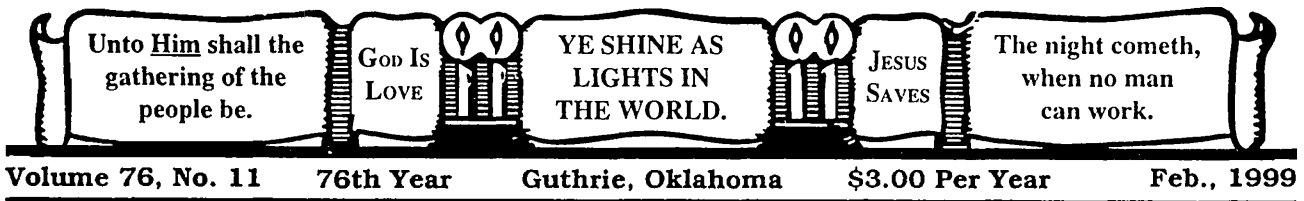


FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



Caution! Danger Ahead

This article is taken from *The Mission Trail*, a transcript of the radio program by Willie C. Murphey, broadcast in April of 1984.

Friends, there is a frightening and an all-important question. It should be asked faithfully and answered honestly. Perhaps it is lurking unformed already in the minds of many, needing to be put into words: Are we, as a people and as a nation, on the brink of the decline and fall of the United States of America? Are we witnessing and participating in the same kind of inner moral and political decay which brought an end to the Roman Empire in 200 A.D., which are also evident to many today? Does this mean that the United States will inevitably fall also? Well, this depends upon the course which is taken from here on out. I would say up to this point there are some certain signs and indications which point toward the corruption and decay and

fall of our country. The quality and staying power of American civilization is fiercely in dispute between the communist and non-communist nations today. There are many countries which scorn American materialism while striving to match it in both big and little ways. Perhaps envy may have something to do with this, but there is also a true basis for this debate: Is America really going forward, or has it reached its zenith and is it declining and falling away?

Some of the same symptoms seen in the decline of Rome and arising, not from external enemies but from inside the country itself, are also seen in our society. I am speaking of internal corruption. When the moral consensus, based on religion, collapses among the people, it is not surprising that it also collapses at the top of the country. Let us bear in mind that civilizations who rejected voluntary discipline were brought into subjection by force which took away their liberties.

Now, what are the visible signs of the decline of the United States which were in part the contributing causes of the decline of Rome?

Just to name a few:

1. A disregard of law by those elected to uphold the law.
2. The acceptance by many in and out of government that the end justifies the means.

Contents

Unity	3
Editorials	4
Prayer Requests	5
Meeting Notices.....	6
Letters from the Saints	7
Missionary Reports.....	9
In Memoriam	11
Question and Answer.....	13
Our Testimony	15
Windows to the Past	16

“Dear ones, how can we, as a nation, say we are wise when we refuse the words of the Lord?”

3. The pervasive practice of deceit and hypocrisy in government, in business, in union, in religion and elsewhere in society.

4. A perilous decline in the credibility of nearly every category of national leadership, including politicians, the press and the modern churches of our day.

5. A rising desire of people to live off the state on welfare subsidies and business subsidies.

6. A moral blackout toward vulgarity, violence and public indecency.

7. An inordinate love of show and luxury.

8. A moral torpor toward money corruption in politics and political corruption in government.

Now dear ones, I say there is enough evidence here to cause Americans to wake up. It is time for people to seek the Lord for their own souls, the souls of our children and the people of our nation. America is fast traveling the road to destruction. This brings us to the question of the century: Is America's decline irreversible? Can its direction be reversed? It is not impossible, but it is highly unlikely if the present course is pursued. This trend doesn't have to continue, but it will not be averted by closing our eyes or our minds to the many things which have gone wrong with our society. Folks need to see and do whatever is necessary to reverse the downward slide.

Now that answer is a returning to the Bible and its teachings. It is a return to Christ. An old-fashioned revival is what is needed in our day and time. By this the nation can be saved. And by this you, as an individual, can be saved regardless of which way the nation goes. Listen to these verses from Jeremiah 8:7-9: “Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the Lord. How do ye say, We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us? Lo, certainly in vain made he

it; the pen of the scribes is in vain. The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the Lord; and what wisdom is in them?”

Dear ones, how can we, as a nation, say we are wise when we refuse the words of the Lord? What does it mean to have a constitution of freedom written in beautiful words, and it is a wonderful piece of work, but if it is not practiced what good does it do? What does it mean to have beautifully written laws with equality and justice for all if they are not practiced? How can we say the law of the Lord is with us, when His words are trampled under foot day after day?

Now I say this change needs to be brought about in the hearts of individuals, in the hearts of the society of the people. Then it will not be hard to bring about those laws and cause those people to obey them, if it is really in their heart to do it.

Jesus said, “Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these saying of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.” Matthew 7:24-27.

Let us pray. Our heavenly Father, we pray that You would bless each listener to the broadcast today. Cause the words to be effective, cause the Spirit of God to bear them to the hearts of those who need to change their lives. Encourage those who are striving to do the right and living for Thee. Bless all listeners this day in the way which they need most and to Thee we will give the praise through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Unity

By Bro. James McMurrin

“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called. With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling.”
Ephesians 4:1-4.

Every Christian experiences the presence and dealings of the Lord, and those who are sanctified feel the workings of His Holy Spirit. Here, Paul is stressing a main purpose and reason for that Spirit—to bring together the body of Christ into Unity—into One.

When many people think of the Holy Spirit today, it sometimes seems they perceive Him in a selfish way. They define Him solely in terms of their own spiritual condition.

The Holy Spirit is the One who fills us when we are sanctified, who deals with our hearts and lives to bring us closer to God and to bring His truth to the world. These are all attributes and essential functions, yet if we leave it at that we are missing the main area of the Spirit's influence. It is not God's will that we walk the road alone, nor does He give us His Spirit solely for our own edification.

Too many seem to think that “my salvation is between God and me, and no one else has a say.” It is true that anything we are told about our spiritual condition should be weighed according to the discernment and Spirit of God in our hearts, but we do not live our lives as fully for Christ without others of His body.

