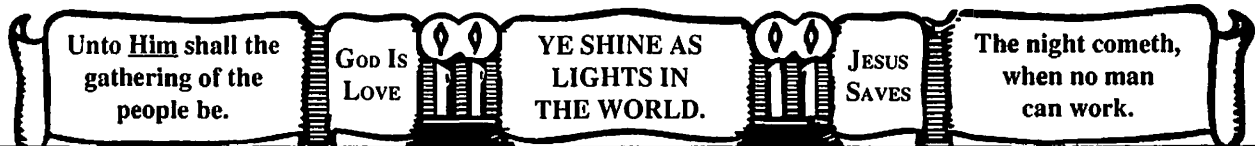


FAITH AND VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



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The Gift of Song

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

*I thank the Lord for the gift of song
To brighten in this world of care:
The harmonies it brings along
For all our weary hearts to share.*

*Down through the ages there have been
Enlightened souls inspired to write
The wondrous songs our hearts to win
And help us in the Christian fight.*

*Though there are songs of worldly tone
That praise this earthly realm of sin:
Thank God for sacred songs I've known
That honour Him, His praise to win.*

*And once I sang the worldly song,
The praise of foolish hearts to gain;*

*But when I turned from sin and wrong
Sweet godly hymns began to reign,*

*And I would sing for Christ, my King
The sacred hymns already known,
And joined with other Saints to sing
The songs that please the Lord alone.*

*And ever since, new songs I've learned
Are deeply bedded in my mind
Until today a treasure earned
Within my spirit is entwined.*

*And with each day the songs resound
To fill my heart with peace and rest,
Provoking greater love to 'bound
T'ward Christ the One I love the best.*

*I sing for Him and praise His name
With songs of His redeeming love,
Far, far above this world of shame
With Him Whose hope I'm dreaming of.*

*Sing, sing, my fellow mortal friend
Of God the Father and His Son
Until this earthly life shall end
And Heaven's crown at last you've won!*

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RINGING THE JOY BELLS

Each of us has a large capacity for enjoyment. Some are naturally more exuberant than others. Some are lighthearted and cheerful. Others are sober and thoughtful. Some are emotional. Some are unemotional. Some are inclined to look on the bright side of things; others upon the dark side. But each of us has within joy bells which may be made to peal out the glad tidings of a joyful heart.

Sometimes these joy bells ring spontaneously, but very often if they ring we must ring them. We must do something to cause them to ring. Every life may hear their happy echoes, every life may be joyous. If our life does not hold a considerable content of joy, it is because we permit it to become abnormal. We permit things to silence the joy bells, and we permit them to hang silent in the belfries of our souls.

Like all our other capacities, our capacity for joy and gladness may be developed and increased. It is important to have the will to be joyful. "I mean to be happy" should be the motto of each of us. There need be nothing selfish in such an attitude. It is perfectly right and in complete harmony with God's will that we hold such an attitude and that we use our best endeavors to make it a reality in our lives.

The Christian religion is not a long-faced, gloomy thing. It is the greatest source of true happiness. We should set ourselves to the task of developing our capacity to be happy. We should not be like a woman who once lived neighbor to my grandfather. She constantly wore a sunbonnet that extended some inches before her face. Asked why she did it, she said she wore it lest she should see something to make her laugh. A part of her idea of being a Christian was refraining from laughter. Others, while not so extreme, think it a mark of spirituality to be grave and dignified and to shut out of life the things that would make it bright, cheerful and happy.

Long ago I determined to be happy. I determined to be happy no matter what happened and no matter what condition I might be in nor what my circumstances might be. For twenty-one years I have kept my bed, a constant sufferer, but I am happy. I am happy every day. I will not be any other way. I have had my

troubles, many of them. I shall probably have more. I have learned that troubles do not make unhappiness. It is only a wrong attitude toward trouble that does so. I hope the reader will pardon my referring to my own experience, but I have passed through so many things and so much suffering and trouble and yet have learned to be happy in spite of it that I know others can do the same if they will. Many a time I have had to pull hard on the rope of the joy bells to get them to ring. I have kept on pulling until they pealed out their joyous tones. Dear reader, you can do the same, no matter what the situation or surroundings, if you will go about it in the right way.

