

# FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

## Church of God Servant



Volume 78, No. 7      78th Year      Guthrie, Oklahoma      \$3.00 Per Year      October, 2000

What are you proving? Are you proving that being a Christian is a joyful, happy experience? Do you look glad that you are God's child? Does your life radiate joy and enthusiasm? Too often our faces reflect life's difficulties and challenges, and not the eternal destiny we share as believers in Jesus. If you find it hard to smile, check your point of reference and make the needed adjustments. Nehemiah told the Israelites not to grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength. (Nehemiah 8:10.) Let's share the joy with our faces, so the world will know Jesus lives!

—Selected by Carolyn Denver

# Light of the World

By Marvin Moles, Jr.

*"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."* Matthew 5:14.

Jesus, while teaching His disciples, told them that they were the light of the world. He also gave them an illustration of a city on a hill and how it can't be hid. This applies to the Church. The reason that we are the light is because Jesus is the Light and He dwells in us. As we lift Him up in our hearts and lives, His presence in us and in the world can't be denied. He will illuminate the world with His glorious goodness.

In Matthew 5:15, the Lord says that you don't light a candle and put it under a bushel, but you put it on a candlestick so that it can light up the whole room. We can't just receive the Lord in our hearts and not share Him with the world. The Lord didn't enlighten our lives so that we could sit in our houses and hide from the world. Jesus has taken the world out of our hearts, but we still live in the world so that His light can shine in the world through us. How can the world be enlightened if the Church refuses to go and let their lights shine?

Letting our lights shine is more than just preaching, evangelizing or witnessing. It is more

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than doing things around our own Church area. It's more than going out once in a while to preach to the homeless or prisoners. It's more than simply handing out tracts in our spare time. These things are good, but they're just not enough. Jesus, in Luke 6:32-35, says that we need to love our enemies. Not only do we love them in our hearts, but in our actions. I am talking about being involved in their lives in a loving, personal way. We need to provoke people to love by loving them. The more they hate us, the more we love them. Jesus loved His enemies so much that when He was being killed, He prayed for them. We're talking about getting to the hearts of people.

When Jesus spoke of feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, and visiting the sick and those in prison, He was talking about acts of love. Is He talking about doing these things only to those we know or like and who like us? I don't think so. We need to be able to get close to the hearts of people if we ever hope to help them spiritually. In order to do this, we must

come out from under the bushel and shine forth in the lives of men and women everywhere. The darkness of this world is becoming grossly dark and it's because the light of the purity of Christ isn't shining from atop the hill.

Darkness is the absence of light. Let the light shine in its fullness and the darkness must flee. It is true that the harvest is still plentiful, even today, but the laborers are few. Each person in this world has the potential of becoming beautiful by the power of Christ. If He can change us, surely He can change others. It just takes a little tender, loving care.

The love of God draws. Jesus said that if He is lifted up He will draw all men unto Him. (John 12:32.) So let's lift up His name and let His love be the power source in our lives which attracts people to Him. Let's be an ever-burning light in this world. We need to get to the hearts of people just as the Lord got to our hearts and made a lasting change in us. He will do the same for them.

## Where Is Now Thy God?

A Tale of The French Revolution

By James F. Cobb

(Continued from September, *Faith and Victory*.)

At the end of the three days the prohibition was removed; what he then said did not give his mother any satisfaction. He expressed his thanks, indeed, for her faithful love; called himself unworthy of her; but of repentance and change of life there was not a syllable. When she spoke earnestly to him of God's mercy and love, which he had so marvelously experienced, he asked her to spare him such subjects. Kerner, who daily visited him, reminded him of their late conversation on the way to the guillotine—how he had said, that if God were then to save him, he would believe in Him; but all proved in vain.

"Kerner," said he, "I love you, but do not speak to me again about this. I hold to that which I have always confessed as my conviction: there is neither a God nor an eternity. You may believe what you like; I shall not try to dissuade you from it; but do not require me to believe that which is contrary to my reason, that which appears to me foolishness and superstition."

But Kerner was not yet silenced. Though he reminded him no longer of his words, yet he spoke of the Savior's love to sinners, and His readiness to bless him and make him happy. At last the sick man ceased to oppose him. He allowed him to say what he liked, and to read to him out of the Bible, although he never desired it. Once, however, Henri, the pastor's son, seven years of age, who often visited him, being alone with him, he asked him to read the 15th chapter of St. Luke's gospel. Henri read impressively. When he had finished the story of the Prodigal Son, the sick man asked him,

"Henri, do you really believe that?"

"How could I not believe it?" the boy asked in amazement, "it is in the Bible."

"Very well," replied Laforest. "Now leave me alone."

What then passed in his soul who can say? "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh and whither it goeth: so is

every one who is born of the Spirit." An hour after, his mother entered the room.

"Mother," he cried to her, "I cannot get rid of those words, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.' I am a lost man."

And he wept for the first time since he had come back. His mother fell upon his neck and kissed him.

"With God is mercy and forgiveness," she said with deep emotion.

"That may be so," he replied; "but mercy and forgiveness are not for me. For me there is no hope."

Affectionately his mother pointed him to the Savior who bore our sins and atoned for them on the cross; but he still persisted that there was no mercy for him. Kerner also came, and he equally failed to convince him.

Much prayer was offered for him at his bedside. But all seemed in vain. In vain his mother showed him that the prodigal, when he made his confession, not only found pardon, but that his father hastened to meet him, and received him with the greatest joy. In vain she told him of the thief on the cross; the malefactor who could not but confess that his punishment was just and well-merited, and yet in his last hour was saved, through the mercy of his Savior, crucified with him and for him. Laforest maintained that he was a much greater sinner, who never could obtain mercy, because he had not shown it. At last his mother repeated the text, "Come, then, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

"Crimson, did you say, Mother? Crimson?"

"I did not say it," she answered, "but the Lord says it."

She repeated the words with solemn earnestness, and added to them these: "As I live, saith the Lord, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his evil way and live."

The sick man held his hands up to his face and wept. After a time he said—

"Mother, pray with me as you did when I was still a child; pray for your wicked son, now laden with sin, that the Savior may have mercy upon me."

His mother knelt down, took his folded hands between her own, and prayed simply as a child in his name; and he repeated the words after her as a child would do. When she had finished, a stream of tears poured down from his eyes.

