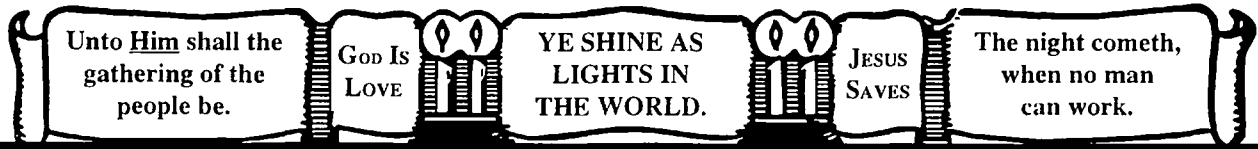


FAITH AND VICTORY

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The Christ Child

By
Cora Walker Hayes



Over the crowded Judean town
The shadows of night gloomed darkly down;
"No room in the inn," the only place
For the weary girl with fair, young face
Was a bed of straw mid wondering kine,
Where was born, that day, your Lord and mine.

No sheltered spot, but a stable bare,
Yet the Lord of light was cradled there;
While a mother, with all a mother's charms,
Enfolded Him close in loving arms,
And the days that came were passing sweet
For the halting tread of her baby's feet.

I think of the wondrous, shining star;
I think of the Magi from afar,

Adoring shepherds, the angel host—
Thoughts blessed are these—but always most,
With willing heart, I think of the Child,
And hail my Lord in the Undeified.

Oh, my soul grows warm for His dear sake,
And hope burns bright, and I bid Him make
Of me His herald, to bear His word
Till all men everywhere have heard;
For now the heavenly host again
Sings, "Peace on earth; good will to men."

I want God's peace for the troubled heart,
I want God's will in the busy mart,
I want God's love to girdle the earth;
For 'tis the time of the Christ-child's birth;
And the olive-branch in the baby hand
He raises to bless the waiting land.

We have in our midst the little child;
We have the poor and the sin-defiled,
The wretched, the sick, and the lonely ones,
Who have known the rise of brighter suns:
Comfort and cheer will come to your heart
If of your Christmas these have a part.

With gladness we welcome Christmas day;
We give our gifts and hearts are gay;
But ever there comes the tender thought
Of Him by whom all good is wrought,
Old Israel's God, the Holy One,
Who gave to the world His only Son.

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And ever there comes amid the cheer,
 Dear thoughts of those no longer here—
 "Gone on before"—and a minor strain
 Strikes chill on the heart with dull refrain;
 But the Christ-child wipes all tears away;
 Nor sorrow nor sighing on Christmas day.

So the children will play with fitting glee
 (Not yet the thought of Calvary);
 Earth shows her wrinkled old face aglow,

And the sunbeams dance across the snow;
 Deep in my heart it is Christmas time,
 And I hear a distant merry chime—

And I hear afar a joyful sound,
 And I see a great light shine around,
 While a woman youth and fair of face,
 Enfolds her Son in fast embrace;
 In a stable bare, mid wondering kine,
 Is born this day your Lord and mine.



CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

Reflective Joy

✱ I feel the influence of the season beaming into my soul from the happy looks of those around me. Surely happiness is reflective, like the light of Heaven; and every countenance, bright with smiles and glowing with innocent enjoyment, is a mirror transmitting to others the rays of a supreme and everlasting benevolence. —Washington Irving

What He Wanted Most

During World War II, in a home where the father was away in the army, a mother asked her little boy, "What would you like to have more than anything for Christmas?"

The boy looked at a picture of his dad dressed in his military uniform and said, "I would like for Daddy to step out of that picture and be home with us for Christmas!"

That's exactly what the Saviour did some 2000 years ago. He stepped forth from the images and mental pictures men had of God, and showed the world what God is like: "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." (John 1:14.)

No Mail Route To Heaven

Julianne Holland, age 13, wanted to do her part for Jesus at Christmas. She addressed her letter about Jesus to the local post office. It went to the desk of Donald L. Orner,

director of customer services, at the postal center in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Julianne's letter said:

"Every Christmas people think about getting presents, getting together with friends and having a good time because Jesus was born. By being born He let love into the world, let blind people see, let crippled people walk.

"So, for this Christmas, don't think about your presents. Just think about Jesus and all He did and try to spread the real spirit of Christmas!"

Orner replied to the letter, saying,

"My Dear Julianne: We have no mail route to Heaven, but I am sure that Jesus is aware of what you wrote. He knows our thoughts and our feelings, and your beautiful letter flowed out across all the miles that no mailman could ever travel and touched His heart.

"Perhaps, too, Julianne, some of those who ask for presents are really asking for love, but to know that they are loved they need some *physical object* to show it. You said that your letter wouldn't get anywhere; but it touched my heart. Merry Christmas, and may God bless you!"

The Associated Press relayed Julianne's beautiful letter around the world. The *Los Angeles Times* featured it on the front page.

How great is the chain reaction of a loving thought!

Gifts from Strangers

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

In the busy rush of life, give yourself a gift. Notice the strangers about you. Glimpses into their lives will enrich yours and give you food for thought.

