

# 75th ANNIVERSARY YEAR

of publishing *The Gospel*

# FAITH AND VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant

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## Directions

By Bro. James McMurrin

When I was a child, the compass points were words to me, and a set of directions in my mind. North was "up" and the front door of my home was "up" as well, so going out the front door meant I was going north.

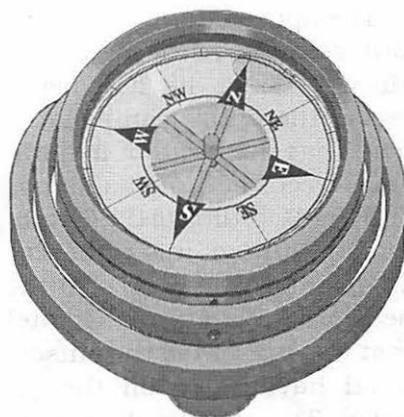
I was disturbed when I found it wasn't so. The front door, in fact, faced south. It was the back door that was north. Things just didn't "fit," and it was a long time before I understood why this bothered me.

Understanding came when I learned to drive.

As I traveled around town and our area, the surroundings became more than simply connected memories. They became a territory in my mind.

To say "go down this road" didn't mean "see these views." It meant go in a certain compass direction.

As a child, my "direction" was totally limited to the home in which I lived. To find that it didn't fit with the compass the way I thought it should was disturbing, but as my sense of other areas expanded, so did my understanding of our house.



Now I live in a house where the front door faces west, and this is a fact which does not trouble me. My sense of belonging does not depend on that small truth, but rather on the whole area in which I live and which I know because of my travels through it.

In life, many people have a constraint. Their "home" is themselves, their interests, their desires, their one little spot of warmth, direction and relevance.

If they find, or are told, that their little spot doesn't fit the outside compass the way it ought, they feel threatened, insecure and diminished. It is only when they are willing to let go of themselves and grasp the true principles of God that they begin to have more understand-

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ing of themselves and the things around them. By following God's direction, their experiences chart the map of His reality in their mind.

Those who fully commit to God find that the little house of their desires, while a nice place to occupy, is of little importance as to what direction it faces. What matters is the larger area of their knowledge, experience and perception of God moving in their lives.

To give yourself to God is not to deny that

self exists. It is to recognize how small self actually is, and how unimportant it will be in the end. People huddled inside themselves, clinging to that small spot, will never be able to understand God's greatness and plan for their lives.

Only those who willingly walk with Him through His territory have a chance to learn that from God's perspective, our little selves are small indeed.

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## The Word of the Beginning

(John 1:1-2.)

By Bro. Clifford Wilson

The apostle John was one of the twelve our Lord selected to be with Him in His public ministry. Since he had been there and witnessed the entire campaign, it is no wonder, then, that the hand of inspiration was laid on him to record events as he remembered them. With the recording of the Christ-given gospel his primary burden, it is rather interesting to note his opening statement, "In the beginning was the Word." We are immediately curious as to what was present at the outset of all things that would have effect on the presenting of the gospel. The specific item mentioned was "the Word."

When we go back to the account of creation as it is given in Genesis, we encounter this statement repeatedly, "And God said let there be...and there was." Obviously, this is function beyond human capability. If man purposes to erect something he must first acquire the necessary raw material. That material must be shaped and formed into suitable components and means must be provided to attach the various pieces to their proper place, etc., but God is not confined to such detail. He conceived the desired commodity in His mind, spoke His visualized intent, and the product appeared. No other power known to human intelligence is capable of physical construction whose only implement in use is verbal expression. Now, if verbal command is given, and identifiable "something" becomes evident where nothing had been before, a beginning had to take place. We call it creation. The Scripture says, "And the earth was without form and void." By His continued speaking the original "void" took on shape and its various functions began to operate in accordance with His issued command. All of this

came into being and began to perform in direct response to God's spoken Word. This allows us to identify a traceable pattern. It is only intelligent beings who are capable of comprehensive thought and design. It is the almighty God, the great I Am, who conceived the idea of a created world, and it was that same majestic God who began to speak and His creation began to take form. Thus we can see that before the world was, the Word was, and before the Word was, an active, performing, intelligent Being existed. The second verse of the ninetieth Psalm declares, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." This is the God who spoke and the world appeared.

Verbal expression, or spoken word, within itself is nothing more than an implement that is serviceable to convey abstract thought. Words may be formed so that commonly accepted sounds convey commonly recognized thought, so intelligent beings are able to communicate with one another. When the apostle stated that "the Word was with God" he was indicating that available to God, as an intelligent Being, was this means of verbal communication. Obviously that medium of contact reaches to recipients other than human, for when He spoke, something, somewhere, comprehended and responded. He said, "Let there be...and there was." The Scripture tells us that He is able to converse with angels and with Satan of the spirit world, and who knows what all else it may include?

Next the apostle presents a statement that conveys an entirely different concept. He said, "And the Word was God." Here at the beginning,

on the verge of creation, where mortal intelligence is about to come into existence and be exposed to the Being whose image it will ultimately bear, that Being, by means of divine inspiration, declares, "And the Word *was* God." This lets us know by positive declaration that whatever communication flows from God to man will always be the exact portrayal of what He is, what He has been, and what He always will be. God's word to man will always convey the exact personification of Himself.