Many people have unfavorable tendencies. They seem naturally disposed to be easily discouraged or gloomy, looking on the dark side. They are timid, sensitive or unsociable. These unfavorable natural tendencies should not be permitted to have sway in the life. We should set ourselves resolutely to overcome such tendencies. If we are inclined to become easily discouraged, we should cultivate hope. We should ask ourselves, "What would be the hopeful attitude with regard to this?" Having determined what it would be, we should adopt it and hold it, no matter what the temptation is to do otherwise.

If we are inclined to be gloomy and to look on the dark side of things, let us compel ourselves to look on the bright side. Perhaps we may feel there is no bright side, but there is always a bright side to everything. If there is no naturally bright side, let us turn it up toward God and let the sunshine of His love fall upon it. That will brighten any circumstance. If we are inclined to be timid, let us compel ourselves to do the thing we ought to do or want to do. Let us not surrender to our timidity. We can break through it and overcome it and master it. If we give way to it, its hold upon us becomes firmer and firmer. If we do what we desire to do in spite of it, it will cease to hinder us.

If we are inclined to be unsociable, we should compel ourselves to act in a sociable way whether we feel like it or not. We should practice being friendly toward others. We should meet them halfway or beyond. If we act this out it will soon

become natural to us and bring us much satisfaction.

I have spoken of the rope of the joy bells. Most bells do not ring of themselves. We must ring them. So we must ring the joy bells. Sometimes our joy bells seem like the old bell on a farm where I once was. It stood on a tall pole. I wondered why it was not rung to call the workers in from the field at noon. When I came to the house, I discovered there was no rope attached to the bell.

In some cases, the joy bells are like a bell on another farm where I lived. It did not hang in the proper position because it was not properly balanced. So when the wind would blow, the bell would ring night or day. Many a time I was awakened in the night by its ringing. Some joy bells likewise ring only as chance occurrences. They ring only under favorable conditions, as a result of favorable circumstances. They are not controlled. We need to attach a rope of faith to our joy bells, and through the exercise of this faith we can cause them to ring. We can have an inner source of joy and peace that is not disturbed by the storms of life, that does not depend upon circumstances but has its root and fountain deep in the heart. We can be so hid away with Christ in God that the storms will pass us by.

A number of years ago, during the test of a submarine, it stayed submerged for many hours. When it had returned to the harbor, a man said to the commander, "Well, how did the storm affect you last night?" The commander looked at him in surprise and said, "Storm! We knew nothing of any storm!" They had been down far enough below the surface not to feel any effect of the storm. We can sink down into God from life's storms so they need not keep the joy bells of our soul from ringing. We can be joyful even in the midst of trouble.

A friend once told me of his experience in an earthquake in a certain city. He said when the buildings swayed and trembled, all the bells of the city began ringing. In life's earthquakes we may so trust God that our joy bells will ring.

God gives to us the gift of rejoicing. Jesus said He gave us His peace. "That your joy may be full." Paul rejoiced in the midst of his tribulations. "We are exceeding joyful in all our tribulations." And he exhorted the Thessalonians

to "rejoice evermore." If we cannot rejoice in the things of the present, in the realization of our hopes, we can at least rejoice in hope of better things to come. Rejoicing in past victories and in past blessings will often bring joy, in spite of present trouble.

There may be periods in life that are dark. Failure may cast its shadows upon us. Discouragements may press us. If we look only at the present we shall have a hard time to make the joy bells ring. At such times we should look at our lives as a whole, not at these temporary incidents. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." There is a morning which shall dawn upon our darkest night. If we cannot rejoice in ourselves in the present, we can rejoice in God. We can rejoice in the good things of the past and in the good things that lie before us in the future.

The truly and permanently happy people are those who have a source of happiness too deep, or too high, to be seriously disturbed by ordinary troubles. There is a spiritual balance which we can attain that gives us stability and makes us like the anchored buoy, rather than like the drifting object which is ever tossed about by the waves of circumstances. Faith is the anchor of the soul. In fact, faith is the greatest element in the life of happiness and success. Those who have this inner source of happiness do not depend upon daily events to make them happy. They depend upon what they are, upon their relations with God—those permanent characteristics of life that settle them, root and ground them in Christ and in the Christian life. The waves of trouble may pass over them, but they are not swept from their place.

