

FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant

Unto Him shall the
gathering of the
people be.

God Is
LOVE

YE SHINE AS
LIGHTS IN
THE WORLD.

JESUS
SAVES

The night cometh,
when no man
can work.

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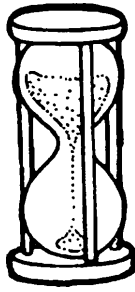
New Year's Greeting

By D. S. Warner
(Written in 1890)

*Another year has come and gone,
So swiftly flows unceasing time,
Forever on and on and on,
With sorrow's groan and merry chime
Commingled in its surging tide.
Time bears along upon its flood
Poor human wrecks by sin destroyed;
Yet o'er its stream the hand of God
Still bends His bow of hope divine;
Its hues of love in beauty shine.*

*Another year of hope and fear
Has swept around its dial-plate, ..
And with it thousands disappear
To higher bliss or awful fate.
God grant to us who yet survive
A heart of fervent gratitude,*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



And grace that we may wholly live
 To glorify the Source of good;
 Then should this be our final year,
 We'll sink to rest without a fear.

Another year hath brought its store
 In rich profusion at our feet,
 That we should heart and soul adore
 Our Maker's love so broad and deep.
 And have you cast your bread upon
 The waters of the passing year,
 In hope that what your hands have done
 Will in much future good appear?
 Then as thy faith so shall it be;
 In coming days thine eyes shall see.

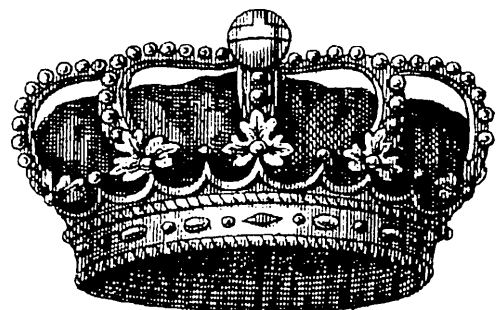
Another year! How hast thou done?
 Leaf back its record now and see.
 Have from thy life such virtues gone
 That, blessing others, back on thee
 Rebounded in a rich reward?
 Or hath the year rolled over thy head,
 With no oblation to its Lord?
 Then thy own soul thou hast not fed,
 And Christ the Judge will say to thee,
 "From men withheld, thou hast from
 me."

Another year begins today.
 What solemn destinies are hid
 Within its folds we can't foresee,

As on its margin-ground we tread,
 If from it falls some bitter drop,
 Oh! give us grace to make it sweet,
 And bless the hand that holds the cup,
 And makes all things together meet
 For good to them who love His name
 And move upon His holy plane.

Another year, and with it comes
 A call for valiant-hearted men,
 All panoplied in heavenly arms,
 The tide of sin and hell to stem—
 Devoted hearts to God and truth,
 Who dare unsheath and use the sword
 Of sin-destroying love, forsooth,
 Win back the humble to the Lord,
 And show through grace and cleansing blood
 How saints made perfect walk with
 God.

Another year has now set in!
 Oh! who will take it by the hand,
 A new and upward race begin,
 And leave your folly all behind?
 How many years you've thrown away,
 Spent careless, "as a tale that's told!"
 Awake to life's great end today
 And turn thy remnant days to gold.
 Oh, be a victor in the strife
 And win a starry crown of life!



Time in the Desert

By

Bro. Clifford Cole

Spending time in a desert is not what most people look forward to. There are several reasons for this. The sun seems to beat down with much greater force than anywhere else around, the shade is almost non-existent, and watering holes are far and few between (if you can find any at all). When the wind does blow, it feels more like air from a blast furnace than the cooling breeze we are accustomed to. The endless sea of hot, gritty sand is a real problem too. If you try to make much progress walking through it, you find that each step is made with increasing effort. Sometimes you cannot walk on top of the sand...you might be required to *wade* through it.

Why, then, do people venture into the desert in the first place? A few reasons come to mind. After exploring them, perhaps we can understand why we find ourselves in a "spiritual desert" on occasion. We may not choose to enter that desert place, but we may find ourselves there anyway.

The last time I remember being in a desert was during a trip from Missouri to California. The route we chose went right through the desert in the southwest part of the United States. Since our time for the trip was limited, we chose this route for its directness. Sometimes we may desire to reach a particular "spiritual place" but find that between our present location and the place we wish to go is a vast, uninviting desert. Unlike our trip to California, we may come to realize that the *only* way to get there is right through the middle of that awful desert. We can't go north and get around it and we can't reserve a seat with an airline and fly over it. Our only two choices are to go ahead and prepare for the trip...or stay where we are.

In considering the Scriptures, there are several instances of God's people being in a literal desert place. These scriptures point to three main reasons that these people were there: (1) their particular

job happened to be in the desert; (2) they were sent there to prepare for a very important job later on; (3) or, in one case, God did not want them there. Their job was not there, nor was it preparing them for a job elsewhere. They were simply there because of unbelief and disobedience.

