

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



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See and Believe



Look, O man! upon the Saviour,
 Jesus Christ, our King and Lord;
 View the value of His favor
 And the wealth it does afford.
 He's the One who came from heaven,
 Life to give for one and all—
 Life eternal freely given
 If we hear and heed His call.
 In the gospel see His beauty
 And the virtue of His life:
 Steadfast in the call of duty
 'Mid a world of sin and strife.
 On the cross behold Him dying,
 Bleeding, suffering for thee,
 From His broken spirit crying:
 "Why hast thou forsaken me?"
 See Him risen, never ending,
 In great triumph from the grave,
 To God's own right hand ascending;
 To the uttermost to save.
 Look with eyes of understanding,
 Eyes of faith and meekness true,
 Be aware of His commanding,
 What in love He bids thee do.
 Turn thine eyes from sin and error,
 See how short thy mortal span;
 Be no more enslaved by terror
 Of the puny arm of man.
 Look above! His truth receiving
 Deep within thy inmost core,
 All His promises believing,
 Trust Him, serve Him evermore.
 Look beyond this pathway mortal
 To the hope His children share
 When we pass the golden portal
 Of that city bright and fair.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

Who Is That God?

Every generation has asked the question: Who is that God? Does He exist? Will we have anything to do with Him? Why should we have anything to do with Him? If He exists, who. . . who. . . who is He?

After the days in which Adam and Eve no longer walked and talked personally with God in the Garden of Eden, one man has pointed to another to "that God" down through the generations. "O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord." Jeremiah 22:29. "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear," Job declared. As it was in 1520 B.C., so it is in A.D. 1989. We hear of God by the hearing of the ear. Still the question is repeated, "Who is that God?" Man answers to man about God. Those who know Him best proclaim His greatness. But God Himself has not remained silent. He has spoken time and again about Himself to us. There is no voice where He is not heard; the sound has gone out unto the end of the world.

Prior to the knowledge of writing, stories were handed down by word of mouth. Those who stood at the fires, in the evenings relating these stories, were known as "mages." The stories made images in the minds of the listeners. The world would like us to believe that many, if not all, of the stories of the God of old were stories of imaginations. Who is that God, the world inquires, who could do these things: speak from a burning bush that was never consumed; lead over a million people across the wind-dried Red Sea bed; protect three men in a furnace, heated extra hot, so they were not burned; and close the lion's mouths at feeding time? Who is that God who directed a small stone from a sling to a tiny opening in the helmet of a ten foot giant standing on the far stream bank. Who is that God who would do such a thing, or who is that God who could do such a thing? Is He real? The skeptic and unbelieving say these things are contrary to

nature. Of course, the God who created nature can do with nature as He pleases. He is that God.

When Ahab was king, false prophets abounded causing people to worship gods of stone and wood. Idols were carved and covered with a thin sheet of gold which glistened in the sun. It was so easy and convenient to worship the gods of wood and stone, for the idols didn't make demands on one. It was easy to pay homage and go about one's way. It took just a few minutes of bowing before the idol and dropping coins in a bowl. Why be bothered thinking about a living God? After all, what would He demand of one—the elimination of pride and self in the heart—holiness? So, it was much "safer" and convenient spending a few minutes with a stone god who didn't talk. And so the social conscious mind found it impossible to conceive a living God.

Such was the social and moral consciousness of Egypt when Pharaoh was faced with Moses and Aaron. "And Pharaoh said, Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord. . . ." Exodus 5:2. Can you hear the sneering pride, arrogance and disdain in Pharaoh's words?

But Moses already knew the Lord. Hadn't God revealed Himself to Moses in the burning bush which burned, but was not consumed? How could Moses doubt a God like that? Had not God spoken from that bush declaring, "I AM THAT I AM." Look closely at that statement—it contains a mathematical verity—I AM equals I AM. "God is His own equivalent, and God needs nothing but Himself to achieve the great purposes on which He has set His heart." —Taken from *Springs In The Valley*. Did God then need Pharaoh to ask, "Who is that God?" God would and could do as He pleased without asking leave of Pharaoh. Nor do we find Moses upholding God as having any particular quality that the king could identify with. Either his language didn't hold such words, or Moses knew whatever he might say about God would be lost on the Egyptian mind. However, since the Egyptians were using math in a greater and higher degree than the other nations around them, maybe Pharaoh understood the equation of God's statement better than we think he did. Since Pharaoh considered himself a god, some shepherd declaring "I AM THAT I AM has sent me," bordered on sheer treachery.

Moses declared, "The God of the Hebrews hath met with us." (Exodus 5:3). Because God had previously met with Moses, and Moses knew God, he proclaimed, "God is. God is the Great I AM." God spoke "unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the Lord: And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them." Exodus 6:2, 3. "Now shalt thou see what I will do to

Pharaoh." (Exodus 6:1). Jehovah means "Creator" and "Eternal" of which God is both.

By the time God delivered Israel out of Egypt, all nations round about had heard of God. They may not have had telegraphs, nor the evening news on television, but they had heard. It brought fear to their hearts whenever the Israelites approached their borders. They knew who God was, even if they didn't know Him on a personal basis. In other words, here was a God who dealt directly with humans, and as such, He deserved respect.

King Solomon's prayer in 1004 B.C., as recorded in II Chronicles 6:14 says, "O Lord God of Israel, there is no God like thee in the heaven, nor in the earth; which keepest covenant and shewest mercy unto thy servants, that walk before thee with all their hearts." Solomon witnessed the dealings of God with his father David, and to him, that God was real and living.

When Elijah demanded Ahab bring the priests of Baal and the groves to mount Carmel, he felt that he alone was the only prophet left to fight for God. It was approximately 906 B.C. It has been said that one soul on fire for God can set the universe ablaze. Listen to Elijah's dramatic appeal to the idol worshippers: "The God that answers by fire, let him be God." When fire fell from heaven, consuming the water-soaked wood and sacrifice, doubts were burnt up as the water. The people proclaimed, "The Lord He is God! The Lord He is God!" They knew who that God was.

Hear the voice of the prophet Jeremiah praying, "Ah, Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee: Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands . . . the Great and Mighty God, the Lord of hosts, is his name, Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings." Jeremiah 32:17-19.

"Who is that God that I may know Him?" the young people of our nation are asking today. Will Christians, as Daniel and others before us, have to go through great trials before the young people are willing to listen about that God? Young men even asked about Christ when He preached in Israel and Judah. "And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus." John 12:20, 21. Since this was very near the time of Christ's crucifixion, they probably saw the event, may have heard Christ cry, "My God! My God!" witnessed the darkness, felt the earthquake, and heard the railings of the Jews: "Save thyself." "If thou be the Son of God, come down." "Himself He cannot save." "Let Him come down." "He trusted in God." "If He will

have Him." All was summed up by the Roman centurion: "Truly this was THE SON OF GOD."

