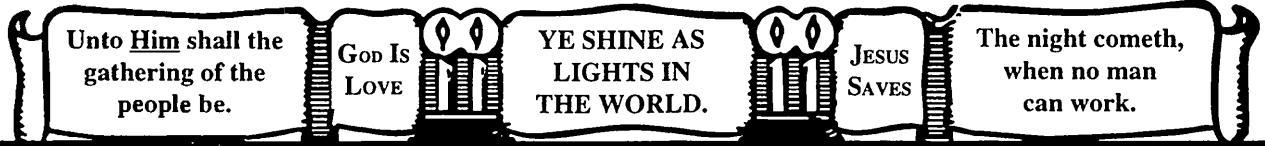


FAITH AND VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



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GOD HEARS



While praying earnestly one day
 With weary heart and earnest mind
 For those in need of help and grace,
 I sought a refuge thus to find.

I thought, "If only I could lift
 My voice to God like trumpet sound,
 I'd rend the heavens for His gift
 That in His favor I'd be found."

And then He spoke so tenderly:
 "Thy voice a trumpet need not rise,
 For, see, My ear now heareth thee,
 Thy faintest cry ascends the skies!"

And then I saw that prayers and needs
 Are not transported by my voice,
 For as my soul for mercy pleads
 He taketh note. How I rejoice!

While many hear, yet do not hear,
 And many see, yet do not see,
 God is to many prayers, I fear:
 He hears, but not attentively.

But they that fear the Lord speak oft'
 To one another, and He hears;
 He hearkens and His heart so soft
 Inscribes a book, records their tears.

The eyes of God His saints watch o'er;
 His ears are open to their pray'rs,
 Takes note of all who Him adore,
 And bears their burdens and their cares.

He hears the heart's deep agony,
 The sighing of the contrite's lip,
 The groaning of the pris'ner's plea,
 The pain of gash and tear and rip.

Oh, let us seek His face in pray'r,
 With broken spirit, humble mind,
 He hears our cries and yearning care
 As we are to His will resigned.

—Leslie C. Busbee

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God's Ways in Our Hearts

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

"Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah. Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools. They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God." Psalm 84:4-7. This text I have pondered over through the years, but just recently I believe the Lord has given precious light and inspiration as to its wonderful meaning.

First I would like to compare this from the King James Version with two other versions. First let us notice what the interlinear Hebrew text has to say, "Blessed are they who dwell in Your house; they will always praise You. Selah. Blessed is the man, strength to him is in You. The highways are in their hearts. Passing through the valley of weeping, they will make it a fountain. The early rain covers even with blessings. They go from strength to strength, appearing before God in Zion." Then let us notice how the Greek Septuagint translation renders this: "Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will praise thee evermore. Pause. Blessed is the man whose help is of thee, O Lord; in his heart he has purposed to go up the valley of weeping, to the place which he has appointed, for there the law-giver will grant blessings. They shall go from strength to strength: the God of gods shall be seen in Sion."

This is a precious text of the holy scriptures which is inspired of God. The whole Psalm is sublime and filled with spiritual benefit. All three of these versions pretty well agree in their expressions with the exception of verses 5 and 6. The word "Baca" in the Hebrew means weeping. The words "of them" are added words by the translators so they are not in the original text. The Hebrew says, "The highways are in their hearts." What highways? This is what we want to get hold of. The Septuagint expresses it as a purpose in the heart of the man whose help is of God to go up the valley of weeping to an appointed place where the lawgiver, that is, the Lord God, will grant His blessings. The word "pools" in our text is translated from the Hebrew word which means blessings. Going from strength to strength de-

notes spiritual progress and advancement and the wonderful experience of appearing before God in the manner, spirit and condition of heart that God will accept and bless.

I believe that we can sum up the message of this scripture in this way: Blessed is that man whose strength is in the Lord, who has it deep in his heart to take the inroads and highways that will lead him to that place of utter resignation and consecration to the will of God, even if it takes him through trial and suffering and humiliation. Enduring the weeping, the self-denial, the cross, the shame, the ridicule and the displeasure of the world, we can press our way in humility, obedience and submission to God through the valley of weeping unto that attitude of heart that God is well pleased with. This is what Zion and the Church of the Lord is all about. It is more than just talk or professing holiness. It is real decision and unwavering purpose of heart to be submissive to God regardless of what it might cost us in the way of what we think or desire.

This requires light and vision on our part—light and vision of what God is pleased with. We see Christ in the example that He set before us of being submissive to the cross that He was called of the Father to bear. God works with us in that manner, bringing us to the cross and the suffering from which He will bring out the blessings and the great reward for our faith. We see it in Abraham, Moses, David and all the beloved saints. Blessed is the man whoever and wherever he is who is willing with a strong purpose to endure the trials and times of weeping with the pleasure of the Lord in mind. This word "blessed" here in the Hebrew is an exclamation: "How happy!"

Let us purpose in our hearts to go up the valley of weeping unto the place that God is desiring to get us to. Let us submit ourselves unto Him, resist the devil and all of his opposing powers, and draw nigh to God. Satan will flee and God will draw nigh to us. We will be seen of Him in Zion and He will be seen of us. But if we draw back and refuse to walk with Him through the valley of weeping we will miss out on the blessings that He has for us.

The Latest Improved

By C. E. Orr

(Continued from last month)

Adam and Eve had this self-life in the purity of their creation; they had organs of sense. It was to these that Satan made his appeals; to the feelings in their self-life, not to the feelings in the divine life of their soul. The will of sense—for such it might be called—overpowered that higher will of the soul, and they yielded to the will of sense as aroused by temptation. We who are pure in heart have this same will of sense. It is this will of sense that must be “kept under,” or in control to the will of God. “Not my will [that is, that lower will of my self-life],” said Jesus, “but thy will, be done.” I will make this plainer as we go on. I feel like making it as plain and simple as I can, even if doing so does require time, because here lies the secret of success in the Christian life. Those who look upon the instructions herein as trifling will do so to their own spiritual injury.

It is natural for us to avoid hardship and suffering. This is not wrong of itself; it is wrong only when it conflicts with the will of God. It is not wrong for you to avoid burning at the stake unless it be God’s will that you should thus end your life. If God wills you to burn at the stake, you must not seek to avoid the ordeal. If we do not watch carefully and live close to God and keep our body under, the will of sense will grow strong and cause us to avoid hardships even when God wills us to undergo them. Be careful that you do not mistake the impulse of sense for the divine will. One may say he does not believe it to be God’s will that he undergo this suffering, when it may be only his humanity. Out of human sympathy we may try to dissuade our brother from doing the will of God. At Caesarea certain brethren tried, out of mere sympathy, to persuade Paul not to go to Jerusalem, where, it was prophesied, he should be bound and delivered to the Gentiles. Seeing that he would not be persuaded, they gave place to that higher will, and said, “The will of the Lord be done.”