My family has found this to be so in our lives. In the evening when we gather around the supper table, often we share with one another a thought or lesson we learned from observing strangers. Here are a few "gifts" I have received from strangers.

A drizzling rain pattered on our car top as I waited with my daughter at the high school for her Vo-Tech bus to arrive. A sporty white car turned in two parking spaces down from my car. The driver's door opened and a yellow umbrella with orange polka dots mushroomed from the car. We watched to see what kind of woman had such a colorful umbrella.

Oops! It was a man with a business suit who climbed out of the car. In his hand he carried a white-boxed lunch which he carefully kept under the umbrella. He ducked his head underneath but his shoulders and suit back were turning dark from the rain. Perhaps he was taking lunch to his wife who was a teacher; anyway, someone ate a dry lunch because he was careful with it. That lunch seemed a treasure and I thought about true treasures. May I ever be protective with my salvation, friendship, happiness—that they do not dampen, mold and crumble under showers of time. May others enjoy what I have to share. (Matthew 6:20-21; Revelation 3:18.)

One day this summer in the 100+ degree heat, I stopped for a red light at a busy intersection in down town Oklahoma City. I glanced to my right and saw a black Jaguar quietly purring beside my red Geo. A lady's slender arm reached out of the open window and between her fingers was a cigarette. With experienced ease she flicked the cigarette. Sparks whirled in the hot breeze under her car and on the tan canvas top.

This classy lady with good taste for cars had poor taste in choosing habits. Her lungs weren't going to be the only things burning if she wasn't more careful with her fire hazard. I hoped the signal would turn green before her cigarette lit up the whole row of us.

Habits can make us or break us. They reveal character and where we are going in life. (Proverbs 23:32.)

I took my baby daughter to a small park the

other day and we had the most fun! While cars whizzed by us taking business dads and moms home from work, a lady and her big german shepherd came down the sidewalk by the park. The dog was taking his owner on a run because he was in a hurry to reach the woods in time. Though she wore sneakers, she tiptoed as if still wearing her high heel shoes. Her one hand was wrapped around the leash and in her other hand was a teeny weeny switch. That dog wasn't concerned about the switch. He went where he pleased. I hoped a cat wouldn't tempt him to a chase before that lady put him back inside.

That dog owner looked so out-of-control that I felt sorry for her. Then I thought about myself as a mom. Is that the way I look—pulled around by those under my care? Lord, help me to keep order in my life so that those under me will feel my helpful guidance in their lives. (Proverbs 16:32; 25:28.)

At a gas station one day I was at the counter paying for my gas when a small, white station wagon sputtered to a stop right in front of the big store window. The clerk and I both looked out and saw this huge man climb out of the driver's seat. His round head sat directly on his shoulders. Colorful tattoos decorated his arms, back and chest. At the base of his bald head was a Nazi swastika. His thick arms swung stiffly as he strode to the door. A tiny woman had stepped out of the other side of the car and she slipped behind him.

The clerk and I exchanged amused glances. This man appeared to be big and tough and ready to fight anyone who dared to bicker with him. I sure wished I had an appropriate gospel tract to hand to him and the courage to do it. He needed to be in the Lord's army where men don't have to act tough but are strong characters for a righteous cause. (Ephesians 6:10.)

Recently, I attended a beginners' piano re-

(Continued on page 12.)

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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES



Single copy, one year \$3.00
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 Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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"And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against." Luke 2:25-34.

The entrance of Christ to this earth was an event heralded by angels and rejoiced over by shepherds. Among the celebration and miraculous manifestations was the prophecy by Simeon, a humble servant of God, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel." This divination may seem dull among a scene of brilliant heavenly jubilation, and to some it even sounds more like judgment, but a close look reveals a luster which should give us a deep abiding hope and peace.

It is true that as Christ lived out His earthly ministry, there were many in Israel who rejected Him and fell under the weight of sin while others accepted salvation and arose in righteousness. But the true message of the prophecy is that Christ is the constant in the equation of life. It did not matter how many people cursed Him, or how many praised Him, He was still the same Christ and was "set" or grounded in stability. The apostle Paul put it in these words, "Jesus

Christ the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever." Heb. 13:8.

Last year the century closed with people in anxiety. You could actually even say there was Y2K hysteria. Some were making dire predictions of what would happen when the clocks rolled over to the year 2000. In some minds, the return of Christ was inevitable. But on January 1, 2000, the sun arose and people went about their lives just as on every other New Year's Day. The turn of the century provided no disruption to the plan of God.

At the end of this year another climax faces our nation—the election of the president of the United States. Emotions are running high and causes seem desperate. This too will pass, and Christ will continue to rule in the affairs of man.

Let us remember, no matter what circumstances we might be facing, a part of the joyful Christmas story is the certainty that Christ is set for every eventuality. His presence within our hearts will bring peace and lift us above the changes and confusion of this world.

With thankfulness we report that during the month of November much progress has been made by Bro. Efrain Huerta and his son, Efrain, Jr., in reprinting the out of stock hymn book, *Evening Light Songs*. Many are waiting to purchase this hymnal and we will provide notice in the *Faith and Victory* when it becomes available.