"I believe, dear Lord," he cried, "help Thou my unbelief!"

There was joy in heaven above over a sinner who had repented. His mother left him alone with his God. She went into her chamber to thank the Lord who had so helped her and her son, and to implore Him to suffer the full light of His face to shine upon him. When, after a short time, she came to him again, she found him in a cheerful frame of mind.

"Mother," he cried, "mercy has found me. To me too has the Lord spoken, 'Though thy sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow.' I can believe from my heart that it is so. Praise the Lord with me!"

She knelt down, and in a fervent thanksgiving expressed the fullness of her heart. Then she hastened to her nephew to bring him the good news.

It had cost a hard struggle before Laforest was thus brought by Divine grace to this exercise of faith in his Savior. But henceforth nothing could shake his confidence. He held firmly to the Word of the Lord. He would hear nothing more of the light of reason as opposed to the teaching of Revelation. His former sinful life, indeed, of which he ever had a keen and vivid remembrance, deeply humbled him, but it did not make him doubtful of the pardon he had received. When he was among his friends, during the evenings spent at the parsonage, his mouth overflowed with praise and thanksgiving for the mercies that he had experienced.

After his recovery, he no longer talked of returning to Paris to continue his practice at the Bar, but he remained with his mother and took charge of the business. The two families were, and continued to be of one heart and soul. And notwithstanding the political storms which in the course of time broke over their unhappy country, they had peace and quietness—that peace which they possess who, in time of trial, can 'hope in God,' and say, 'I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance and my God.'

—The End—

# 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, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044 (USPS184-660).

(Periodical postage paid at Guthrie, OK)

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

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

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## 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

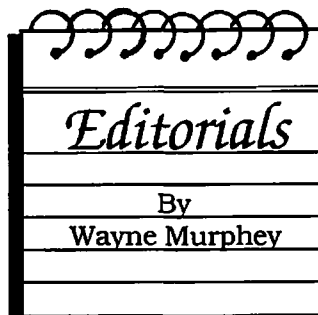
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Postmaster: Please send address corrections to: Faith Publishing House, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044.



With this issue we are glad to bring to you news of how God is working with His people. We rejoice at how His mercy is extended through answers to prayer, and how He provides strength and wisdom

to further His Kingdom upon this earth.

— — — — —  
The saints in Guthrie have much thanksgiving for God's protection on Sept. 19. For approximately 51 days, this area of Oklahoma had gone without rain, making the ground parched and the brush and trees highly flammable. In the afternoon of Sept. 19, an arsonist set several fires in south Logan County. Propelled by gusting southern winds of up to 35 miles an hour, these fires quickly spread north towards Guthrie, sometimes reaching the proportions of fire walls.

Firefighters from all around the area joined the effort to contain the fire. The use of helicopters and airplanes was also employed. Before it was over, an area approximately a mile wide and seven miles long was scorched, destroying 31 homes as well as other structures.

A number of the saints live south of Guthrie and were evacuated from their homes by the authorities. But upon return they found their homes spared. The saints who suffered the greatest loss were Bro. Dale and Sis. Linda Probst. Their home, as well as the home of their daughter, Christina, was completely destroyed. Bro. Dwane and Sis. Connie Sorrell, as well as Bro. Pat and Sis. Jane Sallee, lost building structures and possessions in the fire.

If any of the saints would like to correspond with Bro. Dale and Sis. Linda, you may address your correspondence in care of this office.

— — — — —  
We are sad to report the passing of Bro. Louis Kimble. He had been afflicted for some time, and on Sept. 13, went to be with the Lord. Many will miss his labors in the ministry.

If you would like to send condolences to his wife, Sis. Diane Kimble, you may do so at: 2752 Tupelo St., Kenner, LA 70062.

— — — — —  
In October, Bro. Michael Smith feels led of the Lord to travel to Ghana, West Africa, in order to share the Gospel. Plans are for Bro. Michael,

his wife, Sis. René, and their two sons, to stay in Ghana for approximately six weeks, sharing the Word and encouraging the Church.

In the first week of December, Sis. René and the two boys will fly home.

If Bro. Michael is able to obtain a VISA from the Nigerian embassy, he hopes to travel on to Asana, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

In the early 1960's, the saints' first contact was made in the country of Nigeria through correspondence with Bro. B. U. Etuk in Asana. Bro. Etuk had the oversight of 12 to 14 congregations, and this was the beginning of an energetic missionary endeavor by the saints in the States. On March 22, 1964, Bro. David Madden, a young minister from Tulsa, OK, flew from Tulsa to Lagos, Nigeria, and then traveled by land to Asana. This was the first personal contact the saints in the States had with those in Nigeria.

On July 15, 1964, Bro. Ostis Wilson, Jr., and his wife, Sis. Opal sailed from New York Harbor and arrived in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, on August 12. They then traveled to Asana where they stayed with the saints and taught them from the Bible until Sis. Opal Wilson became ill and passed away due to pneumonia, on September 24, 1964.

In 1975, due to discord on the question of polygamy and other spiritual matters, the main focus and support of the saints shifted from Asana and more to Kwale, the congregation over which the late Bro. Titus Enu had the oversight.

A little over a year ago, I received an e-mail from Bro. Anietie B. Essien, requesting that the saints again come to Asana and preach the gospel. Bro. Essien was just a young boy, living in Asana, when Bro. David Madden and Bro. and Sis. Wilson visited that part of Nigeria. Bro. Essien has taken steps to spiritually revive the people, and he reports that they are very enthusiastic for someone from the States to come and teach them.

Accepting this call for the saints to come, Bro. Michael plans on attending their church convention on Dec. 14-17. If possible, he will also visit some of the churches in Kwale and Port Harcourt.

Pray for the safety of the Smith family during this extended missionary trip, and that eternal profits will be reaped from the efforts made.

Needless to say, this venture will entail some cost. If you would like to donate toward this cause, you may send your tax deductible offer-

ing to this office, and it will be forwarded on to Bro. Michael.

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We request your continued prayers for this printing work at Faith Publishing House. It is our desire and determination to make the gospel available to as many as possible. What has been accomplished has been due to those who have shared this same interest. Let us continue to labor together.

