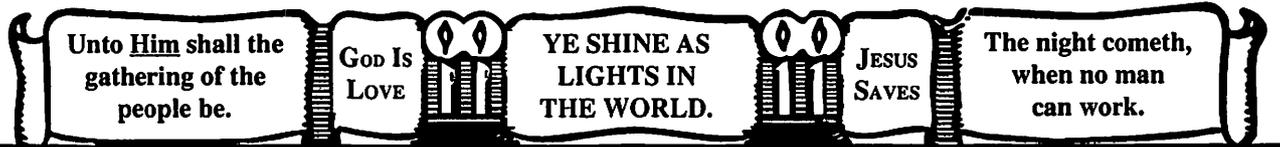


# FAITH AND VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



Volume 89, No. 2      89th Year      Guthrie, Oklahoma      \$5.00 Per Year      April, 2011

### “Y’all Be Good, Y’hear”

This command or phrase is colloquial and probably heard more in rural or southern settings. It is most generally used by a parent to children from whom they will be separated for a period of time. “I will” or “we will” is a typical response that a child or children will give. If the parent feels the need to be more emphatic it is usually done with the tone of voice, or a look, while using the same expression. This emphasis will result in a more serious response of “Yes ma’am,” or “Yes sir.” Their response is also conveyed by the tone of voice and expression on the face as well.

This setting brings familiar scenes to my mind and probably many others as well. We all know that “being good” is open to interpretation, if that discretion is left up to the child it most often will lead to disappointment on the part of the parent. This phrase can be very

effective if it is coupled with prior instruction or if the child or children in question have had training and experience with the parents expectations. Quite often when this setting is a disappointment for the parent, it is a result of poor planning or instruction on their part. I have personally been involved in this scene as a child and as a parent. The parent really doesn’t have much recourse when no instruction or expectations were given. Many times the child is corrected for perceived misbehavior, when in reality the parents only have themselves to blame. Children are immature adults and consequently the misbehavior that they become involved in is often out of ignorance or a lack of experience. I believe that it is a failure on the parent’s part to expect a child to “discover” what is acceptable behavior and what is not. This leads me to the realization that it is necessary to instruct children and make them aware of the dangers and consequences of their actions. It is also imperative that children are instructed in what is good and appropriate behavior, not just what they should not do. By and large, we would consider a parent that would not instruct their children unloving and failing their responsibility.

I would like to use the scenario to illustrate a burden that I have for the church. We are pressed on all sides with various forces that would destroy the church and the effect that it should have in the world in which we live. For the sake of clarity, I believe the church is composed of all whose names are in the Book of Life. Just as parents can be disappointed with

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the results of their children, spiritual overseers, pastors, teachers, etc. can be disappointed when those who depend on them for guidance appear clueless as to the application of holiness in the everyday life. This leads me to the realization and conclusion that if spiritual overseers do not give instruction, then we are failing also.

Natural children begin to be guided and instructed almost immediately. To tell a newborn child to "be good" is of no merit or value. As time accumulates, the instruction to "be good" means more and more to children. This growth is a result of what their parents and environments have taught them. Spiritual newborn children require guidance and instruction as well. It is completely unfair to expect spiritual babes to grasp everything entirely on their own. If we were to observe a small child pick up something hot and burn themselves and then hear the parent say, "I reckon that will teach you," instead of the parent teaching the child beforehand that there was potential danger, we would have a low opinion of that parent.

I Peter 2:1-2 says, "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby...." We all start life "naturally" and "spiritually" on milk. I personally have never lost a desire for milk "naturally," or "spiritually," however, there is so much more to life than just milk. A healthy spiritual person will have a sincere desire for more than just the knowledge and understanding of the basics of salvation. The whole concept of being able to be forgiven and be accepted as a child of God and being adopted a child of the King is really more than I can completely grasp. (Romans 8:15-17.) It is not because I don't believe that it is real, it is that the value of it overwhelms me.