Jesus taught us a valuable lesson when He said, "I have meat that ye know not of." We may know what this means from personal experience. We may be so submitted to God, so obedient to Him, and so trust in Him that the joy bells may be kept ringing in our lives and our souls be rejoicing evermore until we reach that land of endless day where trouble and sorrow, discouragements and suffering never come. Learn, dear reader, the blessed lesson of how to ring your joy bells and how to prevent them from being muffled by doubts and fears.

—C. W. Naylor

Taken from *The Secret of the Singing Heart*.

FAITH AND VICTORY 12 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend camp meetings), by Willie Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044.

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This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21, and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ-the same gospel that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for the body. James 5:14-15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from sin and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

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

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

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.

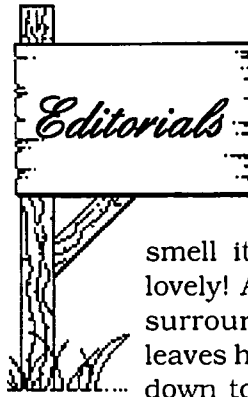
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There is an illustration of a young girl who was walking in a garden and spotted an especially beautiful flower. While admiring its bright color and delicate form she stooped to smell its fragrant odor. It was so lovely! As she viewed its long stem surrounded by its vibrant green leaves her eyes followed the stem on down to the soil the plant grew in.

With dismay she said, "This flower is too pretty to be planted in such dirt!" So grasping the flower she pulled it up by the roots and carried it to a water faucet to wash away the soil. In a short time the beautiful flower wilted and died. When the gardener saw what the child had done, he exclaimed, "You have destroyed my finest plant!" The little girl replied, "I'm sorry, but I didn't like it in that dirt." The gardener responded, "I chose that spot and mixed the soil because I knew that only there could it grow to be a beautiful flower."

It is easy for us to murmur and be discontented with the station in life that God has placed us. Often there are trials and hard things that try our souls and afflict us so deeply that we may even be brought to tears and question why He has allowed such difficulties to touch our lives. In these times, satan also is on hand to fill our minds with negative thoughts in an attempt to destroy our confidence in God. Satan would have us believe that we need to remove ourselves from these soul-travailing circumstances in a manner not unlike the foolish child in the illustration. When such hard times prevail we need to be reassured that God's plan for us will truly bring out the greatest beauty in our character if we will only submit ourselves into His loving hands. God's true nature is revealed to us through the prophet Jeremiah when it was written, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." Jeremiah 29:11.

While there are many examples of God's mysterious workings in the Scriptures, the familiar story of Joseph (Genesis 37-50) is one that portrays them in a beautiful way. Since we have the advantage of seeing the outcome of Joseph's life, as he was elevated to a place of high esteem by Pharaoh and reunited with his

brothers and father, we view the dark days of his earlier betrayal by his brothers and his imprisonment in Egypt with a different perspective. However, those dark days for him were only brightened by his faith in God. We, too, are often placed in circumstances that will only be brightened by our faith in God. Unless that faith is present in our hearts our afflictions will seem unbearable.

When Joseph finally revealed himself to his brothers and they began to express their remorse for their great sins toward him, Joseph said, "Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life." Genesis 45:5. What a virtuous character he demonstrated before his brothers. That beautiful nature can only be revealed after the hard stones of life have polished the God-given spirit of a man of faith.

Notice another ray of glory that emanated from the character of Joseph when he named his second son, Ephraim. "And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction." Genesis 41:52. The meaning of the name, *Ephraim*, is double fruit. What a testimony of God's mercy to a man who faithfully endured the unpleasant afflictions that plagued his life. His troubles did not cause him to be a wretched crust of humanity, but they refined him and caused his life to bear double fruit. May God help each of us to find and implement the secret of Joseph's success in our own lives.

There was a special manifestation of faith in the life of King David when his son, Absalom, attempted to take away his throne. As the King was leaving Jerusalem he was met by Shimei, a man of the family and the house of Saul. Shimei began to curse David calling him a "bloody man" and a "man of Belial." Abishai wanted permission from David to go put an end to Shimei, but David would not allow him to do so. David said, "...so let him curse, because the LORD hath said unto him, Curse David. Who shall then say, Wherefore hast thou done so?... let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him. It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day." So as the King continued on his way Shimei followed along cursing him and throwing stones and dirt at him. What an affliction to bear, having your son

turn against you and those with old grudges to begin openly cursing you. David knew that his help had come from the Lord in the past and in this painful trial he was still trusting in God's mercy. God did not forsake David but restored his kingdom and caused Shimei to repent of his foul actions.