Your brother in Christ,

—Wayne Murphey

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

## Prayer Requests

FL—"Please continue to pray for our friend, Heidi Kirkhart. She had a biopsy and is waiting for results. She really desires prayer at this time. We know God is able to do all things and are believing that He will hear and answer in her case.

"Kevin's uncle, Bernard, is doing much better and we thank you for your prayers. In the middle of his affliction, his wife, Aunt Della, suffered a mini-stroke. They both need continued prayer.

"Thank you for your prayers and concern. May God bless each one of you."

—Sis. Cheryl Smith

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TX—"Dear saints: We, the family of the late Oliver Tillman, wish to thank each and every one of you for your prayers, cards and visits during the passing of our beloved father.

"We do need prayer for our mother, Sis. Icylee Tillman. She is very sick in body. She and my father, at the time of his passing, had been married 67 years.

"Do pray for the entire family, that the Lord will give us strength. We know God does not make any mistakes.

"May God bless you all, especially Sis. Frances Chandler for her leadership and prayers. We thank you, Sis. Chandler.

Love from us all," —Roy Tillman

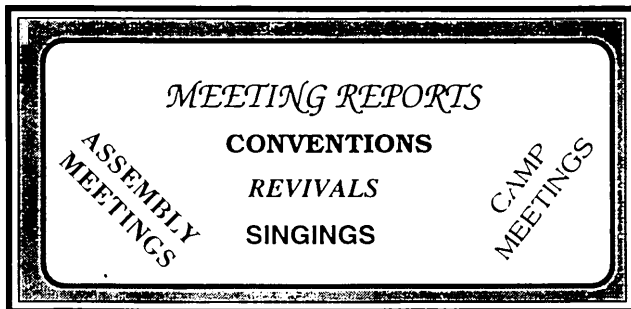
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OK—"Pray for my diabetes problem."  
—Sis. Mary Jones

NC—Sis. Elaine Dunn has some problems for which she needs the Lord's help.

**Standing Prayer Requests**

- Sis. Lydia Bennett
- Sis. Alscene Breckenridge
- Bro. Jon Busbee
- Sis. Mamie Butcher
- Bro. Nathan Carver
- Sis. Estelene Cramer
- Bro. Daniel Davis, Jr.
- Bro. Dale Doolittle
- Sis. Elaine Dunn
- Sis. Eleanor Fingerle
- Sis. Esther Gordon
- Bro. Huey Gordon, Jr.
- Bro. Ben Harrison
- Sis. Mary Hughes
- Sis. Janice Johnston
- Sis. Earnestine Jordan
- Sis. Helen Lambright
- Sis. Betty Lassché
- The Lounds sisters
- Sis. Mattie McIntyre
- Sis. Bertha Miles
- Sis. Virginia Myers
- Sis. Dollie O'Neall
- Bro. O. C. Porter
- Sis. Melba Powell
- Bro. John Robinson
- Sis. Rose Samons
- Sis. Myrtle Savoie
- Bro. Rudolf Schmidt
- Bro. M. Agenemoh Sidi
- Sis. Violet Sinkhorn
- Sis. Kay Stover
- The Mitch Taylor family
- Bro. Curtis Williams, Sr.
- Bro. Max Williamson
- Sis. Esther Wilson



**FALL MEETING HOLLY HILL, SC**

Lord willing, our fall meeting will be October 8-15, 2000. Plans are for three services to be held on the first Sunday, beginning at 10:00 a.m.; the afternoon service soon after the noon

meal and all evening services to be at 7:30 p.m.

On the last Saturday we plan to have a special midday meal and gathering, along with a regular night service. The meeting will close at the end of the morning service on the last Sunday.

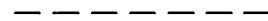
There are cabins and dormitory spaces on the campground, and we try to care for all who come, but for those who might prefer a motel, there are several in Santee, approximately 10 miles from the campground: Super 8 Motel in Santee (803) 854-3456; Ramada Inn (803) 854-2191; and Days Inn (803) 854-2175.

A hearty invitation is given to all. Please help us pray the Lord will pour out His anointing, conviction, and blessings in sending the vessels and servants of His choice. May our hearts be open to receive as God sends.

For more information you may contact Bro. Carl Shaffer (803) 492-3256, (e-mail: crshaffer@juno.com); Bro. Floyd Crummie (803) 496-5768; or Bro. Alvoid Pratt (803) 492-3366.

We would be glad to see you here!

—The saints at Holly Hill



**PHELAN/BALDY MESA, CA, MEETING**

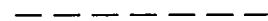
The Phelan/Baldy Mesa, CA, Church of God, 2000 meeting is set for October 11-15, Lord willing. We thank the Lord for reaching our 87th year of worship since our incorporation in 1913.

We extend a warm welcome to every one who wishes to join us at our new location. There are several motels nearby and limited homes for accommodation. We are praying and expecting the divine presence of the Holy Spirit in our meeting.

There will be services nightly at 7:30 p.m. Saturday services will be as follows: 2:30 p.m. special dedication service and 7:30 p.m. general service.

Sunday services are 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. general service with dinner on the grounds.

The Chapel address is 11515 Baldy Mesa Road and the chapel phone number is (760) 956-7741. For further information please contact the pastors, Bro. Travis and Sis. Alice Johnson (760) 261-2564.



**SAPULPA, OK, CHURCH OF GOD REVIVAL**

The congregation of the Sapulpa Road Church of God has announced that, Lord will-

ing, a revival will be held October 15-22, Sunday to Sunday, at 7:00 p.m. nightly. Bro. Michael Smith has felt led to be with the congregation for this revival.

There will be a singing on Saturday, October 14, at 7:00 p.m., the night before the revival begins.

For further information or for accommodations, please contact the pastor, Bro. James or Sis. Patricia Bell at (918) 247-4579.

#### GUTHRIE, OK, REVIVAL/SINGING

The saints of the Guthrie, OK, congregation have expressed a desire to have a revival October 29-November 5. Nightly services will be held during the weekdays, with morning and evening services on both Sundays. Plans are to have a singing on the evening of November 4.

The chapel is located at 304 Lake View Ave. A hearty invitation is extended to all people to come.

For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Stanley Dickson, (405) 260-8822.

