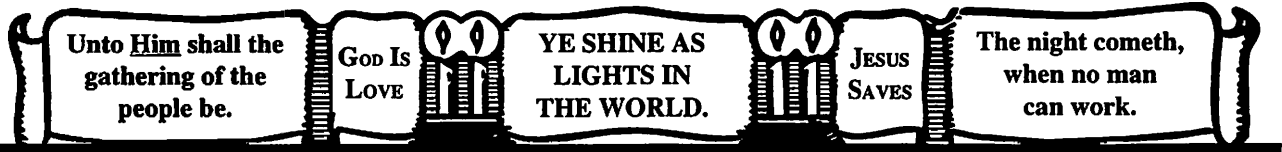


FAITH AND VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



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Thanksgiving

I thank Thee, dear Lord, for my eyes
That see the color of the skies—
The spell that Autumn softly weaves,
The beauty of the changing leaves.

I thank Thee I have ears to hear
The sounds of Nature, sweet and clear;
A robin singing up above,
The voice of someone that I love.

I thank Thee for these lips of mine
That from Thy chalice sip the wine
Of heaven, and their power to sing
My gratitude to Thee, my King.

Oh may these lips and ears and eyes
Be kept from vanity and lies,
That what is beautiful to Thee
I only speak and hear and see.

—Author Unknown

The Attitude Is Gratitude

By Sis. Raleah Murphey

Are you ever tempted to grumble, to gripe and complain, to bemoan your circumstances? It is true that routines and the pressures of life sometimes succeed in dulling our senses, causing us to become nearsighted—so nearsighted, in fact, that at times our “vision” cannot take in anything but the small concerns that stare us in the face—the ones immediately in front of us!

Should my commentary end here, it would be a sad one indeed, but there is a remedy for this disease that so often tends to strike the common man. The remedy I speak of is gratitude. A true sense of gratitude will put both present and future concerns into their proper perspective.

The story is told of a poor European girl who lived during a famine. The baker in the village had a practice of putting the loaves of bread that didn't sell in his shop in a barrel outside his bakery door. This he did so that the children could come and get the loaves. As the baker

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watched the children day after day, he noticed one girl in particular. There was something about her that caught his attention. This particular girl was hungry like all the other children, yet she never pushed or shoved, but rather waited patiently at the side until all the other children had gotten a loaf of bread, and then she would take whatever was left. Even though the loaf was sometimes very small, she always kindly thanked the baker.

One day the baker decided to reward the girl for her patience and gratitude. Inside one very small, ill-formed loaf he placed some gold coins. As usual, the children came and greedily grabbed the loaves of bread. And as usual, the girl of my story waited until last and then gratefully lifted the tiny, misshapen loaf from the bottom of the barrel. She smiled at the baker and said, "Thank you."

When the girl returned home and the coins fell out as her mother cut the loaf, the mother thought that surely they must have fallen into the dough by accident. So she sent her daughter back to the baker with the gold coins. "No," the baker said, "the coins are for you because you are always so grateful!"

Do you know that God is very much like that baker? He doesn't always give gold coins, but He does reward. Though our petty troubles or misfortunes may seem cumbersome at times, He will always bless the grateful heart with contentment and happiness.

How many of us live in a house without giving a thought to those who are homeless, or to those whose homes are not nearly as nice as ours? How many of us jump into our vehicles presuming they will quickly take us to our destination, never stopping to be grateful for such an efficient method of transportation? Do we have a decent job, maybe even a good job? We should be grateful! And do you know there are people who are lonely and sad who would love to have the close relationships that we so enjoy, but for which we sometimes take for granted?

We should be thankful for this very day—that we are strong enough and healthy enough to simply enjoy life! Have you stopped to consider that there are people who are sick, some of them terminally ill, who have not enjoyed this day because of the pain they felt? There are those with physical handicaps who would be ever so grateful for the things that we presume upon every day.

Do we appreciate life? Life itself is not to be taken for granted. There are those whose lives have never even had the chance to begin, and by no choice of their own. There are beautiful babies and innocent children whose lives have been cut short by some terrible tragedy. There are mothers and fathers who, all too soon, were taken from their precious children.

Besides all this, are there extra-special and nice things that happen to us? Do we have those who truly love and care for us—who take to heart the happenings of our everyday lives? How grateful, how thankful we should be!

So, when daily annoyances, bumps and bruises, twists and turns, a snag here and a snag there rock our little boats on the sea of life, don't just stop rowing or throw everything overboard. Don't feel sad and depressed that life is hard. Don't make people around you miserable until they recognize your misfortunes. Instead, take a little time to reflect upon the many blessings you do have. May we learn to cultivate a reverence and an awe for the One who so graciously bestows such wonderful things on us!

Gratitude is an attitude of the heart—a deep appreciation and a sincere "Thank you" for even the smallest everyday blessings. If we could only keep a good dose of this on hand, we would have much less irritation caused by our own near-sightedness.



When Attitude Miracles Happen

Two sisters were in the kitchen washing supper dishes.

"Wouldn't it be nice if we had a dishwasher?" said the younger sister as she dried another glass with the tea towel. "Then we would only have to rinse all these dishes, put them in the dishwasher, and put the dishes away after they were cleaned.

"That would be nice," agreed the older sister as she dunked a stack of dirty plates into hot, sudsy water. "But the water heater would have to be fixed. We have to boil water on the stove to wash dishes and you know how we struggle to get the clothes washed when we have hot water for the washing machine."

