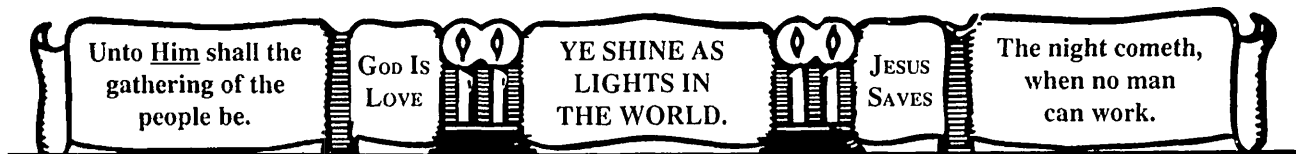


FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



Volume 87, No. 10 87th Year Guthrie, Oklahoma \$5.00 Per Year Jan., 2010

MY INTRODUCTION TO HEAVEN'S MUSIC

Personal experiences and testimony by Bro. Harlan Sorrell

I was born into a musical family and with a naturally intense attraction to music. Some of my earliest memories are of the enjoyable times I had as a child listening to records my mother had of the Chuck Wagon Gang. I was so intrigued by their style of harmonious singing with soft guitar music that it would hold me almost spell bound, even when I was about four years old. When I was around six years old I began teaching myself how to play the piano. It wasn't difficult for me. It seemed all I had to do was just learn which notes harmonized and the patterns of the various keys, and I took off playing "by ear." The first song I learned to play out of the *Evening Light Songs* hymnal was #24, "The Holy Remnant." How I loved, as a child, to play that song! I thought it was just so *beautiful!*

My mother thought it best to have me take piano lessons. So she found a young woman in our area who gave piano lessons and paid for my lessons for about nine months. But the teacher found that I seemed to do better playing "by ear" than by trying to play by the rules she was trying

to teach me. So my mother decided to quit spending money on my piano lessons and just let me do it my own way. But the piano lessons did add one valuable asset to my love for music, that was, the ability to read notes.

I always enjoyed good music, vocal or instrumental, and I also enjoyed hearing the beautiful a cappella singing in the camp meetings we attended from time to time. But in November of 1967, at the age of ten, music took on a different meaning to me. It happened at the Hammond, Louisiana Assembly Meeting that our family attended that year. During that meeting, the Spirit of God had been dealing mightily with my soul about my need of salvation. And finally, on Friday night, November 24th, I made my way to the altar during the invitation of that night's service. I didn't know just what to expect, but I knew I wanted forgiveness of sins and peace with God, and I was coming to Him *in faith*, believing the promises of His Word. I began praying and telling the Lord how sorry I was for my sins and asking him to forgive and save me. My grandfather, Bro. Murphy Allen, came and prayed with me. Then, all of a sudden, something wonderful happened! I had never experienced anything like it in all my life. Right in the very center of my bosom, I felt it happen. It was like a burst of "new life" came into me, almost like a surge of electricity. Although it was a mystery to me at the time, I realize now that what I actually felt was the resurrection power of Jesus Christ, through the Spirit, awakening my soul from its sleep of death in trespasses and sins. After

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feeling that initial surge of resurrection power in the core of my bosom, it felt as though my heart began to pump new life through all my veins. I could actually feel it spreading over my body. In about one minute it had spread from my head to my feet and permeated my whole being. Oh, GLORY! I was almost in shock from what I was experiencing, but it was a glorious shock! As Bro. Ulysses Phillips wrote in verse 3 of song #470 in the *Evening Light Songs*, **"A resurrection I confess, Has taken place within my breast; I've been awakened from the dead, And now I live with Christ instead ..."**

When my grandpa finished praying, he asked me if Jesus had saved me. I was able to answer him without a shadow of doubt, "YES!" The joy and peace that was thrilling my heart was beyond mortal words! My soul had found that well of "living water" that Jesus told the Samaritan woman about in John, chapter 4. And as song #107 in the *Evening Light Songs*, verse 3 says, "the taste is so sweet and the joy so complete, its pleasure we never can tell."

I got up from that altar and headed back to my seat, and about that time the congregation began singing "Spirit Holy," #292 in the *Evening Light Songs*. In all my life the Saint's singing had never sounded so heavenly to me. The harmony that the song was being sung in just seemed to reverberate through my inner being. Never in my life had I experienced music in this way before! There was something that went beyond what my ears were hearing and rang within the very depths of my spirit. It was like everything within me was now *in tune* with that singing. That was the beginning of my experiencing "Heaven's music."

