

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Church of God Servant

Unto Him shall the
gathering of the
people be.

God Is
LOVE



YE SHINE AS
LIGHTS IN
THE WORLD.



JESUS
SAVES

The night cometh,
when no man
can work.

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"In Every Thing Give Thanks"

By Bro. Arlynn Sorrell

I Thessalonians 5:18 says, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I am sure all of us consider ourselves to be reasonable people, and we consider that if someone shows us kindness, that we would respond in a manner that is appropriate and that shows gratitude for that kindness. It is normal for us to think that way about ourselves. In fact, just about everyone in the world thinks of himself that way. Paul is not accusing the Thessalonians of being unthankful, unreasonable people, but rather, he is exhorting them to a higher plane of living than perhaps they have yet reached. The fact is that while we are reasonable people, we are also human, and we have a human tendency to take things for granted that we should not. Yes, we're thankful and we show gratitude when things are done for us, and when things are going our way, but Paul is here giving a secret for successful living which is, "In **every** thing give thanks."

I read a plaque one time that said, "If you lost everything you had right now, and then got it all back, just think how happy you would be!" This helped to illustrate to me that the amount of victory and happiness we experience in life depends to a large degree on our perspective and our attitude. A person may desire a promotion on his job, and because it does not come, he feels discouraged and depressed; doesn't see how he can put up

with his present job any longer. Then, the person loses his job and now he feels that if only he could get the job back, he wouldn't care about the promotion. Next, the person loses his health, and then he feels that if only he had his health back, he would be ever so happy. He could always find another job.

I was once on a job that I enjoyed until I saw an opening in another department that would have been a promotion from the position I was in. There was quite a delay before the position was filled and it was not at all certain that I would get it, but I distinctly remember the change in my attitude toward my old job as I began to imagine myself in the new position. Routine assignments that I had not minded before became drudgery. Finally, I was granted the promotion, and I began to carry out my new duties with alacrity. About 6 weeks later, I was informed that the company was having a layoff, and that my position had been done away with. All of a sudden, the new job lost all of its appeal and I wished I had stayed in my old job where I had more seniority, rather than taking the new one where I was exposed as the junior member. As it happened, the company offered to return me to my old position, which I gladly accepted. I took up my old duties with new appreciation.

Another story helps to illustrate my point. I read about a man who flew as a member of

a B-17 bomber crew during World War II. He was based in England and had to fly missions over Germany and occupied Europe. Each crew had to complete 25 combat missions, and then could be reassigned to less hazardous duty, such as training new pilots back in the States. This man began active combat duty during 1943, at a time when the Air Force was losing 3 out of 4 airmen in combat. On every mission, he saw planes shot down and men lost. Sometimes men on his own plane were hit by shrapnel or machine gun fire. This man made some observations about life during this time. He said, "When the continuity of life is threatened, there are many things which seemed important before, that no longer seem so, and things once overlooked take on new meaning and importance." He had been a salesman before the war, but now he said he couldn't imagine how he could ever have been concerned with such trivial things as meeting a sales quota or paying his bills. On the other hand, he now began to notice small, everyday things, such as trees and grass and, especially, children playing near the air field.

Abraham Lincoln said, "I have decided that people are about as happy as they choose to be." Only Christians can know true happiness, but the point is that we have a role to play. Much depends on how we view our circumstances; our perspective. The scripture I read in I Thess 5:18 teaches us that if we have a proper view of our present circumstances, and if we see them in proper perspective, there will be an outpouring of thankfulness from our hearts to the Lord, whatever the condition we are in at the time. The scripture gives us the grounds for such an outlook. It says, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." When we put our lives into the Lord's hands, He takes responsibility for our welfare. There is nothing that can touch our lives, but that He has allowed it. When we are fully consecrated to the Lord, we can be confident that the things that touch our lives are the will of God concerning us.

Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." What is God's purpose for us? The next verse, verse 29, tells us that it is "...to be conformed to the image of his Son,..." That

should also be our purpose in life, our highest aim. If our greatest desire in life is to be conformed to the image of His Son, and the Scripture tells us that everything that the Lord allows to touch our lives is designed to do just that, then we can give thanks in everything.

Corrie Ten Boom tells of an incident that occurred while she and her sister were in a German concentration camp during World War II. They were placed in a cell block which was infested with fleas. They resolved to give thanks in this situation, and soon discovered why the Lord had allowed them to be put there. It happened that the guards would not come near the area because of the fleas, so Corrie and her sister were free to work with the other prisoners to teach them about the Lord.

Paul says in Phil 4:11, "...I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." C.W. Naylor, in his book, "The Secret of the Singing Heart," tells how he learned to give thanks in everything. The Lord is endeavoring to teach each of us the same secret, through the things that He allows to touch our lives.

In I Peter 1:6, we read, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations." It says, "if need be,"

and who determines what we need in terms of trials? If we chose our own trials, we wouldn't have any. But the Lord chooses. He knows what we need to help us conform to His image. When we face a trial, we can be thankful that the Lord didn't allow something worse to come our way. We can be thankful because we have hope that things will get better. And we can be thankful because we know that this will work together with other things to help us to conform to His image. The scripture doesn't say, "for every thing," but, "in everything." Sometimes we may suffer because of someone's wrongdoing, and we are not thankful that they did wrong, but we are thankful that the God we serve is able to turn that which seems to harm us into everlasting joy.

A thankful heart is a strong defense against discouragement. Nehemiah 8:10 says "...the joy of the Lord is your strength." As long as people are happy in the Lord, and keep an attitude of thankfulness in everything, the enemy cannot discourage them. A person who gets discour-

"A thankful heart is a strong defense against discouragement."

aged always has something that he is not thankful for; someone mistreated him, or perhaps things haven't worked out the way he thought they should have. Revelation 12:11 reads, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony;..." When people stand up and testify in prayermeeting, the first thing they usually say is, "I'm thankful," or, "I thank the Lord." If we keep a strong testimony of thankfulness in every situation of our lives the enemy will be unable to discourage us or to get us to complain.

I heard a story told that goes like this. A saint was going through a trial and the devil told one of his imps to discourage the saint. So the imp jumped on the saint's shoulder and said, "You're discouraged." The saint replied, "I'm not discouraged." The imp replied, "Oh yes you are.