There are three major occasions in the New Testament which speak of the Holy Spirit's coming into the lives of others. They are:

1. The coming on the Day of Pentecost. (Acts, chapter two.)

2. At Cornelius' house, when Peter came and preached. (Acts, chapter 10.)

3. The giving of the Spirit to the Samaritans by Peter and John (Acts, chapter 8.)

In every one of these instances, God's Spirit was given not just to one person but to a group. One reason for this is that His Church was being established. The other is that God's Spirit does not simply edify you to Him and then leave you unaffected by others—it brings together all those who serve Him. Those who think they can live for Him and ignore the rest of His children are sadly mistaken.

The depths in our hearts that have been touched by

God—and there are no deeper depths than those His Spirit has touched—are not just an area that will only be involved between us and Him. As we live for Him, we will find those very same areas being touched by the rest of His people, through the unity of His Spirit. When Christ sent His disciples to minister, they went not by ones, but by twos. When we engage in Holy fellowship we are not simply discussing surface things, nor sharing theories, nor seeking good vibes. We are deliberately opening our hearts to God and letting His Spirit show us His light and letting His Spirit exercise its unifying power to bring us together. It is not something casually indulged in, nor is it something to be taken lightly. It is the key to the real power of God.

If we truly want to feel what God's Spirit means, we need to seek God not just between us and Him, but to connect with His Spirit in the lives of His Church. His church is “one body,” and as any biologist can tell you, a living cell which is not connected to the body it comes from will not live long, nor will its full capacities ever be used. Let us live for Him to our fullest capacity, and benefit not only ourselves, but all of His children.

FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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

(Periodical postage paid at Guthrie, OK)

Notice to subscribers: When you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your zip code number. The post office now charges 50¢ to notify us of each change of address.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES



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

This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21, and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ-the same gospel that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for the body. James 5:14-15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way as the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Ex. 25:2; I Chron. 29:9; II Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Freewill offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House. All donations are tax deductible.

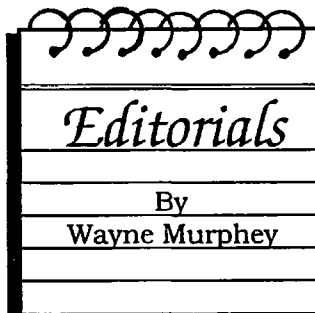
A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

In order to comply with the Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

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

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"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall

be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation." Habakkuk 3:17-18.

This is a beautiful testimony by the prophet Habakkuk of God's blessings upon His children. It verifies that the Christian's inner joy is not dependent upon the circumstances of life, but the presence of God in the heart.

It is still current in our time, and we see it played out in the lives of those who know the love of our Lord.

This wonderful grace will cause the young person who has been rejected and spurned by his peers to smile with confidence because he knows what his self-worth is in the eyes of a gracious God.

This marvelous salvation will cause the farmer to survey his wheat crop recently destroyed by hail, take his family to church and lift up his voice in praise to a just and faithful Lord.

A close relationship with the Chief Shepherd will enable the just person whose companion has forsaken holy vows and broken the sacred trust of marriage, to pick up the pieces of life and thank God to be a part of the bride of Christ.

Salvation will cause those who have lost a companion in death, though grieving through empty hours of day and lonely hours of night, to lift their hearts and thank God for the hope of a city in which there is no parting.

Because of this grace, aged believers, though buffeted by affliction, will carry the glint of hope within their dim eyes, for they know it hastens them toward the harbor where Christ awaits.

This sustaining grace is accessible to all who avail themselves of the plan of redemption for which Christ died.



Every Christian is constantly evolving in his or her experience with the Lord. Situations in which we find ourselves affect our thinking, attitudes and beliefs. During this process, it is Satan's delight to rob us of inner peace. Perhaps we feel deeply about the circumstances which

surround us, but as we respond to them, we should examine ourselves to make sure that what we are evolving toward is a deeper experience with Christ—an experience which will sustain us when the storm clouds of personal disaster darken our skies. At that time, what others believe or have done to us will seem insignificant. What we should seek, at all times, is a relationship with God that gives us a sweetness and serenity of spirit—one that reflects we are becoming more like Jesus.

Bro. Efrain Huerte, of the Guthrie congregation, has joined the Print Shop work force. At this time he is learning the operation of the Harris press on which we print book sections. We are glad to welcome him to assist in promoting the gospel.

Work is continuing on the new Print Shop. Ceiling tile and insulation have been ordered. Bro. Earl Benson is in the process of using his dirt moving equipment to prepare the ground behind the Print Shop for a concrete loading dock.

Ever since our visit with Bro. Matias Tangunan and the saints in the Philippines last April, we have had a burden to help them build a centrally located tabernacle among the barrios, where the potential for ministry is great. We ask for your prayers that this needed advancement can be made.

Some of our readers are already planning their vacations to coincide with different camp meetings. Therefore we plan to print as complete a list of meeting dates as possible in the *March Faith and Victory*.

If you would like your camp meeting to be on this list, please send the necessary information to this office by the 20th of February.

May God bless each of you!

—Wayne Murphey



Canada—Ron Schroeder, Bro. George Schroeder's son has had a massive stroke. Pray for his recovery.

IL—Sis. Grace Norton has a critical illness.

IN—"Please pray for my eyes, also for my son, Jimmy." —Sis. Dessie Wilson

OR—"Please pray for my body."

—Mary Jones

KY—"Please put these two people on your prayer list—Rickey Fetters and Jeffery Holt."

—Name Withheld

KS—"Please pray for the health problems of my wife, Lois, as well as my own."

—Lee Prichard

NC—"Will you please put my husband, Carl Henderson, on your prayer list? He is having some stomach problems and needs a touch from God."

—Sis. Henderson

KS—"Please pray for me. I haven't been feeling very well."

—Sis. Dorothy Huston

LA—Pray for Sis. Genevieve Carver's health.

