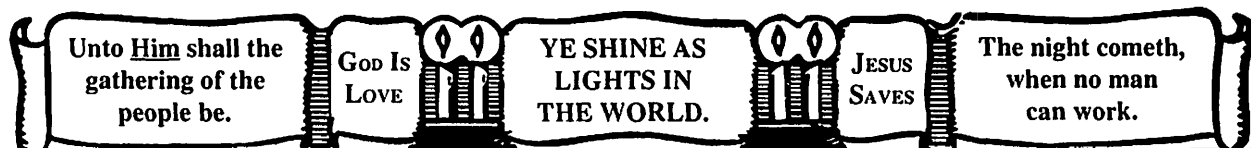


# FAITH AND VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



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## The Truth About Sin

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." Proverbs 14:34.

The general thought in our world today seems to be that God is just winking at sin as if it is a childish joke. That He is a loving, understanding God, Who knows our human weakness and turns His back while we sin, and after the sinful actions He again smiles on us, His dear sweet children. What does the Bible say about God's attitude toward sin? Does He wink at sin?

The Bible gives us truth, God's truth. The lie of satan is that people can bring more happiness and meaning into their lives by breaking God's moral laws. That thought is a breeding ground for sin. God's truth is that sin brings suffering and death. "The wages of sin is

death..." Romans 6:23. Eve thought she would be happier being like God knowing good and evil. (Genesis 3:5-6.) However, the truth is that Eve was less happy and suffered greatly for transgressing God's law.

What is sin? Sin is an action or thought. It could be many different actions. The most common definitions, is probably, *an offense; especially one against God's law*. Sin is the opposite of God's righteousness. It is a violation of the righteous nature of God, whose nature is holiness, for God is holy. (Leviticus 11:45.) I John 3:4 says it plainly, "...Sin is the transgression of the Law." In this place and most other places in the Bible, "the law" is referring to God's moral law. The Law of Moses and the New Testament contain the moral laws of God although each sin isn't named. Each sin is a deviation from God's righteousness.

Why have all men sinned? The Bible has little to say about the origin of sin, however the Bible confirms that Adam and Eve introduced sin into human history. "...By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" Romans 5:12. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23. "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." I John 1:10. From these scriptures, we learn that everyone above the age of accountability has sinned by deviating from God's righteous-

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Although the curse of sin passed on to all humans, (Ephesians 2:3) God gives people a choice to obey His laws or not to obey. Joshua said to the people, "...Choose you this day whom ye will serve...." Joshua 24:15. Moses said, "I call heaven and earth to record **this day** against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." James 1:13-15, reads, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempted he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." Every person can choose to control his personal lusts and refuse evil, or choose to indulge in his sinful desires and thereby transgress God's moral laws. God did not create helpless men and women who cannot resist evil. A person sins when he or she chooses to do something that is in defiance of God's moral laws. Job kept himself pure. He said, "All the while my breath *is* in me, and the Spirit of God *is* in my nostrils; My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit....My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach *me* so long as I live." Job 27:3-6. Job chose to control himself and not do those things that would cause his heart to reprove him. Every person can choose, as Job, to do those things that are pleasing in the sight of God.

Then if every person has a choice to sin or not to sin, is each person responsible for his sin? God said, "Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die....The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him." Ezra 8:4, 20. "...The fathers shall not die for the children, neither shall the children die for the fathers, but every man shall die for his own sin." II Chronicles 25:4. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive [his reward for] the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad." II Corinthians 5:10. "And I saw the dead, small

and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, [the books of the Bible] according to their works." Revelation 20:12. God's truth is that everyone has a choice and is responsible for the choice he or she makes in accordance to their ability.

Everyone will suffer consequences for committed sin. Each is accountable for their actions, the un-christian and the Christian. To the Christian, God says, "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:" Colossians 3:8-10. "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. To the un-christian, he says, "(For not the hearers of the law *are* just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. For when the Gentiles [un-christian]...do by nature the things contained in the law, these....are a law unto themselves: Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts...accusing or else excusing....)" Romans 2:13-15. To the young and innocent God says; "(For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.)" Romans 5:13.