You're discouraged." Again the saint replied, "I'm not discouraged." A third time, the imp said, "You are discouraged." The saint replied very emphatically the third time, "I AM NOT DISCOURAGED!" So, the imp jumped down and went back to the devil. The devil asked, "What happened?" The imp said, "I tried to discourage him but he was so emphatic that he discouraged me." This saint knew that whatever he was facing in life was meant for his good, therefore the enemy was unable to discourage him.

May the Lord help us all to understand better that the things that touch our lives have not slipped in without the Lord's permission, and that we will be able to give thanks in everything, knowing that "this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

A Beautiful Love Story

(A History of God's people from Genesis to Revelation.)

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

He noticed her beauty first in the light of the moon. She was a young woman feeding among the lilies in His garden. He saw the reverence in her eyes, the meekness in her walk, the true-ness of her heart; so He wooed her with His promises and won her with His love.

"Thou art fairest of all creation," He said, "do not defile thyself with sin." Lurking behind forbidden fruit, the villain heard the charge. "I will spoil her with lust! I will polish her with pride!" said he to himself. "I will strip her with shame, and what will the King say to her then?" (Gen. 3.)

The villain set to work on his murderous plan to lure her away from the King's side. Soon many fell into his trap and were carried away with drunkenness, merriment, lusting and sin. But through the corruption, the King saw His bride.

"My dove, my undefiled is but one," said He. (Song of Sol. 6:9.) "Please build an ark that I may preserve you for Myself."

Later, high in the heavens He gave her a gift of promise: a beautiful rainbow of colorful hues. (Gen. 6:7, 9:12-13.)

The villain was angry and went back to his tricks. Soon he was snaring more with his sly, lustful ways. The King was grieved but remembered the rainbow and the promise it sealed, so a message of love He called to His bride.

"...Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come

away. For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come,...The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell:... Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes." Song of Sol. 2:10-15.

She heard His call, obeyed His voice, and came to Canaan Land where she enjoyed His luscious figs and grapes. (Gen. 12:1-5.)

The villain heard, too, and he trained foxes, little foxes of envy, deceit, lust and others to snap at the grapes and steal the harvest from the King's elect.

One day the King heard her crying. She had strayed from His vineyard, lost her way, and was crying for Him in the streets of a strange land. (Ex. 3:7.)

"I will take you from here," said the King. "I will lead you back to the Land flowing with milk and honey but you must not have any other gods before Me."

Her escape was victorious and she sang the song of Moses. (Ex. 15:1.) This song of praise and worship greatly pleased the King, but the villain wasn't satisfied to leave her in contentment. The villain fashioned gods of defiance, greed and lust, then piped a poisonous tune of frolic for any who would bow and dance before his hideous idols.

(Continued on page 15)

FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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Notice to subscribers: Whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your zip code number. The post office now charges 35¢ to notify us of each change of address.

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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

We are living in an age when sin is prevalent, justice is misconstrued, and morals are subordinate to greed. Due to the effectiveness of the news media in bringing many of these things to the forefront, every honest-hearted person faces the temptation that has plagued other generations, and Solomon addressed when he wrote, "Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked." Proverbs 24:19.

This advice at times seems rather trite in the face of atrocities. The automatic rejoinder is, "But it is so unjust. How is it that someone can injure, and at times even take the life of another, because of envy, race prejudice, vengeance or greed, and then be turned back into society as the victim of the circumstance?" If dwelt upon, this raises doubt as to the presence, the power, or the justice of God.

"For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked." Ps. 73:3. Power attends prosperity and is where the injustice is seen and felt. Thus great resources are at the prosperous person's disposal. Despots of history have enslaved whole continents, and contrived genocide against entire races. Even in civilized countries there are rulers that hold life in low esteem and have the authority to make murder legal, and we wonder where justice for the innocent is.

One author has written these thoughts, "The triumph of bad men gives them exceptional opportunities for spreading the infectious malaria of their sin. When a bad man prospers, he contaminates his trade, lowers the character of business generally, and tempts his employees to do wrong on a scale that is proportionate to his enterprises."

Still, in view of all these things, we should not let our peace be ruffled by the prosperity of the wicked. Always keep in mind that the rewards of prosperity are highly inferior to the blessings of moral character. The eternal question is not what a man has, and how much sway he can exert in this life, but how rich he feels in his soul. Therefore, to envy the wicked is in effect putting stock in things that are subservient to the rewards of the righteous.

The gain of the wicked is a short-lived illusion. It is possible to be full of the baser satisfactions of life, and still starving for fulfillment. It is like the thirsty who drown their appetite with salt water and are plunged into a madness for

more water. The only way to find any contentment in sin is by deadening the higher nature that the soul craves. And follow the path of those who stray, and see if justice is not truly meted out. The poet, Ralph Emerson, once explained it this way. "The dice of God are always loaded. Every secret is told, every crime is punished, every virtue rewarded, every wrong redressed, in silence and certainty. The thief steals from himself. The swindler swindles himself." If the errant triumphs in one point, there are many ways in which he is frustrated, and it is only the godly who find the true meaning of life and the power to overcome adversity with peace.

Our eyes are also many times beholden when we consider the plight of the innocent on which an evil is perpetrated. Our sympathies are not misplaced upon them, yet we must realize that God's love for them will make a way for their eternal happiness if they so choose.

It is vital for us, in the face of the prosperity of the wicked, to put our hope in God, pray for them, and continue on in the service of a victorious Christ. He won the battle at Calvary where He fought every power the devil could muster, and He will continue to scatter the forces of evil right up to the day of that final and climactic day of retribution.

It is a testimony to the power and goodness of God, as well as to the liberality of the saints, that this issue marks the beginning of our 72nd year of publication. Many rough places have been traversed through the years, and many blessings have been obtained. We still face the same challenges that were fought in the Print Shop's formative years; albeit in perhaps a little different setting. The need for the Gospel is greater today than it has ever been, and we seek the continued interest of the saints so that more can be accomplished in the days ahead.

We would ask that the subscribers to the *Bible Lessons* and *Beautiful Way* publications be prompt in renewing their subscriptions. It is an additional expense to mail these publications if they are not listed on our mailing report, which is made out on the day of mailing.