Recent communication has been made with Bro. Michael Smith who is with the saints in Ghana. He reports that he and his family are well. He also asked a continued interest in our prayers as decisions are made on how best to minister to the Church of God in Ghana, West Africa.

On November 29 my wife, Mary, and I marked our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. It is with a real sense of gratitude that we look back upon our years together and see how God has blessed us with many mercies. He has given us family to enjoy, friends to fellowship and purpose in living for Christ.

Many of the saints who played an important role in our lives have left this earth to enjoy the grandeur of heaven. Situations and circumstances which seemed important in yesteryear have faded into the past. Today there are differ-

ent challenges, new faces and visions to be fulfilled. So we anticipate the future together which God has planned for our path.

Wall calendars for the year 2001 are in stock and ready for sale. These make nice Christmas gifts, and each features a colorful nature scene with a Bible verse for every month. The calendars measure 7 1/4" X 13 1/2" and are available for \$3.00 each, which includes postage and handling.

Bound volumes of the 11 issues of the *Faith and Victory* paper for the year of 2000 will soon be in stock. The price is \$5.00 per book, which includes postage and handling. Also soon to be ready for sale are Junior *Beautiful Way* year-books (52 papers for the year 2000) at \$5.00 each, which includes postage and handling. The limited supply of these books will be sold on a first-come basis.

Income tax time is right around the corner. If you have contributed to this work during 2000 and need a receipt for the purpose of deductions, please let us know.

Our warmest wishes for a blessed holiday season in which Christ is the central focus. As God permits, we will again greet you through the medium of this *Faith and Victory* in the year 2001.

In Christian love, —Bro. Wayne Murphey



LA—"I have crippling arthritis in my hands."

—Sis. Sybil Goldsberry

OH—"Remember me in your prayers."

—Sis. Marie Hubbard

Nigeria—"Dear Bro. Wayne: Please, I want to make a prayer request. I have a stomach problem. Pray for me to be able to stop heart-felt fears...."

—Sis. Kate Nwaobi

IN—"Please pray for my wife who has serious kidney problems and a heart problem."

—Bro. Donald Jones

MO—Sis. Violet Sinkhorn suffered a stroke

on November 9, 2000. Pray that she will have a complete recovery.



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. 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



Meeting Reports and Notices

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 94th annual Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held at Guthrie, OK, from December 22-31, 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 22, 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 Lake View 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.



CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The annual California State Assembly Meeting at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA, will convene, Lord willing, Friday night, December 22 at 7:30 p.m. There will be three worship services daily, 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., commencing Saturday, December 23 and continuing through December 31, 2000.

We expect another profitable meeting through your prayers and the support of all who can possibly attend.

For information or assistance, call Bro. Herbert Clay, (818) 897-1396, or the Sunset Guest Home, (818) 899-2022.

—Sis. Ruth Taylor

Sixteen year-old Keith Culpepper, and his twelve year-old sister, Christy, have moved from OR to an isolated part of MI. It would be of great encouragement to them if some of the young people could correspond with them.

If you would like their address, write this office at P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044, or e-mail us at <editor@faithpublishing.com>.

LETTERS
FROM
OUR
READERS



FL—I just couldn't wait to let all of you know how God answered prayer for Kevin and me this morning. You will remember that we had asked for prayer for a physical need regarding my pregnancy. Well, I returned to the midwife today to receive the results. I want to report total victory in Jesus! The last test results were very good and I will not be required to undergo any further testing! We are praising God from the depths of our souls. This has been like a dark cloud hanging over our heads for the past seven months and now God has seen fit to answer prayer and lift that cloud!!! Glory be to Jesus for His abundant mercy on someone such as me. I do not in any way feel worthy of His love and Him taking care of this problem.

We are trusting God to continue to bless this pregnancy and deliver us a normal, healthy baby when the time is right.

Thank you ALL for praying and standing by us through this and all other times too.

—Sis. Cheryl Smith



AL—Dear Bro. Wayne and saints: Greetings of love to all in Jesus' name. I am much encouraged in Jesus, though I find the furnace often heated hotter than ever. Praise God. He takes the very things with which the devil means to destroy us and uses them to prove, test and refine us.

I'm in Alabama now until further notice. Thank you so much for your prayers, love and support.

—Sis. Bonnie L. Riley



CA—Greetings of love, and thanks to you, the dear saints of our blessed Savior, who loves us. I want to give praise to His name, and live to please Him.

Pray for my strength—that I can distribute tracts. As you may know, I have not been well for awhile. Your tracts are wonderful and people like to receive them....

Your sister in the dear Lord,

—Sis. Magnolia Wilson



OK—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings once again in Jesus' name. I hope all is going well with you and the work there at the Print Shop.

It was interesting to note how Bro. Efrain Huerta became acquainted with the work there and that now he is a fulltime worker. I trust the Lord to continue to bless him and his family as they continue to serve Him. Surely there is a great reward in serving God. The poet said, "The longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows. The more that I love Him, more love He bestows." Such a life will end up in heaven where we can spend an eternity with Him and with all the redeemed of all ages.