The risen Lord became: that "King of kings, Lord of lords," God Almighty, Eternal Father, Creator of all the earth, Saviour, Shield, Buckler, Strength, Light, Salvation, Comforter, Sanctifier, Keeper, and much much more. The answer to the question, "Who is that God?" can be found in its depth and entirety when you seek Him with your entire being and desire, for He will be found of you as He promised.

—Vesta-Nadine Robertson

A Biblical Alphabet

- A** — Abstain: "Abstain from all appearance of evil." I Thessalonians 5:22.
- B** — Believe: "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." Mark 9:23.
- C** — Christ: "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him." I John 5:1.
- D** — Diligently: "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6.
- E** — Effectual: "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16.
- F** — Faith: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1.
- G** — Grace: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8.
- H** — Heart: "And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the Lord: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart." Jeremiah 24:7.
- I** — Inspiration: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." II Timothy 3:16.
- J** — Justify: "And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." Acts 13:39.
- K** — Know: "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for 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." II Timothy 1:12.
- L** — Light: "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12.
- M** — Magnify: "And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord," Luke 1:46.
- N** — Need: "Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him." Matthew 6:8.
- O** — Ought: "But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." Luke 11:42.
- P** — Pray: "Pray without ceasing." I Thessalonians 5:17.
- Q** — Quench: "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Eph. 6:16.
- R** — Ready: "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." I Peter 3:15.
- S** — Submit: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7.
- T** — Testify: "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me." John 15:26.
- U** — Unity: "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Ephesians 4:13.
- V** — Visit: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 1:27.
- W** — Water: "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:17.
- Y** — Yield: "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." Romans 6:13.
- Z** — Zealous: "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:14.

—Elias McCart

FAITH AND VICTORY

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend camp meetings), by Maybelle Pruitt, Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044 (USPS184-660).

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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 the sinful world 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 Exodus 25:2; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 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.

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 the Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

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EDITORIALS

As this issue of the *Faith and Victory* reaches you, we pray that it will be an encouragement as it is read. Because of the conditions existing in our world, and the evil that presses on every side, it seems that inspiration and cheer are what we need to renew our courage. These are obtained by turning our vision toward God.

One verse that instills courage is recorded in I John 5:4. "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." This lets us know that there are several things born of God, or divinely decreed, that we can rely on to carry us to an everlasting victory.

Our salvation is something that was born of God. It was His brainchild and He personally supervised the establishment of it. The enemy is ever present to convince Christians to lay down their salvation for the immediate pleasures of this present world. Although it would require less effort to go with the flow of the pervading ideas of a society warped in its values, ultimate victory is found in clinging to what God has ordained for the saving of man's soul.

The Church was something born of God. This gives us an assurance of its firm foundation and ability to stand even against the very gates of hell. Hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies and envyings, which are listed as works of the flesh, are some of the very best tools Satan possesses and uses against the Church. These things may cause some discomfort and temporary confusion, but he has yet to succeed in taking the victory from the divinely organized Church which Christ is the head of.

History tells of a preacher by the name of Logan who was old and quite ill in the year of 1843. One Sunday, a minister friend preached for him as he was unable to leave his bed. After the service the friend visited Logan and began to speak with him on the perils that were facing the Church. "Yes," said Logan, "but I trust we shall at all hazards maintain the spiritual rights of our Zion. When Caesar was crossing the Adriatic in a small vessel, the boatman hesitated and was afraid. Caesar said, 'Fear not, you carry Caesar.' Much more reason have we to say, 'There is nothing to be feared with Christ for our leader.'"

In view of these facts, it would be well for us to be an asset to this victorious army and not a liability. The productive member is the one who does not have the dissillusioned concept of being a hero for God, but has the pure, heaven-born burden to spread the gospel. If we do not have this vision, when the Church goes triumphantly marching into heaven we will feel as

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one standing on the sidelines. Perhaps we will be able to relate to the French nobleman, Crillon, whom King Henry IV sighted by the side of the road when returning from battle and to whom he shouted, "Go hang yourself, Crillon! We had a great victory at Arques, and you were not there."

God does not expect more of us than what we can do with the facilities and capabilities He has given us. He does require an interest and a vision for His work. Perhaps it can all be summed up by the unknown writer who wrote, "A task without a vision is drudgery; a vision without a task is a dream; a task with a vision is victory." Victory is what we are all striving for and it is accessible to everyone who wills it to be.

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It was a shock and grief to many to learn that on May 11 Bro. Charles Smith, of Shawnee, OK, was fatally wounded by an unknown assailant. Bro. Charles was 63 years old and for many of those years was very active in the gospel work and devoted to serving others. It was evident by the size of the large crowd attending the funeral that his life had touched many in a meaningful way. More of the details of his life may be found in the obituary printed in this issue.

Pray for Bro. Charles' family and for the work of the Lord which he was involved in and so suddenly left. Those who wish to express sympathy to his wife and family may address their correspondence to: Sis. Betty Smith, P. O. Box 1853, Shawnee, OK 74801.

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As previously reported, Bro. Matias and Sis. Ruth Tangunan were scheduled to arrive in Oklahoma City from the Philippines on May 5 to attend camp meetings this summer. We received notification just before their expected arrival that their visa had been rejected by the U.S. Embassy on May 3. In later correspondence with Bro. Tangunan, he indicated that the reason for the denial of entry was because the U.S. Embassy didn't feel they had shown enough family, social or economic ties to insure their return to the Philippines. At this time we are still investigating the possibility of getting them here later in the summer. Pray that God's will might be accomplished in this matter.

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We would like to request that anyone in Canada ordering literature from us make their remittance in U.S. dollars. It is easier to obtain a Canadian money order in U.S. dollars than for us to convert Canadian currency here.

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If you have purchased a book or any other material from us and find that the printing is

faulty, feel free to notify us of such. Do not go to the expense of returning the items, simply notify us of the titles and amount of your purchase and we will be glad to send a replacement.

—Wayne Murphey

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Adventures in the Land of Canaan by R. L. Berry. An instructive allegory of true-to-life experiences in the grace of sanctification. 128 pages in paper cover. Price, \$1.50 per copy.

Beyond the Tomb by H. M. Riggle. This excellent book of 288 pages deals with man, his present and future, in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00 each.

Christian Baptism, Feet Washing, and the Lord's Supper by H. M. Riggle. This excellent doctrinal book on the three ordinances of the New Testament contains 264 pages in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00 each.

The Christian Church: Its Rise and Progress by H. M. Riggle. Bound in a cloth cover, 488 pages. Price, \$6.00.