My objective as a parent has been that my children will develop into capable productive citizens. My expectation is that they will become my peer, but never forget that I am their Father. Romans 8:17 says we are to be "joint-heirs with Christ." This scripture sounds like we are approaching the level of a peer. Paul instructed Timothy to rightly divide the word of truth. (II Timothy 2:15.) The scripture also says that we should be "...wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" Matthew 10:16. The enemy of our souls would like to create a perceived toxic environment for giving instruction beyond the fact that Jesus loves you. Without instructions on safe

operation, machinery can be very dangerous. Likewise, adequate instruction by spiritual leaders is necessary for mankind to avoid the pitfalls of satan. I Peter 5:8 tells us that the devil is "seeking whom he may devour." I believe it is a grave mistake to only instruct souls that "God so loved the world" John 3:16 and not equip them with the tools to live a successful life for God. In other words, to say "Y'all be good," and not be willing to expose the operation of satan is setting individuals up for spiritual disaster.

It troubles me when I am told or led to believe that some feel that teaching Christ does not include instruction in the application of Christ to situations and the times that we live in. When Biblical principles are used to expose the devices of satan, those principles are the same as instructing your child that fire makes things hot and hot things cause pain. There is great necessity on the part of the spiritual leader/adviser to have valid Biblical principles for teaching what is being taught. Spiritual instruction will only be effectual when it is coupled with biblical principles.

Notice what Jesus says in John 17:15-16, "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." When I read this prayer that Christ prayed in the 17th chapter of John, it is very obvious that Christ was very concerned about the influence that the elements in this world would and could have on His disciples and future Christians. "The world" is a broad term, just like "being good." It is very obvious to me that Christ intended for His followers to not be conformed to the world around them. To meet Christ's expectations in the present time that we live in, we must be willing to recognize that He has great concerns about "the world" that we live in today. The world around us promotes multitudes of evils and distractions for the Christian. James states that on top of meeting the needs of the widows and fatherless, we should keep ourselves "unspotted from the world" (James 1:27.) When the "spots" and "evils" of the world are ignored and not addressed through teaching Biblical principles, Christians are setting themselves up for disappointment and regret. These "things" can be tangible and/or intangible. "Things" can run the gamut from agnostic philosophy to narcotics and yes, it includes our dress and satan's media and visual entertainments. When the

world of Christ's and the apostles' days are boiled down to its core ingredients, I am quite sure that it was very similar to the core ingredients of the world that we live in today. The elements of society that prompted Christ to use the word *world* are the same elements that will destroy our relationship with God in the day in which we live. So when an endeavor is made to give instruction about the dangers and pitfalls

of a bypath, please don't throw it out of the window. When it is given in love and is substantiated by scriptural principle, we may have to chew on it a little more than just swallowing milk, but the spiritual strength to "endure hardness as a good soldier" (II Timothy 2:3,) is worth it. In the end, we will have a little better understanding of how to "be good."

Your brother in Christ,

—Daniel Adams



## Does God Care What I Wear?

By Sis. Rosie Gellenbeck

Isn't it my heart that matters? Isn't He a spirit and we worship Him in spirit? So why should it matter what I wear?

In Matthew 6:25-33, Jesus tells us that our heavenly Father cares about every detail of our lives. Here Jesus puts our need for clothes and our need for food on the same level. What shall we eat, drink and wear. What to wear, is a decision that we daily face; something we must resolve before we can meet the important things of the day.

While food and raiment are considered to be our greatest basic physical need, yet He essentially said "don't be anxious, trust me for these areas of your life." Look at the lilies, our heavenly Father clothes them. Then can't He clothe us also? Aren't we of more value than they? Let's not be afraid to let Him design our clothes for us.

Jesus said, "(After all these things do the Gentiles seek:) (*spend their time, energy and money on*) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." We have a deeper calling and a purpose greater than that of the Gentiles—the world around us. God wants us to discover the treasures of His kingdom and His righteousness, and then all these things will be given to us. God will help our lives to have a simple order, so we can apply ourselves to His kingdom. It is not expedient for us to waste our time and energy for the approval of the world. They are headed a different direction in life. Seek God's approval and allow His righteousness to apply in every area of your life.

Do we love God? Yes, of course we do. Notice how David expressed his love for God by loving what God loved. God would be pleased for us to know Him and love His ways as David did. In Psalm 119 David mentioned many times how he

loved God's ways, His precepts and His judgments. When God called David to be king, He identified him as a man after His own heart.

"Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool; *for he is holy.*" Psalms 99:5. God is Holy, so if we love the Lord, we must love holiness. When we accept the Lord, we put off the old man "which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts." And are "...renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on (or be clothed with) the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Ephesians 4:23-24. The "old man" will serve sensuality, which is the opposite of holiness: the "new man" will serve God and love holiness.