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

—Sis. Lillian Farris

MO—"As I arrived home today from Sis. Melissa Linch's, I had two phone calls to return, and both parties expressed the same burden to me that I already had! Bro. Stanley Dickson and Sis. Rachel Hargrave both had a burden that we have around-the-clock prayer for Sis. Melissa, Sis. Hargrave and others who are in battles of affliction. Please help us pray for healing by helping organize an around-the-clock agreement in prayer in your area." —Bro. Bob Huskey

God

God shocked the world with a baby, not a bomb.

God has been around a long time and intends to stay.

It should be a great comfort to know that God still has His hands on the steering wheel of the universe.

At Press Time: Word has been received that Sis. Melissa Linch went to be with the Lord on the evening of January 26. Pray for her husband, Bro. Duane, and their two small children. If you would like to send condolences to the family, their address is P. O. Box 636, Granby, MO 64844.

Standing Prayer Requests

Sis. Alta Bock
 Bro. Jon Busbee
 Sis. Mamie Butcher
 Bro. Nathan Carver
 Sis. Tammy Clevenger
 Sis. Elaine Dunn
 Sis. Olive Getterson
 Bro. Ben Harrison
 Sis. Janice Johnston
 Bro. Louis Kimble
 Sis. Helen Lambright
 Sis. Betty Lassché
 The Lounds sisters
 Sis. Mattie McIntyre
 Sis. Dollie O'Neal
 Sis. Lois Sharp
 Sis. Kay Stover
 Sis. Beverly Wattenbarger
 Bro. Curtis Williams, Sr.
 Bro. Max Williamson



Meeting Notices

BAKERSFIELD, CA REVIVAL

A cordial invitation to attend our annual revival, February 10-14, is extended to everyone. Also please join us in earnest prayer that God will give us a Holy Ghost-filled meeting—that the presence of the Lord will be definitely felt by everyone in attendance.

On Wednesday through Saturday there will be two services daily; at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. On Sunday there will be Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., worship service at 10:30 a.m. and an afternoon service at 2:30 p.m.

We are expecting God to save sinners, sanctify believers, heal, restore, edify and encourage.

For more information, please contact our pastor, Bro. Hayward Cox, (805) 366-4718.

—Sis. Janice Herring

SINGING IN ALABAMA

The Church of God, Enterprise Congregation, near Warrior, AL, is planning a singing for March 27, at 6:30 p.m. There will be other activities beginning Saturday morning, and regular services on Sunday morning, with dinner on the church grounds.

The chapel is located two miles west of I-65, north of Warror, AL, off of exit 289.

Everyone is welcome to attend. For further information you may contact Bro. Marshall Whitson at (205) 647-6325 or Bro. Roy Herron at (205) 647-7869.

LOS ANGELES, CA

REUNION DINNER/SERVICE

Several of the saints in the greater Los Angeles area (congregations in Los Angeles downtown, Gardena and Pacoima) have desired to have a "reunion" dinner/service for the saints and their associates in this area. We hope this can occur in late March or early April. The purpose would be to reconnect with many of the children, grandchildren, sisters, brothers, other relatives and friends of the saints from the past and present. There are several hundred saints' associates in this area with whom the Church of God has lost touch and with whom the Church would like to reestablish contact, ultimately for the salvation of their souls. There are also many, many former church members. If anyone has loved ones, relatives or friends, or knows of some deceased saints' relatives and friends in the Southern California area, and would like these people to be contacted through this outreach effort, please send their names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses or other information to: Church of God Reunion, c/o 2601 E. Victoria St. #136, Dominguez Hills, CA 90220. Your help is greatly appreciated.

CALIFORNIA STATE CAMPGROUND RENOVATIONS

"This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes." Psalm 118:23. We are deeply grateful for the blessings the Lord is pouring out here in California. We are thankful for those who have participated in the restoration work on the State Campgrounds in Pacoima. Work has been completed on the Sunset Guest Home, as well as the Caretaker's Cottage. However, there is much more work to complete. The dining hall is currently being reconstructed, and partial reconstruction of both sets of restrooms is soon to follow. The driveway, parking lot, parsonage and cabins are also in need of major repair. We are praying that the majority of the work will be completed in time for the 50th Annual California State camp meeting which is scheduled to be held August 27-September 5, 1999. As with any project of this nature, the expenses are great.

To volunteer time or expertise, and for additional information, please call Sis. Ethel Dixon at (805) 831-2052 or Sis. Marlene Anderson at (805) 723-1015.

Monetary donations can be sent to: Church of God Building Project, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA 91331. A receipt will be issued for contributions, as they are tax deductible.

**A FINANCIAL NEED
 FOR THE TENNESSEE WORK**

The saints at Alcoa, TN, purchased a church building in June of this year. The balance of the loan as of Jan. 5 is \$123,665.22. We desire to pay this debt off ahead of the loan schedule. Anyone who desires to see this accomplished may send your donations to: Church of God Evening Light, 322 Lindsay Street, Alcoa, TN 37701. For more information call Sis. Mary McDonald, (423) 977-6997, or the chapel phone number can be used during Sunday morning and Wednesday night services, (423) 681-6838.

—Sis. Mary McDonald

**Note
 OF INTEREST**

Sis. Lizzie Jordan Turned 100

Lizzie B. Jordan turned 100 years old on Monday, August 31, 1998. Sis. Lizzie was born August 31, 1898. She married Joe Alex Jordan in 1914.

She has been, and continues to be, a great inspiration to the saints and to all around her, in her prayers and steadfast life for the Lord.

Sis. Lizzie is the mother of eight children. Two of her sons preceded her in death. Her children are: Ada Miller, Fresno, CA; George Jordan, Clinton, OK; Alonzo Jordan, Sr., Okmulgee, OK; Willie B. Jordan, Tulsa, OK; Jomandy Jordan, Okmulgee, OK; Joshua Jordan, Lathrop, CA.

Sis. Lizzie also has nearly 200 grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren, and she has endeared herself to many of the saints of God.

A birthday dinner was held for Sis. Lizzie at the Okmulgee Community Center, Okmulgee, OK.

LETTERS
 FROM
 THE
 SAINTS



MO—Dear saints: I am so thankful to be serving a mighty God—One whom I can go to with my burdens and sicknesses.

At the present time I need help in my body. I have been searching my life to see if there is anything in the way that would prevent God from doing it.