According to these Bible scriptures, God's nature is holy. Sin is actions and thoughts that are a violation of God's holy nature. Every person is under the curse of sin but can choose to be free from this curse. All suffer the consequences of sinful actions, because they are responsible for their choices. God does not wink at sin.

## —◆◆◆— Thanksgiving

If you have something you are especially thankful for, some special outpouring of mercy or protection from God; a healing, or a unique, or common, experience that God blessed you in, then please take a few moments to write it down and share your testimony of God's great goodness with others. See our mailing address on page four. Thank you!

—Bro Willie E. Murphey  
wemurphey@yahoo.com

# A Letter From the Enemy

By Sis. Anita Adams

The Lord opened up to me a passage of scripture in a devotional that I would like to share.

In II Kings 19:9-36 Sennacherib sent Hezekiah a letter telling him to "...Let not thy God in whom thou trustest deceive thee...Behold, thou hast heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands, by destroying them utterly: and shalt thou be delivered? Have the gods of the nations delivered them which my fathers have destroyed?..." In verse 14 we find how Hezekiah responded to the letter. "And Hezekiah received the letter of the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up into the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest *between* the cherubims, thou art the God, *even* thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth. LORD, bow down thine ear, and hear: open, LORD, thine eyes, and see: and hear the words of Sennacherib,...Of a truth, LORD, the kings of Assyria have destroyed the nations and their lands, And have cast their gods into the fire: for they *were* no gods,..." "And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they *were* all dead corpses. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed...."

After reading this I thought about how the devil still sends his letters today. It might come telling you that your finances are gone and how on earth are you going to be able to make your house payment? You know there are several people that have been foreclosed on and you are next. Or it might be telling you that everybody who has had your sickness has died—remember Bro. or Sis. So and So? Maybe it will tell you that there is not hope for the broken marriage or broken relationship with your children, etc. Perhaps it is just a letter telling you how **hopeless** you are and what a failure you have been.

At any rate the way to get help is to follow Hezekiah's steps—when he read the letter he went to the house of the Lord. In mentioning this to my sons one of them said, "But we don't have to go to church. The scripture in I Corinthians 3:16 states 'Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?'" Our song in ELS #99 states "Not in the temples made with hands, Tho' beautiful by art; But God in mercy condescends To dwell within my Heart. Oh, glory to Jesus...." How wonderful to know that we can go to the House of the Lord wherever and whenever we receive our letter from satan.

The next step is to see God high and lifted up. If you notice Hezekiah pointed out that God was the only true God and all the other gods were made with men's hands. Many times the devil gets our eyes on the gods of this world and how they can help us. Instead we need to realize that our help comes from the One and Only God, the One Who made Heaven and Earth.

Then we need to humbly plead for His help and mercy. Hezekiah didn't say I am so powerful and now bless me as I smite this heathen. He just asked the Lord to hear and see what Sennacherib was saying and doing and to save thou us out of his hands. He didn't even ask for his people to look powerful but rather "...that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou *art* the LORD God, *even* thou only." Verse 19

The Lord heard and delivered with a mighty hand. In verses 32 and 33 He told Hezekiah that the king of Assyria "...He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD." Then in verse 35 the angel of the Lord was sent and destroyed 185,000 soldiers of the army.

Do you have a mighty army coming up against you and sending you letters of discouragement? Go to the house of the Lord; see God as the only answer; and then humbly entreat Him for His mercy and grace. The same God that heard Hezekiah's prayer will hear yours and deliver you from that hand of satan.

## FAITH AND VICTORY 12 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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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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Single copy, one year ..... \$5.00  
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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.

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.

