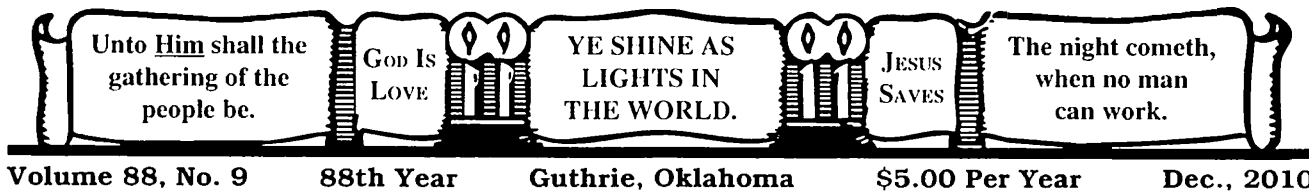


FAITH AND VICTORY

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BUILDING BLOCKS OF FAITH

From The Secret of the Singing Heart

By C. W. Naylor

Now available from Faith Publishing—Call 1-800-767-1479

Faith is one of the most powerful elements in human life. The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is a picture gallery of the heroes of faith. It begins with a definition of faith. We always need a definition, that we may know what we are talking about. Paul's definition is an accurate one when properly understood. "Now faith is the substance [ground or confidence, margin] of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." The American Standard Version renders it thus, "Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen." In the margin it reads, "Now faith is the giving substance to things hoped for, a test of things not seen."

This is a practical rather than a definitive picture of faith. Faith is accepting a thing as true and acting upon that thing as truth with all confidence. As it relates to God, it is taking God at His word. It is believing His promises. It is

personal acceptance of His promises, relying on those promises and making them the basis of the life.

One phase of faith is confident trust: the other is confident action. We read of the "full assurance of faith." Such full assurance in the old time worthies resulted in great accomplishments. In the eleventh chapter of Hebrews and elsewhere, we read of what was done through faith. We look upon those who accomplished such things as, in some way, superhuman. We are inclined to believe, as the doubters of this world believe, that the day of faith in religion has largely passed. In reality that is not true. There are mighty works of faith being accomplished today. Faith is just as effective today as in any former age. There are people now who have faith, and the might of that faith is manifested in mighty deeds and accomplishments.

Many wonderful things are accomplished by faith today, though the world goes on its way in ignorance of them. Most people think there is little faith today. They overlook the fact that when these worthies of the eleventh chapter of Hebrews were living, the people did not consider their faith as amounting to very much. They were probably entirely unaware of the great accomplishments of faith that were going on around them. In like manner, many people, in fact most people, are ignorant of the wonderful accomplishments of faith that are so prevalent today.

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When we read of the accomplishments of faith in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, it is natural for us to say, "I am not like those; I cannot have faith such as they had." I am not so sure of that. They were only common folk with perhaps little more than average faith. It may be that we shall accomplish a little less than they accomplished, but faith in us will produce real results just the same.

The day in which they lived was no more favorable for faith than today. In fact, there was not so much faith then as today. Christian knowledge and Christian experience have laid a broader ground for faith, a surer foundation than they had in former ages. Faith is just as mighty today and will accomplish as much as in the ancient day. Perhaps we shall not duplicate the things they did. That may not be necessary or perhaps it would not serve any good purpose if we should do so. But faith is the gift of God, and He is willing to impart it to each of us.

We already have much natural faith. The faith we have is the basis of our lives. Without faith the business world could not operate. Home life would not be possible. Religion could not exist. Government would be powerless. No great undertakings would ever be begun. Accomplishments, of whatsoever sort, are based on faith. No wonder we are urged in the Scriptures to "have faith in God."

Faith in God is believing Him. We can have no satisfactory relations with Him, except through faith. We are saved by faith; we are kept by faith. We are justified by faith. We stand by faith. We rejoice by faith. Assurance of immortality is a matter of faith. Faith is the victory that overcometh the world.