(1) Philip was right in the middle of enjoying great success in preaching the word in "Jerusalem...and in many villages of the Samaritans" when God spoke to him, "Arise, and go toward the south...unto Gaza, which is desert." It was here that Philip met the Ethiopian riding in his chariot and reading from the book of Isaiah. We read in the rest of this account in Acts 8:25-40 that the Ethiopian was baptized and "went on his way rejoicing." Since this Ethiopian worked for the Queen of Ethiopia, it is likely he had a positive influence for the gospel in his own country after that.

Philip had every reason to doubt God's calling to the desert. He could have refused, but think of the opportunity that would have slipped from his fingers! God knew that the best place for that little rendezvous to happen would be in the desert. Do you think the "Spirit of the Lord" would have "caught away Philip" and taken him to Azotus to continue preaching there if he had failed the desert mission?

Have you ever stopped to realize where John the Baptist spent his ministry? Read the account in Matt. 3:1-4. "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,... For this was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness,..." I ask this question of myself – would I be willing to spend my time working for God in the wilderness? The spiritual implications here point to obvious hardship and lack of the things we may feel we deserve.

(Continued on page 11.)

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 (USPS 184-660).

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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.

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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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Greetings of Christian love! We thank God for the privilege to come into your home again through another issue of the *Faith and Victory*.

In December, 2000, we were able to print thousands of gospel tracts. Much progress was also made in reprinting the *Evening Light Songs* hymnal. We thank God for these accomplishments, and also for the ability to meet other deadlines. We are also grateful for the workers at the Print Shop and those whose love for the truth enables this ministry to continue.

January is a time when attention is turned to a new year—an unsoiled, fresh, inviting twelve months in which resolutions and philosophies are incorporated into people's lives in hope of making the new year more productive than the past.

Jesus said something which we would do well to keep in mind as we enter this new era of opportunity. He challenged, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."

We live in a world which doesn't hear well. This is sometimes because people prefer to occupy themselves by talking, even if it is about issues of little importance, or mere gossip. There are also those so full of their own knowledge and opinions that they feel no need to listen to anyone else. And if for no other reason, people are just too busy to take the time for effective listening.

History reveals a reason for listening. We are told that when Napoleon was making plans to invade England, he was informed that an American wanted to see him. "I can give him two minutes," Napoleon said. But two minutes was not long enough to grasp the significance of so revolutionary an idea as a ship propelled by steam. Had Napoleon listened longer to Robert Fulton, the history of the world might have been altered. If we would remove all limitations in listening to God, it is highly possible that there would be more victories in our lives also.

Jesus said that the least in the kingdom

of heaven is greater than John the Baptist. Then He said, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." (Matt. 11:11-15.) That statement alone should boost the self-esteem of those who take time to ponder it. It should also cut down on the number of people doing things simply to be seen and heard. It could prevent embarrassing words and actions as people realize they already have great worth in the eyes of God, and don't have to try to do or say something sensational to prove it. Probably all Christians know this, but how often do we fail to hear Jesus speak it to our hearts because we aren't really listening?

Does spreading the Gospel ever seem like a dauntless task? Have you ever been discouraged to the point of giving up laboring for God because so few seem to receive and profit by your efforts? Jesus offered the parable of the sower in which He said much of the seed would fall in places where it wouldn't bear fruit. Then he said, "Who hath ears to hear, let him hear" (Matt. 13:3-9.) Listening and taking these words into our hearts should eliminate some of the temptation to discouragement in the year 2001.

Jesus also spoke a parable about tares, which He then explained to His disciples. In concluding the explanation He declared that at the end of the world, "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." Matt. 13:43. How often has it happened that someone has wronged us and feelings of resentment flood our hearts? Emotions have a way of overriding the voice of God, and we fail to hear Him tell us that at the end the righteous will shine forth as the sun. It is only natural that we want to be seen as being in the right just as soon as an injustice occurs. But if we will listen to God's voice, we can accept being wronged for His sake, realizing it won't always be that way.

There are other instances where Jesus said, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." May we each have our hearts tuned to God's voice so that if He should speak to us during the coming year, we will be listening.

Mary and I had a very pleasant 25th wedding anniversary on Nov. 29. We appre-

ciated the many cards we received and the kindness shown us.

That day proved to be especially eventful. Not only did we celebrate our wedding anniversary, as well as Mary's birthday, but we were presented with another grandson! Jarél Wayne Murphey was born at 10:01 a.m. His father and mother, Jason and Raleah, are also the parents of two-year-old Jaród.

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 We congratulate Bro. John and Sis. Patsy Madden of Bristow, OK, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May God continue to enrich their lives with many more years of companionship.

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 We are glad to report that Bro. Michael, Sis. René Smith and their two sons have all returned safely from Africa. Earlier this month, Sis. René and the two boys arrived back in Oklahoma City from Ghana, while, as planned, Bro. Michael traveled on from Ghana to Nigeria. There he spent time with the saints in various congregations before returning to the states on Dec. 23.

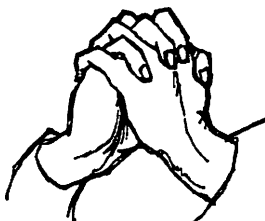
Several brief articles from the saints in Nigeria can be read in this paper under "Missionary Reports." We hope to have a more complete account of Bro. Michael's visit to Africa in a later issue of the *Faith and Victory*.