About seven years ago I had a dream in which I was lost in the woods. I was just going in circles. When I woke up I realized I was spiritually lost. I had neglected going to church and come short in many things.

The next day some relatives came by. I knew I needed help and I was also very vulnerable. I went to meeting with them. I am so thankful to be back where I belong. While there I felt a spirit that I can't explain. I was very uncomfortable as I didn't feel the love of God amongst the people.

Please forgive me for thinking I could find what I needed there.

Thank the Lord, I have come back where I belong.

In Christian love, —Sis. Nelva Stanley

MO—Dear Sis. Mary and Bro. Wayne: Trust you are all doing fine and keeping encouraged in the dear Lord.

The Lord is dear and precious to me, and I am so thankful that He keeps me able to live alone and care for myself. And we can converse with Him any time, night or day, which is a wonderful privilege....

I would appreciate your prayers in behalf of the pain in my knees. It may be arthritis, I am not sure. It is hard to get up out of a chair and start walking. I feel they may be some better, but I still have pain in them.

May God bless you all!

Love and prayers, —Sis. Natalie Allen

KY—Dear family in Christ: May God bless all of you who labor in the Print Shop. The *Faith and Victory* paper, and all other literature which I have received from you, is a real blessing to my soul. I am so thankful to be a part of God's special family (Deuteronomy 7:6). When I surrendered my heart to God seven years ago, He saved my soul. Then He did a second work.

Praise His holy name! He knew we couldn't make it on our own, so He sent the Comforter (the Holy Spirit) to teach us all things (John 14:26). And where would we be without His keeping grace (Jude 24)?

My dear Savior has kept me faithful through many trials and He is my great physician in all my afflictions. What a mighty God we serve! By His grace I will trust Him always. He promised never to leave nor forsake me. My desire is to be worthy of the love, mercy and grace He gives each day. Keep me in your prayers that I will be a faithful servant until He calls me home.

Please pray that the church here at Garrison, KY, will prosper in the Lord—and for all our unsaved family and friends.

Also, I would like to request prayer for an unsaved son-in-law who has quit smoking, that by the mercy of God he will defeat the habit.

Your sister in Christ, —Kay Griffith

— — — — —

OK—Dear saints: I want to thank the Lord for salvation and His tender mercies unto me. He has been so good to me all through my life, and especially the past two months. He has answered prayer many times when I would be suffering with pain in my head and ear, from an apparent ear infection. I surely do thank the Lord for helping me to feel better.

I want to thank the saints for their prayers in my behalf.

With Christian love, —Bro. Edwin Eck

— — — — —

VA—Dear Bro. Wayne: I have been thinking of all of you for some time. I read the *Faith and Victory* paper and love to hear how things are going on the new building.

I am having pain in my leg, and don't get out much.

May God bless all there, and pray for me and my family. It seems hard even to write anymore.

With love to all, —Sis. L. W. Dunman

Zambia—Dear Brothers: I greet you in the name of our Lord, Christ Jesus. I trust you are well in body and spirit. I am well here, together with the whole family in Jesus Christ's name.

May the good Lord richly bless you and protect you each hour of every day is my sincere prayer. I further ask of you to remember us here in your prayers, until God calls us from labor to reward.

Brethren, let us work for the Master more than ever before as we see His coming nearing.

Here in Zambia many people are not saved. I have sought the Lord Jesus Christ, to stretch forth His saving hand and save His people here. Help us brethren by praying for us.

Your brother in Christ, —Chitushi Brian

— — — — —

OK—Greetings of love to all at the Print Shop, and to all who get the *Faith and Victory* paper.

I trust everyone enjoys the *Faith and Victory* as much as I do, and all the other material printed there.

Let us follow the one and only true Shepherd to the end of our short journey.

—Sis. Doris Bowers

— — — — —

OK—Dear saints: I have been reading the *Faith and Victory* for many years. I will be 88 years old on February 10.

I recently fell and broke a small bone in my ankle. Praise the Lord, I have no pain with this broken ankle.

Please pray for my healing. I have problems with retaining fluid in my lungs, high blood pressure and arthritis. I know the Lord is able and willing to heal His children.

May God continue to bless the work you are doing for Him.

Christian love, —Moslette Kern

— — — — —

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.

We pray that this new year will reward your labors with many souls won to Jesus. Every day we ask God's blessings on all there and the work you are doing for Him. We look forward to receiving the *Faith and Victory* each month, and ask the Lord to supply every need expressed in each issue....

God is good to us and supplies all of our needs abundantly. Fern is having some health problems that we would like to ask you to pray for.

With Christian love and prayers,

—Bro. Bill and Sis. Ruby Busch

— — — — —

KS—Dear Bro. Wayne: Happy New Year to all the Print Shop workers, and may God reward each one for your labors and sacrifice. It is so important that people get the right information to read about God, His plan and our souls. In fact, it is a matter of life and death to each

person, because we need to know how to get right with God and then live right so we can escape the second death and go to heaven.

I am determined to be faithful to our wonderful God, and live with Him forever. "Just one glimpse of Him in glory will all the toils of life repay." I truly believe that.

I urge all who are saved from their sins to keep saved and walk as close as they possibly can to the Lord. I implore those who aren't to get in touch with God and acquire this wonderful salvation so they can learn to really live. It is all so wonderful and I am enjoying my journey to heaven!

Christian love, —Sis. Shirley Knight

MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings to you once again in Jesus' precious and mighty name—the One who gives us hope of eternal life.

I am glad for the good I received while at the Guthrie Assembly meeting. I have also heard other good reports of the meeting from those who attended after I left. Surely the Lord met with His people. I also appreciate the kindness that was shown to me while I was there—both by His saints and the touch He gave me in my body, helping me to be able to rest the last night I was there.

I trust God to continue to bless in every phase of His work. It will be a wonderful time when all our work is done and we meet on that beautiful shore to enjoy the beautiful home He has prepared for those who love Him.

Your brother in Christ, —T. V. McMillian

WV—Dear Bro. Wayne: The Lord is still taking care of me and my children. I can't thank Him enough for the things that He has done for us. He truly has been a very present help in time of need. When you think of us, please pray for me and my children. My health is not good right now, and I am not able to work, but I know God knows what is best....

