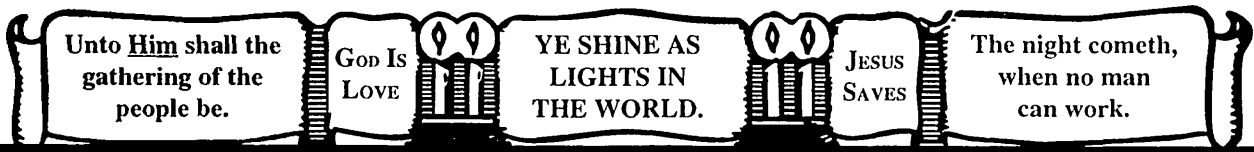


# FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

## Church of God Servant



Volume 76, No. 9      75th Year      Guthrie, Oklahoma      \$3.00 Per Year      Jan., 1999

### Another Year

Another year is dawning!  
Dear Master, let it be  
In working or in waiting  
Another year with Thee.

Another year of leaning  
Upon Thy loving breast,  
Of ever-deepening trustfulness,  
Of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of mercies,  
Of faithfulness and grace;

January							1999
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31							

Another year of gladness  
In the shining of Thy face.

Another year of progress;  
Another year of praise;  
Another year of proving  
Thy presence "all the days."

Another year of service,  
Of witness for Thy love;  
Another year of training  
For holier work above.

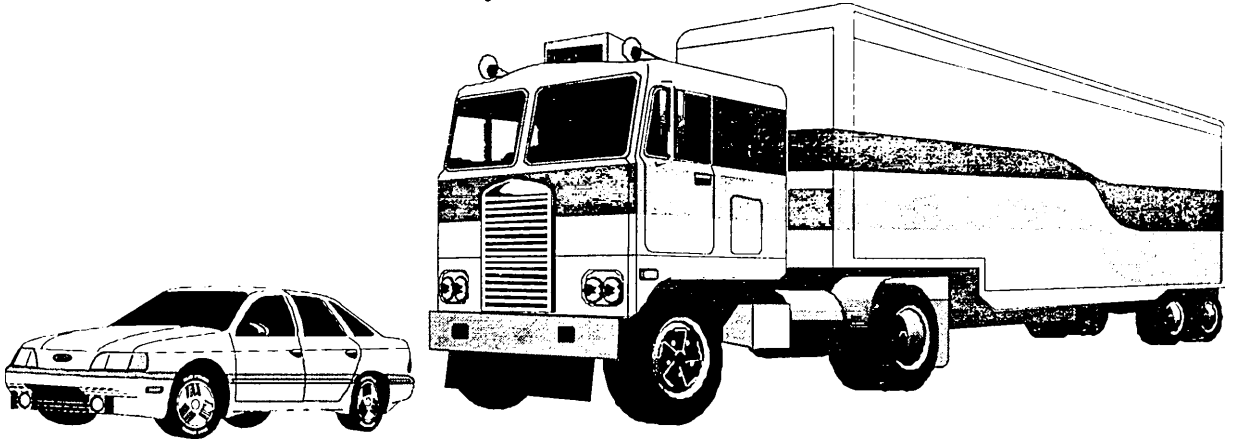
Another year is dawning!  
Dear Master, let it be  
On earth, or else in Heaven,  
Another year for Thee!

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## Pressure in Pursuit

By Sis. Connie Sorrell



I saw him in my rear view mirror. The steel grill on that diesel truck looked like shark's teeth biting at my car's bumper. I pressed on the accelerator, hoping to get away from him, but he sped up. The truck's headlights illuminated the inside of my car. The roar of its motor made me tremble as my hands gripped the steering wheel.

"Just relax and slow down," I said to myself.

The truck slowed down also. He was like a smoking monster pushing me down the highway!

"Lord, deliver me from this pursuer," I prayed. I was going as fast as I dared.

Up ahead was an exit ramp. I swung my car onto the ramp to get away from that truck. He followed!

I was speeding toward a stop sign with the truck in hot pursuit. My right foot hopped from the accelerator to the brake pedal. I cringed, expecting to hear a loud boom, feel a sudden thrust, and perhaps meet the Lord.

No impact occurred. The truck stopped right behind me. I could smell his hot diesel engine breathing down my neck.

Impulsively, I turned into the parking area of a nearby gas station. The truck snorted black puffs from its smokestack as it shifted gears, turned away from me, and rumbled down the road.

I bowed my head over the steering wheel and thanked the Lord for protecting me. Soon I was calm enough to continue my journey home.

As I traveled along the highway, I thought about other pursuing trucks in my life. I could just imagine that truck full of mail all addressed to me. As usual, three-fourths of it would be bills with payment amounts that must be paid before due dates. Oh, the pressure of honking

bills and flashing dollar signs! Too often the "empty" light of the budget tank comes on. I often pray for the Lord to guide us in financial decisions and protect us from money oppression.

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need....But my God shall supply all your (or my) need....But my God shall supply all your (or my) need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:11, 12, 19.

Then I saw that truck weighted down with appointment books. Every page on each book was marked with set times and reminder notes programming my life. I could feel this truck of appointment books breathing down my neck, pushing me whether I slowed down or sped up. Oh, the danger of becoming too busy with the cares of life! "Help me, Lord, to spend more time alone with You. I need to power-pack my time that what I say and do counts for You."

"But know that the Lord hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the Lord will hear when I call unto him. Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still." Ps. 4:3-4.

That will help slow down the truck of trials that frustrates my mind and challenges my spiritual strength. Often the truck of trials pours light into the soul. It spotlights faults and needs lurking within. If I report the problem and the need to the Lord, He will deliver me from depression that intimidates me as I travel the highway of time.

"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised.)" Heb. 10:22-23.

Racing hot behind me is the truck of burdens and concerns. When a loved one or friend is sick or in trouble, love moves us to share the load. Sometimes the truck of burdens seems like a monster waiting to devour everyone in its way. It roars in the ear and crushes the chest with grinding force. Many burdens don't look reasonable to the human eye, but our heavenly Father is watching over us and He knows the way better than we.