This proclaimed uniting of verbal expression and Divine entity puts the Word, in an entirely different setting. It is no longer a simple vehicle or implement of communication, it is made an integral part of an active, dynamic, intelligent, living Being. Wisdom, speaking of itself, declared, "The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old." Proverbs 8:22. This describes exactly the pattern portrayed when our God embraced "the Word" to Himself and they became one together.

Let us pause a few moments here and take note of some of the contribution wisdom is able to offer to intelligent beings. Proverbs 8, verse 1; It cries to all and provides understanding. Verse 2; She occupies the peak of moral excellence, the highest level known to man, and she makes her ways available in the haunts of humanity. Verse 3; She heralds to all men the path of entrance into the celestial city. Verse 4; Her appeal is to man, for it is man who has sinned and who has the mental capacity to comprehend a plan of recovery. Verse 6; The utterance of her lips are always right things. Verse 7; True wisdom speaks only truth, and wickedness she abhors. Verse 8; She speaks only righteousness. Verse 11; She exceeds every other commodity in value. Verse 12; Wisdom is the companion of prudence. Verse 13; The wisdom God embraces abhors all evil. Verse 14; Wisdom can advise, for it is understanding and it possesses strength. Verse 21; She will provide her sub-

(Continued on page 12.)

## Forgiving Ourselves

By Sis. Claudine Snell

I mourn the wasted time in which I failed to direct my precious children in the ways of the Lord. The devil cheated me out of my time—time that I should have been teaching and loving my children. I hate my past. It is full of sin.

I came to our loving Lord fourteen years ago, asked His forgiveness, and the Lord in His great love and mercy forgave me. I had served the devil for so long that he didn't want to let me go. He made it difficult for me to forgive myself. Everything which had been done or said to me that was hurtful, I would take into my heart and use to martyr myself. I was crowding out God's love and mercy—I would tell myself, "You deserve everything hurtful which you receive. Now you can pay for your horrible sins."

If ever we have a need, it is when we have trouble forgiving ourselves. If Jesus, whom we sinned against, can forgive, how much more

should we be able to forgive ourselves. When we don't forgive ourselves, we are withholding ourselves from Jesus.

I had grieved the Lord by not forgiving myself. The Lord had to heal my mind. I received help at the Monark Springs, MO, camp meeting. The minister of God was prayed up, and with a precious discerning spirit helped me pray through to deliverance.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness." I John 1:9. Yes, the past still crosses my mind, but I won't let it lodge there. I will sing one of our beautiful hymns, or think of all the blessings the Lord has bestowed on me. I will "come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16. And I will think of what is waiting for me at the end of this life—my friend, Jesus.

**"If Jesus can forgive, how much more should we forgive ourselves."**

**FAITH AND VICTORY  
16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY**



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

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

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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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**FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE**

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

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**Postmaster: Please send address corrections to: Faith Publishing House, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044.**

**Gone to be with the Lord...**



**Bro. Bob Sallee**  
June 4, 1947—April 11, 1998

In 1975, Bro. Bob Sallee felt led of the Lord to join the Print Shop in its effort to spread the gospel. During the years he sacrificed much as he labored to accomplish that which would benefit the Church and the work of the Lord in general. Recently he exhibited even greater fervor for the cause of Christ, laying the groundwork for missionary outreach in Malawi, Central Africa. All of these efforts will serve as a reminder of his passionate love for God.

The workers here at the Print Shop feel deeply for Sis. Irma Sallee and her family. We share in their extreme loss, and will miss Bro. Bob's fellowship and the daily association with him. Our comfort is drawn from memories of his kindness and the assurance that he is enjoying the presence of the Lord.

If you would like to send your condolences to the family, address all correspondence to: Sis. Irma Sallee, Rt. 3, Box 101, Guthrie, OK 73044.



On April 4 I left Oklahoma City for the Philippines to visit and fellowship with Bro Matias Tangunan, a native minister with whom we have corresponded for years.

Throughout my stay I greatly appreciated the care he and his family provided. They looked after my every need, and graciously extended the fellowship of Christ.

Many of the people I encountered in that area manifested a buoyant spirit and deep interest in God. I left with an appreciation for the saints there, a belief that opportunities exist to extend the Gospel into places where it would be heartily embraced, and with an inspiration to increase efforts in promoting the gospel in that region.

Please pray that Bro. Matias Tangunan will have strength to continue his labor of ministry with the people in the mountains around his city of San Jose, and that the work will prosper in an even greater way. Pray also for the eight other ministers working with Bro. Tangunan who are dedicated to preaching the news of salvation. I'm sure all would appreciate your prayers and support.

Congratulations to Bro. Mike Woodruff and Sis. Rhonda Doolittle. They were united in marriage in the Guthrie chapel on April 25. Bro. Mike is the son of one of our co-workers here at the Print Shop, Sis. Janie Woodruff. Sis. Rhonda is the daughter of Bro. Mancil and Sis. Shirley Doolittle, members of the Guthrie congregation.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Rhonda are making their home in Oklahoma City, and we pray that their years together may be many and joyous.

May 10 is celebrated as Mother's Day, an observance we hope will long remain a part of American tradition, for good mothers need to feel rewarded for their caring hearts.

We generally visualize our nation's strength as the buildup of armed forces, but of greater value to our country's might is the security resulting from a mother's love.