Printed in this issue is a list of Church of God camp meetings for the coming summer. If your local meeting is not included, feel free to mail us the information so that we can insert it in next month's paper.

Prayer Requests

FL—"I am requesting prayer for my ears."

—Sis. Kathleen Williams

LA—"Sis. Myrtle Savole is in need of prayer for her back."

—Sis. Velma Mancil

IN—"Please pray for Ruth Denton."

—Sis. Dessie Wilson

OK—"I am asking for prayer concerning the arthritis in my knees and arms."

—Canara Trotter

KY—"Pray for my mother." —Mary Hughes

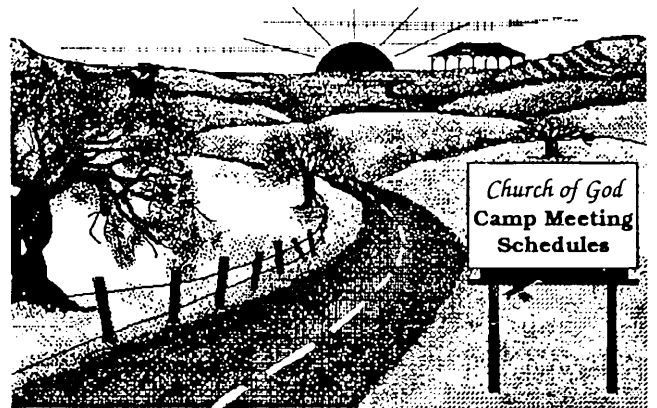
PA—"Pray for Sis. Ruth Godshall's granddaughter who was in an automobile accident."

CA—Sis. Doris Pihaylic has several unspoken requests.

OK—Bro. Richard Madden is going through a serious illness and needs the prayers of the saints.

IN—"Please pray for me. I have an infection in my right ear, and a head cold, too. Also pray for my brothers. They are not saved yet. Still pray for Ruth Denton. She is feeling some better."

—Jimmy Wilson



Myrtle, MO—May 11-15

Guthrie, OK—May 27-June 5

Jefferson, OR—June 10-17

Loranger, LA—June 24-July 3

National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 15-24

Ensenada, Mexico—July 31-August 7

MEETING NOTICES

SHREVEPORT, LA SINGING

"Lord willing, the Shreveport congregation will have a singing Saturday night, 7:00 P.M., April 2nd, to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior. There will be lunch on the grounds Easter Sunday. Make plans now to come and rejoice with us! For further information, please contact Bro. Jerry Melot, (318) 938-7233.

REVIVAL AT SHAWNEE, OK

Lord willing, Bro. Stephen Elwell will hold a week's revival at Shawnee, OK, starting March 22 and going through March 27.

All are welcome to come and share in God's blessings as we hear His precious Word.

For further inquiries please contact Bro. Bill McMakin, 38801 Hardesty Rd., Apt. 23, Shawnee, OK 74801. Phone: (405) 275-2575 or Bro. Don Butler, 36404 Clear Pond Rd., Shawnee, OK 74801. Phone: (405) 273-0984.

WICHITA, KS SPRING MEETING

In times like these we truly need to pray. We are praying for world conditions, conditions of our city and the conditions of men's hearts in general. Surely Jesus must be coming soon because these are as the days of Noah.

We have scheduled our Spring Meeting for April 15-24, and pray God will send His power down in every service. We need the powers of hell to be rebuked concerning souls. We need people spiritually awakened, and we pray God will speak loudly through the preaching and shake hard with His convicting Spirit.

Please pray for the meeting, and if the Lord says, "Go," please be here. The chapel is located at 1701 North Ash, and the phone number is: (316) 267-9582. If you need to contact anyone, you may reach Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at (316) 778-1848, or Bro. Paul Phillips at (316) 721-9557.

HOLLY HILL, SC REVIVAL

Lord willing, there will be a revival at the White Oak Church of God, off Hwy 453, or Hwy 310, in Holly Hill, S. C., April 15 through April 22, 1994.

For more information please contact Bro. Alvoid Pratt, (803) 492-3366 or the pastor, Bro. Utson Platt, (803) 496-5759.

LETTERS
FROM THE
READERS



IN—Dear ones there at the Faith Publishing House: I trust all is well with the folks that work so faithfully to print this wonderful paper and send it out each month. I do enjoy reading every one of them that I receive. Some dear friend had

it sent to me several years ago. She has gone on to her reward in heaven, but some day I hope to meet her again, as well as many of the other saints that have gone on. This has been a hard winter on many people all over the world; earthquakes, floods and all kinds of sicknesses. It seems our dear Lord is trying to awaken people to stop and think where they are going to spend eternity.

I thank the Lord this morning for His grace, and for keeping me here this long. I have gone through some pretty hard places, and lost most of my family, but I am still trusting in Him to save some of my family that are left and in sin.

Pray for them, and I need a healing touch for arthritis.

Your Christian friend, —Mary Jane Rogers

KY—Dear workers at the Print Shop: I do hope you are surviving the severe winter that has caught our nation off guard. We have come through fine in spite of electricity loss, and deep, deep snow. In some areas the temperature was as much as 42 degrees below zero. This was in a valley that was real level. Where we live we had around thirty below zero temperatures. Needless to say, I stayed inside.

Even in all this severe weather we have reasons for praising our Lord. No one in our family was ill. I do thank God for that. And too, we had no property damage. This is enough to pray a prayer of thankfulness to our God.

I also want to say that God healed my great-grandson, the one that I wrote to you about. He has never had another attack of asthma and bronchitis....

God is so precious to me that I wouldn't want to be without Him one second, and thank God for Christian workers like you folks at the Print Shop.

I depend on God for so much help and strength and He has never failed me. What a wonderful God we serve!

May you all have a good year in 1994, and keep your wonderful Print Shop going.

A Sister in Christ, —Wilma Horsley

MI—Dear Bro. Wayne and all you dear ones in the Lord's work: I pray you are all well and happy in the Lord's work. I am not writing much, but I do praise the Lord for all my blessings, and for all His dear children that stand by me in prayer.

I am going through a trial at this time, and

it is very upsetting to me, but I know you all will help me pray that the Lord will deliver me soon. Praise His precious name!

I love you all, and may God bless each and every one of you richly in body and soul. I will close now and thank you for your prayers.