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Personal Experiences of S. O. Susag was written by himself, a Norwegian who had many marvelous experiences and answers to prayer as an early-day minister in the Church of God. 192 pages are bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.50 each.

A Religious Controversy by C. E. Orr. An 80 page, paper bound book presenting truths in an interesting manner. Price, \$1.00 each.

Guided by the Unseen Hand by Murphy Allen. An 84 page book bound in a heavy paper cover relating many experiences and inspiring answers to prayer centering around the 44 years of Bro. Allen's ministry. Price, \$1.00.

Food for Lambs by C. E. Orr. The English version contains 168 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.00. Also available in the German language and contains 127 pages. Price, \$2.00.

Tim and His Lamp re-written by Fern Stubblefield. This excellent booklet of 52 pages for children and young people is bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 75¢.

Harry the Newsboy and Other Stories by Isabel Byrum. 32 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, 50¢.

Heart Talks by C. W. Naylor. Consists of 59 chapters with a different subject treated in each chapter. It contains 280 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$3.00.

St. Paul and His Gospel by G. P. Tasker who was an early-day minister and missionary of the Church of God Reformation. This inspiring book contains 88 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50 each.

The Double Cure, or Redemption Twofold by D.O. Teasley. This book should enlighten the reader on the two works of grace, and correct the thinking of those who deny the cleansing element in sanctification. 160 pages of large print in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.00.

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Bible Humility by J. W. Byers. An excellent treatise of this subject in 32 pages with a heavy paper cover. The price is 50¢ each.

God's Gracious Dealings by Fred and L. D. Pruitt. This enlarged Seventh Edition is a history of this gospel publishing ministry in the Church of God for the past sixty years, as well as a record of the work of the Church at large. Contains 496 pages, including more than 100 pictures in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.50 each.

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Must We Sin? by D. S. Warner. This 24 page booklet records the supposed conversation between Bro. Light and Bro. Foggy on the sin question. Price, 50¢.

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The Cleansing of the Sanctuary by D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggle. Reprinted verbatim in 541 pages, cloth binding. Price, \$6.00 each.

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detail on how to keep the victory in everyday Christian living. It contains 368 pages in an extra-heavy cover. Price, \$4.00 each.

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Prayer Requests

AL—"Pray for some special requests that I want the Lord to work out." —Sharon Horn

OH—"I am a sinner, but I don't seem to have what it takes to quit sinning; so I am asking for your prayers daily for my deliverance." —Michael Payne

LA—"Please pray for my grandson; he has arthritis very bad. Also remember my daughter, and all of us." —Beulah Johnson

OK—"I have some urgent unspoken requests." —Loraine Payne

OR—"Sis. Grace Jones writes, 'In answer to prayer my back is better. My sisters need prayer.'" —Sis. Leatrice Still

OK—"Please pray that my grandson will find work." —Sis. Leatrice Still

IA—"Pray for my complete healing." —Sis. C. W. Mason

CA—"Please remember a very urgent unspoken request." —Sis. A. R. Whitehouse

SC—"Please pray for my sister, Lurline Scott, she is very ill. I need strength to care for her." —Nettie Harbeson

CA—"We are not well. Pray for us." —Ed and Ruth Upton

OH—"Please pray for these requests: Bill Kelsey is blind and needs healing. Tim Woodson will be sentenced the 25th. Stan Lingar is to be executed in June." —J. Blankenship

LA—Loren Williamson, the son of Sis. Anita Williamson, has exhibited symptoms of a very serious ailment. Pray earnestly for him.

WV—"Sis. Verna Samons is still experiencing a real battle with affliction and needs God's help."

OK—"Bro. Hyrum Ray had a bad fall and was injured. Please remember him in prayer. Also, Sis. Emma Dilley needs complete healing. We hear from different ones who need help in different ways and we are thankful God still listens to our prayers and will answer according to His will."
—Maybelle Pruitt

GOLDEN RULE HOME REPORT

The Golden Rule Home, by God's help and blessing, will go forward for the same purpose as founded.

We are sure by now that most of you know that Bro. Charles R. Smith has gone on to be with the Lord. He had gone to get supplies for The Golden Rule Home and was robbed and beaten to death. This has been an awful blow to all of us. Pray earnestly for our dear mother, all of the family, the precious ones here at the home and congregation here, as well as the saints abroad.

There have been questions as to how the home will continue to operate. We would like to let everyone rest secure in the fact that we have been in contact with the state agencies necessary, and arrangements have been made for us to assume responsibilities and continue to operate. Bro. Derrill and myself, Bro. Merrill, are both going to obtain an administrators license. Meanwhile, we have been given some time to get a temporary administrator.

This home was founded for the purpose of caring for older saints and helping them through the last battles to make it safely over the crossing. Others have gotten saved here and testified that they would have never made heaven if they had not come to the home.

Dear saints, continue to pray that this will be a place God will always bless richly so it can be that haven of rest for the weary and the soul-saving station that God would have it to be.

God bless you all, and pray for us.

—Bro. Merrill D. Smith

P. O. Box 1853, Shawnee, OK 74802

Phone: (405) 273-7106

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

Camp Meeting Dates for 1989

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, OK —

May 26-June 4

Jefferson, OR — June 9-18

Tulsa, OK — June 9-18

Green Bank, WV — June 16-25

Oakland, CA — June 19-25

General Southern at Loranger, LA —

June 30-July 9

Fresno, CA — July 7-16

National at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO
July 21-30

Bakersfield, CA — August 4-13

Duncannon, PA — August 6-13

Ensenada, Mexico — August 13-20

Durham, NC — Aug. 13-20

Boley, OK — Aug. 20-27

California State at Pacoima, CA —
Aug. 25-Sept. 3

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WICHITA, KS MEETING REPORT

We give thanks unto the Lord from whom all blessings flow. We thank Him for working in our meeting (April 14-23) and sending us show-ers of blessings. The Word was real rich and delivered with power and authority. We were warned, admonished, encouraged and strengthened by the Word on different lines.

The Lord truly anointed Sister Theresa Gaines and Sister Marsha Corteway to preach through the major part of the meeting. We appreciate their labors as well as the other ministers who came and broke the bread of life for us.

One of the late Sis. Ada Davis' sons, Thomas Edward, came from Denver, CO and got saved the very day he arrived. We truly praise the Lord and trust he will be very much encouraged and press all the way to glory.

We really missed Bro. Lewis Williams who went home to be with the Lord on March 17. It was the first meeting I remember Wichita having without him. We miss him but rejoice with him because his life's work is ended and he is at rest forevermore.