There is much contempt against holiness, because the prince of this world has always hated holiness. He will try in many sly ways to sow seeds of contempt for holiness in our hearts. We must guard our hearts and yield to the Spirit and not the flesh. Let us be true examples of holiness, that His name not be evil spoken of. We can't take away the contempt of the world, but we can shine as a true light in the world.

God's people in Old Testament times were always to be kept separate from the people around them because their neighboring countries were idol worshippers. In the worship of Moloch, babies were burned in the arms of this idol, and sensual practices were a part of their religious observances. Idolatry tends to sensuality and God set up strict laws to keep His people separate from those heathen practices, and those laws included dress. Today the idol seems to be sensuality itself. Even mothers and fathers are parading their daughters around to see who can be the most sensual. Then their daughters sacrifice their offspring through abortion to this god

(Continued on page nine.)

## 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.

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

A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

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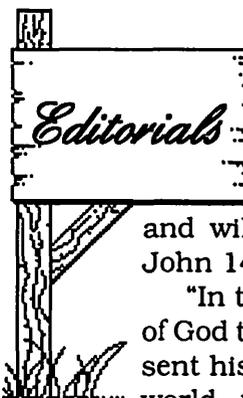
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"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."

John 14:21.

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him." I John 4:9.

From a child we have been taught the verse, "...God is love." I John 4:8; 4:16. We know this is true, and there have been many events in our lives that have served to plant this truth deeply into our hearts. God's love is shown in the intricately woven fabric of His creation. The sun, moon, stars and earth all declare God's love for man. Consider what unfavorable climatic conditions would result if the earth were a little closer to the sun or if it were farther away from it. Even the solar storms and eruptions on the sun have an affect on our weather and a change in distance of a small percentage would likely make this planet uninhabitable. It is the hand of God that keeps these things in control. God's love for man is so great that He holds the forces of nature in a delicate balance to keep them from utterly destroying man.

God's love is so great that we could never enumerate the many ways it is manifested, but let us briefly consider three ways we see and experience His love—in His protection, provision and propitiation. The Scriptures are filled with examples of these manifestations of God's love to men and women of old. Consider in your mind the blessings that were given to Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Daniel and David, to just name a very few. Indeed the list could go on and on for God has shown His love to every human being and especially to His children.

The protection of the Lord should never be taken for granted by mankind. It is because of His mercy that we live today. Probably all of us could think of instances of peril that have come close to us where we could have easily perished in a swift moment of time. However the angel of the Lord protected us from sudden destruction and has allowed us to live to see the beauty and glory of another day. Psalm 34:7 says, "The

angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." What a blessed consolation this is, to know that God has given His angels charge concerning His people, as Psalm 91:11 says, "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." The Jewish people understood that the Lord gave each person an angel to minister to their needs. Even Jesus seemed to allude to this in Matthew 18:10 when He said, "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." From this we would understand that our protection issues directly from the will of our Heavenly Father and we should give Him thanks for this manifestation of His love.

There is a story of a man who was closing a gate during the rapid approach of a thunderstorm. He was threading the chain around the post to secure it as the large drops of rain began to fall. Suddenly a gnat flew into his eye and caused him to drop the chain and step back to rub the stinging pest from his eye. At that instant, a large flash of lightning struck the fence and caused it to be illuminated by the coronal discharge of the high voltage. As the peal of the accompanying thunder rumbled away, he realized what a blessing had been granted to him—Life suddenly seemed so sweet and precious, and oh so fragile.

God is so worthy of our praise! Our lives are in His hands and the protection and safety we enjoy come directly from Him and are a token of His great love. His love gives us protection, shelter and refuge from the storms of life and delivers us from the hand of our enemies. God's people are surrounded by walls and bulwarks and He will aggressively defend those who trust in Him. "...When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him." Isaiah 59:19.

The provision of the Lord for His people ranges from ways that seem so natural that one has to have a thankful heart to even give credit to the Lord, to employing methods so mysterious that even the unbelieving scorner recognizes the hand of God. God's love for us is so great and our needs are so many that we should continually live in awe and praise of His goodness.