All my Christian love and prayers,

—Sis. Olive Getterson

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IN—Dear saints: Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior.

Please pray for the Lord to send a Holy Spirit-filled man of God to be the pastor for our small congregation. Our pastor, Bro. Elias McCart, went to be with the Lord on January 27, 1994.

We are trusting in God to send the person He wants to help shepherd our flock.

In Christian love, —Sis. Claudia Dickison

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LA—Dear Bro. Wayne: We are still able to report victory in our souls amid all the tests and trials that come our way. We are so grateful for the Holy Spirit that keeps us in check, and helps us to see our weaknesses. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness to His children.

We are now living in our new apartment adjoining our daughter and son-in-law, Nell and James Davis. We are getting adjusted, and think we will be happy and satisfied. All of our children have been so helpful in this move. We thank God for a loving family.

Many down here have been sick with the flu. Max and I have both had it. Max was quite ill, but is much improved now.

We are thankful for the paper that is printed each month, and remember you and the workers there almost daily in our prayers.

God bless you all, —Lula and Max Williamson

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OR—Dear Bro. Wayne and all at the Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' name. We pray that this finds all there well and happy in the Lord.

Doris is so feeble that she requires 24 hour care. I am very thankful that God is giving me strength and ability to care for her. She has severe pain at times, but God is faithful to help in time of need, and our trust is in Him Who is our only hope. Please pray for us.

With Christian love, —Bill and Doris Busch

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NC—Dear ones at the Print Shop: Greetings to you from North Carolina. We are thankful to be saved in these evil times.

I have been intending to send this announcement to the paper for some time. We didn't have a chapel to worship in so we have started a Church of God building fund. There is not but a few of us, so anyone that would like to contribute to this fund should send their contributions to: The Church of God Bldg. Fund, C/O Bro. David Lottahall, P. O. Box 852, Burnsville, N. C. 28714.

We are pressing on for the prize. Remember us in prayer, —Bro. and Sis. David Lottahall

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TN—Dear Bro. Wayne and workers: We want to tell about our mother, Sis. Addie Gossard. On May 26, 1992 she went home to heaven and finished her course with victory. She had been ill two years. We took care of her and she appreciated everything done for her. She was a real saint of God, and was very dear to us. She lived to be 98 years old. The Lord has taken care of everything about her passing. Only the grace of God has brought us thus far. My brother and I are the only ones left. As we are isolated from God's people, we worship in our home.

We enjoy the *Faith and Victory* so very much, especially the testimonies.

We have an affliction and we want you to pray for us in a special way that God will give victory.

Sincerely, —Sis. Ruth A. Gossard

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CA—Dear Bro. Wayne: We hope you are doing well. Remember our family in prayer, and give our love to the saints. Bro. Matthew is 84 years old and Sis. Matthew is 81 years old, and we are blessed. Thank the Lord.

—Bro. and Sis. John D. Matthew

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OR—Dear Bro. Wayne: Again I send greetings in Jesus' name....

My arthritis still bothers me a lot at times, but the Lord hears prayer. Please still remember Sis. Fern Johnson. Her eyes are failing. I would hate to see her lose her sight.

We still do not have a pastor. Please pray that God will send us one....

Love from us all here, —Sis. Grace Jones

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Turkey—Dear Bro. and Sis. Murphey and all you dear brothers and sisters at the Print Shop: We greet you in the name of Jesus. We are so happy to be a part of the Truth. Saints, the time has come where we are being tested and tried, and oh, if ever we need to keep our eyes on Jesus

it is now. "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way... Because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." II Thess. 2:7-12. "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom and instruction, and understanding." Proverbs 23:23. It is time to check in with the Lord and be sure, ever so sure of our salvation. The truth will keep us in these last days. Let us not waver, nor give way to the devil in any way....

Pray for us and each other, that we may all say—"...I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day:..." II Timothy 4:7-8. God Bless you all!

Love, —Bro. Paul and Sis. Merlene Scott

PA—Dear ones at the Faith Publishing House: I am still enjoying my *Faith and Victory* very much.

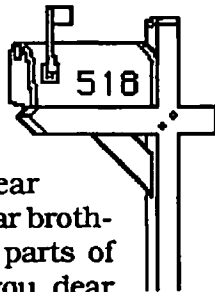
God bless all of you, and God's wonderful people everywhere.

I am blessed and happy in Him.

Christian love, —Sis. Agnes Gaston

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MISSIONARY LETTERS



From India...

January 25, 1994—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear brothers and sisters in different parts of America: Greetings to all you dear ones in the Holy name of Jesus Christ.

Our 29th General convention during the 2nd week of January was a very blessed meeting with good results. Many got saved, sanctified and dedicated. Saints from north and south, east and west gathered at Bethel ground, Karickom, for five days. The fellowship was real heart-touching. We will have local conventions until April in different congregations.

We have the desire to start a Bible course for dedicated young people in our church. This course will help them to get the preparations for outreach work. Please pray for the success of

this project. This will help the growth of our church to other states. We appreciate the prayers and supports of the saints in America for the success of our labors here.

Yours in Him, —John Varghese

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January 26, 1994—Dear Brother Wayne Murphey and dear saints in U. S. A.: Warm Christian greetings and love to you all.

My wife and I arrived home safely on December 8, 1993. We thank the Lord for the safe trip. We also want to thank the churches and pastors for the wonderful care and concern we were given while we were in America. My wife extends her heartfelt thanks to each and every one for their Christian love expressed in various ways to her.

Since I arrived home, I am getting a number of Macedonian calls to "Come, help and start a church." At present about 11 places are opened in the dark area of the Northern Kerala for the Church of God, where there are no other parallel churches.

I do not know how I can carry out all these great tasks. If we love the Lord, how can we neglect this great work? Let us pray earnestly to the Lord to revive our congregations to have missionary spirits so that hundreds of people will be saved and added to the Church. We need your continuous prayers and encouragement for this great task.

Yours in His service, —P. D. Mathunni

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From Delta State, Nigeria...

December 24, 1993—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and saints of God: Greetings in the glorious name of Jesus.

