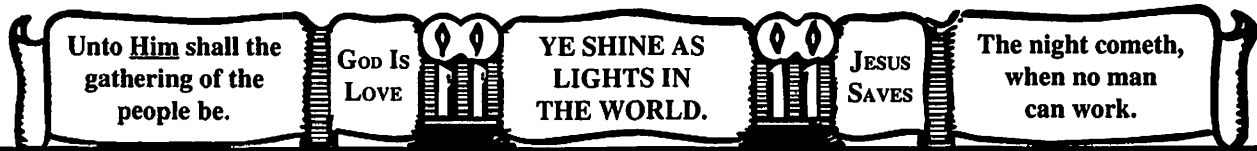


FAITH AND VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



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THE GIFT

By Sis. Vonda Cole

In a Bible Study about the talent hid in the earth, a brother shared this recent experience. He had been called on to share his personal experience of salvation and deliverance from a life of drugs and sin with another individual who was struggling to overcome similar problems. This brother is not proud of his past life and he expressed that he just didn't know if he could do it, but before the conversation ended, he had agreed. After the phone conversation, this brother, with much doubts and misgivings, was pondering what he had just agreed to do when the Lord spoke to him. God asked, "If I gave you a gift, what would you do with it?" To stress the point, God asked it again, "If I gave you a gift, what would you do with it?" The answer was "I would open it and use it." The implied response from God was, "Go; do likewise with my gift of Salvation."

All the Lord is asking of us is to open and use that one gift. Paraphrasing Luke 19, "The servant took the one talent (gift) and hid it in the earth and the Lord was so angry that He took the one talent and gave it unto him that had ten." The Lord was very upset that the servant con-

sidered his circumstances too extenuating and difficult to use his one talent. Do we find ourselves in the same predicament of blaming God that He is too austere? (Luke 19:21) Do we feel that our situation in life, whatever it might be, is just unfair and God didn't deliver us out of it when He could have, but permitted us to experience it? Oh, we would never blame God verbally as the servant did, but I have found myself tempted to withdraw into my own self and my own little world. In doing so, I was communicating to God that I thought He was too austere and unfair and I was hiding my one talent of the gift of salvation in the "earth".

It is from that one gift of salvation, when we follow the Lord all the way into sanctification, that all other gifts spawn. The scripture reads in Luke 10:20 "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." In this scripture, we are challenged to not glory in any of the minor gifts that the Lord might give us, but rather to focus on the big, important gift of God—the gift of salvation. Any of the minor gifts could be substituted in this scripture. Rejoice not that you have the gift of preaching, of prophecy, of healing or of miracles, but rather rejoice that your names are written in Heaven. It takes the attention away from the minor gifts—where if we feel successful the devil tries to puff us up, and if we feel like a failure, he tries to crush us. If we are rejoicing in the gift of salvation, there is little chance for the devil to take us on this emotional roller coaster ride.

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PERSONAL TESTIMONIES

MO—Dear Saints: “But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble. Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy.” Psalms 59:16-17.

Have you ever been overwhelmed by the goodness and mercy of God? I have thought of little else the past few days. My heart is so filled with thanksgiving and praise to our God! I want to tell of His goodness and mercy to us! I want to give Him the glory and honor for what He has done! There is no other explanation than—God! Friday, June 5, 2009, at about 11:00 a.m. our lives were spun out of control, but, thank God, He was in control the whole time. I was taking the children to the library to sign them up for the summer reading program. We had plans for a fun day together. As I turned to cross two lanes of traffic, I looked up and saw a big truck (a dump truck with a full load of gravel) slightly to my right. There was no time to think or pray. The deafening roar upon impact is imprinted in my memory as well as the feeling of spinning out of control and then coming to a stop in the median facing the opposite direction. The dump truck overturned and skidded quite a distance before coming to a stop across both lanes.

My first thought was “my children!” We had removed the back seat and Levi’s car-seat the night before to haul some things. In the rush to leave that morning, I had buckled them all in, but they were not in car-seats.

Two-year-old Levi was in the front passenger seat when both airbags deployed. His window had shattered, but there was little or no glass inside. He was kneeling in his seatbelt. Only God kept him from coming out of that seatbelt. If he had, the impact could easily have carried him out the broken window!