I went home from that meeting a changed boy. I started making amends for wrongs and offences that I had committed toward others, confessing to them lies I had told, etc. And this wonderful music that started ringing in my soul when I got saved in Louisiana continued to bless and inspire me along the way. Time and again, the Spirit of the Lord would bless me with a wonderful and encouraging inspiration of song in my heart, giving me courage and strength to press on. I still enjoyed my piano playing, and sometimes the Lord would even bless me as I read or sang the words of a song while I played the piano. But this "music in my soul" rang so much deeper and richer. The tones of my piano just couldn't penetrate that deep or give a satisfactory expression of the music I was experi-

encing in my heart. I found that the music that really corresponded with how I was hearing it and feeling it in my inner being was the Saint's singing—a cappella.

The months went by and I was growing in the Lord. Around July of 1968 I began to feel that I needed to be sanctified. Although I didn't have a deep understanding of the doctrine at age 11, I knew I wanted all God had for me and that He wills that a justified believer go on to sanctification. Some things had happened that made me realize I still had a "carnal nature" in me that needed to be cleansed. On one occasion I had become so angry about something that I almost committed a grievous sin. I knew I needed the Holy Spirit to come into my heart and life as *Sanctifier* and purge my carnal, Adamic nature. I knew that the Saints taught that in order to be "sanctified wholly" we must make a complete consecration of ourselves to God and invite His Holy Spirit to come in and take "complete control" of our lives. I was already acquainted with the dealings and inspirations of the Holy Spirit through being "born of the Spirit" when I first got saved and by consistently living a justified life thereafter. But I longed for the sanctifying *fullness* of the Spirit. I pondered this for days.

Finally, one night while laying awake in bed and thinking about God's promise to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him, I thought, "Why not just consecrate my all to Him and ask Him right now to fill me with His Spirit?" So I started praying (silently), consecrating myself to God and asking Him to *fill me* with His Spirit. Again, just as it was when I went to the altar to be saved in Hammond, Louisiana, I didn't know just what to expect, but I was coming to God *in faith*, believing the promises of His Word to sanctify and to fill us with His Spirit. I didn't have to pray but just a little short prayer of consecration until, again, something happened! And this time it was deeper, and richer, and sweeter than when I first got saved in Louisiana! Again, words fail to adequately describe it. I felt the sweetest and deepest sensation of heavenly peace begin to settle down over my soul. No, it wasn't imagination; it was REAL! It was just as the author of song #161, "Blessed Quietness," in the *Evening Light Songs* expressed it: "Like the rain that falls from heaven, Like the sunlight from the sky, So the Holy Spirit given, Falls upon us from on high. Everything is turned to gladness, All around this glorious Guest; Banished unbelief and sadness, All is *perfect* peace

and rest." It was as though my soul was immersed into an ocean of heavenly bliss. I felt the deepest sense of purity and the presence of God in my bosom that I had ever experienced in my life.

This intense sensation of the "fullness" of God's presence in my bosom lasted for several days thereafter. I was consciously aware of a greater measure of God's presence within than I had ever experienced up to that point. A new and broader dimension opened up to my Christian experience. I experienced an *increase* of the "fruit of the Spirit"—more intense love (both for God and for others), greater joy, greater peace, more long-suffering, more gentleness and goodness in my *nature*, increased faith, more meekness, and last, but certainly not least, greater *temperance* (self control). I found that the sanctifying grace of the Holy Spirit was the answer to my "bad temper" problem. After I invited the Holy Spirit to come into me as my Sanctifier, He did a real refining work on my *nature*, mellowed my temperament, and gave me *power* over my emotions. And when the enemy (satan) would come against me like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord would lift up a standard against him. This was such a blessing!

If only the world knew what the real answer to their complex problems is! Many troubled souls turn to psychiatrists or "anger management" classes to help them get control of their lives and their emotions. What they really need is to get saved **and sanctified!** I guarantee that in this grace they would find the solution to ALL their problems. As Charles P. Jones says, in the old familiar song, "Come Unto Me," "Do unholy feelings struggle in your breast? Bring your case to Jesus, He will give you *rest*. Have you by temptation often conquered been, Has a sense of weakness brought distress within? **Christ will sanctify you, if you'll claim His best, In the Holy Spirit He will give you rest.**"

Because of unbalanced and extravagant theories that have been promoted regarding the doctrine of sanctification, some minds have been poisoned and prejudiced against it. It is true that the devil has hatched up false teachings regarding this doctrine, just as he has the doctrine of justification and almost every other Bible doctrine. Nevertheless, every Bible doctrine still remains "intact," and every sincere and honest soul can approach Christ in simple faith and receive the blessing and benefit of it, whether it is justification from committed sins,

sanctification of the carnal nature, healing for the body, or whatever need we may have. Every provision is available IN CHRIST!