Jesus instructed His followers to "...bless them that curse you..." Matthew 5:44. This is not an easy thing to do because the nature of Abishai appeals to the flesh and wants to rise up and put an end to the cursing, but those who will follow the Savior's teaching in this will find the blessing of the Lord on their life. The Lord does care for His children and when one is suffering an injustice, it touches His heart, especially when they take it meekly. Don't be afraid to trust the Lord when these situations arise in your life, for He does requite good to those who have suffered from the hand of evil doers.

There are encouraging verses in Exodus 3:7-8 that should inspire the faith of every child of God, for we know that His Divine nature has not changed. "And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey..." Exodus 3:7-8.

Sometimes the Lord allows affliction to come on the sinner. When Manasseh was king of Judah, he caused the people of Jerusalem to err and do many things that were worse than the heathen the Lord had destroyed before them. The Lord spoke to Manasseh and His people but they would not hearken. Isn't this typical of many people today? They continue right on in their wickedness even though the Lord pleads with them time and time again to turn from their evil. The Lord is merciful and longsuffering but He also is a righteous God and a God of judgment. God allowed Manasseh to be taken captive into Babylon for his wickedness. Then we see him finally start doing what he should have been doing years earlier. Notice II Chronicles 33:12-13, "And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. And prayed unto him: and he was entreated of

him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD he *was* God." What a merciful God we serve! Psalm 130:4 says, "But *there is* forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared." Affliction has a way of causing people to see where they really stand before the Lord. It shows them how helpless they are and how dependent they are on the Lord's mercy. These are healthy revelations, for with this understanding they can begin to build their life on the everlasting Rock of their salvation.

James 5:13 tells us, "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray...." Pray for grace and strength to endure, ask Him to show you where you stand before Him, pray for God to reveal His plan for your life, pray that your faith will be increased, pray that all godly virtues will be strengthened in your life; if other people are the source of the affliction then pray for them, ask Him to help you bear fruit even in the midst of the affliction. And it is alright to also pray for deliverance.

"Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." James 5:11. The Lord did not really forget Job in the midst of his affliction. While satan was afflicting Job, he was always limited as to how severe the affliction could be. First he could only take his possessions, then he was allowed to afflict him physically but he could not take his life. After he endured these things God in His mercy restored him much more than he had before. May God help each of us to bear fruit even in the land of our affliction, for that fruit will be precious in the sight of God and we will understand one day just how important they have been to us. "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory." II Corinthians 4:17. This wonderful promise can be a stepping stone for our faith and motivate us to be fruitful for God.

It is reported that a man during the Great Depression lost his job, his fortune, his wife and home but tenaciously held to his faith in God—the only thing he had left. One day he came upon some workers constructing a stone church building. He saw one of the men chiseling a piece of rock. "What are you going to do with that?" the man asked the worker. Pointing to the top of the building the worker said, "Do you

see that little opening way up there near the spire? Well, I'm shaping this down here so that it will fit up there." The heartbroken man walked on with tears in his eyes. It seemed that God had spoken to him through the workman and he better understood the circumstances that were trying him at that time.

May the grace of God strengthen every afflicted soul and encourage you to trust God for the brighter days that are sure to come.

—Bro. Willie E. Murphey



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 Tiller
- Bro. Delmar Wilkins

OK—Continue to remember Bro. Curtis Williams in prayer. The Lord has blessed him and often come to his rescue when the Saints prayed, and he is grateful for your prayers, but he is still in a very weak condition and needs a strengthening touch from the Lord.

MO—Please pray for my loved ones, soul and body. —Sis. Nelva Stanley

KENYA—Remember Bro Peter Akweyona in prayer, they are suffering from a difficult trial concerning their work for the Lord. He also desires prayer for some who are seriously ill.

PHILIPPINES—Continue to remember the Saints who are still displaced from their homes from the typhoons that struck the Philippines.

They are thankful that those who had boils and fungal infections from the contaminated waters have healed.

Remember Sis. Gene Quipot who was unable to return to work because of the fungal infections on her legs and feet and was terminated by her employer.

Sis. Irma Ababon and others have been praying that the Lord would help them fix their places so they can be back in them to spend Christmas and New Year there.