A child is not likely to prosper without the fulfillment which comes from the affection of a family. When the youth of our country engage in violence in order to be part of a gang, they're often searching for love and acceptance. What they often find, however, is trouble. Eventually, a nation with such social problems will crumble from within, and all the national defense systems money can buy will fail to cure its ills. A nation can fail for want of Godly mothers.

If your mother has done her part in providing you the security and guidance of her love, May 10 is one of the days in which to show your appreciation in a special way.

We would like to remind our readers of the hundreds of books and tracts available at this

publishing house. If you are unfamiliar with what we print, please write and ask for a book and tract list. A free sample of tracts is also obtainable upon request.

Although we mail out many books and tracts, we still carry a burden that more might be done for our Lord. A multitude has yet to be challenged by the Word of God. We ask each of you who love the truth to pray with us for God's guidance in our labors. We desire to be effective in reaching hungry souls. —Wayne Murphey

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## CAMP MEETING DATES



- Oklahoma 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
- Coffeville/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

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## Meeting Reports and Notices

### OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING

The 64th annual Oklahoma State camp meeting of the Church of God will be held May 22-31 at the campground located east off of Sooner Road on Lakeview Road, which is a little over four tenths of a mile south of the intersec-

tion of South Division and Sooner Road.

As is customary, the first service will be held Friday evening, May 22, at 7:30, with three services daily thereafter. Early morning prayer services and youth meetings will be held as announced.

An invitation to attend is extended to everyone. Your presence will be appreciated. Provisions will be made for those attending.

The meeting will be operated by freewill offerings. If you would like to make a contribution, you may do so by sending it directly to the state treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, Rt. 6, Box 797, Guthrie, OK 73044. Phone: (405) 282-0566.

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### HOLLY HILL, SC, CAMP MEETING

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

There are motels approximately 10 miles from the campgrounds: Ramada Inn, (803) 854-2191; Santee Economy Inn, (803) 854-2107; 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. Alvoid Pratt at (803) 492-3366.

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

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### WV STATE CAMP MEETING

The West Virginia camp meeting will begin on Friday night, June 12th, and end on Thursday night, the 18th. Two services are scheduled 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. Lodging is available on the campgrounds as well as at nearby motels. There will be meals served daily.

This camp meeting is held to provide an opportunity for isolated saints in this area to attend services, 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 are expecting another outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and urge everyone who can to attend.

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 hand out tracts in the afternoon and evening on the mall between the Capitol and the Washington Monument. We will be spending Friday night in the nearby D. C. suburbs. Saturday will be left for sight-seeing.

The directions to the campgrounds coming from the South: take Interstate 64 to White Sulphur Springs, WV. You will then get on Highway 92 and go north to Arbovale and follow the signs. Coming from the North, you will go 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, the Washington D. C. outreach, or reservations for lodging, call Bro. Toney Samons at (304) 456-3017, or Bro. Marty Clevenger at (304) 456-3242.

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### 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.

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### REVIVAL-OUTREACH SERVICES ALCOA-MARYVILLE, TN

Lord willing, the congregation here plans a Revival-Outreach meeting June 19-21, 1998. Friday and Saturday nights will be for outreach services at 7:00 p.m. Sunday morning services will be at 10:00 a.m.

Accommodations are limited, but there are nearby hotels.

Come praying that the Lord will have His way in the meeting. Those who desire to support this work and meeting may send offerings to Sis.

Carrie Porter, treasurer, 912 Runnymede Circle, Maryville, TN 37804.

For more information contact Sis. Mary McDonald at (423) 977-6997, or Bro. and Sis. Dwight Porter at (423) 984-2348.

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

The Church of God of Water Valley and Coffeeville, MS, camp meeting will be held, Lord willing, June 21-28. There will be services nightly at 7:30.

We are looking for God to send ministers and workers of His choosing to help in the battle. Please come praying that sinners will respond to the invitation to attend, and souls will get the help they need.

Provisions will be made for everyone who attends.

The meeting will be operated by freewill offerings, and if you would like to make a contribution, you may do so by sending it directly to The Church of God, P.O. Box 84, Coffeeville, MS 38922.

For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Louis Kimble, (504) 467-9039, or Bro. Lessie Brown, (601) 675-2718.

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**LORANGER, LA, CAMP MEETING**

Lord willing, this meeting will begin Sunday, June 28, with services daily through July 5th. Come for a blessing and please support this meeting in your prayers.

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

From Loranger, go two miles south and about three and one-half miles east on Hwy. 40.

For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about 10 miles east of the Tickfaw exit (take Hwy. 442 east which runs into Hwy. 40).

For more information write Nelson Doolittle, 51367 Narretto Rd., Loranger, LA 70446, phone (504) 878-6111. The chapel phone is (504) 878-2788.

Let us prepare and hold fast, for our Bridegroom is at the door!

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**FRESNO, CA, CAMP MEETING**

The Fresno, CA, camp meeting will convene July 3 through July 12, 1998. There will be 7:00

p.m. services on Friday the 3rd, and Saturday the 4th. There will be three services on both Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. general service and 7:00 p.m. night service. Monday through Saturday, 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Directions to the church: coming from the north on 99, take the Belmont exit, go east about 3 miles to First St., turn right and go 2 blocks to Grant. The church is on First and Grant. Coming from the south; take Venture exit, go east to First St., turn left and follow to Grant.