"Well, wouldn't it be nice if the water heater was fixed and the faucets in the bathroom worked so that we could get both hot and cold water in the sink and in the bathtub? Then we

wouldn't have to carry so much water to the bathroom at bath time."

"Yes, and we need a bathroom heater. It is so cold in there. In fact, I wish we had a big heater so all our house was warm and not just one room."

"That would be nice," said the younger. "I really hope it doesn't sleet or snow too much this winter. I get tired of the roof leaking and the cellar filling with water. It makes me nauseated."

"I agree. If the hole in the floor was fixed and the sewer lines repaired, that damp odor wouldn't come into the house so badly."

The younger one sighed. "Let's pray a miracle will happen and we can move."

"I haven't quit praying," replied the older.

Soon the girls were finished in the kitchen. With reading material in hand, each curled up in an afghan on the living room couch.

"Listen to this!" exclaimed the younger one as she showed her sister a picture of a teenage girl living in Pakistan. "This seventeen-year-old girl witnessed to an eighteen-year-old girl about Jesus Christ. Raheela was hungry for the Gospel and quickly learned Christian songs at Saleema's house. Raheela's younger sister told their Muslim parents that Raheela was singing Christian songs. When they questioned Raheela about Jesus Christ, she told them quietly that she believed in Him.

"This made her parents furious! They tortured her in many ways and finally killed her.

Then they had the Pakistan authorities arrest Saleema and she was whipped 16 times so badly that she could not sit for two weeks. Raheela's parents are claiming that Saleema 'murdered' their daughter because Saleema had converted Raheela to Christianity.

"Now Saleema and her family are in hiding because their lives have been threatened. This article is asking for us to pray for Saleema that her coming trial will be quick and that righteousness will prevail. Saleema told an American missionary, 'I have seen the world, and it has nothing good. Jesus is my only peace.'"

The two sisters were silent for awhile as they thought about the other two girls who loved the Lord like they did.

"We have never been beaten for our faith in the Lord," said the older sister quietly. "Our parents love the Lord and teach us to live for Him."

The younger one drew her afghan closer around herself. "I guess we don't have things so terrible after all. We need to be thankful for a loving family and friends. Let's pray for our country that we will always have the liberty to worship the Lord and witness freely for Him."

"Yes," agreed the older sister. "If we have the Lord within us, then we shouldn't complain about our little problems. As Saleema said, 'Jesus is my only peace.' We have Jesus with us, so we need to be at peace also."

That's when an attitude miracle happened for these two sisters. —Selected



The Scriptural Meaning of Prophets and Prophecy and Can Women Share In This Gift?

By Bro. Harlan Sorrell



What is the meaning of a "prophet," and what does it mean to "prophesy?" Let us begin by considering a few scriptures.

"And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?" I Corinthians 12:28-30.

"He that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort... he

that prophesieth edifieth the church." I Cor. 14:3-4.

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." Matthew 7:15.

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring

(Continued on page 11)

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16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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"And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham: and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them."

Gen. 26:18.

In Old Testament times a well of water was of great importance. In Bible lands it does not rain for nine months out of the year, so life existed around the oasis made possible by wells. Travelers pitched their tents and sometimes took up permanent abode in those places of refreshment. The raising of livestock could be directly attributed to wells. Wells provided strength for the weak, refreshment for the weary.

Christ brought the significance of the well over into the spiritual realm. It is recorded in John 4:6-10, "Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water."

Isaiah also realized the spiritual aspect of the well when he prophesied in Isaiah 12:2-3: "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." It should be our utmost desire to keep these wells of salvation flowing freely.

Our society to a great degree has gone about to fill in the pure wells of salvation with counterfeit joy. Standards for lifestyles have

been set by people devoid of God and promoted through all forms of media. It seems at times as though an entire truck load of immorality has filled the well which gives life.

It is time to dig again the wells of our fathers. Even if our country as a whole fails to return to godly values, let us be grateful, especially during this Thanksgiving season, that within our own hearts we can have our very own personal well of salvation. Yes, even in the year of 1999 we can fulfill the prophecy—"Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation."

By the blessings of the Lord, during the month of October we moved the print shop offices to our new location at 4318 S. Division. Because of our need to meet publication deadlines, it is not practical to break down our whole operation and move it at one time. Lord willing, in November we will move the mailing department along with our storage of books and tracts.

It is somewhat inconvenient to operate out of two locations and may temporarily slow down the efficiency of getting out orders, so we ask for your patience in this matter.

We return praise to God for the singing He blessed us with here at Guthrie on October 9. Special singers from many of the Oklahoma congregations, as well as from other states, provided songs which brought honor to God and His son, Jesus, and inspired praise in the hearts of His children.

The fellowship of the saints flowed into the next morning's Sunday service as Bro. Marty Clevenger, of West Virginia, brought a message on the unity of God's people.

We continue to solicit the supporting prayers of all God's people. There are hurdles to overcome in spreading the gospel, and it is only through the power derived from God's Spirit that we can have any degree of success.

The testimonies, articles, etc., of those who love the Lord are also requested. These help to make the *Faith and Victory* a blessing to others. If we can be of service to you, through sharing your burdens in prayer or in providing gospel literature, please let us know. Yours in Christ, —Bro. Wayne Murphey



OK—"I need your prayers. My eyes are very blurry and I have infection in my body. My breathing has been better the last several days. Thank the Lord." —Sis. Avis Tinsley

IL—"Please pray for me and my family. I have two daughters who are in deep sin. Please pray that the Lord will save them."