Seven-year-old Breanna was in the seat behind him. Her seatbelt must not have locked in. She was thrown onto the floor and then back onto the seat, her seatbelt never came off. Then I realized our five year-old-daughter, Aubrey, was not on the seat beside her, she was lying in the back of the van. Although I was not pinned, the pain in my chest from the impact made it impossible to move or get to my children. We were all conscious the entire time.

There were two nurses that were in the group of people that witnessed the wreck. One of them asked if I wanted her to pray with us. That was a great blessing and very calming. I knew we were in God’s hands.

I felt my vision fading and thought I was passing out. I was able to communicate the whole time, but could only see black. I thought, “Oh Lord, am I going to have to raise my children without my sight?” Then, “I can do that, just please give me my children to raise.” I don’t know how long it was, at least 5 minutes, but it seemed much longer. As my vision returned the nurse and I were both thanking God! That’s when I realized the dump truck was on its side. Thankfully the driver was not hurt and was able to walk around. Thank God!

Aubrey was having severe abdominal and back pain and difficulty moving her left side. We were all checked over and given a clean bill of health—no fractures, no internal damage, no head injuries. We were all released to go home within about three hours. My foot was badly bruised and in a splint for a few days, but none of us have any lasting damage—only bumps and bruises. The only explanation—God!

I cried when we got home. We were all here TOGETHER! No one was missing. Levi immediately wanted to ride his bike. We marvel at the way God totally delivered us in this wreck. We are amazed at how He held us during and after the accident. We thank Him for protecting all of us, including the other driver! And we are so thankful to all of you who were praying for us. The outpouring of love is amazing. We are a blessed people and serve a mighty God!

I have been challenged: don’t take your family for granted. Hold your loved ones close. We are not promised tomorrow, but I have found that today is a treasure to hold and cherish and live to the best of our ability with God’s Help. We serve a good God! His power is so much greater than we can even imagine. I am honored to be serving Him today!

With sincere love and thanksgiving,

—Sis. Angela Sorrell

— — — — —

OK—Dear Saints: We are grateful for the many dear ones who prayed for Clayton and Roberta Gaines during their recent trial of sickness. Clayton had been failing in health for about a year. In September he was diagnosed with congestive heart failure and during the

following months he required much care until April 5th, when God relieved him of suffering and took him home to glory. Although he will be greatly missed we are thankful God saw fit to take him without further suffering.

Roberta, his primary care giver for many months, became seriously ill the first week of March. She suffered unrelenting pain for about a week from a sore on her back. When I arrived on March 12 she told me, "I am feeling much better. If God had not sent relief, I believe I would be dead today. I think my heart would have just stopped beating from the extreme pain I was in."

After the Hospice nurse, who was tending to Clayton twice a week, saw the sore, she called several doctors she knew and asked if they would clean it out. Each one said it could only be done in the hospital. This was much against Roberta's wishes, as she had for 75-years prayed for healing and received it without medical or surgical aid.

On Monday, March 16, she visited a doctor in Thayer, who only peeked at the sore and arranged for a surgeon, Dr. Dunsworth to see her that same afternoon.

Sis. Roberta told Dr. Dunsworth that God had healed her for 75 years and that she preferred to just trust in Him now, but she needed someone to clean the sore. She asked him to do it without forcing her to take any drugs, and that she was willing to sign a release of responsibility for him.

The doctor was very gracious and accepted the challenge without any release signing. He did however warn her that she should not expect the infection in her body to leave, nor the sore to heal without antibiotics. His nurse, Ms. Dora, became so concerned she almost cried while trying to convince Roberta that she would surely die without the antibiotics. The conversation ended when I said, "She's lived a full happy life, almost 76 years. It's better to die in peace at this age than to live a few more years and not die in peace."

Dr. Dunsworth had her admitted into the hospital that day with the promise he would clean out the sore the following day. Everyone at the hospital from the receptionist, the social workers, nurses, doctors and housekeepers were very nice to us although we raised some questions. (Julie Hightower and I stayed with her.) One older nurse come bouncing into the

room saying "I'm anxious to meet this lady who believes in natural medicines cause I believe the same way." We hadn't been in the hospital an hour when the "wound nurse" in the hall handed Julie a pamphlet about a honey cure. Another day I was in the refreshment center and overheard some nurses talking about our situation. One said to the other, "I'm anxious to see how this will turn out." The others agreed.

Roberta was hospitalized from Monday through Saturday. Each day when the doctor visited he would again explain the "woes" that could be expected without using either insulin or antibiotics. One day he said, "You don't want to die the death a diabetic dies with an unhealed sore. It's an awful death."