We are living and laboring for the Master, allowing Him to liberate underdeveloped powers within us, and consecrate them to a holy purpose. Our desire is to become epistles of Christ written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, and to shine, thereby, as a light in the world. (II Cor. 3:3.) We remain thankful unto Him for the oil in our lamps and we shall by His grace shine until the break of day. We are indebted to Him for the life we now live. Our Lord Jesus is indeed the Great Refiner. Our transformed life is a reminder to the outcasts of society that they can experience the power of Christ to change the foul current of life. Amen.

We praise God for the Obetim-Uno congregation where 45 brethren followed the Lord in

water baptism on October 15, 1993, at Ase River. The annual Thanksgiving of this same congregation was held on November 28, 1993. Brethren from the Kwale congregation plentifully attended.

We thank the Lord immensely for the miraculous aversion of the civil unrest that about plunged this nation into bloody conflict in the month of August, 1993. However, Nigeria might have two nations, standing religiously opposite, split off from it. We have our own nation. It is spiritual. It is indivisible. Its entire inhabitants are of heavenly origin and are bound under one head. Day by day His sweet voice soundeth, saying, "Christians, follow Me!"

Yours in His service, —Titus U. E. Enu

From Rivers State, Nigeria...

January 12, 1994—Dear Bro. Murphey and co-workers: Greetings to you all in the precious name of the only begotten Son of God.

We all enjoyed the manifold blessings of God in so many ways in the outgoing year, so that we have every cause to thank Him immensely. Even those that are yet to be saved, do partake of the riches of God's goodness and forbearance and long suffering.

We were able to hold, for the first time this year, the usual all-day fasting with prayers, on Friday of last week. We anticipate that positive answers to those fervent prayers will be showered upon all aspects of the global gospel ministry. God does answer prayers.

The first person to be added to the Church here in Tombia this year was a woman whose name is Sis. Ada Frank. She was baptized on Sunday, the 9th day of this month. There are several others who have not requested baptism, but have been pricked in their hearts and started amending their ways. It is our sincere hope that they will not procrastinate....

We can't help disclosing to you, brothers and sisters, the plight we have been in for quite a long time. It is about the first living house we built on the church premises here in Tombia. This house was devastated by a windstorm in early 1992. Up-to-date we have not been able to repair it completely. Therefore, we do earnestly solicit help from our U. S. brethren, to enable us to complete this house work this year.

The political instability in Nigeria has caused a lot of havoc to all aspects of the national economy. Please, we earnestly covet your prayers for Nigeria to be healed both politically and

inflation-wise. There can hardly be found another nation like ours in terms of high cost of living....

May the Lord in His grace continue to lead us all by the Holy Spirit in these perilous times, in Jesus' name. Let's be encouraged more than ever. He is at the door.

Yours for Christ, —Bro. O. B. Alalibo

From the Philippines...

January 22, 1994—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings in the love of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. I am thankful for His great love and kindness to my family.

I am praying hard that more souls will be saved. May the Lord Jesus open the eyes and hearts of non-believers to come close to the Lord and rejoice in Him....

Brothers and sisters in the U. S., please help us pray for the work of the Lord here in the Philippines, and that our country will be peaceful and become progressive in spiritual and material matters.

Your brother, —Nonilon Capuyan

Honduras Report

February 22, 1994—Dear Brethren: Greetings to you in Jesus' name. With great sorrow we'd like to give you a report on Sis. Liurie Saunders' death on Wednesday, February 9th. Sis. Saunders finished her course with victory and we are sure that she is resting with Jesus.

Although the work in Honduras has certainly suffered a great loss, by God's grace we intend to pick up the mantle and carry on. Pray especially for the Honduran brethren who were fellowlaborers with Sis. Saunders as this has placed a great burden on their shoulders. They are worthy of our support and they have proven themselves to have the same spirit and burden consistent of Sis. Saunders.

On Friday, several brethren arrived from the states to attend the funeral service. We were met by Bro. Saunders and the brethren at the airport and they escorted us to Sis. Saunders' residence. Let us remember Bro. Saunders and the children in our prayers as this is a great loss upon them. Worthy of mentioning here is that some of the brethren ran into obstacles and delays at the airport and were detained at San Tedro Sula for a day. However, we are thankful that they were able to make it in time for the funeral service. Arriving at the residence we found many grieving relatives and saints in

prayer. The number present attested to the love and respect that many held for Sis. Saunders.

On Saturday afternoon, with several in attendance, the funeral service was held. Several witnessed to the holy light and importance of Sis. Saunders in a two hour service conducted by Bro. Lewis Kimball and assisted by Bro. Keith Fuller and other ministers in attendance.

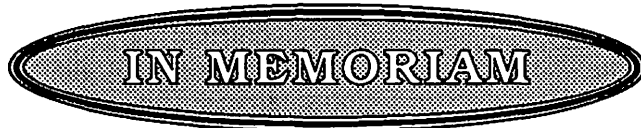
After this service Sis. Saunders was laid to rest on a hill overlooking the town of Politile to await the general resurrection of the dead.

Noteworthy was the statement of the cemetery caretaker as the procession made its way to the graveside. He said, "This woman was truly a saved woman if I ever met one! She was as good a woman as I ever met."

Let us pray that the spirit of this work continue. Several of the American brethren that have been involved in the work plan to go to Honduras more regularly now, in the absence of Sis. Saunders, to continue the work and help with the establishment of the brethren there. In fact, on the 25th of February, Bro. Toney Samons and family, along with Bro. Mart Samons, are to begin meetings in Honduras. Let us pray for the success of these meetings.

Sincerely,

—The Honduras Missionary Company



On December 16, 1975, the Lord blessed Charles and Geneva Lowe with their first son! They named him **Daniel DeAnre**, but fondly called him "Danny." Danny was very lively and adventurous. He had the ability to charm and understand people. His sense of humor made him a pleasure to be around.

Danny attended John Burroughs Elementary and Carver Middle Schools. For High School he attended Booker T. Washington and Ponca High. Danny was attending Central High for his senior year where he was an honor student, and an Omega Scholarship recipient. Danny was anticipating graduation in May and pursuing an engineering degree at Prairie View, A. M.