Psalm 84:11 tells us, "For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good *thing* will he withhold from them

that walk uprightly." This verse of promise covers a lot of territory regarding the needs of His people. It would encompass the simplest physical need to the most complex spiritual dilemma. From the multitude of examples in the Bible consider the provision God made for Elijah when the land of Israel was stricken with drought because of the idolatry of the people. "And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And it shall be, *that* thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there. So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook." I Kings 17:2-6. This provision for Elijah is quite clearly a miracle of God. One could possibly conceive of a raven dropping some meat that it was feeding on, but to do it morning and evening, day after day is another story. Then there is another factor to consider: the raven also brought bread. Now, in a time of famine when people were at the point of starvation, where did the bread come from? That can only be left to speculation, it is one of the mysteries of God's provision for His servant.

Often, to receive the provision from the Lord requires faith and obedience to His Word as it was with the widow of Zarephath that the Lord sent Elijah to when the brook dried up. This woman of faith was gathering sticks to prepare the last of her meal into a small cake for her son and herself to eat before they perished from the famine. When Elijah came and asked her for some water and for a cake to eat she told him of her predicament. Elijah told her to go and do as she planned but to make him a little cake first, for the Lord said that neither the barrel of meal nor the cruse of oil would fail until the Lord sent rain upon the earth. This woman obeyed the Lord and provision was made for her for many days.

In 1881, Captain Neil Curry, accompanied by his wife and two children, set sail from England to San Francisco. On their voyage around the continents and over the Pacific they had a terrible fire break out on the ship while they were about 1500 miles west of the coast of Mexico. In those days when the ships were

made predominately of wood, a fire was a disastrous event. The captain, his family and 32 crew members were able to crowd into three small lifeboats before the ship went down. While it was a blessing for them to have survived the fire and to be on the small lifeboats, there was a serious shortage of supplies with them. Most importantly, fresh water. People can live several days without food, but fresh water is essential for survival for an extended time and their water was gone and they were still many miles from land. Drinking significant amounts of salt water in a situation like this is deadly and the experienced crew members knew this. While the occupants of the three small boats were nearly famished from lack of water—seven of the crew were already unconscious—the Captain noticed something unusual. The water was green instead of blue. Acting on inspiration he had from a dream, the captain had the water sampled and found that it was fresh water. Fresh water in the middle of a salt-water ocean, how could this be? They joyously stocked up their small boats with the fresh water and being greatly revived, rowed on until they reached the safety of land. How this occurred, only the Lord knows. It was a special God-sent blessing to those distressed mortals struggling to survive on a vast ocean and is a confirmation of Philippians 4:19 which says, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

We may sometimes seem to be struggling in a difficult ocean of problems, but we know where our help will come from and we will continually seek His merciful hand for our provision. Always remember that our provision is a manifestation of God's love.

Man, a physical and spiritual being, was lured by satan into sin. God, being totally righteous and just cannot tolerate sin. This has put man in a serious predicament since Adam and Eve spoiled the beauty and holiness of God's creation and plunged the human race into the condemnation of death. Man's pure relationship with his holy Creator was destroyed. Thus, we begin to understand the need for a propitiation for our sins. Man was in a helpless condition and could not undo the wrong he had done. He was trapped by satan.

When the Ark of the Covenant was made, God gave Moses specific instructions for its design. Those instructions in Exodus 25 called for a Mercy Seat to be covered with gold and

placed on the Ark between the two cherubim. This significant place was where the glory and presence of God dwelt. The English translation of the Septuagint calls this Mercy Seat a *propitiatory*. The Ark had a propitiatory covering in the presence of God. What a blessing to mankind this was! By following the ordinances given to the children of Israel, their sins could be forgiven when brought to the propitiatory covering of the Ark with the blood of a sacrificed animal. Year after year the sins of the people would be brought by the high priest to the Mercy Seat to be forgiven.

These ordinances were only a shadow of the wonderful blessing of love given to man through the holy, pure sacrifice of God's only begotten Son, Jesus. I John 4:10 says, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." Christ offers to all mankind the unique blessing of having their sins forgiven. Of all the acts of love that God has manifested toward man, this is the most awesome. To have your sins truly forgiven allows the relationship with God to be resumed and opens the door for the precious Holy Spirit to be invited to dwell within the heart of man. While the price He paid was so great, He did it willingly because He loved you and me, and all mankind so dearly.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave..." Oh, God's love is so great that it continues to give and give. Those who have placed their trust in Him are truly blessed and will one day be able to inhabit the glorious place that Jesus has gone to prepare for His faithful followers.

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



OK—Remember Sis. Evodna Marler in prayer. Recently she suffered a stroke on her left side and while still recovering from it she fell and broke her hip.