One week later when we went for a check-up Roberta was checked by another doctor. He took one look at the wound and repeated several times, "I can't believe this. It is so clean (no infection.) Then he added, "Keep on doing what you have been doing except for one thing. (You see I'm an odd-ball too and I wanted to meet this odd-ball. He gave Roberta a pat.) I want you to go buy a 'honey bear' and squirt honey on the wound then bandage as usual."

At our appointment two weeks later on April 14th Dr. Dunsworth just kept saying over and over, "I am so amazed! I am so amazed! You all have been doing lots of praying." He walked us down the hall to the waiting room door, remarking all the way about the great healing. (I hope the news reached those in the hospital who were anxious to see how it turned out.) And Nurse Dora has been so gracious to us. She seemed like a dear friend.

On entering the hospital, Roberta's blood test showed that her blood sugar count had been around 400 for three or four months. The second test went off the scale. Roberta agreed to take insulin while in the hospital. Every few hours she was given insulin and the count came down between 250 and 300. Her blood sugar count has been going down slowly since leaving the hospital without insulin. It has been down to 155, this morning it was 165.

We are so thankful for the great healing power which God has showed in her behalf. It is rare indeed that an elderly diabetic person diagnosed with Methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus, commonly known as MRSA, would heal so well.

We serve a mighty God!

—Sis. Charlotte Huskey

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.

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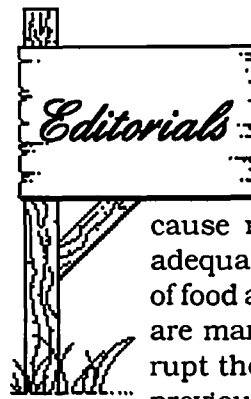
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We are living in a day and age where there is much discontent among people. The unhappiness can not be solely attributed to impoverished conditions, be-

cause most of the populace have adequate shelter and an abundance of food and clothing. However, there are many things happening to disrupt the secure feeling people have previously enjoyed due to recent

changes in the economic and political environment of our country. The fears and uncertainties of the future brought about by these changes are weighing heavily on the mind of many folks. Some have lost their jobs and are wondering how they are going to support the heavy financial burden of their debt load, others may have seen their investments rapidly diminish in value and are worried about how they will live comfortably in their retirement years. Others may be living in crime-laden areas and are worried about their personal safety and the well-being of their families. These are legitimate concerns and while they need to be addressed in the decisions people make about their lives, they should not continually keep them in a state of depression and melancholy. When Jesus told His disciples they would hear of wars and rumours of wars He also gave them these encouraging words, "...See that ye be not troubled..." Matthew 24:6.

The child of God has good reasons for not being "troubled" by the disturbing events occurring around them, for their trust is in God. David was one who experienced many difficult times, but his testimony in Psalm 144:15 was, "...Happy is that people, whose God is the Lord." Notice a few of the reasons to be happy listed in Psalm 146:5-10, "Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God: Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever: Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The LORD looseth the prisoners: The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind: the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down: the LORD loveth the righteous: The LORD preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down. The

LORD shall reign for ever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the LORD." We serve the true God who created the heavens and we are placed in an environment that is controlled by His judicial wisdom. When we govern our lives by His principles of righteousness, His loving care is directed toward us. I Peter 5:7 tells us, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." There are so many wonderful reasons for our joy, and the fact that His reign of power is forever thrills the soul of a righteous man. There is no reason to shout the familiar phrase, "Long live the King," as is often repeated for earthly kings, for His kingdom is eternal and He is graciously inviting mankind to join Him in His heavenly reign. What He would rather hear people say is, "Thy will be done on earth," and then humble their hearts to do His righteous will—for He has given each person the ability to chose their course in life

God's people are happy when they realize the value He places on their life. In Matthew 10:30, Jesus said, "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered." When someone is giving that much detailed attention to us, then they surely must love us dearly. In Luke 21:17-18 it says, "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. But there shall not an hair of your head perish." No one else can make a statement like this and really carry it out, but God can. Perhaps this verse is specifically directed toward the Christians who were allowed to escape the destruction of Jerusalem. However, this same protection has been given to His Saints since that time. It is important to also note that the scope of His protection is complete, and He has the ability, and the intention, to resurrect these mortal bodies. The bodies of those who have given their lives for the sake of Christ will again be made whole.