For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Charles Taylor, (209) 348-9029, or Bro. Charles Parrish, (209) 221-6808.

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**NATIONAL CAMP MEETING  
MONARK SPRINGS, MO**

The National camp meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO, July 17-26, 1998. All are cordially invited to come and bring others to enjoy the blessings we are expecting from the Lord.

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

If you travel to Neosho by bus, you may telephone the campground, 472-6427, or Bro. Mike Hightower, 451-3636, for transportation.

The camp meeting is conducted on a freewill offering basis. There is no charge for meals or lodging on the campground. You are welcome to come and enjoy the meeting. We are confident that God will supply every need. Meals will be served in the dining hall. Dormitory space, tents and trailer spots are available on a first-come basis. Trailer spots include electricity, water and sewer hookups. Motels are available nearby, but reservations should be made in advance.

All correspondence about tents and dormitory spaces should be addressed to Sis. DeLoris Bradley, 1540 2000 Rd., Bartlett, KS 67332, phone (316) 226-3390. She will be coordinating requests for sleeping quarters on the campground.

There is a need for volunteer cooks to oversee the meals. If you could help in any way, please contact us.

—Business managers: Randel Bradley (above address), or Mike Hightower, 13974 Newt Dr., Neosho, MO 64850.



Canada—"Rosemarie, who at one time knew the Lord, has attempted suicide. She is in the intensive care unit of a hospital in a coma."

—Bro. Wilfred Froese

NC—Sis. Elaine Dunn is in much need of prayer.

FL—"Please remember me in prayer for my right eye."

—Kathleen Williams

IN—"Pray for my back, hip and leg. They hurt me badly. Also, I have trouble breathing."

—Sis. Dessie Wilson

TN—"Continue to remember Bro. Jimmie McDonald."

—Sis. Mary McDonald

TX—Prayer has been requested for Sis. Helen Lambright.

OK—Sis. Alta Bock is severely afflicted and needs the support of the saints.



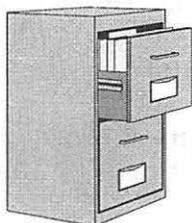
**DEVOTIONS STILL NEEDED**

We desire to conclude the devotional book that we are compiling. We appreciate the devotions that have been sent in, but still need a few more to complete the book. If you haven't sent one in, and plan to do so, then it is yours that we are waiting for.

What scripture has been a mainstay to you in your life? We want a scripture during an illness, trial, crisis, etc., that gave you courage, strength, direction or inspiration, etc.

Please write a paragraph of 100 words and tell about this scripture. It may inspire others.

Send devotionals to: Connie Sorrell, 1224 W. Logan, Guthrie, OK 73044.



From  
Our  
Letter  
Files

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in the name of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, from

whom all blessings flow. I surely appreciate the *Faith and Victory*...

Things are well with me. It is now five years since I have been to church. This grieves me, but is unavoidable as my wife is not well and needs full-time attention. The Lord has been good to me during this period of frustration and disappointment. This surely is a learning way, for during this period I have been taught much. It is possible that I would not have understood these things any other way. The Lord is good. He is seeing to it that I make it into heaven. My joy has remained, I am at peace and fully satisfied.

I am still looking for the day when I am at liberty to go to church. I am praying that it will be with my wife and three children, two of whom were once in church, but are not at present.

Pray for me as I need grace. Strength is also needed as I am 81 years old.

I am thankful to God for this period in the desert, for as we all know, His way is best.

Your Brother, —Bob Mickelson



CA—Dear Bro. Murphey and the dear saints who are dedicated to the work of getting the precious testimonies and articles published: I am so happy and thankful for the tracts and papers that are available for us to distribute everywhere we go. The testimony by Sis. Katherine Williams in the March *Faith and Victory* was so wonderful.

I have passed 90 years old, and am getting more feeble every day. But the Lord is blessing me with fairly good health, although my eyes are causing me much trouble. I am determined, by His grace, to follow the dear Savior all the way. Pray for me. Also pray for my unsaved family.

Your Sister saved by the blood,  
—Ruth Donnelly



CA—"O give thanks to the lord of Lords: for his mercy endureth for ever." Psalm 136:3.

I thank the Lord for His mercy and patience to me. I don't deserve it, but I guess He thinks I do since He keeps on bestowing them. I love Him, and aim to serve, please and praise Him as long as I live. I desire your prayers.

—Romando Matthew



MO—Dear Bro. Murphey and workers at the Lord's Print Shop: I do want to thank each and every one who prayed for me. I am much better. I give the Lord all the praise. I began to feel better shortly after Sis. Gladys called for prayer for me.

I was very sick and had a lung disease, although I did not drink or smoke in my life. I still have heart problems, so please pray for my complete healing. I believe God will heal me.

Christian love, —Hallie Pinkerton



OK—Dear saints: I realize more today than I ever have in my life how closely knit the family of God is. I am so very glad to be a part of that family. We have felt the strength of your prayers holding us up. Through this trial of my husband's sickness and death, the Lord has shown us how little strength we have within ourselves, yet how all-sufficient His strength can be. The comfort God has given our family is supernatural.