—Lillian Beed

CA—Doris Pihaylic has some special needs.

OR—"We desire earnest prayer for Jerry Johnson and Jonetta Taylor. Both of them have serious afflictions."

—Bro. Bill and Sis. Ruby Busch

CA—"Please have the saints pray for my mother, Sis. Melia Viser. She is not doing well at all." —Paul Viser

"Dear brothers and sisters: I feel very discouraged and desperate for God's healing in my life. I have been backsliding for several years and desire to get back where God wants me to be. Some of my history is a failed marriage after 22 years to a man who got involved with drugs and chose drugs over our family with four children. I am not blameless, as I gave up on our marriage when I felt so weary from the abuse. The children and I went to church alone and he would never consider it. I have scarcely gone to church since then and need to find a home church after several moves to new areas.

Please pray for healing in our lives. I feel so much guilt, and am so burdened and unworthy. I know my life needs change and I want God's loving grace in my life once again, for myself and my children. I don't even know what to ask for, but God knows and I know that He can and will change our lives. Thank you for your prayers and help." —Ruth Little

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

XENIA, OH, TENT REPORT

The evangelistic tent was pitched in Xenia, OH, from Monday, September 5, to Sunday, September 12. The Lord blessed with His presence in the services by dealing with souls during the day in intensive teaching sessions and at night during the evangelistic services. Some came from the Akron, OH, Youth Roundup to help support the meeting, as well as others from Kentucky, Oklahoma, California and Louisiana. God miraculously delivered and saved one soul at the end of the meeting for which we praise Him.

Continued prayer is needed for the burdens in the Xenia and Dayton areas. We appreciate the support and prayers, and may the Lord bless all who had a part in this tent effort.

—Submitted by Sis. Bonnie Riley



WICHITA, KS, MEETING REPORT

We serve such a faithful God and we give Him the praise. He blessed and supplied ministers for our meeting, and we thank everyone for their participation and the Word which they

delivered to us. The Lord blessed and enriched the souls of many.

The greatest blessing of all came on the last Sunday morning when conviction was overpowering and souls yielded to God. We are happy to report that seven souls sought for salvation, and we believe most of them hit the rock. How glorious it would be if they would keep saved and go all the way to heaven at last. Pray for newly saved saints everywhere.

We were already rejoicing the Wednesday night just before the meeting started because six young men had gotten saved before the Youth Roundup in Akron. We need strong, saved men to help keep the Church moving on. Let us pray that more men will see the beauty and glory of being men for God and having the power to lead successful families.

We thank God for sweet victory.

—Submitted by Sis. Shirley Knight



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.



TULSA, OK REVIVAL

Lord willing, Bro. Louis Kimble and Bro. Keith Fuller will hold a revival meeting at the Church of God chapel, 1102 E. Pine Pl., Tulsa, OK, November 17-November 21, 1999.

Services on the 17th-20th are scheduled to start at 7:00 nightly. On Sunday, the 21st, services will begin with Sunday school.

All are welcome to attend these services.

Please pray for this meeting. For further information call Bro. Charles Lowe, the pastor, (918) 584-6838.



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) 481-6868.

—Submitted by Sis. Bonnie Riley, (918) 425-3789.

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 93rd annual Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held at Guthrie, OK, from December 24, 1999, through January 2, 2000. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U.S. The first service will be held Friday evening, December 24, at 7:30 p.m. Daily worship services throughout the remainder of the meeting will start at 10:15 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. There will also be morning prayer services and youth services, the time of which will be announced at the meeting.

The campgrounds are located east off of Sooner Road on Lakeview Road, which is a little over four tenths of a mile south of the intersection of South Division and Sooner Road. All who come will be cared for. The expenses of the meeting will be met by freewill offerings.

We especially urge the saints in Oklahoma

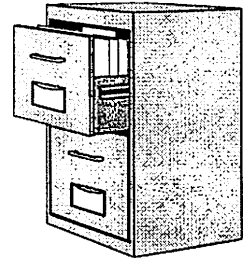
and the surrounding states to attend this meeting. Pastors and gospel workers, encourage your congregations to spend part of their Christmas holidays at this meeting. Come praying with a burden for the unsaved and for all those who need help in soul and body.

Please send all contributions for the coming State Assembly Meeting directly to the State Treasurer, Sister Brenda Wilkins, 1023 E. Prairie Grove Rd., Guthrie, OK 73044.

To obtain further information about the meeting, please contact the pastor, Bro. Stanley Dickson (405) 260-8822.



*From
Our
Letter
Files*



OK—Dear saints and workers at the Print Shop: May God richly bless you all for your labors of love.

I am saved, sanctified and satisfied in Jesus, thank the dear Lord.

I feel as though I have been somewhat slack about telling of God's greatness and His goodness toward me. Jesus has been so good to me. "No other Friend so kind could be."

I want to tell of some of the things He has done for me recently. About a year and a half ago, I had a roaring in my head that was very annoying. It sounded and felt as though water or some kind of liquid was flowing through my head. When the weather would become cloudy, or if it would rain, it would disturb me very much. The saints were praying for me, and thank God He healed me of that affliction.

Just a few months ago I had severe trouble with my back. When I would move about quite a bit, my back would pop like the joints in your knee. It was very painful. The lower part of my back would hurt severely. The saints were praying and God came to my rescue. I still have some problems with my back, but not nearly as severe. Praise God.

