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of publishing the Gospel

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TAX-EXEMPT

The assessor approached with weary tread
 And knocked at a farmhouse door,
 "Not much value here," he said,
 The surroundings looked very poor,
 The room he entered was cozy and warm,
 The couple were aged and gray,
 From his portfolio he selected a form
 And said in a business way,

"I'm here to appraise your property, sir,
 To determine your wealth, you see.
 I'm the assessor, I might infer,
 Will you answer some questions for me?"
 "Oh, we have great riches," they quickly replied,
 Their faces aglow with bliss,
 The assessor awaited with pencil poised
 Waiting the items to list.

"Our mutual love we value quite high,
 It began such a long time ago;
 Each passing year has strengthened the tie,

That increases the value, you know.
 Our health is more precious than silver and
 gold,

The Master has been very kind;
 We enjoy each day as it comes and goes,
 While so many in illness repine.

"We've quite a fortune in relics, too,
 Any price you would name would be small:
 A soft golden curl, a little worn shoe,
 And the fingerprints there on the wall.
 We've a special interest in heaven, too,
 She departed this life at three,
 A jewel in heaven with value true,
 That's quite an asset, you see."

The astonished assessor squirmed in his shoes
 (He was finding it hard to relax),
 "They truly have great riches," he mused,
 "But not one thing I can tax."

"We have no possessions," they calmly
 explained,

"To lock in a vault of steel,
 Possessions and riches are different, you see,
 Our riches, the things that we feel.
 There's one more that is quite vital,
 You may be a little suprised,
 We hold a bloodbought title,
 To a mansion in the skies."

The puzzled assessor bowed himself out
 In utter exasperation,
 The richest couple he had ever known
 Were entirely exempt from taxation.

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Easter—April 12
 "And go quickly, and tell...that he is
 risen from the dead;..." Matt. 28:7.

Assault On Marriage

By Bro. Stanley Dickson

The two most precious gifts given to mankind by a wise and gracious heavenly Father are the gift of Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world, and the giving of a wife (Eve) to Adam.

By the first gift, man was afforded the opportunity to have fellowship and be made one with God. In salvation a relationship of love, devotion, purity and unity of purpose between God and man is established. Everything that pertains to life and godliness is given by God to this union, and mankind is benefited and blessed beyond their greatest expectations.

In describing the relationship that is to exist between God and man, God, in various places, uses the institution of marriage as an example of how salvation is to bless and affect us. Marriage is designed by God and His blessings and care are extended to it. In marriage, couples find the sweetest experience known to man. The fullness and richness of heart, soul, mind, body and emotions that exist within the confines of marriage by far outweighs and exceeds anything ever invented or imagined. Nowhere else can people find such fulfillment, comfort, strength and purpose as is found in marriage. Marriage is unique and without an equal in human relationships. In it we find a strength and support that will come from no other. The sharing and giving (never taking) of husbands and wives to each other form a bond that will weather the storms of life, and give stability and hope to those they touch. Regardless of how many friends we have, or how much of this world's goods and fame we may acquire, we will never find in them the support and help that comes from the love and care of a spouse.

From within the confines of a happy and devoted marriage comes the very material that the foundation of society is built upon, the family. Without question, when marriages suffer and fail, the fallout of that is a family that, to some degree, is dysfunctional and begins to forfeit the true blessings of life.

God told Ezekiel, when He made him a watchman on the wall,

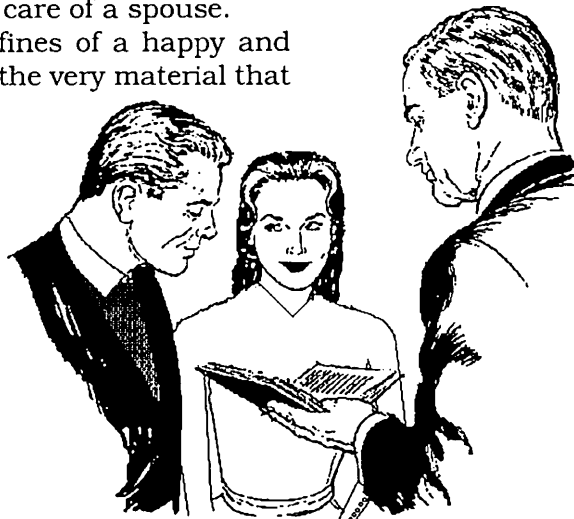
"...Hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me." Ezekiel 3:17. So I would like to point out what I see as an all out assault on the institution of marriage by Satan and the mustered forces of this ungodly world. Remember, you cannot expect any help from the world and the changing rules of society. Regrettably, society is ruled by the god of this world, and his influence is in all aspects of society, even religion. Our help comes from the Lord and from allowing Him to be the center and heart of our life and marriage. Without Him we can do nothing. To the sorrow of mankind, many are trying to establish marriage on a foundation other than the truth of Jesus Christ and His life.

I hope you have a most wonderful marriage, and if so I praise God with you. However, do not take your happiness for granted. By all means be on your guard, and keep your heart and mind clear of the number one enemy, selfishness. With anguish of heart we all know of good marriages that have turned bad. It did not just happen, but some of the things we will discuss found their way into the life of the marriage.

To borrow from the Hebrew writer concerning bitterness, "...thereby many be defiled." Hebrews 12:15. When a marriage goes sour and selfishness begins to reign, not only is the couple defiled, but alas, many are defiled. How many spoiled marriages have you seen that only affected the couple? I will tell you how many—none. There is always fallout and injury to the innocent and to society every time. Never be so bold as to say it should be of no concern to anyone else and that it is your business alone.

When a marriage fails we all lose. Satan knows this very well and rejoices at a couple's calamity and the ensuing effect.

We may want to think that marital trouble is a condition that exists only in the world, and that somehow we, the Church, are exempt. May we never be so naive. The Church is a prime target and Satan has his demonic sights of death set on your marriage. He is just waiting



for you to make a slip and not be on guard. Oh, please, believe this. It is true. I have seen Satan's work too many times and in too many places to believe that it is just an isolated incident now and then.

Remember back to the courtship and the engagement. Remember all the hope, love and anticipated joy you looked forward to? Remember all the dreams and plans, and how you could not for a minute imagine anything so beautiful coming under assault and being exposed to a death blow from Satan? Bitter heartaches never entered your thoughts. Sleepless nights and pillows wet with tears were never considered. How could such a beautiful picture turn so ugly?