After receiving the gift of "sanctification of the Spirit" (II Thes. 2:13, I Thes. 5:23-24) by a grasp of faith in early July of 1968, how I looked forward to going to the Monark Springs camp meeting, which started on the third Friday of that same month. And when I got there, one of the most wonderful things about the camp meeting was the singing! Just to sit in those services and hear those heavenly songs and feel the Holy Spirit witnessing in my bosom to their inspired messages—oh, what unspeakable joy! The Monark camp meeting of 1968 was one I'll never forget. At that camp meeting my dad bought me my first Bible and "*Evening Light Songs*" hymnal from the bookstore. I was so happy to have a Bible and songbook all my own. I also got to be in my first ordinance service at that meeting. Oh, what a blessing that was! The Holy Spirit confirmed my every act of obedience to God's Word with a deep personal witness in my bosom that He was well pleased with me. I longed to follow the Lord in water baptism too, but up to that time I had not had the opportunity. It didn't work out for me to get baptized at Monark that year, but during the Myrtle, MO camp meeting, which followed Monark, it did. Bro. Sam Abbott baptized me in Mill Creek, near Myrtle.

Heavenly music continued to ring in my soul. I want to mention one outstanding experience I had during a singing we had here at Myrtle. It was November of 1970, if I remember correctly. Bro. Leslie Busbee was leading the singing that night. Someone selected song #163 in the *Evening Light Songs*, "My Jesus, I Love Thee." The congregation started singing that song and, it seems now that it was about during the second verse when, all of a sudden, the glory of God just began to flood my soul. The Spirit began witnessing the depth of the words of that song to my heart in a way I had never experienced before. Oh, it was wonderful! The Spirit just lifted me up into the heavenly places that night and let my heart hear the music of that song in a way that I had never heard it! I was only about 12 years old at that time, but I'll never forget that wonderful experience. No one else knew about it but God and me, but it was as real as anything that ever happened to me in my life. It was one of those special times that He

(Continued on page six.)

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.

Notice to subscribers: When you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your zip code number.

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

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Package of 5 papers to one address, one year \$20.00
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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.

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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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The *Faith and Victory* is published monthly, except August, for \$5.00 per year by:

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

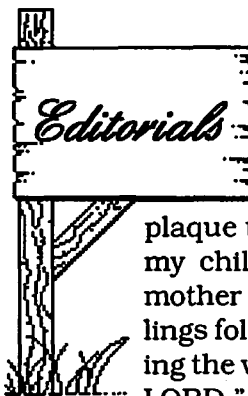
P. O. Box 518, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044

Office phone numbers: 405-282-1479, 800-767-1479;

fax number: 405-282-6318.

Internet address: <http://www.faithpublishing.com>

Postmaster: Send address changes to: *Faith and Victory*, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044.



"Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name." Psalms 86:11. This verse brings memories to my mind of a

plaque that was given to me during my childhood years. It pictured a mother duck with her little ducklings following behind her, illustrating the words, "Teach me thy way, O LORD." The thought from this verse

is a necessary part of every Christian's prayer, for unless we learn the way of the Lord we are certain to go astray and be devoured by the enemy of soul's. The sooner a person realizes the truth presented in Jeremiah 10:23, the more likely they are to find the Giver of life and joy. This verse states, "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." All of us are dependent on our Heavenly Father to help us find the right way in life.

When people and nations abound with prosperity and affluence, it is very hard for them to discern their need of Divine help with their life. Their focus becomes centered on their abundance, and they feel they can rely on their own skills and abilities to meet any difficulty that may be presented to them. The thought that one is self-sufficient appeals to the pride of man and that pride blinds him to the need of God. A solemn warning against forgetting the Lord was given to the children of Israel before they went into the land of Canaan. "And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;...And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish." Deuteronomy 8:13-19.

The Jewish historian, Flavius Josephus, wrote concerning the children of Noah that were

dwelling in the plain of Shinar. "But they were so ill instructed that they did not obey God; for which reason they fell into calamities, and were made sensible, by experience, of what sin they had been guilty: for when they flourished with a numerous youth, God admonished them again to send out colonies; but they, imagining the prosperity they enjoyed was not derived from the favour of God, but supposing that their own power was the proper cause of the plentiful condition they were in, did not obey Him." It is important for us to understand the source of our blessings and be thankful to God for sending them. With that understanding we must be willing to take His instructions and obey them. Why should we place ourselves in a position that is opposite of God's will and cause Him to withhold His blessings in order to get our attention? How often people suffer because they will not listen to the voice of the Lord when He speaks to them in pleasant tones of love.

Notice the phrase that was used, "and were made sensible, by experience." Calamities and hard things are effective tools for bringing understanding to people but there are less traumatic ways to learn also. Some of those methods involve willingness on our part to hear the voice of wisdom when the Lord speaks to us. Often we can observe the problems others are having and spare ourselves from falling into the same painful situations. By listening to God's ministering servants is another good way to learn, and through the study of His Word we can find counsel and direction. The counsel of the Lord is a blessing that we should never take for granted—it is given for our good.