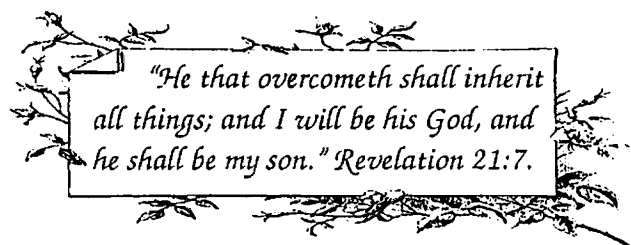
MEETING REPORTS

CHURCH OF GOD BALDY MESA, CA FALL MEETING REPORT

Dear Saints: We are blessed to report the Lord's Blessings on our Revival in Baldy Mesa, California, October 9-11, 2009. The Lord blessed two people to get saved during the meeting. Bro. Paul Phillips came, and his messages encouraged and strengthened us. During our youth focus services the young people were encouraged. The food was so good, there was none left. The Saints from afar came and shared in the burden of the meeting.

On behalf of Pastor Travis Johnson & Pastor Alice Johnson, Thank you for your prayers.

—Sis. Alicia Johnson



MEETING DATES

California State (Pacoima, CA)—Dec 25-Jan 3
Oklahoma State (Guthrie, OK)—Dec 26-Jan 3



MEETING NOTICES

CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The California State Camp Meeting will be held, Lord willing, from December 25, 2009, to January 3, 2010. The campground is located at 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, CA 91331.

The first service will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 25, with three services daily thereafter. For more information you may contact: Sunset Guest Home (818) 899-2022, Bro Paul Phillips (661) 251-6956 or Bro. Herbert Clay (818) 897-1396. The chapel phone number is: (818) 899-9021.



OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held at Guthrie, OK, from December 26 to January 3. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U.S. The first service will be held Saturday, December 26. Daily worship services throughout the meeting will start at 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. There will also be morning prayer services and youth services, the times of which will be announced at the meeting.

The campgrounds are located east off of Sooner Road on Lakeview Road, which is a little over four-tenths of a mile south of the intersection of South Division and Sooner Road. All who come will be cared for. The expenses of the meeting will be met by freewill offerings.

We especially urge the Saints in Oklahoma and the surrounding states to attend this meeting. Come praying with a burden for the unsaved and for all those who need help in soul and body. Please send all contributions for the coming State Assembly Meeting directly to the State Treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, 807 W Lake Rd, Guthrie, OK 73044.

To obtain further information about the meeting, contact Bro. Philip Gellenbeck (405) 282-2999.



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

MO—Dear Bro. Willie And Sis. Neta: I read a thought not long ago that I have pondered on much—"Most of our trials are connected to a blessing." As I have meditated on that thought I am made to realize how true it is. My car may break down away from home, but what a blessing to have a car. My water pipe may have sprung a leak, but thank God for running water. Many in this world are not so blessed. Family may be causing a trial at the present, but oh, the blessing to have family. A brother or sister in the Lord may have done something that at the present may be troubling me, but praise God for brothers and sisters in the Lord. May God help us to see past the trial and look at the blessing the trial is connected to.

May we all finish our race with the grace and love of God still brightly burning in our lives.
Love and prayers, —Sis. LaVerna Probst

LA—Dear Saints: How quickly time goes by! We recently celebrated the first birthday of our little daughter, Avery, and as I look back over the year, I am reminded of how different that year could have been for our family, but for the great mercy and power of God.

Before she was born the doctors began to think something might be wrong with the baby's heart. They sent us to a specialist who gravely informed me that there was a gap between the chambers of her heart—a "hole" in her heart. The doctor said he was unable to tell the extent of the problem, but that it could range from something that would "take care of itself," or be severe enough to mean multiple surgeries would be necessary after the baby was born. He also asked if I had taken the test that screens for Down's syndrome, since there are so many children with Down's who have heart problems. They arranged for me to see a pediatric cardiologist the next week to see if he could determine the extent of the problem, and asked if I had someone to drive me home. I was in shock over what the doctor was telling me and sick with grief and fear of how bad it might be.

My initial reaction was, "I don't feel like talking about this to anyone." Then, I came to realize that I had to let go of that feeling, that God wanted me to let people know about this, that we had to have people praying, or I would be failing to do something vital for the health of our baby.