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!...For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things:..." Rom. 11:33, 36.

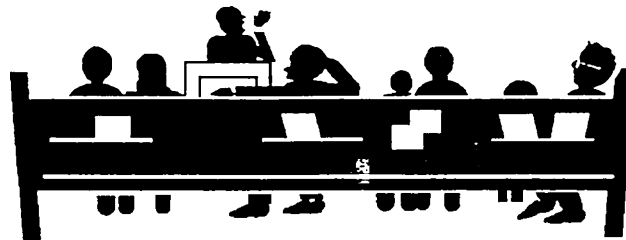
That doesn't ease all the pressure felt from the truck of responsibility. I have the duty to testify of Christ before my family, friends, community and the world at large. I am first obligated to fulfill the commandments of the Lord to my husband and children, then to my extended family. Even if I tried to get away from this truck of responsibility, it would follow me up the exit ramp. The pressure is there but so are the grace, faith, patience and hope.

"And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Rom. 5:5.

As we rush forward on the highway of time, we must ask the Lord to protect us from the trucks of pressure in our lives. We are just travelers driving over the appointed highway toward Home. Someday we will be rid of the pressures of life and the Lord will give us wings to fly away with the angels.

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## *How I Met the Saints of God*



By Sis. Katherine Williams:

*"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." John 10:16.*

I have been thanking the Lord and praising Him for how He brought me to the fold of God. I was once in another way and I read my Bible quite often. I would find many things in my Bible that we weren't doing as it said. I decided that there must be another way—a better way to live for Jesus. So I went "church shopping," as you might call it, trying to find the Church that Jesus built, and the people of God that were serving Jesus to all they knew and understood. I began to read my Bible from the first page on through. I sought the Lord earnestly, and became so sick they took me to the hospital.

While I was in the hospital, the Lord began to talk to my soul. Never had I heard a voice so sweet. He told me, "I love you but you need to be

saved." I was so sick I couldn't have friends or relatives visit me. The doctors and nurses had just about given up on me. I went into a coma. As I began coming out of the coma I saw many doctors and nurses around my bed. I could hear one doctor say to another doctor, "Doctor, let me try." They were trying to find my heartbeat. I went back into a coma. I wanted to speak to them, but they were busy trying to find my heartbeat, and besides, I could not say one word. I could hear them, but I couldn't speak to them. It is said that the last sense which leaves the body is the hearing.

When I again came out of the coma, all the doctors and nurses had left except for one

(Continued on page 10.)

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16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY**



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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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# EDITORIALS

**This month of January** discovers us poised at the headwaters of uncharted territory.

In looking back upon the year of 1998, we view events which were totally unexpected and potentially devastating. Yet we also see how God's hand of mercy and grace was always present to steady and sustain His work and the hearts of those involved in it.

God's providence has always held unexpected twists and turns. In the January, 1963, *Faith and Victory*, Grandpa Fred Pruitt wrote, "At this writing we are approaching the coming New Year of 1963. What will take place and the changes that will be made in this new year throughout the world in nations, cities, villages and homes will only be seen and known as God allows the clock to tick off the time."

Little was it thought or known that one of the changes of that year of 1963 would be that he would lay down his work on earth for the transition into eternity. Yet God's benediction continued to rest upon that which he had begun, and those who were left to continue the toils of it.

And so we do not fear what 1999 may bring, but commit it all unto God, knowing that the path of time is governed by His hand and His mercies.

We have definite goals to accomplish during this year, and sincerely ask for the support of your prayers.



**The Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting** is in progress as these editorials are being written. We appreciate the ministers from the local area as well as those from several different states who have attended the meeting and brought inspirational and searching messages. We also are grateful for all the saints who have come together in God's Spirit to hear the Word and worship the Lord together.



**The safe arrival** of our first grandchild, Jarod Wilan Murphey, was cause for thanksgiving. He came into this life in the early morning hours of Dec. 29. Jarod was born at 1:15 a.m. to our son, Jason, and his wife, Raleah, a devoted worker here at the Print Shop.

**A supply of 1999 wall calendars and 1998 yearbooks** for both the *Faith and Victory* and *The Beautiful Way* Sunday School papers are in stock and for sale. Calendars sell for \$3.00 each, which includes postage and handling, and the *Faith and Victory* yearbook is \$3.50 postpaid. A postpaid copy of *The Beautiful Way* yearbook is available for \$2.00.

**We are grateful** for each of you who sent us cards during this holiday season. It has not been possible to personally acknowledge all of them, but please know that every token of love was gratefully received. We appreciate the spirit of kindness so characteristic of God's people.

—Wayne Murphey



prayer



# REQUESTS

OK—"Please remember me in prayer. I have been very sick." —Pat Munoz

MO—"Please pray for my many afflictions. I desire so much to be able to walk and get around better." —Zella Dollins

AR—"I haven't been feeling too well, so please pray for me." —Lillian Farris

OK—"Please keep me and my son, Mitchell, in your prayers. He is no longer physically able to work." —Ruth Taylor

### Standing Prayer Requests

- Sis. Alta Bock
- Bro. Jon Busbee
- Sis. Mamie Butcher
- Bro. Nathan Carver
- Sis. Tammy Clevenger
- Bro. Marvin Corteway
- Sis. Elaine Dunn
- Sis. Olive Getterson
- Bro. Ben Harrison
- Sis. Janice Johnston
- Bro. Louis Kimble
- Sis. Helen Lambright
- Sis. Betty Lassché
- Sis. Melissa Lynch
- The Lounds sisters

- Sis. Mattie McIntyre
- Sis. Lois Sharp
- Bro. Max Williamson



### Sister Mary Hargrave Car Fund Update

As of December 22, 1998, \$3,005.60 has been received. \$1,129 has been expended to fix the transmission on Sis. Mary Hargrave's current van. Unfortunately, the fuel pump on the van failed December 17. It would be good to have enough to purchase a quality used car soon so that more money is not needed in repairs. Should you wish to contribute to the fund, please mail your donation to Keith Butler, Suite B, 8242 South Harvard Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74137-1648. Please make your checks payable to the Church of God.