We are happy that our sins are forgiven. This is what the psalmist proclaimed, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." Psalms 32:1. The joy found in forgiveness is what Jesus told His disciples to rejoice about. "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:20. This joy is so precious because it required the blood of God's only begotten Son to purchase; and His love for us was so great that He willingly gave His life to redeem our sin-stained souls.

We are happy because our oppressor has been defeated and when he bothers us again we should not hesitate to tell him so. Jesus said, "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out." John 12:31. Paul, quoting from Psalm 68:18 said, "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men." Ephesians 4:8. Then in Hebrews 2:14 it says, "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil." We rejoice that Jesus has set us free from the captive bondage of the devil and we bask in the glorious liberty of salvation.

We are happy, because when we are sad we are comforted. God has sent the precious Holy Spirit to dwell within our hearts and He gives us continual comfort. We are surely blessed because of His presence. On more than one occasion Jesus greeted His disciples, or others who were in need, with the words, "be of good cheer." The Holy Spirit within our hearts often encourages us with words of the same tenor—"be of good cheer," "Just trust me, things will all work out okay," "I will help you, just hold to my hand." What a rich blessing to have someone who loves us so dearly to encourage us like this! The psalmist said, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth *him with his hand.*" Psalms 37:23-24.

We rejoice because our lives are not unfruitful, barren nor forsaken. God tempers the things that touch our lives so a proper environment is established to produce rich spiritual fruit. During the course of producing good fruit it may be that our lives are touched with difficulties and trouble, but we know those troubles will only last for a season and we will not be permanently damaged. For we are children of the most high God and He has given this wonderful promise, "...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5. The trial of our faith, which will cause us to come forth as gold tried in the fire, will help us to more perfectly reflect His glorious image.

We are happy because we have hope for the future. The enemy of our souls will try to tell us that a dark end is looming before us, but He is

totally wrong. When we belong to Christ our days become brighter and brighter and we have hope even in death. Psalms 71:14 says, "But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more." We have a bright future with Christ. Notice Ephesians 2:4-7. These verses explain some of the plan that God has for His children. "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,...hath quickened us together with Christ,...And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:4-7. As a song says, "Won't it be wonderful there." To behold the "exceeding riches of His grace" in the ages to come will be an awesome experience that no child of God will want to miss. We look forward to that day with great anticipation—the day when these mortal bodies will be changed into an incorruptible body to dwell forever with the One Who has loved our souls and has gone to prepare a place for His precious children.

Bro. Rodney Sorrell has ended his earthly sojourn and went to be with the Lord on the evening of his 25th birthday, June 28. Pray that God will comfort his parents, Bro. Dwane and Sis. Connie Sorrell, and their family. Bro. Rodney will be remembered for his willingness to help those who were downtrodden and in need, and for his desire to encourage the family of God.

On May 1 he sent an encouraging text message to me that came at an appropriate time. It was a prayer by Helen Steiner Rice.

*"Thank you God for the beauty around me everywhere.
The gentle rain and glistening dew, the sunshine and the air,
The joyous gift of feeling the souls soft whispering voice
That speaks from deep within and makes my heart rejoice.*

*"Help us, dear God to choose between
The driving forces that rule our routine,
So we may make our purpose and goal,
Not power and wealth, but the growth of our souls.*

*"And give us strength and drive and desire
To raise our standards and ethics higher
So all of us, and not just a few,
May live on earth as You want us to."*

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



Honduras—(6-30-09) I am thankful to all who have been praying for us, we are in dire need of the Lord's assistance for our political situation. Things here are getting ugly pretty fast. I was coming home from work yesterday because I got off work late, it was probably around nine thirty, and was arrested and questioned. I had to spend the night in jail, that is the first time for me, and it was horrible. But the Lord gave me the grace that I needed. My boss came with a letter showing I had been working and secured my release. —Bro. Natan Webster

Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Carlos Arriaga
Sis. Gladys Cashio
Sis. Helen Carson
Sis. Genevieve Carver
Sis. Elizabeth Corteway
Sis. Waneta Creel
Sis. Patsy Doolittle
Sis. Dorall Forbes
Bro. Troy Gentry
Bro. Lee Hilton
Jaden Howard
Sis. Karoline Kessler
Bro. Mark and Sis. Darlene Knight
Sis. Virginia Myers
Sis. Elsie M. Offerman
Sis. Melba Powell
Sis. Marilyn Rendall
Bro. Vernon Robinson
Sis. Ruth Shehee
Sis. Cheryl Smith
Bro. Michael Smith
Bro. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor
Sis. Imogene Taylor
The Mitch Taylor family
Sis. Norma Tillier
Bro. Delmar Wilkins
Sis. Annetta Williamson