Once we have received direction from the Lord it is essential that we follow and obey His instruction. Otherwise, the knowledge will be useless to us and will mock us when our trouble comes. If we continue to follow the wrong path we will eventually be destroyed. However, those who walk in the truth of the Lord find that He leads them in ways of pleasantness and paths of peace. Acts 2:28 says, "Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance." There is nothing more precious than to know that God is near us and His approval is smiling on our life. It brings a warm sense of true joy that flows richly from the depths of our hearts. When He is near we know everything will be alright. We know that

our worries are vain for we are loved and cared for by a hand that is mightier than any enemy. That is why we love to follow Him.

The psalmist said, "...unite my heart to fear thy name." This is an important part of this verse. It is God's desire that our heart be united in its purpose toward pleasing Him. Frances Havergal penned the beautiful words that so exquisitely express this thought in the song, "Take My Life and Let It Be." A united heart includes our whole being. Our life, hands, feet, voice, lips, our silver and gold, our moments and days, our intellect, our will and most of all our love. As we submit ourselves at the feet of Jesus and consecrate ourselves to humbly serve Him, we can then find a source of power through the infilling of the Holy Spirit that enables us to be more than we could ever be in our own strength. The power of His Spirit will give us strength to overcome the urges of the flesh that would divide our heart and prevent us from focusing our entire being on God.

There are only few who are willing to give themselves completely to God. Many today are calling themselves Christians but the fruit of their lives proclaim a different story. But those precious Saints who have truly paid the price and turned from the glitter of the world have found the rich graces of God are truly sweet to their souls. They are willing to take the humble way of Christ and enter in at the strait gate and follow the narrow way that leads to eternal life. They know the way of the Lord is right and they have chosen the way of truth. They are taught in the way of wisdom, they are shown the way of salvation, they are led in the way of righteousness, and they walk in the way of good men.

"And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it *shall be* for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *therein*. No lion shall be there, nor *any* ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk *there*: And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Isaiah 35:8-10. The Lord wants to teach every man, woman and child about this wonderful way.

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

My Introduction to Heaven's Music

(Continued from page three.)

endeared Himself to me and revealed Himself by the Spirit in a very special way through song. This is the great difference in worshipping God "in spirit and in truth" versus *trying to worship Him* in the flesh and in formality!

I learned that the more "in tune" my heart was with the Holy Spirit, the sweeter the Saints' singing sounded to my ears, and the richer its harmony rang in my soul.

During the Myrtle camp meeting of 1971 (I'm pretty sure that was the year) I had another very special experience, and this was a new one for me. The Lord had already been blessing my soul a lot in that meeting. But one night, during the course of the camp meeting, I had a very unusual dream. I dreamed I could hear the most beautiful singing in the most perfect harmony. It was a harmony to a degree of perfection that goes beyond anything I've ever heard in this world. And the music of that singing just seemed to penetrate my whole being. I don't really know how to describe it in a way that would make others understand what I actually heard in that dream. It was almost like what the apostle Paul speaks about in 2 Corinthians, chapter 12, of being caught up into the third heaven and hearing things that are not lawful (or not possible) to utter.

That was my first experience of having a dream like that. But, thank God, it was not my last one! Through the years, from time to time, I have had other similar dreams. Sometimes, in those dreams, I have heard songs that I know, and other times they have been songs I never heard before. But every time, it is the richest harmony of music my mind could ever imagine, and it just seems to penetrate my whole spiritual being. I truly believe that God, in His great love toward me, has let my soul, my spirit, or inner man hear "Heaven's music." While my body and mind was asleep and unconscious to all the physical elements of this world, He conveyed the music of Heaven to me through the Spirit. This music has never sounded instrumental. It has always sounded vocal and has conveyed a message. But the perfection of the tones and the harmony has always been beyond what any human voices in this world could ever carry it. The only music I've ever heard in this world that comes close to it is the

(Continued on page eight.)



IL—Please pray for my sister, Merline Allen, she has cancer that has begun to actively spread.

—Sis. Norma Tiller

KS—Pray for my daughter, Sandra Beardmore, she is having personal and financial difficulties and is suffering from depression. My son-in-law, James Manuel, is in the hospital with cancer and is not expected to live. I also would like prayer for some needs that I have.

—Sis. Margaret Doss Lytle

Standing Prayer Requests

Sis. Merline Allen
 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

MEETING DATES

Bakersfield, CA (Revival Meeting)—Feb. 10-14
Miami, FL (Spring Meeting)—March 28-April 4
Alabama Spring Singing
 (Near Warrior, AL)—April 3
Oklahoma State (Guthrie, OK)—May 28-June 6
General Southern
 (Loranger, LA)—June 27-July 4
National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 16-25



MEETING NOTICES

BAKERSFIELD, CA, REVIVAL MEETING

The Bakersfield, CA congregation is planning to have a revival meeting February 10-14. Service times are:
 Wednesday-Saturday 12 noon and 7 p.m.
 Sunday 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Bro. Jerry Melot will be the primary evangelist for this meeting. Please pray for the success of our meeting.