#### FRESNO, CA, FALL REVIVAL

The saints of the Fresno, CA, congregation have announced plans to hold a fall revival October 29-November 5. The service times are as listed: Nightly at 7:00 on weekdays, Saturday, 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Sunday, 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Further information can be obtained from the pastor, Bro. Charles Taylor (559) 348-9029, or Bro. Charles Parrish (559) 221-6808.

#### ASSEMBLY MEETING—LORANGER, LA

The meeting is to begin Wednesday night, November 22, 7:30 p.m. Services will be 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. daily through Sunday, November 26th.

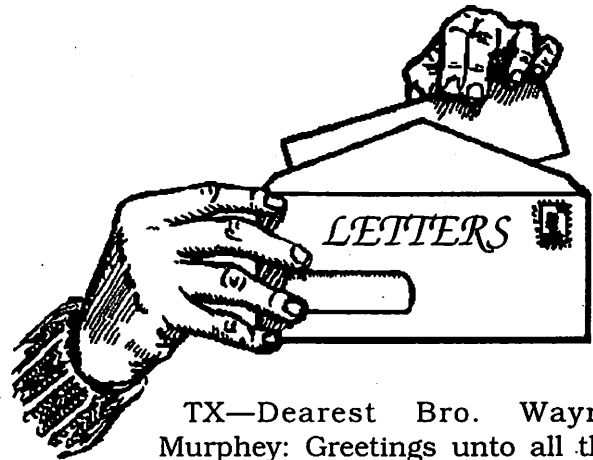
Please pray with us that this opportunity will be anointed with God's presence. Come receive challenges and blessings.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Bring bed linens if possible. 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.



TX—Dearest Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings unto all the saints who are scattered all over these United States and throughout all the world. Grace be unto all of you and peace be multiplied from God the Father, our precious Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and the beloved Holy Spirit. I pray this letter finds all of you in the best of health and in good spirit.

I am writing this letter to inspire everyone to help support the Word of God which is being published at the Print Shop.

I am in a federal prison. I see a lot of volunteers come in here with unsound doctrine. I have also written to other publishers and their literature which I receive was good on salvation. But on the serious doctrine they were off base. So this is why I am writing to urge all of you to please help support the work and the Word of God.

Remember this, the Lord will hold us accountable for what we are doing with His money. Those gospel tracts and all other literature belong to the Lord and His work. So please pray and ask the Lord what He will have you to do.

Many people spend a lot of money on what they want or what the children want, sometimes the finest of food, cars, clothes, etc. But how about the Kingdom of God and the work of God? Isaiah 55:2 asks a question, "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread?" I myself was awakened by the Holy Spirit as He revealed what Isaiah was saying. I was sitting one day filling out my commissary list and the Lord asked me that same question. I said, "Lord, I am buying some food." He said, "This is not the bread I am speaking of. I am saying

spend your money on and for My Word." So from that day I have learned how to support the ones who are laboring for the Kingdom of God.

So whenever you get ready to spend money on things that are fading, remember the work of the Lord.

Remember this, we will soon be departing this life and what's done for Jesus is the only thing that will matter. Amen! If you could see the false teachings and doctrines you would know what I am saying and why. If you are obedient to the Lord, continue to be faithful because it is through you that the work of God is still progressing. Praise the Lord.

—Bro. Jackie Riley

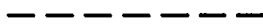


LA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus. We love Him with all our hearts and are looking to Him daily for guidance in this present world. We give thanks to Him for all He does for us.

Max's condition hasn't changed a great deal—just gradually going down and requiring much attention. He is in bed most of the time. We that care for him just have to take one day at a time, asking God for grace and strength.

May God bless you and all the workers there.

—Sis. Lula Williamson



OK—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in the name of Jesus, the one who has loved us and has done so much for us. The greatest thing He has done for us is to wash us from our sins and given us an eternal inheritance with Him in heaven.

The scripture says that the grass withereth and the flowers fade, but the Word of the Lord endureth for ever. (Isa. 40:8.) It also says that he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. (I John 2:17.) I want to strive to do this above all things.

I hope all is going well with you and the work there, and trust the good Lord to continue to bless.

Your saved brother, —T. V. McMillian



LA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings of Christian love to all the workers there in the Lord's Print Shop.

Paul said, "For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God." I Cor. 8:5-6. Thank the Lord, His

people are acquainted with the one true God, who knows His people and knows their every need.

As I lay awake so much at night, I meditate on many scriptures. They bless my soul so much. Last night the verse in Psalm 46:1 came to me so forcibly. It doesn't say the Lord is a help in trouble. But a very present help in trouble. Surely we all face trouble many times, and it is such a consolation to God's people to know the Lord is right there; a very present help as we call on Him in faith.

In Psalm 91 the last three verses are so comforting. It is telling how the Lord will answer and deliver His children when they call on Him in their troubles. In this day of sorrow and trouble, we don't know what may be ahead of us, but it is so wonderful to know our God is going to be faithful to His faithful, trusting children as they stand firm and true to Him.

Proverbs 1:28 are such sad words of how the wicked go on in their way, not heeding the voice of the Lord, living to please the flesh, then when trouble comes and they call on the Lord, He said He wouldn't answer.

We have so much to thank and praise the Lord for every day. I never noticed until some time back that the last five chapters of Psalms begin and end with exactly the same words, "Praise ye the Lord."

You may know that dear Sis. Norma Hall is seriously ill. She desires to go on. Bro. Douglas is very feeble and needs prayer too.

I am looking forward to my September *Faith and Victory* paper. The papers give a real blessing as I read them, and may the Lord send special blessings on you dear ones who labor and sacrifice to put them out.

I pray for the work there, for the Lord to supply all that is needed in every way.

A sister in the Lord, —Alta Flynn



Saudi Arabia—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour.

Thank our Lord for being so good in that He has guided us and shown the path toward Him.

My daughter, Arlene, left Saudi Arabia two weeks ago. [July 1] Whatever God's plans for her—we obey to serve His will.

For me, it is very difficult to be away from my loved ones in the Philippines, but I have faith in the Lord that He has a perfect plan for me and my family. We pray for the Church in Manila that it will grow and be nourished by the grace



of our Lord. In His time, I will return to serve Him, along with my wife, Nellie, to reach those who spiritually hunger.

I would like to extend my warm regards to Sis. Mary and the family, and all the saints in your place.