I find the truth of this song to be very real in my own life. The Lord saved me when I was just past my eighteenth birthday. I spent most of the next year helping in the Print Shop, which was a great blessing to me. I enjoyed being there with Bro. and Sis. Pruitt and the rest of the lovely workers. Not long after that the good Lord gave me a good, saved wife, and we have lived together and served the Lord for over fifty-six years. We can still say, "The longer we serve Him, the sweeter He grows."

As we finish our lives in His service we are looking forward to the crown of life which He has promised to them that love His appearing.

Your saved brother, —T. V. McMillian



WA—Dear Bro. Wayne: May God's blessings rest upon you and the staff members.

Through His mercy God has blessed, for which I am thankful. What would we do without His love?

I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper—reading the articles, and testimonies of our brothers and sisters. I look forward to reading it each month.

I am so glad to be among the children of God, to live the life the Bible teaches us. So much confusion is in a life of sin. It makes me glad that I know Jesus.

I enjoy the Guthrie Sunday meeting tapes that are sent to me. May God bless Bro. Stanley Dickson and the Church.

Love to all, —Sis. Naomi Jones



Nigeria—Dear Bro. Murphey: I thank our heavenly Father for another opportunity to reach you through this letter. I believe the fulfillment of the Lord's promises are certain for you as a response to your valuable services and endeavors to reach many more souls through the printed pages. Please be encouraged to labor on.

Thank you for the September edition of the

Faith and Victory paper. I am happy for being current with events. The articles remain a source of blessing to my soul as well as others. Two Sundays ago, I read out part of the editorial and the prayer request column to the congregation. We are moved by the report of your daughter, Patina's, planned marriage to Bro. Lindell Campbell. We were more touched by her devotion and the valuable services rendered together with you at the Publishing House in the interest of souls. It is worth noting that she has contributed immensely to our spiritual well-being. The vacuum created by her exit in the darkroom and the entire outfit equally gave us concern. A congregational prayer was offered to God for His blessings on their marriage, as well as filling up the vacuum.

We went on our knees to the throne of grace on behalf of our brethren in affliction of various kinds as published in the issue. We believe the Lord's will shall be done on all of them on account of the collective cries of His children. Brethren similarly afflicted here have been encouraged to continue to trust the Lord for their healing. Your prayers are coveted in this direction.

Thanks to God for the summer camp meetings that have come to successful end. The good reports about the Lord's blessings following participants was gladdening. We look forward to when some of us would have the opportunity of taking part in these great events to be more acquainted with the saints and how things are conducted there. This, I believe, will help us more in the work of God here....

May the Lord bless you with all the needs to keep the publishing work going.

—Bro. F. Naths-Igbanibo

— — — — —

KS—Greetings in the name of the Lord: I praise the Lord for the blessing I received from the Lord through the Publishing House. The book, *Bible Readings for Bible Students*, is a really big blessing. I received it and showed it to a few wayward brothers here, and they like it. So I offered to give them a copy because I know it will guide them to the truth. I tried to tell them things I have learned, but they are not too receptive of the truth coming from a fellow inmate. Please pray with me that this book will get through to their hearts. Pray for me to be stronger in the Lord and to be long-suffering with my brothers. Pray for the Church of God here at Leavenworth. —Bro. M. A. Clyburn

CA—My heart is so grateful that one day I heard my Lord say, "This is the way, walk ye in it." Isaiah 30:21.

I praise God for drawing me to Him and showing me the light to walk in. He showed me the path is straight and narrow, but He would be my guide. He has led me in many different ways, many I didn't understand. But He knew what was best for me. He has brought me out into a wealthy place. (Psalm 66:10-12.) The net and the afflictions were very hard to understand. It seemed like there was no way out, but He brought me through when I submitted.

Then came the men riding over my head. Thank God, He hid me under the shadow of His wings. Psalm 91:1 says, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." I learned to rest there.

Then came the fire and the water. I didn't burn up and I didn't drown. I did find that wealthy place. Thank God, He says that if you walk and not faint you will survive. (Isaiah 40:31.)

Hebrews 12:1 says, "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us." When you run in a race, you don't put on the largest coat or boots you have—you wear the lightest clothes and shoes. We are in a race for our heavenly home. There are many races to run, many battles to fight. We have to continue to strip and get rid of everything that would hinder us.

There are many weights we must lay aside. Our own ways, thoughts and fleshly desires.

Jesus told Martha she was worried about many things. We can be too busy, which is one of the weights we need to lay aside.

Many are seeking material things and neglecting their soul. This is a weight to be laid aside.

I will walk and make straight paths for my feet, run and not be weary, but lay aside every weight that besets me. I also want to sit down at the Master's feet. —Sis. Naomi Jennings

— — — — —

AL—Dear saints: We are real encouraged by the Africa trip which Bro. Michael and Sis. Renè Smith are making at this time. May the Lord bless their efforts and keep them well and safe.

Our desire is to support them in whatever way we can. May God bless them abundantly.

In His service, —Bro. Michael & Sis. LaDawna Adams and family

MISSIONARY REPORTS



“My house is full, but my fields are empty.”

From India...