MEETING DATES

National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 17-26
Myrtle, MO (Camp Meeting)—July 31-August 5
California State (Pacoima, CA)—August 7-16
Spooner, WI (Tent Meeting)—August 19-23
Baldy Mesa, CA (Fall Revival)—October 9-11
Dallas, TX (Fall Meeting)—October 14-18
Okmulgee, OK (Fall Revival)—October 16-18

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 17-26. 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 (620) 226-3390 or e-mail <rdb Bradley@ckt.net>. and Mike Hightower, 13974 Newt Dr., Neosho, MO 64850. Phone, (417) 451-3636.

MYRTLE, MO, CAMP MEETING

The Myrtle, MO Camp Meeting will begin, Lord willing, on Friday morning, July 31 and continue through Wednesday morning, August 5. There will be morning services at 10:30 and evening services at 7:00 each day, with the 10:30 service on Wednesday being the last service. We plan to have afternoon services, as announced, on Saturday and Sunday. We extend a hearty invitation to everyone to come.

Accommodations will be made to care for all. Sleeping quarters are available in the men's and women's dormitories as well as cabins on a limited basis. We ask that cabin owners please contact Sis. Carol Sorrell at (417) 938-4493 and let her know whether or not you plan to attend the meeting this year. If you do not plan to attend, but have a relative who plans to attend and would like to stay in your cabin, please inform Sis. Carol. This will help her with arrangements for everyone. Electrical hookups are also available on a limited basis for those who bring campers or motor homes.

Please pray with us for a special visitation of the Holy Spirit and that this meeting will bear fruit for eternity. The campground phone number is (417) 938-4682. For further information contact Bro. Harlan Sorrell at (417) 938-4336.

CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The California State Camp Meeting will be held, Lord willing, from August 7-16, 2009. The campground is located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA 91331.

The first service will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday, August 7, 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. The chapel phone number is (818) 899-9021.

SPOONER, WI, TENT MEETING

Lord willing, this meeting will begin Wednesday, August 19, at 7:00 p.m., with services daily at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. through Sunday, August 23.

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.

BALDY MESA, CA, FALL REVIVAL

We are seeking the blessings of God for our community, our congregation and fellow saints

as we anticipate our Fall Revival 2009. Lord willing our weekend meeting will be held October 9-11.

Friday—Worship 7:30 p.m., Saturday—Worship & Youth Focus Activities 1:00 p.m., Worship 7:30 p.m. Sunday—Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Morning Worship 11:00 a.m., Afternoon Worship 2:30 p.m.

In His Service,

—Pastor Travis Johnson
—Pastor Alice Johnson
(760) 780-6707

DALLAS, TX, FALL MEETING

The Church of God congregation in Dallas, TX cordially invite you to join them in their Fall Meeting October 14-18. The service times will be at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. On Sunday, Sunday School will begin at 10:00 a.m., Morning Worship service at 11:00 a.m. and Afternoon Service at 2:30 p.m.

The chapel is located at 11501 Ryliecrest Drive, Balch Springs, TX. The chapel phone number is: (972) 557-1591.

For further information contact Bro. Calvin Frentrup (972) 237-1538, Bro. Henry Grimes (972) 222-7249. For lodging contact Sis. Linda Montgomery (972) 286-6239.

OKMULGEE, OK, FALL REVIVAL

You are invited to attend our Fall Revival at the Church of God congregation in Okmulgee, OK on October 16-18. Service times will be 7:30 p.m. On October 18 we plan to have our regular Sunday services with a Singspiration in the afternoon.

The chapel is located at 1515 E. First St., Okmulgee, OK. For further information contact Bro. Robert Warren (918) 733-1306.

The Gift

(Continued from page 1.)

The Lord's desire is that we will use the one talent, that more might be gained. Hone in on keeping that one talent in good working order by a life of communion with God in daily reading and prayer. As we turn our attention more and more on the Savior of our souls, an intimate relationship is developed. Just as God desires that from a natural marriage, natural children are born, so out of that intimate spiritual relationship, spiritual children are born.