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 We heartily thank all who remembered us over the holiday season with cards, letters, offerings and words of encouragement. Although time does not allow a personal response to each, as we would like, we want you to know that we regard the children of God as special people, and value your kindness.

If we can be of assistance to you in the new year, feel free to let us know. If you have a need for Gospel literature, or would like the workers here at the Print Shop to share in your prayer requests, you may contact us at 1-800-767-1479.

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 May the year of 2001 be one in which your life is richly blessed by our heavenly Father.
 Love in Christ, —Bro. Wayne Murphey

PRAYER REQUESTS



MO—"Please pray for me. I have arthritis in my shoulders and arms." —Ruth Rachels

MO—"I have had an infection in my sinuses and lungs from using spray paint which I inhaled over one and a half years ago. It is better, but still hangs on.

I would also like prayer for my husband, Milton, who seems to have this same problem to a lesser degree." —Sis. Evelyn Hazelrigg

FL—"Pray for me." —Judith Klokner

OH—Sis. Betty Goldstein is facing some very difficult circumstances.

OK—"Please keep my name on your prayer list. I am having trouble with my legs. I know Jesus is able to take care of them, but please ask the saints to pray for my healing."

—Sis. Alscene Breckenridge

KS—Dear friends: This letter was in the *Crowned With Silver* magazine. I feel it is worthy of our attention, concern and prayers. I will copy it just as it is in the magazine.

"Dear Editors,

"I write this letter to you in hope that you will put my need before your readers. I have been corresponding with some of your readers through an ad in your magazine.

"I am 41 years old and 8 months pregnant with my 9th child. I have two children with the Lord, and the ages of my other children are 19 months, 3, 5, 7, 10 and 12. In July I was diagnosed with Hodgkins—cancer. They are going to let me go full term. After the baby is born they will scan me to see where this is in my body. They want to do six months of chemo. Please pray for a miracle....

"Wanting to Touch the Hem of His Garments,

—Shelly Short

"Dear sisters, If the Lord leads you to encourage this dear one in Christ, please write her at: 136 Country Club Heights, Batter, PA, 16002.

"This mother is facing a tremendous trial in Christ, and can use all our love and prayers that we can spare. Please pray.... —Editors"

This really touched my heart, because her children are nearly the same ages as mine. (4 months, 3, 4, 7, 10 and 13.) I'm sure she would appreciate our prayers. —Jeanne Eck

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'Neill

Bro. O. C. Porter

Sis. Melba Powell

Bro. John Robinson

Sis. Rose Samons

Sis. Myrtle Savoie

Bro. M. Agenemoh Sidi

Sis. Violet Sinkhorn

Sis. Kay Stover

The Mitch Taylor family

Bro. Curtis Williams, Sr.

Bro. Max Williamson

Sis. Esther Wilson



THANK YOU

We would like to thank the saints for their calls, cards and prayers. Each deed of kindness was greatly appreciated.

It was a great shock to lose our home so suddenly in a fire, but we are so very thankful no one was hurt.

Recently the following words of a familiar hymn came to mind which both comforted and challenged us.

"Earth holds no treasure but perish with using, However precious they be; Yet there's a country to which I am going, Heaven holds all to me."

That is our goal, so continue to remember us in your prayers.

Christian love, —Dale and Linda Probst

**Meeting Reports
and
Notices**

**CHURCH OF GOD, BALDY MESA, CA,
FALL REVIVAL REPORT**

We are thankful to report that the Lord richly blessed the saints and visitors who attended the Fall Revival in Baldy Mesa, CA, this year. We invited and were blessed by Bro. James Bell to start the meeting off with challenging sermons in services held nightly, Oct. 11-13, 2000. His presence was welcomed and his messages were encouraging.

This was the 87th year that the congregation has worshiped together in spirit and truth. However, it was the first revival held at the new location in Baldy Mesa, CA. A dedication service was held Saturday evening and the saints and visitors who attended were ministered to by Bro. Charles Chandler on the importance of dedicating their lives to the service of the Lord. He concluded the meeting in Sunday services preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and exhorting us to find "True Religion."

Throughout the services the Lord stirred everyone's hearts and different ones sought help at an altar of prayer. We are thankful to see how the Lord has blessed.

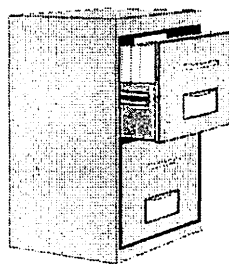
We appreciate each prayer that was prayed and each sacrifice that was made in order for this revival to be anointed. May God bless you as richly as He has blessed us.

BAKERSFIELD REVIVAL MEETING

Greetings, and a special invitation to all of you from the saints here in Bakersfield. Our annual February revival will be Wednesday, February 14—Sunday, February 18. On Wednesday through Saturday there will be two services daily, 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. On Sunday, Sunday School will begin at 9:30 a.m., morning worship service will be at 10:30 a.m. and an afternoon service at 2:30 p.m.

We are asking all of you to join us in praying for an outpouring of God's Spirit. We need a special anointing upon each service so that the saints will be revived and drawn closer to the Lord and that sinners will be awakened to their need of seeking deliverance from the clutches of sin.