November 13, 2000—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: May God bless the efforts of saints everywhere who work for the expansion of the Kingdom of God.

Lord willing, our 36th General Convention will be held during the second week of January, 2001. We need your presence and prayers for the success of this Convention.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

From Nigeria...

October 25, 2000—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings to you all through the Redeemer's name who gave His life for us so we can live and walk together with Him.

A quick glance through the editorial gave me mixed feelings—sadness and joy. I was sad to read about some dear ones losing their homes and possessions in a wildfire at Guthrie. However, I join to thank God for offering protection to His beloved ones in view of the enormity of the incident.

It is a real joy to learn about the planned visit of Bro. Michael Smith, currently laboring in Ghana, to travel to Asana in Nigeria, if he secures a visa to allow him entry. More gladdening is his intention to include Port Harcourt in his visit. We shall pray and look forward to God making his proposal come through. We have been expecting such visits and shall be glad to find him in our midst.

The rains will soon give way to a dry season in November. That is when we hope to tear off

the old roof to enable us to start the new roof of the church building. It is our earnest prayer for God to enable us to this aspect of the project before the rains again in May. Meanwhile, we are not relenting in our efforts and are doing our best as the Lord provides the means. The inflationary trend is going up still in the country. The earlier this project is completed the better for us. Your continued support will go a long way in realizing our objective.

Yours in Christ, —Bro. F. Naths-Igbanibo

(**Editor's note:** Plans have been made for Bro. Michael Smith to be with the Port Harcourt congregation on December 12. Several of the saints from Port Harcourt are interested in traveling to the convention at Asana which will be held December 14-17.)

Honduras, C. A., Report

November 17, 2000—Dear fellow-laborers: A missionary group of eight people returned on November 7, 2000, from Roatan, Honduras, Central America. We departed on October 26 to complete the building of the English school we plan to start there: the first term beginning in February, 2001.

We thank the Lord for protection for all those accompanying us on this trip. They went with a desire to help this missionary effort, and were certainly a blessing while there. Bro. Ted Bock, Girma Moaning and Matthew Gellenbeck, from Oklahoma, and Andrea Meek and Derek Palmer from Loranger, LA, went, along with my wife, Jeanie, and daughter, Andrea, and myself. We can report that the trip was profitable, both in getting a lot of work accomplished and also spiritual blessings. We had some unexpected sickness, but the Lord saw us through.

Two bathrooms were completed and a water system consisting of a 250-gallon water tank and the guttering to catch the rainwater. A septic system was installed, desks were painted, light fixtures installed and electrical work completed.

We were on the island of Roatan for twelve days, in which we completed the above projects, as well as conducted meetings (brother's, sister's, children's meetings and Bible Studies). We always feel these are profitable. One soul was saved, and in some of our visitations we felt that hearts were touched in the village. Many souls in the local congregation sought for spiritual renewal.

The brothers and sisters in the congregation always do their best in making our stay as pleasant as they can. The brethren were a help in the manual labor on the school, the sisters made a united effort to prepare evening meals for us everyday.

The children are anticipating the new school opening in February. Our biggest concern and need at this time is the staffing of the school. Sis. Judy Trapagnier is planning to move into the mission house the first of January to supervise the school. My wife, daughter, and I also plan to go for the first four to six weeks of the school term to get it going. We have no other committed help at the present time. We feel that if we could staff the school with help from the states (either on a 1 to 2 month or longer term commitment) from different people, we could get the school on its feet. We hope that by the following school term some of the local people would be prepared to help in these areas. Presently, there are many who can read, but cannot spell or write English. They, too, need teaching to qualify them for helping. We are offering two night adult classes per week to instruct them. Please pray with us and seek the Lord for commitments in this necessary area. We are looking for the Lord to supply.

We have a projected enrollment of twenty to twenty-five students in the 1-6 grade level, for English, Spelling and Bible classes on a part-time basis. They will continue their Spanish education in the Honduras public school system. They only attend a half day there, so would come the other half day to the English school. We have another fifteen to twenty students wanting to continue their education on a full-time basis at our English school. They do not continue attending the public school after that time because of the cost involved. The cost for a student to attend our school part time is \$15 per month or \$150 per year per student. A full-time student would cost \$25 per month or \$250 per year.

The economic situation in Honduras at this time is very poor. Many of the men are without employment. We are earnestly praying for the men in the local congregation to be able to find work. One man did secure a job while we were there. Many times the employment is only temporary. Several of the families (who tend to be very large) are suffering.

Because of this, we are aware that financial aid will have to be given to the school there. The

saints here have generously supported this missionary effort and the saints there are very grateful. They are an uneducated people and feel unqualified to publicly write a letter to the saints to thank them, but they always extend their thanks. This trip we took a large amount of sheets for the women. This is something that is hard for them to get. They were so grateful and extend their thanks to all of the congregations who helped in this.