Stanley Elbert Dickson was born July 2, 1945, in Coushatta, Louisiana. Elbert Oliver and Josie Aliene (Gillen) Dickson were not blessed to have children early in their marriage, so when this precious baby boy came, he was a cherished son. "Sonny Boy" (as he was sometimes called) brought a fulfillment and pleasure to his mother's life for 12 short years, and then she was taken. This mother's love and biblical influence followed Stanley all of his life, and it seemed, by his recitations of her words, that he remembered everything she had told him.

Stan and his dad continued in the family home after his mother's death. Stanley often said that throughout his life he was surrounded by people who loved him. He was a favorite with his aunts, uncles and cousins, and often reminisced about the good times he enjoyed in his youth. He was a typical youngster and teenager as he passed through the school years in a small close-knit community, graduating from the local high school in Coushatta. Two years ago, Bro. Stanley and Sis. Karen had an opportunity to return to this "grassroots" community. As they walked down the street in his old hometown, Stanley said to Karen, "Watch this." Approaching one of the locals, this was the reaction, "Why, Stanley Dickson! You back in town?" Driving down a back road to visit a cousin, one man meeting them came to a dead stop and exclaimed, "Well, Stanley Dickson, is that you?" He was still remembered though many years had passed.

At the age of 23, Stanley met a "southern belle." He was instantly attracted, and determined to win her hand. Janice Aliene Esters became Mrs. Stanley Dickson on July 13, 1968.

Bro. Stanley's assessment of this event was: "It's a wonder how God let this happen in my life! I should never have courted her, and she should never have let me, because I was an agnostic and she was a backslider." Yet, it would be through this union Stanley would come face to face with God and His Truth.

On July 12th, 1971, the day before their 3rd Wedding Anniversary, a baby boy was born to Stanley and Aliene. They named him Craig. Two years later on August 6th Jeff was born, and their family seemed complete. Both of these sons have been, and are, an extension of their parents' love. They have said their dad was never shy about showing them love. Their only regret with their father is, "he just didn't live long enough!"

Aliene was always tender toward the Lord and had a desire to be saved. After her conversion, she wanted Stan to go to the Church of God with her. For nine years he resisted the conviction of God, because he believed his sins were too many for God to forgive. One night he was asking God to show him what to do, and God spoke to him and said, "I have shown you everything you need to know." Bro. Stanley took hope that he could really be saved and began to pray at home, and then went to Bro. Clifford Wilson for prayer and counsel. The Lord gloriously saved him at the age of 32. He was absolutely a new creature in Christ! He had a great hunger to know all about God and His Word. Bro. Stanley spent many evenings with Bro. Wilson, asking questions and discussing the Bible. His young sons often fell asleep on the Wilson's living room floor while waiting until a late hour for him to be finished with each session.

Stanley Dickson was born with a vibrant outgoing personality. He loved people. He loved to help people. He was full of life and loved life. He loved to laugh. He always had a quick smile and a twinkle in his eyes. He had an unusual God-given capacity to love his family, the Saints, and the Church of God.

As Bro. Stanley grew and became established in the things of God, he received a call to the ministry. He began this ministry in the Shreveport Church of God congregation under the leadership of Bro. Wilson. Later, he moved his family to Jena, LA where he pastored the little congregation there for several years. Then

the Lord called him to pastor the Four Corner's congregation in Oklahoma. At the time of this move, he was employed with the Louisiana Highway Department and was only about 5 years from full retirement. He and his family gave up the retirement, and moved to Vinita, Oklahoma, where they served the Saints in that area for about 10 years.

Happy memories unfolded during this period of time with the marriages of Craig and Kim, and Jeff and Inga. Then, one of the happiest events of all was the birth of a grandbaby named Jessica. She was the "prettiest baby in the whole world," and her grandpa called her "Grandbaby" even when she was no longer a baby. She truly was the "apple of his eye."

It was during this time of their life's work that Aliene became seriously ill. Bro. Stanley had a great love for his wife, and tenderly performed almost all of her care until she died. They were blessed with 29 wonderful years together, and he just knew he could never love again.

But, our God can do wonderful things! While he would never forget his Aliene, he found another love, Karen LaRayne Luehring, who he married on June 27, 1998. Less than a year later they moved to Guthrie, Oklahoma to pastor the Church of God where many lives have been blessed by this ministry. His testimony was, "God has been there every step of the way, and placed the most wonderful people in my life."