We continue to be amazed and thrilled at God's wondrous blessings to man and we truly give Him all the praise.—Sis. Shirley Knight

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MISSOURI STATE CAMP MEETING REPORT

The Missouri State Camp Meeting of the Church of God was held at Myrtle, MO from May 3-7, 1989. The meeting was one of special blessing, encouragement and edification to all who attended. The attendance was good—around 200 on the weekend. Ministers were present from several states, and many inspiring and challenging messages were preached under the divine unction of God's Holy Spirit. The central theme of the meeting seemed to be an earnest call to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to be fully committed and dedicated to Him. Several sought the Lord at the altar for a closer walk with Him. To say it briefly, God paid us a special visitation during these five days of holy convocation, challenged and drew our hearts to a deeper, fuller and more intimate

relationship with Himself, and we thank Him for His love and grace manifested to us. Amen.

—Harlan Sorrell

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REPORT OF THE BOLEY, OK REVIVAL MEETING

We are yet rejoicing over the glorious revival meeting the Lord blessed us with in April at Boley, OK.

The attendance was very good. The Word went forth under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. It was like a "two-edged sword," but praise God, it blessed our souls. We had a very good altar service and are thankful for the souls that were saved.

We were thankful for the out-of-state saints, ministers and workers that attended and helped to make the meeting a success. We give God all the praise.

Yours in His great name,

—Katherine Williams

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WATER VALLEY, MS REPORT

We are so earnestly thankful to God for the wonderful outpouring of the Spirit in the Florida Camp Meeting at Goulds, a suburb of greater Miami. Two young people, of the Water Valley-Coffeerville church, were among those who testified there to the born-again experience.

After being wonderfully saved at the altar, 15-year-old Inetra Polk gave a beautifully inspiring exhortation to other youth to get saved and live for God. Her testimony, together with that of young Sister Diane Fuller of New Orleans, greatly inspired others in a meeting where many could declare, "My cup runneth over"!

The Water Valley-Coffeerville group returned to their home base April 23 early on the first day of the week, and at the chapel in morning worship service, Inetra again volunteered her testimony and sincere exhortation. Her exhortation was followed by other sincere testimonials, including that of her mother, Sister Sandra Polk, 15-year-old Keith Reed and his father, Allen Reed. An altar call was made. An adult lady and three young people were beautifully saved!

Then, passing through from the Florida Camp Meeting, Brother Gordon Humphrey gave us three night's meeting in which two more children professed salvation.

It is written in the Bible, "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so. . . ." Psalm 107:2. Of a certainty, this is the most exciting life on earth that humankind can live!

—Burbridge R. Copeland

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GREENBANK, WV CAMP MEETING

The camp meeting at Green Bank, WV will be held, Lord willing, June 16-25. The first service will be Friday night at 7:30. There will be two services daily, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Meals will be served and all who come will be cared for. Bring a coat as the nights are cool. There are motels in the area for those who would desire one.

Green Bank is located 57 miles north of White Sulphur Springs, WV, and 50 miles south of Elkins, WV on Route 92. Interstate 64 is open to White Sulphur Springs.

All are welcome. We are expecting special things from the Lord.

For more information write or call, Bro. Mart Samons, P. O. Box 127, Green Bank, WV 24944, phone (304) 456-4469 or Bro. Toney Samons at (304) 456-4679.

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LORANGER, LA CAMP MEETING

This year the camp meeting is scheduled to begin Friday night, June 30th, continuing daily through July 9, 1989. Come praying for the Spirit's blessing.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Power and water hookups are provided for those with campers. Meals will be served 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 (take Hwy. 442 east which runs into Hwy. 40).

For more information write Nelson Doolittle, Rt. 1, Box 192, Loranger, LA 70446, or call the pastor, Ed Wilson, (504) 878-4559. The chapel phone is (504) 878-2788.

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FIFTY-SECOND NATIONAL CAMP MEETING

The National Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO July 21-30, 1989. A hearty invitation is extended to all.

The Monark Springs Campground is located approximately five miles east of Neosho, MO. It is one mile east and ¾ mile south of the intersection of highways 86 and 71 Alternate.

If you travel to Neosho by bus, you may take a taxi to the campground or telephone 472-6427 (Granby, MO) for free transportation.

The camp meeting is conducted on a freewill offering basis. There is no charge for meals or lodging on the campground. You are welcome to come and enjoy the meeting. We are confident that God will supply every need. Meals will be served in the dining hall. Dormitory space, tents

and trailer spots are available on the campground on a first come first served basis. Trailer spots include electricity, water and sewer hook-ups. Motels are available nearby, but reservations should be made in advance.

All correspondence about tent orders or dormitory space should be addressed to Sister Delores Bradley, Route 1, Box 28, Bartlett, KS 67332, phone (316) 226-3390. She will be coordinating requests for sleeping quarters on the campground.

If you have any questions about the meeting or arrangements, I will be glad to help. Please come with a burden for the meeting and praying for the benefit of souls.

—Bro. Jim Wall (Business Manager)
5817 East 64th Street, Tulsa, OK 74136

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PRAYER AND FAST DAY

A number of ministers feel it would be good for all the ministers who are free and able, to come for a special day of prayer and fasting on July 20th for the National Camp Meeting. It will be held in the Neosho, MO chapel. We know there is power in agreement. We would like for all the ministers who can, to come and let us spend the day together. We are expecting a special outpouring of God's blessings at Monark this year. If you cannot come, agree in prayer with us.

Further information can be obtained from myself, Bro. Mart Samons, (304) 456-4469 or Bro. Bob Huskey, (417) 472-6427.

AN URGENT NEED

Dear Bro. Wayne, saints and friends: The Boley, OK Church of God Campground is one of the oldest campgrounds we have, and we would like to continue to have the annual camp meetings, but to do so we must have a new women's dormitory. The old one has been demolished. The congregation in Boley is very small and we are in need of help to finance one.

If any feel burdened to help us, we would appreciate it very much. You may make your contributions to: The Church of God, and mail it to Bro. Larry Brown, 3429 Lyric St., Norman, OK 73071, who is the building fund treasurer.

We thank you so very much and pray the Lord will supply the means for the work to be done.

With Christian love and prayers,
—Katherine Williams

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Knowledge and wisdom obtained by prayer are lasting.
—Selected

From the Mailbox . . .

AL—It's springtime again, praise God! Just the warm breeze and songs of the little birds cheer our hearts and makes us realize the great love of our God. His concern is not only for our food and shelter, but that our spirits might be lifted up by all the wonders of His creation. He also gave the supreme sacrifice of His only begotten Son that through Him we might be saved and live forever with Him in a home that is beautiful beyond our imagination.

I desire more than anything to meet Jesus and live with Him forevermore. By faith in His shed blood for my salvation, I know I'll make it.

Please continue to pray for my loved ones to be saved.

Christian love, —Leora Frink

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WA—Dear friends: "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name." Psalm 103:2. We surely thank and praise the Lord for all He does for us daily. He is truly a very present help in every time of need.