Several years ago Bob and I made the complete consecration of our lives to the Lord, to be used as He saw best. At that time Bob felt a very heavy burden to reach out to the people in Malawi, Central Africa. After his first trip with Bro. Michael Smith in 1996, Bob was never quite the same. It was as though he left part of his heart with the people he met on that trip. They were frequently in our conversation and prayers. It is almost impossible to live with a person who has such an intense burden without sharing in it. Our whole family shared an interest and concern for the work on the mission field in general, but especially in Malawi. Few people knew, but prior to Bob's last trip in March we received our itineraries for the whole family to spend a month this summer working with "our" people whom we loved so much.

On the trip Bob made to Malawi in March, his main purpose was to distribute food and Bibles provided by the saints in America. He returned from that trip very tired, but satisfied that he had completed his mission. The Lord miraculously helped him to establish contact with a potential translator for translating our literature into the Chichewa language.

One outstanding miracle I must share happened when Bob first arrived in Blantyre. Their Congress was in session and all the motel rooms were full. They called to confirm reservations, seeking for a room for him, but everyone wanted to keep their reservations. At last, after a long wait, they took him to the only room available. It was the same room he and Karen had stayed in last year when she was so gravely ill. That room is like an Ebenezer stone to us of the many miracles God worked for us on that trip. The picture was still on the wall with the praying hands that had been such an inspiration. That

blessing was just another confirmation of God's presence on this trip likewise.

When Bob came home he was feeling well and was able to go to work. Soon after returning he developed flu-like symptoms, a condition we were sure would pass with prayer, rest and TLC. It was very jolting when after less than two short weeks God called Bob home.

Naturally, the ever-present question of "why?" was on our hearts. With time, God in His mercy has given us a very small glimpse into His plan. I see now that it never was His plan for us all to go to Africa, but because he gave all of us a burden, as well as dreams and plans for fulfillment of that burden, none of our children are bitter or resentful to God for taking their dad, nor resentful of the cause for which he gave his life. That alone has made my job of guiding the home much simpler.

Our concern now is for the people over there who still need the gospel, not only in Malawi, but in all parts of the world; yes, even our own U.S.A. The question is, "Who will go?" I Chronicles 29:5 states it clearly, "Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?"

Bob's burden went far beyond Africa. He was deeply burdened for the Church, that we remove not the ancient landmarks. Not for tradition's sake, but that God's power in our midst will be in direct proportion to our compliance with the "ancient landmarks" laid down in the Bible. This is a very sobering thought to me. The moment man takes control by establishing the landmarks, it ceases to be God's Church.

We extend our deepest appreciation to everyone for all the cards, calls, flowers, food and most of all, for your prayers. Never underestimate the power of a simple prayer for a broken heart. We are experiencing the slow but effective healing process that results from the earnest prayers of His people. Thank you.

Our prayer now is that we will have an unbroken circle in heaven. We want to reach out to as many souls as possible along the way. Please keep us in your prayers.

—Irma Sallee and family



IN—Dear saints: I send greetings this beautiful morning to each one at the Publishing House. You are so faithful to print the wonderful messages and send them out all over the world. It is the only encouragement some people get. I thank God for your labor. I enjoy reading the

saints' testimonies of how God has healed them.

I am not too well. I have arthritis. My brother is very sick. He had open-heart surgery and is very low at this time. Please remember him and my unsaved loved ones in prayer.

Yours in Christian love, —Sis. Mary Rogers



#### From Nigeria...

March 13, 1998—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings in the precious name of the Lord Jesus.... We are moving to Umuachi-Afor today for evangelism of a three-day duration. The young people were first to be there, doing three days of house-to-house witnessing. Nothing but finances lack in the Lord's work here. We shall continue to pray unto Him for mercy of provision in the interest of souls.

We are remembering you and the entire workers at the Lord's Print Shop in prayer for spiritual, material and physical blessings.

Faithfully yours in Him, —Titus U. E. Enu



**Robert Stephen Sallee** passed from this life on April 11, 1998, at the age of 50, at his home in Guthrie, OK. He was born on June 4, 1947, in Dayton, OH, to Theodore and Donna (Stevenson) Sallee.

Following graduation from high school he joined the U. S. Air Force and served for four years during the Vietnam War.

Shortly after his tour of duty Bob was gloriously saved, in February of 1971, at the Church of God chapel in Danville, KY. He maintained his integrity with God, putting God first in all areas of his life.

On November 25, 1972, Bob was united in holy matrimony to Irma Gayle Doolittle, in Hammond, LA. To this union were born two boys and three girls.

After living in Jena, LA, for three years, Bob and Irma, being led of the Lord, moved to Guthrie, OK, where he worked at the Faith Publishing Company. For 23 years he labored there as a pressman and a computer operator to assist in the furtherance of the gospel.

He served as Chairman of the board of trustees for the Church of God in Guthrie, assisting in the relocation project of the chapel.

In 1996, while he was earnestly seeking the Lord concerning Bro. Michael Smith's planned missionary trip to Malawi, Africa, the Lord began burdening Bob for a deeper consecration. As a result he began feeling the call to accompany Bro. Michael to that foreign land to spread the gospel to hungry souls. Bob's life was never the same after that trip. With an increasing burden for the people he had met in Malawi, he returned to the people he loved to distribute food and Bibles provided by the saints in America. Shortly after returning from Malawi for the third time, Bob was called to be with the Lord.