A few weeks ago I had what we think was a mild heart attack. I felt as though I was dying, but God, through His great love and mercy, came to my rescue. I thank God for sparing my

life. He is worthy to be praised and I praise Him.

About three or four months ago my husband, Shirley, and I were returning home from Bro. and Sis. Louis Kimble's. On our way back we ran into extremely heavy rain and couldn't see the road at all. The only thing we could see was lights. We had never been in such heavy rain before. There was an eighteen-wheeler ahead of us. It jackknifed and bumped the front of our car. There was an eighteen-wheeler behind us, so there we were between two eighteen-wheelers, but God was with us. He was the only thing between us and disaster. He sent a miracle our way. Praise God for His goodness!

The most recent drastic thing that happened to us was Monday, September 6, 1999. My husband, Leo Johnson, and I were on our way home from Okmulgee. There were some cattle on the highway and one ran out in front of us. Leo hit one of them. It damaged the truck to the extent that he couldn't drive it, but thank God we were not hurt. "Oh! I'll never cease to praise Him, hallelujah!"

We thank all the saints who have been praying for us.

Love and prayers, —Sis. Lucille Johnson
 — — — — —

LA—Faith Publishing House: May God bless every one in every way.

The Lord surely blessed when I had a car accident. My car was totaled. The seatbelt sure helped me, but it hurt my shoulder and neck when I was spinning around. The Lord has helped me in my body. I have gotten along very well. I thank the Lord for everything He does for me.

May His blessings be on everyone everywhere.

With love and prayer, —Sis. Velma Mancil
 — — — — —

D. C.—Greetings in the name of the Lord: Thanks for the *Faith and Victory*. We enjoy reading it....

May God bless you in your ministry.
 Sincerely, —Victor B. Phillips
 — — — — —

OK—Dear ones: Greetings of Christian love in the precious name of Jesus, our Redeemer from sin. How wonderful it is to be loving and serving Him every day.

Not long ago I moved from my apartment into the Golden Rule Home as a necessary step for my health's sake. I am no longer able to stay

alone. I have a lovely room but it is not able to accommodate everything which was in my apartment. Something needed to be done with many things. I desired first that my two boys select what they wanted, then the grandchildren were next in priority. My son who lives in Florida, was planning to be here the 5th of July, so I notified all the rest so they could be here, too.

Gail, the older one of the boys, arranged that the two boys, their wives and I would be together all morning, then the grandchildren could meet us here when we returned from eating lunch.

Saints, the entire day was such a blessing that words fail to describe it. All worked together so compatibly, each esteeming others better than themselves and everyone willing to give up anything to another when it was necessary.

Ever since the Lord revealed to me He wanted me in the rest home, it has been unbelievably easy to leave the apartment, even though it was the nicest apartment I had ever lived in. When the enemy would say, "You're really going to miss this," the Lord provided an answer, "But I have a mansion." This happened many times, and I was continually happy in that thought.

The day all my family came was the icing on the cake. There was so much love here it was almost heavenly.

I trust that each of you who read will rejoice with me for such a special blessing.

In Christian love, —Sis. Opal Kelly
 — — — — —

OK—Dear saints: We want to first of all thank God for answering our prayers.

We ask you all to continue to pray for Sis. Queen Esther Jordan. She is doing better, but is still afflicted in body. There are many aged saints who are homebound and can't get out to services any more. They are depending on our prayers. Let us not put them in a corner or on a shelf and turn our backs.

May God bless, —Bro. Cleophas Jordan
 — — — — —

OK—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: I am Sis. Lizzie Jordan's daughter. She is doing well, by the help of the Lord. She is 101 years old now, and is still pressing on for the Lord....

Thank you very much,
 —Joe Mandy Jefferson
 — — — — —

OK—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings to you in the lovely name of Jesus our Lord. I am glad for what Jesus means to me. I am glad He saved me from my sins and gives me the assurance that

He is keeping me saved while here in this present world. He also gives me the assurance that I can continue to live with Him after this short life is over. It is so wonderful just to be the Lord's, knowing that He loves us and will do the best for us. I would not want to take myself out of His care.

I heard that the Guthrie congregation had a good singing. I am glad for the good report.

I hope everything goes well with your moving of the shop.

Your brother in Christ, —T. V. McMillian

— — — — —

OH—Dear Bro. Murphey: I am writing to let you know how much I appreciate the *Faith and Victory*, *Beautiful Way* papers and all of your literature. It has been a real blessing and encouragement to me down through the years. I am sure that many have come to know the Lord because of the dedication and commitment of you and the workers there at the Print Shop to get the gospel message out to as many as possible. May God continue to bless and prosper His work there and all over the world.

Please continue to pray for me, all of my loved ones and the congregation here in Akron....

With much love, —Sis. Janice Shaw

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Honduras, C. A. Report

Dear Brethren: Greetings to you in Jesus' name. Recently a group of us went to Honduras to assist with matters in the congregation. We thank the Lord for blessing our visit. We feel it was successful. However, if the work in the Politilly congregation is going to continue, there is going to have to be a ministry to the children. There are 40 or more children in the congregation. The school system in Honduras is designed for the children to go to the sixth grade. After that, they go to a private school or to

college, and this they have to finance themselves. The families in this congregation are too poor to finance any further education. As a result, the children are deprived of a full education. They are thus doomed to live in the same cycle of poverty as their parents. Many of these children will seek other ways of correcting this situation after they are adults, which results many times in them leaving the congregation and the Lord.