How? Because marriage has an "...adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he may devour." (I Peter 5:8.) To devour means to swallow up. The pain and terror of being attacked by a lion is unthinkable. But it is nothing compared to the terror of a marriage being ingested by Satan. We have all seen the blows and the attacks couples can make upon one another. Maybe you are there

marriage. Please do not expose it to Satan. Hold marriage dear.

Here are some of the devices that Satan can use to get a toe hold in a marriage. What I would like for you to do is read this list very slowly. Meditate on each one. Explore the meaning of each word. Then I would ask you to read this together as a couple and be very honest with yourself and each other. Discuss the thoughts. Pray over your thoughts and discussion. A word of caution. It is inherent in people to want to take a list such as this one and put it on the other person. It is easier than being honest with yourself. But that is not what I am asking you to do. Read the list and apply it to yourself. God is not asking you to change the ways of others. Spiritual lukewarmness; Cares of this life; Different directions; Insensitivity; Lack of communication; Jobs/Careers; Jealousy; Stinginess/Greed; Concupiscence; Worldly entertainment; In-Laws (Remember, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave [firmly attach] unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh."); Indifference; Belittling; Criticism; Lying; A religious spirit (the Bible is never to be

How careful you must be with this priceless blessing of marriage.

now and are fielding or wielding the debilitating blows of Satan's influence. There is no way for there to be pleasure and fulfillment in such a relationship; and to think of such pain coming from what started out as visions of love, joy, beauty and happiness. Why, oh why, would one want to harm and disfigure something so beautiful?

Satan is "seeking." I thought of it this way in trying to explain the seriousness of Satan's desire for people. Imagine that a hired assassin was stalking you. Everywhere you go, he follows, and has the cross hairs of a scope on a high powered rifle trained on you at all times. Imagine how serious you would be in your actions and steps if you knew that he was just waiting for you to give him a clear shot so he could take out your life. Would you be careful? Would you notify the authorities? Would you hold life dear? Yes, of course you would.

May God help each one to see that the devil has his sights set on their marriage. He is just waiting for them to allow their selfishness to give him an opening for a clear shot. How careful you must be with this priceless blessing of

used as an instrument for getting your way); Abuse (sexual, physical, emotional); Drugs/Alcohol; Love of money.

Make no excuse for any of the above. They are poison. You must be willing to allow God to purge you from all of the avenues Satan is using to infiltrate your marriage. Because of Satan's devices, and the looseness of the world, we must be on guard at all times. Resist any intrusion into the sanctity of your marriage.

Redeeming the time is a theme of Christ. I encourage you to make full use of the time you have. This is your time for your marriage; a time to shine out as a beacon of the beauty of Christ and His Church. This is your opportunity to build magnificent memories. A time to be rich in love and the joy of sharing life with someone you love; a time for flowers to bloom; a time to guard against regrets; a time to point and direct children to a healthy perception of marriage and to give them an example to pattern their marriage after. May I interject a challenge here? Do you want your children to have the kind of marriage you have? Be honest. If not, then you must

(Continued on page 15)

**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).

(Periodical postage paid at Guthrie, OK)

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 50¢ to notify us of each change of address.

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES



Single copy, one year \$3.00
Package of 5 papers to one address, one year \$12.00
Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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Internet address: <http://www.theshop.net/faithpub>

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EDITORIALS

Easter greetings to all our readers!

The resurrection of our Lord is the grand climax to the plan of salvation foretold to the patriarchs, anticipated by the prophets of old, and heralded by the angels on the hills of Judea. It gathered momentum as Christ began a ministry of healing and deliverance. In fact, the Kingdom of God seemed an unstoppable force as Christ rode into Jerusalem for the Passover.

Though Gethsemane was a blight on Christ's purpose, His dedication did not allow the darkness of it to dim His vision of what salvation would accomplish for all mankind. Nor did He allow the forces of evil gathered at Pilate's hall to deter Him, or the fury of the devil's taunts through the cruelty of those who spit in His face, tore off His clothes and lacerated His body.

Then came death, and all was silent. It seemed Christ had encountered a force stronger than the plan of redemption.

Hope seemed lost and the disciples hung their heads. What they did not realize was that the climax was yet to come, for on Sunday morning the Savior stepped forth from the tomb in victory over death and the devil. So great was this event that the disciples could scarcely believe it.

Today Easter is regarded as a time to celebrate the greatest spiritual victory earth or heaven has ever known. The resurrection was God's stamp of approval upon the sacrifice His Son had made, and it will be because of such a sacrifice that we will be able to stand before God, in peace, on the day of judgment.

We want to express our appreciation for the different ways those who love the truth have stood by us in this publishing work. We are grateful for every prayer offered on our behalf, and ask that you continue lifting us up to the Lord. If it were not for your loving support, we surely would have to cease operation.

We also are interested in sharing your burdens. If we can be of help to you, please let us know. We will gladly share an interest in your prayers.

Lately, we have been receiving a lot of manuscript for publication, so if you don't find

your submission in print, please understand that we will use it as we have space and the Lord directs. And please keep the material coming.

Invitations have been mailed to former Print Shop workers in anticipation of the reunion planned for July 11. If you are a former worker who fails to receive a personal invitation in the mail by April 15, please contact this office.

We would like to thank all of the saints who have so generously supported the humanitarian relief for the Church of God in Malawi, Central Africa. As of this writing, Bro. Bob Sallee is in Malawi for the purpose of establishing a secure and efficient way for the funds to be transferred there. Of necessity, some of the offerings received have had to be used in the administration of getting the food to those in dire need.

Bro. Bob left the Oklahoma City airport on March 15, and is scheduled to return on March 29. We are trusting the Lord to provide him with a safe and prosperous journey.

On April 4, I plan to leave for a two week trip to the Philippines. I am looking forward to visiting with the saints there, and with Bro. Matias Tangunan, who for many years has been a native missionary in the Philippines.

We request your prayers for divine guidance and blessing on this journey. And may God bless each of you, also. —Wayne Murphey

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CASSETTE TAPES

Two cassette tapes (90 minute) have been made of each song in the Blue Book (1-201), played on the piano by Sis. René Smith. \$3.50 will cover the cost of the two tapes, a counter index and postage.

The *Blue Book* was arranged from a compilation of hymns (words only) that Sister Myrtle Souder had collected over the years. After making this collection available to others, I received inquiries about the tunes to some of the songs, as many people didn't know them and they were not available in sheet music. So we wrote some of the songs in four part harmony. The tapes give the tunes to all songs.

