

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Greater Than the Heavens

The great celestial bodies are
most marvelous and grand,
And how they keep their courses
Men cannot understand.
But something far more wonderful
than stars that brightly glow
Is the mercy of the living God
to creatures here below.

We cannot tell the distance to
His throne so far away,
but we can know that surely
He hears us when we pray.
We cannot hide our wickedness,
nor from His presence flee,
But we can come confessing all,
And He will make us free.

We marvel at the rolling spheres
that dot the evening sky,
but do we ever wonder why
God gave His Son to die?
We gaze upon His handiwork while
traveling day by day,
But do we ever thank Him that
He bore our sins away?

Men fly around this planet small,
and compass land and sea,
And as they journey into space,
how thrilling it must be;
They witness things magnificent,
and wondrous to behold;
But the greatness of our Saviour God
has never yet been told.

—Cora L. Vinal

Salvation Adapted to Every Need and Condition of the Soul

(Taken from *The Gospel Trumpet*,—1898)

The infinite wisdom and actual divinity of the Holy Bible is wonderfully demonstrated in this fact. No other book on earth is alike instructive, interesting, and never exhausted; both by ignorant and learned, by youth and mature minds. To such as love God and the truth; and especially to such as have been conformed to the image of His Son, be they profound and cultured, or the most illiterate and simple, the inspired volume is ever precious, unfolding new and rich mines of golden thought at every reading, even down to old age.

How marvelously the inspired volume is adapted to the wants of mankind as a Book of Salvation!

Throughout the whole world it has been a fact in human experience, that a sacrifice was needed to atone for the sins of our race. Everywhere the impression rests upon the human heart that God's wrath has been provoked by sin in this world. And in nearly all heathen lands, when the torch of heaven's truth was lifted there, it found men inflicting tortures of some kind upon themselves, or sacrificing in cruel death their own offspring, with a hope of satisfying offended justice. O reader, is not the gospel of God's salvation glad tidings of great joy to all this sin-stricken world? Does it not exactly meet that deep and universally felt want in the human breast, of a sacrifice for our sins? How gracious the words of him who knows and bears the sins and griefs of all our race! How wonderful they anticipate our inward condition, and announce relief to the oppressed and struggling soul! "Come unto me, all ye that labor, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for

I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matt. 11:28, 29.

Look at all this unhappy world. Are not the hearts of the children of men like the ever restless waters of the sea? Behold the Lamb of God who taketh away our sins; the Prince of peace who calms the sea of inward fear and guilt.

And the infinite wisdom of God has placed this great salvation in reach of all. The wise of heart and understanding, if only humble minded, may enter there and find, not only a perfect redemption but, also the wonderful stores of wisdom for which he thirsts. The most simple and unlearned find no difficulty in grasping and appropriating the saving grace of God as soon as they become willing to learn of him who is meek and lowly in heart.

The wonderful fact in the plan of redemption is this: it heals the malady of sin from the inmost core of our nature. It enters and changes the whole bent of our moral being. It purifies the very fountain of thought and action. It lifts up a perfect standard of holiness, and conforms our affections to the same. It demands a life of absolute freedom from sin, and creates that life in us. "The law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did." "The blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh" — rendered persons outwardly and legally pure. But, "How much more shall [yea, doth] the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit, offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" Heb. 9:13, 14. Namely, the blood of the new covenant purges our very nature, and produces an inward consciousness of purity.

Such a salvation was needed by our fallen race. After King David had been led by the tempter to tarnish his beautiful life with one dark spot of sin, in his humiliation he was led to deeply scrutinize the human heart, and the hidden causes of those outcroppings of sin, that are so opposite to the general character and principles of righteousness. And, behold! he discovered that he "was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." By the sin of our first parents a vein of evil nature has been transmitted down through all our race. This he felt the need of having removed. "Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts." To insure a pure stream the fountain must be cleansed. And he through the Spirit predicted such a remedy for sin in the following prayer: "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Psalms 51:5-10.



Time moves on. The Son of God appears to take away sin by the sacrifice of himself; and in response to the heart of man that longs for inward purity we hear him say: "I will, be thou clean;" and "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin," and "all unrighteousness," which includes inbred unrighteousness.

Some ancient philosophers discovered and taught some very pure and perfect ethics. But they confessed themselves unable to live up to their own standard, much less impart an ability to their pupils to do so. Jesus our Lord and Savior so far excelled all other moral philosophers, that he taught the only perfect law ever delivered to man, exemplified it in his life, and has power to raise all his disciples to the same standard, enabling us not only to walk in a perfect way before God, but to do it easily and naturally. Outward holiness is just as spontaneous in the life, where perfect holiness reigns within, as good fruit naturally adorns a good tree. Oh, how shall we thank God for this *new creating salvation in Jesus our Lord*? Let the vilest come to him and realize an entire revolution from sin unto holiness.

Another beautiful fact in the adaptation of salvation to our needs is this: it does not only impart that grace and fortitude by which men can readily resist all temptations to evil, but its own inward happiness utterly weans the mind and heart from all sinful indulgences. The ransomed soul is so perfectly satiated with its own heavenly feast of love and holy delight, that the allurements of this world become utterly distasteful. All evil is repelled by the surpassing delight of that which is holy and good. How can the base mud-cakes of sinful pleasure, "the bread of wickedness," excite desire in a soul that is accustomed to eat "angels' food"? Thus did Nehemiah say to the people: "The joy of the Lord is your strength." Neh. 8:10. The joys of salvation invest the soul with boldness to reject all offered pleasures of sin. Behold, the presence of God is with his people. And, "In thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore." Psalm 16:11. "Therefore. . . everlasting joy shall be unto them." Isaiah 61:7. The human heart, it is true, was created for and ardently thirsts after happiness. *Salvation fills that desire, and abundantly satiates that thirst.* Full salvation, and nothing else will do it. "And in this mountain [of His holiness] shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined." "For in this mountain shall the hand of the Lord rest." Isaiah 25:6, 10.

Oh, if poor sinners but knew that the love of God imparts a "fullness of joy," a perfect delight in

all the will of God; and raises us above all relish for the miserable pleasures they are acquainted with in the lie of sin, then would they gladly exchange sin for salvation, and the drudgery of Satan for the peaceful service of God.

Again, salvation is adapted to the wants of the soul in its perfect keeping power. The death of Christ atones for our transgression, his resurrection gives us victory over death, and his life is a pledge of our preservation in him. "Because he liveth, we shall live also."

Hence the apostle Jude had the pleasure of writing a letter "to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ; and called." And Peter testifies that we "are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time." I Peter 1:5.