Sis. Sanders, in her lifetime, desired a school for the children, as much of her ministry was to children. The congregation in Politilly is primarily children. Most of the families in the congregation are large, having as many as ten children. Certainly, this is an opportunity for the work of the Lord that these children develop Christian character and receive a Christ-centered education.

What I would like to propose as a burden is that plans be developed to start a school in Politilly. Bro. Louis Kimble and Bro. Jim Wall, who were on the last trip, picked up the same burden and are presently working with construction plans for the school. I also spoke with Bro. Toney Samons who has the same burden. We are going to need a dedicated couple who would be willing to give at least a year or two to the work of the Christian school. After that, we are praying that the Lord would supply the school with other workers who would be willing to give at least a year to the school.

Our purpose of this letter is to inform you of this burden so that you can pray with us for its fulfillment. We are going to need the financial support of the Church at large. As the plans are developing, we will be informing you of their progress.

Sincerely in Christ, —Bro. Keith Fuller

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From Mexico...

Dear Bro. Wayne: I feel the Lord really blessed the camp meeting here this summer. I can see in many here a deeper determination to please the Lord. Our services have been so good. Sometimes almost every person in the congregation prays and/or testifies. We were having two services a week before the camp meeting, now we are having four. Thank the Lord.

Two young men from the congregation in Sinaloa have come here to live. Bro. Marcus lives with Bro. Fine and Bro. Saul with us. They are an encouragement, especially to the young people. Their desire to study the Bible has

sparked an interest in several of the young people here. Each evening around 7:00 we study the Bible here at the house. (Evening service begins at 6:00, so on those nights Bible study begins around 8:00.) Please pray for these studies.

Last Saturday three other young people came. We began around 7:00 reading scriptures about baptism. Subjects changed through the evening and at 10:30 their interest had not lessened. What hunger we see. I believe there are many everywhere with a hunger for God's Word. May the Lord help us to share it with our friends and neighbors.

The other day I took Sis. Serjia and Bro. Romelo to visit a sister whose husband left her years ago. She earns about \$4.00 a day. (Her children are grown.) When we arrived she was making tortillas. "I didn't have enough flour so I added maseca (corn flour)," she said. "It makes them difficult to roll out."

I watched as she carefully rolled a ball of dough into a perfect circle. I was amazed how she got it off the towel and onto the griddle without it tearing apart. But her generosity amazed me even more! Asking us to sit at the table, she served us broth and each a tiny piece of chicken, and the pot was empty.

"You must eat this," I said pushing my bowl in her direction. "I'll have to cook for James when I get home so I'll eat later."

"No, no. I ate lunch. I love hot sauce on tortilla," she said, spreading a thin bit of hot sauce over a tortilla in her hand. "Don't deprive me of the pleasure of serving you."

Pleasure for her maybe, not me. I couldn't even swallow and my salty tears seasoned the broth. I just couldn't help it.

Often I am humbled by such actions. At those times I have to question, "Do these people know more about God's love than I do?"

We are in constant need of prayer to have God's wisdom and anointing in our lives. Please don't forget us when you pray.

—Sis. Charlotte Huskey

Dear Bro. Wayne and Print Shop workers: A song that was often sung many years ago went as follows:

Oh, what a wonderful, wonderful day,
Day I will never forget,
When in darkness I wandered away,
Jesus my Savior I met.

Oh, what a tender, compassionate friend,
He met the need of my heart.
Shadows dispelling,
With joy I am telling,
He made all the darkness depart.

Heaven came down and glory filled my soul,
When at the cross my Savior made me
whole.

My sins were washed away,
And my night was turned to day.
Heaven came down and glory filled my soul.

Nothing does more for a person than when the light comes on. Do you remember when the light came on for you? I remember the day when a brother shared the Scriptures with me, and the light came on! I trusted Christ and light flooded my soul. Glory to God! My night was turned to day. Over the years I have marveled at the times when the Lord revealed new truth to me and once more, the light of God came in and enlightened me. I have taught many times and I can think of very few things that give me more pleasure than when I see the light come on and others declare that they now understand God's truth revealed.

Just this week I have been teaching Bro. Marco and Bro. Saul out of Romans 6, 7 and 8. We discussed sanctification and the impossibility of living the sanctified life apart from the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit. The past two days were especially significant as we discussed the ability of the Spirit to help us fulfill the requirements of the Law and live in the Spirit as outlined in the first few verses of Romans 8. Both Bro. Saul and Bro. Marco gave me the highest compliment that any teacher could ever receive: "Intiendo!" ("I understand.") Oh, what a blessing to see the Lord at work in these two choice men! They are hard workers and when we get down to studying the Word of God, they absorb it as a vacuum cleaner sucks up dust. They ask good questions and remember what they learn.

Allow me to share another blessing with you. A few days ago, Bro. Marco shared with me that he wants to be a missionary in Central or South America. In all Protestantism, out of nearly 5 million who claim to be saved (1993 figures), less than 400 were serving in foreign cross-cultural work. We hadn't discussed missions before. It was something the Lord revealed to him. Oh, glory to God!

We certainly need your prayers these days

as the devil will not enjoy having his kingdom invaded by godly men such as Bro. Saul and Bro. Marco. Pray that they will be humble before the Lord and not allow their newfound knowledge to puff them up and ruin their effectiveness for the Lord's work. We discussed that this evening and they understand the concept.

We are all doing well, thank the Lord. We appreciate your prayers and the financial support that keeps us encouraged and going on in the work.