Send your order directly to Opal Kelly, but make your check payable to "Church of God." Thank you, Sis. Opal Kelly, Apt. #A—106, 4613 Tinker Diagonal, Del City, OK 73115

SINGING TAPES

Audio cassette tapes are currently being offered for sale by a group of saints who have joined their voices in an effort to glorify God and promote the gospel.

This is a high quality recording that offers many moments of enjoyment and encouragement to those who hear it.

The singers include: SOPRANO: Letha Ligons, Sarita Phillips, Kimberly Johnson and Charity Hargrave. ALTO: Patrica (Phillips) Williams, Rachel Hargrave, Heather Reed. FEMALE TENORS: Crystal (Hargrave) Johnson and Krysta (Fuller) Hargrave. MALE TENORS: Darrell Johnson and Herschell Hargrave Jr. BASS: Paul Phillips, Jr., David Hargrave and Chauncy Johnson.

The cost of the tape is \$10.00 plus \$1.00 shipping and handling. We realize that this amount is more than what most are accustomed to, however, the proceeds will be donated to various missionary efforts. Please send all requests to: Church of God, c/o Darrell Johnson, 239 N. Seagoville Rd., Dallas, TX 75217.

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CAMP MEETING DATES



- Olahoma State (Guthrie)**—May 22-31
- Holly Hill, SC**—May 31-June 7
- Tulsa, OK**—June 7-14
- Jefferson, OR**—June 12-21
- Green Bank, WV**—June 12-18
- Coffeerville/Water Valley, MS**—June 21-28
- Loranger, LA**—June 28-July 5
- Fresno, CA**—July 3-12
- National (Monark Springs, MO)**—July 17-26
- Myrtle, MO**—July 29-Aug. 2
- Bakersfield, CA**—Aug. 12-16

Boley, OK—Aug. 17-23
California State (Pacoima)—Aug. 28-Sept. 6

MEETING NOTICES

GOLDEN RULE ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

The 36th Anniversary Service of the Golden Rule Home in Shawnee, OK, has been set for April 5, 1998, at 2:00 p.m., in the dining room of the home at 38801 Hardesty Road.

A singspiration has been set for 7:00 p.m., April 4, at the chapel at 1415 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK.

We welcome all who will come and join us and help us sing the praises of the Lord. The new administrator, David Moore, is looking forward to meeting all who come, and welcomes each of you.

For more information please call (405) 273-7106.

WICHITA, KS SPRING MEETING

Lord willing, the Wichita, KS Spring Meeting will be held April 17-26, 1998. We are needy creatures, always desiring God's help. He has promised to be our Helper, so we are looking for Him to bless the meeting in every way. Many people need salvation, and we want them to get saved during this meeting. Some need more grace, more strength and better understanding, so we ask God to send this during the meeting. We want the devil rebuked in every way and God is always glad to help us in that respect. So we are giving God the right-of-way, and faith says there will be victory. Come one and all and attend the meeting if you can, and most of all, please pray for it.

Services begin Friday night at 7:30. On Sundays there will be three services, and Monday through Saturday there will be two services daily, at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. If needed, you may contact Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at (316) 778-1848, or Bro. Paul Phillips, Jr. at (316) 721-9557. The Church address is 1701 N. Ash, and the phone number is (316) 267-9582.

—Sis. Shirley Knight

KANSAS CITY WEEKEND MEETING

Services are planned in the Kansas City area for the weekend of April 18-19th and will be held in the North Park Activities Center in Harrisonville, MO.

Scheduled services are for 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. on Sunday.

For further information, contact Sis. Gertrude Lounds at (913) 722-3488, or Glen Inman at (816) 779-5526.

HOLLY HILL, SC CAMP MEETING

Lord willing, the Holly Hill, SC Camp Meeting will be held May 31-June 7, 1998.

There are motels about 10 miles from the Campgrounds: Ramada Inn, (803) 854-2191; Santee Economy Inn, (803) 854-2107 and Days Inn, (803) 854-2175

For more information, please contact: Bro. Clinton Crummie at (803) 496-7354, or Bro. Floyd Crummie at (803) 496-5768, or Bro. Alvold Pratt at (803) 492-3366.

Please come and get a blessing. Everyone is welcome!
—Sis. Judie Crummie

JEFFERSON, OR CAMP MEETING

The saints at Jefferson, OR send a hearty invitation to attend the annual camp meeting held June 12-21. RV hookups and other sleeping accommodations are available. Meals will be served in the dining hall. Let us know if you plan to come by bus, plane or train so arrangements can be made to pick you up.

For those driving from Jefferson, go east on Marion Rd. approximately one mile, turn left on Skelton Rd. and go 1/2 mile. The chapel will be on the right. The address is 14810 Skelton Rd. SE, Jefferson, OR. For more information contact Bro. Bob Wilson, pastor, at (541) 327-3621 or Bro. Clifford Smith at (503) 581-4575.

We are entreating the Lord to send vessels of His choosing, add a few to the fold and sanctify this gathering with His holy presence. Your presence would be a blessing to the saints at Jefferson.

WV STATE CAMP MEETING
JUNE 12-18, 1998

The West Virginia Camp Meeting will begin on Friday night, June 12th and end on Thursday night, the 18th of June. There will be two services daily at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held on the White Pines Campground in Arbovale, WV, right off Highway 28 and 92. There is lodging available on the campground as well as motels nearby for anyone interested. Meals will be served daily.

This campmeeting is held to provide an opportunity for the isolated saints in this area to be in a camp meeting with the saints, as well as an outreach to the surrounding community. Ministers of the Church of God are invited to come and participate in this meeting. We also invite anyone who feels an interest to come. We are expecting an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In addition, we are planning an outreach to Washington D.C. on the 19th of June, on the Friday following the meeting. We will leave early Friday morning and arrive in D.C. around noon, Lord willing. We plan to hold a couple of open air singings and tract handouts in the afternoon and evening on the mall between the Capitol and the Washington Monument. We will be spending Friday night in nearby suburbs of D.C. Saturday will be left for sightseeing for anyone interested.

The directions to the campgrounds coming from the South: Take I-64 to White Sulpher Springs, WV. You will then get on Highway 92 and come north to Arbovale and follow the signs. Coming from the North, you will come to Elkins, take (219, 250) south. Follow Rt. 250 until you come to Rt. 28, 92 in Bartow. Follow Rt. 28, 92 to Arbovale and follow signs.

For information about the meeting, reservations for lodging, or about the Washington D.C. outreach, call Bro. Toney Samons at (304) 456-3017, or Bro. Marty Clevenger at (304) 456-3242.