In order to comply with Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

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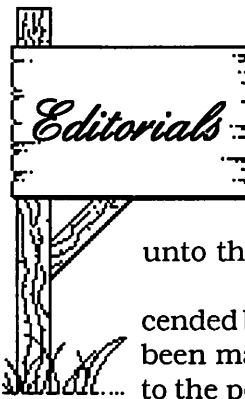
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"Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage." Matthew 22:4.

Since the time Jesus ascended back into Heaven, there have been many who carried the Gospel to the people—inviting them to be a part of the kingdom of God. Many messengers of the Lord have devoted their lives to sharing this glorious message of salvation. While there have been those who responded to their call, others have paid them little heed and continued with their own affairs. As time passes, so do generations of people. Today we have another generation of people that need to hear the call of God and prepare themselves for the marriage supper of the Lamb. For this reason, God is again sending forth His servants to bid folks to come and partake of His salvation.

We know that wickedness is abounding all around us and we wonder how long the Lord will tarry His coming before He brings judgment on this world. But He has tarried, and He is expecting His messengers to continue to carry the invitation to the lost. We can see the effects of the enemy diligently working to destroy the fundamental principles of Christianity in our country and in the world. This should be a clue to all that time is short and what we intend to do for the Lord needs to be done quickly. God is calling for His people to stir themselves, to be filled with the Holy Spirit and share this invitation by word and action to those around them.

Jesus told His disciples, in the fourteenth chapter of John, that He was going to prepare a place for them. God has prepared a place for all of His people, a wonderful place that is more delightful than our dreams could ever imagine, and He is calling all mankind to come join Him in a celebration that will last for eternity. A feast is prepared that commemorates the union of His only begotten Son to those of all ages who have been redeemed by His blood, and we are invited to be a part of this banquet. To join in with the multitudes of the faithful who have gone before us—who have proven their love by turning away from the world and heeding the call of God.

Have you seen people who were waiting for a meal to be set on the table come into the kitchen and take a little sample of the food that was about to be served—take a piece of meat from a platter or run their finger around the edge of a cake to sample the icing? Well, the Lord allows His children to have a foretaste of the good things to come. The blessings that bring peace and joy in this life is only a sample of the good things He has to offer. We are even invited to taste and see that the Lord is good. While there are things that we are called to give up to accept this invitation, we will receive much more in return. In this life we only receive a foretaste of the glory that He has prepared, later we will behold the fullness of His glory and will be joint heirs with Christ.

Today the world is full of spectators that sit, or recline, in a comfortable easy chair and watch a few "star" players for entertainment. Some even do this instead of going to church services to worship the Lord. They turn on a favorite tele-evangelist and sit back for the entertainment. The call of the Lord to come to the marriage feast of the Lamb is more than a call to an evening of entertainment—each person has a key role in this occasion. Surely people don't want to sit and watch others receive all the joy of participation when they could be having a part of it themselves. God has designed this feast to honor every guest with an active part in His vineyard. Accepting this invitation amounts to a complete, life-changing event, for one must turn aside from the things they were doing that has only an earthly value and begin aspiring to obtain the virtues that are more noble and have eternal merit. On our part, this requires diligence, effort, searching, judging right and wrong, turning away from those things that are evil and even from things that would encumber us and keep us from being ready for this long-awaited occasion. Christ has paid the price for our admission and shed His precious blood to wash us from the filth of the world and make us pure, but it still requires effort on our part because the enemy of God is going to do everything within his power to keep us from being ready to attend this joyous event.

There is another big question that is proposed regarding this feast. When will it take place? From the text we can see that it is ready now. Any day could be the day of the Lord's return. However, Jesus told His disciples, "But

of that day and *that* hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father." Mark 13:32. Jesus said for us to "Take heed, watch and pray for ye know not when the time is." It may be years after we have passed from this life, or it could be much sooner than most people think. Therefore, we must be ready today for we have no assurance of tomorrow and we certainly do not want to miss having a part in the marriage celebration of the Lamb. What a tragedy it will be for those who put off the call of the Lord and waste the only chance they have of being included in the kingdom of God.