Many poor souls hesitate to give themselves to God for fear they will not be able to endure unto the end. Oh, cast such fears to the winds! God's salvation provides for our eternal salvation from sin, and no child of God needs to have the sad experience of a backslider. The cure of sin is both a thorough and a permanent success.

—Author Unknown



Satisfies the Thirst

by Connie Sorrell

The battle was hot and the soldiers were anxious. King David, now a tested and capable general, was down in the hold with his troop of mighty men. The enemy, giant Philistine soldiers, had seized and established their garrison (headquarters) in Bethlehem.

Bethlehem was King David's birthplace, where his mother first cradled him in her arms. Bethlehem is where his big brothers had teased him as a child and where his Father, Jesse, had instructed him as a son. Bethlehem had deep wells of cool water and King David remembered himself as a shepherd boy drawing water from the well at the gate where his father's thirsty sheep had drunk.

Suddenly, King David was so thirsty for a drink of that cool well water! "Oh, that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!" he told his mighty men about him.

Three of the men took special note of the king's request. Quietly, without the king's knowledge, they left the hold and crept towards Bethlehem. The Philistines realized King David and his men were capable soldiers who served a powerful God, so they kept Bethlehem heavily guarded through each watch.

However, these three men were able to break through the host of Philistines and they brought to King David cool water from the well by the gate of Bethlehem. The king was appalled! He would not drink of the water for he said, "Be it far from me, O Lord, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives?" He realized the dangerous risk these three men had undertaken just to satisfy his homesick longing for a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem. He would not drink it, but he poured it out unto the Lord as a drink offering. (II Sam. 23:13-17; Ex. 29:40).

Oh, how there is a need today for more thirsting after righteousness! We must lay all self aside and seek after the refreshing purity of grace that flows from the side of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. The blood of the Lamb is the only cleansing agent that can wash away such ugly sins as lust, envy, strife, backbiting, and anger and yet keep its cleansing and healing power. No matter how much the enemy may entrench about the City of God, he can not spoil the taste and goodness of the living water of life.

"O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him." Ps. 34:8.

Oh, wayward, homesick souls, feel the gentle pull of heart strings when memories of the faithful saints pass before your mind? Remember father and mother sitting side-by-side in church with the well-worn Bible shared between them? Remember the patient Sunday school teacher who tried to answer all the questions before dismissal? Remember the humble pastor who labored to preach you the Truth? Remember the songs, the prayers, and fiery testimonies? Let memory put a longing deep inside your heart that will draw you back to God.

Let us soak up the goodness of Jesus that others will see the satisfaction His cleansing will bring into a life. When we realize that this cleansing water of life was made possible by the shed blood of God's only begotten Son, then it seems a small matter to pour a sacrificial life unto the Lord.

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 Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, OK 73044 (USPS184-660).

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES



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

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Editorials

Editorial space is for the purpose of offering an opinion on an issue, so in pondering what could be written, several relevant issues came to mind. Logical cases could be established for each of them, and such things have their rightful times of consideration, yet they all seemed to pall at the thought of the simplicity of believing the word of God. I say simplicity, because even a Bible scholar, of great intelligence can become confused in the technicalities of doctrine. We must study the word in order to be equipped for the battles of life, but a simple incorporating of the word of God into our everyday actions is what is required.

"Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye." Mark 7:13. This was spoken of a people steeped in the law of God, yet far from the spirit of it. In our society, there are many intellectuals in the world, people who can persuade others, but the true test is how they treat others in their everyday life and the conscientiousness with which they serve God.

There is a story which tells of a man who rushed into a railway station one morning, and breathlessly asked the ticket clerk when the 8:01 train was to leave. "At 8:01," was the answer. "Well," replied the man, "it's 7:59 by my watch, 7:57 by the town clock, and 8:04 by the station clock. Which do I go by?" "You can go by any clock you wish," said the clerk, "but you can't go by the 8:01, for it has already left."

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." I Peter 1:23. There are all kinds of religious barometers people can use to align their lives to, but the pure word of God is the proper standard that we must go by in this life. It is the only thing that will assure us of a desired haven in the life to come.

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We would like to take this opportunity to offer our thanks to those who have so graciously been supporting this work of faith. We respectfully acknowledge the goodness of God in providing the considerable amount needed to keep it operating. And we do depend on the prayers of the saints in the continuance of getting the gospel into the hands of those who will profit from it.

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Sis. Maxine Pruitt is helping us full time now and we are in the process of putting more of our operation on computer. Our new fiscal year begins June 1, and at that time we hope to be ready to do all of our accounting by computer. We also plan to generate all of our invoices for orders by computer.

So if for any reason there should be a mistake in book or tract orders, we ask you to bear with us until we work out all the complexities of the new system.

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We were recently pleasantly surprised to learn that there is a price war on paper resulting in lower prices. So on May 20 we ordered 5500 pounds of paper with which to reprint the "Evening Light" songbook which is almost out of stock.

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Bro. Chuck Elwell and his wife, Sis. Coquette, arrived in Guthrie on May 23. This was previous to the Oklahoma State camp meeting held here. Bro. Chuck will also take up the pastoral duties of the Guthrie congregation. His new address is 5322 Sooner Rd., Guthrie, OK 73044.

Prayer Requests

OH—"Please pray for me if you will. . . ."

—Dan Leibensperger

OH—"I have had one virus after the other since Feb. Please, when you pray, pray for me."

—L. M. Dillon

FL—Bro. Herschel Hargrave is having a severe battle with an affliction. Your prayers for him would be appreciated.

CA—"I have an unspoken request."

—Helen Carson

OH—Sis. Juanita Blankenship desires the saints' prayers for her niece, Roxanna Villars, who is having a lot of stomach pain.

Nigeria—"Please still remember Bro. Roland Hart in your prayers for his healing.

—F. Naths-Igbani

OR—"My foot is still bad from gout. Please pray for my healing."

—Grace Jones

SC—"Pray for my wife and I; we are suffering with arthritis."

—Utson Platt

FL—"Remember me in your prayers; my eyesight is bad."

—Roxieann Dunn

TX—Sis. Nellie Lovell asks for the prayers of the saints for a condition she is suffering with, also her neighbor who has pneumonia.

FL—"Please pray for my complete healing."

—Thomas Humphrey

LA—"Please pray for me, Cecil Martin, for my health; Sis. Jacklyn Shackley for her eyes; Mrs. Lillie Love for her eyes; and Rex Bordwell who was in a terrible accident."

FL—"I am sick; pray for me." —Effie Clark

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"Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance; it is laying hold of His highest willingness."