This is not confined to the greater affairs of life, such as burning at the stake, but includes the little affairs of everyday life. How easy it is for man to conclude it is the will of God for him to do a certain thing when perhaps it is only the will of sense! Remember, God’s ways are not as our ways. It seems to be a most reasonable thing to the minister that he should go home to his

family. How easy it is for him to believe it is God’s will that he should go! At least, it has been so many times with the writer. He has too often obeyed the human desire and disobeyed God. Such disobedience, if such it may be called, is not sin, since the will of God is not known, but it is being led by the impulse of sense and is detrimental to spirituality. God would have us look more earnestly to Him in order to know His will and not yield so readily to mere human desires.

To enjoy nearness to God we must not be influenced by any will of sense. The impulse of sense is so deceptive that, if we are not very watchful and fully surrendered to God with an intense desire to know and do His will, it will prevent our understanding His will to us. It may not be difficult to convince you that it is God’s will that your brother should go as a missionary to some foreign field, but very difficult to convince you that it is God’s will for you to go, when perhaps it is just as reasonable every way that you should go. It may be the will of sense to remain, that prevents your knowing God’s will.

Here is a truth I wish you to think upon: We cannot see the folly of any passion clearly when we are strongly tempted by that passion. A sanctified man may eat too much sometimes; he may be intemperate sometimes in the sexual relation; and yet the Word of God says, “Whether ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” Let me say, however, that those who enjoy deep union and communion with God are careful to be temperate in their entire manner of life.

As we have stated before, the pure in heart have organs of sense. These organs can be impressed by external objects. These impressions may properly be termed “feelings.” A man filled with the Holy Spirit may, when being praised by some unwise person, be tempted to pride; in other words, he feels a sense of pride. This feeling is in the self-life of the man. A sanctified man is tempted to impatience. He feels a sense of impatience not carnal, but as an impulse of sense in the self-life. When someone does something contrary to your pleasure or wishes, you may have feelings of displeasure or impatience. The patience of a mother is some-

(Continued on page 15)

FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend camp meetings), by Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, OK 73044 (USPS 184-660).

(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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EDITORIALS

In the 20th chapter of Matthew, Jesus offers a parable about a man who went into the market-place to find workers to labor in his vineyard. The market-place was where commerce transpired and a person could expect to find people in need of employment. The men who were hired early in the morning can be commended for getting up and hunting for work, rather than staying in bed hoping for opportunity to lay itself upon their doorstep. As a result of their availability, they were hired to work all day for a penny, which was at that time the price of a day's labor and the common wage of a Roman soldier.

At 9:00 in the morning the man went again to the market-place and found others willing to work. At 12:00 noon and at 3:00 in the afternoon the process was repeated.

The working day ended at 6:00 p.m., but even at the late hour of 5 o'clock, a final effort was made to find laborers. The workers hired at this late hour revealed an admirable trait also. It would have been understandable if each had thought, "There is only one hour left in the working day so there is no use for me to stay around the market. I will go home and rest. There is no way I can earn enough money in one hour to put food on the table for my family. Why stay here any longer?" But they were still looking for something to do.

At evening time, or 6:00 p.m., the man called all his employees and gave each an equal reward, even those who had labored only an hour.

This parable should be an encouragement to all today who labor in Christ's vineyard, even in this "evening time" of 1999. It isn't a time to speculate that the die has already been cast and that there is nothing left for the righteous to do because of the wickedness around us. There are still valuable souls to be harvested. And all who listen can still hear God's call for laborers in His vineyard.

Heaven is at the end for those who are faithful, and we should not let anything discourage us. The devil will try to reason us out of working in God's employ by getting us to look around at circumstances or what others in the vineyard are doing.

If we go into God's vineyard to work when He calls, it doesn't matter if our labor is for 5, 10 or even 75 years. The reward will still be heaven.

And the person who works unnoticed and without applause will be just as valuable as the one heralded for great accomplishments. If you serve as a Sunday School teacher to two children or as the pastor of thousands, the pay is the same. And whether you go into a distant field of Christian labor or God burdens you to stay at home as a prayer warrior, you can still hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy lord." Matt. 25:23.

The message of Christ is that there is much to do. And for all who hear the call to labor in His vineyard, there is a crown and a heaven to be enjoyed at the end of their faithful toil.



We are rejoicing that the Lord has blessed us to be able to obtain an occupancy permit from the city of Guthrie for the new Print Shop facility. Therefore, as God blesses, we plan to start the process of moving during the month of October. Due to the enormity of this task, we expect it will require several months to complete the move. Since we will still have publishing deadlines, we will not be able to break everything down at one time for the move. As a result, it is likely that there will be a period of time when we will have to operate out of both the old and the new facilities.



We are thankful for those who love the work of the Lord and have been willing to support this printing work with both their prayers and means. Such support is critical to the continued operation of the gospel printing work. We want you to know just how vital a part you play in fulfilling what God has laid on our hearts to do. May God bless each of you is our prayer.

—Your brother in Christ, Wayne Murphey



PRAYER REQUESTS



FL—"Please remember me in prayer."

—Kathleen Williams

MI—"My back is weak and has pain in it."

—Sis. Olive Getterson

MO—"Howard is losing his eyesight and would appreciate prayer. I have diabetes."

—Sis. Howard Hill

OH—"Please pray for Janet Reavis and Alma Boggs."

—Sis. Juanita Blankenship

OR—"We would like to ask your prayers for a very urgent unspoken request."

—Bro. Bill and Sis. Ruby Busch

Standing Prayer Requests

- Sis. Lydia Bennett
- Sis. Alscene Breckenridge
- Bro. Jon Busbee
- Sis. Mamie Butcher
- Bro. Nathan Carver
- Bro. Daniel Davis, Jr.
- Bro. Dale Doolittle
- Sis. Elaine Dunn
- Sis. Olive Getterson
- Sis. Pauline Hall
- Bro. Ben Harrison
- Sis. Janice Johnston
- Bro. Louis Kimble
- Sis. Helen Lambright
- Sis. Betty Lassché
- The Lounds sisters
- Sis. Mattie McIntyre
- Sis. Bertha Miles
- Sis. Virginia Myers
- Sis. Dollie O'Neal
- Bro. O. C. Porter
- Sis. Rose Samons
- Sis. Myrtle Savoie
- Sis. Kay Stover
- Sis. Marie Weatherford
- Bro. Curtis Williams, Sr.
- Bro. Max Williamson
- Sis. Esther Wilson



Meeting Reports and Notices

GUTHRIE, OK, SINGING

Plans are being made for a singing to be held in the saints' chapel at Guthrie, OK, 7:00 p.m., October 9. A special invitation is extended to everyone to attend, especially those who have a song on their heart.