Sincerely, —Sis. Donna Simonin

MISSIONARY REPORTS



From Mexico...

January 20, 1999—*Faith and Victory* readers: A four-day meeting held in Culiacan, Sinaloa, November 19-22 was well attended and blessed of the Lord. The congregation under the leadership of Bro. Adelfo Gonzalez worked hard preparing for this meeting. The backless benches, chairs and the walls were newly painted. Scraps of carpet were placed in front of the altar bench, visitations were made and the young people and children had learned new songs which they sang as specials. As I sat listening to the children singing, I noticed there were eight couples sitting together with their families. Strong family relationships are very important for the progress of any church. I met women whose husbands have either left them or just do not come to service, several elderly sisters and three single young men who take an active part in the congregation. Bro. Adelfo encourages leadership—each service was led by one of the brothers. Three of these feel called to the ministry. Bro. Adelfo feels two are ready to lead a group in another part of the city. They need to rent or buy a building at that location.

We are glad that Bro. Joe Fine flew down to Culiacan. His preaching was effectual and after his testimony Saturday night many sought help at the altar. Pastor Adelfo had requested that we find an evangelist for the meeting. Bro. Joe filled that need and his presence was much appreciated by all. Sunday morning I taught the junior children's group. I had only twelve students. The two Sunday school classes meet behind the church in a space 20 by 6 feet. We carried benches out and placed them back to back, so my group faced me and the other group faced their teacher. When the classes were finished, we carried the benches back to be used for service. They hope to build stairs to the flat roof and construct Sunday school rooms up there before their spring meeting. The chapel door and window openings have not yet been fitted with steel security frames.

It is very evident that this pastor and wife are consistently working, building up this congregation through regular services and much visita-

Opinions

An obstinate man does not hold opinions—they hold him.

You can't keep folks from having a bad opinion of you, but you can keep them from being right about it.

An opinion is a prejudice with a few unrelated facts.

tion. Monday after the meeting we helped the brethren wash down and clean the fire-damaged home of a young woman who has come to services a few times. Her husband, a drug addict, had set fire to the house. On Tuesday we visited a school teacher brother who would like services in his area of the city. It is difficult for him to come as he is confined to a wheel chair.

After this meeting, Pastor Adelfo and Sis. Minerva traveled with us 1,500 miles to their home state of Chiapas. There we visited Bro. Adelfo and Sis. Minerva's people in several towns and in a village in the mountains, where they are harvesting the berries of the coffee tree. Bananas are abundant and many flowering trees are in bloom. For breakfast, we were served the blossom of the pitalla plant dipped in egg and fried. In Motozintla we stayed at Carlos and Reina Gonzales' home. Carlos is the director of a school that was greatly damaged by the flood on Sept. 8, 1998. Their three-bedroom house is now a home for 20 relatives who lost their homes in the tropical storm. The word of God was received there and several are interested in being saved. Carlos said, "We are seriously considering and want to know more."

Sis. Minerva's parents, Bro. Romelo and Sis. Seria Escobar, have a little congregation where they stay with a son who has a little farm. He plants and harvests corn by hand. We were there for several days and for two Sunday services. These old people are faithful in ministering the Word to some Guatemalan families, and to some of their own families that have strayed from the Lord.

After returning to Culiacan we visited a family of believers 15 miles away in a rural town. They cried when they saw Bro. Adelfo and begged him to come and have services with them, for no preacher comes to their little chapel anymore.

Please keep praying for these congregations, and that workers may be trained and sent out to the fields, ready to harvest and ask the Lord, "What will you have me to do?"

We are thankful to have our son, Tim, and his family here with us. They are a great help and encouragement, and we get to enjoy the children. They stayed in Pacoima, CA, after the Pacoima winter meeting, to help remodel the kitchen of the dining hall. Now he is here and hard at work finishing the house he is building for a needy family. This morning he found that

someone broke into this house and took some of his and a helper's tools last night. As soon as this house is finished he wants to build a second story over our crowded office. He would appreciate any help on these projects.

In Christian love, —Charlotte Huskey

From India

December 17, 1998—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings to you and the dear saints in America, in the glorious name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

We are getting prepared for our 34th General convention which starts on January 6, 1999, and lasts for five days....

May God open the way to get the new Print Shop building completed very soon.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

From Nigeria...

November 12, 1998—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and the saved ones: Greetings in the glorious name of the Lord Jesus, the Son of God, the Word of God, the Self-Existing God and the Amen. We are indebted with gratitude unto Him for overshadowing us with defense, reservation and deliverance. Praise Him forever! All that He planted will never droop nor wither, being watered of Him to grow luxuriously.

Unavoidably we have to draw the attention of the saints to the sad plight into which we have been plunged. The largest flood ever seen in twenty years, indescribably huge, suddenly descended with great rapidity upon our farmland on October 13th and all of our crops of both the old and the new farms were inundated in a pool of waters of fearful depth. All of our food crops have been destroyed. The loss is lamentably huge and heart rending. Hunger is a sure confrontation in our midst. It cannot be ignored. Our eyes shall see its torture with effect from December 1998 to November 1999.

The Ubah congregation is partially cut off from communication by the flood. This writer will make it to Ubah to console the flood victims when the flood goes down and the road becomes accessible. Bro. Samuel Obi, of the Ubah congregation, not only lost the crops of his farms, but also his home and his entire belongings to the flood.

With a view to reducing our sufferings which the flood disaster has caused, we call upon the saints to enlist to us their sympathy. We need

food, or means to buy food items, for distribution from time to time. No one can make a good man in a hungry body. Your cooperation should be channeled through Bro. Wayne Murphey, Faith Publishing House, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044.

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

(Editor's note: A contribution of \$450.00 which the saints have donated to help in the Nigerian relief effort will be transmitted to Bro. Enu the first of February. As stated in the above report, consistent monetary help is needed throughout this year. If you have the means to help relieve this need, it would surely be a blessing.)

From the Philippines...