—Richard Trench

1991 Camp Meeting Dates

Tulsa, OK—June 7-16

Green Bank, WV—June 14-23

Jefferson, OR—June 14-23

Oakland, CA—June 17-23

Loranger, LA—June 28-July 7

Fresno, CA—July 5-14

National at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO—July 19-28

Bakersfield, CA—Aug. 2-11

Ensenada, Mexico—Aug. 4-11

Durham, NC—Aug. 11-18

Duncannon, PA—Aug. 11-18

Boley, OK—Aug. 18-25

California State at Pacoima, CA—Aug. 23-Sept. 1

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

WICHITA, KS MEETING REPORT

We thank God once more for His special blessings to us. He truly anointed in our meeting and sent His precious Word in showers of blessings. We were exhorted to contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints. We were told about true freedom, the sufficiency of God's grace, the importance of having a right spirit, being led by the still waters and also the importance of stillness. The Word came forth on being led by the still waters as well as being made to lie down. It was made plain to us how much sheep are like humans in their dispositions and what it takes to get them to be quiet and lie down. We were exhorted to let our yeas be yea and our nays be nay. We are to get our values straight and it was stated very explicitly that salvation is the most valuable thing there is. We must build on the right foundation.

The message for the ordinance service was most precious. Bro. Samons made it so clear and emphatic how important it is to be a servant. We appreciate so much God sending Bro. Samons to our meeting. Just to see how much the Lord has comforted and blessed him and given him such calm and peaceful sublimity after his long trial and great loss, was a double blessing. He passed on to us the warning that God gave him. "Be very careful." May God help everyone of His children to do that because we want to be sure of a safe landing in heaven.

We just thank God for His faithfulness.

—Wichita congregation

GOULDS, FL CAMP MEETING REPORT

We thank and praise God for His rich Word that he sent during our 22nd camp meeting.

The Lord blessed during our teaching services

on the subjects of "Financial Freedom" and "The Six Steps to Physical Health." The Question and Answer session was a blessing.

Continue to pray for us. Remember our pastor in prayer as he is still in the furnace of affliction. Christian love, —Sis. Florine Edwards

HOLLY HILL, SC SPRING MEETING REPORT

Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am sending in a report of our spring meeting. The Lord did anoint the messages. Souls were stirred and saints were blessed. We had a good attendance and God did help some to see their need of salvation.

Yours in Christian love, —Utson Platt

REPORT OF BOLEY, OK REVIVAL

We are yet praising the Lord for the wonderful meeting He blessed us with in Boley, OK. The blessed Word of God was anointed of the Holy Spirit in feeding our souls.

We appreciate the ministers who labored in the meeting. The attendance was good as well as altar work.

The dear Lord bless and reward each one for their labor of love ministered in this meeting.

Yours in His great name, —Katherine Williams

MISSOURI STATE CAMP MEETING REPORT

We are very thankful to the Lord for another state camp meeting which has come and gone here at Myrtle, MO, May 8-12. The services were richly blessed and anointed by the Holy Spirit. Our souls were blessed and challenged by the many anointed messages which were preached. The attendance of the meeting was very good and several states were represented. May we all be mindful of the precious Word of truth proclaimed in this meeting, being not forgetful hearers, but doers of the Word. The preaching of the Word which went forth in this meeting was sufficient to get anyone to heaven who desires to go, and we feel better equipped to fight the good fight of faith, and a greater determination to walk the path which our Saviour trod before us. We thank Him for His visitation and faithfulness to us in this camp meeting.

—Harlan Sorrell

TULSA, OK CAMP MEETING

Lord willing, our camp meeting in Tulsa will be June 7-16.

You are invited to attend these services. On weekdays the services will be at 6:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. On Sundays there will be an additional service at 2:30 p.m. The meeting will

close on the last Sunday with the 2:30 service.

For further information contact Bro. Charles Lowe, phone, (918) 584-6838. The church phone is (918) 584-8438. —Sister Eva Hardman

JEFFERSON, OR CAMP MEETING

The annual camp meeting of the Church of God at Jefferson, OR will be held from Friday, June 14 through Sunday, June 23. The first service will be Friday night at 7:30. We extend a hearty invitation to all to attend. There are ample accommodations for everyone, including R. V. hookups on the grounds.

We are praying for the Lord to send us ministerial help of His own choosing. We would appreciate earnest prayer for the meeting.

Anyone coming by public transportation, please contact us and we will meet you at the proper terminal. Those needing further assistance, please call Bro. Clifford Smith, (503) 581-4575.

GREEN BANK, WV CAMP MEETING

The camp meeting at Green Bank, WV will be held June 14-23. There will be two services daily. The first service will be Friday at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome and urged to come.

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

Meals will be served and all who come will be cared for. Bring a coat as the nights are cool. The past year has been a trying year for the Green Bank congregation, but by God's grace we have stood the test. Now we are looking for some special outpourings of God's blessings. Hope you can be here.

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

LORANGER, LA CAMP MEETING

Starting with a night service on Friday, June 28, the camp meeting will, Lord willing continue with services daily through July 7.

You are invited to come. There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Power and water hookups are available for those with campers. Meals will be served and expenses met by freewill offerings.

From Loranger, go two miles south and 3 1/2 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, (504) 878-

6111. The chapel phone is (504) 878-2788.

"Salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks." Now is the time for spiritual advancement.

If you are unable to come, please be remembering this meeting in your prayers.

FRESNO CA, CAMP MEETING

The Fresno, CA Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, July 5-14, 1991, at 388 N. First St., Fresno, CA.

A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this meeting. Provisions will be made to care for all who come. All meeting expenses will be met by freewill offerings. Come praying that the anointing of God will rest upon this entire meeting and that souls will be saved, believers sanctified, and bodies healed.

Directions to the grounds are as following: For those coming from the north on Hwy. 99, take the Belmont ext., go east three miles to First St., turn right and go two blocks to Grant. The Church is on the corner of First and Grant. For those coming from the south, take the Venture exit, go east to First St., turn left and follow to Grant. For further information contact Bro. Charles Taylor at 4776 N. Chestnut, Fresno, CA 93726, phone (209) 348-1016, or Bro. Charles Parrish at 2230 S. Lee, Fresno, CA 93706, phone (209) 485-3465.

Christian love, —Sis. Gladys Foster

54TH NATIONAL CAMP MEETING MONARK SPRINGS, MO

The National Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO, July 19-28, 1990. All are cordially invited to come and bring others to enjoy the spiritual blessings that we are expecting from the Lord.

The Monark Springs Campground is located approximately five miles east of Neosho, MO. It is one mile east and 3/4 mile south of the intersection of Highways 86 and 71 Alternate.

If you travel to Neosho by bus, you may telephone the campground (472-6427, Granby, MO) for 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 tents and dormitory spaces should be addressed to Sis. DeLoris Bradley, Rt. 1 Bartlett, KS 67332, phone (316) 226-3390. She will be coordinating requests for sleeping quarters on the campground.