Your presence would also be appreciated in the next day's Sunday morning service. After service a lunch will be served in the dining hall.

Sleeping accommodations will be made for all those in need of them.

Further details about this special weekend can be obtained from the pastor, Bro. Stanley Dickson, (405) 260-8822.

HOLLY HILL, SC, FALL MEETING

Lord willing, for our fall meeting, Bro. Louis Kimble and workers will be holding a tent meeting revival here at Holly Hill, SC, beginning Sunday morning, October 17, 1999, and continuing through the next Sunday morning, October 24, 1999. A hearty invitation is extended to all.

Please help us pray the Lord will pour out His anointing, conviction and blessings as we labor together for souls in this tent meeting.

There are cabins and dormitory space to care for all who come. There are also motels approximately 10 miles from the camp ground: Super 8 Motel (803) 854-3456, Ramada Inn (803) 854-2191, Santee Economy Inn (803) 854-2107 and the Days Inn, (803) 854-2175.

For more information you may contact Bro. Carl Shaffer, (803) 492-3256, Bro. Floyd Crummie, (803) 496-5768 or Bro. Alvoid Pratt (803) 492-3366.

**SHREVEPORT, LA,
YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEETING**

The Shreveport, LA, congregation invites you to attend the annual Young People's Meeting October 30-31st. Lessons and games are planned to begin at 10:30 Saturday morning at the church, and a singing around the fire after the Saturday night supper. Call Bro. Jerry Melot for additional information. (318) 938-7233.

SAPULPA, OK, REVIVAL

Lord willing, Bro. Keith Fuller and Bro. Louis Kimble will hold a revival at the Sapulpa Church of God, October 31—November 7, 1999. During the week services will be nightly at 7:00. On the first Sunday the morning service will start at 10:30, and the evening service at 6:00. On the second Sunday of the revival, after the 10:30 morning service, lunch will be served and a 2:00 afternoon service held.

Everyone is welcome to attend. The chapel address is: 8500 Frankoma Rd., Sapulpa, OK. For further directions call the pastor, Bro. James Bell, (918) 247-4579.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK, REVIVAL

The saints of the 23rd Street congregation in Oklahoma City, OK, have announced that Bro. Keith Fuller and Bro. Louis Kimble have felt led

of the Lord to hold revival services with them November 8-14.

Meeting times for the Sunday services will be 10:45 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., with dinner on the grounds. During the week the nightly meeting time will be 7:30.

The chapel is located at 5900 NE 23rd St. For more information please call Bro. Loren Busbee, (405) 341-7291. The chapel telephone number is (405) 427-1223.

LORANGER, LA, ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Loranger, LA, Assembly Meeting is to begin Wednesday night, November 24th, 7:30 p.m. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. daily through Sunday, November 28th.

Please pray with us that this opportunity will be anointed with God's presence. Come receive challenges and blessings.

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

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

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

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

LOS ANGELES, CA, TENT MEETING

Bro. Louis Kimble and others feel burdened to hold a tent meeting in the Los Angeles, CA, area. Lord willing, the dates will be November 29-December 5, 1999.

You can obtain more details as they are planned from Bro. Philip Matthews, (310) 638-6701 or Bro. Louis Kimble, (504) 467-8842.

Contributions toward this effort may be sent to Bro. Keith Butler at 8242 S. Harvard Ave., Suite B, Tulsa, OK 74137-1648. Bro. Keith's phone number is (918) 425-3789.

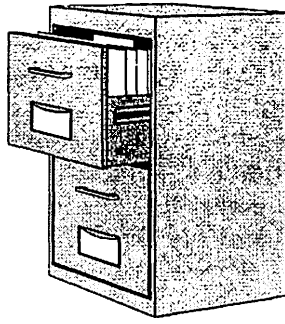
—Submitted by Sis. Bonnie Riley



I love thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of thine abode,
The church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

—Timothy Dwight

LETTERS FROM OUR FILES



NC—Hello saints: I just received my Faith and Victory paper for this month and I saw the URL for the web site. I decided to take a peek. It certainly seems like a nice idea to meet the spiritual needs of the isolated and others by having on-line access—especially in this hectic and fast-paced world. I think it is wonderful! Now, I will virtually be able to attend the Guthrie assemblies and camp meetings via internet! You don't know the times we wished we were there when the meetings were going on. I can hardly wait for that feature to be installed.

I would like to give some helpful suggestions. It might be a good idea to have a section of this web site where actual messages from various camp meetings could be placed in an archive for audio. This would be especially good for those who can't attend the annual Monark meetings, for example.

Love and prayers, —Ivy Lennon

(Editor's note: At this time our plans are to only include the audio of the Guthrie Sunday morning church services on our web site. If that goes well, perhaps at a later date we can branch out with other church services.)



OK—Dear Bro. Wayne: My name is Marvin Friend and I am fifty-five years old, and I live in Guthrie, Oklahoma. I have been acquainted with the Church of God since around 1970 but I never came to a saving knowledge of the grace of Jesus Christ until now. But thank the dear Lord, I want to testify to the saving grace of our mighty God. He has saved my soul in this, the eleventh hour. Praise His name.

I have lived a very wicked and sinful life and have done nothing to merit the love of Jesus Christ. The past of my life has been a life of wasted years and disappointment to God, my family and myself. It has been a life full of confusion and though the Lord would speak with me, I never fully yielded to Him nor quit the

sin business. Many times God spared my life (once I was shot in the chest when I was sixteen years of age and the doctors said I would die) and yet I did not allow His mercy to convert my heart.

I have mistreated many dear people and I am so sorry for the things I have done to them.

In August of this year I prayed, repented and asked God with tears to save my soul. In His mercy He heard my cry and saved my soul. I am so thankful and I praise His name.

I can never relive those wasted years, nor can I change them, but my heart's desire is to be faithful and live the rest of my days for my Lord and Savior.

I have many serious health problems and any of them could take my life. Please pray for God's will to be done in my life and that I will remain faithful unto death.

In Christ, —Marvin Friend



TX—Dear Bro. Wayne and saints: Grace be unto all of you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord, Jesus Christ. I am praying that the Lord will continue His work there.