The apostles had faith. Jesus said to them, "Ye believe in God." Faith brings certainty. Without faith there can be no certainty. It brought certainty to Paul. He said, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

God is worthy to be believed. He cannot lie because His whole nature is truth and righteousness. He never changes. He never forgets His promises. He never turns away from those who trust Him. Therefore, have faith in God. We should hold the attitude toward the Word of God that was held by an old Saint who was nearing the sunset of life. A minister quoted to her, "Lo, I am with you alway," and said, "What a blessed

promise this is." "Ah," said she, "that is not a promise, it is just a fact."

God's promises are facts. They are actual facts, or potential facts. They are either facts to us or may become facts to us by trusting them. The greatest fact in the lives of God's people is that they believe in God, and they act upon that belief in a way that produces definite results in Christian living—holiness of heart and life, and true happiness. In fact, there can be no other basis of true happiness, save faith. It is the foundation of all. To believe in God as the New Testament pictures Him, to accept Him as He is represented to be, and to submit to Him as such faith should lead us to do is to be happy.

One needful thing is that we believe in God as He reveals Himself to be. We must do this *quite apart from any inner feelings we may have about Him or any fears we may have about Him*. He is what He reveals Himself to be. If we feel He may be other than what He represents Himself to be, it is because we do not definitely believe that representation of Himself is true. We read God's promises, and often we cannot feel that they mean just what they say or that God will make them true to us. We fear and tremble when facing various things in life, though God has promised to be with us and help us. He has promised us victory through Jesus Christ all along the Christian way. Yet how many times we shrink and tremble and walk in uncertainty.

Unbelief is the source of all this. Abraham believed God; therefore he did not stumble at God's promise. He took God at His word, then acted upon His word just as though there could be no such thing as questioning it. God's Word is true. His promises were meant to be fulfilled. They are "yea and amen" to everyone who believeth. God has no desire to avoid fulfilling that which He has promised to do. He is under no compulsion. He promised because He *wanted* to do the things He promised to do.

He will do what He has promised. Do you believe it? It is true, whether or not you believe it. You will get the benefit of it only by believing it. You can believe it. You have the power to believe it. All fears that God will not do what He has promised are foolish fears. If you will believe, God will do the rest. If you will trust there will be no failure. If you will go ahead in faith, doubting nothing, your way will be prepared before you. The victory will ever be yours. You will be able to stand in the evil day. Whatever

comes cannot overwhelm you. Your strength will be equal to your need. "Have faith in God."

The Psalmist declared that he would not fear though war was made upon him. That was the language of faith. Faith gave him courage. It will give you courage. There is no telling what God will do for those who trust Him. What will earthly governments do for their citizens? Here is an illustration: Great Britain sent ten thousand men on a long voyage by sea, then seven hundred miles over sun-scorched trails through the jungles of Africa to fight their way through an armed and brave enemy to rescue one man. That man had been arrested and imprisoned illegally and unjustly. His life was at stake. So Great Britain risked the lives of ten thousand men that he might be saved.

If an earthly government will do this to save one of its citizens, what will the government of heaven do to save one of its citizens who appeals to it? Jesus said twelve legions of angels were ready to assist Him and to defend Him, and we are told that "the angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, to deliver them." "Have faith in God."

The life of faith is the most satisfactory of all lives. In fact, it is the only satisfactory life. Matthew Henry has said, "None live so easily, so pleasantly, as those who live by faith."

Children implicitly trust their parents. They believe they will be protected and cared for. They believe their needs will be supplied. They believe they have nothing to fear. They have the confidence expressed by the little boy who was threatened with injury by a larger boy. He said, as he looked the other squarely in the face, "No, you won't hurt me. My daddy won't let you." If we have the same confident trust in God, we can say, "God will not let you" do the things that are threatened. God *will* protect us. God *will* help us.

This is not imagination. It is reality. We should cultivate an attitude of faith toward God, an expectancy that He will take care of us. This brings to us the confident assurance that we have nothing to fear. This in turn brings rest and peace. When we have learned to exercise such faith, we have learned the *Secret of the Singing Heart*.

C. B. Larson says, "We should train ourselves to meet everything in that attitude of mind that expects all things to work out right." Why should we not have such an attitude? Why

should we not expect such things? We have every reason to be confident of this result. Instead of questioning, fearing or trembling, lest we may fail, let us exercise definite faith in God and day by day build up ourselves and erect a structure of Christian character and Christian life, worthy of the God who helps us. Someone has said, "Do not wonder if you will fail, but think how you are going to succeed." That is the attitude with which we should face life. Success is the product of faith. We should expect to succeed as well as determine to succeed.