May the Lord help us to do what we can while it is day for there is coming a night when no man can work. This was the attitude that Jesus had and His work was accepted by God.

"But what think ye? A *certain* man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of *his* father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you." Matthew 21:28-31. I have often thought about this first son that refused to do what his father asked him to do. Many of us have at times responded in a similar manner to the call of the Lord, and our response, no doubt, grieved the heart of our heavenly Father. If this has happened in the life of someone reading this article, may it be a time that you allow the wisdom of God to deal with your heart and do as this son did, "...afterward he repented and went." God will abundantly pardon as it is recorded in Isaiah 55:7, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:7.

Don't allow the return of the Bridegroom catch us unprepared for His coming. Likewise, don't allow previous failures and shortcomings hinder us from being ready to meet Him today.

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



OK—Please pray for Sis Tamika Paredes, she has a serious stomach condition. Also remember me in prayer for some physical needs.

—Sis. Darline Elam

OK—Bro. Delmar Wilkins is afflicted with a serious condition that is causing him to have severe siezures. Please pray for Him.

## Standing Prayer Requests

Sis. Agnes Burleson  
 Bro. Gary Burleson  
 Sis. Gladys Cashio  
 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 Jordan  
 Sis. Earnestine Jordan  
 Sis. Karoline Kessler  
 Bro. Mark and Sis. Darlene Knight  
 Sis. Evodna Marler  
 Sis. Virginia Myers  
 Sis. Elsie M. Offerman  
 Sis Tamika Paredes  
 Bro. Vernon Robinson  
 Bro. David Runion  
 Bro. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor  
 Sis. Imogene Taylor  
 The Mitch Taylor family  
 Sis. Norma Tiller  
 Bro. Delmar Wilkins  
 Sis. Jan Wood

## MEETING DATES

Loranger, LA (Assembly Meeting)—Nov. 23-27  
 Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—Dec. 23-Jan. 1

## MEETING NOTICES

### LORANGER, LA, ASSEMBLY MEETING

Lord willing, the Loranger, Louisiana Assembly Meeting will begin Wednesday evening November 23, with morning and evening services daily through Sunday, November 27. If you can join us, come praying for a blessing.

There are separate dormitories 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 joins 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.

### OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held at Guthrie, OK. Lord willing, the first service will be Friday evening, December 23, and the meeting will continue through January 1. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U.S. Daily worship services throughout the meeting will start at 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. There will also be morning prayer services and youth services, the times of which will be announced at the meeting.

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

We especially urge the Saints in Oklahoma and the surrounding states to attend this meeting. Come praying with a burden for the unsaved and for all those who need help in soul

and body. Please send all contributions for the coming State Assembly Meeting directly to the State Treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, 807 W Lake Rd, Guthrie, OK 73044.

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



## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

KS—Dear Bro. Willie: Several have asked if the recent tragedy at the Bartlett Grain Company in Atchison, KS was connected with Herschel's employment. While it is not, we are fully aware that this same danger exists in Herschel's daily environment. I would like to take this opportunity to offer praise and thanksgiving for the *many* times the Lord has protected Herschel and his co-workers. It is our daily prayer for his safety, as well as for wisdom in dealing with various aspects of his job. *I know* God blesses a life of integrity, for He has prospered Herschel's position beyond his human capabilities.

How I wish I could express my desire for every one, especially those who are still making decisions at early stages in their life. *Choose God's ways.* There are no words to describe the benefits. Living for God is safe, happy, practical, easy, healthy, prosperous and rewarding. It *positively* affects everyone in your life. Every day I thank God for the rich treasure I have in a happy marriage and home. It is because we gave ourselves to God in our youth, and have endeavored to follow His commandments (which are not grievous!). I know we have been spared much heartache and disappointment. Read Proverbs 8.

Let us seriously consider and weigh against *Eternity* the things that we question or take lightly. Let us get low before the Lord and seek to deny ourselves and *take up our cross daily.* It is the *only* way we will find the true abundant life, and Heaven at the end.