Canada—Please pray for fourteen-year-old Meghan who has cancerous tumors on the brain. The doctors have given up on her condition and she is having seizures and has difficulty communicating. — Bro. Wilfred Froese

OK—Continue to hold up Sis. Imogene Taylor in prayer. Her body is weakening as the cancer becomes more invasive.

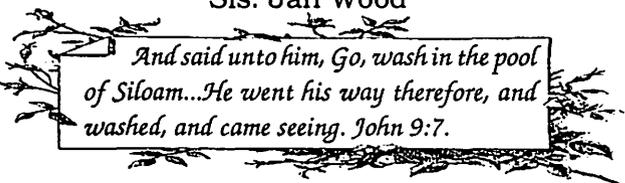
OK—Please continue to pray for Bro. T.V. McMillian, he is very frail in body but strong in spirit.

TX—Bro. Elbert Johnson is asking the Saints to remember him in prayer, he is seeking the Lord for spiritual help.



## Standing Prayer Requests

- Sis. Agnes Burluson
- Bro. Gary Burluson
- Sis. Gladys Cashio
- Sis. Helen Carson
- Sis. Genevieve Carver
- Sis. Elizabeth Corteway
- Sis. Waneta Creel
- Bro. Terry Dawson Sr.
- Bro. Mancil Doolittle
- 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
- Bro. David Runion
- 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



## MEETING DATES

- Los Angeles, CA (Spring Revival)—May 13-15
- Vanceburg, KY (Spring Meeting)—May 13-15
- Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—May 27-June 5
- Holly Hill, SC (Camp Meeting)—June 5-12
- Green Bank, WV (Camp Meeting)—June 10-16
- Jefferson, OR (Camp Meeting)—June 18-26
- Sisters' Retreat (Guthrie, OK.)—June 24-25
- Fresno, CA (Camp Meeting)—June 26-July 3
- General Southern (Loranger, LA)—

June 26-July 3

- Sisters' Retreat (Bakersfield, CA)—July 8-9
- National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 15-24
- Myrtle, MO (Camp Meeting)—July 29-Aug. 2
- Pacoima, CA (Camp Meeting)—August 19-28



## MEETING NOTICES

### LOS ANGELES, CA, SPRING REVIVAL

Come and see that the Lord God is good. The Los Angeles congregation at Naomi and Walnut St. invite you to our Spring Revival. As it pleases God we will open our doors May 13-15. Friday worship 7:00 p.m.; Saturday Worship 11 a.m., Youth Focus 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and Worship 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Worship 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Church of God, 1381 Walnut St., Los Angeles, CA 90011. Chapel phone: (213) 742-0123.

In His Service, —Pastor A. P. Johnson  
(760) 868-9492  
pastorx2@hotmail.com



### VANCEBURG, KY, SPRING MEETING

The Spring Meeting for the Church of God at Vanceburg, KY will be held, Lord willing, May 13-15 at the Ruggles Campground, Tollesboro, KY. This facility offers RV Hook-ups, family units and dorms.

For further information contact Bro. Dallas Cooper at (606) 796-3645, (606) 202-1366 cell or Bro. Matt Howard at (606) 796-6729.



### OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING

The annual Oklahoma State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held May 27-June 5, at the campground in Guthrie, OK. The first service will be on Friday evening, May 27, at 7:30, with three services daily thereafter.

An invitation to attend is extended to every-

one. Your presence and your prayers will be appreciated. Three meals per day will be provided and every effort will be made to provide lodging for those who come from out of town or country.

We have a ladies dormitory, and sleeping accommodations are also available in the Sunday school rooms. The Lord has provided us with a separate family unit with twelve private motel style rooms. To the extent possible, these rooms will be reserved for families. Please let us know ASAP if you desire one of the family units and the number of nights you plan to stay. We also request you bring the necessary linens and bath items.

Expenses for the meeting will be met by freewill offering. If you would like to make a contribution, you may do so by sending it directly to the State Treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, 807 W. Lake Rd., Guthrie, OK 73044.

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

#### **HOLLY HILL, SC, CAMP MEETING**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all to attend the Holly Hill, SC Camp Meeting which will be held from Sunday, June 5- Sunday, June 12, 2011. On Sunday, June 5, there will be two services, at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. On Monday, June 6 through Saturday, June 11, 2011, there will be two services daily, at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. On Sunday, June 12, there will be one service at 10:00 a.m. On Monday through Saturday, we will also plan to have an early morning prayer service at 8:00 a.m. each day. Meals will be served, and there is a limited amount of accommodations available on the grounds on a first-come, first-served basis.