Faith produces the building blocks where-with we build up life. These building blocks of faith are not like the child's blocks, with which it builds up a tottery structure which falls at a touch. No, faith furnishes concrete blocks to build an enduring structure. With them, we can build a life that the earthquakes of unfavorable circumstances cannot throw down.

Faith manifests itself in or leads to obedience. If we believe God is King and has the right to rule over us, and if we believe the Bible is His law, it will bring us into an attitude of obedience. It will be our joy to do His will. Such faith will end rebellion. There will be no questioning, but sincere, wholehearted obedience. It will not be the obedience of fear but the obedience of love. Its language is, "I delight to do thy will, O God."

Faith also manifests itself in submission to God. God's will becomes sweet to us, and this submission to Him becomes a great building force in our lives.

This faith also manifests itself in fidelity and loyalty to principles of right. It makes us willing to sacrifice and to serve and makes service fruitful in joyfulness.

Faith results in honoring God by giving credit to His promises. If we shall "set to our seal that God is true" then we can say like the prophet in II Kings 6, "He that is for us is more than they that be against us." Faith has an inborn courage that can face anything. This courage is not the result of assumption. It is founded on solid facts.

It is not enough to believe in God. We must believe in ourselves as well. Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "Men who succeed have faith in themselves and faith in their fellows. Doubt either, and you are doomed."

(Continued on page eleven.)

FAITH AND VICTORY 12 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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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.

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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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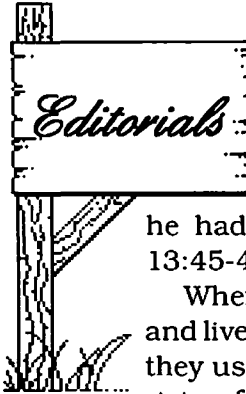
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"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it." Matthew 13:45-46.

When a family settles into a home and lives there for a number of years they usually accumulate a wide variety of personal possessions. It is not until the family begins to anticipate a move, or a sale, that they realize how many things they really have collected over the years. Some of the things may mainly have a sentimental value that sparks a memory of an event from years gone by, other things may have little value but the owner thought the item might be useful at a future time. Then there are things that have greater value to the owner, things that are useful, things that are treasured and cherished, and things that are irreplaceable. When people have suffered the loss of their home by a natural disaster or a fire they often realize the value of things like family pictures and photo albums. It is only natural that we treasure the memories of our families; when our children were young and the exciting things that we did together—recollection of those days brings joy to a parent's heart.

There are some people who are collectors. What people collect includes a wide variety of items. Some might be as simple as pretty rocks, seashells, spoons, plates, model trains, dolls and barbed wire to more expensive items like guns, art work, antique cars and airplanes. Some years ago I worked with a man who collected bricks. He had an attractive display in his basement of a large variety of bricks from many places. Some old bricks even had the warning, "Don't spit on sidewalk" on them. When a person who has an interest in collecting travels to different places, they keep a "sharp eye" out for the things that they are interested in. It is not unusual for them to spend hours going to garage sales, looking through antique stores and places that sell second hand merchandise, always looking for another item to complement their collection.

When someone is an avid collector the rest of the family soon learns what they have to be

careful with, for the objects of ones affection rate highly in their mind and when someone disturbs the collection, they also disturb the collector. This behavioral trait of man, to be a collector, has evidently been demonstrated since early times. When Jacob was leaving the country of his father-in-law, Laban, Jacob took his wives, children and livestock, and started for Canaan, his homeland. Jacob's wife, Rachael, got into her father's collection of gods and took some of them with her. This action really raised the ire of her father when he found out what had happened about them leaving the country. He gathered some of his servants together and chased after them. By the time he caught up with them the Lord God had spoken to him and told him to do them no harm.