With grateful hearts,

—Bro. Herschel and Sis. Jeanne Eck and family

KS—Dear Saints: I thank the Lord for salvation and for His goodness and mercy. The Tuesday night before the Monark meeting, while preparing for bed, we had a severe thunderstorm. The wind, thunder, lightning and hail were very intense. Suddenly, the lights went out and I noticed that all my neighbors had lights. I attempted to call the electric company and found that the phone line was also dead. Using my cell phone, I called my neighbor for assistance. Looking out the back door I saw the culprit—The big red maple tree in the back had snapped about three feet from the base and had knocked down all the power lines before it hit the house.

While staying at a friend's house that night, I was unable to relax or sleep. I thought of a passage I had read earlier in the morning about finding joy in tribulation. I immediately got up and made a list of thanksgiving.

No one was hurt.

The tree hit the house where the least amount of damage occurred.

The awning protected the windows and screens.

The patio covering protected the guttering and roof.

No visible damage to the interior.

Still at home and not at Monark.

The house is repairable.

Have homeowner's insurance.

It could have been so much worse. (Like the Joplin, MO tornado damaged area.)

Soon after making this list, the Lord gave me a wonderful peace of mind and I went off to sleep. God was very good to me and I give Him all the praise for His protection.

While writing this testimony, the Lord brought to my mind His protection of life thirty years ago. Two of my teaching colleagues invited me to have dinner with them that evening. I had tentatively agreed to go with them, but felt at the last minute that I should go home and dine with them at a later date. It was that night, July 17th, that the skywalks at the Hyatt Regency Hotel collapsed, killing 114 people and injuring hundreds of others. My colleagues both perished. If I had gone with them that evening, I'm sure I would be in eternity and not writing this testimony. It was only the goodness and mercy of God that I am alive and I am so thankful.

My desire is to be faithful to the end.

—Sis. Gertrude Lounds

## What Shall the Harvest Be?

In the winter of 1876, Mr. Moody and I were holding meetings in Chicago in a large building owned by John V. Farwell, one of Mr. Moody's first and most valued friends in that city. It was our custom to hold temperance meetings on Friday afternoons. At one of these meetings the following testimony was given:

"At the breaking out of the war in 1861, I enlisted in the army and was soon appointed a first lieutenant. I was not yet eighteen, and had never been away from home influences. I had never tasted liquor, and did not know one card from another. The regiment to which I was assigned was principally officered by young men, but many of them were old in dissipation.

"This new life was attractive to me, and I entered upon it with avidity. I was soon a steady drinker and a constant card player. I laughed at the caution of the older heads, and asserted with all the egotism of a boy that I could abandon my bad habits any time I wanted to.

"I soon found that my evil desires had complete control over my will. In 1870, being a physical wreck, I resigned, and determined to begin a new life. Time and again I failed; and at last I gave up all hope and abandoned myself to the wildest debauchery, speculating with reckless indifference on how much longer my body could endure the strain. In anticipation of sudden death, I destroyed all evidence of my identity, so that my friends might never know the dog's death I had died.

"It was while in this condition that I one day wandered into this tabernacle and found a seat in the gallery. There I sat in my drunken and dazed condition, looking down upon well-dressed and happy people.

"I concluded that it was no place for me, and was just about to go out, when out of a perfect stillness rose the voice of Mr. Sankey singing, "What Shall the Harvest Be?" The words and music stirred me with a strange sensation. I listened till the third verse had been sung:

"Sowing the seed of a lingering pain,  
Sowing the seed of a maddened brain,  
Sowing the seed of a tarnished name,  
Sowing the seed of eternal shame;  
'Oh, what shall the harvest be?'