It was a very hard time for us, but God kept sending us reassurances, in different ways, that it was going to be okay. Psalms 139:7-16 was a special passage that the Lord gave to my mother to encourage us.

We were so nervous the day of the appointment (less than a week had passed,) but after I went in, a calmness seemed to settle over me. The pediatric cardiologist came in, heard my story, did another ultrasound and gave us the most wonderful report that we could have hoped for—he found absolutely no sign of any hole in her heart! He gave the baby's heart a clean bill of health and could not explain what happened. We told him we thought we knew what happened—God had answered prayer!

They insisted on sending me back to the doctor who discovered the defect for a follow-up. He was stunned to learn that the hole was not there. I overheard the doctor and the nurse discussing my situation outside the door. She wondered if they had been mistaken somehow and put me through this unnecessarily. The doctor assured her that they HAD seen a "large" hole in the heart (only a few days earlier). He did another ultrasound and verified that the hole was gone!

We will never cease to be thankful for what God did for our baby. When she was born, she was perfectly healthy and she has continued to be a happy, healthy baby with no sign of any heart problems. God has shown Himself strong to us in a way we will not forget!

—Bro. Keith and Sis. Allyson Williamson

KS—Dear Bro. Willie: Time keeps marching on and the world seems to be getting worse with so much sin, evil and violence. It is so good to be saved and in the Ark of safety. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow. I am very encouraged and determined to make Heaven my home. It takes a real press as we are going up hill, but if we remain faithful, we will reach the top, and oh, how wonderful that will be. I wish we could push everyone we know and cause them to live saved and make it to Heaven, but God prefers,

and even insists, that we desire Him and Heaven and go after Him because we want to and love Him as we should.

I am still enjoying my journey to Heaven and as the world gets worse it makes the desire to make it to Heaven more urgent. I love my Lord and the strait and narrow way. Hallelujah!

Christian love, —Sis. Shirley Knight



Ralph Eugene "Gene" Beisly

It was June 15, 1930 when Ralph Eugene "Gene" Beisly was introduced to the world in Coffeyville, Kansas. The proud parents that day were Ralph Minter Beisly and Martha Delima Booth.

Gene grew up and married Dora Lela Sorrell on December 3, 1950. They became the proud parents of Marcia Colleen Mitchell, who currently resides in Lafayette, Louisiana and Sharon Elizabeth Beisly, who lives in Springfield, Missouri.

Gene was an imposing 6 feet, 4 inches tall and enjoyed many intellectual and spiritual pursuits. A draftsman by trade, he was a "whiz kid" with numbers, an avid reader and a student of astronomy. Working the Lord's service at Faith Publishing House in Guthrie, Oklahoma for several years, he also dedicated many years of service to the Young People's Sunday school ministry in Guthrie and at many state and national camp meetings. Between the period of April 1997 and January of 2004 Gene, or "Mr. B", which was how he was known to the Burger Barn employees, lived in Jena, Louisiana and worked along side his daughter Marcia and son-in-law Gerald Mitchell, at the Burger

Barn, taking care of various daily handyman activities. One in particular was taking care of changing the sign for the daily or weekly specials and also helping check in and putting up the stock after the freight truck deliveries. There were also many hours spent visiting upstairs at the Burger Barn with Max Mitchell, reliving memories or trying to help solve the political issues at hand. In January of 2004, due to Gene's failing health he moved to Springfield, Missouri to be near his daughter, Sharon, who could assist in the care he needed. Gene learned to speak Spanish while doing missionary work in Mexico and during his later years he took up sign language as well. His many nieces, nephews and grandchildren always enjoyed family gatherings where Gene would challenge them with games and activities designed to teach something scientific or to impart valuable life lessons.

Gene was raised alongside his two sisters and one brother, who are: Marilyn Eck of Bartlett, Kansas; Janice Williamson (husband Wesley) of Loranger, Louisiana; and David Beisly (wife Leora) of Dewey, Oklahoma. Their children are the many nieces and nephews who enjoyed Gene's company and who in turn gave Gene several great-nieces and great-nephews.

The grandchildren who will miss their Grandpa's company are: Stephen Maxwell Mitchell (wife Susan) and Kristyn Renae Mitchell Achord (husband Todd), both living in Jena, Louisiana; Samuel David Simpson, Adam Tycer Simpson and Phillip Eugene Simpson, all living in Springfield, Missouri.