### LETTERS FROM THE SAINTS



IL—Dear Saints: I appreciate the *Faith and Victory* so very much, as I am practically a shut-in. I eagerly wait for it to arrive each month.

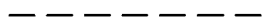
I tell people I may be alone, but I am not lonely. I have God's Word and His presence close by at all times.

I still have much to be thankful for. I can get around fairly well. I have arthritis in my knees, and I fell this past spring and cracked a vertebra in my spine which was very painful, but I am much better.

I'm so thankful for God's mercy, love and care for me and also for my family.

I love God's people very much. They are the salt of the earth.

Love and prayers, —Lucille Perry



KY—Greetings in Jesus's precious name:

I am writing to let all the dear saints know I am thankful for their prayers and fasting for me while I was so sick. I had a large tumor, but praise be to our wonderful Saviour, it is gone. God has healed me. I know it was a tumor because I went to a midwife to see about it and also was given a second opinion.

I was told I must have an operation at once. I said I was going home and trusting God.

After a week or so the midwife called me. I told her God had healed me, so she wanted me

to come and see her. A little while later I went. She couldn't believe it. She said it was amazing. I told her it was a miracle and she said it sure was, and continued repeating, "Mary, you have had a miracle."

Praise God! I told her it was just like my Jesus to care for me.

Before I left her office a woman she was training asked me to pray for her as she was going into the hospital the next morning for the same surgery that they had planned for me.

God is still on the throne.

Thanks again to each of you for your prayers, cards, flowers and care.

May God bless one and all. There is a lot more I could say about my experience, but it would take up too much space.

Christian love, —Sister Mary Hughes  
— — — — —

KY—Greetings to all our family in Christ. Praise God, the day of miracles is not past. Our God is still the same omnipotent God. As of November 1, our pastor, Sis. Mary Hughes, was able to be back in worship with us after being in a severe affliction for about 3 weeks. We wanted to share this blessing with our special family and to thank all for their prayers and fasting on the behalf of our leader. To God be the glory!

—Church of God, Garrison, KY  
— — — — —

TN—Please renew my subscription for the *Faith and Victory*. I enjoy reading it and look forward each month to getting it. It's very inspiring and spiritually uplifting.

May God's blessings be with each of you working at printing and getting it out to the public.

Sincerely, —Sallie E. Smith  
— — — — —

MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings to you once again. I hope all is going well with you and the workers there.

I am encouraged to trust and follow the Lord all the way. I find there are many benefits when we follow close to the Lord. We have the assurance of His presence and the comfort of His Word to lead and guide us.

The Lord gave the saints in Neosho a profitable meeting while Bro. Keith Fuller was here with us. The attendance was good. Several sought help at the altar. We were stirred in our souls for a more careful walk with God.

I also appreciate our weekly prayer meet-

ings. The Lord gives some good testimonies and exhortations. In a recent prayer meeting, we were exhorted to guard our inheritance and our sacrifice. There is great reward in doing this.

I trust the Lord to bless all phases of the work there.

Your brother in Christ, —T.V. McMillian  
— — — — —

NC—Dear Ones at the Print Shop: Just a note to tell you I appreciate you all so much. I am thankful for the *Faith and Victory* I get each month. I hope you have a good Christmas and a real good New Year.

Remember me and my family in prayer.

With love, —Agnes Burleson  
— — — — —

WV—Dear Saints: Just a note to let all of you dear ones at the Publishing House know what a blessing you have been to us through the years.

Your tracts have encouraged us over the years and your prayers have never failed to bring us answers from heaven.

I was blessed so much this past April on our visit to Missouri and Oklahoma. The saints wherever we stopped treated us with so much love and concern for our welfare. It was like being among angels. My heart is still overwhelmed when I think of the love and friendship we received from God's dear people.

We pray that soon we can come out that way again if the Lord wills.

Christian love, —Bro. Jim White  
— — — — —

OR—Dear Bro. Wayne and all at the Print Shop: Greetings in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. We trust this will find all there well and happy in your service to the Lord.

In the November *Faith and Victory* I read the question sent to you by e-mail from the brother who was having a problem regarding carnality in his life.

When I came back to the Lord after living in a backslidden state for years, I had a problem of exaggerating, or wanting to present things in a way that would be to my favor even when it was not entirely honest.

I had a real struggle with this for a long time until I came to the point where I knew that it was not in me to change without help. I told Jesus that He would have to take this habit away, and I was going to leave it all with Him.

Praise His Holy Name, it was quite a while after that when I realized He had given me the help I needed.

We are dependent on Him for life, breath and all of our abilities, and I am convinced of the truth in Prov. 3:6, "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

With Christian love and prayers,  
—Bill & Ruby Busch

— — — — —  
AZ—Dear Christian Friends at Faith Publishing House: Christmas greetings to all my brothers and sisters in Christ.

May God richly bless you this holiday season as we honor our Lord's birthday.

Continue in the good work you are doing. I always enjoy reading your *Faith and Victory* paper.

May God richly bless you.  
Your sister in Christ, —Pauline Ducharme

— — — — —  
MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: We are very thankful for the Lord's blessings and mercies to us. Last month I wrote in a testimony about the Lord healing me of a hernia. I had borne this affliction for about four years, but was miraculously healed of it.

The devil did not, and still does not, appreciate the fact that God healed me and has tried different times to bring back the symptoms. Part of the devil's job description is "an accuser of the brethren." When the Lord saves us, the devil tries to bring back our old sins through accusation. When the Lord heals us, the devil tries to bring back our old affliction through symptoms. It is up to us to refuse the devil in either instance. Thank the Lord, we have all heaven backing us with strength to resist the devil, no matter what trick he tries. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7.

Soon after the Lord healed me, I began testifying about it. I then began to notice a pattern developing of symptoms trying to reappear. For about a week and a half I was fine one day and battling symptoms the next, our revival meeting started. As you might expect, I began having almost daily struggles with symptoms of my old affliction.