**COFFEEVILLE/WATER VALLEY, MS
 CAMP MEETING**

The first camp meeting to be held by the Coffeeville and Water Valley, MS congregations, is planned for June 21-28.

For further information contact Bro. Louis Kimble at (504) 467-8842, or Bro. Lessie Brown at (601) 675-2718.

There will be a further notice printed later.

BUILDING PROJECT REPORT

LA—Dear saints: Greetings once again in the precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are thankful to report the progress we have on the building project, and to inform you that we are entering into the second phase.

During the first phase of this project, we removed approximately 60% of the existing building, which now leaves us a small section for worship service, 20'x24'. We have removed

most of the existing foundation, including the removal of a large pecan tree. As of February 15, incoming offerings have totaled \$11,644.00. Expenses thus far have been \$3,614.41. Our balance to date is \$8,029.59.

Entering into the second phase will include: Forming and pouring footings, laying approximately 1500 blocks, plumbing, electrical, roof, windows and doors, insulation, heating and a/c systems. Our present balance is not enough to complete the second phase of this project.

We pray that God will bless each of you for your prayers and support in helping us in the continuation of this portion of the work of God. We are thankful to God for those of you who have responded to the leadings of the Lord in this great need here.

For further information, please feel free to contact Bro. John Clement at (504) 536-3767, 103 Trosclair Ct., Reserve, LA 70084, or Bro. Louis Kimble, (504) 467-8842, 2752 Tupelo Street, Kenner, LA 70062. All contributions can be sent to the Church of God Missionary, P.O. Box 73835, Metairie, LA 70033.

Yours for souls in the gospel field,

—The Kenner congregation and Bro. Louis Kimble, Pastor



OR—Sis. Beverly Wattenbarger needs healing of an infection in her leg.

FL—Sis. Cheryl Smith's brother-in-law has not been given long to live due to cancer. Also pray for his salvation.

OH—"Pray for my nephew who found out he has cancer. He is fifty years old. Please pray he will be healed." —Sis. Tressie Adkins

OK—Oma Jean Fairchild is in much need of prayer.

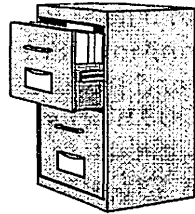
FL—"I am not saved at present, but am trying to settle it in my heart once and for all to forsake sin and serve the Lord. I humbly request the prayers of all the faithful and true saints of God in my behalf." —Willie Ashley, Jr.

CA—Sis. Doris Pihaylic has asked for prayer for several of her relatives who have serious problems.

NC—"Remember me and my family in your prayers."
—Sis. Agnes Burleson



From
Our
Letter
Files

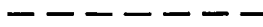


TX—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, the name above all names. I feel so good in my soul this morning. I have been reading my Bible and meditating with our Lord. I have found so many treasures that I just want to read on and on without stopping. Every word blesses my soul....

Yes, our God is the same yesterday, today and forever. He has not and will not change His holy word to condone sin. God says, "...Be ye holy; for I am holy." I Pet. 1:16. God tells us to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. (Psa. 96:9.) Earthly wealth and fame cannot manifest the beauty of holiness....

Our God is love, and He seeks those who will pick up their cross and follow Him. There are many more commandments than the ten commandments. To live for God we must fast, pray and read our Bible. God will see you through every trial. He is there for you all the time.

May God bless you and every one who might read this. God loves each and every one. He is no respecter of persons. You may err along your way, but don't give up—get up and be an overcomer.
—Sis. Rhoda Smith



WV—Dear Sisters and Brothers: I just wanted you to know that I still appreciate the *Faith and Victory* paper. God is so good to us all. God has watched over my health this past year....

Please pray that I can grow stronger and can show Jesus in my life.

May God bless you, —Sis. Melba Powell



AZ—Greetings of love to all: I am thankful to be saved, sanctified and pressing on with peace and thanksgiving in my heart for Jesus.

The Lord is still healing and performing miracles. Praise His name forever. I developed heart problems a year ago. They gradually grew worse. I had a hurting in my chest almost continually. I was having morning worship about

two weeks ago, and read the scripture in Acts 19:11-12: "And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them." I had never regarded that as a scripture that I would ever have to personally associate with, but it stayed on my mind.

One morning, about a week ago, I was hurting and I went to the Lord. I told the Lord that I wanted to be in His will, whatever it is, so that I can make heaven. Monday, around 1:00 a.m., I agonized about calling someone to pray for me, but I didn't. Later that morning I called a minister but she was gone. I then called another minister to ask how I could get an anointed handkerchief. While we were talking I almost blacked out. This minister in turn called the first minister I had called and left a message on her answering machine about me needing prayer and inquiring about them sending me an anointed handkerchief. That afternoon I was healed immediately. I claimed it by faith and obedience. I waited until the next morning to call and ask what time the minister listened to the message. Our timing corresponded.

Dear Ones, my battle had just begun. The devil came at me for two days and one night with the fear that it might come back. But Jesus, in His infinite love, goodness, mercy and grace, let me know He doesn't give gifts and then take them back.

Praise the Lord, I serve a God who sees, hears and knows all about me. And that is what I want. He is my Friend.

Christian love, —Claudine Snell



PA—Dear saints: Peace and joy and blessings to you all. I wish to inform you of the death of Sister Ruth Godshall of Perkasio, PA, who went to be with the Lord on January 27, 1998, at the age of 81 years. She had been saved as a young girl, having sat under the preaching of her father, Bro. Charles Houck, who was a Church of God minister here in Pennsylvania for many years. Most of us sat under his teaching in our younger years. Sister Ruth had a great burden for lost souls and worked diligently for their salvation up to the time of her own disability. Her last request to me was for continued prayer for her family. We wish to thank Bro. Toney Samons and family for conducting the funeral services, and to all who

prayed for her, sent cards and made calls of encouragement. That meant much to her.

We do pray for the Lord to open the eyes of the lost and confused. May He use the Word you are able to distribute to accomplish this.

In the love of Christ, —Barbara J. Campbell
— — — — —

OK—Dear saints: “Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.” Psa. 34:19.

I feel impressed of the Lord to give this testimony as to how wonderful the Lord has been to me down through my long life. He has kept me saved all of these years and healed my body many times. Surely, He has stood by His Word that He would never leave me nor forsake me, and that He was a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. What a great blessing to have a friend like Jesus!