—Sis. Janice Herring



*From
Our
Letter
Files*

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, whom we love and gladly serve.

Please remember my family for body and soul. My desire is that they might be with me in the Church of God. Time is of the essence, as my children are getting older. One is nearly fifty years old. This son suffers much physically, and sometimes I fear for his life. My faith is in God as I am trusting Him to bring it to pass. Jesus saved my wife at the eleventh hour, and by that time my hope was at a low ebb.

I am comparatively well and able to do as in the past, mostly in spite of my heart condition. However, I do have restrictions.

All of your efforts are appreciated. May the Lord bless and make it to grow. I pray regularly for you and those that work with you.

Your brother, —Bob Mickelson

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FL—Bro. and Sis. Wayne Murphey: I have not been well, but thank God I am getting better.

I am looking to Jesus. He is my Savior and Keeper.

Remember me in prayer. I have not been to Miami for some time because I am not able to travel. I am 89 years of age.

—Sis. Kathleen Williams

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MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in the name of Jesus. Are you familiar with the words of a song called "He Left it All to Come to Me"? This is just a gentle song that tells a little of what Christ did when He left heaven to come and "set us free." It is sometimes almost a shock to me to consider the love that was in His being, that such a holy One could do all that for each of us. When I am tempted to complain, or feel irritated at some small sacrifice that I am called on to make, it sure makes me feel humble—actually pretty small. Oh, for more love and less selfishness, so that our lives might actually attempt to communicate and transmit a bit of that marvelous love to others.

Yours for Him, —Sis. Marilyn Cole

AR—Dear ones at the Print Shop: Greetings of love. I am still pressing on to the end with victory.

I am very well, although I can't do very much. I don't have any pain to speak of.

Pray for me and my children....

May God bless each one, —Sis. Nellie West

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MO—Dear ones: The middle of this past April I fell in the bathroom, fracturing my left arm from about three inches from my shoulder to the elbow. The force of striking the edge of the shelving for towels, etc., dislocated my left shoulder.

My husband, Milton, and I were getting ready to go to town to pick up our grandson at the bus station. We did go by there and our daughter was there. We told her what had happened, so she was there to pick him up and we went to a town about 30 miles away to check out my arm. It was put on a splint and wrapped with elastic bandages which would stretch with the swelling.

On the way to the emergency room my arm was swelling and I was in shock, and very cold. I wondered if I had broken my arm at the shoulder. I asked the Lord to cause me not to have to have surgery, and that I could come home that day. Romans 15:13 came to my mind. "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." I began to have hope and I started to get some feeling in my fingers. God answered my prayers. Another prayer was that I wouldn't have unbearable pain. The Lord answered that prayer also. I also felt wrapped in His arms—loved and warm.

Milton was good and helpful to me through this trying time. The congregation also helped with bringing meals. We appreciated their help and company.

The arm has healed fine, but where my wrist was bound, my hand froze up from lack of movement. It was nearly useless. I had two months of therapy, and it still wasn't real great. However, I am happy and thankful to report that now I have nearly normal use of my arm, wrist and hand.

My faith and trust were tested but I have proof that God was faithful. Thank You, Lord.

—Sis. Evelyn Hazelrigg

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Cote D'Ivoire, West Africa—Dear Bro. Wayne

Murphey: Greetings of joy to you in Jesus' mighty name. How is everything going on with your ministry? I hope all is well with each and every one of you....

I was once a Catholic priest. I was ordained in Rome. Due to the fact that I am trying to see my Creator face to face at the end of my journey here on earth, I decided to pull off from their midst for the following reasons. First, the Roman Catholic churches worship shrines.

Secondly, the Bible says that there is only one mediator between God and man, Jesus Christ. The Catholic church prefers going to many to plead on their behalf.

Thirdly, it says in the Holy Bible that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. They are always preaching that Mary's corpse was conveyed to heaven. There are other reasons.

As things stand now, I have resigned from the priesthood. In order to save souls, I have not hesitated to gather people around me and form a ministry where we are fellowshiping. We are now more than two hundred and sixty-eight in number, worshipping under a mango tree....

Wishing you God's blessings now and always. Yours in Christ, —Emelea M. Ikpekaogu

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OK—Dear Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary: Greetings at Christmas time. We trust you are both well.

We are fairly well—just getting older. But God has been really good to us and we thank Him every day.

We are so glad Sis. René and the boys are home safely, and pray Bro. Michael will soon be safely home also.

May God bless you richly and all the workers there.

In Christian love,

—Ruby and Ken Hutchinson

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MISSIONARY REPORTS

From Nigeria...

December 13, 2000—Dear Bro. Wayne: It is a very wonderful thing to have Bro. Michael Smith in our midst. It is like a dream....

There was a great ovation when Bro. Michael, Bro. Essien and Bro. Okwoska arrived at the chapel in Port-Harcourt. The saints were eagerly and anxiously waiting with high expectations. Bro. Michael Smith's presence was a real blessing. He delivered a captivating sermon centered on love.

Bro. Michael was also in Tombia where we met with the Tombia congregation, and had another resounding fellowship.

This letter is being written before the Asana convention. We have not known these people too well, but are aware that several of the saints from the United States have visited them.