Towards the end of the meeting, on a Friday evening, I began having more serious symptoms. By that night it became extremely painful. I had only thirty minutes of sleep that night.

My wife and I both prayed and searched our hearts. We knew that the Lord had given me a definite touch, but we still needed something else from the Lord. Finally, after we had done all

that we knew to do, Bro. Bob Huskey, our pastor, decided to come over and pray for us. We had not wanted to bother him in the middle of the night, but we did not want to neglect what the scriptures teach us to do, "call for the elders."

The battle went on for a few more hours with no letup in sight. Finally, while I was lying on my back, a vision appeared to me. I received a tremendous blessing from this vision and I would like to share it. There appeared in my mind's eye a red square. Just behind it was another square of about the same form and size, but with no color. I could just make out the fuzzy edges of this second square. It seemed that the second square was pretty well aligned with the red square, but it would move around from time to time and get out of alignment. Whenever both squares were perfectly aligned, two things would happen. First, all I could see was what appeared to be one square. Second, I would get a real blessing from it. I cannot describe the peace that would wash over my soul when both squares were aligned perfectly, but it was very real to me. Although my body was racked with pain and my mind worn out with the battle, I could tell that the Lord wanted to get something very valuable across to me.

Earlier that night, I remarked to my wife a couple of times that I wanted help for my physical needs but there was something I wanted even more than that; I wanted the Lord's help in some spiritual battles I was fighting. I wanted to be completely in the center of God's will in everything. There were things in my mind that I was battling and I needed victory over them desperately. I knew that these inward battles could only be won by my complete, absolute and total surrender to God in everything, including those things I did not understand. I believe that is why the Lord sent this little vision of the two squares to me. I knew without a shadow of a doubt that the red square represented God and His will and the other square represented myself. When I had everything submitted to God's will, I was in perfect alignment with God. The blood of Jesus covered everything in my life (even those things I did not understand) and all of my righteousness was only by His grace (absolutely by none of my own merits). I was completely emptied out. There was nothing left of me. I felt tremendous comfort in this because I realized that this was exactly what God de-

sired. I realized that this was the only way for true victory and unlimited power. God wanted me to be absolutely nothing, and that is exactly what I wanted.

The Lord sent relief around 8:00 that morning and I was able to get some rest. As Bro. Bob was leaving, he told me, "The Lord has some gold nuggets in this for you." I agreed wholeheartedly. After thinking it over, though, I realized that the Lord had given me a whole gold mine! I could benefit from this experience the rest of my days here on earth and then on into eternity. I am convinced in my heart that this total and absolute submission to God's will, along with being absolutely emptied out of ourselves, is the true secret to unlimited power—simply because there is then nothing to get in the way of God's power. If we are truly transparent, only God can show through.

Our revival ended with Sunday morning services. I was still battling with hernia symptoms, but the Lord graciously undertook so that I could enjoy the service. When we got home, I reasoned that it would probably be a good idea to rest some. Our answering machine, however, indicated otherwise. One of the brothers in our congregation needed additional help in completing a roof construction job on his grandmother's home. I wanted to help, and I knew that it would be a blessing if I could, but there did not seem to be any possible way. I told the brother my problem, hoping he would understand, but asked him to call back a little later if the work situation became more demanding. I decided that I would ask the Lord if I should go help this brother. I laid down on my bed and started praying. It wasn't long before the Lord whispered, "You can lie in bed if you want to." I knew then that the Lord was going to take care of my need. I changed into work clothes and went to work. How can I praise the Lord enough? I worked hard that night and never had an ounce of trouble. I helped on the project for about nine hours the next day also. Part of the time, I was moving and lifting whole sheets of plywood by myself (the Lord was helping me, of course.) I have never felt better in my life. This week, the Lord has blessed me with strength to do some things around our house that really needed to be done. Saints, be encouraged. If the Lord wants you to do something for Him, He will give you the strength to do it!

Still praising God,

—Clifford Cole

## MISSIONARY REPORTS



### From the Philippines...

November 24, 1998—Dear Brother and Sister Murphey: Warm greetings of Christian love to every one of you in the lovely name of our Lord Jesus. I hope you are all fine when you receive this short letter . . .

Thank you so much for your loving concern for us in the Philippines. May the loving Lord bind our hearts together to work for the salvation of souls as far as we can, and as early as possible.

During our ministers' meeting, plans were made to reach the cultural minorities on the other side of the mountain. A discussion was held on how the ministers could go because the way is rough and hard. I plan to take them by van as far as the road goes, and then they can go by foot. Please pray for them that the Lord will give them courage and wisdom.

Give our love to your family and to all the dedicated workers at the Lord's Print Shop.

Yours in His Service,

—Bro. Matias S. Tangunan and family

### From India...

November 18, 1998—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear saints in America: Greetings to you dear ones again in the precious name of Jesus Christ, who is even now at the gate.

Monsoon rains have almost stopped here now, and outdoor meetings and conventions have already started. Lord willing, our 34th General Convention will be held during the first week of January, 1999.

One of our older ministers, J. Cherian, passed away on November 14. He was with us for 33 years, and started his ministry in our church with my father. Please pray for the bereaved family.

All our congregations are going on fine. Please pray for us.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

### Africa Missionary Report

God is continuing to bless the work and the congregations in Malawi and Ghana. Bro. Failos Namaozongo met with 61 ministers and church



elders from various congregations in Malawi and Mozambique. They had a four-day meeting in which Bro. Failos shared with them the Bible teaching that he had received on my previous trip. God blessed in this effort and my heart rejoices to see the Word of God being spread.

The congregation in Ghana is not only increasing in number but in spiritual understanding as they are studying Bible doctrines. God provided the way and the means to purchase some Bibles in their native language. The chapel is still without a roof, so let us remember this need in prayer. Most importantly, let us pray that the Spirit of God will continue to teach and lead these dear people into all truth.