I have been greatly afflicted for more than two years, but God has been faithful to His Word. One day, in the midst of a great fight of affliction, I said, “Lord, Thou hast never failed me.” His answer was, “And I will not fail thee NOW.”

Not long ago, I took a fall while alone. I pressed the emergency button I wear on my body which contacts my family and others when I need aid. This time the paramedics also came to help me to my bed. In this process they took my blood pressure which showed to be dangerously high. They began to insist that I go to the hospital, but I told them I wanted to stay in my home and trust God. They took the pressure two more times and again the numbers were the same. I was truly calling on the Lord to help me. The paramedics waited a few more minutes and when the pressure was taken again, praise God, it was normal. They agreed then to let me stay in my home. I counted this a real miracle.

I would like to tell of two angel visits the Lord has permitted in recent times. The first one was a male, whose garments were a beautiful hue of blue. His wings were such I am not fully able to describe, but the tips reached to the floor. No artist could ever paint the beauty of this heavenly being. This visit came one morning after a restless night of suffering. As I awoke, the angel walked to the foot of my bed, turned and faced me. His look greatly stirred my spirit, and though I tried to keep quiet, I could not hold my peace. I cried out, “Did you come for me? Here I am!” At that the angel disappeared.

Two weeks later a beautiful maiden, dressed

in the purest white, appeared also at my bed. Again, it was at a time of great suffering. As this heavenly being stood by my bed for a number of minutes, I kept quiet and simply cried unto the Lord to take the pain from my body. When this angel departed, all pain and suffering also departed. Praise God forevermore!

A few years ago I was attending a revival service at the 23rd Street congregation. Bro. Emmitt Gerald was delivering a message on “judgment.” I was taking notes when suddenly a pain went through my chest and down my left arm. I said to the young man next to me that I needed a drink of water. When he returned he told his mother, “Sis. Katherine has gone to sleep.” Sis. Velda Wisner saw that I was unconscious. Services were stopped and all the saints gathered around and prayed for me. When I came to myself, one was patting my face and calling my name. Oh saints, I was in a wonderful, peaceful place where there was no pain. I longed to stay in that place. The next day, in my disappointment, I asked the Lord why I could not have stayed. The Lord said, “My eyes are upon the righteous and My ears are open unto their prayers. I must stand by My word. The saints were praying.” With this answer, I submitted to His will for me.

Another day while I was napping, I had a wonderful dream. I was walking through crystal clear water, so clear I could see the bottom which appeared in beautiful rainbow colors. As I crossed over this place I stepped upon beautiful marble steps. A very large, impressive door was at the top of these steps. As I proceeded to the door, it flew open automatically! Inside was heaven, and I woke up crying out, “Praise God! I made it!” Saints, by the grace of God, I intend to be in that glorious heaven someday. I want to see the One who died for me and ever be at rest from the labors of this life. Amen.

I appreciate the saints. They are my people. I love every one of you and appreciate your love to me. I want to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, offerings, calls of encouragement and the food that has been brought in. The saints have surely been a blessing to me.

I want to close this testimony with this: “I’ll see you on the other side.”

Love, —Sis. Katherine Williams
— — — — —

OK—Dear Bro. Wayne and saints everywhere: Greetings in Jesus’ name. I want to thank all the saints for their prayers for me. The

Lord answered the unspoken request I had. He has touched my body. I don't have the awful pain I had in my back and legs. He is so good to me.

My husband needs prayer. He has a heart problem. I also have some other unspoken requests I desire the saints to be agreed in prayer for.

Love and prayers, —Ruby Bell

OH—Dear Bro. Murphey and workers there at the Lord's Print Shop: I appreciate and thank the Lord very much for you and your labor of love in getting the Gospel out to so many who otherwise might not get to hear it.

I really enjoy my *Faith and Victory* paper and the *Beautiful Way* paper. I share them with others who enjoy them also.

Thank you so much for your prayers for me, my family, my neighbors and friends, and the congregation here in Akron. I am still praying for all of us....

Please pray that more souls will be born into the kingdom of God.

With much love, —Sis. Janice A. Shaw

SC—Dear saints: I would like to thank God for all He has done for me and my family. I would also like to thank all the saints that have prayed for the affliction I have with my stomach. May God bless you all!

I still need the prayers of the saints. I have so many people around me who do not have faith in God, and sometimes I feel so alone in my battle. I have only been saved about two years, and I need help from the Lord to increase my faith. One day the Lord gave me a thought that I have been holding on to. The thought was, "If I can trust the Lord to save my soul, which will last for eternity, I can trust Him to heal my body that will not last."

Please pray for me saints; I need a lot of help from God. I want to always do His will and I want to draw closer to God every day. I have some burdens that I have turned over to the Lord. Please pray with me that His will might be done, because I know "God's way is best." Please remember me in your prayers.

—Marie Weatherford

OK—Dear Saints: I feel like it's high time that I send in my testimony. The Lord has been so good to our family. We have been afflicted over the years and we just felt like the Lord

would take us home way before now. So many healthy ones have gone on and we are still here trudging on. At times we feel so unnecessary and question why. But like Job said, "But he knoweth the way that I take:..." Job 23:10.

-Dora had a serious car accident last November and broke both arms and both legs. We felt the Lord might take her, but He has seen fit to raise her up, and would you believe it, she has gone to Louisiana to be with Sister Lucille Young who is so low. So you see, the Lord is surely a present help for us. I will be 68 years old before long and, according to the nature of my disease, I should have been gone long ago. I am very weak and unsteady in walking, but God has always made a way for me.

Yesterday morning I was at home alone and getting ready to go to church. At the last minute I decided to step out on the back porch to put out some bird seed. I knew it was very cold and windy. The chill factor was about 0° and there was an invisible sheet of ice on the back porch. I was walking sideways when suddenly my left foot slipped and I did the "splits." The next thing I knew I was face down on the floor. I have heard stories of these things happening to others, but I hadn't thought it would happen to me. It was a sobering situation, especially since no one was around and it was just getting ready to snow. I just could not get up. I started to slip off of the porch and try to walk around the house. But now I am glad I didn't try, because later I found that I couldn't walk. Also, another blessing was that the door didn't close and latch, because I couldn't have reached the handle.

Finally, I figured out a way to scoot and wiggle on my back over the raised door sill and into the house. I was able to reach the telephone and call someone who was late for church. Later they said, "I don't know why I was so late getting around." But I believe I do!!!

Later, I was thinking about this and thanking God over and over for helping me. Then the sly little thought came to my mind, "Lord, You know I am soooo thankful, but You could have kept this from happening." It seemed like God spoke to me and said, "Yes, and I could have let you slide clear off of the porch and about freeze to death before someone found you."