Our scheduled work days are June 24, July 6 and July 13. We will be looking forward to working together.

If you have any questions, we will be glad to help in any way we can.

—Business managers: Randel Bradley, (above address), or Ed Johnston, Rt. 2 Box 186, Seymour, MO 65746, phone (417) 935-2520.

TENT REVIVAL

July 28 through Aug. 4, 1991

This is a major outreach to the Water Valley and Coffeerville, MS community. We invite the prayers and support of the saints in this evangelistic effort. Bro. Keith Fuller and Bro. Herschell Hargrave will be the evangelists. You are welcome to come. All will be cared for who do. Pray for an effectual meeting. There will be services nightly at 7:30 p.m. with day services to be announced later. This meeting will be operated on a freewill basis. Inquiries pertaining to this meeting can be directed to: Bro. Louis Kimble, (504) 467-9039, or Bro. Allen Reed, (601) 473-4634.

DURHAM, NC CAMP MEETING

Our camp meeting in Durham, NC will be held, Lord willing, August 11-18. We hope and pray the Lord will send whom He wills to come. All people are invited. Please call (919) 544-2891 for more information.

—Bro. Melvin Lennon

BOLEY, OK CAMP MEETING

Lord willing, the Boley, OK Camp Meeting will convene Aug. 18-25. We extend a warm welcome to all nations to attend this meeting. Men and women's dormitories will be available to all who would like to use them. There are also spaces on the campground for trailers and motor homes.

We are looking to the Lord to send ministers and workers of His own choice to work in the meeting. Come praying the Lord will save souls—remember the Lord's request. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." Luke 10:2.

There will be two services daily: 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., with all-day services on both Sundays. For more information contact Sis. Anna Mae Thompson (918) 667-3648, Rt. 1, Box 71-A, Boley, OK 74829, or Sis. Katherine Williams, 905 N. E. 15th, Oklahoma City, OK 73104, phone (405) 235-2270.

CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The California State Camp Meeting at Pacoima, CA, will be held, Lord willing, Aug. 23 through Sept. 1. The chapel location is 12312 Osborne Place. The chapel phone is (818) 899-9021.

Accommodations will be provided to all who attend. The expenses of the meeting will be met by freewill offerings. We are confident that all who come expecting a blessing, and are in humble readiness for it, will not be disappointed. We urge every saint of God to make a special effort to support the meeting in attendance, and particularly with prayer.

For further information you may contact Bro. Robert Sherman, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA 91331, phone, (818) 896-7593, or the Sunset Guest Home, (818) 899-2022, or Bro. James Pierro, 11316 Glenoak Blvd., Pacoima, CA 91331, phone (818) 896-5331. —James Pierro



FROM THE READERS. . .



AR—Brother Wayne and our friends Guthrie way: I am reminded each day of how we really need each other. Regardless of our labors, God gives the increase and the rich blessings fall upon us all. The only way we can repay Him a little bit to help heal the hurt inflicted on Calvary is to love Him with all our heart. We must be ready each day the Lord gives us to say, "Dear Jesus, please let me help you today." May I undo any selfishness within me so that I may hear the cries in the hearts of others.

There are so many prayer requests and needs, let us not sleep like Peter, James, and John did in the garden. They were asked to watch and pray (Mark 14:38); so are we. —Sis. Lou Bray

OK—Dear Ones: Surely, we have much thanksgiving to give to God and share with His children. My heart relates to the Scripture, "Blessing and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever." I have been in quite a siege with a physical affliction, but God has so wonderfully healed me and blessed us that it is hard to know which blessing to write about.

In July of 1990 my affliction became severe enough that I could not keep up with my regular duties. This began a time of submitting my desires and saying, "Yes, Lord, whatever you will." We

have learned through life that God never wastes His children's pain.

In praying, God always dealt with us about waiting on Him. Truly we can say, "God's way is best." He turned this time of trusting and waiting into a precious Ebenezer stone. Many times, although in severe pain, my heart was overwhelmed by the visitations from God. I love serving the Lord and definitely recommend God for healing. I have come to realize healing is such a small part of divine healing, as there are so many other benefits to enjoy while trusting God. I thank God for this time of trusting Him. God never allowed us to pray for healing, but impressed us to thank Him and praise Him for it instead. Many times this is when our blessings came.

In January my body had made so many drastic changes it seemed I could not go on. One day in desperation I decided to fast until I got something definite from God. On the second day God abruptly stopped me and said, "Brenda, I can heal you right now if that is what you want, or do you want me to have my way?" I said, "Oh Lord, I want you to have your way." Words cannot describe the peace that flooded through my soul. The Devil told me I had just given God permission to take my life, but God made it so sweet that life seemed insignificant.

In February my parents came to care for me and my family. On the evening of the 25th, several saints just happened to come to our home. They sang several songs and had prayer. The presence of the Lord was so very real and precious. The ministers anointed me and had prayer again. During prayer I felt such a renewed faith but no change. I told the saints I would believe anyway. One of the ministers said, "We need more." Again prayer was offered, and at some point I realized I was totally free from pain and was sitting up (which I had not been able to do for a couple of months.) More than anything, I just remember the sweetness of the hour. Oh, it is "so sweet to trust in Jesus." We surely thank God for this miracle in our family!

We want to express our appreciation to our family, our pastor and wife, and all the many saints who stood by us. Your love, prayers, food, flowers, and cards helped make this trial a little easier. Surely we want God to have all the glory and honor for all His blessings to us. Our desire is to serve God faithfully in whatever manner He chooses to use us.

Our love,

—Brenda Wilkins

CA—Greetings in Jesus' dear name: I am so thankful to still be saved and I am very much encouraged. The Lord has been so merciful to me and is showing me how to submit myself into His

hands. The last part of 1990 I began to ask God to help me over some great trials I was going through. I know the business world takes inventory of everything in stock. I asked God to take an inventory of my life. If there was anything I had on hand that I shouldn't, I wanted Him to show me. God began showing me myself and many things he showed me, I was astonished at. But I am happy God loved me enough to deal with my heart. I truly left off everything God put His hand on. I can say as the psalmist David said in Psalm 119:101, "I have refrained my feet from every evil way that I might keep thy word." My plea to God is found in Psalm 51:11, "Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me." Pray for me that I'll obey God's commands.

Yours in Christ, —Naomi Jennings
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OR—Dear Bro. Wayne and all at the Print Shop: "I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications. Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live." Ps. 116:1-2. I can truly testify that God does hear and answer prayer. Because of His infinite wisdom and unbounded love for me, I can present my every need to Him without asking for a specific answer. He knows the desires of my heart, but my greatest desire is for His will to be done in my life. I'll accept whatever He permits to come to pass with thanksgiving because He has promised that "all things work together for good to them that love God."