He was preceded in death by his father and two sisters, Juanita Williamson and Jane Sallee.

Survivors include his wife, Irma Sallee, of the home, and his mother, Donna Sallee, of Xenia, OH. He is also survived by two sons, Robert Sallee and his wife, Julie, of Guthrie, OK, and Stephen Sallee, of the home; three daughters, René Smith and her husband, Michael, of Shawnee, OK, Karen and Angela Sallee, both of the home; two brothers, James Sallee and his wife, Ida, of Martinsville, OH, Patrick Sallee and his wife, Jane, of Guthrie, OK; two sisters, Nancy Bethel and her husband Richard, of Springfield, OH, and Marjorie Sallee, of Urbana, IL. He is also survived by two grandchildren, Devon Blaine Smith, of Shawnee, OK, and Amanda Rose Sallee, of Guthrie, OK. Bob has also left behind numerous nieces and nephews and a host of loving friends and saints.

Funeral services were held in the Guthrie

Church of God chapel on April 16, officiated by Bros. Wayne Murphey and James Bell. Interment was in the Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie, OK.

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**Mary Gail Kroker**, a 45-year resident of Bend, OR, died at a local nursing home on February 24, 1998. She was 83.

Mary was born in Big Horn Co., Montana on July 23, 1914. She was the daughter of Harry Gardner and Josephine Annie (Barley) Haughey. She graduated from high school in Wichita, KS, in 1933.

On June 12, 1933, she married Daniel Jacob Kroker in Wichita, KS. Daniel preceded her in death on July 23, 1990.

She was a member of the Church of God all of her life. Mary learned to quilt at a very young age. Frequently she would make quilts to send to the mission work in Mexico. She started the Bend Quilters Club in 1978 and was an honorary member of Mt. Bachelor Quilters. She enjoyed planting and raising her own food from her garden. Mary was a good cook and was faithful to help in the kitchen during camp meeting. She also enjoyed singing and would help in leading songs and singing specials.

Mary is survived by three children, Melvin R. Kroker, of West Linn, OR; Gracianna Black, of Portland, OR; and Donovan E. Kroker, of Virginia Beach, WV; 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother in 1979.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Bob Wilson, with burial being in the Deschutes Memorial Gardens, Bend, OR.

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**Grace Ann Jones** was born in Bentonville, AR, on September 17, 1911, and passed from this life on April 19, 1998, at the age of 86.

In May of 1940, Grace married Jack H. Jones. They had one son, Don. Jack preceded her in death in 1970.

Grace loved the Lord and for many years she did all she could to support gospel efforts. From 1970 until 1995 she attended the Church of God congregation in Jefferson, OR.

Grace was preceded in death by her husband, one brother and six sisters.

She is survived by her son, Don, of Klamath Falls, OR; one sister, Maxine Weinheimer, of Laguna Hills, CA; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Paul Carter**, the son of John Pascal and Daisy Carter, was born September 1, 1911, in Tabor, OK, where he spent his childhood, attending the local schools and churches.

During his teenage years his family moved to the area of Beggs/Okmulgee, OK, where they worked as cattlemen and ranchers. During this time he developed his lifetime love for horse-riding, roping, cattle-driving and the basic life of a cowboy.

It was in 1934, in Beggs, that Brother Carter met and married the late Mable Lewis Carter, beginning a marriage that lasted more than fifty years, and becoming a loving, caring husband and hard-working father of four children. He provided well for his family as a farmer and sharecropper.

In 1946, seeking better employment, Brother Carter moved to Bakersfield, CA, with his family, where he was gainfully employed in several occupations until his retirement in 1973. After this retirement, his love for the outdoors inspired and evolved into a successful gardening service that he thoroughly enjoyed until his health failed in 1994.

In 1973, Brother Carter was visited by the spirit of the Lord through the example of his wife's life and a dear brother who visited him regularly during his illness, encouraging him to give his life to the Lord. He faithfully served the Lord in many ways, being hospitable to open his home to visiting ministers and saints, providing transportation and financial support for the work of the Lord, and voluntarily serving for many years as the church gardener.

Brother Carter was a loving, kind, caring person who enjoyed people from all walks of life; young and old, rich or poor, saints or sinners, and family and friends. All who knew and loved him fondly called him "Gramps." He also showed a special care and love for his grandchildren.

We will miss Brother Carter with his cheerful sense of humor and his simple expressions of his love for God. But we sorrow not as those who have no hope, for we believe that on November 16, 1997, he heard these welcoming words, "*Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joys of heaven.*"

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mable Carter, and one brother, Norman Borders. He leaves to cherish precious memories two sons, John D. and Lee A. Carter, both of Bakersfield, CA; two daughters, Bobbie J. Grissom and

Norma H. Sherman, both of Bakersfield, CA; two sisters, Virginia Reason, of Oklahoma City, OK, and Odessa Harris, of Beggs, OK; one sister-in-law, Mildred Borders; sixteen grandchildren, thirty-seven great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Hayward Cox and Sis. Janice Herring. Interment was in the Hillcrest Memorial Park, Bakersfield, CA.

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**Dorothy Parsons** departed this life on March 23, 1998, at her home, surrounded by her family.