**Milford E. "John" Parsons**, 81, of Freeland, MI, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Saturday, September 24, 2011, at his residence. The son of the late Earl and Edith (Buckey) Parsons. Bro. Milford Parsons was born in Midland, MI on November 24, 1929, where he was raised and educated. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. He was employed with the Dow Chemical Co., retiring in 1986 after 35 1/2 years of service. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping and spending time with his family. On September 11, 1954, in the First Methodist Church in St. Louis, MI, John married the former Dorothy Best. She died on March 23, 1998.

He is survived by his sons, Randy Parsons, James (Diane) Parsons all of Midland, MI; Thomas (Maria) Parsons of Freeland, and Jeffrey (Christinea) Parsons of Auburn, MI; Daughters, Debra (Roger) Seer of Midland, MI; Susan (Lance) Ouellette of St. Johns, MI and Deanna (Gary) Jammer of Midland, MI; 19 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; brothers, Melvin (Kay) Parsons, Keith (Joyce) Parsons, Mervin (Mary) Parsons, and Raymond (Edie) Parsons; sisters, Neoma Richards, Barb Parsons, and Genevieve Marton; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents and wife, John was preceded in death by brothers, Gilbert Parsons, Edward Parsons, Norman Parsons, and Bernard Parsons; and sisters, Helena Coates and Phyllis Parsons.

Funeral services were held Thursday, September 2, 2011 at Wilson Miller Funeral Home. They were officiated by Bro. Larry Abbott. Internment followed in Poseyville Cemetery.



"These words pierced my heart. In desperation, I rushed downstairs and out into the snowy streets. I soon found a saloon, where I asked for liquor to drown my sorrow. On every bottle in the barroom, in words of burning fire, I could read, 'What shall the harvest be?' When I took up my glass to drink, I read, written on it, 'What shall the harvest be?' and I dashed it to the floor and rushed out again into the cold, dark night.

"The song still followed me wherever I went, and finally drew me back to the tabernacle two weeks later. I found my way to an altar and was spoken to by a kind-hearted, loving brother. With his open Bible, he pointed me to the Great Physician Who had power to cure me and heal me of my appetite, if I would only receive Him. Broken, weak, vile and helpless, I came to Him, and by His grace I was able to accept Him as my Redeemer; and I have come here today to bear my testimony to the power of Jesus to save to the uttermost."

We were all deeply touched by this testimony, and there was scarcely a dry eye in the audience. A week later the man came into our waiting room and showed me a letter from his little daughter, which read about as follows:

"Dear Papa: Mamma and I saw in the Chicago papers that a man had been saved in the meetings there, who was once a lieutenant in the army, and I told Mamma that I thought it was my Papa. Please write to us as soon as you can, as Mamma cannot believe that it was you."

This letter was received by the man at the general post office. The mother and her two children were sent for, and with the help of Mr. Moody a home was soon secured for them and employment for the man. He was asked to go to many places to give his testimony, and he soon became very effective in his ministry. His name was W. O. Lattimore. He wrote a hymn for me, entitled, "Out of the Darkness into Light," which I set to music.

The author of "What Shall the Harvest Be?" was a frail delicate woman, always an invalid, never having known, as she once said, an hour of good health in all her life.

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy" Proverbs 28:13. —Ira D. Sankey

## The Answered Prayer

"That was an underhand trick," Fred Stone declared as he faced Gus Raymond. "You know I didn't break those tools found in my desk."

"How will you prove you didn't break them?" Gus inquired in an even voice. "The only way you can clear yourself is to produce the guilty party, which won't be so easy."

"No, it won't be easy," replied Fred, looking Gus squarely in the eyes. "The evidence has been covered for the present. I know who broke those tools and placed them in my desk, but I haven't any proof with which to convince others. But we both know the guilty party."

"I told you I'd get you," Gus declared, a malignant look in his eyes. "You are such a goody-goody Christian around here! We'll see if you are so much better than I am. Why not tell the foreman I broke those tools?"