In Christian love, —Bro. Arturo Tibayan

Philippines—To Bro. Murphey: Let me greet you wholeheartedly. I hope you are all in good condition, and very happy together with your family. I hope that our Lord will always shower you with blessings as a return for your kindness to your brothers.

My main purpose in writing you is to greet you warmly, together with our brothers in America. Secondly I want to thank you for all the help you've extended to us religiously and financially. I hope that with your help, brother, we will become fruitful, that every time any of our brethren will be mislead, we can direct them to follow the right way, that they can serve God wholeheartedly. We hope also that we will continue to grow in our day to day activities, though hardship in life still prevails.

Very truly yours, —Bro. Fidel Ricardo

Nigeria—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our dear loving Saviour. I trust everyone in the Print Shop is doing fine. I am thankful to be saved and am very much encouraged to live for the Lord.

I am sick, and have been prayed for by the elders in the church, but the Lord has not healed me yet. I praise Him. "For the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:9. I am asking you to include my name in your prayer requests.

I pray that God may bless His mission through the *Faith and Victory* publishing house which has brought truth and forgiveness to my soul. Again, I say thank you so much for your unending love, and I solicit your fervent prayer for the pain in my left leg which has retired me to bed nearing eight years.

Yours in Him, — Bro. M. Agenemoh Sidi

CA—Dear Jason: May God continue to bless your endeavors in spreading His Word throughout the Internet!!!

I wanted to share the fact that the elderly and ill here in California are extremely encouraged to be able to receive a service message online when they are too ill, or bedridden, to get

out to church. I imagine those who are isolated from any church are encouraged with this service for them, too.

May you stay encouraged, —Michelle Pierro

TX—Dear Friends: Loving greetings in the name of our precious Lord, Jesus.

This morning, in my office, I ran across one of your tracts which I read and enjoyed, and it brought back many happy memories and blessings I enjoyed when we lived there.

I have a happy memory of my last visit in Guthrie, and of seeing many dear friends at the Assembly Meeting in your new chapel building. Naturally, many of my friends have already gone where we all hope to go when this life on earth ends. I am blessed with good health, and I certainly enjoy my work for the Lord.

I know most of my old friends are gone but I wanted to write anyhow and send loving greetings to all.

Yours in His love and service,  
—Sis. Evelyn Anderson

Nigeria—Dear Bro. Murphey: Calvary greetings to you and the entire brethren over there, in Jesus' redeeming name, our hope and our confidence.

The sudden passing away of my husband, Bro. Titus Enu, on May 18, 2000, at 12:30 p.m., was a great mystery to us, which has left me in shock. In fact, words alone cannot express fully what I saw that day.

After I took his breakfast to him that day, he took his Bible and went into his sitting room to read. He was still reading when the great call came unto him, and he left without any delay. He had completed his missionary work on earth. May his humble soul rest in perfect peace. Amen.

Please continue to remember me in your daily prayers. May the Lord bless you all. Amen.

Yours to make Christ known,  
—Sis. Mary Enu

MN—Dear saints: We would like to testify of how the Lord answered prayer on behalf of our 6 year old son, Jared. On August 18th, the last three fingers on his right hand were badly mangled in an accident with our skidster loader on the farm. Miraculously, there were no broken or crushed bones, and the tendons were all still intact, but the flesh was ripped off to the bones. Norm thought at first Jared would surely

lose his two middle fingers. The doctors thought he might need reconstructive surgery or skin grafting, but none of that was required. His fingers have healed amazingly fast. He has some scars, but is able to use them very well.

We know that God's people were praying all around the country and we want to thank each one of you for your prayers and concern. We really believe the Lord heard and answered those prayers and we give Him all the praise for it. God was so good to us through this ordeal. We realize it could have been so much worse. We're also thankful for the fact that Jared never had any fever or infection in those wounds, and that the pain was never so unbearable he couldn't sleep at night. It's encouraging to see God work like that right before your eyes. He surely does care for His children.

We also thank the Lord for a good tent meeting in Spooner, WI. We appreciate all those who put forth the effort to come and support the meeting. It was a real blessing to us.

In Christian love,

—Bro. Norm and Sis. Camille Zacharias  
— — — — —

IL—Dear Bro. Wayne and all workers: I read the *Faith and Victory* every time it comes, until I have read it all.

Mama [Sis. Emma Dilley] has been gone for over a year now. I still miss her. I am all alone except for the Lord. If I didn't have the Lord to talk to, I don't know how I could go on.

Tell all I said, "Hello." I don't get any mail from anyone and I miss that. I hope people have not forgotten me. I haven't forgotten you all. I pray for you all and listen to the church tapes. I love the Lord with all my heart and want to do His will.

May God bless and keep you,

—Eleanor M. White

**(Editor's note:** Anyone desiring Sis. Eleanor's address may request it by contacting the Print Shop.)  
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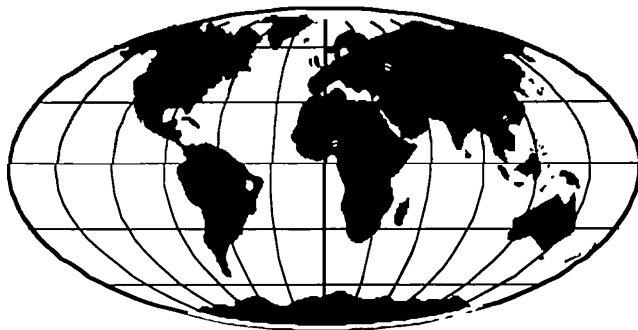
LA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Pray for me in your prayers. I have fallen so much. I can't walk outside without someone to lead me, or a walker. I fell again about nine weeks ago and hurt my back. I am improving for which I give the Lord the praise and credit. I was in much pain, so I know a little about how Jesus suffered for us. He has done so much for me that I thank Him

all the time. I thank everyone who prayed for me.

With Christina love, —Sis. Mae Averett



## MISSION REPORTS



### From Nigeria...

August 7, 2000—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings to you once again through Christ our Lord. We trust the Lord's care is upon you and the other dedicated staff at Faith Publishing House. Glory be to God for sustaining this wonderful work that has been a source of blessing to us. It is a rare privilege to be acquainted with this publishing work which has maintained the account of the laborers of the Evening Light reformers. Praise be to the Father for all He has done.