Your brother and sister,

—Bro. Joe and Sis. Judy Fine

From India...

October 14, 1999—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to all of you dear ones again in the glorious name of Jesus. I was sorry to hear of the homegoing of

Sis. Katherine Williams. She loved the Lord's work in India sincerely and she has been an inspiration to me since 1974. Most of my friends in America have gone. May God bless the new generation with a missionary spirit.

We plan to conduct two days of revival meeting at Karickom on the 19th and 20th of October. We had an all-day service at Kothamangalam on October 2nd which was a very blessed gathering.

Financially we are very tight. Urgent support is needed for our ministers. It would help if every congregation in America could support two ministers in India every month. Support is needed to print and publish our monthly paper, *Evening Light*, each month. Please pray and cooperate to support the work. Our prayers are for you.

Yours in Him,

—Bro. John Varghese



Grace Pearl Norton was born October 23, 1911, at Neelys Landing, MO, and passed from this life October 14, 1999, at Jonesboro, IL, at the age of 87 years, 11 months and 22 days.

Sis. Grace was a dedicated member of the Church of God and loved the Lord with all her heart. For many years she resided in Grand Tower, IL.

Funeral services were held on October 17, 1999, by Bro. Wayne Murphey, and burial was in the Walker Hill Cemetery, Grand Tower, IL.

Albert F. Green was born February 11, 1912, and went to be with the Lord on September 20, 1999, at the age of 87 years. He and his wife attended the Church of God at Midway, near Jena, LA, and camp meetings in other places as long as he was able.

Survivors include his wife, Bertie Green, of

Winnfield, LA; three sons, William I. Green of Fairbanks, AK, Lee Green of Wesson, AR, and Glen Green of Millington, MI; two daughters, Helen Bandy and Gail Miller, both of Winnfield, LA; one brother, Lawrence Green of Springhill, AR; one sister, Eula Poole; 13 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Michael Williamson. Burial was in the Union Cemetery.

The Scriptural Meaning of Prophets and Prophecy

(Continued from page 3)

upon themselves swift destruction." 1 Peter 1:21-2:1. (Notice here that the terms "false prophets" and "false teachers" are very closely connected.)

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." 1 John 4:1.

Smith's Bible Dictionary has the following to say concerning the meaning of the Bible term "prophet." "The ordinary Hebrew word for prophet is 'nabi,' derived from a verb signifying 'to bubble forth' like a fountain; hence the word means one who announces or pours forth the declarations of God. The English word comes from the Greek 'prophetess,' which signifies in classical Greek 'one who speaks for another, specially one who speaks for a god, and so

interprets his will to man;’ hence its essential meaning is ‘an interpreter.’ The use of the word in its modern sense as ‘one who predicts’ is post-classical. The larger sense of ‘interpretation’ has not, however, been lost. In fact the English word prophet has always been used in a larger and in a closer sense. The different meanings or shades of meanings in which the abstract noun is employed in Scripture have been drawn out by Locke as follows: ‘Prophecy comprehends three things: 1) prediction; 2) singing by the dictate of the Spirit; and 3) understanding and explaining the mysterious, hidden sense of Scripture by an immediate illumination and motion of the Spirit.’ ...That predictive powers did occasionally exist in the New Testament prophets is proved by the case of Agabus, Acts 11:28, but this was not their characteristic. The prophets of the New Testament were supernaturally-illuminated expounders and preachers.”

Cruden’s Concordance also has the following to say concerning the word “prophet:” “Ordinarily this word is understood as meaning one who foretells future events. It meant, at the time our English Bible was translated, also a preacher—and prophesying meant preaching. A meaning of the word less often recognized, but really as common, is one who tells—a forthteller—who speaks for another, most usually for God. It is in this sense that many Bible characters are called prophets, as for example, Aaron, Moses and Jesus Christ.”

We see clearly from these definitions and the foregoing scriptures that a true prophet in the New Testament sense of the term is a messenger or spokesperson for God who is illuminated, inspired and motivated by the Holy Spirit in the proclamation of a message from God. But Jesus, Peter, John and Paul all warned us about “false prophets.” They were referring to preachers and/or teachers acting as spokespersons for God but who would preach, teach, expound and interpret the Word of God through self-interest or by some other spirit than the Holy Spirit, thus presenting a warped or distorted view of the truth. A false prophet is a false interpreter of the voice of God. He is

one who takes the Word of God and says, “This is what God is saying,” when really that is not the message God intends to convey. He speaks his own thoughts, or what he supposes God is saying, rather than the true thoughts of God revealed by the inspiration of the Spirit of God.

It is very easy to be a false prophet. All it takes is a self-motivated religious zeal relative to the proclamation of God’s Word—a zeal with a message not prompted and inspired by the Holy Spirit. Self-motivated preaching will always miss the mark and be false prophecy. Only that preaching that is inspired by the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven will convey the true expression of God’s thoughts and thus interpret the true sense of His Word and thereby voice His true message to man. This is what is necessary for preaching to be true prophecy. And it can only come through perfectly-yielded, sanctified vessels who are dead to self and filled with the Spirit of God, who are acquainted with the voice of God through intimacy with the Spirit.