The school building is paid for, thanks to you who have given. A good portion of the school supplies and needs are purchased and ready for shipping. There are still a few items needed. We have a few furniture items still to be shipped. The water system will be a full-time service when we return in January, Lord willing. Because of this, we are trying to find a used washing machine to send over there for the convenience of Sis. Judy, and also a used table and chairs. We plan to ship a container with school material and mission house needs, as well as clothing for the congregation to Roatan. This is a boat shipment and hopefully will arrive soon after we go there the last of January. If you would like to contribute to this shipment, or contribute to the cost of the shipping, we would need the supplies in New Orleans by January 1 and the contribution should be sent to the Honduras Missionary Fund here.

A sponsor sheet for the students and the upkeep of Sis. Judy can be obtained from us upon request. We have estimated the cost of Sis. Judy's monthly personal needs to be around \$500 per month. Food is very expensive there.

We really miss Bro. Louis Kimble, who was a vital part of this ministry. He and Sis. Diane were so good to help organize the trips, etc. Due to Sis. Diane's load and burden at this time, we suggest the Honduras correspondence and contributions be sent to this address. We have an account for: Church of God, Honduras Missionary Fund, P. O. Box 157, Green Bank, WV 24944.

If you have any inquiries regarding the Honduras Missionary effort, please feel free to call Bro. Keith Fuller or myself. We will be happy to answer any questions. Bro. Keith and his wife plan to assist the school later in the year, feeling there will be possible needs at that time.

Thank you, again, for your support of this work. Please continue to pray for the work in Honduras. We feel that it is prospering and the congregation maturing. —Bro. Toney Samons



Larry Dean Eck was the youngest child born to Waldo and Beatrice Eck on October 31, 1956, in Enid, OK. He passed from this life at his home on Oct. 25, 2000, at the age of 43 years.

Larry attended schools in Covington, OK, and graduated in 1974. He then entered the Marine Corps in January of 1975. He was honorably discharged, and in 1977 moved to Enid and worked as an electrician.

He met and married Rita Davis in June of 1977. He moved to Muskogee, OK, and then in 1980 to Guthrie, OK, where he worked in the oil fields.

In 1983 Larry was severely injured while working on an oil rig in Mustang, OK. He was hospitalized for six weeks, in which time one leg was amputated.

He later worked as a machinist with his brother, Hurley, in Denver, CO. He was also very adept at mechanic work.

Larry's greatest hobby was playing the guitar and singing gospel songs with his brother, Hurley.

In 1989 he moved to Edmond, OK, and in 1993 married Debra Rice in Oklahoma City, OK. They lived in several different places before his death, at which time he was living in Crescent, OK.

Larry always loved the saints and claimed the Church of God as his church.

He was preceded in death by his father in December, 1977, and his mother in May, 1995.

Survivors include his wife, Debra, of the home; one brother, Hurley, of Edmond, OK; four sisters, Bertha Miles and husband, Vernon, of Guthrie, OK, Berniece Miles and husband, Carl, of Edmond, OK, Lillie East, of Guthrie, OK and Waneta Creel and husband, Leroy, of Guthrie, OK; a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. He will be missed by all.

Graveside services were held by Bros. Wayne Murphey and Leslie Busbee in the Memorial Park Cemetery, Enid, OK. Larry had requested that favorite songs which he had sung and played as a young boy with his family be sung at his funeral. These included, *Life's Railway to Heaven*, *Rank Stranger* and *Precious Memories*.

Edward V. Davenport was born on August 4, 1921, in Sapulpa, Oklahoma to the union of President and Lessie Davenport. He was called to his reward on October 15, 2000, at the age of 79 years.

In the year of 1923, his parents, with the family journeyed to Southern California where he spent his childhood. He graduated from high school in El Centro, CA., in 1940, after which he joined the CC Camp. After terminating his service in the CC Camp, he found employment in San Diego, CA. Because of an injury on the job, he had to return to his home in Duarte, CA.

While there, his mother encouraged him to attend a cottage prayer meeting in the home of Bro. L. Davey. In the service, the Holy Spirit brought to full fruition its convicting power, and through his obedience, he was gloriously saved; and what a conversion! He never ceased to tell how at the age of 19, he was saved; the results of a praying mother.

In 1945, he served a short term in the United States Army. For a number of years he was the supporter of his elderly parents and younger siblings. For this the Lord rewarded him.

In 1948, he met and married Olive Phillips of Dover, Oklahoma. To this union, four children were born. He was a faithful, dependable husband, and father; not only a blessing to his immediate family, but to many others. For fourteen years, he assisted his wife with the care of her parents, Brother and Sister Ulysses Phillips. This he did willingly and with love and gentleness, which were some of his virtues.

He was known in the neighborhood as a helping hand, seldom refusing any who asked for help. When the opportunity presented itself, he would pass out tracts. The service of the Lord was his delight. He enjoyed the fellowship of the saints. He left a godly example for others to follow.

He is survived by his wife, Olive, of 52 years; two sons, David of Pasadena, CA, and Philip Davenport of San Bernardino; two daughters, Lois Johnson and husband, Robert, of Rialto, CA, and Sharon Davenport of San Bernardino,

CA; 16 grandchildren; one brother, Leonard Davenport of San Bernardino, CA; a sister, Alta L. Hobbs and husband, Calvin, of Rialto, CA; a special niece, raised like a sister, Barbara Jean Hall; also other nieces, nephews, relatives, saints and friends. He will be missed, but we all submit to the will of God.