"No, I'm not telling anyone. I'll bear the blame until I'm cleared of guilt. This matter is between you and me. I'm taking the matter to God in prayer, and in due time it will be settled. You have taken revenge in your hands, trying to make it appear that I do not possess the Christian character I profess. I'm willing to leave this matter in the hands of God. Some day it will be settled."

With these words Fred turned and left Gus. The subject of conversation was some missing tools which had been found in Fred's desk broken and useless. The animosity which Gus bore toward Fred was due to the fact that Fred would not lower his Christian standard to the level of Gus and his cronies who worked in the same shop. All attempts to entice Fred to engage in questionable games and worldly entanglements had failed. Each failure angered Gus more and more until nothing would satisfy him but revenge. He would destroy that Christian testimony! Cleverly he laid his plans, leaving Fred in a position equivalent to having stolen the tools to hide the fact he had broken them.

Fred refused to defend himself by denying the guilt. Excuses would make others think he was guilty. He was extremely sorry over the attitude Gus had taken, but he felt the assurance that prayer would be answered and the matter settled in God's time and way. He awaited a call to the office to explain the discovery of the broken tools in his desk.

The next day was Saturday, when the factory was closed. Fred took his fishing rod and started for a good pool a few miles up the river. The day presaged a storm, the atmosphere being hot and sultry. Thunderheads poked their noses above the western hills. However, Fred was not worrying about a storm, for he knew of a log cabin where he could find shelter in case of necessity.

The morning hours passed into noon. Fred stopped his fishing long enough to eat his lunch. Several beauties reposed in his creel, but he desired a few more.

**BOOM! B-O-O-M!** These peals of thunder warned Fred of the nearness of the storm. Taking one look at the sky, he hastened to the cabin to save himself a drenching. From his place of refuge he saw the darkness deepen as the heavy clouds rolled nearer. The wind whipped in great fury, bending the trees before its power. Lightning split the darkness in angry tongues of fire, while thunder reverberated throughout the valley, causing the earth to tremble. Rain descended in torrents.

"No more fishing today," Fred declared. He stretched full length on an old cot and closed his eyes. In a few minutes he was fast asleep. When he awoke the rain had ceased. But the low murmur of the river had increased in volume, the dull roar indicating the rise of water from the cloudburst.

"Help! Help!"

Fred leaped to his feet, and dashed into the open as this frantic cry reached his ears. He ran to the river as he tried to locate the source of the cry. Again it came to his ears, more desperate than before. It came from across the river. Fred realized at once what had happened. Some person, fishing in a boat, had been caught in the sudden rise of water. A tree trunk had crushed the boat against the opposite bank, pinning the occupant fast. Fred saw that the head of the imprisoned man was barely above water. It was a question of minutes when the rising water would submerge the man to drown him. Fred gave a start as he recognized the helpless individual.

"I'm coming, Gus," he shouted. "I'll get there if I possibly can."

He prayed for help that he might save a life, for if a life was saved in this crisis, a soul might be saved later. Gus was not prepared to die.

Fred ran upstream and plunged into the river. The strong current tossed him about like a cork. With strong strokes he edged toward the

farther shore with the sweep of the current carrying him at tremendous speed. The muddy water filled his eyes and nostrils. Questions assailed him. Would he reach the wrecked boat? What could he do if he did? That he would decide when he got there. He was about to give up in despair when the eddy which had swung the tree ashore caught him and shot him in toward the tree. With a clutch of desperation he seized a limb and followed it hand over hand to shore.

In vain he struggled to free Gus from his imperiled position but every effort failed. The water was on a level with Gus' chin, creating a desperate situation.

"Don't give up, Gus," Fred cried, fighting like a tiger to free his enemy. "I think I have the solution."

Getting a running start, he jumped with all the possible force into the branches of the lodged tree. The weight of his body plus the force of the current moved the tree from its wedged position. As the tree rolled over in the water, Fred jumped to escape the twining branches. In a desperate struggle he reached shore again just as Gus climbed to safety. Two exhausted men sank to the muddy ground.

"You saved my life at the risk of yours," Gus gasped with deep feeling in his voice. "I sure thought I was a goner."