The so-called Christian world today is full of prophets and prophesying which is not of this divine and heavenly source. That is the reason for all the diverse ways of confusion. When true prophets prophesy by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit it accomplishes God’s divine purpose—it lifts men and women up and out of sin to the plane of righteousness and holiness and unifies their hearts and minds as one in Christ. It also dispels lightness and brings a spirit of holy solemnity and conviction upon the hearts of the hearers. True prophecy searches the innermost recesses of the heart and exposes us to ourselves just as we appear in the eyes of Almighty God. (See I Corinthians 14:24-25.) It judges our works

and weighs the very thoughts and intents of our hearts. It reveals every shortcoming in our lives and how and what to do to correct it. To be exposed to true, Holy Ghost-inspired prophecy as it goes forth in the true New Testament Church is an awesome experience. It is a fearful thing for a sinner. He finds himself searched and exposed by a message accompanied by an invisible force and convincing

“It is very easy to be a false prophet. All it takes is a self-motivated religious zeal relative to the proclamation of God’s Word.”

power that goes beyond the human. True prophecy also comforts the pure in heart and strengthens them in the ways of righteousness. Preaching that does not produce this kind of effect is not of a heavenly source and is, therefore, false prophecy. Having its source in the human rather than the divine, it is of no real value to mankind whatsoever, for it has not the power of divine enablement to reach the real need of the human soul and transfer it into the likeness of its Creator. Jeremiah 23:21-22, 29, 31-32 says, *"I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings. ...Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? ...Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the Lord, that use their tongues, and say, He saith. Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the Lord, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the Lord."*

By this we see the great importance of Holy Spirit motivation and prompting in all preaching. Without it we have false prophecy. No wonder Jesus warned us to beware of false prophets. He knew that many would move out by their own personal ambitions in an effort to proclaim His message and thereby throw many impurities into the gospel stream. But God's true sheep who have their hearts in tune with the Holy Spirit can tell when the voice of prophecy possesses the true heavenly ring. It is not so much the vessel through whom the prophecy may come that they observe (although the vessel must necessarily be clean), but they listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking through the vessel. It is the "gift" that they observe and recognize.

Those who pick and choose the instrumentality through which they will receive a message from God may likely block the very avenue through which God would like to edify and bless their souls. Because of

"Jesus warned us to beware of false prophets. He knew that many would move out by their own personal ambitions in an effort to proclaim His message."

the inherent danger in this, the Church of God does not organize pulpit committees, boards of directors, etc. The Bible teaches Holy Spirit leadership—giving the Holy Spirit free course to direct and operate church services, even to the extent of the selection of the speakers, the times when they will speak, and what they will speak about. (This is especially noticable in camp meeting-type settings where many or several ministers are present.) Only the Holy Spirit can know the mind of God in regards to the particular message He desires to bring in every service, and the vessel He desires to use. God knows the hearts of all the people present, the needs and issues He desires to address, the proper time to do it, and what He intends to accomplish by His timing.

And *"surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets."* Amos 3:7. He does this through the inspiration and dealings of the Holy Spirit. He may not reveal to them all that He intends to accomplish, but He does reveal to them, through the Spirit, His focus. Oh, what a responsibility rests upon the prophets to get their messages directly from heaven! And then each one must individually receive clear direction regarding the time and place that message is to be delivered. To be a true prophet, that is, a true messenger or spokesperson for God, one must understand the Spirit's focus! This understanding cannot come through the human element; only through the divine. Preaching in the Church of God is not left to the discretion, direction, or appointment of man, but to the discretion of God's own divinely appointed government agent, the Holy Spirit. Neither is being a preacher a choice left to the preacher. God, through His Holy Spirit, lays His hand

upon those whom He chooses to use in this capacity. And when He does, His divine sanction and anointing upon them can be easily recognized and felt. Their words will carry with them *"an unction from the holy One."* This is true prophecy and hereby we discern a true prophet. Also, Jesus said, *"by their fruits ye shall know them."* Matthew 7:20.

(To be continued.)

The Latest Improved

By C. E. Orr

(Continued from last month)

When the Christian first starts out on his pilgrimage, he is watchful and prayerful. An attack of Satan startles him, and he becomes earnest in his resistance. If he speaks impatiently or lightly, he flees at once to God for grace, and thus he grows in grace. But if he becomes strong and his soul forms the habit of acting in holiness, he feels strong and ceases his close watching and praying and resisting. Then he slowly but surely retrogrades. Unless he is in some way awakened, he will backslide.

But the question arises, "How can we keep up resistance in order to be strong, if Satan ceases to tempt?" Have sham battles. In time of peace soldiers are constantly drilling so that they may be prepared when they come to battle. Pugilists go through much training in preparation for the actual contest. So we are to watch constantly. Keep the soul in a defensive attitude. This is what I mean by sham battles. Bearing in mind that you may be attacked at any time, keep the soul in a defensive attitude; keep up the shield of faith. The very exercise of holding up the shield and keeping the soul in watchings makes it strong for the battle. If you do not exercise your soul in earnest prayer each morning, Satan will likely catch you that day unprepared.

For the perfecting of the soul in the habit of holiness, you must exercise yourself in inward acts of resistance. Keep an intense hatred of sin and the devil; get where you enjoy a fight with Satan; glory in tribulation; rejoice when you are persecuted; count it joy when you are tried and tempted. Soldiers get so they love the battle, pugilists enjoy the contest, and we should be where we love trials. We hate them, therefore we love to conquer them; they afford us means for development, therefore we welcome them; they deepen us into God and make us more like Christ, therefore we hail them with joy. We hate them themselves, but in our intense love for God and the privilege of exercising ourselves in His strength we count all our trials joy. We rejoice in the midst of temptation because we have the opportunity of displaying the strength of our God.