The May *Faith and Victory* contained a number of encouraging and thought-provoking messages. I pray that all who read it will seek a closer walk with our Saviour, and that includes myself.

With Christian love, —Bill Busch
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AL—Dear Bro. Wayne: I greet you in the precious name of Jesus. I trust you are all well out your way. We had a storm here at our house. Three trees were uprooted; four broke off in the middle; and three more were bent over. . . . We were at Jena, LA, holding a meeting when it happened. It hit on the well house and just about destroyed our hurricane fence. We still have a lot to be thankful for; our house, our car and our lives. God is so good to us all. I love Him more each day.

Do remember us in prayer, especially me.

—Bro. and Sis. Emmett Gerald
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TN—Dear Bro. Murphey and co-workers: Greetings in Jesus' lovely name from East Tennessee. I trust you folks are well and happy in the Lord and His work. Please continue to be true and faithful to your calling in publishing the truth, God's holy, pure and unadulterated Word.

Please remember us in prayer, my wife especially.

Christian love, —Charles B. Williams
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LA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings to you and all the workers there at the Print Shop: I trust the Lord is blessing each of you with all your many daily needs. I say many, for it does seem there are many needs in this day and time. The greatest, of course, is to have courage and grace in the souls to face the enemy of all of God's people. He hates the Lord, therefore he hates all who are loving and striving to serve Him. He is waging hard battles on many, but as we look to the Lord, we can say with Paul, "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

I was thinking recently of a few words in a song, "We are in a world of trouble." Thank the Lord, it doesn't stop there. It goes on to say, "but the Lord is *always* near." That is the secret of our victory, having our dear Saviour always near to fight our battles for us. I have learned to appreciate a little verse so much, "Be still, and know that I am God: . . ." Ps. 46:10.

Your meeting there starts soon and we will be praying for it. . . . —Sis. Alta Flynn
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OK—Dear saints: We wish to thank the Lord for His blessings and goodness to us during the premature birth of our daughter, Darla.

When we realized that things were progressing we called the midwife and were told they would take us to an hospital, so we decided to stay locally. We had so many fears and questions and didn't really know what step to take next, but as the song says, "Each step I take my Saviour goes before me and with His *loving* hand He leads the way." It was like God took everything into control that Sunday morning.

The doctor who was on call at the emergency room was one we had heard favorable reports of from the community. We were more comfortable with him than we would have been had one of the others been on duty. The doctor and nurses were very congenial with us and went along with our convictions in trusting God.

After Darla's birth they wanted to take her to Tulsa. But once again the Lord stepped in, and when Danny told them we wished to keep her here, only in the incubator, even the nurses from Tulsa were sweet about it and told us that they stood by our decision. How we thank the Lord.

When they left between 10 and 11 a.m., they told the local nurses Darla would be gone in two hours. At 10 p.m. that evening she was breathing good on her own, moving her hands and taking nourishment. The Lord saw it was best to take her

on to heaven the next morning, but we thank God for those extra 20 hours of life.

We also want to express our thanksgiving to the saints for their prayers, phone calls, and cards during this time. We would not want to go through something like this without the love of the family of God holding us up. May God richly bless each one for being the hand of the Lord extended in our direction.

Sincere love and gratitude,

—Daniel and Anita Adams

OH—Dear ones at the Print Shop: I am thankful I am saved and living for Jesus. He means so much to me. Nobody could ever do for me what Jesus has. We have so much to be thankful for. He will see us through all of our troubles whenever they come our way if we will only trust Him. What a great day that will be when God calls us home to be with Him forever. . . .

I have loved ones who are lost, so please pray for them. I also have a brother and some sisters who are sick so pray and God will heal them if it is His will.

Your brother in Christ, —Chester Dunaway

WA—Dear Bro. Wayne and all at the Lord's Print Shop: I am thankful to the Lord for His love to mankind in giving His life for the sins of our soul. I am thankful He counted me worthy of salvation. As the song says, "I could never tell just what He has done for me," but we will have all eternity to thank and praise Him. . . .

Christian love, —Sister Violet Thomas

LA—I want to thank all the saints for all of their prayers through the years. They meant so much to all of us in our family. I am so glad we are all still saved and our names are still in the Lamb's book of life.

Pray for us. We are praying for you.

Love, —The N. P. Futch family

Correction

In the article printed in the May issue entitled, "They Shall All Know Me," by Sis. Fern Stubblefield, the Scripture quotation from Hebrews 8:11 should have read, "And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest."

FOREIGN MISSION REPORT



From India . . .

May 16—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus. I believe the camp meetings have already started in America this year, and we pray for the blessings of each one.

The Church of God in South India is also progressing, obeying the Divine call and commission of our Lord. We had a wonderful all-day service at Trichur on May 1st which was blessed with good attendance and stirring messages. Another all-day service will be held at Cochin in the second week of June. This week a youth camp meeting will be held at Karikkom for the edification of young people in the church.

Monsoon rains will be starting in our state within two weeks. India is going to meet another general election next week and we don't know who is going to be elected to power to form a government. Please continue to pray for us as we do for you every day. We expect all kinds of support from the saints in America for our efforts in the field of the gospel.

Yours in Him,

—Bro. John Varghese

Question and Answer
by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Could you explain to me the difference between the two baptisms (water baptism and spiritual baptism)? Which is the true baptism?

Answer: I trust the Lord will enable me by His Spirit to make this answer plain. First, I would say that both baptisms referred to in the question are true baptisms, definitely taught in the New Testament Scriptures. The one is a work of man, immersing the bodies of believers under the water as a public testimony of their conversion to Christ, the other a work of the Holy Spirit upon the inward man, inducting him into the body of Christ and purifying his heart by faith. Further, let us understand that both of these baptisms are exclusively and totally New Testament doctrine. They never were taught nor practiced among the Israelites in

Old Testament times. They belong exclusively to the gospel dispensation and are to accompany the preaching of the gospel and the conversion of souls to Christ. The word "baptism" does not occur a single time in the Old Testament. There is only one reference to baptism relating to the Israelites in the New Testament and it is found in I Corinthians 10:2 where it says "And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea." This refers to the Israelites passing through the Red Sea with the cloud of God over them and enveloping them from Pharaoh's army, and it was a mass operation, not an individual personal thing such as an individual converted to Christ testifies to when he is baptized. In Acts 1:21-22 we read, "Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection." We see, then, that the ordinance of water baptism came right in and had its beginning with the bringing in of the preaching of salvation through faith in Christ and His gospel.