January 4, 1999—Dear Brother and Sister Murphey: New Year's greetings to every one of you from your brothers and sisters in the Philippines. We thank the Lord for His living and mighty hands which protected, guided and cared for us, and provided our needs throughout the year of 1998. We are so thankful for our lives and health, especially our salvation which gives us peace, hope and joy in the midst of hardships, trials and persecutions. We thank the Lord for the privilege of leading souls to the Lord.

There were four precious people baptized on December 27, 1998. We also had fellowship and thanksgiving services on December 28—29, 1998. Oh, how precious and pleasant it is to be with brothers and sisters, to sing together, share our experiences with the Lord and pray together. Our souls were filled with spiritual food, and we gained energy to face the New Year of 1999....

Please accept our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for your loving concern for us and for the needs of the gospel work in the Philippines. May the loving heavenly Father bless you abundantly so that you can continue your good work for the cause of Christ and for the salvation of precious souls in the world. We do not know how long we shall be given the opportunity to preach the gospel, but we know that it will not be very long. Next year will be the close of 2000 years. May the loving heavenly Father give us a plentiful harvest of souls in this New Year of 1999. Thank you so much for your unending love to us!

Your brother in the gospel field,

—Bro. Matias S. Tangunan and family



Myrtis (Williamson) Flynn was born December 3, 1907, at Loranger, LA. She passed from this life December 25, 1998, at the Golden Rule Care Home in Shawnee, OK, at the age of 91 years, 3 weeks and 1 day.

Myrtis was the oldest of 10 children born to Oscar and Etta (Joiner) Williamson of Loranger, LA. She attended college two years and taught school for three years when she became the wife of Angus E. Flynn (also of Loranger) on August 16, 1930. They started their married life in La Crescenta, CA, until 1936. During this time their first daughter, Vivian, was born. After they returned to their home area of Loranger, their second daughter, Erma, was born.

While raising their daughters they operated a small dairy farm in Loranger. Myrtis moved to Shawnee, OK, in April 1992 to live with her daughter, Vivian, and husband Reuel Gibson. Due to a major stroke, she entered the Care Home in July of 1997.

Myrtis was preceded in death by her parents, three sisters, Lewella, LaVerne and Katherine; two brothers, Leroy and Merrill; her husband, Angus, of 47 years; her daughter, Erma Doolittle, and her son-in-law, Glenn Doolittle.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Reuel and Vivian Gibson, of Shawnee, OK; four sisters, Alta Flynn, Cewilla James and Shirley James of Loranger, LA, and Hazel Savage of Shingletown, CA; eight grandchildren, Rex Gibson, Sharon Leach, Diane Reining, Patricia Graham, Gary, Mike, Glenn and Holly Doolittle; ten great-grandchildren and one great-grandchild, many nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

Myrtis was a very devoted saint of God. She loved to read the Bible and other religious writings.

A memorial service was held at the Loranger, LA, Church of God chapel, with burial in the cemetery beside the chapel. The service was conducted by Bros. Ed Wilson, Michael Williamson and Steve Elston.

Cecil Clark Mauldin was born on July 5, 1912, in Allen, OK, to Charlie A. and Annie O. Pearce Mauldin, both of whom were ministers of the Church of God teachings. He was the sixth of their seven children and spent his childhood growing up in Oklahoma and Colorado.

On December 7, 1939, he was wed to Mary M. Doyle Mauldin, the widow of his late brother, Carl Mauldin. Mary brought three young children with her into this marriage, and Cecil raised these children as his own.

Cecil was a carpenter by trade but took time in the 1940's to attend the school of auctioneering in Iowa, and was a co-owner of the Hotchkiss, CO, livestock auction yard for a couple of years. He enjoyed singing gospel songs and was quite often asked with his wife, Mary, to sing in church services.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary, in 1988, also two brothers, Carl and Dave Mauldin, and three sisters, Eula Dunham, Bonnie Mauldin and Winifred Wolfenbarger.

Cecil left his family and friends on December 10, 1998, in Cottonwood, AZ. He had stated just weeks prior that he was at peace with God and was ready to go.

He leaves to mourn his sons, Denzil R. Mauldin and Duane D. Mauldin; his daughter, Nadine J. Cherry; his brother's three children, son, Rene C. Mauldin, and daughters, Lorraina M. Routon and Verna Lee Hargrove; one younger brother, Donald D. Mauldin; twenty-two grandchildren and twenty-seven great-grandchildren.

Bro. Allen Lighty of Camp Verde, AZ, officiated at the funeral service, and burial was in the Cottonwood Cemetery.

Marvin Dale Corteway was the first child born to Hubert and Aneita Corteway on May 9, 1943, in Kalamazoo, MI. He passed away at his home on Monday, January 4, 1999, about 3:30 a.m., in the presence of his family.

Bro. Marvin met Ruth Wilkins when they were both young, and later they were married on September 28, 1961. Their wedding was the first marriage ceremony Bro. Mart Samons performed.

Marvin and Ruth were the parents of four children, Sindy, Marvin Jr., Robert and Stephen. He always liked to refer to his sons as, "My Three Sons."

Some of the favorite family memories which bring comfort, are sitting around a campfire, walking among the sand dunes and a special trip the family made to Chicago. Fishing, too, was a great part of their family activities, which earned Robert the nickname of "Fishing Bobber."

Marvin worked for Gibson Guitar in Michigan for 17 1/2 years before moving to Oklahoma City, OK, in 1981. He was employed by Altec until the company was sold last spring. Since that time his health prevented further employment.

In Michigan the Corteway family and other relatives lived within a short distance of each other. After Bro. and Sis. Hubert Corteway moved to Oklahoma City, it wasn't long before Marvin and Ruth followed, locating again close to his father. This made it possible for Bro. Hubert and Sis. Elizabeth to be a real blessing and comfort during his illness.

Bro. Marvin gave his life to the Lord about two years ago, and from that time until his passing he faithfully attended both Sunday School and Sunday morning services at the Church of God chapel in Oklahoma City. Nearly every Sunday he and Ruth would be among the first to arrive. Often they brought their three grandchildren, Jacob, Mara and Caitlin, to be in Sunday School.

Marvin consistently gave what he could of his means to the work of the Lord. It was always the first thing he did when he walked into the chapel, and few ever saw it.