The call from Malawi and Mozambique is still for someone to "Come, stay and teach." Let us pray earnestly for the work in these places.

—Bro. Michael Smith

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**Editor's Note:** Word has been received that due to the worst flooding in twenty years, the crops in Nigeria have been destroyed. Some personal belongings of the saints have also been lost. We hope to learn more details soon.

If anyone would like to contribute to the humanitarian relief of the saints in Nigeria, you may send your contributions to this office, and they will be relayed to where they can best be used.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■



**Wendelyn Faye (Sherman) Davenport**, daughter of Archible W., Jr. and Norma H. Sherman, was born April 21, 1961, in Bakersfield, CA, where she attended the local schools and graduated from Bakersfield College in 1981 with a degree in English. Her love for writing and inspiration from the Lord drew her to reach out to many of us through cards, letters, poems and

stories, touching our hearts and souls with the loving way she shared this gift.

At a young age Wendi sought the Lord and was very sensitive to the spiritual things of God. During her teenage years she was always a helpful, caring person, working in the schools and community. She showed her love for the Lord and His work by teaching in Vacation Bible School, working on missionary trips and church activities.

After graduation she was led to work at the Sunset Guest Home in Pacoima, CA, for she loved the elderly and caring for people. It was during this time that she felt a need to rededicate her life to the Lord, seeking a better understanding of His will concerning her.

In April, 1982, she married Philip Allen Davenport. This union was blessed with nine children. Wendi was a loving, caring wife and mother, devoting her life to the needs of her family. She prayerfully considered the call and duty of a mother, and lived an exemplary life of motherhood.

"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies . . . Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." Proverbs 31:10, 28. Wendi remained faithful to her husband, children, family, saints and friends, until the Lord peacefully called her home, early on the morning of September 11, 1998.

Many of us will remember Wendi for the smile and sweet countenance the Lord blessed her with. Her husband and children will especially remember her love and devotion to them and the Lord, which she expressed in her favorite verse, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. Psalms 121:1-2.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, "Baby Girl Davenport." She leaves to cherish precious memories her devoted husband, Philip Allen Davenport; four daughters, Anne Marie, Victoria Lee, Sarah Elisabeth and Christine Grace; four sons, Philip Allen II, Benjamin Mark, Joel Edward, and Andrew Wendell Davenport, all of San Bernardino; parents, Archible Wendell, Jr. and Norma Helen Sherman, of Bakersfield, CA; two sisters, Tammara Kaye and Andra Michelle Sherman, of Bakersfield, CA; four brothers, Archible Wendell III, of Jacksonville, FL, Paul Ercell of Columbus, GA, Jacob Andrew and Joseph Lewis Sherman of Bakersfield, CA;

a grandmother, Edith Sherman, and many nieces, nephews, relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were held at the Mt. View Mortuary, with Bro. Calvin Hobbs and Sis. Bema Day officiating. Burial was in the Mt. View Cemetery, San Bernardino, CA.

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**Stella Opal Atnip**, age 86, of Greenville, MO, died Nov. 8, 1998, in Greenville Health Care, Greenville, MO. She was the daughter of the late Benjamin and Frances Underwood Barks, and was born Sept. 11, 1912 in Chaonia, MO.

On Nov. 23, 1928, she was united in marriage to Joseph Edward Atnip and he preceded her in death on May 3, 1976.

Survivors include four sons, Ivan and Alva E. Atnip, of Greenville, Truman Atnip, Hartford City, IN, Lonnie Atnip, Farmland, IN; two daughters, Inez Dixon and Wanda Atnip, both of Shook, MO; three brothers, Lester Barks, Shook, Willard Barks, Poplar Bluff, MO, Norman Barks, Piedmont, MO; two sisters, Ruby Williams, Poplar Bluff, MO, Imogene Barker, Neelyville, MO; 24 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Preceding her in death were one son, Edward Junior; one daughter, Stella Faye Atnip; one brother, Charley Barks; three sisters, Ivy Barks, Ethel Wilkerson and Vernice Gentry, and two grandchildren.

Stella was a homemaker and member of the Church of God.

The funeral was Nov. 11, 1998 at Ruegg Funeral Home, Greenville, MO. Bro. Robert Huskey officiated. Burial was in New Shiloh Cemetery, Shook, MO.

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## How I Met the Saints of God

(Continued from page 3.)

nurse. I asked her, "Why were there so many doctors and nurses around my bed?" She let me know how very, very sick I was. She said, "You almost went up to live with the angels." I thought to myself, "I'm not ready to go up there."

I wanted my relatives who were close to me, like my sister and nieces, to come visit me. My mother and father had already passed on. The doctors said, "No, no one can visit you now. You are too sick to have visitors." But I wasn't too sick for Jesus to come in! Jesus came into my room, and He let me know that I was lost, and more importantly that He loved me. He let me

know He wanted to save my soul. I was too sick to try to do anything, but I was listening to that sweet voice. Oh, that sweet voice meant so much to me! I didn't give up to the Lord right then. I didn't know what all I needed to do.

After I began to get better and they released me from the hospital, I still had those words in my heart: "You're lost, but I love you. I want to save you." As my health improved I was able to go to church service some; I was very unhappy.

In time I began to seek a job. There was plenty of work to do as it was during the war. I got a good job. I worked at a very rich home—a very nice home. Everything was lovely. They had a restroom downstairs which was a guest restroom, and I made that my room to pray at 12:00 every day for the Lord to save my soul, and to help me find His people.

The Lord did save my soul. He made such a change in my life that my friends saw the difference and they couldn't understand it. Some thought I was losing my mind. Even my kinfolks were calling long distance and asking, "What's wrong with Katherine? She acts like she's losing her mind."

I still wanted to find other people who were saved. I read in the Bible, "If any are sick let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him, anoint him with oil and the prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up." Well, I bought a little bottle of olive oil and thought, "If I find the people of God, I don't know what they'll think about me having olive oil, but I feel like the Lord has laid it on my heart to do it." I would pray for people and the Lord would heal them.