I remembered brethren like Ostis B. Wilson who lost his wife there, Bro. Tom Melot and others. We thank God Bro. Essien is clamoring for the truth to be established there. We were not aware of the new development and quest until the arrival of Bro. Smith and the publication in the *Faith and Victory*. We are really glad for this wonderful development. We shall all be in attendance at the Asana convention. Bro. Smith, Bro. Alphonus and Bro. Essien are gone on ahead and we will follow suit. We pray and believe the Almighty will make it a success....

The work this way is progressing. Give my love to all the saints around you.

—Bro. Damian Dibie U. C.

December 11, 2000—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings from me to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who has broken the middle wall of partition between us and God. I hope this letter finds you spiritually, physically and materially fit in Him as we approach the end of the year.

On this stead, my heart is filled with joy while I write you this letter because Bro. Michael Smith is in our midst tonight. He arrived here in Port-Harcourt at almost 2:00 p.m., along with Bro. Essien. A meeting was held in the evening of the same day, being the 11th of December, 2000. He delivered a message entitled, "Personal Relationship with God." We hope he found a nice time while here in Port-Harcourt.

Numerous questions were asked of Bro. Smith on marriage, mode of worship, etc. All of his answers were according to our belief and doctrine. Praise His name.

Extend my greetings to brethren over there. Grace be with you.

Your brother in Christ,

—Chinwendu Nwachaukwu

November 30, 2000—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings in the name of the only begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ. May the grace of God be unto you and peace be multiplied....

My brethren, it is very wonderful to tell you that the way you teach in the *Faith and Victory* makes even the unbelievers in our area very interested to read it. I share it with them. They are requesting that even more be given to them.

The *Faith and Victory* that touched my heart so much is the April, 2000, edition which taught about Simon of Cyrene carrying the cross of Jesus. This message blessed my heart and gave me a great encouragement to press on with the work which the Master has given me at Ogu. I even used this article in a message at Ogu....

May the Almighty bless your work and labors of love which you have shown toward His name.

I am yours in the service of the Master,

—Bro. Israel Darrick



Icylee Tillman was born May 4, 1916, in Okfuskee County, OK, to Della Mae and Sam Baskin. She was one of four children, all of whom preceded her in death.

Icylee met and married Oliver C. Tillman on November 2, 1933. To this union eight children were born. Oliver and five infant children preceded her in death.

Sis. Tillman was born into the Church of God and enjoyed attending meetings with the saints all over. Sis. Tillman has been a member of the Green Pastures, OK, congregation for many years. She was pastored by the late Elder Everett W. Sanders, the late Elders Herman D. Kelley and Odever Kelley and finally Elder Charles L. Chandler, who has been her pastor the past nineteen or twenty years.

She was a very compassionate person who believed in comforting the bereaved in times of sorrow.

Sis. Tillman went home to be with the Lord on November 20, 2000, at 10:45 a.m.

She leaves to cherish her memory, one daughter, Maxcine Lindsey, 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, Del City, OK, and Carol Powell Tillman, Enid, OK. Other survivors include 10 other grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, 15 great-great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were held on November 25, conducted by Bro. Charles Chandler.

Ida Lucille Johnson Francisco was born to William Jenkins Johnson and Ida Benford Johnson on June 25, 1923, in Boley, OK. "Sistah," as she was lovingly referred to by close family members, was one of fifteen siblings. She grew up in Boley and graduated from Boley High School.

She devoted her life to Christ at an early age and remained faithful throughout the years. She was active in the Church of God, in Boley, as a child and continued her involvement throughout her entire life. One of her many talents and passions was music. As a young adult, she was an active member of the Church of God in Bakersfield, CA, and enjoyed many years of singing with the Bakersfield Evening Light Singers. When the family moved to San Bernardino, CA, in 1963, she became active with the San Bernardino Church of God.

Lucille met Felix Francisco in Boley and they were married on October 9, 1945. They moved to Bakersfield, CA, shortly after they were wed. Their union produced seven children. Lucille was a devoted and loving wife and mother. She also proved to be a gifted and multi-talented homemaker. Family members and friends alike enjoyed her superb cooking and baking; in particular, her teacakes. The many delicious cakes and pies she baked are well remembered. She was also a highly accomplished seamstress. She meticulously passed these skills on to her children.

Throughout her life, Lucille believed that you should "treat others as you would like to be treated." She taught her children to "do unto

others as you would have them do unto you," and when facing adversity, she always held steadfast in her faith.

Lucille's life is honored and her passing is mourned by her husband, Felix Francisco; her two sons, Felix Jr. and Kenneth; her three daughters, Elaine, Loretta and Melva; five brothers, Mansfield, A.C., Willie, Jewel and Leo Johnson; thirteen grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren, extended family, friends and church members.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Darrel Johnson and others. Interment was in Union Cemetery, Bakersfield, CA.

Lucinda Burwell Ester, daughter of the late Moses A Burwell and the late Ophelia Brandon Burwell, was born May 16, 1931, in Granville County, and departed life November 15, 2000, at Durham Regional Hospital, Durham, NC.