Danny will always be remembered as a fun-loving, sensitive and assertive person, one who was able to make decisions and stand by them. He leaves to cherish his memory, his parents, Charles and Geneva Lowe of the home; four

sisters, Tamera Michelle, Ponca City, OK, Cynthia and Carla of the home, Sylvia, Oklahoma City, OK; one brother, David of the home; one adopted sister, Nathalie Conley Freeman of Lawton, OK; one grandmother, Fannie Lowe, Tulsa, OK; one grandfather, Edward Conley, Okmulgee, OK; 13 aunts; 8 uncles and a host of cousins and friends.

Bro. Charles Chandler officiated at the funeral services. Burial was in the Grayson Cemetery, Grayson, OK.

Thank You

Dear saints of God and friends both far and near! Our hearts are overwhelmed by the love, the support and the concern of the people of God. We can only begin to express how grateful we are for the saints, and how thankful we are to be a part of the family of God. The Lord has been blessing us. We acknowledge that it has been God and the prayers of the saints that have held us up. We appreciate you all so much!

—Bro. Charles and Sis. Geneva Lowe and family



Connie Irene Schudy, daughter of the late Kelly and Lena (Ross) Rhoades, was born at Delta, IA, on July 16, 1904, and passed away in Springfield, MO, January 9, 1994 at the age of 89 years, 5 months and 23 days. She moved to the Ozarks with her family in 1923 and was married to Jake Schudy on March 2, 1927. They reared their four children on a farm in the Cold Springs community. She was a member of the Church of God and an avid student of the Bible. Connie left to her children and grandchildren a legacy of high morals and good character. Jake passed away in 1980, but Connie chose to stay on the family farm until the time of her final illness. Besides her parents and husband she was preceded in death by five sisters and three brothers.

Survivors include one son, Neil Schudy of Norwood, MO; three daughters, Ilene Halford and Ruth Slayton of Mountain Grove, MO and Vivian Hardin of Albuquerque, NM; four brothers, Omer Rhoades, Morrow Bay, CA, Dean Rhoades, Tulare, CA, and Jess Rhoades of Mansfield, MO; four sisters, Margaret Faverty, Springfield, MO, Ruth Loagan, La Mesa, CA, Loretta Kelly, Norwood, MO, and Hester Moles of Mansfield, MO; 11 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Sylvia Juanita Abbott was born April 8, 1920 to Harvey and Jesse Birge at Drumright, OK. She departed this life Monday, January 24, 1994, at Tulsa, OK, at the age of 73 years, 9 months and 14 days. Mrs. Abbott had lived in the Bristow area most of her life.

Sylvia Juanita Birge and George Abbott were united in marriage March 19, 1938, at Drumright, OK. Of this union were born nine sons and four daughters. Mr. Abbot preceded her in death on April 1, 1986, at Bristow. She was also preceded in death by a son, Jeremiah Stephen Abbott, July 18, 1975, at Tulsa, OK.

Mrs. Abbot was a retired homemaker, and a member of the Church of God at Sapulpa, OK. Mrs. Abbot was always of help to anyone who needed her, and always had a kind word for everyone. She loved taking care of her family, and being around her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She liked raising a garden and canning, and sharing it with her many friends and family. She was a member of the Oklahoma Home Extension Club.

Mrs. Abbott is survived by 8 sons, George, David Lee and Daniel James, all of Bristow, OK, Donnie Glenn of Depew, OK, Joe Harvey of Ft. Worth, TX, John Christopher of Colorado Springs, CO, Lonnie Lynn of Cedar Rapids, IA, and Michael Paul of Brandy Wine, MD; 4 daughters, Sylvia Jane Johnson and Mary Elizabeth Chambers, both of Oklahoma City, OK, Amanda Nedlose of Bristow, OK, and Sharon Lorene Mann of Red Oak, TX; 4 sisters, Rachel Roubinson and Roseanna Lovell, both of Andrews, TX, Ella Tipton of Sacramento, CA, and Gertrude McCraig of Beaverton, OR; 26 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, numerous other relatives and a host of friends.

Funeral services were officiated by Bros. Richard Madden and Don McIntosh.

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Clarence O. Brant went to meet the Lord, January 18, 1994. Clarence was born February 26, 1911 in Lacota, MI to Frank and Emma (Kuney) Brant. He married Margaret Michels, October 16, 1937. Together they had 3 sons and 2 daughters who were richly blessed to have had two loving Christian parents. Their son, Martin, preceded them in death on July 13, 1946. They reared their children on a small farm in Michigan where they grew fruits and vegetables and ran a produce stand during the summer months, where they were given the opportunity to meet many people and develop many life-long friend-

ships. Clarence retired from Everett Piano Factory in 1973. They were both of a very strong faith and were active in the Church of God in Kalamazoo, MI.

Margaret went home to be with the Lord on May 4, 1976. Shortly thereafter Clarence went to stay with friends in Guthrie, OK, where he could be close to more of the saints. While there, he met Etta Davis and they were married on December 8, 1977. They had a very happy life together for over 14 years. Her family made him feel very much a part of them, and his family loved her dearly. Etta went on to her reward on October 26, 1992. Clarence moved back to Michigan to be near his children and grandchildren as he had suffered a stroke prior to Etta's death. He suffered many more strokes and was very ill at times, but kept his faith strong in God to take care of him. He leaves to cherish his memory, 2 sons, Gordon and Kenneth; 2 daughters, Connie Ethridge and Carol Small; 8 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren; 1 stepson, Ernest Davis; 4 step grandchildren, and 8 step great-grandchildren.

Funeral services for Clarence were held on January 21, 1994 in Bangor, MI, with Brother Charles Elwell, pastor of the Guthrie, OK, Church of God officiating. He was assisted by Allen Ethridge, grandson of the deceased.

Thank You

We wish to thank the saints for their prayers, love, concern and kindness when our father was so sick and suffering. On the last day of his earthly life, shortly after we called for you to pray, he relaxed, was peaceful and quiet for the first time that day. It was a blessing to see him finally able to rest peacefully as he had been suffering much throughout the day. Shortly before departing this world, he began to raise his hands high in the air as if he were reaching for something. When asked what he saw, he just smiled and shortly after he took his last breath. While we never want our loved ones to leave, it is such a blessing to know they have reached their goal and made it in.

Thank you very much,

—The family of Clarence Brant

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"To know the will of God is the greatest knowledge; to do the will of God the greatest achievement." —Selected

True Wisdom Is From Above

By Bro. James Huskey

Wisdom is of God. This world operates on values related to "wisdom" from below.