I see by the *Faith and Victory* paper that it is camp meeting time again. I surely pray for the saints' loved ones that are not saved. Continue to pray for my family for salvation. Keep up the good work and God bless all.

Christian love, —Sister Violet Thomas

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OK—Dear ones: I am mailing \$3.00 to pay three years on my *Faith and Victory*. I love to read it. It has been in my mother's and my home for over 60 years. My mother went to be with Jesus in 1963. I miss her so much.

Yours in Christian love,
—Mrs. Bertha Hines

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MO—Greetings in Jesus' lovely name: I just wanted to tell you how I do enjoy your little magazine. It has good food for the soul. I am always encouraged when I read it. I hope everyone that reads it is encouraged as much as I am.

Pray for me. —Sis. Laura Jarvis

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OH—Dear ones at the Print Shop: I hope and pray this finds each of you in the best of health.

My wife and I are doing okay by the help of God. We escaped the flu that was so bad this past winter. . . .

God has the power to heal these old bodies of ours. If He calls us home we can thank Him for letting us live so long and supplying our needs. Where would we be without Him?

How peaceful it is to know that we are in God's big hands. There is so much crime and so

many that will take a life for just a few dollars. Our country sure is in a bad shape. We had better be ready to go, for we do not know when death can take us.

I thank God that He saved me many years ago. He took away all my sins and cast them in the sea of forgetfulness, never to remember them any more. The way is so sweet knowing that when the end does come we can be with Him.

I will be praying for you and that God will meet all the needs there at the Print Shop.

Your brother in Christ,

—Chester Dunaway

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

OK—I want to thank everyone for their prayers for my grandson, Kenny Thompson. He had third degree burns on his abdomen and hands. Our precious Saviour has heard prayer and healed him. I give God all the praise for it. . . .

—Mrs. Godsail

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OK—Dear Sis. Maybelle and saints: The house is quiet; the children are asleep. As I am waiting for some “late rising” bread to bake, I have been rereading the *Faith and Victory* paper, enjoying it thoroughly and musing on God’s many blessings to me down through the years.

My mind goes back to my teenage years when part of my responsibilities were feeding calves. After the buckets were washed and drained, I would go to the grainery to talk to the Lord. I especially remember a space of time that I felt burdened to pray for myself in later years. I asked the Lord to keep me true to Him no matter what I faced. As years went by and I married and children came, I forgot about that burden. I was facing life with far more serious responsibilities than feeding calves. There were times, as the song says, my faith began to waver, when up ahead I saw a chasm wide. Once when it seemed I was in the chasm, I was trying to pray and no words would come, my loving Saviour flashed a picture before me of the little grainery in the barn and the prayers that had been prayed there. How my heart was melted as I realized His care for me and that He would not leave me to face the way alone.

As I look back along the way that I have traveled since then, I see things I would like to do over; but, oh, I see how my Saviour lovingly guided me, gently but firmly taught me, and has brought me safely to the land I hold today. Like many I can say, “My soul doth magnify the Lord.” (Luke 1:46).

The bread has finished baking and this day has come to a close. I know that I can safely trust Him for all of my tomorrows; “For 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.” II Timothy 1:12.

Your sister,

—Cynthia Meek

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MO—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: I want to thank you for your prayers and I want to tell you what God has done for me. He has healed my ear. I can now hear out of it as good as I can the other one. Thank God. And another thing, some of my grandchildren are going to church which is an answer to prayer. Also, my granddaughter is doing fine now. I want to thank everyone at the Print Shop for their prayers. Please keep on praying for the rest of my loved ones.

I will keep praying for all at the Print Shop. We need each other’s help. May God bless each one as they work for Him.

As ever, your prayer partner,

—Sister Eathel Hill

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CA—Dear saints: Greetings of Christian love. We are continually thankful to be a member in the family of God, chosen of Him.

A Scripture in Psalm 65:4 causes our hearts to rejoice: “Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.” Truly we are blessed. The goodness of the Lord’s house affords a satisfying portion. The Lord loves us as a nation and then He loves us as individuals. Another Scripture says, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; . . .” Psalm 33:12, but the former Scripture is to us as individuals! Praise the Lord. Job 34:29 shows His concern both for the nation and each individual. “When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble? and when he hideth his face, who then can behold him? whether it be done against a nation, or against a man only.”

How much care and concern God shows to each of us. No wonder He spoke the parable of leaving the ninety and nine and searching for one lost sheep. Praise the Lord! There is much to be thankful for.

We thank Him for healing us of a shingle virus which was quite painful, also an arthritic arm.

We appreciate the *Faith and Victory* paper and the tracts.”

—Sis. Olive Davenport

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MO—Dear Bro. Wayne and all at the Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus’ precious name. I do thank Him and praise His name for the love and mercy He has bestowed on me. My sight is much improved in my right eye. I have vision

around the outside and it is improving. I had chest pains, and was anointed and prayed for at the Myrtle Camp Meeting. The pain has gone except when I exert in some way. All praise be to our heavenly Father.

We desire your prayers that we stay in the center of God's will. —Arthur Johnston

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From India . . .

April 21—My dear Brother Wayne: Loving greetings in the precious name of our living and loving Lord who is worthy of all praise and honor. He created us to glorify Him. We are here to give glory to God and serve the needy with the good news.

I could not write earlier as I have been busy in the gospel campaign from March 9-27. Thereafter I became sick. The Lord led us as we traveled thousands of miles by a hired bus, conducting gospel meetings in many towns and distributing thousands of gospel tracts with good results. People are hungry for the Word of God. We have plans to visit those areas again and plant churches in three important towns. All this involves hand labor. We look to the Lord for all our needs. He never fails.

Kindly continue praying for us as I do for you.

Your brother in Christ, —K. H. Paul

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From Rivers State, Nigeria . . .

April 27—Dear Bro. Murphey: May the grace, love and peace of God be multiplied unto you and all His servants at the Faith Publishing House who steadfastly serve Him for the benefit of all of us here.

Thanks be to the Father for the blessings we enjoy unceasingly from Him; for He knows that without Him we can do nothing. We are therefore still trusting Him for everything.

The situation here is bleak and this is no exaggeration. It is worse with those of us who inhabit the Atlantic delta areas and so have no lands to farm. Everything has to be bought. The hardship has made some dear saints go to other places in search of a living. Those who stay around have to struggle harder to feed their families and then have time to serve God. There seems to be a misdirection in the governmental leadership, so the economic situation has continued in the downward trend. Please remember us and the country in fervent prayer.