There are several motels located in Santee, which is about 10 miles from the chapel. If you would like to stay on the grounds or if you wish to obtain more information on local motels, please call Sis. Beverly Pratt at 803-496-3057 or Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Smith at 803-492-7975. If you cannot attend our meeting, please be in prayer for us that God will meet with us and pour out His Spirit on each service.

In Jesus' Love,

—Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Smith and the Holly Hill, SC Congregation

#### **GREEN BANK, WV, CAMP MEETING**

The Green Bank, West Virginia Camp Meeting will begin Friday evening, June 10, 2011, with morning and evening services through Thursday, June 16. The camp meeting will be held at the Church of God Chapel located on Rts. 28/92 in Green Bank. Meals will be provided. Accommodations will be provided in our homes.

For more information contact Bro. Keith Beverage at (304) 456-4410 or Bro. Mike Carpenter at (304) 456-3250. Everyone is welcome.

#### **JEFFERSON, OR, CAMP MEETING**

Lord willing, the Jefferson, OR Camp Meeting will be held the third week of June. The meeting will start Saturday night, June 18th, and run through Sunday morning, June 26th, with morning and night services during the week and an afternoon service on the last Saturday. We do have RV hookups and other sleeping accommodations.

For more information you can contact Bro. Cliff Smith at (503) 581-4575. We do thank each of you who has supported the Camp Meeting either in presence or prayer. Please, remember us in prayer

#### **SISTERS' RETREAT 2011**

The Sisters' Retreat 2011 will convene, Lord willing, June 24-25 at the Church of God, Guthrie, Oklahoma congregation. There will be two days starting at 9:00 a.m. All meals are provided. The theme for this year is: Part I, "Her Name Is?" Part II will be, "Lord, Prepare Me To Be A Sanctuary."

The retreat will be supported by freewill offering sent to this address: King's Daughter, P.O. Box 567, Okmulgee, OK 74447-0567. Make check payable to Church of God—King's Daughter. Accommodations will be provided on the campground. For further information please contact Sis. Mary McDonald (918) 758-0222, Cell (918) 752-4205. For directions and accommodations contact Sis. Dena Porter (405) 227-0937.

#### **FRESNO, CA, CAMP MEETING**

The Saints at Fresno extend a cordial invitation for all to attend our Camp Meeting that will be held, Lord willing, June 26 - July 3, 2011. 6/26—Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School,

10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Worship Services,

6/27 - 7/2—Mon. - Sat. Worship Services 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

7/3—Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., & 2:00 p.m. Worship Services.

For more information you may contact:  
Sis. Gwendolyn Robinson at 559-233-6492.  
Sis. Dorothy Gray at 559-229-6395.  
Bro. Brian and Sis. Sheri Rich at 559-246-0604.

Please continue to pray that the Lord will bless in these meetings. —Sis. Stephanie Pree

### GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMP MEETING

Lord willing, the General Southern Camp Meeting at Loranger, Louisiana will begin Sunday, June 26, with morning and evening services daily through Sunday, July 3. If you can join us, come praying for a blessing.

There are separate dormitories available for the brothers and sisters. Electrical and water hook ups are available for those with campers. Meals are provided and expenses met by freewill offerings.

From Loranger, go two miles south and about three and one-half miles east on Hwy. 40.

For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about 10 miles east of the Tickfaw exit. (At the exit, take Hwy. 442 which runs into Hwy. 40.) For more information, contact Bro. Carlos Doolittle at (985) 878-8122. The chapel phone is (985) 878-2788. Please do support this meeting with your prayers.



### LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

KS—Dear Bro. Willie, Praises unto our God for the perfect plan of salvation. I am so glad to be saved and in the Ark of safety. The world is like a jungle out there and as one old song says: "If it wasn't for the Lord, tell me what would I do?"

Being free from the devil's clutches is wonderful. I am still enjoying my journey to Heaven and I love this narrow way. Hallelujah!