I want to report that we have the victory through Jesus Christ. There are a lot of false doctrines here in prison and the tracts I have been receiving from you have helped tremendously. The Chaplain here took one to the church he is the pastor of, so I want to let you know the tracts are not in vain....

I want you all to be praying for me because people here are very upset about the false doctrine. I cannot help but tell them what the Bible says. My Bible tells me that the righteous are bold as a lion, (Proverbs 28:1) so what is there to fear? To be honest with you, I would not trade this experience for any amount of money—to be able to share and live a holy life among men who say it cannot be done. When the Lord does a thing who can undo it?

Well, it is late. I must bring this letter to a conclusion. Give everyone my regards. I love you all and continue to pray for the work there.

From your brother in Christ Jesus, —Jackie Riley



TN—Dear Bro. Wayne and co-workers: Christian love, prayers and best wishes to you and everyone there, and for the good work being done at the Faith Publishing House and elsewhere.

Each issue of the *Faith and Victory* is a blessing and an encouragement to press on and be faithful in our duty to both the saved and the unsaved. I thank the Lord for some interest and concern shown by some nearby neighbors and friends. Please help me pray for them, and others, that they will soon know of God's love, mercy, grace and forgiveness.

May God bless and keep you in His loving care,
—Bro. Charles B. Williams

— — — — —

OH—On June 26, (Monday) 1957, I became a Christian. I hadn't been to church in several years. I had been a backslider for 15 years. I began to read the Bible and be under conviction. I would weep for my soul. This went on for a few weeks. Then one Sunday night I knew that I had to do something about my condition.

Early Monday morning I was doing laundry. I was up early because we lived on a farm. My husband went to work early. All at once I felt a need to call the minister down the road. I told him I was confused about certain passages in the Bible. He explained them to me. All at once I broke down and cried. He talked with me and then said, "Let's have a word of prayer." He quoted the Bible, "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out." "For 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 3:16. He quoted other scriptures. I didn't hardly understand what to do. I was lacking faith.

The minister said, "I'm leaving you this little book, *Rescue the Perishing*. I'll be praying for you."

After some duties that I had to perform I sat down with the little book. It read, "The Spirit can't start to work until you believe." Praise God, I reached out by faith and went home to Jesus. I knew I was saved. I made some restitutions right away and called the minister. I told him I was saved. He had mentioned baptism at my home. He said I could go to prayer meeting with them on Wednesday night. I witnessed to my husband and everyone I came in contact with that I had gotten saved.

On Wednesday night at prayer meeting I testified to being saved and requested to be baptized as soon as possible. He said that they would baptize me the following Sunday.

On Sunday, July 2, 1957, I was baptized in a muddy river. As I went under the water I saw

a bright light from the throne and angels folded their wings on both sides. I started shouting. After I came up from the water I shouted again. Then I began to sing "Sweet Will of God." Everyone on the bank wept. How happy we all were. I went back to church that night.

The following Friday night, July 7th, a tent meeting was held by the church where I was attending. During the meeting a minister came to me and asked if I had been sanctified. I told him no. He said that when you come to be saved all you have to present to God are sins. Paul wrote to the Roman Christians in Romans 12:1-2 you have your life to present now. I believed him and presented myself fully. Oh, what a service! They laid hands on me and we all prayed. When the prayers were ended, I said I would have to take it by faith. I felt so peaceful and happy.

Before the experience of entire sanctification I had felt a struggle within, something pulling against me. I told the Lord, "It may be hard, but I am not going back into sin." I happened to walk outside the tent. I felt the old struggle gone. I felt power. I thought, "Praise God, the whole world ought to know about this." I told everyone I saw.

I have been a Christian for 41 years. I have never been sorry.
—Juanita Blankenship

— — — — —

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who said that He would never leave us nor forsake us. I have found it so. My strength comes from within and I know that it is the Holy Ghost whom Jesus sent to lead and advise us. He gives grace and comfort while the world rages. We have peace within as we let the Lord fight our battles....

I am still reading and enjoying the issues from 1998. The September issue, the 75th Anniversary, is a treasure. There are pictures of people whom I have only read about, and now I can see them. There are other pictures, like Bro. Ostis and Sis. Opal, whom I knew for so many years. Also, Bro. Titus Enu whom I had the pleasure of driving around and helping when he was at Pacoima, CA, many years ago.

There is joy in the Lord. It is marvelous how we can be happy in spite of what we have to be subject to. "The life of a Christian suits me, I'm happy, redeemed and free."

Yours in the faith, —Bro. Bob Mickelson

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Ghana, West Africa Report

Dear saints: We thank the Lord for His blessings and goodness to us on our recent trip to Ghana, West Africa. We spent two weeks in Akumadan with the congregation there. The new chapel building has been completed and minor repairs have been made to the mission house.

There was a three-day local outreach meeting and visitors from the town came to hear the gospel. It was the first meeting the saints have had in years. Souls were saved and some were blessed with physical healing. Attendance was such that toward the end of the meeting we had to have separate services for the children and the adults.

Time was spent in services, Bible studies, children's meetings and informal discussion of the scriptures. A lesson taught on the subject of Biblical Marriage had far-reaching effects on the lives of the congregation. Many are taking steps to measure up to the Bible standard in their marriages.

Due to the blessings of God and efforts of the native brethren, there is a new work in Tanaso located about 15 miles from Akumadan. We were impressed by their sincerity and hunger for the truth. They are worshipping under a brush arbor constructed on a donated lot.

We thank each one for their prayers and support. As we freely acknowledge that God is the same everywhere, we also know the Devil is the same as well. There are spiritual battles being fought in Ghana, and we thank God for every victory. Please pray for the work in Ghana that the Lord would continue to encourage and bless His people.

—Bro. Michael and Sis. René Smith

From Nigeria, West Africa...

August 31, 1999—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey

and the saints in Zion: Greetings in the sweetest name of Jesus—the Rose of Sharon, and the Lily of the Valley. Praise Him forever!

We are occupying faithfully and courageously. His word in our mouth is fire indeed that continues to devour the wood. Foes are being put to flight in His might. Our faith in Him is firm which none can dismantle. We are smiling hopefully, because we know that He is coming soon to take His people home to the glory world. Our prayer is for confinement within the Kingdom to trail His track to the end of time. What a day of joy unspeakable it will be to be among the number when the saints shall be marching in. The Lord is praiseworthy granting bodily victory to those afflicted in their body. Divine healing is preached, believed, embraced and enjoyed. Jesus is our Great Physician. Amen.