After Jesus had risen from the dead and had been with His disciples periodically for about 40 days, He delivered unto them His Divine commission to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" Matt. 28:19. Mark records this same commission in these words, "... Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; ..." Mark 16:15-16. These Scriptures make it very plain that baptism is to be taught wherever the gospel is preached and all converts to the Christian faith are to be baptized as an outward testimony of that inward work of grace in the soul. The disciples taught this wherever they preached and souls were saved.

Water baptism is symbolic of all the fundamental elements of the atonement—the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our faith in the whole plan of salvation in all of its parts. Paul makes this very plain in Romans 6:3-4 where he says, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." "Baptized into Jesus Christ" would clearly refer to a spiritual operation. By

faith in the merits of the shed blood of the Son of God the soul is "born again" of the Spirit (John 3:5), inducted into Christ, and brought into fellowship with Him through the operation of the Spirit. As a result of this experience the converted individual is baptized in water to give in symbol an outward testimony to the inward work of the Spirit in his soul. Verse four of Romans six says that because we are baptized into Christ, therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead we should walk in newness of life. This is water baptism. Its purpose is to signify that we are dead with Christ to the things of the flesh, and we symbolize that by being buried in the water. We further testify to our new life in Christ by being raised up out of the water. Water baptism is closely related to the gospel of Christ because it testifies in symbol to our faith in the death, burial, and resurrection to a new life (eternal life) of the Lord Jesus Christ. In I Peter 3:21 Peter referred to baptism as a figure, and compared it to the eight

"Water baptism is symbolic of all the fundamental elements of the atonement."

souls who were saved from a drowning death by the ark they were in as the souls of all who were baptized into Christ Jesus were saved from eternal death by abiding

in Him. He also mentioned that it was not the washing away of the filth of the flesh. There is no actual cleansing from sin in the ordinance of baptism, but Peter says it is the answer of a good conscience toward God. Now it must be recognized by all that a person cannot answer to a good conscience until he has or receives a good conscience. How does one obtain this good conscience? Hebrews 9:14 says, "How much more shall the blood of Christ, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 1:3, speaking of Christ says, "... When he had by himself purged our sins. ..." In Revelation 1:5, speaking of Jesus, says, "... Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood," We see here that our sins must be purged by the blood of Jesus and our conscience purged before one is eligible for baptism. Then the individual is baptized in water to give public testimony to that experience.

Let us look a little at the teaching in the New Testament regarding spiritual baptism. This is also an exclusive New Testament doctrine. While there are numerous Scriptures in the Old Testament relative to the Spirit of God coming "upon" people, and qualifying them for some special work or purpose, yet there are no references at all to any people ever being baptized with the Holy Spirit and

Him abiding within them such as is taught for all converted souls in the New Testament. In Matthew 3:11-12 John the Baptist said, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." Here we have water baptism and Holy Ghost baptism contrasted. Men could baptize with water, but it took Jesus to baptize with the Holy Ghost, and He had to die and shed His blood in order to do it. Jesus said in John 16:7, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." Again Jesus said in Acts 1:5, "For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence."

All of the above texts make it clear that the baptism of the Holy Ghost had not yet come upon men up to the time of Jesus, nor during His time, but He was preparing the way for Him to come. In Luke 24:49 Jesus said, "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." The promise of the Father was the Holy Spirit as an abiding Comforter for the saints and a source of power and victory for preaching and living the gospel. It was prophesied in numbers of places in the Old Testament Scriptures but was not poured out upon the Church until the day of Pentecost after Jesus had gone away and sent Him according to His own promise in John 16:7. The reader may refer to Isaiah 32:15-19; 35:3-7; 44:3; and Joel 2:28 for just a few references of prophecies of the giving of the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 15:8-9, Peter in testifying of his experience at the house of Cornelius, a Gentile centurion, said this: "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." Here is stated one of the basic essential works of the Holy Ghost in the hearts of saints—"PURIFYING THEIR HEARTS BY FAITH." He is the only One qualified to purge the heart and life of any individual from all dross, worldly affections, self love and interest, etc., which is an absolute essential if we are to have power and victory in our lives and fulfill all the standards set forth in the Holy Scriptures for holy living.

We read in I Corinthians 12:13, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or

free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." Here we see that every converted soul is inducted into the body of Christ, established in a unity and fellowship with the saints by the Holy Ghost, and maintains that relationship with Christ and Christians by continuing to drink of that one Spirit.

In John 7:38-39 Jesus said, "He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)"

Such texts could go on and on, but I have already over extended the space allotted to me, so I will break it off right here. God bless you.



Mrs. Lizzie Reynolds was born Nov. 27, 1898 to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Roberson in El Dorado, AR. Later in life she met and married Mr. Wheeler Ramey and to this union five children were born.

In 1946, she came to California and chose Fresno to be her home. She was loved in the community by all of her friends and neighbors. She has touched many people's lives with kind words and helping hands.

Later, she accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour and lived a Christian life under the leadership of Pastor E. I. Trotter in the Church of God, where she was a faithful member for many years.

She leaves to mourn: two daughters, Mrs. Mary Shepard of Richmond, CA and Mrs. Tressie Mae Lee of Fresno, CA; one son, Mr. Elijah Ramey of Richmond, CA; eight grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and 12 great, great-grandchildren and a host of relative and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Charles Taylor at the Jesse E. Cooley, Jr. Chapel, on April 2, 1991. Interment was at the Oddfellow Cemetery, Fresno, CA.



Hazel Vera Cones was born to William and Ethel Anderson on June 23, 1907 in Norwood, MO. She departed this life April 19, 1991 at the age of 83 years and 10 months.

She was married to Harvey Marion Cones for 62 years. To this union six children were born. One daughter, Betty June, and her husband, Harvey, preceded her in death.

Hazel gave her heart to the Lord in 1941 and devoted her life to serving God until her day of rest. She was a living example of love, truth and faithfulness and an inspiration to all who knew her. She was the precious mother and grandmother whose loving memory will be shared by her children, Laverne Moles, Carl Cones, Lois Greene, Louise Nelson and Clyde Cones; her 29 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, and three great, great-grandsons.

She was the beloved sister of William (Bill) Anderson, Wanda Stark, Thelma Towe, Eunice Francis and Ola Mae Nichols, who will cherish her memory forever.

Sis. Hazel was a faithful wife and mother, looking diligently to the needs of her husband and children. She carried a burden of prayer for her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren up until the end of her life. She taught them about God, and most importantly, showed the way by her life.

She was known in her neighborhood as a woman of prayer; visiting among her neighbors, and praying with them in their battles of life.