In March of this year, Bro. Stanley felt led to prepare the congregation for his possible incapacitation. He looked to God for direction for the care of the congregation. The Lord honored him with assurance and instructions for the welfare of the Saints he had pastored these past 10 years. He had a God-given burden, call and love for the Guthrie Church of God Congregation. And, it never dimmed! During his time of affliction, this burden, call and love burned within him that the sheep of the Guthrie congregation would be protected.

Bro. Stanley's life and labors were completed in the early afternoon on Friday, May 22, 2009. His life's span was 63 years, 10 months, and 20 days, which means the last half of his life was lived to the glory of God. He is now with the One Who died for him and has given him eternal life.

Bro. Stanley was preceded in death by his parents and his first wife, Aliene Esters Dickson.

He leaves to mourn his passing, his beloved wife, Karen Luehring Dickson of the home; two cherished sons and daughters-in-law, Craig and Kim Dickson of Bixby, OK; and Jeff and Inga Dickson of Terrell, TX; one very special and dearly loved granddaughter, Jessica Dickson; and a greatly anticipated and soon to be born grandson, Stanley Keltan Blaine Dickson; (born July 3, one day after Bro. Stanley's birthday); and a dear uncle and aunt, Wayland and Lois Dickson.

He is also survived by Aliene Dickson's siblings and their spouses, Doris and Vilho Bjorn; Gloria and Edgar Martens; Will and Judy Esters; and Sheri and Curt Williamson, as well as the nieces and nephews, and Karen Dickson's siblings and spouses, Gerri and Jim Linch, Wanda and John Gibson, Laveta and Darrell Wilkins, Loretta and Richard Wallace, Mike and Cindy Luehring, Pat McAndrews, Anneta Williamson; and David Luehring; and her nieces and nephews.

Bro. Stanley also leaves to mourn his passing a host of Saints and friends.

Memorial services were held May 27 at the Guthrie Church of God chapel. Officiating ministers were Bro. Phillip Gellenbeck, Sis. Maxine Busbee and Bro. Willie Murphey. Interment followed at Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie, OK.

One or the other must leave,
One or the other must stay.
One or the other must grieve,
That is forever the way.

That is the vow that was sworn,
Faithful 'til death do us part.
Braving what had to be borne,
Hiding the ache in the heart.

One, howsoever adored,
First must be summoned away.
That is the will of the Lord
One or the other must stay.

—Anonymous

Note of Thanks

We wish to extend our gratitude for the outpouring of love, care, flowers, cards and expressions of sympathy we have received from

the family of God. It has been a comfort to us to in our sorrow. Truly there are no other people like the saints of God. Stanley rejoiced to be a member of this family, and we have been greatly blessed and comforted by our brothers and sisters in the Lord. May God bless each one of you and comfort your hearts also.

—Sis. Karen Dickson and family.

— — — — —
Ricky Allen Kuykendall, 49, of Guthrie passed away Sunday, May 17, 2009 at Mercy Medical Center in Oklahoma City. He was born April 22, 1960 in St. Louis, MO. to Daniel Alonzo Kuykendall and Barbara Sue Freeman. Services were held 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at Church of God Chapel, Guthrie, with Bro. Dan Doolittle officiating. Interment followed at Memory Gardens Memorial Park

He was raised in St. Louis and moved to Avon Park, FL. in 1977. Ricky worked for Harder Hall as a cook, later moving back to St. Louis in 1984. He continued his work as a cook for several restaurants. Ricky moved to Oklahoma in 1995. Due to his health issues, he continued as a cook working as much as he was able to.

He collected Hot Wheel cars and enjoyed playing his guitars, which he also collected. His past time was spent with his cats.

Ricky is predeceased by his father. Surviving him is his mother Barbara Thomas of Guthrie as well as two brothers, Dennis James Thomas of St. Louis County, MO. and Gerald Ivan Thomas of Sebring, FL.

— — — — —
Rodney Daniel Sorrell was born at 320 North Second, Guthrie, OK on June 28, 1984 to Thomas Dwane and Connie (Miles) Sorrell. His final home-going was on his 25th birthday, June 28, 2009, about an hour and a half before his birth time.

Rodney joined one sister, Vickie Darlene, and left behind three brothers, Lyndall Dwane, Kevin Dwight and his wife Kimberly, all of Edmond; and Gerald Dale of San Diego, CA; three sisters: Susan Diane, and her husband Doug Cole, of Neosho, MO; Jennifer Deann and Darlene Delite, both of Edmond; his paternal grandparents: Thomas and Myrtle Sorrell of Guthrie, OK. Rodney joined his maternal grandmother, Bertha Miles, but left behind his grandparents Vernon and Coquette Miles.