At an early age, she joined the Pettiford Grove Baptist Church. She later attended the Evening Light Church of God in Durham,

Educated in the Granville County Schools, Lucinda graduated from G.C. Hawley School in Creedmoor, North Carolina. She worked for many years in the Granville County school system, retiring from there in 1993.

She was united in holy matrimony to Arlease Ester and to this union, five children were born. Lucinda was a devoted wife, loving mother, sister and a devout Christian.

She leaves to cherish most precious memories, her husband, Mr. Arlease Ester, of the home; three daughters, Pamela Bost (Willie), Carol Adams and Lorrie Ester of Creedmoor, NC; two sons, Darrell Ester (Patsy) and Mark Ester of Creedmoor, NC; eleven grandchildren, Tamara, Tanya, Natasha, Vincent, Dominique, Marques, Marketia, Lucinda, Toni, Jonathan and Jas Raphell, all of Creedmoor; five sisters, Lois Braswell, Edith Rogers, Catherine Peace and Marvie Jean Burwell, of Creedmoor, NC, and Ivos Counts of Roselle, NJ; two brothers-in-law, two aunts and many nieces and nephews, cousins and friends.

Sister Lucinda Ester was a faithful member of the Church of God for many years, although her health grew such that she became unable to attend church services. Sister Ester loved people and was loved by many. She served in numerous capacities. She enjoyed Sunday School, and could bring out many inspiring thoughts.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor

Wadell Tapp and Pastor Jerry Lennon. Burial was at the Church Cemetery.

— — — — —
Howard Francis Hill was born August 12, 1925, in Barton County, MO, to Ralph and Ruth Paxon Hill. He died November 23, 2000, at the age of 75 years.

On May 20, 1948, he married Jeanie Burt in Jasper, MO. To this union were born two sons and two daughters.

He was an employee for 31 years of the Steadley Company, Carthage, MO, from which he retired.

He had been in declining health in recent years, and after a short illness, the Lord gently called him home.

Bro. Howard was saved at 21 years of age and maintained a great love for the truth. He gave of himself to the work of the Lord, and took a leading role in the congregation at Webb City, MO, for many years.

He is survived by his wife, Sis. Jeanie Hill of the home; two daughters, Ruth Ann Becket and Susan Pinkley, both of Carthage, MO; one son, Burt Hill of Seymour, TN; and nine grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by an infant son, Gary Francis Hill, on March 14, 1949.

Funeral services were held on November 27, 2000, in Jasper, MO, and burial was in Oakhill Cemetery, Carthage, MO.

Thank You

The family of Howard Hill want to thank each and every one for their prayers, food, cards, support and all other acts of kindness during Howard's sickness and passing. May God bless you,
 —Jeanie Hill



Time in the Desert

(Continued from page 3.)

We may feel lonely, thirsty and tired. Remember though, John the Baptist's ministry was very necessary and effective – right in the wilderness.

(2) Right after being baptized, "Jesus... was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being forty days tempted of the devil." (Luke 4:1-21.) The primary reason for Jesus' time in the desert was for preparation of the ministry He was sent for. "And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed

from him for a season. And Jesus *returned in the power of the Spirit* into Galilee:... To preach the acceptable year of the Lord." If this desert time was necessary for Jesus, it may be necessary for us also.

How long did David live in the wilderness before actually sitting on the throne? History tells us that it took seven years. These were not seven *easy* years. "And David abode in the wilderness... And Saul sought him every day." (I Samuel 23:14.) No, Saul did not literally hunt for David every day of all seven years, but there were only a few days during that time that, given the opportunity, Saul would not have killed David. After several narrow escapes with his life, about the only thing David could do was leave his young bride (the king's daughter) and run for his life like a common outlaw. Seven years is a long time to wait for anything, especially waiting to be king... but how about waiting *forty* years?

Forty years rolled slowly by for Moses while he tended sheep for his father-in-law. We read in Exodus 3:1 that "he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb." Moses may not have been in an actual desert every day for forty years straight, but it is very probable that he felt the desert in his heart. Exodus 2 teaches us that while still in Egypt, Moses felt that God wanted to use him to deliver the children of Israel out of bondage, but when he attempted to do so in his own strength, disaster came. The remorse and pain Moses carried with him for forty years must have been very hard indeed. So well was his lesson of humility learned, however, that he almost failed to heed God's call when it came in the fullness of time. "And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well." (Exodus 4:14.)

We know that Moses was forty years old when he ran for his life from Egypt. He had to spend forty years preparing for the next forty years of wandering around in the wilderness with a multitude of

folks whocouldn't seem to believe or obey God. Do you suppose that the Lord knew what kind of preparation Moses would need? Numbers 12:3 tells us that "Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth." God knows what He's doing when preparing someone for a job.

(3) Moses may not have needed such a long time to prepare for the job of leading Israel out of Egypt if he had only had a little more cooperation from them. "And the Lord's anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation, that had done evil in the sight of the Lord, was consumed." (Numbers 32:13.)

There are several distinctions between the first two causes for desert experiences and the third one.

- (a) God is the author of the first two, while *we* are the author of the third type.
- (b) The first two types are of a spiritual benefit to others around us, even though we may not see it or feel it at the time. The third type does no good to anyone, not even ourselves.
- (c) The Lord will preserve us during the first two types, but we can perish spiritually in the third type!
- (d) The first two types of desert experiences please God while the third type definitely does not!