This last episode has left me with a sore and beat up feeling, but I believe I will soon be up and going. God has always made a way and I believe He will until the end. We thank you for your prayers. —Dale and Dora Doolittle

FL—Dear Bro. Wayne and saints: I would like to express my gratitude to the Lord for His blessings to us. I also want to tell of how He worked a miracle.

Last October Sis. Katherine Williams wanted to come to Florida and be with the saints here. Although she was sick, the Lord helped her to get out of bed and prepare to come. She was so sick that she had to call for prayer.

After she came here, the Lord let her know that she was to conduct a few nights of meeting and that He would take care of her. It was a wonderful blessing to see the strength and anointing He gave to her. Although she was frail in body, her spirit was strong. He held her up through the night meetings and sisters' meeting.

There was deep conviction in the meetings and the Lord blessed with good altar services. The Lord came down in the sisters' meeting and blessed with a peace that only the Spirit of God can give. Pray for us that we will continue in those "things that we have seen and heard."

Yours in Christ, —Sis. Doris Clay

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OK—Dear ones: If you have children or loved ones who are not saved, don't give up on them. I have been praying for my unsaved son, Luther, for many years. Many times during the last two weeks the song would come to me, "When you have done your best, let Jesus do the rest." I would get up at night sometimes and sing this song.

I believe it was Saturday night, February 7, when I was so burdened for Luther. I went to the bedroom and knelt down by my bed and prayed earnestly for him. I remember part of my prayer. I prayed, "Lord, please have mercy on Luther. Please have mercy." Oh, I was so burdened. I was crying and begging the Lord for his salvation.

Luther passed away while sitting in his chair on Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m., February 8, 1998, while at home in Baxter Springs, KS. His death was not discovered until Tuesday morning, February 10th.

I arrived in Kansas on Tuesday evening. I was grieving and was very sad. I thought and said, "I won't get to see him anymore." A voice spoke to me and said, "You can meet him in heaven." That is my hope now. I believe the dear Lord had mercy and saved him in the eleventh hour. We have no assurance of this, but God saved the thief on the cross. This has been an

inspiration and comfort to me and it is my hope for Luther.

Dear ones who have children or unsaved loved ones, pray, pray, pray earnestly until victory comes.

The Lord has been helping and blessing me. With the Lord's help, I mean to make heaven my home. Please pray for me.

Love and prayers, —Opal Bradley

— — — — —

KS—Dear ones: The Lord answered a very special, urgent prayer for me just a few days ago, for which I thank Him.

Many times through the years the dear Lord has answered prayer for us. That is just the times we know of. Many times He has lifted us up, "...Lest we dash our foot against a stone," Psa. 91:12, when we didn't even know we were in danger. We need a whole lifetime here on earth and an eternity to thank Him and praise His name enough.

Thanks for sharing a bit of Print Shop news with us, and for the many hours of work which go into printing the papers, tracts, books and messages that come out of the Print Shop. We thank you.

God's richest blessings to each one of you and your families.

In His love, —Naomi Hiebert

— — — — —

CA—Dear Bro. Murphey and saints: Greetings in the precious name of our blessed Saviour. I am determined to follow Him all the way, be an example in holiness and win souls for Him. I know that His grace is sufficient to keep us meek, humble and faithful all the days of our life on this earth.

Please pray for my grandson, Orall Joseph. He has cancer. Pray for my unsaved family to turn to the Lord before it is too late. Pray for me. I am past 90 years old and still distributing tracts.

In Christian love, —Sis. Ruth Donnelly

— — — — —

LA—Dear Bro. Wayne and Print Shop workers: Again I send greetings of love in the name of our wonderful Saviour, who, because of His great love for lost mankind, was willing to suffer such an awful death so that we could have eternal life.

I thank the Lord so much for His precious Word He has given to us so that we can know how to live in this world. Because of His wonderful promises we have something to stand on and

hope in. Some of my meditations tonight on the Word were "The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him." Nah. 1:7. "Thou, Lord, art good, ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee." Psa. 86:5. "For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death." Psa. 48:14. I want to become better acquainted with Him, and to learn more and more of His wonderful ways.

I trust and pray the Lord is blessing there in the printing of His Word which is being sent out to hundreds of readers, and that it will be the means of many finding Him. The Lord is surely taking notice of His faithful workers and they will not go unrewarded....

With prayers and Christian love,

—Alta Flynn



From Nigeria...

February 10, 1998—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and all of the holy family: Greetings in the most powerful name of the Lord Jesus, the Almighty in power, yet tender in love and plentiful in mercy. All glory and honor unto Him forever and ever. Amen.

I am glad to say that the unity of the brethren here is commendably solid upon the Rock. The Lord has done so much for us that we cannot tell it all. Our joy of belonging to the Supernal Commonwealth of Israel, the Commonwealth of Grace, is indescribably great. We are in the fullness of joy to rejoice evermore. His name shall forever be glorified for bringing us out of the land of shadow into the brightness of the day. His light is shining in our homes day and night, making our dwelling places impervious to the enemy.

Our labor for lost souls in 1997 was never in vain. It closed with the victory of some souls won and added to the Church. All the new arrivals in the Kingdom have followed the Lord in water

baptism and participated in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Umuachi-Afor is still a target for evangelism.

In strong and lively terms, we find the Lord impressing upon us the danger of the cares of this life. We hear Him say, "Go at once and trouble not yourselves about food and raiment, or any bodily want; trust in God for these." The Savior never leaves His people wanting for anything. The Scripture says, "...Ye are complete in Him,..." Colossians 2:10.

We are in dire need of a public address system. Africa is for you to evangelize. The Lord will bless the saints for cooperating with us every step of the way.

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



From Sinaloa, Mexico...

March 11, 1998—By this means I respectfully salute you in the precious name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We hope and pray that you, together with the Lord's flock, are enjoying the blessings from above.

We are joyfully pressing the battle on each day in the work of the Lord, always encouraged, but sometimes we feel weak. We remember what God said to Paul: "...My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." II Corinthians 12:9. Paul was a good ambassador for Christ, even when he was in bonds. Then close to the end he said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." II Timothy 4:7. All this motivates us to keep going on, working in the vineyard of the Lord. We thank God for you all and for your care for this ministry. We know that this work here in Sinaloa is also a part of the fulfilling of the great commission of Christ. (Matthew 28:19.) We are seeking to save the lost as Christ said. (Luke 19:10.) All the saints should know that our convictions are Biblical (II Timothy 1:12) and that God has confirmed by word and deeds that this work is what God has done. We are only servants and sometimes lack abilities, but the Master of the harvest makes us able for His glory and honor. We are thankful to God for the strength to follow in the way and carry the message on to others.