Jesus was acquainted with the intensity that people demonstrate when they pursue an avid interest. He therefore gave this parable of a merchant man seeking goodly pearls and finding one that was worth far more than all of the others that he already owned. Once the value of this one special pearl was established in the merchant's mind, all of his other collection became disposable and of secondary importance—if only he could obtain this one special pearl that had become the object of his heart.

When people seek the Lord with the same diligence as the man Jesus spoke of, their effort will be rewarded with a valuable treasure. Christ, the Savior of the world, will come into that heart and change it into a holy temple where righteousness and peace dwells. Jeremiah 29:12-14 tells of God's great mercy to those who seek Him. "Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. And I will be found of you, saith the LORD...."

The enemy of souls does not want people to seek the Lord, for he knows what a treasure they will find in Christ. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that, "...the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." II Corinthians 4:4. The enemy uses many things that appeal to the flesh to keep people in this state of blindness—even things that may not appear to be so bad, but if it accomplishes his purpose then he is satisfied.

When the glorious Gospel of Christ shines on a heart and that one grasps the impact of what Christ can mean to their eternal soul—then they will realize that the trivial things of this world will never be able to satisfy the deep need and longing of their heart. Only the touch of the Savior can quench the deep thirst for righteousness their soul is seeking.

Before Paul's conversion he went about in a zealous way persecuting the Saints. He thought he was doing right but the enemy had him blinded to the truth of the Gospel of Christ. Then one day on the way to Damascus to do more injury to God's people, Jesus spoke to him saying, "...Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Then Saul, later called Paul, responded with a direct question, "Who art thou Lord?" At this query, a life changing revelation took place. The voice from Heaven responded to him saying, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest...." From this day forward, Paul was a changed man. He was willing to be the one persecuted if he could only have Christ. Christ became the sole object of his affection. He realized Christ was invested with the power of the resurrection and held the key to his eternal destiny. Everything else he owned or possessed became secondary to pleasing Christ. He wrote to the Philippians, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead." Philippians 3:10-11. Paul was willing to give up his education, his social status, his reputation and even suffer hardship, physical deprivation and pain to possess the Pearl of great price.

People can not be ordered and cajoled into this kind of sacrificial service to God. It can only come by a personal revelation and call by the Holy Spirit. When people begin seeking and feeling after Him as Paul told the men of Athens, "That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:" Acts 17:27. Then they will find that Christ is nearby and He will be a precious treasure to them, just like He was to the disciples and the Saints of old; just like He has been to our parents and grandparents. It is wonderful to hear of how precious Jesus has been to others, but our greatest joy is to have experienced a personal revelation and to know that Christ is mine.

Like the song by Bro. Naylor says:

Christ is mine, my heart's dear treasure,
Greater than all earthly store,
Filled with His untold abundance,
Yearns not now my heart for more.

Christ is mine, my hope of glory,
Anchor of my trusting soul,
Holding fast while in the tempest,
Stormy waves around me roll.

Christ, the source of all my pleasure,
Now in Him my soul doth find,
Joy unspeakable, exceeding
Earthly pleasures all combined.

Christ is mine, my loving Savior,
For He gave His life for me,
Ransomed thus from sinful bondage
I am His eternally.

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



NC—Dear ones at the Print Shop: Please put me on your prayer list. I had a stroke. Also, put my son, Gary, on the prayer list. We love you all.

—Sis. Agnes Burleson

TX—Remember Sis. Jan Wood in prayer. She has a heart condition compounded by other afflictions that is causing her to have difficulty breathing.

KY—Please pray for Bro. Dan Gellenbeck. He has a serious illness that causes him to be very weak at times.

OK—Sis. Sharon Quave is seriously afflicted and appreciates the Saints prayers in her behalf.

IL—Sis. Norma Tiller is grateful to the Saints for their prayers for her sister, Merline Allen, in the last days of her illness. She passed away December 6, 2010.