We returned to Port Harcourt from a three-day evangelical work at a place called Bakana, some nautical miles away by river craft. The

Lord blessed the 9 man and woman team with zeal in the face of poor weather, to propagate the gospel of Christ. Outdoor activities were scheduled for morning, afternoon and evening, in the interest of souls in this town known for their violent and ungodly activities. Last year a brother and I had gone there for several hours of evangelism. Soon after we left for Port Harcourt, there was a riot which claimed several lives and some properties damaged. However, it was gladdening to note that some people found our messages new, and believing what we were saying, promised to fellowship. We left Sunday afternoon, April 16, after a prayer meeting or brief worship. God helping and providing the means, we hope to be there to keep the people refreshed with the truths of Christ. Our aim is to see God establishing His Church there. We intend, by the grace and power of God, to go to some other places too, in this year. . . .

Yours through His love,

—F. Naths-Igbaniibo

In Memoriam

Charles Renzo Smith was born June 28, 1925, in Bartlesville, OK to Charles J. and Edith Smith and was savagely beaten to death by person or persons unknown in Oklahoma City, OK, on May 11, 1989, at the age of 63 years, 10 months, and 9 days. On September 10, 1944, he married Betty Jean Tait in Shawnee, OK. Together they had seven children who survive him, namely, Merrill and Derrill, twins, David, Chuck, Betty Jane Nicholson, all of Shawnee, OK, Anna Jantz of Sapulpa, OK, and Theresa Madden of Bristow, OK. One son, Charles Milton, preceded him in death. He also has two living sisters, Iva Fay Smith of Shawnee, OK, and Ida May Bocock of Bristow, OK; 17 grandchildren, 2 great-grand children, a number of nieces and nephews and an enormous number of brethren in the Lord and friends.

Bro. Smith was a Church of God minister virtually all his days. When he was seven years old, he taught his first young people's meeting. When he was nine years old, he was at a tent meeting with a number of other children of saints. While with them between services, he saw an aged gentleman who was chewing on tobacco and in an unkept condition approaching down the street. He told the other children, "Maybe that man doesn't know the story of Jesus. Let's go tell him." The old man was soon down at the altar seeking his Lord and the ministers in attendance asked Bro. Charles, even though he was so young, to finish the work

of dealing with him. At last the old man arose from the altar, and with a face wreathed in smiles, handed his snuff can to Bro. Charles and said, "Son, I can't throw this as far as it needs to go any more. Will you do it for me?" Bro. Charles did. It was his first convert, and so began the God-ordained career of a man who was to be a very effective and lifelong evangelist. Within two weeks the old gentleman died leaving instructions to Bro. Charles, who led him to the Lord, that he was the person who should preach his funeral; so that at the age of nine, Bro. Charles had his first experience with that duty which was also a function he frequently filled in the Church in years to come.

Bro. Smith was a man of tremendous energy, personal courage and personal magnetism. His enthusiasm soon affected every project he worked with and nearly everyone who met him. He was the kind of man who, if he had opportunity, almost certainly preached to whoever took his life, even from beneath the blows, and who would most likely have met his death without terror.

Bro. Smith's first tour as an evangelist began not long after he graduated from high school. While he was still a teenager, he had many invitations from congregations near his home to hold revival meetings. During one revival, the school children made a practice of coming to the bus stop fifteen minutes early each day for singing and prayer. The bus driver became so convicted he could scarcely see the road through his tears and he came to the meeting and got saved. Many years later he died, still with a strong testimony of salvation.

Bro. Smith was by practice and doctrine a minister of the Church of God. Once he responded to an opportunity to hold services in a sectarian meeting house. After a number of messages, the pastor of that congregation caused a notice to be read in the congregation forbidding any more Church of God meetings there, effective immediately. Sis. Pike typed a letter in the function of her office as secretary in that congregation but refused to sign it saying she feared God would strike her dead if she did. A man attending the meeting volunteered his peach orchard which was directly across the road for services to continue. Bro. Smith procured a tent and went right on with the services. During that meeting, a man who had terrible injuries from military service to his leg and could scarcely walk, came forward for prayer saying he had had five surgeries and was living to all he understood of God. Prayer was offered and he was instantly healed and was able to leap and run. This miraculous healing was typical of many that Bro. Smith saw during his life. Sis. Pike and a number of other folks at

this meeting subsequently took their stand with the saints.

Bro. Smith, himself, experienced a great deal of affliction in his lifetime, and had his life divinely extended many times. When only six years old, he had his first symptoms of heart trouble. He was born with rickets and also in his early life stuttered badly. He was instantly healed of stuttering. He was restored from near death due to heart attack in 1952 while a number of ministers were gathered praying for him. Several of them heard a voice say, "Let it be so, Father." Immediately he regained consciousness (a friend says he was comatose at the time) and was soon able to resume his active ministry. He had back trouble since a child but persevered in carrying out the gospel work despite it. For nineteen years before his death he had suffered from Hodgkin's disease but God had extended his life against nature and made him able for duty.

Bro. Smith was the founder and moving force behind The Golden Rule Home, an aged care facility in Shawnee, OK. He became heavily burdened for this work after observing the pitiful case of Sis. Harmon in CA who was widowed to two saint ministers, and in a commercial home to live out her days in squalid conditions. She was unable to receive visits, even from saints, for more than five minutes at a time. She testified to Bro. Charles when he came to see her, "Bro. Charles I don't understand what's happened to me. They've taken away my glory. (Her hair had been cut very short.) I've washed the saints' feet." (I Timothy 5:10). Bro. Smith devoted the rest of his years from that time on to making a nursing home a reality, for he was always a man with a great interest in the elderly.

Bro. Smith was a man who practiced enormous personal sacrifice to the benefit of anyone in need. His home was a haven for saints and visitors and was always (or so it seemed) busy. His family was raised and accustomed to sharing their father and their belongings with others. One of his favorite sayings was, "Others, Lord, others, let this my motto be. Others, Lord, others, that I may be just like thee." Bro. Smith will be sorely missed by his family, friends of The Golden Rule Home, by the ministers and by the saints.

Funeral services for Bro. Charles were held in Shawnee, OK on May 16 with an estimated number of 1,150 people in attendance. The officiating ministers were Bros. Ostis Wilson, Ed Wilson, and Charles Elwell. Interment was in the Fairview Cemetery, Shawnee, OK.



We, the family of Bro. Charles Smith, realized that it would be impossible to acknowledge

every phone call, card, the flowers and expressions of love during Papa's homegoing, but we would like to take this means to thank everyone. Do remember us and the work at the Golden Rule Home in prayer.