We express our gratitude to the entire saints of the Church of God in the U. S. A., who came forward to reach us with donations to save us from starvation caused by the great flood disaster of October 1998. We are recovering from its adverse effects encouragingly. The Lord will bless the saints richly for their liberal mindedness and catholicity of sympathy.

Not only is there the road to the far country of sin, there is also the way back to the Father's house. Thank God. Decision without action doesn't bring the blessing. Prodigal sons and daughters are returning home to Zion, one after the other, from the land of captivity. God stands ready and waiting to robe the sinner who returns home with the robe of righteousness. He stands ready to give a kiss of pardon, and the ring of restoration.

Yours in Him, —Bro. Titus U. E. Enu

From India...

August 19, 1999—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to you dear ones in the precious name of Jesus Christ.

Next week is "Onam Festival" holidays in our state. Hindus celebrate this festival. We plan to conduct youth camp meeting during these days, one in the north and another in the south. In the north it will be at Chalakudy and in the south at Karickom. "Let Us Arise and Build" is the theme of the camp meeting. Bible quizzes, Bible references, symposiums, group discussions, testimonies, etc., are some of the programs in the youth camp meeting. I plan to attend both of the

camp meetings. Our prayers are for you. We need your prayers.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese
— — — — —

From Mexico...

September 16, 1999—Dear Bro. Wayne and Print Shop workers: We greet you in the name of Christ from sunny Ensenada. The Lord is blessing and we appreciate His dealings with us. Right now is the end of a beautiful day. The weather is just right. The nights are cool and we enjoy living a simpler lifestyle. But oh, how sweet it is to serve the Lord and minister to His people! I would that more could receive the blessing.

We were so encouraged by the gift we received last week. It is encouraging to know that the saints are behind us and are investing in precious souls.

Bro. Marco and Bro. Saul, the two young men that Bro. James Huskey and I are teaching, are progressing very well. They have shown a real humble spirit. Both of them have joined in the local church's activities with song leading and preaching. Both have led worship in the church during Pastor Mayarino's absence and have brought Spirit-led messages. Pray for Bro. James and me, that we will be faithful to teach them the truth as it is in Jesus, and that these men committed to our charge may be filled with the Spirit and take the message back to their congregation. Pray that the church in Culiacan may join with us in spreading the message of the Evening Light.

Just recently, I read in family devotions about Jonah and how he attempted to run from the Lord. He didn't count on the far-reaching effects of his disobedience. The Lord sent a storm on the sea that affected the sailors, their vessel and the cargo. It would also have affected the Ninevites. All of them would have been lost just because of his disobedience. When Jonah repented and at last obeyed the Lord, his obedience also had far-reaching effects. When he preached his simple message, "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown," all of the Ninevites responded and repented, from the king to the peasant. God had mercy on them. So we never know how far our disobedience or obedience will go. It will surely affect more than our own selves. Be encouraged that your offering to the work of the Lord will have far-reaching effects, not only to the blessing of you and

yours, but also to those in Mexico.

The Lord bless you and keep you in your way. Don't forget to pray for the children and us as we begin our new (home) school year. Please greet the saints there on our behalf.

Yours in Christ, —Joe, Judy, Anna and Paul
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From the Philippines...

August 13, 1999—Dear Brother and Sister Murphey: Greetings to all of you in the name of Jesus. I hope you are all in good health and happy, pressing on to heaven while you are all busy also in your labors bringing precious souls to the fold of Christ.

Sis. Ruth is busy visiting the congregations every Sunday. My brother, Daniel, and my grandson, Daniel, are now preaching full time. They have Bible studies every day around the city and our attendance in Sibut is increasing. They are also preparing for baptisms. Daniel, my brother, is now our local pastor in Sibut. He and his family moved to San Jose. I am doing my best to train them to preach and to teach home Bible studies. They are progressing much in their way of preaching and teaching. I am very much concerned for the advancement of the gospel work here.

Yesterday I went to visit the lot for sale in Gandus, Pantabangan. I am desirous to buy the lot because we need it very much to build a church building there. The congregation there meets in the house of a sister. She and her three children were saved and baptized, but her husband is an unbeliever. There are Sundays when he is drunk and will not permit the congregation to meet for worship in his house. His wife and children are very sorry, but they cannot complain because he has warned them that he will stone them if they continue to worship in his house. The lot for sale is in a very nice location. It has a big old house on it and it only needs a little repair to be used for a meeting place.

It is very encouraging to preach in this place. The people are interested to study the Bible. Many people, including the barrio officials, have expressed their desire to hear the Word of God. They said they will be coming to attend our worship services if we have a chapel there.

Again, may I say thank you for all your sacrifices for us in the Philippines. We are all praying for you.

Your brother in the gospel field,

—Bro. Matias S. Tanganan



Emma Louesa Dilley was born on March 30, 1902, to Joel and Frances Kendrick in Covington, PA. She was united in marriage on December 19, 1918, to Charles Dewey Dennis Dilley. To this union were born three children: two daughters, Eleanor Maxine and Audry Mae and one son, Vernon Lee.

Sis. Emma grew up in Texas County in the Oklahoma Panhandle. Her husband lived in Payne County, not far from her grandfather. She met him when she went to his house on an errand for her grandfather. After marriage, they moved around until they settled in Guthrie, OK, where her husband was employed by the Santa Fe Railroad. They moved back to the Panhandle in 1923, and lived there until 1934, when they moved back to the Guthrie area. During the early 1960's they lived in Torrance, CA. In 1970, they moved to Crescent, OK, and in the late 1970's they moved back to Guthrie.

Sis. Emma worked in floral shops. She enjoyed sewing, needlecrafts, reading and correspondence. She was a faithful member of the Church of God in Guthrie, OK, and will be remembered for her godly example and love of the Lord.

Sis. Emma Dilley fell asleep in Jesus on June 30, 1999, at the age of 97 years and 3 months. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like hers. (Numbers 23:10.)

Sis. Emma was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her son, Vernon Lee Dilley, one sister, one brother and two grandchildren.

She is survived by two daughters, Eleanor White and Audry Lalicker; one brother, Joel Kendrick; 8 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and 38 great-great grandchildren.

Sis. Emma's funeral service was held in the Guthrie, OK, Church of God chapel. Burial was in a cemetery near the town of Mulhall, OK. Those officiating in the services were Bros.. Leslie Busbee, Stanley Dickson, O. C. Porter and Wayne Murphey.