Standing Prayer Requests

Sis. Agnes Burleson
Bro. Gary Burleson
Sis. Gladys Cashio
Sis. Helen Carson
Sis. Genevieve Carver
Sis. Elizabeth Corteway
Sis. Waneta Creel
Bro. Terry Dawson Sr.
Sis. Guy Domin
Sis. Dorall Forbes
Bro. Dan Gellenbeck
Bro. Troy Gentry
Jaden Howard
Sis. Patsy Jordon
Sis. Earnestine Jordon
Sis. Karoline Kessler
Bro. Mark and Sis. Darlene Knight
Sis. Virginia Myers
Sis. Elsie M. Offerman
Sis. Melba Powell
Sis. Sharon Quave
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
Bro. Curtis Williams
Sis. Jan Wood



SPECIAL REPORTS

CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE—DURHAM, NC

We are very appreciative of the blessings of the Lord thus far. We are getting very close to the end of the building process. Presently, we are finishing the insulation and sheetrock inside of the chapel and classroom area. Praise His holy name! Now, it is time for the heating and air conditioning system to be installed. We also must replace the septic system as well. We are looking for the Lord to provide. We are asking for any help, support or donations that you may be led to give toward this building project. We thank you for your prayers and support as we continue this great work. You may send your donations to the Church of God:

Pastor Jerry Lennon
3203 NC Hwy. 55
Durham NC, 27713
(919) 740-3748



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, the glorious Son of God Who loved us and washed us from our sins and keeps us white as snow. I have been a reader and subscriber of the *Faith and Victory* paper since 1942. I was privileged to work in the Print Shop where your grandfather and grandmother, Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Pruitt, were the overseers of the work there. I am glad that his children and grandchildren have kept it going on until now. It has truly been a servant and a blessing to the Church of God. I am glad also for the many good spiritual books that have been reprinted which were written by the old time Saints. Christian love. —Bro. T. V. McMillian

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AL—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings. This year has been eventful for us. First, I had a physical problem for the last three or four months. The Lord healed me! I praise the Lord! I still need prayer for my right hand and left elbow that I hurt in the process of splitting logs. The continuous pounding of the maul and sledge hammer must have damaged some nerves or tendons.

Also, we were blessed with three grandchildren this year. Our daughter, Amber, and son-in-law, Brandon, had a daughter in January. Our son, Warren, and daughter-in-law, Jana, had a son in April. Last week Brandon and Amber were able to finalize the adoption of a newborn baby boy. He was four days old when they got him. Brandon and Amber named him Andrew Jake Martens. These babies are a gift from God.

You would think this was enough blessings for one year. However, the Lord had more in store for us. After more than thirty-eight years of employment with the city of Birmingham, the city offered extra incentives to retire now. After much prayer and seeking the Lord, I decided to retire—effective last week. (*First week of December.*)

Please remember Melonie and me in your prayers as we begin this new chapter in our

lives. We are seeking the Lord with great anticipation!

We pray for you all often.

—Bro. Marshall Whitson



Deeper Devotion

Deeper devotion to God is the craving of every Christian heart. In true devotion to God there is a craving, a longing, an intense desire to do something for Him. It is more, it is a craving, a yearning, a desire to do all that is done purposely and lovingly for God's sake. The devoted soul gives its very best to God. The devout man is not thinking about himself, of doing for himself, of living for himself, but he is thinking of God and doing all he does out of love to Him. He is satisfied only when giving his best.

Jesus said of the woman, "She hath done what she could." Jesus here sets up the measure of true devotion. Devotion goes to the limit—it does all it can. This woman had but one alabaster box. She broke all she had. She did all she could. She did not have two boxes, breaking one for Jesus and keeping one for herself. She broke all she had for Christ. This is devout conduct.

Those truly devoted to God are not only doing something for God, they are doing their best for Him. Devotion is not an emotion, it is not having glowing thoughts about God, or talking eloquently about Him, but it is doing something for Him. It is a fixed habit of the mind. It permeates the whole life and shapes every action. It consists in a readiness to do all it can, not heeding the cost. The disciples rebuked the woman for the waste. Devotion knows no waste when done to Jesus. All that is done for self appears as waste, but that which is done for Christ is expended in the best manner and to the best purpose possible.

The devoted soul loves and sees the object of its love in everything. This is the measure of our devotion. If you do not have thought of God in all you see and enjoy, you need be more devoted to Him. In all blessings and afflictions you will see the hand of God. You will find a joy in suffering and sacrificing for His sake. Those who are devoted to God are much given to prayer. To be alone with God is their highest enjoyment. They abhor all formality. They seek greater depth of heart in prayer. Oh, God, give thy people greater depth of heart in prayer.