Two weeks before he passed, Marvin was baptized as an open testimony that he was saved. This was a real blessing, not only to him and his family, but to the saints as well. During his last days, this fact comforted Marvin many times.

Marvin is survived by his wife, Ruth; his parents, Hubert and Elizabeth Corteway; his daughter, Sindy Buddemeier; his three sons, Marvin, Jr., Robert and his wife, Gayle, and Stephen; his three grandchildren, Jacob, Mara and Caitlin.

He is also survived by three brothers and one sister, David and wife, Joetta, Sharron Huskey and her husband, Dwight, Jerry and

his wife, Marsha, and Mark Corteway.

Other survivors include his father and mother-in-law, Clyde and Izola Wilkins; a host of relatives, friends, saints and co-workers.

Marvin was preceded in death by his mother, Aneita Corteway, in 1983, and one sister, Deborah Ann, in 1954.

Funeral services were held in Guthrie, OK, Church of God Chapel, with Bro. Leslie Busbee and Sis. Maxine Busbee officiating. Burial was in Memory Gardens Cemetery, Guthrie, OK.

Thank You

Dear saints: We want to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who gave us comfort in the passing of our loved one, Marvin Corteway.

All of us are very grateful for the love shown to our family. The cards, phone calls, flowers, food and every expression was very much appreciated.

—The Corteway family



QUESTION AND ANSWER

BY

BRO. OSTIS B. WILSON

Reprint

QUESTION: Because there are so many dishonest people all through our government "cheating the people," does this mean it's all right for us to claim "just a little" of our income? Many people are being paid in such a way as to avoid paying taxes. Will God "nit pick" when it comes to Hebrews 13:17?

ANSWER: The answer is "No." Absolutely not. The scriptural code that saints live by demands absolute honesty with God, with ourselves and our own souls, and with our fellow men. The Scriptures nowhere give us a right to "cheat" the "cheaters." If we cheat the "cheaters," we are "cheaters," too. The amount is not important whether it be large or small. To be dishonest in small matters or amounts indicates just as faulty a character as to be dishonest in large matters or amounts. It can be pretty accurately adjudged that one who is dishonest in small amounts would also be dishonest in large amounts if he were just in a position to do so. Let us be assured that "...God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Ecclesiastes 12:14.

This question reminds me of the story I

heard about a preacher who, in going back and forth from his home to his place of worship, passed by where a chicken pen was close by the side of the road. He had noticed a real fine rooster that roosted on the fence and how easy it would be for someone to just pick him off and take him away. On one of his trips past this place when the rooster was perched on the fence as usual, he stopped and said "Mr. Rooster, some old thief is going to come by here and get you some of these nights and I think I had better just take you home with me before some old thief does come by and get you." So he lifted the rooster and took it home with him to be cooked in his pot. But in the "rescuing" the rooster from "some old thief" he became the thief himself. So with those who "cheat" the "cheaters" on income tax or in any other way become cheaters themselves.

Also every person who files an income tax return must sign an oath or affirmation that the statements contained therein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge. It also says that the penalty for signing any false statement is a fine and/or imprisonment or both. How could a Christian sign this statement knowing he had held back something and had not properly reported all of his income? My judgment is that he would suffer a worse penalty for perjuring his conscience before God than he would from the government for perjuring himself before them.

God's Word says in I Peter 2:12, "Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation." "The Gentiles" in our case would include all unsaved people, which would include the "cheaters," too. We are instructed to have our conversation honest before them also. Let us realize that two wrongs never make a right.

Again Romans 12:17 says, "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men." Also II Corinthians 8:21 says, "Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men."

I Corinthians 4:5 says, "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God." I do not hesitate to say, in that day we will all want to receive praise from God

and not condemnation. We can be assured, in that day, all the hidden things of darkness will be brought to light and the counsels of all hearts will be revealed. I Corinthians 3:13 says, "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is." Also II Corinthians 5:10 says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

Finally, let us conclude that we, as well as the writer of the Hebrew epistle, are "...In all things willing to live honestly." Hebrews 13:18. Let us realize that any thing gained through fraud or dishonesty is not worth it in the end when every man will be rewarded according to his works. (Revelation 22:12.)

In regard to God "nit picking" in reference to Hebrews 13:17, let me say that the answer is again "No." It is not God who "nit picks," but it is we who do the "nit picking" with ourselves, with our fellow Christians and fellow men and even with God Himself, sometimes trying to pick out the fine points to either justify or condemn as the case may be. God never "nit picks" but He searches the heart and tries the reins of every individual (I Chronicles 28:9; I Kings 8:39; Jeremiah 11:20; I Samuel 16:7). Therefore God sees and knows the true condition of all hearts. We only see the outcroppings of things but He sees the roots of everything and the true condition of everyone's heart. Therefore He is in a position to judge everyone clearly, straight according to what He sees in the heart.

However, Hebrews 13:17 does not refer to government authorities but to spiritual authorities in the church. After instructing us to obey those who have the rule over us and submit ourselves, it goes on to say, "For they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." Surely this could not apply to politicians in government because many times they could not care less about our souls and the things per-

taining unto our spiritual lives. It is the God-called, God-sent, God-appointed pastors, overseers, and ministers who care for our souls and watch out for our spiritual welfare.

However, there are several other Scriptures which teach us to be subject to the governmental authorities. I Peter 2:13-14 says, "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well." In Romans 13:1-7 we read, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.... Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake (verse 5)...." Let us realize that God has ordained governments, both political and spiritual, and for us to fail to be subject to either the governmental powers or the spiritual authorities in the church indicates a disposition of rebellion in the heart, and God denounces rebellion as being equal to the sin of witchcraft. (I Samuel 15:23.)

Titus 3:1 says, "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work." In the 8th verse of his epistle, Jude speaks of a degenerate class of people who "despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities." Then he continues in verse 19 to say, "These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit." Let us realize that the Spirit of God in men's hearts makes them different from that and makes them humble, submissive and obedient to authority whether it be in the government or in the church.