One day the Lord told me to go over to a certain place, about 75 miles away, to a church service. He wanted me to go back to the church where I used to go. I didn't want to do it, but I obeyed Him and went. These people had built a new church, and after the service I asked them about the little church they used to have. They said they had rented it to some other people.

"What people?" I asked.

"They call themselves the Church of God," was the answer.

I was glad to hear the words Church of God and wanted to know how they conducted their services. They didn't have any of the people's addresses, but they had the phone number of a Bro. and Sis. Willard. They called for me and Bro. Willard answered the phone. He said Sis. Willard was ill. I took the telephone into another

room and told him I was looking for God's people. He said, "Well, we'll come pick you up."

It was a rainy day and they had a little old model T Ford. They were very poor people. They couldn't get the car started and I was going to have to go back home Sunday evening to be ready to go to work on Monday. Finally they said, "We'll meet you at the train station." I shall never forget when I looked and saw Sis. Willard from the back of her head. She was trying to write down some addresses to give to me where to make contacts. I said, "Surely, this is a saint of God." She turned around and faced me, and I told her who I was. We were so glad to see each other. She gave me the phone numbers and said, "There is a sister who lives not far from where you live, in Berkeley. You live in Oakland. Berkeley and Oakland are right together."

I took the phone numbers home with me and contacted this particular sister. She didn't know too much about the saints herself. She had been one who lived in the world a long time. Her mother was a saved woman who had passed on. She decided to get saved. She did have a nice home and opened her door for the saints to come in and have service. They didn't have a chapel. There were about five people who attended these services. She tried to tell me about the services they had. I said, "Do you have a room or something we could go into to have prayer?"

"No, but I have a little apartment downstairs that is empty. We'll go down there."

So I said, "I want to get away where we can pray and talk to the Lord." I was so glad just to hear her telling me how she lived. That is what I was looking for. We prayed and we shouted. We thanked God for meeting another saint of God.

Time went on and I was still wanting to hear more about the Church. I kept praying. One day, I don't know how it happened, I found a *Faith and Victory* paper. It was an old paper. I read it and said, "Well, this is just like reading the Bible." I saw Bro. Fred Pruitt's name as the editor and thought, "Oh, this is how I can make contact. I can write to him and get some instruction from him."

I wrote to Bro. Fred Pruitt, telling him how hungry I was for the Truth, and that I was trying to meet God's people. When I received the letter from Bro. Pruitt he told me all about the saints and how he was the editor of the paper where he lived in Guthrie, Oklahoma, etc.

We corresponded for some time before we met each other. He would write me such nice, encouraging letters to help me keep saved. Finally he wrote me and said, "There is going to be a camp meeting in Green Pastures, OK. It would be good if you could get off of your job and come spend a few days there."

I took a couple weeks' vacation from my job and went back to Oklahoma looking for Bro. Fred Pruitt. I went into the church service and told someone, "I'm looking for Bro. Fred Pruitt." They said that was him up in the pulpit preaching!

After the service I talked with Bro. Pruitt and was so happy and glad.

I had a desire to help with some of the work at the Print Shop, but I had a job and couldn't do that. Then I thought that maybe I could hand out some tracts and *Faith and Victory* papers. Bro. Pruitt was glad for me to do that, and was willing to give me anything I wanted to hand out.

I will never forget Bro. Fred Pruitt. I will never forget what a comfort he was. I will never forget how he had wisdom in dealing with strangers. He was kind of slow but he had a quiet voice, and if you would listen to Bro. Fred Pruitt you would do well.

It wasn't long after this that the Lord inspired my heart to move to Oklahoma. I was glad for that. I could see Bro. Pruitt more and go to the Print Shop to see things there. Wherever I went I would have a tract or some *Faith and Victory* papers to hand out. Bro. Pruitt was a faithful minister—a faithful saint of God.

The day came that the Lord took Bro. Pruitt home. I went to his funeral. I was so thankful that I had met such a wonderful man of God.

Bro. Lawrence, Bro. Fred Pruitt's son, became editor of the *Faith and Victory* paper and I got well acquainted with him. I worked with Bro. Lawrence for years and years until he passed away. Bro. Lawrence was a good saint of God and had a true trust in God.

I never shall forget the time I went to see Bro. Lawrence after he became bedfast, a few days before he went to heaven. Oh, how I hated to see Bro. Lawrence go, but I submitted to the will of God. I appreciated him and his wife so much.

Now there is Bro. Fred Pruitt's grandson, Bro. Wayne Murphey, overseeing the printing work. I thank God for Bro. Wayne. I thank God for the way he has followed the footsteps of Bro. Lawrence and how he has helped me. When I

needed a box of literature to carry on my way, he would tell me to come in and get whatever I saw and wanted. "I'll box it up for you and put it on the bus as you take it wherever you want to go."

I thank God for the saints of God today. I just wanted to tell you a little about how I met them, and how I got acquainted with the family of Bro. Pruitt and what it has meant to me.

Many years have passed by, and now I am 93 years old, but I still trust in the Lord. The Lord has made me satisfied and happy, and I am going to stay with Him. Listen, I'll be right here in the name of Jesus, in the Church of God with His people, until the last breath is gone out of my body. Then I'll go home and live with Jesus forever, the Man who died for me. Praise the Lord!

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**Note:** Sis. Katherine Williams has recently moved to the Golden Rule Rest Home. I am sure she would appreciate correspondence from the saints. Her new address is: 38801 Hardesty Rd., Shawnee, OK 74801.

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QUESTION AND ANSWER  
BY  
BRO. OSTIS B. WILSON  
Reprint

**QUESTION:** Among the many doctrines in the Bible are the two dealing with salvation—the doctrine of election and the doctrine of free will. There are many passages in the Bible on both of these doctrines and many books written, etc. Now my question is simply this—How can we fit these two opposing doctrines together so as to form a reasonable part of the whole? The entire Bible must somehow fit together as God's whole Word, so there should be some logical answer to this confusing matter. Frankly, I don't see how both of these doctrines can be in the Bible, but they are, and how do we explain them?