—By C. E. Orr from "The Path of Life"



Patsy Ruth Taylor Doolittle was born on June 11, 1928 in Guthrie, OK to her parents Sam and Evelyn Taylor. She passed away peacefully on December 19, 2010 surrounded by family at the home of her daughter Sherrill Doolittle Kearney Creek.

On August 19, 1946 Patsy was married to Melvin Francis Doolittle of CA at her parents home in Guthrie, OK. After the wedding Patsy and Melvin left for California to begin their life together.

After living in Lynwood, CA for six months they moved to Loranger, LA in March 1947 to enter the business of dairy farming with his sister and brother-in-law, Ruby and Merrill Williamson.

To the union of Patsy and Melvin were born three children, Melvin Dale, Sherrill Ann and Nelson Ellis. Patsy was preceded in death by her husband of eleven years, Melvin Francis Doolittle, her parents Sam and Evelyn Taylor, and a brother Sammy Taylor.

She is survived by her two sons, Melvin and his wife, Elaine, Nelson and his wife, Genece, and her one daughter Sherrill and her husband, Bob; two sisters, Marilyn Cota of CA, and Linda Probst of Edmond, OK; ten grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Patsy loved flowers and grew up working and helping in her father's greenhouse and florist. In later years she once again worked as a florist in Hammond, LA and later in Metairie, LA. One of the joys of her life was watching some of her grandchildren become involved in flowers as a florist and in horticulture.

She demonstrated a simple faith in God and found joy in singing and serving Him.

Memorial services and interment were at Oak Grove Church of God near Loranger, LA on December 21. Bro. Steve Elston and Bro. Michael Williamson officiated at the services.

Note of Thanks

The family appreciates the cards, flowers, thoughts and prayers that were given in our time of bereavement.

May God bless you. —The Family.

Travis Lavon Johnson was the only son and second child of Odessa Delores Johnson and Jewel Leon Johnson. Shortly after his birth in Okeene, Oklahoma, the Johnson family moved to Wichita, Kansas. There, young Travis grew up in the neighborhood, attending the Church of God at Wichita, Kansas worshipping with Pastor Lewis Williams.

He often spoke affectionately of one of his Sunday school teachers, Sis. Cornelia, who taught him about God and Salvation. He was nine years old when he was saved. He began his education in grade school at Isely and Fairmount Elementary in Wichita, and Benton Elementary in Benton. He returned to Wichita to attend Brooks Junior High. He graduated from Wichita Heights High School with the Class of 1970. He attended welding school in Kansas and became a certified welder.

At age 19, Bro. Travis moved with his family to California and lived in San Bernardino. He often told the story of crossing the border into the Golden State and saying, "I think I will find my wife, in California." The Johnson family worshipped with Pastor Calvin Hobbs at the Church of God in San Bernardino. Bro. Travis hired into Kaiser Steel in Fontana. During those same years he traveled throughout the state of California attending revivals and camp meetings. On his travels, he would often pass out tracts to the people he met along the way.

A few years earlier, in 1969, Bro. Travis and his older sister Luvenia drove their grandparents across the United States and Canada. This trip is when he met Ms. Alice Chandler, who would later become his wife. He proposed and she said yes. The glorious day came in 1974 on June 29th in Bakersfield, California. He married Ms. Alice P. Chandler, the love of his life. After they married, their first little girl Alicia was born in 1976. At that time Bro. Travis was so overjoyed he said, "I want five!" The Lord answered his prayer, and over the next 11 years he

was blessed with four more children: Travis, Aaron, Alillia and Bryce.

Bro. Travis perfected his trade as a welder in the Forge and Weld Shop at Kaiser Steel in Fontana, CA for 13 years. Bro. Travis left Kaiser in 1983. He began his tenure at San Bernardino Steel in 1989 where he welded and completed his training to become a fitter. Over the next 22 years, 11 months, and 20 days Bro. Travis welded and fitted beams for many of the high-rise building in Southern California, one of which is Disney's Concert Hall, The REDCAT, in downtown Los Angeles.