Lillian Eileen Cooper, 64, of Vanceburg, KY, died Tuesday, June 22, 1999, at St. Mary's Hospital in Huntington, WV, as a result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Born April 30, 1935, in Lewis County, she was a daughter of the late Maurice and Cora Bell Smith Johnson. She was a homemaker and member of Garrison Church of God.

Surviving are her husband of 49 years, Paul Cooper; four daughters, Judy Holt, Jane Brown, Nancy Woodruff and Bonnie Flinders; ten sons, Keith, Wayne Harold, Dallas, Jerry, Dennis, Wendell, David, George, Randy and Mark; three sisters, Norma Jean Polley, Margaret Barnett and Felicitas Monroe; six half-brothers, Ed Setters, Henry Setters, Leslie Setters, Paul Setters, John Setters and Charles Setters; 44 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one sister, Bonnie Ray Johnson; one half-sister, Elsie Mae Foster; two brothers, Ronald Clayton Johnson and Leslie Eugene Johnson; and one grandson, Timothy Eugene Cooper.

Services were conducted Saturday, June 26, 1999, at Gaydos Funeral Home in Vanceburg, KY. Sis. Mary Hughes and Bro. James Bruner officiated with burial in Lewis County Memory Gardens at Black Oak, KY.

Walter Green, Sr. was born December 11, 1917, in Memphis, TN. He entered into eternal rest on Sunday, May 9, 1999, after a brief illness.

He worked for the Farrell Cheek Steel Co. and the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant. He was a member of the Evening Light Church of God in Sandusky, OH.

He leaves to cherish his memory four daughters, Carolyn Green, Caffy Steen, Mrs. Robert (Jackie) Moore and Mrs. Richard (Sheronda) McLaughlin; two sons, Walter Green, Jr. and Chad Green; eighteen grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a special niece, Linda R. Green; a special nephew, Charles Green; a host of other nieces, nephews and relatives.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Grace

(Mattie) Marie Alexander Green on August 9, 1998, to whom he was married for 42 years; one child in infancy; his parents, Anthony and Hattie (Fork) Green; four brothers, Corlel Green, Frank Green, Ollie and Anthony Green, Jr.; three sisters, Tommie Butcher, Bessie Mae Green and Lily Mae Green.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. James Bruner and assisted by Bro. Adolph Robinson.

— — — — —
Manuel Francisco, Sr. was born to Zeodore and Gertrude (Dyer) Francisco on September 16, 1922, in Castle, OK. He was the younger of an identical set of twin boys fondly referred to as "Big Honey" and "Little Honey."

Manuel's early childhood years were spent in and around Castle, OK. In 1936, at the age of 15, Manuel moved with his family to Bakersfield, CA. He graduated from Kern Union High School in 1942.

Manuel was a hard worker, competitive and generous. Others could always count on him. Manuel moved many families from Oklahoma to Bakersfield.

Manuel assisted his father in farm labor as a dedicated worker who later became a farm labor contractor himself. He learned to drive trucks, and later established Manuel Francisco Trucking, where he hauled agricultural products and scrap metal in and out of Bakersfield.

Manuel married Erma Lee Hill on October 10, 1943. To this union fifteen children were born, six daughters and nine sons. Manuel and Erma maintained their marriage for 56 years.

Manuel moved his family to Pacoima, CA, in 1965, where he continued to operate his trucking company for more than 30 years. Many skilled truck drivers throughout California attribute their success to the training they received while being employed by Manuel Francisco.

He was blessed by God with mechanical ability, mathematical aptitude and instant recall. Manuel was a strong man, was hardly sick and would often work all night long.

The last years of his life were spent in Sylmar, CA, at the home of his daughter, Cecelia Bowman. During these years Manuel renewed his confidence and trust in the Lord and would often testify of his renewed love for the Lord.

Manuel died peacefully and with a smile on his face Friday morning, July 16, 1999, at the age of 76 years on the Church of God National

camp grounds, Monark Springs, MO—a place of beauty, deep serenity and peace.

Preceding him in death were four sons, Manuel Jr., Zeodore, Louie and Arnulfo.

He leaves to cherish his life and memory his wife of 56 years, Erma, and eleven of his fifteen children, LaFaye Francisco, Cecelia and husband, Adriel Bowman, Manuel and wife, Jacquelyn, Patsy and husband, Eugene Fields, Anceo Stalin and wife, Golettha, Juanakee Francisco, Sebe and wife, Kim, Tymara Francisco-Douglas and husband, James, Wendell and wife, Sheri, Darryl Francisco-Jountti and wife, JoEllen and Colette Teagle. He also leaves three brothers, Felix, Nathaniel and Lawrence "Mackey"; two step-brothers, Everett and W. J. Celestine; three step-sisters, Elizabeth Moore, Nettie Mae Celestine and Wilma Jean Jackson. In addition, he leaves one uncle, Isaac L. Dyer; thirty-seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, as well as many nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Lawrence Francisco and Sis. Twyla Fields, assisted by others. Interment was in the Union Cemetery, Bakersfield, CA.

— — — — —
Tammy Louise Clevenger died Tuesday, July 20, 1999, at the home of her parents in Webster Springs, WV. She was born to William and Sondra O'Dell on January 28, 1969, in Cowen, WV, the third of five daughters. She was married to Marty Clevenger on May 25, 1986. To this union four children were born.

She leaves to mourn her parents; her husband, Marty; her children, Sabrina M., Sarah K., Marty B. and Seth A.; as well as her four sisters, Betsy, Sondra, Lisa and Karen. She had one maternal grandmother, Lillian Tracy.

Services were conducted in the Dodd & Reed Funeral Home in Webster Springs, WV, by Bros. Toney Samons and Bob Huskey. She was buried at Harnson Cockran Cemetery in Webster Co.

Tammy was saved at an early age and always applied herself to serving the Lord sincerely. She was a natural musician, giving hours of pleasure to her family and friends on the guitar and piano, accompanied by her beautiful, melodious voice. She blessed the Church with her singing and her love for others. Long hours were given to the Christian school where her children were enrolled. She became a faithful friend to many of the young people and

opened her home and her heart to them. She had a way of making every friend feel like they were the "best."

When her husband was called to the ministry, Tammy supported him fully and traveled many miles with him even when she was physically stressed.

Tammy never complained, but was always optimistic. In her last days, she wished to laugh again. She is now smiling with the angels. She will be sadly missed by a host of family and friends. We thank God for every memory left with us.