Thanks for the July issue of the *Faith and Victory* paper. The first part of the editorial, where you analyzed the difference between "performance" and "service" was real food to our souls. It was a blessing to a good number as I read it out loud to the congregation during the previous Sunday service. It really conforms with what we have advocated here—to be constrained only by the love of Christ for doing whatever we do. And the reward will come only from the Lord.

Yesterday we were blessed again during the Sunday service. The Lord uplifted our souls and encouraged us through His Word. One of the people who identified himself with the truths that were ministered by us during our first quarterly revival outdoor meeting worshipped with us together with his family. His name is Newton and he had belonged to one of the sects before meeting with us. Remember him in your prayers, please.

We also took our monthly freewill offering for the building project. We thank the Lord for what we realized. It will help us do some work on the chapel, no matter how little it may be. However, the rain is at its peak.

Our second quarterly revival meeting will, God willing, be from August 23 to August 26, 2000. Let the Faith Publishing House family please join us in prayer for a successful meeting which will witness the conversion of souls for Christ through the working and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

After a heavy downpour of rain, which lasted about two days, we suffered another major slide of our land down the slope at the back of the premises. Less than one month ago, another portion of the church land collapsed. We wonder what will be left of it at the end of the rainy season. We are praying fervently to God to stop the phenomenon and help us with the means of constructing a concrete wall to check further occurrence as earlier mentioned in my letter to you. In fact it makes us feel sad that we are unable to do something to check it earlier than now. Worse still, this is happening when our hands are filled with activities and with very slim finance at our disposal. This makes support from the U.S. brethren as earlier requested inevitable. That will enable us to handle some of the projects fast and have more time and means for evangelical activities.

Thanks and may the Lord bless you all and move in the midst of the on-going camp meetings for the outpouring of His blessings to souls.

Yours for the love of Christ,

—Bro. F. Naths-Igbanibo



**Johnny Leon Cook** was born September 2, 1945, to Willie Lewis Cook, Sr. and Levonia Hood Cook in Reform, AL. Johnny graduated from Pickens County Training School in Carrollton, AL, in 1967. In the fall of 1972, Johnny moved to Oklahoma City where he lived the remainder of his life. He served the City of

Oklahoma City for twenty-seven years where he was an exemplary employee.

Johnny confessed Christ at an early age. He was a faithful member of the Church of God at 5721 N. Denver, Spencer, OK, under the pastorate of Bro. Charles Chandler.

Preceding him in death are his mother and father; four brothers, Floyd, Lloyd, Benjamin and Joseph; and two sisters, Dorothy and Arthorine. He is survived by one brother, Willie L. Cook, Jr. of Montgomery, AL; four sisters, Katherine Laskey of Oklahoma City, OK, with whom he lived, Bertha Cook of St. Louis, MO, Lillie Cook and Sophia Cook Macon, both of Bear, DE; two aunts; one uncle, many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held on August 4, 2000, at the Temple and Sons Funeral Directors' Chapel of Remembrance, by Bro. Charles Chandler.



**John Craig Kennedy** was born August 21, 1940, at Wichita, KS, to Floyd Noble Kennedy and Margaretta Bettis Kennedy. He was the first living child, grandchild, and nephew born to this family.

John graduated from East High School in Wichita in 1958. He went on to Wichita State University School of Engineering, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering, June 2, 1968, while funding his education working for Jerry Finney, Architect and Arkla Gas Company.

John was employed by Gates Learjet from 1964 to 1985, except for a two-year stint at Master Manufacturing Company, Hutchinson, KS. In 1985 he went to work for Raytheon Aircraft Corporation as Program Manager, Special Missions, later becoming Manager-Government Liaison. Thanks to his responsibilities as crash investigator and, later, Director-Airworthiness Affairs for Gates Learjet, and to his career at Raytheon Aircraft Corporation, John was able to visit many parts of the world. He met and shook hands with King Hussein near the airport at Amman, Jordan, during a crash site investigation. He enjoyed his work and the experiences, travel and growth it brought him.

November 26, 1964, John was married to Joan Lorene Robinson at Murdock, KS. He devoted much of himself to her and her family, as well as his own. John's interests were varied

and one could say of him, "been there—done that."

He is survived by his wife, Joan, of Garden Plain, KS; mother, Margaretta of Wichita, KS; sister, Carolyn Denver; and brother, William, both of Wichita, KS, along with a host of family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Floyd, and a sister, Carol Lynn.

Funeral services were conducted on August 30, 2000, at the Downing & Lahey Mortuary West Chapel in Wichita, KS, by Bros. Wayne Murphey and Emmanuel Gracey. Burial was in the Vinita Cemetery, Lansdowne, KS.

— — — — —

**Oliver Cleon Tillman** was born January 10, 1915, to John and Mattie Tillman in Okfuskee County, OK.

He met Icylee Baskins and married her on November 2, 1933. To this union eight children were born, five of whom preceded him in death.

Bro. Tillman was employed by Cotton and Cottner Construction Company where he labored faithfully for many years until his retirement.

He attended the Church of God in Green Pastures, OK, and was pastored by the late Bro. Everett W. Sanders, the late Bro. Herman D. and Odever Kelley and finally, Bro. Charles L. Chandler, who was his pastor the past nineteen to twenty years.

Bro. Tillman leaves to cherish his memory his wife of 67 years, Sis. Icylee Tillman of the home; one daughter, Maxine Linsey of Spencer, OK; two sons, Raymond Tillman, Del City, OK and Roy Tillman, Dallas, TX.

In addition to rearing their children, Bro. and Sis. Tillman reared two grandchildren, Eva Johnson of Rochester, NY, and Carol Powell Tillman of Enid, OK. Other survivors include three sisters, Lugenia Laskey and Emma Fulbright of Spencer, OK, and Ida Redo of Edmond, OK; 10 other grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, 15 great-great grandchildren and a host of other relatives, saints and friends.

Sis. Frances Chandler conducted the funeral service for Bro. Tillman at the Church of God chapel in Spencer, OK, assisted by Sis. Patsy Fields and Sis. Mary Warren. Burial was in the Hillcrest Memory Gardens, Spencer, OK.

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Subscribe to this paper—\$3.00 per year.

**QUESTION AND ANSWER**  
BY  
**BRO. OSTIS B. WILSON**  
Reprint

**QUESTION:** To what extent does God know the future in our individual lives? Does He know our ultimate end? Did God know absolutely which choice Adam and Eve would make in the garden?