She was born to Frances Best and the late Leroy Best on February 19, 1935. She was the first of seven children. She attended school in St. Louis, MI. She married Milford E. "John" Parsons, September 11, 1954, in St. Louis, MI. To this union were born seven children: Randy, Debra, Susan, Deanna, James, Thomas and Jeffrey, all surviving her.

Sis. Dorothy gave her heart to the Lord at the age of 25, and remained faithful to Him until death.

Her memory will live on with her husband, "John," and children. She had a loving, caring, Christ-like way about her. She was very patient in her suffering.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Marty Clevenger in Midland, MI. Sis. Dorothy was laid to rest in the Poseyville Cemetery in Midland County, MI.

### A NOTE OF THANKS

The family of Sis. Dorothy Parsons would like to thank the host of God's people who took our very deep trial to the throne of grace. We received that grace and felt God's uplifting all the time.

Also, thanks to all who sent cards, letters and made phone calls to us to encourage us, and those of the saints who came to visit and be with us.

—The "John" Parsons family

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### The Word of the Beginning

(Continued from page 3.)

scribers with durable substance and she will make them wealthy with her riches. Verse 35; To find wisdom is to find the favor of the Lord. Reflect for a moment on the qualities and

characteristics ascribed to wisdom, and we recognize immediately the attributes of our God. By embracing wisdom to Himself as an attribute, He is able to possess life; yea, even eternal life, for He has never known anything else. Wisdom is the embodiment of knowledge and understanding, and so by embracing wisdom in its fullness God is able to proclaim Himself Omniscient, or all-wise. Wisdom testified of itself that it had strength; therefore God, by embracing wisdom, is able to proclaim to all that He is Omnipotent, or all-powerful. The only thing known to man that is able to separate an intelligent being from perpetual life is the fact of sin. True wisdom occupies the highest positions where virtue dwells and where righteousness prevails. So completely has God embraced this aspect of wisdom until He boldly proclaims Himself the embodiment of Holiness. We are informed that He cannot even be tempted with sin. It is sin and its ways that rot, mold, rust, decay, deceive and destroy. It is the ways of purity, virtue, honesty and integrity that constitute righteousness, and these attributes are capable of perpetual duration. Having embraced these virtuous attributes to Himself, God is able to declare Himself eternal. All of these, along with a great deal more that could be listed, are present and functional in our God because He has embraced to Himself these attributes of wisdom. He is the personification of it.

The writer's presentation of wisdom in Proverbs 8 would make it easy to feel that wisdom is an attribute that God was at one time without. Since wisdom is an abstract attribute, requiring an agent in order to perform, and recognizing in God the great I Am, the first Cause, the all Cause, the Originator of everything, then it would seem likely that by His own intelligence He devised the excellence of what wisdom embraces, so He made His own concept the director of His own being. Thus He is the original Author of true wisdom.

Let us go back and pick up the idea of "the Word" that was embraced into God's own Being. His declarations from henceforth would be something more than a mere pronouncement of verbal expression, for He is the embodiment of what His Word proclaims. Language structure is still the framework which conveys the issued message, but when that message is prompted from, and accentuated by, the intelligence, the concepts, the sentiments, of a divine Being, it will automatically reflect the prevailing disposi-

tion of its source. It springs from a level that is infinitely superior to human concept. Its understanding far surpasses human ability to comprehend. Its attributes are impeccable, for it embraces nothing but the utmost in moral performance. Its sentiments are the reflection of that heavenly atmosphere where total, divine influence prevails. Its inflections and insinuations will convey hearing and intent that is entirely foreign to unregenerate humanity.

Now, here is a realization that at first glance is rather startling: regardless of the vast difference that exists between this world and that divine realm, this medium of "Word" communication is the agency our Lord has selected to bring the two back into compatibility with each other.

This helps us understand why the apostle John went clear back to the beginning to start

furnished unto all good works." II Timothy 3:16-17. All of this is delivered to human understanding through the faculty of the inspired Word.

But this is only the beginning. Isaiah 46:9-10 presents this: "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure." James 1:17 offers this: "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." These are words sent to man out of the mouth of the very God whose Word is an integral part of Himself which He has proposed to use in an effort to recover His sin-blighted creation. Take

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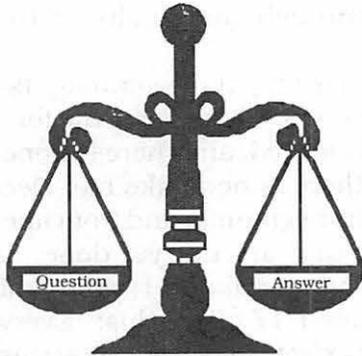
his gospel presentation. Experience had already taught him that words that are void of divine inspiration and that lack Holy Ghost unction are empty words and are useless for the needs of the soul. The words, expressions and experiences he was preparing to record, in obedience to the impulse of the Holy Spirit, he wanted all who read to know that they were not the result of his own human ability at all, but the divine prompting of "the Word that became God" at the beginning. That divinely prompted Word, when it was faithfully conveyed to human intelligence and believed and obeyed, would be able to lift men up and out of the pits of sin to the plain of God's holiness. Praise our God forever! We note that His own Son, in delivering the message He was sent to convey, insisted repeatedly that the words He spoke were the words He received from His Father.