Note of Thanks

We would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to each one for their prayers, cards, flowers and gifts. The amount of concern and support was overwhelming and there is no way to thank each one personally. Please accept our sincere thanks for all of your love and support. —The Marty Clevenger Family

Joe J. Taylor, son of Arthur and Sevena (Grace) Taylor, was born June 4, 1921, at Guthrie, OK and passed from this life September 18, 1999, at Colonial Estates Nursing Home, Guthrie, OK, at the age of 78 years, 4 months and 14 days.

Joe attended the Guthrie schools. In 1940 he married Imogene Simpson. Both were 19 years of age. They met in the first grade and were friends growing up. Four children were born to this union: Merle Richard, Nancy Ann, Joyce Elaine and Ronald Joe. They were married 59 years on June 15, 1999.

His life's work was growing vegetable plants and flowers in his greenhouses, with the assistance of his wife, for 50 years or more. As a child he bought and sold fresh produce in a small horse drawn wagon. In those days the grocery stores didn't have the fresh produce they have today. His customers looked forward to his coming. Knowing Joe, could you believe he was timid and bashful at this time, and he would send his younger brother, Ralph, to collect for their sales?

In Joe's early married life he operated the Blue Jay Roller Rink for 15 years. He also operated and owned Taylor Fruit Market for 15 years. In his slack time he worked in the oil fields. He worked mostly in the fall between seasons of the fruit market and greenhouses. He never smoked or drank with any of the oil

field workers, but was a good example of his Christian experience. He had found the Lord in his early married life. Joe had a big heart and was always doing for others.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Bernadine Smith; two brothers, Leroy and Ralph Taylor, and his son, Merle Richard Taylor.

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife of 59 years, Imogene; one son, Ronald Joe Taylor and wife, Mickey; two daughters, Nancy Ann and John Davison, Joyce Elaine and John Cunningham, Merle's wife, Ruby Taylor; thirteen grandchildren, Mary Dilks, Manuel and Pam Ortiz, Ruby Linn Meziere, Bryan Davis, John, Jayson and Bobby Davison, Michael Cunningham, Gina Ritchey, Heather, Mitzi and Derrick Taylor; twenty-two great-grandchildren, eight great-great-grandchildren and many relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held in the Guthrie, OK, Church of God chapel, with burial in the Taylor Cemetery, Guthrie, OK. Officiating ministers were Bros. Ed Wilson, Stanley Dickson and Wayne Murphey.

Edward Lee Sorrell was born on October 31, 1932, to Earl E. and Leta N. (Reynolds) Sorrell, in Myrtle, MO, and went to be with the Lord on September 14, 1999, at the age of 66 years.

He lived in Myrtle until his graduation from Couch High School, and then moved to Springfield, MO, where he attended business college. Edward was recruited from the business college by Frisco Railroad. On January 10, 1957, Edward was married to Nelda Doolittle. To this marriage came three children, Leland, Arlynn and Lynette.

In 1958, Edward moved his family to California, where he joined the Union Pacific Railroad and advanced through numerous positions until his retirement in 1985. In 1986, Edward, with his wife, moved to Guthrie, OK, where he lived until his passing.

Edward was saved as a young man in the Church of God. Through the years his heart was easily touched by the needs of the Lord's servants who had sacrificed their livelihood for God's cause. Edward labored, "...working with his hands...that he may have to give to him that needeth." Ephesians 4:28. God provided, "...very present help in trouble" to many of His servants by the hand of Bro. Ed. Edward earned much of

his livelihood through real estate investing, but laid it aside and sacrificed potential gain to devote all his time and resources to the work of the Lord.

Edward was preceded in death by his parents. He leaves to mourn his passing his wife of 42 years, Nelda; his children Leland Sorrell, Arlynn and Sarah Sorrell and Lynette and Malcolm McMillan; grandchildren, Keri, Kyra, Jonathan and Michael Sorrell, Jarrad and Chelsey McMillan; two brothers, Sherman and Joe; one sister, Coquette Butler, many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted in the Guthrie, OK, Church of God chapel, with burial in the Summit View Cemetery. Bros. Ed Wilson and Stanley Dickson officiated.

Note of Thanks

Words cannot express our deep appreciation for your prayers during Ed's illness. Several times he marveled at the strength and alertness given him in spite of many days and nights without sleep. The Lord was mindful of every petition and sustained us miraculously.

The love shown to us through phone calls, cards, floral gifts and food has been overwhelming. What a privilege to be a part of God's family! Ed's faith and trust in God was unwavering. He assured us it was victory either way, whether the Lord took him or raised him up. His strong testimony and steadfast faith is a comfort to us now. We covet your prayers that we too will prove faithful and that God will be glorified through our lives.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell and family

Lavina Edna (Wahl) Martens was born September 28, 1917, the daughter of Robert and Elizabeth (Ratzlaff) Wahl, at Boyd, OK. The family moved to Fairview, OK, and then to Lahoma, OK, where she met her companion of 63 years, Isaac H. Martens. On August 9, 1936 they were united in marriage at Lahoma, and became Christians in their young married life. To this union five children were born, Clarence, Edgar, Karyn, Everett and Wanda.

Isaac and Lavina farmed throughout Kansas for several years, settling on a farm south of Anthony in 1945. They moved to town in 1964, and remained there until their move to Heartland Health Care Center in Kingman, KS, in 1995.

As a farm wife and mother, Lavina was

active in the Farm Bureau's Home Demonstration unit and obtained her L.P.N. nursing license. At times she rode her bicycle from the farm to work at the Galloway and Anthony Hospital, a distance of five miles.

In 1964 she discovered she had multiple sclerosis. Even though she had to leave nursing, she stayed connected by participating in MS research throughout her life. She often said, "I wouldn't trade to have a healthy body, if it meant missing out on knowing my Lord Jesus as I do."

Some of her favorite things were reading, sewing, flowers, singing along while some of the family played the piano, and especially playing dominoes with her sister, Frances, and her companion.

On Sunday, September 5, 1999, Lavina passed away at Kingman. She will be greatly missed by her husband, Ike; sons, Clarence and his wife, Ilse, Edgar and his wife, Gloria and Everett and his wife, Mary; daughters, Karyn Woodward and Wanda Martens; a brother, Leonard Wahl; sisters, Frances Goodman and Juanita Jackson; 13 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, other relatives and many friends.

Lavina was laid to rest in the Forest Park Cemetery, Anthony, KS. Bros. Wayne Murphey and Leslie Busbee officiated.

Otis Sidney Francisco was born May 8, 1919, in Castle, OK. He was the second of thirteen children born to Zeodore and Gertrude (Dyer) Francisco. His parents, five sisters, three brothers and two children preceded him in death. He passed away on July 9, 1999.