These grandchildren gave Gene five great-grandchildren. They are Macy Renee Mitchell, Sophie Colleen Mitchell, Virginia "Ginny" Claire Mitchell, Delaney Grace Simpson, and Spencer Joseph Simpson.

Note of Thanks

The words "Thank You" are not big enough for all the prayers, words of comfort and deeds of kindness expressed to us for the loss of our Daddy, Grandpa, Brother and Uncle. We certainly felt the results of prayer during this difficult time. Special thanks to Bro. Ed Wilson and Bro. Michael Smith who spoke words of comfort that will forever be remembered in the days and years ahead as we continue our journey through life. Also special thanks to the singers who so beautifully expressed words of comfort and strength in song, we are forever grateful. We also thank each one who had a part in the family meal and also the ones who made

sure we had food at other times to sustain us through our loss. —The Beisly Family

Sis. Burnice Williams

Our precious mother and grandmother, Burnice Williams, went to be with her Lord on October 24, 2009. She passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by her family. Sis. Burnice was formerly of Kentucky but lived the last ten years of her in life in Oklahoma.

Sis. Burnice was introduced to the Church of God Evening Light Saints in Dayton, Ohio while she and her husband, Bro. Curtis, were serving as assistant pastor for the First Church of God in Gratis, Ohio. When she saw the "Truth" and the love shared by the Saints, there was never a question where her heart led her.

She was a much loved member of the Church of God and served many through her dedication to God and others as a minister's wife. She had a special love and burden for the congregation in Junction City, KY. Her unfailing love for God and family was an inspiration to all that knew her. Sis. Burnice was a true prayer warrior and spent much time on her knees petitioning God on behalf of her loved ones and the many calls for prayer she received. Gardening was a special joy in her life that she enjoyed sharing.

Sis. Burnice was preceded in death by her loving husband of 58 years, Curtis Williams, and their infant daughter, Marsha Lynn Williams. She is survived by their seven children: Beverly Brown and son-n-law, Randy, of Nicholasville, KY; Brenda Wilkins and son-n-law, Delmar, of Guthrie, OK; Karen LaCroix and son-in-law, Glen, of Loranger, LA; Mark Williams and daughter-in-law, Janell, of Fairview, OK; Curtis Williams and daughter-in-law, Karen, of Sapulpa, OK; Ruth Pruitt and son-in-law, Tracy, of Guthrie, OK; Tonya Wagoner and son-in-law, John, of Staunton, VA; as well as 18 grandchildren, 20 great-grand children, 5 sisters and 1 brother.

Funeral services were conducted at the Church of God in Guthrie, OK on Wednesday October 28. They were officiated by Bro. Phillip Gellenbeck, Bro. Toney Samons and Bro. Larry Abbott. Interment was at Summit View Cemetery in Guthrie, OK.

Note of appreciation.

The family of Sis. Burnice would like to thank all the Saints and many friends that

showered us with your love, support, prayers and much food during our time of grief. Surely it was a special help and blessing to us. Special thanks to Bro. Phillip and Sis. Rosie Gellenbeck, for their unfailing support, love and time spent with us during Mother's sickness and passing.

—
NOBODY KNOWS BUT MOTHER

They talk of a mother's toil and care,
 Of the tasks that her hands must do,
 Of the furrows that creep o'er the brow once fair,
 Of the burdens and heartaches too.
 But they know not the joy stitched in
 each little dress,
 The thrill of a baby's loving caress—
 Ah, nobody knows but Mother.

They talk of her narrow and humble place,
 The monotonous life she leads,
 While others are learning and growing apace,
 And doing such wonderful deeds.
 But they know not the mystery deep that lies,
 Hidden away in a baby's eyes,
 And every day brings a fresh surprise,
 That nobody sees but Mother.

There was never a task by the Father given,
 That brought not its blessing too,
 And the life that liest the nearest Heaven,
 Was given, oh, Mother, to you.
 The task is great, but the joy is sweet,
 The hours of prayer bring a faith complete,
 And the highest wisdom our life can meet,
 Lies hid in the heart of a Mother.