We spent some time observing wisdom's contribution to divine purpose; let us notice a bit of contribution supplied by the Word. "All scripture [Word] is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly

note of some of its pleading: Proverbs 2:1-12. "My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; ...If thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest...the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of His saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path. When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: to deliver thee from the way of the evil man,..."

Who but an all-wise, all-powerful, Holy God, who is alive and active, could issue such an invitation as this to sinful man and carry it out in reality? This is the work of "the Word of the beginning" that was made God. Little wonder, then, the Psalmist said, "Thy word have I hid in my heart." Oh, precious Lord, may it dwell in us of today as well.

## Where's the Balance?



**Question:** Bro. Murphey, please comment on the meaning of I Corinthians 1:21, specifically, what is meant by the “foolishness” of preaching. How can something God ordained be foolishness?

**Answer:** The entirety of I Corinthians 1:21 reads, “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”

One of the important aspects to notice about this verse is that those who are saved through preaching are those who believe. To believe in God would seem to indicate that a person is saved, but we are told that even the devils believe and tremble. (James 2:19.) Therefore, simply because one believes in God and the basic truths surrounding His work, it doesn't guarantee a personal relationship with God, or salvation of the soul.

In the Declaration of Independence our founding fathers wrote, “*We hold these truths to be self-evident,...*” There are some things in life that are obvious. If we are honest in our judgment, these are things we **know** to be right.

One such truth is that there is a God, and that He created the heavens and the earth. Down through the ages, even those without the influence of the Bible have believed in a Supreme Being as Creator. This knowledge is inborn. In the verse preceding our text, we read, “Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?” Some things concerning God, such as His role as Creator, are instinctive.

If certain things are apparent, why should a

minister stand on a platform and try to convince you of such truths? Does it not seem foolishness—a vain pursuit?

By comparison, how often as parents do we tell our children when they are leaving our presence to be careful? After a few times of hearing it, you would expect them to exercise caution, but there is a need in man to receive frequent reminders of what he should believe and how he should act.

The “foolishness” of preaching isn't a vain practice, but it is what God ordained because of the weakness of humanity. We are more aptly enabled to do right when often reminded of God's will for our lives. He has ordained that these reminders come through the mouths of his ministers.



## The Life of Jesus Manifested in our Mortal Flesh

By

Bro. Harlan Sorrell

Recently I was challenged by an individual who had imbibed a philosophy which is very common in religious realms, that as long as we are in this mortal flesh we must always be subject to sin. “Flesh is sinful by nature,” he said, “thus we can never be free from the sinfulness of the flesh until our bodies have been redeemed on the other side of this mortal vale.” Almost immediately the Word and the Spirit of God began to speak to my heart. Many scriptures and thoughts were brought to my mind, some of which I shared with this individual. I would like to share them with you.

In II Corinthians 4:10-11 we read, “Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, *that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.*”

One of the great central truths of Christianity is this: *life springs from death and gain comes through loss!* In John 12:24-26 Jesus said, “Verily, verily I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world

shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, *let him follow me*; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour."

These wonderful words were spoken by Jesus just a few days before He offered His mortal body a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. And He said, "If any man serve me, let him *follow me*." Jesus was getting ready to go to the cross and *die*. The scriptures have much to say about us following Jesus in death. Let us examine them.

The apostle Paul was a man who followed Jesus in death. Look at his experience. "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,... *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.*" Philippians 3:7-8, 10.

Herein is a wonderful truth and the secret of life! By entering into the fellowship of Christ's sufferings, and by making yourself conformable unto His death, *you can know the power of his resurrection*. You can experience *the life of Jesus manifested in your mortal flesh*—not just in the resurrection of immortality beyond this life, but here and now, in this present life; in your *mortal flesh*. Let us look further.

Romans 6:1-6: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were *baptized into his death*? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that **OUR OLD MAN IS CRUCIFIED WITH HIM, THAT THE BODY OF SIN MIGHT BE DESTROYED, THAT HENCEFORTH WE SHOULD NOT SERVE SIN.**" Please read the rest of the chapter. Sin in the flesh is not

something we have to struggle with all of our lives. We CAN be free!

Sadly, the experience of many people today remains relative to that of the apostle Paul, as he describes in Romans 7:14-25, when he was zealous for the law of God but had not yet discovered the power of Christ's resurrection and the secret of it. As Paul once did, with the mind they "serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin." But listen to Paul's wonderful discovery!

Romans 8:1-13: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, **CONDEMNED SIN IN THE FLESH: THAT THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE LAW MIGHT BE FULFILLED IN US, WHO WALK NOT AFTER THE FLESH, BUT AFTER THE SPIRIT.** For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally (that is, fleshly) minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal (fleshly) mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. **SO THEN THEY THAT ARE IN THE FLESH CANNOT PLEASE GOD. BUT YE ARE NOT IN THE FLESH, BUT IN THE SPIRIT, IF SO BE THAT THE SPIRIT OF GOD DWELL IN YOU.** Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And **IF CHRIST BE IN YOU, THE BODY IS DEAD BECAUSE OF SIN; BUT THE SPIRIT IS LIFE BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.** But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also **QUICKEN YOUR MORTAL BODIES BY HIS SPIRIT THAT DWELLETH IN YOU.** Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: **BUT IF YE THROUGH THE SPIRIT DO MORTIFY** (put to death) **THE DEEDS OF THE BODY, YE SHALL LIVE.**"

(To be continued next month.)