—Adelfo Gonzalez



Dear Ones: Bro. Gonzalez is so grateful for the support that we have been sending to this full-time native pastor. There will be a spring meeting there soon. Lord willing, we will drive

down, which is about 1,000 miles from here. If there are those who have a burden to help minister and teach these dear ones, please let us know by phone or e-mail. Pray for Charlotte and me, as we need added strength from the Lord to carry on the Spanish Publishing work here. We have two skilled young people helping us now.

—Bro. James Huskey, Phone: 011-52-61-77-5228, E-mail:< jahuskey@telnor.net>

From India...

February 17, 1998—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear saints in America and other nations: Greetings to you all dear ones again in the mighty name of Jesus Christ. I am very sad to know of Bro. Mart Samons' and Bro. Ralph Beisly's passing. Both of them were my friends since 1974. They loved me and the Lord's work in India. Many of my older friends in America have gone to the other side.

God blessed our convention at Kothamangalam last week. Many got saved and dedicated their lives for God. All our congregations are active in the spreading of the gospel. Please continue to pray for and support our needs. Our prayers are for you and the saints scattered in America.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear saints: Greetings from the saints in India in the precious and holy name of Jesus. Thank you very much for your prayers and encouragement.

Our God is a God of impossibilities. He is building His Kingdom with earth's broken things. He can take the life crushed by pain or sorrow, and make it into a harp whose music shall be all praise.

Seeing the great need, the Lord inspired my heart to get up and proclaim the truth. God has given me people to follow the truth. At present, by the grace of God, we have nine congregations and a few out-stations. We had no church buildings. Church services were held in homes, giving us limited space to assemble. We did not find any source of funds to help us. We cried to the Lord regularly, believing that He would do a miracle. In short, let me tell you, He did a miracle. As He uses men and women to be His channels of miracles, He used the estate of Sis. Gladys Piper. We are very thankful to her family and to the trustees who were responsible to work out the will of Sis. Gladys Piper.

We used that inheritance for the construction of a chapel building at Trissur and for partial help at Cochin and Kondazhi. We also purchased land in Pulpally for making a chapel.

We are in urgent need to construct more church buildings in various places. Your earnest prayers are requested.

I write this letter from the U.S.A., but I am thinking to cut short my schedules and go back to India as quickly as possible because my health is getting bad. I am not discouraged, but encouraged in the Lord. By His grace I live and work for Him. I still have many things to do for His glory. Please pray for my health and the missionary work. —Bro. P. D. Mathunni



Jared Arthur Samons was born Oct. 16, 1991 at Elkins, WV, and departed this life Feb. 11, 1998, at the age of 6 years, 3 months and 26 days.

He leaves to mourn his passing, his father and mother, John and Rosalie; one sister, Julie; two brothers, John and Joshua, all of the home, and many others who loved him.

Jared was a loving and special child. He was born on my 38th birthday, which made our birthdays very special. I couldn't have asked for a better present.

Jared's favorite song was, *Jesus Loves Me*, which he wanted to sing in Sunday School every Sunday. His smile and gentle disposition will be always remembered and greatly missed.

Funeral services were conducted at the Buie Funeral Home in Sheridan, AR by Bros. Jerry Melot, Ed Wilson, Leslie Busbee and Bob Huskey. He was laid to rest at the Philadelphia Cemetery at Prattsville, AR. —Submitted by John Samons

Note of Appreciation

I would like to give a special thanks to all

who have helped and supported us during this dark time. Most of all, your prayers have held us up. We could not have done without them. All of the flowers were so beautiful. Your cards with their thoughts and poems and comforting words have been precious. Your monetary support has more than covered all of the expenses. Saints, and everyone who reads this, I want you to know I love you.

I would like to give a very special thanks to Bro. Bob Huskey, who joined in with us during Jared's battle of affliction, and also to Sis. Shirley Doolittle who stood by my wife through the dark days.

To all of you who came to be with us, my heart is filled with gratitude.

Finally, I want to thank the Prattsville, AR congregation for coming in and helping and praying with us through the whole time. We are forever endeared to them.

Our hearts are still heavy, and some days are hard to get through, but the Lord is blessing us and carrying us and brightening our days a little at a time. We do not charge God foolishly. Again, thanks so very much!

"Steady as you go,"

—John Samons and family

Florence L. Sisk was born on April 20, 1925 to Nova Lee and Ethel (Husted) Chrisman in Enid, OK and went home to be with the Lord at the age of 72 on February 21, 1998, after a lengthy illness of diabetes.

She was the 10th of 15 children. She was raised and educated in Enid, living most of her life in Garfield County.

She was raised poor, because of little money, but learned to love and help her family.

At the age of 21 she met John R. Sisk and they were married two months later at Enid Air Base by Chaplain Horn, on June 20, 1946. She became a loving wife and mother of her children. She TRULY LOVED HER FAMILY!

In 1963, she felt the personal call of the Spirit of the Lord and gave her heart and life to the Savior and became a new creature in Christ. She was baptized by Bro. John Sisk along with her brother, Sam Chrisman and her sister, Marella Arnold.

She enjoyed making dolls and ceramics along with a lifetime of gardening and canning fruits and vegetables. She also enjoyed brief traveling to visit relatives.

She is survived by her husband, John R.

Sisk of the home; two sons, John E. and Richard L. Sisk both of Guthrie, OK; one daughter, Carol Russel of Enid, OK; six grandchildren, Caria, Colleen, Cavin, Kelly, Nova and Wayne; three great-grandchildren, Chevelle, Shelby and Brittney; four brothers, Sam, Dee, LD and Bill Chrisman; two sisters, Marella Arnold and Zula Pellow; one 96-year-old maternal aunt, Mersa Green of Stillwater, OK and a host of other relatives and friends.

She is preceded in death by five sisters and three brothers, one infant son, one infant daughter and both of her parents.

Funeral services were officiated by Bros. Leslie Busbee and Willie E. Murphey, with burial being in the Enid, OK cemetery.

Luther H. Bradley, 43, of Baxter Springs, KS died Sunday, February 8, 1998, at his home.