—Sis. Shirley Knight

## Does God Care What I Wear?

(Continued from page three.)

of sensuality. God, the only God, is righteous and holy and He is not pleased with these evil practices. He created holy matrimony to provide a safe environment for children to be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Let us honor His ways. It will keep us separate from the sensual activities of the world around us.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*" Romans 12:1. It is God's plan for our bodies to be given to Him as a sacred temple in which the Holy Spirit will dwell. Therefore we should let His presence glorify these mortal bodies. Giving ourselves to God brings great peace and tranquility to our souls, relieving us from the pressures put on us by the world to look a certain way. Our greatest concern is that our lives are acceptable to God.

He has chosen us to be His ambassadors. We are in His royal service; clothe yourselves therefore as God's own chosen ones. "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;" Colossians 3:12.

When one is sent to be an ambassador of a certain country, they would dress in a way to represent that country and honor the leader that sent them. They would not be advertising for anyone else. Let us honor the One Who gave His life for us. "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." I Corinthians 6:20.

Christ has, "...made us kings and priests unto God and His Father..." Revelation 1:6. The Levitical priests were given the awesome responsibility of teaching the Word of God to the people. They wore the special clothes God designed for them to distinguish them as God's priests. We are His priests today and He calls us to share God's Word with those around us. Ask Him what clothing design He wants you to wear. He is the Master Designer.

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?* For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." I Corinthians 6:19-20. God was very specific about how the temple and tabernacle were built. The measurements and the colors, the

type of wood and every detail was designed by God. Moses wrote every detail down as God told him. It is recorded in Exodus chapters 25 through 27. God said build it according to the pattern. The temple that Solomon built, but God designed, went together so perfectly, that there was no need for a hammer to force it into place. God wants us to be so surrendered to His will, that He can present His temple to the world around us. "...I purpose to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God..." I Kings 5:5. The people around us can't see our heart, they only see the outward appearance, so let them see a Godly temple.

Paul likened the Christian to a soldier of Jesus Christ. Soldiers are not their own boss, but are united under a commander to conquer the enemy. The enemy is destroying lives, marriages and families. One of the tools he uses is skimpy or tight clothing. But our appearance can be used as a weapon of righteousness. Don't try to hide whose side you are on. The devil has his people dress in all kind of devilish ways. Let us shine for holiness and not be afraid.

God wants ambassadors, priests, soldiers and temples to use to His glory. Are you a willing vessel? All of these positions do not have the freedom to dress as they please. They must be subject to a higher authority. Dressing like a soldier is one of the least requirements of becoming a soldier. It is such an integral part of being a soldier, you wouldn't even think of changing it. Now, dressing up like a soldier doesn't make you a soldier, neither does dressing modestly make you a true follower of Christ. True holiness must be on the inside and that beautiful change will show on the outside. Be encouraged to let God's holiness shine through your character and appearance.



## Footprints in Canaan

By Bro. Carlos Doolittle

"What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?" Romans 8:31. I suppose the answer is that no one can work against us, because the Lord turns even that which seems to harm us into everlasting joy. Even death is ultimate victory. The challenge is for us to stay on the LORD's side, so that "God be for us."

I was blessed and challenged recently remembering what the Lord said to Joshua when He met him by Jericho. It must have been the

Lord Himself...the Word...Jesus, for no mere angel would have received worship from Joshua. (Joshua 5:13-15) Joshua asked, "Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?" The Lord replied, "Nay (neither), but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come."

He placed the burden on Joshua and the Israelites to be on **His** side. "If God be for us" depends on whether the Lord's battles are our battles. The Lord's answer to Joshua is beautiful against the backdrop of glorious victory at Jericho. It takes on a new meaning entirely in the light of their initial defeat in the very next campaign against the little city of Ai. "If God be for us" is conditional upon our being willing and obedient.

Another beautiful facet of this story is how God moved Joshua from "on the defensive" to complete submission. It was a prerequisite to victory at Jericho. The scripture says, "...he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went unto him..." I would imagine that Joshua at least had his hand clamped around the hilt of his own sword as he interrogated the stranger...ready to draw it momentarily.

The Lord's response sent Joshua to his knees instead. "Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my Lord unto his servant?"

"Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy."

"And Joshua did so." This command must have had a familiar ring to it. Joshua knew of the similar command given to his mentor Moses at the burning bush, a decidedly sacred moment in Moses' life. Was it because their shoes were dirty? Or was it an act of submission before God? I imagine that sandals are a basic safeguard in an arid wilderness. They were important enough that, during their forty-year trek through the desert, God somehow preserved their shoes from wearing out. (Deuteronomy 29:5.)