All are invited; call us at the numbers below for more information.

—Pastor Hayward and Tina Cox
 Chapel (661) 324-4945
 Pastor (661) 836-3877

**ALABAMA SPRING SINGING,
 NEAR WARRIOR (EASTER WEEKEND)**

The Church of God congregation near Warrior, Alabama is planning a singing April 3rd (Easter Weekend) at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel. Activities will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning at the park in Hanceville, AL which is the same place we had been having it until last year when it was unavailable. On the following day, April 4th, there will be dinner on the grounds with services at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. The chapel is located approximately two miles west of Interstate 65 at exit number 289 on Acton Bend Circle. For further information please contact Bro. Roy Herron at (205) 647-7869 or Marshall Whitson at (205) 647-6325; Cell (205) 317-4151.

MIAMI, FL, SPRING MEETING

The congregation in Miami, FL, welcomes you to attend their Spring Meeting. Lord willing, it will be held March 28-April 4. Services will be nightly at 7:30. Day services will be announced at the meeting. For more information contact Bro. Charles Clay (305) 804-8504 or Bro. Kenneth Baxter, (786) 554-8833.



**LETTERS
 FROM
 OUR
 READERS**

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings to you in Jesus name. Trust all is going well with you and yours. We are praying for you that God will give you grace, wisdom and strength for every need.

Wife and I seem to be getting more weak in body, but He keeps us encouraged to press on toward that heavenly prize that is set before us. We then will have joy forever more. Remember us in your prayers, —Bro. T. V. McMillian



AL—Dear Saints: The Lord has been so good to us of late. We want to give Him praise and honor for all His wonderful works. Ashley has been in poor health with various problems this past year, one of which has been headaches that would trouble her for days. She was recently anointed and prayed for and she has not had those headaches since. Praise the Lord! About a week later, both girls came down with a terrible stomach virus. Amanda was especially ill. We called Sis. LaDawna Adams over to anoint and pray for her, and while she did not receive an immediate touch, she did improve. We called for prayer several times, and the Lord wonderfully helped each time. I also praise Him for protecting me from getting sick. I know it was only the Lord that kept me well so that I could care for them. It took a week for them to regain their normal strength and appetite, and we are so thankful for His help. I also have special thanksgiving for a touch He gave me. I was anointed and prayed for recently for some needs in my body. The past several months I have found it impossible to lay on my right side more than a few minutes without it causing my right hip to hurt. That night after I was anointed, I decided to lay on my right side as I went to bed. I fell asleep and awoke the next morning in the same position, completely free of pain. Thank the Lord for His healing power!

Love in Christ, —Sis. Sarah Herron



MO—I would like to thank each of you who prayed for me while I had the spot on my head

for about 1 1/2 years. I am so thankful that I can tell you the spot came off and is COMPLETELY healed. It does not look as though there is even going to be a scar. I am so thankful to report of God's healing power. Please pray for me that I can pray more for those who are afflicted, as I don't know what I would do without prayer and God's love.

—Sis. Glenetta Carpenter



Pauline Patterson was born July 9, 1917 on the family farm east of Anthony, Kansas, one of seven children born to Isaac and Milley Jane (Massey) Smith. She attended school in Anthony, graduating from Anthony High School in 1936.

On February 23, 1937 she was united in marriage with George Lee Patterson in Anthony, Kansas. This union was blessed with three children: Lawrence Dean, Beverly Ann, and Carolyn Kay. The family made their home in Anthony.

As a young child, Pauline gave her heart to God. She was active in the Church of God throughout her lifetime. She taught adult Sunday School and was truly a woman of faith.

Pauline had many hobbies, which she shared frequently with family and friends. Quilting and cooking were two that many will never forget. She loved quilting and was able to make a quilt for each family member. The last quilt she made was for her son and daughter-in-law, and, upon recently finishing it, she stated that her work was done. Cooking was another one of her favorite things. Her grandchildren loved her chicken and noodles. Her apple pies were great! But let us not forget her banana bread and jellies, which her family and friends looked forward to receiving. Pauline showed her kind-

ness not only through her cooking and quilting, but also through giving to charities and her constant willingness to always help anyone she was able to.

In 1996, she moved to Oklahoma City with her daughter, Beverly.

On December 19, 2009, Pauline passed away at Integris Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City at the age of 92 years. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, George, on June 17, 1982; three brothers: Clarence, Raymond, and one infant; two sisters: Irene Smith and Nora Smith; and one granddaughter, Dana Patterson.