If I ever find myself in the desert, it is important to ask myself this question: "Am I here because of unbelief and disobedience?" If I am, God will lead me out into a wealthy place if I ask for His forgiveness and strength. The children of Israel failed the Lord many times and ended up in a spiritual desert, but every time they turned to Him in true repentance, they were delivered. The caution here is that not all of them survived while in the desert. While the people as a whole were spared, there were many individuals who perished in that desert place.

If my desert experience comes about when I am trying my best to please God, I may well "wonder what I have done to get in this place," but I can rest

assured—God makes no mistakes. There is a job for me to do, either while I am in the desert, or after I come out on the other side.



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

QUESTION: Several questions have come in regarding sanctification: the need of this experience, the process of it, what it is and what it does, how it is done, what the conditions are for it, and when and how it is obtained.

ANSWER: Mankind in his unregenerate state is two degrees, or steps, below the state of moral purity and holiness in which he was created.

Originally, at his creation, man was in the image and after the likeness of God Himself. (Genesis 1:26-27.) In this state he was possessed of "righteousness and true holiness." In Colossians 3:10 we read, "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him." In Ephesians 4:24 it says, "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." These two texts make it clear that the image of God is "righteousness and true holiness." This is what man possessed in his original state.

Transgression of the commandment of God by the original pair changed all of this. Sin entered into this world by the willful choice of our foreparents and by this means they apostatized from God. (Genesis 3.)

Sin brought about a change in man's moral nature. Then, instead of the righteousness and true holiness that he had originally possessed, he became depraved and corrupt in his moral nature. In Ephesians 4:22 it says, "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts." Ephesians 4:25-31 describes the corrupt deeds of the old man: lying, stealing, corrupt communication, bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, evil speaking, malice.

The fact that the moral likeness and image of God was effaced from the human race by this means is evidenced by the fact that when we obtain the salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ, we

are said to be renewed in that image. (Colossians 3:10.) In other words, it is a restoration to the image of God—hence we conclude it had been lost.

As a result of this, the moral nature of all mankind was affected in this way, and became depraved and corrupt. Sin has become universal as a result of the sin of this first pair. "...As by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Romans 5:12.) "...For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many." (Romans 5:15.) "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:17.) "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners,..." (Romans 5:19.)

Romans 5:13-14 says, "(For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression,..." Adam's transgression was that he violated a specific commandment spelled out by God Himself. But from Adam to Moses, when the law was given on Mt. Sinai by God to the children of Israel through Moses, there was no commandment in existence; hence, people could not sin after the similitude of Adam's transgression by breaking a specific commandment but, at the same time, they were in sin, and death reigned over them. The only law they had during this time was the law of their conscience. Concerning this we read in Romans 2:13-15, "(For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another.)" This text does not teach salvation according to man's conscience

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IS ADAM, WHAT DO
THEY TEACH?"**

as some suppose, but it does teach us that there is sufficient knowledge in every man's conscience to fix responsibility and render him a responsible being to God. Galatians 3:19 says, the law "...was added because of trans-

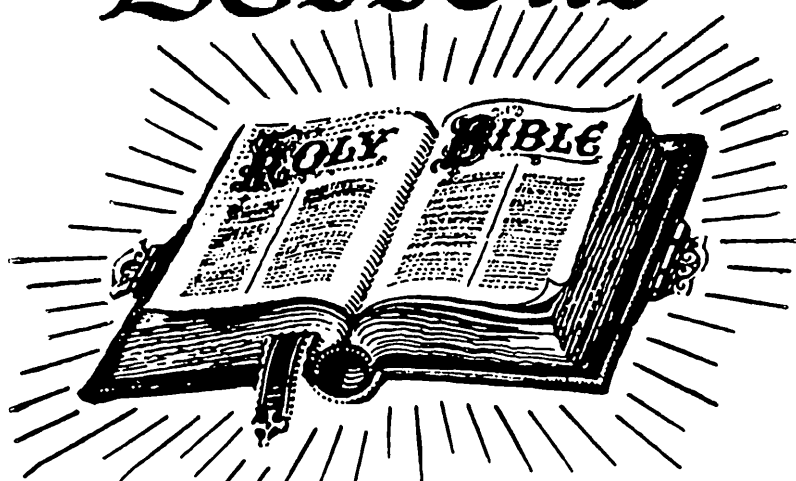
gressions, till the seed should come..." But if the law was added because of transgression, what were they transgressing? There was no actual commandment in existence between Adam and Moses when the law was given. There was nothing to transgress except the law of their conscience, and these poor fallen creatures were so under the power of sin they could not even live to their own conscience. Galatians 3:22 reads, "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin,..." Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." "...Death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Romans 5:12. "For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all." Romans 11:32. II Corinthians 5:14 says, "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead."