But, there seems to be an even nearer resonance in the Lord's command to Joshua. It might have reminded Joshua of the conditions to a dear promise he had recently *received* from the Lord.

You see, they were now in Canaan—the promised land. They had just renewed the contract of circumcision as the first item of business after crossing the Jordan River (Joshua 5:2-9.) The Lord had required it. What a symbol

of mankind submitting to the commandments of God regarding the most intimate and vulnerable aspects of who we are! (For us, it is the circumcision of the heart.—Romans 2:29.) Also, the manna had *ceased*. (Joshua 5: 12.) They had already begun to partake of the good of the land.

The land God had given them to possess now stretched out before them, and the Lord's promise to Joshua had been "Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you..." (Joshua 1:3.) When I read that promise, my mind sees the soles of their sandals pressing the rugged terrain of Palestine, but the Word says "the sole of your **foot**." Here at Jericho, Joshua bowed in sacred submission before the Promise—the Word (the One Who would later be made flesh and dwell among us). His next steps literally fulfilled the conditions of the promise he had received. The soles of his bare feet were exposed in that place—made sacred by the Word of God.

In my pursuit of God, in the sacred covenant of being owned—possessed, by His Spirit (the polar opposite of what Legion experienced before meeting Jesus), I expect that He will also call me from my natural defenses into complete submission before Him. As I, today, look into the sacred Word, I must loose off the life-long protections I have bound about my "understanding." Neither fight nor flight then remains as options before Him.



**Hassie Bernice Gentry Palmer** was born, July 9, 1931, in Greenville, MO. She passed away April 20, 2011 in Hammond, LA. She was the daughter of Arthur and Dollie Gentry (Sorrell) who preceded her in death, as well as her husband, Kenneth Dwayne Palmer, one brother, Von Deloy Gentry, and a sister Cassie Gentry. She is survived by one son, Ferlin Palmer and his wife Kathy of Loranger, LA, her grandchildren, Terrell Palmer, of Loranger, Derek Palmer and his wife Sabrina, Bryan Palmer and his wife Jennifer and their son Jackson all of Husser, LA. She is also survived by a sister, Eula Adams Shirrell and her husband John, of Neosho, MO, two brothers, Troy Gentry and his wife Chris-

tine, of Loranger, LA and Ed Gentry, and his wife Donna of Sapulpa, OK.

Hassie's greatest love, after the Lord, was for children and for her family. She enjoyed, so much, taking family photos and videos, items that she treasured. She would often go beyond to play with her boys (grandsons). She was very animated with children and easily held their attention. She would bake pan cookies, make home made play dough, build tents out of sheets, blankets and chairs, all to entertain her boys. She would be up for about anything the boys wanted to do. She would often say "I love boys. Boys are easier to take care of. Of course, I never had any girls.... I love boys." She certainly proved that to her own. Hassie was the director of a church daycare in Bossier City, LA before moving to Loranger, LA to be closer to her family. All who knew her will sadly miss her.

Hassie's services were conducted in the Oak Grove Church of God chapel, with burial in the Oak Grove Church of God Cemetery.

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*Bitter is Sweet**Proverbs 27:7**Hebrews 12: 6-11**Sis. Lana Johnson*

*Has the Lord's hand been heavy upon you?  
 Are there hard things in life you must meet?  
 Sometimes the Lord's dealings taste bitter,  
 But the fruit that comes forth is so sweet!*

*Chastisements, reproofs and corrections  
 Can be a bitter pill to the flesh.  
 But these things that seem so unsavory  
 Are being used our soul to refresh.*

*He chastens us because He loves us;  
 He knows, but for corrections, we would  
 Not be partakers of His holiness,  
 So these things really work for our good!*

*Don't feel unloved and discouraged  
 When you're being exercised thereby.*

*It's working peaceable fruits of righteousness,  
 And to God your soul drawing nigh.*

*We're told in His Word, to the hungry soul  
 Every bitter thing is sweet.  
 Oh, help us, Lord, when You're dealing thus  
 Your chastisements to joyfully greet!*

*This is the way He shows us our needs,  
 As we live in this world here below.  
 He's dealing with us as Father to son,  
 That more like Him we may grow.*

*So let's not despise the chastening of God,  
 But humble ourselves at His feet.  
 Remember He's working all things for our good,  
 Then, what seems to be bitter is sweet!*