—Sis. Betty Smith and family

In memory of Grace and Leonard Roberts HOMECOMING

The bells are ringing in heaven.
The angels are singing their song.
The saints are rejoicing,
Leonard and Grace are home.
As we put their lives to memory
There are no words to tell,
of the many people
Whose souls they helped save from hell.
Grandma found her salvation first,
So it was only fair that she go on
To heaven and be waiting there.
Grandpa, he grew lonely, he began to pace.
He knew he was closing, to the end of his race.
His going is a tribute to the lives they shared.
That's why up in heaven,
they both are standing there.
The bells are ringing in heaven.
The angels are singing their song.
The saints are all rejoicing,
Leonard and Grace are home.

—By Jimmy Lynn Madden, grandson

The family of Bro. Leonard and Sis. Grace Roberts would like to take this opportunity to let everyone know that the kindnesses that were expressed during the passing of their loved ones have been greatly appreciated.

Question: According to John 20:23, were the apostles given some special power in regard to remission of sins?

Answer: John 20:23 says, "Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained."

This text seems to say something that it does not teach and must be used with other Scriptures in the same category to see just what it does teach. But first let us look at some texts on the other side of the ledger. John 5:22 says, "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son." Note, all judgment is committed unto the Son; not to any other person. Romans 8:34 says, "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who even is at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." It is the same Christ who died for us, rose again, ascended to the right hand of God and who makes intercession for us who will condemn or

acquit us in the last day; no one else. Acts 10:42 says, "And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead." Romans 14:10-13 says, "But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Let us not therefore judge one another any more?" In I Corinthians 4:3, Paul said that it was a very small thing to him to be judged of man's judgment. Verse 4 says, "... He that judgeth me is the Lord." Verse 5 says, "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God." Scriptures could be multiplied to show God to be the judge of all through His Son Jesus and to show that man's judgment can be faulty because man looks on the outward appearance and does not and cannot always discern the motives, thoughts and intents of the hearts of other men.

Now to proceed with the other part of the question, there is what is called the "unanimity of faith." This means that any Scripture on any given subject must be interpreted to conform and harmonize with every other Scripture on that subject before we can be sure we have the correct interpretation of a Scripture. So let us link John 5:23 with other Scriptures pertaining to the same thing.

In Matthew 16:19 Jesus said, "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." But what are the keys to the kingdom of heaven? With all certainty they would be the Word of God and the Spirit of God which unlock to us the kingdom of heaven and through which is revealed to our souls the unsearchable riches of the treasures of truth that are there. And within this framework of the WORD and SPIRIT of God, anything that is done down here by Holy Spirit filled people following closely the outline of procedure given in the Word of God will be recognized in heaven.

We would all surely recognize that Jesus would not build a Church and leave it here in the earth and make no provisions for its orderly operation. Certainly He has not done that. He has set within the Church a certain group or body of Spirit filled people with special endowments and charged them with the special responsibility of overseeing and maintaining

the orderly operation of the Church locally and generally. They are called ministers or overseers in the Scriptures and are endowed with certain gifts and qualifications.

We have a very clear example of this outline in Matthew 18:15-20. This is in regard to dealing with the case of an offending brother who has failed to submit himself in the preliminary steps outlined here to resolve the matter. It has run its course now and is to be taken to the Church. (Verse 17). Then in verse 18 is given the same thing Jesus pronounced in Matthew 16:19, namely, "Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: . . ." In other words, if Holy Spirit filled people who have been designated by God to attend to such matters follow closely the outline in the Word of God for dealing with such infractions and irregularities, their judgment and decision will be recognized in heaven. The crux of the whole matter is in Matthew 18:20 where Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." In other words, when Spirit filled people follow closely the step by step procedure set forth for handling a given case or controversy, Jesus is right with them supervising the whole operation so that it cannot be classed as human government or man-rule, but that is just the way Jesus has it set up to maintain the orderly operation of His Church.

Neither was this just something special for the apostles but it is an on-going thing running down through the annals of this Christian era, even unto us in our day, and it is to operate just as long as the Church continues in the earth.

HOME LIFE



Prevention Of Sin



An Invaluable Mercy

We fall into many mistakes on this whole subject of the religion of childhood.

In the first place, we have a vague notion that there is no need of pressing the matter upon a child's attention—that there is plenty of time—that a child has not much to do with religion any way—that religion is a subject that chiefly concerns grown people—that a child is in no danger by delay in embracing Christ—that it will be as well, if not better, for the little ones to wait awhile. And some persons—surely

on account of ignorance or inattention, and not, we trust, indifference—seem to attach very little importance to such efforts as children make to be religious. Sometimes we have heard the interest of a protracted meeting discounted by reflections upon the number of children that knelt for prayer. Surely such persons have not read, or considered, what our Lord Jesus has said: "At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." Matthew 18:1-6.

Critics may differ as much as they please about the exegesis of these weighty words, but their spirit is unmistakable, and we cannot read them aright without feeling that we commit a great sin, and expose ourselves to a great condemnation, when we hinder a little child that would come to Jesus. But it is mournfully true that sometimes we imitate the bad example of the unbelieving disciples who "rebuked" those who "brought young children to him, that he should touch them." Let us read and ponder the record that the evangelist has made at this place: "But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Mark 10:14.

How mischievous are our misty notions and blind prejudices! We ought to press the subject of religion upon the attention of our children. There is not plenty of time. Children have much to do with religion—as much as grown people have. Children are in great danger who delay embracing Christ. It is not, by any means, as well for a child to wait awhile; for he suffers, if not the loss of his soul, nevertheless an incalculable loss, by waiting.

The child is now capable of sin, and by that token we know that he is capable of religion also. He now needs Christ, and, therefore, Christ is now able and willing to save him. For "the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Children are born with depraved natures; they must have new hearts to become children of God in Christ Jesus. They must be pardoned and regenerated. Sin is one in its essential character in grown people and in children. There is but one way as there is but

one Saviour. To become "heirs of God" they must be made "children of God." To become "children of God" they must be "created anew in Christ Jesus"—must be "transformed by the renewing of their mind." They must be "born again"—"born of the Spirit," "born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." And the sooner the better for the child, for the good of men, and for the glory of God.

It is, indeed, a blessed and glorious work of grace when some great sinner of "the giants, of the sons of Anak," is brought to the feet of Jesus; but in every view of the case it would be better that the little sins of children should never develop into the great sins of desperate and hardened sinners. The story of the prodigal, redeemed from the wretchedness of an outcast swineherd to the blessedness of sonship and home, is enough to move the heart of a demon; but it had been better and more beautiful, and more pleasing to God, that the son should never have become a reprobate.

"Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid!" (Romans 6:1, 2).

The child whose sound conversion is delayed—by his own willfulness, or by the mistakes or indifference or unbelief of friends—even though he may afterward be regenerated and be saved, suffers an incalculable loss by the delay. To keep men out of hell is not the chief end or glory of the salvation that Jesus Christ has brought into the world, but rather to *save them from sin*, and to make them unfit for such a place as hell and for such companionship as that of the lost.