She will be deeply missed by her children; Dean Patterson and wife, Nelda, of Manchester, OK, Beverly Liticker and husband Doug of Oklahoma City, OK, and Carolyn Stevens and husband, Gerald of Tulsa, OK; her sister, Marie Robertson of Wichita, KS; eight grand children and their families, five step-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

The funeral service was held at Prairie Rose Funeral Home in Anthony, Kansas with Bro. Leslie Busbee officiating. Burial was in Burchfield Cemetery south of Anthony, Kansas.

My Introduction to Heaven's Music

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congregational singing in the camp meetings and special gatherings of the saints.

I'll never forget one time, just a few years ago, when I was going through a rather dry spell spiritually. I hadn't been sensing the Lord real close and intimate to me like I like to feel Him in my soul. If I go for very long without a "refreshing from the presence of the Lord," I get concerned, and I start examining myself to see if there might be some shortcoming or some negligence on my part that is hindering the flow of that "living water" within. One night I decided I was going to get into a greater earnestness of prayer and seek the Lord's face until He revealed Himself to me again. I prayed until it seemed I couldn't pray anymore. And still it seemed as though the heavens were brass. No answer. Finally, I had to lay my weary body down and get some sleep. I went to bed that night trusting the Lord would reveal Himself to me somehow.

As another verse of song says, that Bro. D. S. Warner wrote: "Trusting in Jesus however you

feel, trusting in Jesus if prayerless you kneel, If all the heavens as brass should appear, Only keep trusting and Jesus is near."—*Echoes From Glory*, song #53. Little did I know what a blessing He had in store for me before that night was over!

I believe it was getting close to daybreak of the following morning, when I began to dream. Once again I began to hear this wonderful, soul-penetrating music, as of voices singing in the most perfect harmony. And the song they were singing was saying, "O brother dear, to keep good cheer, Be hid away with Jesus; For then you'll find your Savior near, Keep hid away with Jesus." All I remember hearing was those words, and then the heavenly music faded away and I awoke out of my sleep. As I lay there and the realization began to dawn on me of what I had just experienced, ripples of joy began to thrill my soul. I had just had a special visit from the Lord! I don't know if He sang to me Himself through the Spirit, or if He sent His angels to sing to me, but the message was real and to the point. I immediately recognized these words to be in one of the verses of #234 in the *Evening Light Songs* and I grasped that verse of song as the answer to my spiritual dryness. The glory of that blessing lingered with me for a long time and watered my soul really well. Praise God, He knows just how to cause springs of living water to flow forth in the dessert places of our lives if we will faithfully trust and obey Him.

In the year of 2005, I had the privilege to read the personal testimony of Don Piper, a Christian man who was killed in a car wreck on January 18, 1989, near Trinity Pines, Texas. It was a terrible accident and Don was killed instantly. Paramedics reached the scene of the accident within minutes and, finding no pulse, pronounced Don dead and covered his lifeless body (still in the badly smashed car) with a tarp while they worked with the injuries of others. Due to the nature of the accident, it took a long time to clean up the mess. Knowing that Don was dead, and that extracting his badly mangled body from the wreckage was going to be quite an ordeal, they left it to be attended to last.

In the meantime another Christian man, named Dick Onerecker, came upon the accident scene and, while looking on the scene, he felt a special impression from the Holy Spirit to pray for the dead man who was covered by the tarp. He had quite some difficulty persuading the authorities working the scene to allow him

to do this. But after being very persistent they finally allowed him to do so. This man, Dick Onerecker, crawled through the trunk of the smashed car and underneath the tarp that was covering the dead man's body, leaned over the back seat, laid his hand on the dead man's shoulder, and began to earnestly call on God. He felt a special inspiration to not only pray for the restoration of the man's life but also for deliverance from brain and internal injuries. He said he prayed the most passionate, fervent, emotional prayer of his life. God's Word says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). It certainly did in this case! Dick broke down and cried several times as he prayed. Sometimes he would stop praying and sing for a while, then pray some more. Finally, he began singing, "O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer." Then something marvelous happened—a miracle! The dead man's pulse returned and he started breathing! And then he joined in and started singing too! Do you say the days of miracles ended with the apostles? Friend, this happened on January 18, 1989!