Sister Hazel was a faithful member and worker in the Fresno Church of God, serving in many capacities to meet the needs of the congregation. She served as Bible Class teacher for more than 40 years. She was wise to see others in need, and in her quiet manner would speak a word to encourage, uplift, or supply a temporal need.

She lived a life of faith and trusted God without reservation. On one occasion, she felt definitely impressed by God to put a specific amount in that evening's offering. That amount happened to be all she had for grocery money for the coming week. Sister Cones obeyed God and gave all of her grocery money for the week. God provided her need before the night was over! There was an elderly brother in the congregation whom she had for some time provided with a ride to services. For the first and only time, when he got out of the car that night, he gave her some money for gas—the exact amount of her grocery money!

Sister Hazel loved her children dearly, and extended that motherly love to each of their spouses. She reaped some of the rewards of her love by the loving and tender care given to her by her children and grandchildren during her last illness.

She had a special place in her heart for her grandchildren, and they for her. A special treat in the lives of the Moles grandchildren was the Sunday that it was their turn to go home with Grandma for dinner and the afternoon. She might not remember whose turn it was—but they did not forget!

Sister Hazel was a loving wife and endeavored to please her husband, faithfully and lovingly caring for him during his years of failing health. By her loving devotion to him, and the life she lived before him, she was able to win him to God before his life ended. I am certain they are rejoicing together, today, in the eternal presence of God.

Funeral services were held at the Stephens and Bean funeral chapel and officiated by Bro. Charles Taylor. Interment was at the Belmont Memorial Park.



"Not I, But Christ"

(Taken from *The Gospel Trumpet*,—1914)

Saul was dead; the old sinful, persecuting Saul had taken up his cross and followed Jesus to Mount Calvary. There he had died. Down from the cross came a new man, Paul. There was in this new Paul much that had been in the old Saul. His individuality still existed.

Paul recognized in this fact a chance for defeat in his Christian career. He knew that self, even sanctified self, having its natural passions, appetites, and desires, formed an avenue through which Satan might gain access to the citadel of his soul. Adam, though holy as heaven itself, allowed his God-given desires to draw him away from the commandment of God. Paul realized that his self-life must not have sway. It must be possessed and controlled by God. It must be a life hidden with Christ in God. He would not have us see Paul, but Christ. He wanted not Paul's life, but the "life also of Jesus" manifested in his words and actions. So he was led to ignore the demands of the natural when yielding to them would interfere with service for God or others. Self must stand back. In all things, he would question not what self would like, but what Christ would desire. And thus bringing his body under control, he was able to say, "Yet not I, but Christ." "I live truly," he might have said, "but the life you who look upon me see is not my life; that is, it is not my natural life, but the life Christ lives in me." "For the love and the power and the glory belong to the Saviour divine."

There are many natural faults and failings, not sinful, which are not destroyed in sanctification. Herein lies the opportunity to grow in grace. The self-life can never be destroyed, but it can be held in check. It can put on the Christ-life as a man puts on a cloak, and thus be hidden from view. Every failure shows self instead of Christ. Someone does one an injury, or an unjust criticism is given: it is the self-life not the Christ-life, which is hurt, or which retaliates. The self-life is overly

(Continued on page 16.)

FATHER'S DAY—JUNE 16

"Honor thy Father and thy Mother"

Oh how I thank my Heavenly Father for giving me the human father that He did. We see so many today who do not even know who their father is, and have no one to show them the Heavenly Father. Being a father is one of the hardest jobs there is. We hear so many stories and testimonies about mothers who influenced lives, and I thank God for my wonderful mother who worked so hard and did without so much to raise all eight of us children; she was worthy of much more praise and honor than she ever got. But my dear "Dad," as we all called him, was the one who took the main responsibility for the whole family, never expecting any praise or honor. But he did expect respect. He used to tell us children, "Have a little respect for yourself, if you don't have any for anyone else." My dad respected everyone and gave them more than most people deserved. When anyone would come to our house, Dad always made them feel at home.

And no matter who they were, they never went away hungry, even if he had to go without himself. If there was not enough, he would just say, "Everyone go ahead and eat, I'm not too hungry right now."

As Dad went about his work he always sang those dear old gospel songs. Everyone thought he must have money and that he was the happiest man on earth.

People ask me now and then, "How long are we supposed to honor our father and mother?" I have heard some say, "We are not children any more." Oh, how sad. Do they expect us to believe God was just talking to young children? At the time of this command, people lived to be 120 years old, instead of 70 as is our allotted time now. According to God's Holy Word, if I should live on earth 1,000 years, I could never give enough honor to my father and mother.

—Jim Wilson



Do you Support the Army of God?

by Elaine Dunn



For some time this thought has been with me, "Do I really support the army of God?" It seems on every corner you see the words "Support Our Troops!" This statement has caused my heart to be moved.

Just the other day when taking a walk around my neighborhood, I saw almost on every other house yellow, red, white, and blue ribbons flying in the wind, telling passersby that the occupants of this house are in support of our troops. I thought, "What a great place this old world would be if there were more signs that told the world, 'I and my house support the army of God.'"

One of the best signs of letting others know we support the army of God is to fly high the banner of love. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:35.

A good example of a real supporter of the army of God was little David. He proved to be a real trooper because of his love for the army of God. This support put him in a real close place—right on the front lines and face to face with a giant. He

had to stand alone and face the foe. He had to move to action. His great love for God and His army was what caused him to stand.

To support the army of God may mean we will have to face the giants alone on a one to one basis. We must be strong and stand even if some of the army of God thinks we can't win the fight because of our littleness. We *must* still move out in the power of His might and go forth in the name of the Lord.

Friends, if there were more supporters of God's army showing forth the banner of love over their households, there would be no need of support for earthly troops, because the banner of love would win each battle without the fighting of our troops.

Recently we have heard the cheers and shouts welcoming home the troops. Can you imagine what cheers and shouting there will be when God welcomes home the troops who make up the army of God! Jesus will say to us, "Welcome home thou good and faithful servant. You have fought a good fight and kept the faith. Enter into the joys of the Lord forever!"