**ANSWER:** I will say that the questioner has asked a difficult question here and is treading in far-out territory. When we finite creatures with our little finite minds endeavor to analyze and categorize God, we can't go very far until we are left swinging in midair. I am sure I will not be able to satisfy the mind of this questioner.

One thing we can know for certain is that God knows everything going on in our lives—words, thoughts, deeds, attitudes and feelings—and absolutely nothing is hidden from Him. Hebrews 4:13 says, "...all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." Ecclesiastes 12:14 says, "...God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing..." Then it is certain there is nothing secret to God or hidden from Him. Jesus was a jump ahead of His adversaries all the time because He knew what they were thinking in their hearts before they said or did anything and He out-manuevered them at every turn.

As to just how thoroughly God knows the future of our individual lives, I am not able to say. But I believe we have scriptures to prove that we have something to do with that ourselves. Galatians 6:7 says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Every person is charting his own future day by day right now. In Matthew 7:2 Jesus said, "...and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." Whatever we give out in our dealings with other people will come back to us just like we put it out. Therefore, we should all be really particular to put out such things in our lives that we will be glad to see coming back. Our futures are all affected by our choices and decisions we make now and are determined by the seed we are sowing now. It seems clear to me that we are all on trial and probation here and God lays out His course of life for us and if we walk in it He will bless us and if we don't, He won't. But the choice is ours. I feel that I can say with certainty that

if we take God's way and commit our lives into His hands that He surveys our lives far enough ahead of us to prepare us for any eventualities and protect us from any traps or snares the enemy has set for our feet down the line. Psalms 139:3 says, "Thou compassest (winnoweth: margin) my path..." This indicates that the Lord goes ahead of us in our path and winnows out the things there that He wants us to meet with and this confirms what has been said before.

Does God know our ultimate end? I am sure everyone will not agree with me when I say this but I do not believe He does. I am not at this time convinced of that. I do not in any way diminish or discount God's omniscience in saying this. I recognize that God has the power to know the ultimate end of every one of the billions of people of earth but I do not feel that He chooses to exercise that power. In other words, I believe God knows everything He wants to know and needs to know to properly handle His affairs and deal with every man

as He would in all fairness and mercy. Let me say it this way, if I believe that God has

the power to know everything; then by the same token I believe He has the power to put out of His mind anything He wants to put out of it and to not know anything He doesn't want to know. And in the very nature of things, I believe this is one thing He does not choose to know; at least up to a certain point. One brother said he was praying about this very thing and asking Him if He really knew everything. And He said God answered him and said "I know everything I want to know." That seems to me a reasonable premise in this regard.

It would seem to me that if God allowed Himself to know our ultimate end, it would be difficult for Him to deal with men as the Bible tells us that He does to bring them to salvation. And in my little mind I would have difficulty associating much meaning to the command to His disciples to evangelize the world and take the gospel to every creature and all who will believe will be saved and all that believe not shall be damned. What meaning would this have if He knew beforehand what would be the ultimate end of each person. Read Job 33:14-30, which describes the different ways and means God uses in His dealings with men. Verses 29 and 30 say God works all these things often with man to bring back his soul from the

pit and to enlighten him with the light of the living. What meaning would all this have if God knew they would not be drawn back from the pit anyway. It is clear in the Scriptures that salvation, in its provision, is universal (Christ tasted death for every man—Hebrews 2:9) and is offered unto all on a "whosoever will" basis and the choice is up to each individual as to whether he will accept it and be saved or reject it and be lost in the end.

Did God know absolutely which choice Adam and Eve would make in the garden? I am fully conscious that God thoroughly understood and knew the risk involved in creating man as He did; a free acting agent with the power of choice and free exercise of will. He fully understood the possibility of sin when He gave them the commandment He did. But that commandment gave workability to their exercise and free choice. A service of free choice, prompted by the free will of the individual, is the only thing that would

*"Did God know absolutely which choice Adam and Eve would make in the garden?"*

satisfy the yearning in the heart of God for love and companionship from a moral, intelligent

being. He created man an intelligent and moral being like Himself, capable of responding to love and giving love in return and thus fulfilling that yearning which God had. He could have made man a robot with power only to do as he was programmed to do, but that would not have fulfilled the deep yearning for love and companionship God had.

This would have been the only way that He could have eliminated the possibility of sin. God knew this, so He made ample provision for such a situation, in the event it happened, in the plan of salvation which He made. And the plan of salvation is so complete, perfect, comprehensive and all-encompassing as to meet every need of mankind that it certainly demonstrates that God knew well what He was about when He set it up. To say that God absolutely knew what Adam and Eve would do and all the doleful and devastating consequences of it all would be to reduce the whole human and spiritual drama to a kind of war-game situation between God and the devil to see which one could outdo the other and to set man up in the middle as a target to catch the full blunt of the whole operation and as a prize for the winner. It is also to say that God's deep yearning for a family and love and companionship overcame His better judgment

and He just went ahead and made man anyway.

I do not, I cannot, think of God in that way. I know God could know everything if He chose to, but I believe He has wisdom to not know some things and it is a mutual advantage to Him and us for Him to not know those things. God never created man for a target between Him and the devil. He made him upright (Ecclesiastes 7:29), in His own image and after His own likeness (Genesis 1:26-27) and wanted him to stay that way. The fellowship and communication between them in the garden was perfect and sweet and God wanted it to continue that way. But man, by an act of his own will and by his own choice, believed the lie of the devil and was deceived into disobeying the commandment they had and lost their righteous estate and fell into sin which changed the whole picture. Then God set about to bring His plan of salvation into action which He did approximately 4000 years later in His Son, Jesus Christ.



## Thoughts About Our Sacrifice

By Sis. Anita Adams

*"Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the Lord is contemptible. And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil..."*

Malachi 1:7-8

In the old Testament time they had to bring a lamb, oxen, or some other animal without spot or blemish...perfect, to offer to God. We don't bring animals now, so what is it that we should bring and in what kind of condition should it be?

Their sheep or oxen were to be the best of their flock. I think of the song, "Give of Your Best to the Master."

Give of your best to the Master,  
Give of the strength of your youth...

Give of your best to the Master  
Give him first place in your heart;  
Give him first place in your service;  
Consecrate every part...