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 1:5.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17.

This wisdom and love that comes down from above brings us to repentance before an almighty God, and then molds our spirit to serve God and our fellowman. The power that comes from above will "flatten" us down and extend us horizontally to others around us. Christ gave us the pattern, that He might bring salvation to the world. "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Phil. 2:8.

Christ said that He that would be great must be a servant, which is very much in contrast to the "wisdom" that comes from the other direction. The "wisdom" from beneath is also a power, but not the power of light and love, but the power of darkness and pride. The direction of the power from beneath is pushing up. The "wisdom" from below gives people a "high" on fame, wealth, lust; or the most deceiving high is on religion. The "wisdom" from beneath will destroy man—body, soul, mind and spirit.

Look around you today and at the history of the world recorded in the Bible and other books of history to understand the influence of the "wisdom" from below.

"And Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places." I Kings 3:3.

"For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree." I Kings 14:23.

"And he walked in all the ways of Asa his father; he turned not aside from it, doing that which was right in the eyes of the Lord: nevertheless the high places were not taken away; for the people offered and burnt incense yet in the high places." I Kings 22:43.

"But the high places were not taken away: the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places." II Kings 12:3.

"He removed the high places, and brake the

images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan." II Kings 18:4.

"And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven." II Kings 23:5.

"Nevertheless the priests of the high places came not up to the altar of the Lord in Jerusalem, but they did eat of the unleavened bread among their brethren." II Kings 23:9.

"Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the grove." II Kings 23:15.

"And all the houses also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke the Lord to anger, Josiah took away, and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in Bethel." II Kings 23:19.

"Yet they tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies." Psalms 78:56.

"For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images." Psalms 78:58.

The history of man is full of men making their own religion of self-exultation. You see the examples in the Old Testament of the chosen people worshipping false gods on their high places. God caused them to be humbled down many times by their enemies. Yet man still today climbs to the high places to give sacrilege to his god. "Wisdom" and power from below gives earthly man great pleasure and satisfaction that he can be raised up higher so he can look down on those below him. Also the massive temples of religion make one stand or fall in awe and reverence to god, but what god, or what wisdom, or power? It is plain to see that it is the power from below that motivates carnal man to build a "high place."

"The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day." Isaiah 2:11.

"For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." Isaiah 57:15.

"For all those things hath mine hand made, and those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." Isaiah 66:2.

A basic question of life is: "Are we climbing up to fall down or are we falling down to go up?" When all is said and done do we want to be on the way up or on the way down?

The devil knows where he is going, he said so: "And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." Job 1:7.

On the contrary the LOVE of the TRUE GOD follows a direction also. "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access

with confidence by the faith of him. Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." Eph. 3:10-19.

"Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This **wisdom descendeth not from above**, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the **wisdom that is from above is first pure**, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." James 3:13-17.

The only escape is SALVATION through Jesus Christ and making Him the LORD of your life.

If We Suffer, We Shall Also Reign

By Sis. Fern Stubblefield

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us." II Tim. 2:12. My soul has been deeply impressed with this verse and it has been my desire to faithfully suffer whatever God saw fit for me to suffer. Early this morning my soul had been richly fed with the scriptures in Rev. 5:6-14. Verses 9 and 10 in part read, "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy...for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God... And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

Later I laid down to rest and fell asleep. As I arose there was a severe cramping in both of my legs. At other times when I would have cramps relief would soon come, but this time it continued severely for some time. In my agony I was looking to the Lord for relief, and

the thought came to me of the awful suffering that Jesus experienced while hanging on the cross, for my salvation. Then came the thought of the awful suffering of souls in hell, so much worse than what I was suffering.

When the Lord gave relief I was very thankful. Now I have a deeper appreciation for what Christ suffered for me. I want to faithfully fill the little place that He would have me to fill in life. He paid the full price to redeem us to God and to make us kings and priests upon the earth. It is my desire to be faithful in praying for precious lost souls.

I agree wholeheartedly with the multitude of angels who were saying, "...Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." Rev. 5:12.

I Saw Jesus Today . . .

Once, while dining in a local restaurant, a Christian friend approached us to share some snapshots of family members. As we viewed the pictures and passed them back to her, I noticed that she handed the photos to the child who sat with us, and politely inquired if she would like to see them. In that moment, our friend gave dignity to a child.

Children can easily be overlooked by adults, who sometimes feel they are a bother and an annoyance, to be endured rather than enjoyed. Our friend made this child an individual. She contributed to her self-worth by including her in an activity adults were sharing. "I saw Jesus" in her actions, because to Him who said, "Suffer little children to come unto me...for of such are the kingdom of heaven," we are all, regardless of age, of value.

—Mary Murphey



The Most Beautiful Thing

An artist who wanted to paint the most beautiful picture in the world, asked a pastor "What is the most beautiful thing?"

"Faith," said the parson; "you find it at every altar."

The artist asked a young bride the same question. "Love," she replied. "Love builds poverty into riches; sweetens tears; makes much of little. Without it there is no beauty."

A weary soldier told him: "Peace is the most beautiful thing in the world. War is the most ugly. Wherever you find peace, you find beauty."

"Faith, Love and Peace! How can I paint them?" thought the artist. Entering his door, he saw Faith in the eyes of his children and Love in the eyes of his wife. And there in his own home the artist saw the Peace that Love and Faith had built.

So he painted the picture of "the most beautiful thing in the world." And he called it, "home."



The Very Elect

By Ernie Moles

"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matt. 24:24. The

word "very" means: real, genuine. The word "elect" means: persons chosen. This tells us the reason that the very elect cannot be deceived. They are the real, genuine, chosen people of God; people that have been taught by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus in all His teachings used a temporal parable to bring out clearly what He was teaching the people. Our thought can be clearly understood on this subject by considering the paper money that people use everyday to buy things with. What makes it real is the paper it is made from. It is only one of a kind. Only our government has the secret formula for making it. No one outside the mint can get to it. This makes it impossible for an outsider to make the real. By it being this way, the bank authorities can rest assured, and teach their workers what real money is like. Then when counterfeit money comes in, the workers can detect it because they know what real money is like.