If these scriptures do not prove all men to be under the dismal sway of sin, that they are thus affected because of one man and his sin, and that one man is Adam, what do they teach? How could this all be true except there is something hereditary about sin? Certain diseases, defects, and deficiencies (mental, physical, and otherwise) are said to be transmittable from parent to child and they are called hereditary. If it is carried through different members of the family or through succeeding generations, it is said this or that runs in the family. Their father or grandfather had that, or was that way, etc. The scriptures conclude something about sin being hereditary, a depravity of nature handed down through the generations of mankind from the original parent.

Adam begat children in his own likeness after his image. Genesis 5:3 says, "And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth." At this time Adam had lost the image and likeness of God (righteous-

(Continued on page 15.)

Bible Lessons



**Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord,
we are CHANGED” II Cor. 3:18**

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Question and Answer

(Continued from page 13.)

ness and true holiness). He was now possessed of a depraved nature and could only transmit what he had to his posterity.

But let us notice a few more scriptures along this line. Psalm 51:5 says, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." The psalmist is not saying here that his mother committed sin in conceiving him but that his parents were sinful people by nature and passed that on to him, and sin had him when he got here. Genesis 8:21 reads, "And the Lord smelled a sweet savour; and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done." Genesis 6:5-6 reads, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart."

The fact of the universal depravity and the corrupt nature of humankind is further confirmed in the fact that God, in order to get a pure, holy seed (Christ) into the world that would be able to offer a sacrifice without blemish and without spot, qualified for making an atonement for the sins of all mankind, had to set the man aside. Without the use of man, God begat, by the Holy Ghost, a holy seed within the woman, and Christ is called the seed of the woman. In Isaiah 59:16 we read, "And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him." God looked the whole universe of mankind over and found not one man who was qualified to redeem the human race from sin, so He made Him a Man who could qualify through the operation of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was the arm of God reached out to us to redeem us from sin.

Now I want to consider the point of how God reckons genealogies in the Scriptures. This is important to the point being considered here of how this depravity has passed from father to son through the generations of mankind. In Hebrews 7:9-10 it says, "And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, paid tithes in Abraham. For he was yet in the loins of his

father, when Melchisedec met him." Levi was one of the children of Israel and head of one of the 12 tribes. Therefore it refers here to "Levi, who receiveth tithes." His tribe never received any inheritance in the apportionment of land in Canaan, but they were set apart to care for the tabernacle and to administer about the holy things. Their portion was a tithe from all the other tribes. Though he received tithes through the arrangement God made for him; yet it is said that he paid tithes in Abraham, and this is on the grounds that he was yet in the loins of his father when he met Melchisedec and paid tithes to him. Levi was the fourth generation from Abraham and was yet an unborn child in his loins when he paid tithes to Melchisedec, and it is said that he "paid tithes in Abraham." In Galatians 3:29 it says, "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

In Romans 4:11, speaking of Abraham and his faith it says, "And he received the sign of

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circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also." Abraham is the first one of whom it was written that he was justified by faith. There were several champions of faith who accomplished great things through faith before the time of Abraham who are mentioned in Hebrews 11, but he is the first one of whom it is said that he "believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." (Romans 4:3.)

We today become children of God by faith in

Christ Jesus, and it is said that we are justified by faith in Him. It is also said that the just live by faith and that we walk by faith and not by sight. But the principle of justification by faith and living by faith began in Abraham and therefore he is said to be the father of all those who believe. He was the beginning of a new race (believers) and became the royal head of that race. Therefore, when we are brought into fellowship with God through faith in Christ Jesus, we are said to be Abraham's seed by coming under that principle of justification by faith which began in him.

(To be continued next month.)



**Excerpts Taken From
Jan., 1951
Faith and Victory**

BUILDING PROJECT AT WICHITA, KS

"We, the saints of Wichita, are very thankful how the Lord has been supplying for the building. We have enough money to get it started and feel sure the Lord is going to help us the rest of the way. We thank all who have communicated to this affair. We plan to start building in the near future as we have no place to worship. We feel the Lord has a ripe field in this place and desire your prayers."

—Bro. Lewis Williams

"Calif.—Dear saints—The Lord gave us a wonderful all day young people's meeting on Sunday, Nov. 26, here at Bakersfield. Quite a number of young people were

present, both saved and unsaved. Bros. Clarence Hatley, Felix Francisco and W. Crawley delivered the messages. Bro. and Sis. Crawley had been with us for six weeks but left Monday morning for home. Several children were saved and others received help in the meeting. All the saints were greatly encouraged both young and old.

"Pray that the Lord will continue to stir the young saints in this place and to save others here, especially those that meet with us from time to time."

—The young saints of Bakersfield, CA

"Five years ago, God burdened the heart of a very precious young saint to come to Guthrie and help in the Lord's Print Shop. In obedience to His leadings, this saint, Sister Dora Lela Sorrell, left her home in Myrtle, MO, and became a very useful worker here.

"After consecrating her service to the Lord's work here for five years, she felt the Lord was pleased to make a change in her life. Sunday, December 3rd, at the saints' chapel at Guthrie, OK, she was united in marriage to Ralph Eugene Beisly, a young saint of Coffeyville, Kansas. Bro. Fred Pruitt officiated at the ceremony and a large number of saints witnessed it. They plan to make their home in Coffeyville. We feel sure she will fit into the congregation there and be useful in the Lord's work there, and we pray God's blessings upon her and her husband."

—G. R.