Rodney dearly loved his aunts, uncles, cousins and his extended Family of God. His 25

years of life told all who met him that he was a dependable friend, and that he was a friend of Jesus.

Rodney attended two years at Meridian Vo-Tech in Stillwater before graduating in 2003 from the Path of Life School, Guthrie, OK. Rodney was a mechanic and truck driver. He went into the harvest work through the summer of 2003. He later drove for Buckley Trucking, and worked a year in the cleanup after hurricane Katrina; In 2007 he was employed by Waste Management.

Rodney was saved and sanctified into the Church of God at an early age. He was baptized as a teenager, but wanted to be re-baptized on March 15, 2009. He loved to help others, and all will remember his kindness. He encouraged his family and friends to meet him "up there." That was part of his message that he wrote or text messaged to several the night before his home going.

Funeral services were conducted on Thursday, July 2, 2009, at the Church of God chapel in Guthrie, OK, officiated by Bro. Phillip Gellenbeck, Bro. Willie Murphey and Bro. Dan Doolittle. Burial followed at Memory Gardens in Guthrie.

Note of Appreciation

We really appreciate the cards, flowers and plants, support, kind words of comfort and the love and prayers of the Saints. They have meant a lot to our family. We have taken turns reading the cards, emails and messages. May God bless you.
—The Family of Rodney Sorrell

Lillie Mae Timmons (better known as Lula) was born January 8, 1916 to Freddie and Ophelia Lefford in Boley, Oklahoma. She passed from this life December 22, 2008.

Lillie Mae received her education at Boley High School. She was employed as a domestic house worker for the Dobbins family for 42 years.

She accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior at an early age. She attended the Church of God in Oklahoma City on 3rd and Phillips. She was a member of the Board of Trustees and served as an usher. She later attended the Green Pastures Church of God in Spencer, Oklahoma under the pastorate of Elder Charles L. Chandler. She is fondly remembered for her role as an usher, calling the sick and shut-ins, and carrying burdens for others.

She was united in marriage to Isaiah Martin and to this marriage one child was born, Billy Martin. She later married Paul Timmons.

She was preceded in death by her son, Billy Martin, mother, father, two sisters, Freddie Magness and Mildred Johnson, her husband, Paul Timmons, and her uncles Otha Mae Hampton preceded her in death.

She leaves to cherish her memory four granddaughters, Brynda (Thomas) of Oklahoma City, Audrey (Tom) of Texas, Aprille of South Carolina, and Judith Michelle of North Carolina. She has nine great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives. She has two special people that she raised like her own children, Chris Dobbins and Kelly Wismer.

Memorial services were officiated by Bro. Charles Chandler on December 29, 2008. Interment followed at Hillcrest Memory Gardens, Spencer, OK

The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks for everything you have done for Lillie Mae Timmons and our family.

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*The Secret of His Presence**By Ellen L. Gorch*

*In the secret of His presence how my soul
delights to hide!
Oh how precious are the lessons which I
learn at Jesus' side!
Earthly cares can never vex me, neither
trials lay me low,
For when satan comes to tempt me, to the
"secret place" I go.*

*When my soul is faint and thirsty,
'neath the shadow of His wing
There is cool and pleasant shelter, and a
fresh and crystal spring;
And my Saviour rests beside me as we hold
communion sweet;
If I tried I could not utter what He says
when thus we meet.*

*Only this I know: I tell Him all my doubts
and grief's and fears;
Oh how patiently He listens, and my
drooping soul He cheers.
Do you think He ne'er reproves me?
What a false friend He would be
If He never, never told me of the sins
which He must see!*

*Do you think that I could love Him half so
well, or as I ought,
If He did not tell me plainly of each sinful
word and thought?
No! He is so very faithful, and that makes
me trust Him more,
For I know that He does love me, though He
wounds me very sore.*

*Would you like to know the sweetness of
the secret of the Lord?
Go and hide beneath His shadow; this shall
then be your reward;
And whene'er you leave the silence of that
happy meeting place,
You must mind and bear the image of your
Master in your face.*

*You will surely lose the blessing and the
fullness of your joy
If you let dark clouds distress you and your
inward peace destroy.
You may always be abiding, if you will, at
Jesus' side;
In the secret of His presence you may every
moment hide.*

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