He was born April 9, 1954, at Harrisburg, AR, to Roy and Opal (Everette) Bradley. He attended school at Grubbs, AR. He married Geneva Stout. They were later divorced. Mr. Bradley was a laborer, working for farmers in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas. He had lived in the Baxter Springs, KS area 18 years.

Survivors include his mother, Opal Bradley of Shawnee, OK; a son, Luther Dewayne Bradley of Shawnee, OK; four daughters, Connie Bradley, Paula Bradley, both of Shawnee, OK, Janet Bradley of Bartlett, KS and Lee Ann Garrison of Baxter Springs, KS; two brothers, Randel of Bartlett, KS and Jerry of Searcy, AR and three grandchildren.

His father and a sister preceded him in death.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Stanley Dickson, Michael Smith and Ivan Eck. Burial was in the Lake Creek Cemetery of Bartlett, KS.

Thank You

We want to thank each and every one for their prayers, flowers, cards and help after the passing of Luther Bradley. All of the support during this time has been greatly appreciated. It is truly wonderful to be part of the family of God.

—The Luther Bradley family

Charlie Howard Price and **Mary Cassie Price** of Trout, LA were in a tragic automobile accident January 30, 1998. Bro. Charlie died instantly. Sis. Cassie sustained a broken hip,

broken hand and bruising in her chest. She had had congestive heart failure for over a year and could not pull through the accident. She went to be with the Lord on February 4, 1998. The day of her death, all of her children were with her, singing her favorite hymns.

They are survived by two sons, Eddie Price of Georgia and Randy Bailey of Trout, LA; three daughters, Jo Ann Smith of Trout, LA; Gayle King of Jonesville, LA and Pat Cockerham of Col. Hgts., VA.

Bro. Charlie Price was born June 10, 1914. Sis. Cassie Price was born March 7, 1919.

The family extends thanks to all the saints for all their prayers, flowers, cards and for the ones who traveled from near and far to help us through the hardest time of our lives.



Assault on Marriage

(Continued from page 3.)

realize you are setting the pattern for their ideas of marriage, and be willing to humble yourself and change (Oh, what a terrifying word that is to the flesh).

This is the time to reject all influences that would harm your marriage. Soon the twilight will be here. So live in your marriage, and with your spouse, that the latter years will not be spent in remorse of wasted years and bitter regrets of how it could have been. Focus on this thought when you want to excuse yourself and blame the other person, "So then every one of us shall give account of HIMSELF to God." Romans 14:12.

Remember God's warning. Your marriage is under assault. Heed the warning and take the necessary precautions. Walk circumspectly, (considerate of all circumstances and the consequences) and not as fools. (Ephesians 5:15.)



Do I Carry My Part?

By Elaine Dunn

Recently I heard something that made me stop and think. The question, "Do I carry my part of my load?" Since I have been sick for some time, this has stayed with me, bringing a lot of thoughts I would like to share.

Mark 2:3-5. "And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where

he was: and when they had broken it up they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."

We find in reading on a little that there were those who found fault with what Jesus did. However, it worked, for in verses 11-12, Jesus said, "I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed and go thy way into thine house. And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion."

First off, I want to point out that the man was **"borne of four."** In many cases it is hard to find four people who can work that well together. It is a bit hard to get agreement. And notice that **they had to have great faith, and all were willing to work together**, no matter what, until the job was complete. Sometimes we pray for someone, and we feel our part is done. The rest is left to the faith of the sick person.

These four men had to have strength and courage. They didn't get discouraged or give up when they couldn't get to Jesus. Instead, they started climbing. Then they had to agree to break up the roof. There is no house, not even my own, that I would want to break the roof up on. Just suppose, for a moment, that one of the four men refused. One of them could have said, "I am not going up on that house. I won't break up the roof. Let's do it some other way." It would have made it extra hard on the three, had only one refused to work.

We find that after the breaking up of the roof, then came some real lifting. Think how it would have been had just one said, "Oh, I can't strain myself. I can't let down my part of the load." The poor man may never have been healed. See how important our working together is? It meant a man's healing.

Notice, Jesus never said He saw the faith of the sick man. The Word said, "Jesus saw **their** faith." How it did pay off! Many times I have heard someone pray for the sick, and quote, "...According to your faith be it unto you." Matthew 9:29. I wonder where the "prayer of faith" came in at?

This has weighed heavily on my heart. Being in affliction myself, I see how much the prayers of the saints mean. You learn to trust in their prayers—you find strength, comfort and encouragement in knowing the saints are praying!

Then again I ask myself, "Do I carry my part of the load to see answers here on earth?" Pray for me that I will be faithful with a love and true compassion for anyone in need, and that I will be found at my post of duty.

A warm thanks to all the saints for the comfort and prayers you have given to me. I am still in need, so please go and tell Jesus on me. God bless you all!

AN INSIGHT

By
Bro. Paul Sorrell

The Lordship Of Christ

The term "Lord" implies respect to another, as supreme authority, master and controller.

Our Lord Jesus Christ was called by many names; Emanuel, Rabbi, Master, etc. Isaiah, the prophet, foretold of Him being called, Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6.)

All of them enumerate the characteristics He most nearly relates to us. Also, they portray His infinite majesty in the God-head.

John, the Revelator, described Him as "Lord of Lords and King of Kings," and those with Him as being "called, chosen, and faithful," (Revelation 17:14) signifying both royalty and loyalty in His followers.

In Luke 6:46, Jesus had a question for those that called Him Lord. "...Why call ye me Lord, Lord and do not the things that I say?" In other words, "You say that I am your supreme Master, but your actions do not indicate it." There was an inconsistency between their words and their true intentions. This is true of many who call Him "Lord."

Romans 12:1-2 is calling for us to present our bodies a living sacrifice, and be not conformed to this world, that we may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God. Our life must display the will of God. "Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far ABOVE all principality, and power...and dominion, and EVERY name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come." Ephesians 1:20-21.

To recognize Jesus as Lord, means to let Him have full control of every area, and everything that

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touches us. Since we are His workmanship, (Ephesians 2:10) He simply wants to do His will in, and through us.

Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter...but he that doeth the will of my Father.... Many will say to me,... Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied... and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matthew 7:21-23.

The exterior acknowledgment and proclaiming His authority, divinity and righteousness does not always mean He is Lord of one's life. But, when He is Lord, He will enable us to "bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." (II Corinthians 10:5.) Gladly doing His will "from the heart." (Romans 6:17.)

Is He Lord in your life? Listen to His personal invitation, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in...." Revelation 3:20.

Then He will be to you as He was with Thomas. "...My Lord and my God." John 20:28.