—The Fireside

—
Anchor of the Soul

Each one of us is on a voyage through the sea of life. Each one of us has a destiny which we are going to make. As we take this voyage, there are many storms along the way, so there is one important thing we need in our ship and that is an anchor. But, sad to say, there are many in this life taking this voyage who are not concerned, nor do they have an anchor in their ship. They are being tossed to and fro by many difficulties in life and are going down in despair.

I read about a ship that was in a severe storm, when it was just about to reach port. They could not come in because of the danger of being dashed against the rocks. But they had an

anchor. They had a small boat take the anchor close to the shore ground and the big ship rode out to sea with confidence. They were anchored and the cable was strong. The wind blew, the tide flowed, but she did not drift. Why? She was anchored. When the storm was over, she pulled herself into port by the anchor.

Your ship in life needs an anchor, or you will drift with the tide onto the rocks of destruction, or go down with the storm. God is an "...anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast..." Hebrews 6:19. What better anchor in life could we have than God! We need to have Jesus on board our ship as we journey through life. We must have Him in order to make it into the port of Heaven.

The cable between us and the anchor is faith—strong faith in the reality and power of God, strong faith that He loves and cares for each of us, faith that He sent His Son here to die for our salvation, faith that Jesus is sitting on the right hand of God interceding for us, faith that the Holy Spirit will dwell in the heart of every consecrated soul whose sins have been forgiven, faith that the Holy Spirit will be our Guide, Comforter and give us power in this life to live victoriously. We must have that cable strong and not one weak link in it. We must believe the Word of God and believe it means "me." What more would we need in our ship as we sail through the stormy seas of life? We have all when we have an anchor of the soul, which is God, and, remember, it is stedfast and sure. Someone told me that a horse could be held with an anchor driven into the ground. Surely an anchor is valuable and important.

The Apostle Paul said, "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul." When all is clear between us and God, it gives us hope in our soul. When the crushing troubles of life touch us, we can rest in that hope we have in our soul. We know without a doubt that we are God's, and God is greater than all the powers that might touch us and our lives. We can rest in that anchor of the soul with confidence.

A man in Florida, who attempted to assassinate President Roosevelt, was questioned as to whether he belonged to a church. In reply to this he cried, "No, no, I belong to nothing. I belong only to myself, and I suffer." He didn't have an anchor. Many today do belong to some man-made church, but still do not have an anchor. We are told that there are several hundred religious groups in the U.S. But many who belong to them are storm-tossed and driven with doubts and fears because they are following false prophets. Many are taught that God is

a myth; that Jesus was not born of a virgin birth; that you can't live without sinning; that the days of miracles are past, etc. Oh, how sad! But there is an anchor for the soul. God is real and is the Father of Jesus. His Son died for our sins that we might be "born again." When we receive the Holy Spirit, He gives us power to live daily without sinning. How do I know? Not only because the Bible tells me so, but because I have experienced it in my heart and life and today I have an anchor for my soul. I wouldn't want to go through the storms of life without that anchor. I have been translated "...from the power of darkness . . . into the kingdom of his dear Son." Colossians 1:13.

Look up, dear ones; don't be cast down under the crushing storms of life. Come into contact with God and know that your anchor holds sure. Keep that cable, which is your faith, strong in God. Doubts and fears weaken the cable. Resist them and believe God.

—Sis. Marie Miles

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11-09

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The Heart's Story

*I will not doubt, though all my ships at sea
Come drifting home with broken masts and sails.
I will believe the Hand which never fails,
From seeming evil, worketh good for me;
And, though I weep because those sails are tattered
Still will I cry, while my best hopes lie shattered,
"I trust in Thee."*

*I will not doubt, though all my prayers return
Unanswered from the still white realm above;
I will believe it is an all-wise love
Which has refused the things for which I yearn;
And, though at times I cannot keep from grieving,
Yet the pure ardor of my fixed believing
Undimmed shall burn.*

*I will not doubt, though sorrows fall like rain,
And troubles swarm like bees about the hive,
I will believe the heights for which I strive
Are only reached by anguish and by pain;
And though I groan and writhe beneath my crosses,
I yet shall see through my severest losses
The greater gain.*

*I will not doubt. Well anchored in this faith,
Like some staunch ship, my soul braves every gale,
So strong its courage will not quail
To breast the mighty unknown sea of death.
Oh, may I cry, though body parts with spirit,
"I do not doubt," so listening worlds may hear it
With my last breath.*

—Selected

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