But do not make the mistake of thinking that you are so strong in God that the little evil thought, or the feeling of pride or impatience, or the little act of intemperance, is of no consequence. It is these little things that sap away the spiritual strength. Get after the very least of them and put them to death. If one single word of impatience escapes your lips, go in earnest prayer, asking God to make you a conqueror. Seek to have your life wholly free from imperfection, and you will daily advance in the divine life.

Life is full of peace and pleasure
 When we're saved by grace.
 Sweetest joys o'erflow the measure
 When we're saved by grace.
 Gifts from heaven fall in show'rs,
 Cheering dark and lonely hours,
 By our pathway bloom sweet flow'rs,
 When we're saved by grace.

E'en in sorrow there are blessings
 When we're saved by grace.
 Chastening rods are fond caressings
 When we're saved by grace;
 Storm-clouds far away are driven,
 Life flows on so sweet and even,
 Round us beams the light of heaven,
 When we're saved by grace.

All around is wondrous beauty
 When we're saved by grace.
 There is joy in every duty
 When we're saved by grace;
 Hope is ever sweetly singing,
 Peace-bells in our souls are ringing,
 Guardian angels round us winging,
 When we're saved by grace.

We must every day be growing
 When we're saved by grace;
 Progress in divine life making,
 When we're saved by grace;
 Upward, upward, nearer heaven,
 Life more peaceful and more even,
 Fuller light upon us beaming,
 When we're growing in grace.

Wet Cheeks

By Sis. Connie Sorrell



As one-year-olds will do, my daughter fell over an object as she was walking towards me in the kitchen. I did not see her fall, but I heard her cry. Quickly I went to find her in the living room. She was on the floor, her shoulders shaking with sobs. I drew her into my arms and she laid her wet cheek against my shoulder. As I rubbed her back and kissed her face, her sobbing slowed down until she had quit crying. We hugged and she patted my arm. Soon she was playing about my feet, giggling and jabbering again.

This reminded me of a scripture in Psalm 34:17-19. "The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all."

When troubles come our way, we can cry out for help from the Lord. He will hear us and come to our aid. If we will let Him, He will draw us up into His arms of mercy and we can lay our wet cheeks against His shoulder. Then we can tell Him our problems, troubles and

sorrows. Like a good father, He is faithful to listen and comfort our hearts because He is the "Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort." II Corinthians. 1:3.

After we are comforted, then we can minister to others who are in need of encouragement and cheer. We can put our arms of love about them and let them lay their wet cheeks upon our shoulders. When sorrows and troubles are shared, there is a blessing for both the comforter and the comforted.

Soon we will have the desire to smile and laugh again, for life is not all falls and sorrows. We will have joy and peace in our hearts when we stay close to our Father's throne of grace. He will dry our cheeks and bring songs of praise to our lips.

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FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY

"The Bakersfield Evening Light Singers, composed of Sis. Francisco, Bro. and Sis. Sherman, Bro. Mayes and Bro. Weldon, brought many gospel messages in song to the Guthrie congregation on Sunday night, Oct. 6. Their efforts in coming and singing were certainly appreciated, and we invite them to come again any time.



**Excerpts Taken From
Nov. 1974 Faith and Victory**

"It was our happy privilege, along with others from the Guthrie congregation, to attend the Saturday night gospel singing, Sept. 28, and the Sunday morning service at the chapel of the Church of God in Prattsville, AR, where Bro. and Sis. E. A. Loftis and their children are standing for the truth. About one hundred attended these services from several states. The Lord anointed for the singing and preaching, and our souls were blessed in worship to His holy name and in fellowship with His redeemed people assembled from near and far. The Holy Spirit gave an evangelistic message on Sunday morning through Bro. Leonard Roberts of Bristow, OK. God was dealing with souls in the light of eternity. We are truly grateful to the Prattsville saints for their gracious hospitality shown to those in attendance. May the Lord continue to bless and prosper the gospel work at Prattsville."

—Bro. Lawrence Pruitt

"Sister Ella Victoria (Sharpe) Phillips, the daughter of Joseph and Emaline Sharpe, was born at Fair Play, South Carolina, on April 4, 1881, and departed this life in San

Bernardino, CA, on Sept. 24, 1974, at the age of 93 years, 5 months and 20 days.

"In 1901, she went with her parents, one brother and three sisters to Monrovia, Liberia, Africa. Due to the death of her parents, brother and one sister in that continent she returned to America in the year of 1907.

"She taught school for a number of years in Alabama and Oklahoma, and later traveled in the gospel work with Sister Mildred Dent.

"On May 26, 1917, she was united in marriage to Ulysses Phillips at Hennessey, OK, and moved with her husband to Dover, OK, where they made their home for 48 years. To this union three children were born, a son and two daughters.

"Sister Phillips was a vital asset to her husband as he pastored the congregation at Dover, OK, and labored in the gospel work in that area. She assisted her husband in writing a number of songs. She was a woman of prayer and faith, and constantly trusted in God for His divine guidance. She met the tests and trials of life with real Christian fortitude and bore them with much meekness and patience. A devoted wife and mother, she manifested a deep interest in her children and was an inspiration to all who knew her.

"She is survived by a devoted husband, Ulysses H. Phillips; one son, Victor B., of Washington, D. C.; two daughters, Joy H. Williams, of Oklahoma City, OK, and Olive A. Davenport, of San Bernardino, CA; 11 grandchildren, three great grandchildren and a host of saints and friends."