So it is with the Holy Spirit, which is the authority that teaches each of God's chosen workers in the body of Christ what the real God-given spirit is like. When the false spirits arise, the workers can detect or discern them, because all they have been taught and know is what the real Spirit is like. I John 4:1 teaches very clearly that many false prophets are gone out into the world. Our duty is to learn and clearly understand what the real genuine Spirit is like. Jesus says, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me." (Matt. 11:29.) Let's each and every one that is claiming to be God's child do this.

The Road of Life

At first I saw God as my observer, my judge; keeping track of the things I did wrong, so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I died. He was out there, sort of like a president.

Later on it seemed as though life was rather like a bicycle ride, but it was on a tandem bike and I noticed that it was God on the back, helping me pedal. He suggested we change places, and life has not been at all the same since!

When I had control, I knew the way. It was rather boring, actually, but predictable. It was mostly the shortest distance between two points. But when He took the lead, He knew delightful "long cuts" up mountains and through rocky places at breakneck speeds, and it was all I could do to hang on! Even though it looked like madness, He said, "Pedal!" But I worried, and I was anxious and I asked, "But where are You taking me?" He laughed, but He didn't answer—and so I was forced to trust.

It was then that I forgot my boring life and entered into adventure. And when I'd say, "But I'm scared!" He'd just lean back and simply touch my hand.

He took me to people with gifts that I needed—Gifts of Healing, Gifts of Acceptance, Gifts of Joy. They gave me their gifts to take with me on my journey—His and mine—and we were off again.

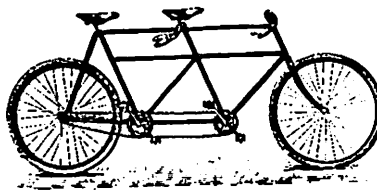
Then one day He said to me, "Give the gifts away." And I said, "What?" And He said, "They're extra baggage, too much weight—give them away." So I did, to the people we met, and I found that in my giving, I received even more in return—but the burden of weight somehow got lighter. You know, I did not trust Him at

first in control of my life, I just knew He'd wreck it! But He knows a lot of secrets about bike riding—knows how to make it lean to take sharp corners, knows how to make it jump to clear high rocks,

even knows how to make it fly to shorten the scary passages.

And so I have learned to be quiet and pedal—sometimes in the strangest of places. And now I am beginning to enjoy the view, and the cool breeze on my face, and most of all this Person who pedals on the seat in front of me. And when I am sure I can't journey a foot farther, He just smiles, turns back to me and says, "Pedal—Just Pedal."

...life was rather like a bicycle ride,....
...He suggested we change places, and life
has not been at all the same since!



A Beautiful Love Story

(Continued from page 3)

Down through the generations, millions fell to the villain's hypnotizing sway, but not her, the King's chosen bride. Sometimes she fled to caves, was killed by the sword, or thrown into prison where she spent weary years. She triumphed in victory in times when she prayed and fire fell from heaven to burn up the sacrifice (I Kings 18:38) or when she prayed and hungry

lions cowered at her feet. (Dan. 6:22.) These were the days when the bride of the King fed by the light of moon.

"Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, come with me to the mountain of myrrh," said he to her. "Find safety in the cleft of the rock where my hand will cover you there." (Song of Sol. 4:6, 2:14.)

Reserved for His promise, she kept herself true and faithful to Him. Then He arose and called her blessed. He clothed her with the sun. With twelve stars He crowned her head. (Rev. 12:1-12.) And the King brought His beloved to the banqueting house, and his banner over her was love. (Song of Sol. 2:4) Her songs echoed in the valley and rang upon the mountains.

"I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me. The mandrakes give a smell, and at our gates are all manner of pleasant fruits, new and old, which I have laid up for thee, O my beloved." (Song of Sol. 7:13.)

She feasted on the fruits of salvation, and though the villain re-trained his foxes, they could not spoil this fruit for it was preserved in sanctification. Neither could the villain enchant her to worship Caesar's idols.

Then the villain, that old dragon, was so envious of their love! He sought to steal their newborn man-child and kill the mother, too, but the King had prepared a place of safety for His beloved where He protected her from evil. For one thousand two hundred and sixty years she hid in the wilderness scarcely breathing at all. (Rev. 12:6.)

"I will choke her, burn her, and leave her dead!" screamed the villain in the disguise of the pope. But not even he could quench her love which passes all knowledge. The king heard her testify of His love and His heart bled for her. On the wings of an eagle he carried her away and though the day was cloudy (Zech. 14:6-7) she sang with all her might: "My beloved is...the chiefest among ten thousand.... Yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend." Song of Sol. 5:10-16.

Then came the evening. The King took her by the hand and he lead her to a beautiful place where she stood upon a sea of glass mingled with fire. (Rev. 15:2.) Reflected in the glass was the image of the King and the beauty of His Beloved. And she sang: "Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints." Rev. 15:3.

Many have been the troubles and trials this relationship has endured yet their love is really sweeter than it was in the beginning. Theirs is a lasting love, a model that every couple should copy. (Eph. 5:25-33.) For if every husband loved his wife as much as the Lord loves His church, and if every wife respected her husband as the Church honors the Lord, then this earth would indeed be just as heaven.



Excerpts Taken From March, 1944 Faith and Victory

When I was a young man, scouting around over the country, I took a job of milking cows in the Puget Sound country of Washington State. I was to sleep in a room where a Swiss milker slept. He had an alarm clock fastened to the sill on the side of the wall with a cord to it that ran to the ceiling of the room, and then out to the middle of the top of the room. On this cord he had tied old cans, buckets, and pans. When the alarm went off, the string slipped loose and the cans, buckets and pans hit the floor with a bang. I needed no such noise to awaken me, but this fellow had failed to heed the alarm, so he had to have a string, a can, a bucket and a pan, then several of them to make a noise even worse than a clap of thunder. Oh, what a great noise it did make in the stillness of the morning hour, and yet he was just barely awakened.

Just so, when a saved man or woman begins to pass up and fail to heed even the least of the teachings and instructions of His Word, his ears will soon become dull of hearing and his spiritual eyesight will dim, and he will soon be doing many things contrary to true holiness and righteousness. If persistent, he will become sound asleep with a high profession of religion. The alarm of God's word to such people is, "Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."

—Fred Pruitt