Peter describes the same class of people as Jude and in II Peter 2:10 he says of them that they despise government, are presumptuous, self-willed, and are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. Saints who have the Spirit of God are not like these people in any respect and are inclined to honor rulers and those in authority whether they be righteous or not, for the sake of their office and position.

"Let us realize that the Spirit of God in men's hearts makes them... humble, submissive, and obedient to authority whether it be in the government or in the church."

OUR TESTIMONY

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

In Revelation 12:11 it is said concerning those who were accused by Satan that "...they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." Jesus came from heaven and fought the battle with the devil and the corrupt things of the world and overcame them. We are going to have to overcome this same evil power of deception and sin. How are we going to do it? We will by the power of the blood of Jesus to atone for sin and its dominion. But along with that we overcome by the word of our testimony.

This thought of a testimony is important. For a person to succeed with God and His cause he or she must have a clear and definite testimony, or witness, of God's saving and sanctifying grace, and also have a life that will back it up. With a true testimony one can do much good in life.

Paul exhorted Timothy in II Timothy 2:8 to "be not ashamed of the testimony of our Lord." Jesus was the faithful witness come from heaven to testify to us of His love and grace. The testimony of the Lord Jesus is the gospel, the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. We must not be ashamed of this glorious witness.

Hebrews 11:2 in speaking of faith said that "by it (faith) the elders (the saints in ages past) obtained a good report." What this means is that the saints all down through the ages by their faithfulness and obedience to God left a good testimony to come down to us. Their lives were a great witness to the goodness and faithfulness of God. In verse 5 of that same chapter it says that Enoch "before his translation had this testimony, that he pleased God." This means that he bore witness and testified by his life and ways that God was pleased with him. We have the word "martyr" that we use in referring to people who suffer death for the gospel. The word "martyr" is a Greek word which means "a witness." But we need to bear witness and hold a testimony for the Lord today even though we may not be called upon to lay down our physical lives. We can be martyrs for Jesus by standing up for the truth of His word and testifying by our tongues and the way we live of the grace of God that we possess.

John saw in Revelation 6:9 "under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held." We can testify of God's power to save, sanctify, heal, bless, answer prayer and of the hope we have in Him of eternal dwellings in the world to come. Tell what God means to you as the Lord gives you opportunity.

Paul said in Acts 20:24 concerning the bonds and afflictions which he knew were waiting for him: "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." He had a wonderful testimony of God's goodness and the salvation of Jesus and he carried it all the way until he sealed it with his own blood. So it must be with us. He said also in II Corinthians 1:12 that the testimony of his conscience was that in simplicity and godly sincerity by the grace of God he had his conversation in the world and toward the saints. Paul's testimony was a valued treasure to him, and he always held it forth for the Lord.

Jesus said in Luke 21:13 in speaking of the persecutions that we will suffer, "...being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist." And we know that He has been faithful to do that for His saints, and He will yet do it for us today. Paul testified before the governor Felix and the king Agrippa and also his testimony echoed in the palace in Rome. Wherever he went he gave his testimony. In II Thessalonians 1:10, in speaking of the coming of the Lord Jesus in the last great day he said, "When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all of them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day." It is a blessed thing for us to believe the testimony of the saints and ministers who have testified of God's power and holiness and how the Lord wants us to live. We are saved today because of someone who was faithful in his or her testimony for the Lord. Let us keep this thing moving. Testify and tell what the Lord has done for you and what He means to you. You do not have to be a pulpit

preacher to testify. Really, that is what a preacher does—testify in the Lord from the gospel of Jesus.

If we will be faithful to hold fast our testimony and live up to the standard of holiness that the Bible teaches unto the end of the journey of life, the Lord will grant us a great reward. We must not testify just to be having something to say, but let us seek God for a real experience of salvation and then keep up with the Lord day by day and always be ready to give a testimony of what we have from Him. The Lord will bless our efforts and open doors for us to give our testimony. We can bear witness on the job, at home, in our neighborhood and in our home congregation. The devil will try to cause us to feel that our testimony is not important for the welfare of souls. But let us be steadfast to testify and tell what the Lord has done and still is doing for us. God will bless our testimony for the good of others.



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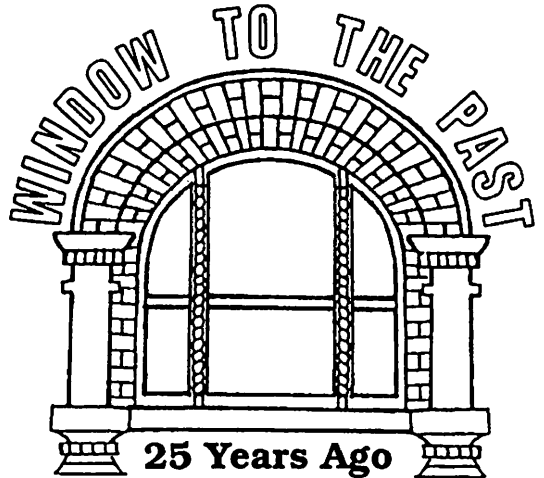
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**Excerpts Taken From
Feb., 1974 Faith and Victory**

“Sixty years ago today [Jan. 1, 1914], I married the man (Erle E. Forbes) who shortly afterwards introduced me to the Church of God people in a little mission in Clovis, NM, and in a very short time, dear Bro. and Sis. George E. Harmon became my spiritual instructors. My husband’s relatives and others were very kind and helpful to me also. I had been one of God’s little ones from ten years of age, but the dear Lord soon helped me to see deeper depths and higher heights in the Christian life. The beautiful truths of “The Evening Light Reformation” were revealed to my soul in the teachings of Jesus, the working of the Holy Spirit with the apostles, and that Jesus, who healed all manner of sickness and disease when He was here on earth, ‘is just the same yesterday, today and forever.’ Hebrews 13:8. My spiritual eyes were being opened and my soul began to yearn for the beautiful life I was hearing about and also seeing lived out among that little group of humble people.

“Now, at 80 years of age, I give God the praise for the wonderful blessings of salvation and good health I am enjoying now. I have learned that ‘in His presence is fullness of joy,’ so that is where I expect to spend my future days—‘in His presence.’ Pray for me.” —Vera Forbes