**ANSWER:** In the first place, let us recognize and be persuaded that there cannot possibly be two mutually contradictory doctrines in the Bible. For such a case to exist would certainly raise questions in our minds about God Himself and doubts as to the credibility of the Bible as God's Word. Mutually contradictory doctrines may arise, and often do, out of men's interpre-

tations of the Bible, but they never exist in the Bible itself when properly interpreted and understood.

I see the two doctrines as being mutually compatible, blending into each other, each incorporating the other, and the doctrine of *free will* enveloping the doctrine of *election*. The doctrine of free will is so definitely and so broadly established in the New Testament that it could not possibly be questioned as pertaining to the plan of salvation and the economy of God's grace. We are told in John 3:16 that "...God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:14-15 says, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." Revelation 22:17 says, "...And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." II Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord is...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." This would certainly destroy the idea of God's electing (choosing) certain ones to be saved and excluding others from being saved by an act of His own will and sovereignty. This thought is further emphasized in I Timothy 2:1 where we are exhorted to pray for all men, and verse 4 says that God would have all men to be saved. I Timothy 2:6 says that Christ gave Himself a ransom for all. I Timothy 4:10 says that God is the Saviour of all men. Hebrews 2:9 says that Jesus, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man.

I have referred to several scriptures and could go on and on with many more to show that salvation, in its provisions, is universal and available to all men, but in its application it is individual and on a whosoever will basis. Anyone who is saved must be willing to be saved within the scope of the economy of God's grace, to come under the covenant provisions in the terms of the gospel and meet the demands of God's Word. Anyone who will do this will be saved.

Now I have stated that the doctrine of *free will* envelops the doctrine of *election*. But how? The term *elect* is used a number of times in the Old Testament in reference to ancient Israel, who in that time were the chosen people of God. God had elected (chosen) them as a peculiar people, separated unto Himself from all the other peoples upon the earth, that in them He

might reveal His glory, power and holiness; to whom He could deliver the oracles of God (the law), extend and perpetuate the covenant and promises made to Abraham, the originator of their race, and through them bring Jesus Christ into the world.

Therefore they are referred to as the *elect* in different places throughout the Old Testament. But in the New Testament the term *elect* or *election* is extended beyond the limits of the Jewish nation to include all, both Jews and Gentiles, who are redeemed from sin through faith in the merits of the all-atoning blood of Jesus Christ.

In the first four verses of the 11th chapter of Romans, the Apostle Paul argues that God has not cast off His people, Israel, and confirms it with the fact that he himself was an Israelite and had obtained mercy and been saved by faith in Christ. Also, he refers to the time of Elijah when a remnant was reserved unto God in a time of

11:5 was not an Old Testament kind of election, but it was the "election of grace" through Christ which only a remnant of the Israelites obtained. John 1:11-13 says, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born,...of God." Those among the Jews who received Jesus Christ when He came and believed on His name constitute this "remnant according to the election of grace." Adam Clarke in his comments on Romans 11:5 says, "The election of grace simply signifies God's gracious design in sending the Christian system into the world, saving under it all those who believe in Christ Jesus, and none else. Thus the believers in Christ are chosen to inherit the blessings of the gospel, while those who seek justification through the works of the law are rejected." Again he says in his comments on verse 6, "And this is done according to

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*"Someone said a long time ago in regard to the 'election,' that 'God has a vote, the devil has a vote, and I have a vote, and whichever way I vote is the way the election is going.'"*

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Israel's deep apostasy and idolatry. Then in verse 5 he says, "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace." Note on what grounds the election of this remnant was reckoned. It was not by virtue of being the children of Abraham according to the flesh, nor by the keeping of the law, neither by circumcision, nor by any of the conditions on which the election of ancient Israel was predicated. It is on an entirely different ground—"According to the election of grace." But there are only eleven references to "grace" in the Old Testament. Two of them are prophetic (Zechariah 4:7 and 12:10); one refers to God's mercy in a time of deep trouble (Ezra 9:8); and the Psalmist spoke of grace being given to his lips in prayer (Psalm 45:2). All the others refer to the grace of one person to another, or of the king to individuals, etc. The Old Testament was not an age of grace, but it is said in John 1:17 that "...Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

Therefore the election spoken of in Romans

the election of grace, or rule of choosing any persons to be the people of God upon the footing of grace, which takes in all that believe in His son, Jesus Christ."

To this the Scriptures bear conclusive evidence, for it is written "...Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely," (Revelation 22:17); and "...whosoever believeth in Him should...have everlasting life." (John 3:16.)

Romans 11:7 says, "...Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for;..." They desired to continue as the chosen people of God with all the power and glory of their kingdom which had been in time past. But they did not recognize the Author of eternal salvation when He came, so did not accept Him, but rejected Him, therefore failing to obtain what they desired. This verse says further, "...but the election hath obtained it,..." We have seen that the election were those who believed in Jesus Christ and received Him, thus were born of God, and became His children in reality. Therefore they

inherited all the blessings of the gospel, entered into the spiritual kingdom of God (righteousness, joy and peace in the Holy Ghost—Romans 14:17), and obtained the fullness of what they sought after.

This group of Israelites, who were elect according to grace, received Christ and believed in Him, were born of God, and became children of God in reality. This great, majestic company of faith champions survived the complete spiritual collapse and downfall of the Jewish people and came through with faith and belief in the promises, looking for the Consolation of Israel. This group came through, merged into, and blended with the spiritual body of Christ and entered the spiritual kingdom of God. It was absorbed into a much greater and broader "election" which included all of those from every nation under heaven (both Jews and Gentiles) who believed in Christ and received redemption by faith in His blood.