At that point, Dick Onerecker scrambled out of the smashed car and raced over to the nearest EMT. "The man's alive! He's not dead! He's alive!" Dick said. Then he dashed across the road shouting, "That man has come back to life!" The EMT just stared at Dick. By this time the officers and paramedics were thinking they surely had a mental case on their hands! Dick continued to yell, "He's alive! The dead man started singing with me! He's singing! He's alive!" "Oh really?" a paramedic asked. "I'm serious, this man's alive," Dick said. "We're medical professionals. We know a dead guy when we see him," one of the paramedics replied. Dick walked up in front of the remaining ambulance and said to the driver, "That man is alive. Go look at him!" "He's dead," was the reply. "Then humor me. Just feel his pulse," Dick pleaded. "Okay, we'll check him for you," the man said, mumbling under his breath. He then walked over to the car, raised the tarp, reached inside, and found the victim's right arm and felt his pulse. Then everyone leaped into action and began trying to figure out how to get the victim out! **He really was alive, and he had been dead for an hour and a half!**

Don's body was finally extracted from the terrible wreckage and he was rushed to a hospital. His body was so seriously mangled that

his road to recovery was long and hard. He said there were many times during the next few months that he wished he had been left where he was during those 90 minutes that he was dead. Because, during those 90 minutes, he had gotten to experience the heavenly realm. In his testimony he tells all about his “out of the body” experience. And one of the most interesting things to me was what he said about the “heavenly music.” Here is a quotation from his words:

“My most vivid memory of Heaven is what I heard...It was the most beautiful and pleasant sound I’ve ever heard, and it didn’t stop. It was like *a song that goes on forever*. I felt awestruck, wanting only to listen. I didn’t just hear music. It seemed as if **I were part of the music—and it played in and through my body**. I stood still, and yet I felt embraced by the sounds.

“As aware as I became of the joyous sounds and melodies that filled the air, I wasn’t distracted. I felt as if the heavenly concert permeated every part of my being, and at the same time I focused on everything else around me.

“I never saw anything that produced the sound. I had the sense that whatever made the heavenly music was just above me, but I didn’t look up. I’m not sure why. Perhaps it was because I was so enamored with the people around me, or maybe it was because my senses were so engaged that I feasted on everything at the same time. I asked no questions and never wondered about anything. Everything was perfect. I sensed that I knew everything and had no questions to ask.

“Myriads of sounds so filled my mind and heart that it’s difficult to explain them. The most amazing one, however, was the angel’s wings. I didn’t see them, but the sound was a beautiful, holy melody with a cadence that seemed never to stop. The swishing resounded as if it was a form of never-ending praise. I listened and simply *knew* what it was.

“A second sound remains, even today, the single, most vivid memory I have of my entire heavenly experience. I call it music, but it differed from anything I had ever heard or ever expect to hear on earth. The melodies of praise filled the atmosphere. The nonstop intensity and endless variety overwhelmed me.

“The praise was unending, but the most remarkable thing to me was that hundreds of songs were being sung at the same time—all of them worshiping God. As I approached the large, magnificent gate, I heard them from every

direction and realized that each voice praised God. I write *voice*, but it was more than that. Some sounded instrumental, *but I wasn’t sure*—and I wasn’t concerned. Praise was everywhere, and all of it was musical, yet comprised of melodies and tones I’d never experienced before.

“Hallelujah! Praise! Glory to God! Praise to the King!” Such words rang out in the midst of all the music. I don’t know if angels were singing them or if they came from humans. I felt so awestruck and caught up in the heavenly mood that I didn’t look around. My heart filled with the deepest joy I’ve ever experienced. I wasn’t a participant in the worship, yet I felt as if my heart rang out with the same kind of joy and exuberance.

“If we played three CDs of praise at the same time, we’d have a cacophony of noise that would drive us crazy. This was totally different. Every sound blended, and each voice or instrument enhanced the others.

“As strange as it may seem, I could clearly distinguish each song. It sounded as if each hymn of praise was meant for me to hear as I moved inside the gates. Many of the old hymns and choruses I had sung at various times in my life were part of the music—along with hundreds of songs I had never heard before. Hymns of praise, modern-sounding choruses, and ancient chants filled my ears and brought not only a deep peace but the greatest feeling of joy I’ve ever experienced.

“The celestial tunes surpassed any I had ever heard. I couldn’t calculate the number of songs—perhaps thousands—offered up simultaneously, and yet there was no chaos, because **I had the capacity to hear each one and discern the lyrics and melody**.

“Even now, back on earth, sometimes I still hear faint echoes of that music. When I’m especially tired and lie in bed with my eyes closed, occasionally I drift off to sleep with the sounds of Heaven filling my heart and mind. No matter how difficult a day I’ve had, peace immediately fills every part of my being. I still have flashbacks. Mine are more flashbacks of the sounds than the sights.

“As I’ve pondered the meaning of the memory of the music, it seems curious. I would have expected the most memorable experience to be something I had seen or the physical embrace of a loved one. Yet above everything else, I cherish those sounds, and at times I think, *I can’t wait to hear them again—in person*. It’s what I look

forward to. I want to see everybody, but I know I'll be with them forever. I want to experience everything Heaven offers, but most of all, I want to *hear those never-ending songs* again." End of quote from Don Piper—*90 Minutes in Heaven*.