He was united in marriage to Henrietta Blackwell on December 27, 1940. To this union nine children were born. His love for his wife and family remained fervent throughout his nearly 59 years of marriage.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Henrietta (Pat) Francisco; three daughters and four sons, Shirley Francisco, Odessa and Cebron Bradford, Kathy and Gary Reeves, Otis and Melba Francisco, Raymond Francisco, Herman Francisco and Leo and Denise Francisco. He also leaves four brothers, Felix, Manuel, Nathaniel and Lawrence (Mackey); one uncle, Isaac Dyer; two step-brothers, Everett and W.J. Celestine; three step-sisters, Elizabeth Moore, Nettie Mae Celestine and Wilma Jean Jackson; 17 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and a host of relatives, saints and friends.

Services were conducted by Bros. Eddie Johnson, Clarence Hattley and Darrell A. Johnson.



The Latest Improved

(Continued from page 3)

times tried by the conduct of a child. The trying of patience is simply feelings of impatience in the self-life. But in her patience she is to possess her soul. Those feelings of impatience are to be resisted in the strength of the Lord. Resist them with prayer.

I have now brought you to the place where I am ready to tell you how to grow in grace, how to increase, how to make progress in the divine life, which is all that is meant by the expressions, "getting closer to God," "becoming more like Christ," etc. Remember this: feelings are strengthened by being indulged. You are tempted to pride, to lightness, to impatience; you have feeling of pride, lightness, impatience, for this is what temptations are. These feelings should be immediately and indignantly resisted. Get after them in earnest. The very exercise of resisting is what will develop and strengthen the spiritual powers; but if the feelings are indulged, they will grow stronger and the spiritual powers grow weaker. If you value your spiritual prosperity, you will be very quick to resist every temptation. Sometimes people allow a tired, mean, impatient feeling to settle down upon them for hours. They do not feel pleasant, neither do they look pleasant. Such feelings leave their trace behind. They are a dangerous foe. Loathe them, despise them. Go to the Lord in earnest prayer and pray until joy springs up in the soul, a smile beams on the face, and the bad feelings are made to fly away like a startled bird. Some say, "We cannot prevent bad feelings and thoughts from attacking us." They use the words of Luther—"We cannot prevent birds from flying over our heads, but can prevent them from building nests in our hair." It is no sin nor source of discouragement to be attacked by bad feelings and bad thoughts. But bear in mind that we can frighten the birds that are flying over and thus make them fly quickly, and that after being frightened a few times they will fly far around or very high over. So with bad feelings and bad thoughts: if earnestly and indig-

nantly resisted, they will fly away quickly, and their assaults will grow weaker and weaker. It is God's will that we eat, drink, and sleep; but to be intemperate in these is to destroy spiritual life. We should be guided by a sense of the divine will, and not by a sense of human desire. To yield to the lower will of sense is to be soon abandoned to self and destitute of grace.

I have been asked whether it is possible for us to attain such a degree of perfection that we should never speak a harsh, impatient word or a light word, or be the least intemperate in any way. My answer is that by much prayer, by close watching, and earnest resisting, the will of sense can be so weakened and the soul become so habituated to act under a sense of the divine will that foolish or impatient words, impulsive actions, or any intemperance will be very few and far between. This is being strong in the grace of God.

Again, I have been asked, "Can we reach a place where we shall be no more tempted?" Yes; if you are earnest and faithful, you will reach it when you arrive in that land where flesh and blood cannot enter. There you will no more be tempted. But as long as you are here in the flesh, you will be tempted. In the very nature of things you need to be. Your spiritual powers would weaken if they had nothing to resist. Let me here acquaint you with a device of Satan. All these attacks upon the will of sense are made by the devil. He will use some external object to try you. He may withhold temptation for a long time in order that you may become careless and cease to watch and pray, and thus in a measure lose your power of resistance. Then he will come in with a slight attack, so slight you will not detect it in your weakened state. If it be an attack to impatience, you will speak a little hastily, but will

"I have been asked whether it is possible for us to attain such a degree of perfection that we should never speak a harsh, impatient word or a light word, or be the least intemperate in any way."

scarcely perceive it and will think it of little consequence. But his attacks will grow stronger; your words will grow more hasty; there will be frettings and worryings; and you will be so stupid that you will not be aware of your backsliding. Do not cease your watching and praying even if you have no temptations. Alas, how many have gone down under this cunning device of Satan! This is a scheme he plays well.

(To be continued next month.)

The Secret to Life

By Sis. Saprena Cooley
(Adapted from a presentation to the
Vanceburg, KY, Congregation)

Consider yourself very blessed. Christ loves you. He gave you a house, a car, wonderful children and He gives you strength to function and to care for yourself. So I ask you, are you happy or are you just sort of lost in time—wondering when all the tiredness will end? I pray that you are happy and content, but if for some reason you are not, then Christ has something for you.

What Christ wants to reveal to you is important to our lives. In fact, it is so important that I have given it a title: "The Secret to Life." I call it this, not because I don't want to share it but because it is precious—just as our own secrets are precious to us. Does anyone know the answer to this? It is "will power."

If you think really hard you will see that this simple yet strong answer makes sense. God created will power and we have a decision to use it for good or evil.

Just like Aunt Mary Hughes referred to last Sunday, decisions are based on our determination. If we are determined to do the dishes and don't do them, we are weakening our will power. Each time a determination becomes a failure we weaken our will power, and before we know it we haven't the ability to stand against evil.

I have a confession to make. When my mother was talking about singing at the lake in Ohio, and that one of us was embarrassed and seemed ashamed—well, that was me. I have asked Christ to forgive me. But this is an example of will power. You see, when my family began to sing, it caught me off guard, and the devil then had time to sneak in and cause me to be ashamed of something I had no intention to be shy about. So, the devil weakened my will power and caused me to be a bad example to my other family members who need the gospel. If we let our guard down and we don't expect the unexpected, then our will power will vanish in due time.

We need to be more demanding with ourselves, just as Christ demands we give our all

to Him. I don't mean demanding as threatening, but as in a strong determination to do for Christ.

If we defeat the devil and have full control over our own will power, then nothing can come between us and Christ. We will succeed and make it to heaven.

Sometimes our determination to stay in the race for God and to continue our duties gets rather tough. We feel our last string is being pulled. But if you hang in there and keep willfully trying for Christ's sake, you will eventually see and feel that you are indeed needed by more than you can count. And especially you are needed by Christ. We are to be His "walking on earth Angels." Therefore we have a job to fulfill until we die. I love you all! And my prayers are for our will power to be working for Christ.



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