Above and beyond his trade, Bro. Travis was a powerful man of God. He lived for the work of the Lord, his wife and his family. He was called to the ministry in 1985. When he got the call, he promised the Lord that he would "do his best." Bro. Travis and his wife were the Pastors of both the Los Angeles and Baldy Mesa congregations. Bro. Travis carried a special burden for all the men on his job. He often went and prayed for them when they were sick, and shared the Gospel at the lunch table. He was known for spending the end of each lunch break in prayer.

Bro. Travis Johnson is preceded in death by his praying mother, Sis. Odessa Johnson. He is survived by his devoted wife of 36 years, Mrs. Alice Penelope Johnson of Phelan, CA, and his five children: his daughter Alicia Johnson of Phelan, CA; his son Travis with his wife Erika Johnson of Auburn, WA; his son Aaron Johnson of Phelan, CA; his youngest daughter Alillia Johnson of Oakland, CA; and his "number five" Bryce Johnson of Phelan, CA. He is also survived by his father Jewel Johnson of Apple Valley, CA; his sister Luvenia Johnson-Ivy with her husband Dwight of Apple Valley, CA; and his sister Lucinda Grevious with her husband Jarvio of Sacramento, CA. He will be missed by a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends whom he claimed as his children, and his dear niece, Collette Beed. He also leaves two dear congregations in Baldy Mesa and Los Angeles, CA. He leaves his fervency for the Word of God to all who knew him.

Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 27, 2010, at Church of God Baldy Mesa. Officiating was minister Sis. Alicia Johnson of Baldy Mesa, his daughter. Pastor Paul Phillips, of Pacoima, CA, Master of Ceremonies along with many other pastors and ministers.

Interment was at 10:00 p.m. Thursday, December 2, 2010, at Desert View Memorial Park, Victorville, CA under the direction of High Desert Funeral Chapel.

Note of Thanks

We thank you for your love, prayer, care and sacrifice. To reach us, email pastorx2@hotmail.com or call (760) 261-2564 and leave a message.

—The Family of Pastor Travis Johnson

THEY CAME

Young and old, black and white,
Red and brown,
By two's, by three's, and four's
Mothers and fathers with their young

They came.
A multitude, yes
Many we've never seen before,
Inside, outside, and all around the door.

The workmen in their suits,
Melted hearts a plenty
The things they shared touching everyone
And yes, shed tears, a many.

The tabernacle was beautiful,
It was truly fit for a king
With cathedral window lighting
And the floor, a grassy green.

His precious wife had strength to tell
About one she loved so dearly;
Their love was beautifully entwined,
Their life, a true love story.

About her husband's dedication,
How he fasted and how he prayed
For those at home and those abroad
That people everywhere might be saved.

His children rose to their feet
In honor of their Dad;
To sing, to praise, and to tell
Of the wonderful love they all had.

So many good things we heard that day,
His own daughter gave the eulogy;
Her face was aglow, her words precise,
Her wisdom profound as could be.

Oh, it was a beautiful sight,
And yes, spirit filled;
You would have thought the angels came
Upon that holy hill.

Yes the ground was holy,
 Many felt it and wept;
 Because the name of Jesus
 An humble servant kept.

His name was Bro. Travis Johnson,
 Some called him "Rev" or Pastor;
 A pastor he was, wherever he went,
 Seeking lost sheep for his Master.

Let's suppose the chimes rang
 In Heaven up above;
 To witness a true soldier coming home
 To receive his great reward.

Oh the singing, weeping and rejoicing
 We had it all that day;
 It was really hard to leave the place
 But we had to come away.

Just think how grand it will be
 To meet again someday;
 In that sweet home beyond the blue,
 Where we'll forever stay.

Just to be at home with Jesus
 Our Savior, Lord, and King
 In our blessed eternal home above
 Where we'll let the praises ring.

No tears, no pain or sorrows,
 No more sad good-byes,
 And with loved ones gone before
 We'll meet beyond the skies.

With continual rejoicing,
 Singing, shouting forever more,
 We'll have a brand new body!
 On God's celestial shore.