Camp Meetings

by
Ed Wilson

God's Old Testament church was surrounded in love with laws designed to guide people in righteousness and establish a society most suited to service to God and the general well-being of mankind, that precious estate termed in Eph. 2:12, the "commonwealth of Israel." Among the things God ordained to develop this national felicity were feasts. Concerning those occasions, *Smith's Bible Dictionary*, under "Festivals" has these comments:

"... The great feasts are: a. The passover; b. The feast of Pentecost. . . ; c. The feast of the tabernacles. . . . On each of these occasions every male Israelite was commanded to 'appear before the Lord,' that is, to attend in the court of the tabernacle or the temple, and to make his offering with a joyful heart. Deut. 27:7, Neh. 8:9-12. The times of the festivals were evidently ordained in wisdom, so as to interfere as little as possible with the industry of the people. The value of these great religious festivals was threefold. 1. **Religious effects**—They preserved the religious faith of the nation and religious unity among the people. They constantly reminded the people of the divinely-wrought deliverances of the past; promoted gratitude and trust; and testified the reverence of the people for the temple and its sacred contents. Besides this was the influence of well-conducted temple services upon the synagogues throughout the land. 2. **Political effects**—The unity of the nation would be insured by this fusion of the tribes; otherwise they would be likely to constitute separate tribal states. They would carry back to the provinces glowing accounts of the wealth, power and resources of the country. 3. **Social effects**—They promoted friendly intercourse between traveling companions; distributed information through the country at a time when the transmission of news was slow and imperfect; and imported into remote provincial districts a practical knowledge of all improvements in arts and science."



No doubt the Old Testament feasts, as with other parts of the Mosaic law, are typical, in this

case, of joyous ingatherings of God's New Testament church. In fact, saints have practiced public, spiritual, national feasts since earliest Christianity. Just as with tithing, attendance at Old Testament feast was by commandment, with God setting the number of major ones at three yearly. God's New Testament church is a better covenant. The divine Master has put in the hearts of His people to spontaneously seek, arrange, and long for camp meeting "feasts", those "times of refreshing [that] come from the presence of the Lord." Acts 3:19.

The heathen nations around the Israelites maintained their polity by kings, courts, decrees, officials and armies. But the Israelites were a people apart, having not only a national unity but also a common commitment to God, and the two

were inextricably intertwined. Their original government had no earthly head. God Himself spoke through their leaders and prophets. In place of the above named human institutions of national government, God used the feasts to cause His people to love to do the things others did through coercion.

Even so in the church of today, consider how God uses general meetings to benefit His people. When we are met together and the Spirit comes down in the assembly to melt our hearts, we are fused together ever more strongly in that spiritual unity not broken even in death. Our brethren often arise in the services to tell of past deliverances which promote our present gratitude and trust, while the "mighty stir as the Lord comes down" impinges powerfully upon our reverence for our holy, heavenly temple and the sacred things it contains. Many a saint has lived through hard and lonely times inspired by the memory of our united voices singing songs of triumph and praise, punctuated with shouts of joy and reverberating into our souls as if the angels took part in the rejoicing, as no doubt they do.

During times we are apart from one another the devil seeks to separate us: trying to make us feel, on hearing of the problems of other congregations, slightly more spiritual; or perhaps distances from battles faraway saints are called upon

to face. General meetings are God's way to break these things down. We are fed by ministers from many places; one who seeks help at the altar may be attended by gospel workers far outside the province of his own local leaders; we are reminded how we are all part of a larger whole, subject to one another through the marvelous equation of love, and leavening into one another in shared testimony of our blessings and understanding. Our supreme Leader does not appear in the form of any one person or group. He is the Inhabiter of the temple, dwelling upon the mercy seat between the cherubim and choosing the messenger and message of the hour as He is pleased to do. We also, as Jews of old, may surely be expected to go home with glowing reports of our national wealth, power and resources.

While worship services during general meetings are not themselves intended to be social occasions, our gracious Father has interested Himself in our need for companionship. Camp meeting is a time to found and develop relationships of the deepest and most lasting sort. Our first-hand knowledge of one another serves as a potent means of disrupting misconceptions, and we can come away with accurate understanding of events among our people.

The function of general meetings as set forth in the Bible is a valuable ingredient of our spiritual vitality. We should expect Satan to contest such impediments to His kingdom, and stoutly resist him by praying for meetings and those who labor in them, by keeping an optimistic attitude toward them and their usefulness, and when possible, to present ourselves before the Lord, there to receive His beneficent blessing.



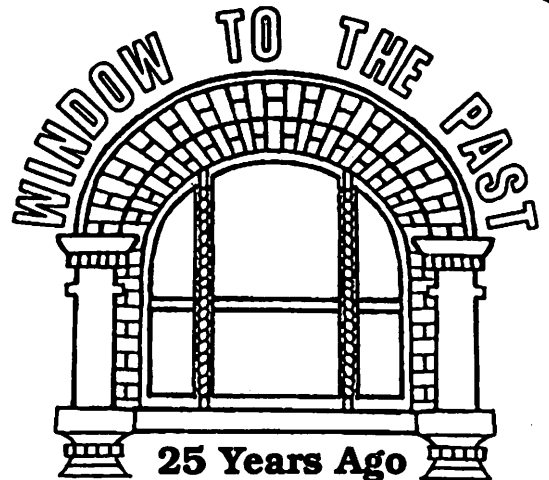
"Not I, But Christ"

(Continued from page 13.)

sensitive to the faults of others, or it fails in meekness or brotherly kindness. Christ in us never becomes discouraged, but the self in us often would, if permitted. Christ is never unkind or thoughtless of the feelings of others; self would often be.

A daily yielding to God of our members, an active faith that Christ does dwell within and that He does live out His life through our lips, our hands, and our feet, cannot but result in an increase of the manifestation of the Christ-life in us, until those who have known us are compelled to say, "Truly the Lord has done much for you." And then we can reply, "It is the Lord 'who hath wrought all our works in us!'"

—By Axchie A. Bolitho



Excerpts Taken From June, 1966 Faith and Victory

"With the feeling of 'sheep without a shepherd,' we report that due to continued ill health, Bro. Ira Stover resigned as pastor of the Guthrie Congregation on Sunday, May 8. It came rather unexpected as we had prayed and hoped that the Lord would restore his health for this pastoral work. However, for the present, Bro. and Sis Stover are away for a needed rest."

—L. D. Pruitt

"...the best part of all is the blessed hope of His soon coming. How I ever lived before I grasped that wonderful truth, I do not know. How anyone lives without it in these trying days, I cannot imagine. Each morning I think, with a leap of the heart, 'He may come today!' and each evening, 'when I awake, I may be in glory!'"

"I am on tiptoe with expectancy. There are no more gray days, for they are all touched with color—no more dark days, for the radiances in His coming are on the horizon—no more dull days, with glory just around the corner—and no more lonely days, with His footsteps coming ever nearer, and the thought that soon, soon I shall see His blessed face, and be forever through with pain and tears!"

—Selected by Melvin Flynn

"Dear Sister Miles and all saints, greetings of love in Jesus' precious name: I'm saved tonight and more encouraged than ever.

"Dear young people, be encouraged to follow the Lord. You won't ever be sorry you did. I am young myself and I'm not the least bit sorry I took Jesus as my Saviour."

—Violet Cable