I can say that this brother's testimony of what he heard during the time he was "out of the body," reminds me very much of the music I have heard in my dreams on various occasions. The main exceptions would be the hearing of multiple songs being sung at one time, and I have never heard the cadence of angel wings. But as he describes, the music that I have heard is the most perfect blending of tones of harmony that the human mind can experience. As I said, the nearest experience I've ever had to it in real life here on earth has been in experiencing the congregational singing of the Saints, especially at Monark, when hundreds of Saints are gathered together.

My mind goes to 1 Corinthians 2:9-10: "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. **But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit:** for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

The inspired songwriter, D. S. Warner, once penned these wonderful words in a song: "I seem to hear an angel choir, Down from their shining home, And in my heart their notes inspire, Sweet anthems from the throne. Upon the mount of holiness We live in Heaven's view; And o'er the shaded valley come Their songs forever new. Above, below, one family, A thousand chords of love Now thrill my soul with melodies They chant in praise above. I catch the pure celestial strain That Heaven wafts to me; And then my happy spirit sings, 'Oh, glory, I am free!' We echo back the sounds that float Through Eden's balmy air; And Heaven shouts to hear on earth The songs they're singing there. Hark! O'er the vale sweet melodies, That echo in my soul Our great Redeemer's holy praise, As mighty thunders roll."

I'm thinking now how that every hymn and spiritual song that the Holy Spirit has inspired men and women of God to write down through the ages of time has been just a little piece, or a little strain, of music from that heavenly world. In our mortal state, we can only "know in part." "But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." I Corinthians 13:9-10. I really believe that when we get to Heaven, we may very likely get to hear

every inspired hymn or spiritual song that has ever been wafted by the Holy Spirit from the heavenly realm to mortal man. And, as Don Piper described, ***we can enjoy them, not just one by one, but all at once and unendingly!*** "WHAT WILL IT BE TO BE THERE?!!!"

Will there be musical "instruments" in Heaven? I don't really think there will be any more need for "instruments" in that celestial spirit world than there will be for marrying and giving in marriage (Luke 20:34-36) or for the light of the sun or the moon (Revelation 21:23). Just being in the presence of the Author and Source of music will transmit a penetrating music through every spirit being, both human and angelic, that will reverberate unendingly through that eternal world of bliss. It will be just as the chorus of #373 in the *Evening Light Songs* says, "Glory, glory, hallelujah! Praise and honor to the Savior, While eternity prolong, bless His holy name in song: All the Saints in Heaven singing, round the throne their anthems ringing, All the Saints of God above, singing **ONE CELESTIAL SONG!**"

We can be sure that the harps we read about in the book of Revelation signify something far more profound than literal harps as we know them! It is also noteworthy that in the transition from terrestrial to celestial the language barriers between all kindreds and tongues and nations of the earth will be dissolved. None of us know what the language of Heaven will be, but one thing is certain, we will all understand it. When we arrive in Heaven, *we may never speak English again*, but there will be no lack of knowledge or understanding in Heaven. All shall know even as they are known, in the spirit (I Corinthians 13:12; II Corinthians 5:16). Peter, James, and John had never met or seen Moses and Elijah, but when they saw them with Christ on the mount of transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8), they knew exactly who they were.

Based on my personal experience with the Holy Spirit's conveyance of inspired music to my inner man, both while awake and while sleeping, I am thoroughly convinced in my heart that four-part harmony "a cappella" music, sung under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, is the purest expression of "Heaven's music" that has ever been given to man in his present mortal state. This is what corresponds most closely to the music that has been transmitted to my spirit by the Holy Spirit from the celestial realms. I submit this as food for thought.

—Bro. Harlan Sorrell

More Valuable Than Sparrows

By Sis. Lana Johnson

*Consider the sparrows,
which have not much worth.
There are many of them that inhabit this earth.*

*Their value is low, but they have the Lord's eye.
He notices one if it falls from the sky.*

*Since He takes note of such a little bird,
How much more are the cries of His children heard!*

*Bring Him your heartaches,
your hurts and your fears;
Tell Him your feelings; let Him dry your tears.*

*We are more valuable than all of these birds,
So trust in Him and believe in His Word.*

*He numbers even the very hairs on our head.
We know this because in His Word it is said.*

*Whenever you're feeling low and unloved,
Just remember our Father looking down from above.*

*If He sees the sparrow
when it falls from the sky,
Then He sees us with His all-seeing eye.*

*Just look to Him and on His Word feed.
He's ready to help in every trial and need.*

*He loves us too well to ever forsake.
He'll bless you and help you in every heartache.*

*If unto Him all of Life's burdens you'll yield;
He'll be your comfort, your Rock and your Shield.*

Faith Publishing House
P.O. Box 518
Guthrie, OK 73044