Glory, glory, glory!
 Hallelujah to the Lamb!
 Glory, glory, Hallelujah!
 I'm so glad His child I am.

We say, "Thank you Bro. Travis,"
 You've blessed us in life and in death
 You did not fail one moment,
 You always did your best,

Until you were caught away,
 A mystery hid from us—
 To be revealed some blessed day
 When we lay down this robe of dust.

In loving memory of one of the greatest men
 who walked the face of this earth, one who lived
 the Gospel everyday! —The David Pierro family

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!

*"Yet the LORD will command his
 lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night
 his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto
 the God of my life." Psalm 42:8.*

Building Blocks of Faith

(Continued from page three.)

Sometimes it is easier to believe in God than to believe in ourselves, but there are abundant reasons why we should have faith in ourselves. If we know we are sincere, earnest and trying to do God's will, if we know our purposes are right purposes and our actions are based on such purposes, we have an excellent foundation for faith in ourselves. I do not mean faith in ourselves apart from God, but faith that God and we are partners, that God and we can accomplish what is necessary to accomplish. God does not want us to go through life like shrinking criminals. He wants us to walk out boldly on the highways of life, unafraid that He will fail us and unafraid that we shall fail. We need self-respect. We need to have confidence in ourselves, in the sincerity of our motives, in our just and right intentions.

Again, we should have faith in God's respect for us. It is not humility to call ourselves "worms of the dust." We are men and women. We are sons of God. We are somebody. We are worthy of God. Jesus said, "They shall walk with me in white for they are worthy." To be sure there is a standpoint from which we should consider ourselves unworthy and unprofitable. That is not an attitude of self-depreciation. It is only recognizing facts. Nevertheless that is only part of the truth. We have wonderful possibilities. We are wonderful beings. God counts us worthy to stand in His presence before His throne. There is therefore no need that we should go through life in sackcloth and ashes bewailing what we are. We should recognize that God respects us and esteems us. He would not have sacrificed His Son for us had this not been true.

We should have faith in our Christian experience. I have seen many downcast, doubting people. When I asked them what is the matter, some said, "I don't feel right." When I asked, "Why don't you feel right?" some answered, "I don't know, but I don't feel right."

Reader, you may have the same experience. Perhaps *you* don't feel right. Well, what of it? Your emotions are not the test of your spiritual state. Some people feel bad physically when there is very little wrong with them, perhaps nothing of any consequence. Others may feel all right when they are in the grasp of a deadly disease. Just so spiritually. You cannot tell by your emotions what is your relation with God. Your emotions were never intended to be evi-

dences of your spiritual standing. We must stand by faith, learn to exercise faith, learn to live by faith. Judge yourself righteously. Do not let your feelings master your faith. Make your faith master your feelings. As a general thing, when you believe right you will feel right, but very often faith is based on feelings instead of on realities. It does not matter so much how you feel. How *are* you? This is to be settled by your faith, quite apart from your feelings, and when you settle it, leave your feelings out of the question as evidence.

We should make a practice of building into our lives every day the building blocks of faith; not building blocks of doubts and fears, anxieties and worries. There are plenty of these building blocks of faith to be had. We shall have more to say upon this subject further on. In learning to build with these building blocks of faith, we learn the *Secret of the Singing Heart*, of a joyful, happy Christian experience, of certainty for the future and just as much certainty for the present.

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God Sent His Angel

By Sis. Lana Johnson

*In times of need God is faithful,
He is there to comfort our heart.
Sometimes He sends an angel
To us His peace to impart.*

*I was tired and carrying a load
When she came to me in the night.
She hovered above and before me,
And her garments were all pure and white.*

*In my dream I was crying and praying,
And to me she spoke not a word.
But she laid her hand on my shoulder,
And I knew that my needs God had heard.*

*Such peace she brought with her presence!
What a wonder she was to see!
And her hand brought comfort and strength
When God sent His angel to me.*

*He may not always send an angel,
But His Spirit is there just the same.
So take courage when burdens you're bearing,
He'll give you victory in Jesus' name.*

*(This angel had the face of Sis. Marie Miles,
and the poem is relating to a dream I had in 1999
when I was under a heavy load. It was inspired
by Daniel 6:22.)*

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