Give of your best to the Master,  
Naught else is worthy his love;  
Give him your heart's adoration,  
Give him the best that you have.

Let us look at time. It is a high priced commodity around our house. There seems to be something to fill up every second of every day. Do we give the Lord our best time of the day? Or do we use it all for ourselves? When do we have our devotions? It is after we are so worn out that we can hardly concentrate, or is it a time when we are really alert and able to commune with God? I know that the brethren have to go to work and the sisters have obligations. However, I know for myself that the enemy works hard to keep me from giving my best to the Lord.

Don't you imagine that some of the lambs that were to be sacrificed were their pets? We are all drawn to the pretty and perfect. I can hear a child saying, "But Daddy, that's my pet lamb. You can't offer that one as our sacrifice." The devil comes to us in the same way. "You've got to provide for your family. Or you're young and have so much potential. Now is the time for you to reach your goals and ambitions. You can work for the Lord when you are older." My Grandpa tells us many times that there is not much he can do for the Lord but pray. His prime is past. Don't offer unto the Lord only your blind and lame years, give Him the best of your youth.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Romans 12:1. How are we taking care of our bodies? Are we keeping our body in good condition for the Lord? Are we eating right, getting our rest and not overextending ourselves so that we can honor God? Whatever we give should be the best. We should keep our bodies in the best condition for the Lord, not simply to be able to do our hobbies or work, and to meet the world's standard of beauty, but for God and HIS WORK.

Money is something that often comes to mind when we talk about sacrifice. How are we giving of the money God has graciously bestowed upon us? Do we give what is left over or do we give of our first fruits? We must give of our best to the Master or Malachi says it is evil.

May the Lord help us each one; myself included, to give our very best to the Savior of our souls.

## *A Basket of Weight*

*By Sis. Connie Sorrell*

*A two-year-old girl saw her mother passing through the room with a basket and the little girl believed Mother needed her assistance.*

*"Yes, you may help me carry the basket," said Mother as her daughter took hold of one side of the handle.*

*The little girl groaned as she struggled to hang on to the basket handle and keep pace with Mother. Then they came to the foot of the stairs.*

*"We need to take this upstairs," said Mother. The little girl shook her head "no" while glancing at the bigness of the stairs. She couldn't bear the weight of that basket and climb stairs at the same time, but she didn't want Mother to leave her behind.*

*"Okay, hold on to me and I will carry you in one arm and we will take the basket upstairs," said Mother.*

*At the top of the stairs, Mother put down her little girl who immediately took hold of*

*the handle and assumed her duty of carrying that basket to its destination.*

*"Now we have it where it needs to be," exclaimed Mother, and her daughter clapped her hands with joy. She was glad she had helped her mother.*

*As workers in the Lord's vineyard, we can become weighted down with our share of responsibilities. We may groan and struggle with a basket of cares and worries but we will never ascend upward until we let the Lord carry all the load. With His arm beneath us, we can arise from our knees and know the work is being done while we are trusting His power. Joy will come in knowing we have done what we could.*

*"Who (Jesus Christ) is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.... Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." I Peter 3:22; 5:7.*

## **Camp Meeting 2000 Quotes**

**"Keep silent, keep sweet, and keep stepping."**  
—Bro. James Bell

**"Our righteousness should exceed the righteousness of the Pharisees. We should run circles around them."** —Sis. Mary McDonald

**"I tasted God and He is good! I said, 'I wanted that!' And it spoiled me for anything else! This is the best thing I've ever tasted. There is no comparison."** —Bro. Gordon Humphrey

**"We need to have not only head knowledge but heart knowledge. We don't want to have the big head and a little heart."**

—Bro. Charles Taylor

**"If the quality, intensity, and fervor are not as it was when you were first saved, you have lost your first love. Jesus has complete victory**

**for you to overcome anything. Find a fresh place to re-establish your relationship with God."**

—Bro. Charles Chandler

**"Jesus gives us power, strength and inspiration. When we value and appreciate this salvation, and God's true love for us, it will give us a conscience choice to hold on to that which we have."**

—Bro. Paul Phillips, Jr.

**"The Ethiopian eunuch traveled 1,000 miles to Jerusalem and did not get anything but a roll. Many people go to church services with sad faces and come home with sad faces. The journey from Jerusalem to Ethiopia was a rejoicing journey because he got baptized."**

—Bro. John Varghese

**"Pure wisdom doesn't come out of hurt.... Oftentimes hurt will make you react against**

those who are trying to help you.... If you try to make church decisions based on carnal wisdom, the failure rate is approximately 100%.... You carry the spirit of wisdom wherever you go—carnal wisdom or pure wisdom.

—Bro. Jerry Melot

“Dependent people hang. A dependable person is there to be hung on.... In your congregation, are you a dependent or a dependable person?” —Bro. Toney Samons

“I don’t want to deny that Jesus is the Christ. But when I have the name and I don’t give all, it’s a kind of denial.” —Bro. Bob Huskey

“Jesus prayed to keep us form the world’s evil system. God has a system too, engineered by the Holy Ghost. This system will take us through our tests and trials.”

—Sis. Mary Lawson



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**25 Years Ago**

**Excerpts Taken From**  
**Oct., 1975**  
**Faith and Victory**

“Here is good news. My wife, Saramma John, delivered a baby girl on August 13, 1975. Now the mother and baby are all right under the great care of God. She sends her love to all of you.”

—John Varghese

“A mother was teaching a class of boys, ages seven to eleven. She had her little baby in a bassinet in the room with her. As most babies do, it put its hands in its mouth, and this mother’s baby did it more than most. One boy in the class sat beside the bassinet and kept playing with the baby’s hands. The mother told him that she wished that he would wash his hands before he touched the baby’s hands. This deeply offended the boy. He took it all wrong. He didn’t think his hands were all that dirty. About ten years later, he stood at the door of this mother’s home, and in the conversation he mentioned how he had never forgotten how she talked to him about playing with her baby’s hands. She told him that she was sorry she had hurt him and asked his forgiveness, but he wouldn’t forgive her. He had been hurt and still held it against her. You might think that this is a small thing, and it does seem to be, but he had been offended and hurt because he was spoken to about his dirty hands in front of the whole class. This is just an example of how very careful we need to be with our words.”

—Sis. Marie Miles