Thank You

The family of Edward V. Davenport wishes to thank each and every one for your many acts of kindness shown to them during the loss of their loved one. God bless you.

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Helen Lambright was born January 24, 1918, in Tishomingo, OK, and passed from this life on November 17, 2000, at the age of 82 years, 9 months and 24 days.

She was united in marriage to William Edward Lambright on August 24, 1940, at Amarillo, TX.

She had been a resident of White Deer, TX, for 30 years. She was a homemaker and a member of the Church of God.

Sis. Lambright believed strongly in God as her heavenly Father and the powerful benefit of prayer and faith in God. She sought to please Him with her life, and to serve Him, and also to serve her fellowman. She loved the service of God and to attend services where the Word of God was upheld and preached, in home services, and also loved and enjoyed larger gatherings of God's people in camp meetings and assembly meetings, including those in Oklahoma and Missouri.

She was preceded in death by her father, Harry Lee Johnson, in 1940; a brother, Junior Deloy Johnson, in 1959; a son, William Edward Lambright, in 1984; her mother, Henryetta Johnson, in 1989; a sister, Velta Korger, in 1991, and a brother, Cecil Johnson, in 1993.

She leaves to cherish her memory her husband, William Edward Lambright, of the home, White Deer, TX; two daughters, Carolyn Ann Henry, Kerns, TX and Linda Faye Jones, Amarillo, TX; three sons, Bill Charles Gibson, Kemp, TX, Harry Lee Lambright, White Deer, TX and James Allen Lambright, Amarillo, TX; 25 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild, besides many other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted in Pampa, TX, by Bro. Leslie Busbee, and burial was in Memorial Heights Cemetery, Lefors, TX.

De'Zsanae Ratyse Zsanique Moses Beed, was born February 6, 1989, in Bakersfield, CA. With the exception of her last three months in the high desert, she lived her entire life in Bakersfield.

De'Zsanae loved her family and she enjoyed family activities, especially attending church. She looked forward to family night every week and took pleasure in wearing the pretty clothes her mother dressed her in. She came to know the Lord personally when she got saved at the beginning of her eleventh year. After getting saved she rejoiced that she could pray for herself. Her love for God was clearly expressed in her great joy in listening to inspirational songs, and her enthusiasm in attending Vacation Bible School. She exercised great faith during her illness. She asked God for miracles and she was granted them.

She attended Lakeside, Rio Bravo Greely, Christa McAuliffe and Brentwood Elementary Schools. Frequently she received student of the week and student of the month awards. She was a very bright, accomplished student, who loved school and academic challenges.

She was a sincere and gentle person and very thoughtful of others. Her parents appreciated how dependable she was, which is something cherished in an eldest daughter. De'Zsanae loved and admired her siblings and looked up to her eldest brother Donald. Her family near and far were very influenced by her. When asked about her greatest wish, it was to meet some of her family she had never met. This wish was fulfilled a week before she passed.

On Tuesday, October 3, 2000, De'Zsanae left this life to be with God. She is survived by her parents, father, Everett Beed, II, loving mother, Bridget Colette Beed; one older brother, Donald; two younger brothers, Everett and Joshua; two sisters, Porsha and Tahjiana; her dear grandmother, Mildred Thomas; her dear aunts and uncles and a host of other relatives, saints, friends and playmates.

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Gifts from Strangers

(Continued from page 3.)

Each child made a sweeping bow before sitting down at the baby grand piano to play their piece. I listened with one ear but with the other I heard the lady beside me clicking a peppermint candy against her teeth. It would

have made a better duet if she would have clicked in rythm to "Old MacDonald" or "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

That same day I attended a concert conducted on an organ with over six thousand pipes. The music professor made a sweeping bow before he played resounding music. Behind us, a heavy set man wheezed with every breath he took. He did not snorkle in time to Mozart or Beethoven, which was very disconcerting.

Oh, there is nothing in comparison to the varied sounds we hear if we but listen. Jesus often said, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." May I ever listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit within, and may I never be a distraction to His harmonious work. (Psalm 42:8; Ephesians 5:19-21.)

At church one Sunday two little girls fussed over the same coat. One girl hit the other one. Promptly her mother told her to ask forgiveness and the other mother had her daughter to hug her friend. The coat fuss was settled peacefully.

I was glad to see this because I had recently been at a public place where two little boys were fighting over a chair. One boy pushed and hit the other boy. "Don't let him get by with that!" declared the mother of the boy that was hit. "You hit him back, you hear. Don't let people push you around like that!" Her holler caused the other mother to yell at her son and I was ashamed of the mothers more than the two boys.

Problems aren't solved by fighting—they are solved by considering the other first like the Lord Jesus taught us to do. (Mark 12:31.)

As I stepped off the elevator onto the second floor of a senior retirement home, I saw a convoy inching down the hall. From his wheelchair, one man was pushing a lady who was pushing another lady. "Come and join us," he called to a couple of others in wheelchairs. "We can get down this hall together!" He reached out a firm hand to one of them. "Here, you can't go anywhere with your brakes on." He pulled the lever from the big wheel. "There. Now get in front of Mattie and we will push together."