"Better thank God that you're alive," Fred replied. "Now you have a chance to repent of your sins and accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour. If you had died in your unsaved condition, it would have been too late."

"That makes me all the more indebted to you for my life," Gus said.

"I only helped save your physical life, which is the least important. Jesus died to save your soul from eternal death. That is the question for you to settle. While you are thanking me for saving the life of an enemy, you had better thank Jesus that He died for you while you were His enemy."

On the way home a lengthy conversation took place. The matter of broken tools would be settled as soon as Gus could get in touch with the proper officials in the factory. More than that, when Fred continued his witness for Jesus Christ, he would have another witness alongside him.

"You told me God would settle this matter in His own way," Gus said. "Now I believe it. And I'll always thank Him that He did it His way."

—L. L. Wightman

# Just Dig Another Well

By Sis. Lana Johnson  
Genesis 26.

Inspired by a message by Bro Butch Cole on August 14, 2011.

We read a story of Isaac,  
Back in the days of old.  
The enemy came against him,  
But for the Lord he was bold.

The Lord gave him some commands,  
And He gave him promises, too.  
Isaac was faithful and obeyed the Lord,  
And was willing the hard work to do.

He planted much and became very great  
His possessions were too much to tell  
With so many servants, flocks and herds,  
He was using his father's well.

Then one day his enemy came,  
And because they were jealous and mad,  
They took the well and filled it with earth,  
But they didn't take the possessions he had.

Because Isaac was a peaceable man,  
He moved to a different place.  
He had his servants dig another well,  
By this, he was showing God's grace.

The enemy came, causing trouble again,  
For they very much envied his life.  
And because of the arguments over the well,  
It was called Contention and Strife.

So they had to dig another well.  
They needed the water, you know.  
But here came the enemy once again,  
And again the ugliness did show.

This time the well was called Hatred.  
The forces of evil still working,  
But Isaac didn't give in or give up,  
His faithfulness he was not shirking!

He decided to just dig another well,  
Never counting himself defeated!  
For his steadfastness, this one was named Room,  
Then the battle for him was completed!

The devil works hard to fill up our well,  
And to block the Living Water.  
We must be determined as Isaac was,  
In our purpose we must not falter!

So, in the battles you face in this life,  
When the enemy your soul tries to quell,  
Be steady, be faithful, be determined and Just—  
Pick up your shovel and dig another well!

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## He Careth

What can it mean? Is it aught to Him  
That the nights are long and the days are dim?  
Can He be touched by the grief I bear  
Which saddens the heart and whitens the hair?  
About His throne are eternal calms,  
And the strong glad music of happy psalms,  
And bliss unruffled by any strife,  
How can He care for my little life?

And yet I want Him to care for me  
While I live in this world where sorrows be;  
When the lights die down from the path I take,  
When strength is feeble and men forsake,  
When love and music that once did bless  
Have left me to silence and loneliness.  
And my life song changes to sobbing prayers,  
Then my heart cries out for a God Who cares.

When shadows hang o'er the whole day long,  
And my spirit is bowed with shame and wrong,  
When I am not good and the deeper shade  
Of conscious sin makes my heart afraid,  
And this busy world has too much to do

To stay in its course and help me through,  
And I long for a Savior—can it be?  
That the God of the universe cares for me?  
Oh wonderful story of deathless love,  
Each child is dear to the heart above.

He fights for me when I cannot fight,  
He comforts me in the gloom of night,  
He lifts the burden, for He is strong,  
He stills the sigh and awakes the song;  
The sorrow that bows me down He bears,  
And loves and pardons because He cares.

Let all who are sad take heart again,  
We are not alone in our hours of pain.  
Our Father stoops from His throne above  
To soothe and quiet us with His love,  
He loves us too when the storm is high  
And we have safety for He is nigh,  
Can it be trouble which He doth share?  
O rest in peace for the Lord will care.

—Selected