Saul of Tarsus was a great sinner, and, by the grace of God, he became a great saint; but his sins did not help to make him a saint. He had been a greater saint had he not been so great a sinner. Persecution of the saints made no contribution to the development of his piety. True, he burst forth into irrepressible and grateful songs whenever he thought of the infinite mercy that was showed to him. Truly and thankfully did he say: "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." I Timothy 1:15. But if he had embraced Christ before that day of blood and darkness, when he "stood by" to sanction the murder of "His first martyr, St. Stephen"—to have been saved from the commission of such a sin would have tuned his heart to songs as grateful as those which celebrate his pardon. Do we not think too little of this—the blessedness of being saved from the commission of great sins? We do not discount the riches of Divine grace—the power of God's Spirit in changing the heart of Saul of Tarsus, but we must

think it had been unspeakably better for the great apostle never to have blasphemed the name of Jesus, never to have "persecuted" His saints, "even unto strange cities."

Read the history of Manasseh, king of Israel, the wicked son of the good Hezekiah. He "wrought uncleanness with greediness," committing all manner of sin. Late in life, under the heavy hand of an avenging Providence, "he besought the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers." Infinite was the mercy that heard and accepted such a sinner. But Manasseh's pardon and Manasseh's salvation could not undo the evil that he had already done. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, went down to hell, as the result of his false doctrines and wicked ways, even before his repentance and pardon. Nor did his repentance and pardon stop the long procession of rebellious ones—full of sin and doomed to death—that kept marching on and down to their fate.

We knew a preacher—a man of genius, and power, and deep devotion. He was once a great sinner. He never mentioned his old life except to deplore his sins, and to magnify the mercy of God. On one occasion, referring to his great and merciful deliverance, he thought of the evil he had done before his repentance and conversion. He paused a moment, and then with a sobbing cry that would have moved a stone, he said, "But I am afraid there are souls in hell that I sent there!" And then, while the tears streamed down his face, he cried, "O Jesus, Jesus, tell them how sorry I am, how sorry I am!"

Would God that we knew that the "prevention of sin is an invaluable mercy!"

—Taken from *Our Children* by Atticus Haygood

Coming To The Garden

It was late Friday night and I was exhausted, but my night was cut short when our three month old son awoke me early in the morning. I changed his diaper then cuddled him next to me, but I could not go back to sleep.

'Though I was physically resting, my mind was already up, running over the duties of the coming day. Then my mind raced on to the next day and the next, and into the distant future until I began to feel physically tired before the next day had begun.

"Lord, slow me down," I prayed. "Rest my mind so it can be in peace right now as that is the most important time to me right now."

As I prayed, a soothing peace settled over me and a song began to echo in my memory:

I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear;
The Son of God discloses.

While this song quieted my soul, my memory painted a picture in my mind. I could see

Grandma Miles bent over her ironing board there in her dining room, right in front of her china cabinet that held the dainty blue dishes I now have. Grandma was singing this song to me with her soft, melodious alto voice,

It has been nearly nine years since I last saw Grandma's face here on earth, and memories of her are gold treasures because they lead a clear, straight path to heaven. Grandma had lived a thoughtful, careful life. Before she passed away, she had bought burial lots in Memory Garden Cemetery close by the praying hands monument. Memory Garden—the cemetery name went with this song. I wonder if I could. . . .

Calmly I loosened our baby son's tight fist and hold and gently tucked him back in the baby bed. I picked up my purse and keys and quietly closed the front door behind me.

I turned our car toward the east where the dark brown earth and navy blue sky wore a ribbon of pink in between. I drove down the road where so many local citizens have last ridden, going the way of all men. Though the air was cool and misty, I felt warm and vibrant.

Grandma's resting place was close to the front, near to the parking lot. My feet left dark green prints in the dewy grass as I walked over to Grandma's and Grandpa's stone. I bent down to read over the names once more. Then I looked up over the field and I saw a soft, gray mist resting over the field, and in a row of tall willow trees many birds were fluttering in and out, tweeting gaily to each other.

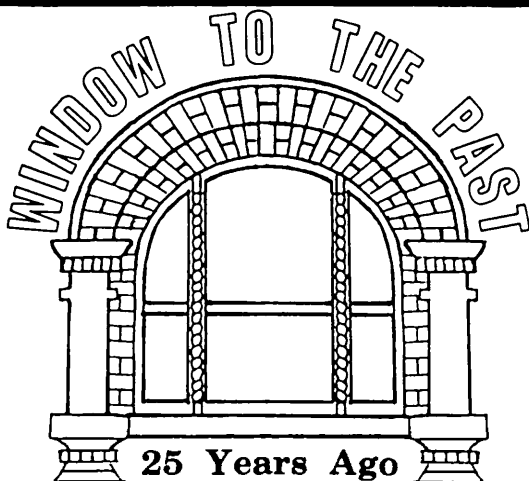
Somehow, it did not seem a dreary place to me but a peaceful place of slumber. There were no human voices, no loud motors, no ringing telephones, no radios or such, no ticking clocks. Time on earth had stopped for everyone here. With this thought, time seemed to stop pushing me. What was I worrying about or rushing around for, "For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways." James 1:11.

I bowed my head, "Lord, because I know you have guided me up to right now, I will leave today, tomorrow, and the hereafter in your hands also. Thank you for blessing me here in the garden where the birds like winged angels sing so sweetly in the treetops. Thank you, Lord Jesus, Amen."

Again I looked out over the field and saw that the gray mist of morning had risen and golden sunlight was sparkling on the dew. The time spent alone with God was precious and I tucked the memory of it in my heart as I walked back to my car. I felt the burdens of the future lift from my shoulders just as the gray mist had lifted over the field before me.

Anyway, what is the hurry and worry about here on earth? Slow down, simply trust in God and be peacefully happy forever after.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell



Excerpts Taken From
June, 1964 *Faith and Victory*



"As we write these lines, our hearts are heavy because of the loss that you and all of us—Church of God—have sustained in the passing of our first American missionary to Nigeria, our beloved Bro. David Madden who so recently faithfully labored there under very trying circumstances.

"Bro. Madden felt burdened of the Lord to make this missionary trip, which was the first personal contact from the Church of God Mission in Nigeria. Because of his sudden illness on returning home, he was unable to make a full report to the Church on his labors and investigation, but those close to him were informed of the highlights and sidelights of his experiences. His consuming interest was the Nigerian mission field.

"May his passing create in the Church a greater vision, zeal and fervency of Spirit to meet the challenge of the great foreign mission fields. May each of us redouble our efforts, grasp and carry onward the soul-saving gospel torch which Bro. David laid down."

—Lawrence Pruitt