What a beautiful picture they were to watch! And what a wonderful object lesson this generation of several decades taught me that morning. How vital it is for each of us to reach out to others and go up life's way together. May I never

forget the smile on their faces when they rolled as one unit down that hall. (Exodus 17:12; Psalm 133:1.)

These are just a handful of the daily gifts the Lord has given me from the strangers in my life. They are glimpses into the lives of people, who like me, are pressed with the cares of everyday living. Be observant and see how many "gifts" God will bring into your life.

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

(Continued from last month.)

In I Peter 5:1-3, Peter is exhorting the "Elders" (it is important to note that he also classifies himself as an "Elder" even though he was an "Apostle") and he exhorts them to "feed the flock of God" and take "the oversight thereof." Verse three, "Neither as being lords [not overruling—margin] over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock." Paul declared in II Corinthians 1:24 that he did not have dominion over their faith, but was a helper of their joy. Some unwise and overruling pastors require things of people which are beyond their faith, light, understanding and experience to which they have attained, and discourage them and crush their spirits. Instead, they should teach them in love and sympathy and set a good example before them of those things to which they desire them to attain. Again in Hebrews 13:17 we read, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give an account,..." Where this text says "Rule over you," the margin says, "Guide." One of the principal ways that a pastor rules over his congregation is in teaching them from God's Word in precept and then showing them how it works by a good example of what he is teaching. These texts all set forth the work of an "Elder" and his responsibilities and duties and also his authority.

It has already been noted that an "Elder" is appointed, qualified and empowered by the Holy Ghost. But a recognition of his call and qualifications for this work which is known as "ordination" is also taught in the Scriptures.

This is usually done by the laying on of hands of other ministers. Paul wrote to Titus to "...Ordain elders in every city,..." Titus 1:5. Paul also wrote to Timothy to stir up the gift of God which was in him by the putting on of his hands. (II Timothy 1:6.) I Timothy 4:14 says, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery." In Acts 13:2-3 we read, "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away." Then verse four says, "So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost,..." All these texts make it clear that the Holy Ghost is the One who calls, sends, endows with gifts and qualifies "Elders," and also that the Holy Ghost Himself wants the other ministers to recognize what He has done and to signify it by the sign of laying on of their hands. It is certain that any minister can feel freer in the exercise of his ministry and work more effectually when he knows that he has the recognition, support, backing and approval of the other ministers among whom he works and of the saints. For one to successfully fulfill the office of an "Elder" or "Overseer" in a congregation in all its aspects he should be ordained by the laying on of hands of other ordained ministers. He may preach just as well and feed the flock just as well without it, but when it comes to exercising authority and dealing with problems which may arise in the congregation, he will be much more effective and respected in his judgment if he has the recognition and backing of the ministry and the people he is dealing with know it. So I would say that one is a full-fledged "Elder," eligible to fulfill all the aspects of his office, when he is ordained by the laying on of hands of the presbytery.

In the early Church there were two classes of officers—"Elders" and "Deacons." The "Elders" were in charge of the spiritual oversight and operation of the Church, while the "Deacons" were in charge of the temporal affairs of the Church and the administration of its charities, etc.

In the first four verses of the sixth chapter of Acts, we have the introduction of the office of "Deacon" into the Church. In this case a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the administration of the charities and care of them

by the Church was taking place. In other words, they felt they were being discriminated against and that partiality was being shown. It is altogether possible that this was the case, since the Jerusalem Church was predominantly Jewish and they had not yet learned that all men were equal in God's sight and that there was neither Jew nor Greek in the body of Christ. When this murmuring reached the apostles, they called the whole company together and instructed them to choose out from among them seven men filled with the Holy Ghost and wisdom, and they would appoint them over this business, but they would give themselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the Word. That was their job and they did not have time to attend to the administration of temporal matters. Verse six says that when these men were chosen and brought to the apostles they prayed and laid their hands on them. These men were ordained to administer in the office of a "Deacon" in that Jerusalem Church.

In the third chapter of I Timothy we have set forth the qualifications of a "Bishop" or "Elder" in the first seven verses. Then verses 8-13 set forth the qualifications of a "Deacon." You will notice there are some strict requirements on the "Deacon" as well as on the "Elder," and some of them are the same. God is very particular about any person who administers in any office in His Church. The deacons were required to be filled with the Holy Ghost the same as the elder was required to be Spirit-filled. All who administer any office in the Church or occupy any position of leadership in the Church are to be Spirit-filled people.



The Gloaming

By Henry Frost

(Written on reaching seventy years of age.)

A few hours since, the radiant sun was standing
High in the heaven, firm-fixed in deepest blue,
Sending its beams in infinite expanding
Where clouds lay white and great winged eagles flew.

I thought the day would never know declining;
All was bright light, and all was vibrant life;
My joy rose up to heav'n, where light was shining,
And hope displaced all fear of coming strife.

But suddenly long shadows fell a-slanting
Upon the path which tiring feet betrod,

(Continued on page 16.)

A PARTIAL LISTING OF BOOKS AVAILABLE

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