The term "elect" means *chosen, selected*. Several translations drop the term *elect* and insert the term *chosen* in its stead in all texts where "elect" is mentioned. *The Amplified Bible* retains the term *elect* but in each case inserts in parenthesis the terms *chosen, select*. Then we read in Ephesians 1:4, "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." The choosing or electing here does not refer to particular individuals, but that God had chosen or selected a plan for people (all people) to be saved, and this was through Jesus Christ and Him only, by believing in Him and yielding themselves to Him for salvation. Thus it is said that we (all the people of whatever nation, kindred, tongue or people) are chosen (elected) in Him, or there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (Acts 4:12.)

Now let us look at a very important text regarding "election." In II Peter 1:10 we read, "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." This scripture teaches us that we have a part in our election. Someone said a long time ago in regard to the "election," that "God has a vote, the devil has a vote, and I have a vote, and whichever way I vote is the way the election is going." In Romans 6:16 we are told, "...to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or

of obedience unto righteousness." Again Romans 6:13 says, "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, ... and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." Thus we can see that the yielding of ourselves to one master or the other is in our own hands, subject to our own will and our yielding determines our election one way or the other.

II Peter also teaches us that our election can be lost after it has been gained. "If ye do these things, ye shall never fall." (II Peter 1:10.) The inference here is that if we fail to do these things and give diligence to this, we will fall.

This is exactly what happened to Israel. They were the elect of God, but they lost their election status and were cut off because of unbelief. (Romans 11:20.) Verse 17 speaks of the Gentiles being grafted in and verse 20 says they stand by faith. Then verse 22 says, "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off." This all makes it very clear that our election is determined by us and how we yield ourselves, and that our election can be lost after we have obtained it if we do not diligently work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.



## Repent And Be Born Again

By Sister Gladys Cashio

*"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." Romans 13:11.*

The burden on my heart is heavy for souls and for truth. It is the only thing that will stand. Some will say, "Come and give the minister the right hand of fellowship and believe on the shed blood of Jesus and you will be saved." Yes, we must believe in Jesus, but there is more. Jesus said, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3. We must see ourselves as lost before the great God of love and mercy, be aware of our condition, and be sorry enough of our sins to quit them.

To sum it all up, we must be aware of our sin, become tired of it, repent and be born again to walk in newness of life. Be ready when Jesus calls us. Time is short, please do not delay.

**Prayer of an Old Disciple**

"At evening it shall be light." Zech. 14:7.

My father, I would rest upon Thy word;  
I need a safe and easy resting place  
Where my faith's visit never can be blurred  
While I behold the shining of Thy face.

My Father, in the battlefield of life  
I need to realize that Thou art near;  
Then, though prolonged and fierce should  
be the fight  
It cannot cause Thy child  
one faithless fear.

My Father, soon the shadows of the night  
May dim and hide  
my rough and lonely way,  
As now, I then shall need Thy guiding light  
So that I may not fail nor go astray.

My Father, I am old and getting frail,  
Alas! I am not what I used to be;  
Lest I at any time should halt, or fail,  
Do Thou uphold, or even carry me.

My Father, many dear to me are gone  
To where the weary have eternal rest;  
I need Thy help that I may follow on  
To where Thou art and those whom  
Thou hast so blest. —Author Unknown

and then release  
in measured volume its substance to bestow,  
to fill for earth  
the role of giant blanket soaker hose?

She finds her throne  
erected on earth's lofty peak and glade  
and views her realm  
from those fair heights where dazzling sunlight played.  
She wafts to earth  
entrusted to the care of gentle breeze  
her cooling touch  
the torrid blasts of earth to help relieve.

But still, Dear Lord  
you tell us of the treasures of the snow.  
Our hearts reach out  
in anxious quest desiring to know  
what treasures rare  
Your searching mind is able to discuss  
and may somehow  
the wonders of that wealth be shared with us.

—Clifford W. Wilson



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**Treasures of the Snow**

We gaze enthralled  
beholding heaven's wonder floating down  
in lacy white;  
its tiny crystals covering the ground.

We see it grow  
'til hill and dale are evened by its mass,  
yet never once  
did sound betray it as it passed.

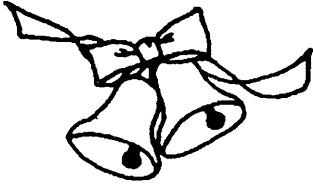
Where did it form?  
Where is the womb that gave it nurtured birth?  
How did it know  
that it was issued here to cover earth?

What is the clock  
that lets it know how long it must remain  
and Who's the guide  
directing it to disappear again?

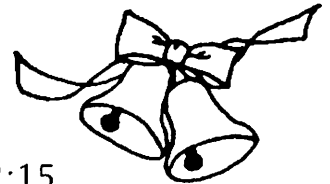
What mind of man  
could formulate a reservoir like snow  
with moisture held  
suspended in itself 'til time to go,



# THE NEW YEAR—1999



## Paul's Resolutions



1. To be Enthusiastic—Phil. 4:4
2. To be better equipped—II Tim. 2:15
3. To be enlightened—I Tim. 4:13
4. To be an example—I Tim. 4:12
5. To be evangelistic—Rom. 1:14-16

## Jonathan Edwards' New Year's Resolutions

Resolved:

To live with all my might while I do live.

Never to lose one moment of time; to improve it in the most profitable way I can.

Never to do anything which I should despise or think meanly of in another.

Never to do anything out of revenge.

Never to do anything which I would be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.

In the New Year your every word, thought and deed will be recorded. God's bookkeeper makes no mistakes.

I have never heard anything about the "resolutions" of the Apostles, but I have heard a great deal about the Acts of the Apostles.

## A Prayer for the New Year

"Father of mercies, teach us today and every day of the year to see in all that surrounds us occasions for praise and thanksgiving to You: When we behold the beauty of the earth's garments and of a surrendered life; when we wonder at the power of a storm and of Your transforming love; when we listen to the happy laughter of children and to the promises of Your Word. When life gets so dreary that we find it difficult to praise You, remind us of the working of Your hands in every corner of the universe.

"Help us, dear Lord, to commit our lives to the noble causes for which Jesus Christ lived and died. Help us to stand for the right rather than the easy; to search for truth rather than popularity; and to love all people rather than seek to be loved by all people."