

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.

Volume 79, No. 3

79th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

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Mother

You painted no Madonnas
On chapel walls in Rome,
But with a touch diviner
You lived one in your home.

You wrote no lofty poems
That critics counted art,
But with a nobler vision
You lived them in your heart.

You carved no shapeless marble
To some high soul design,
But with a finer sculpture
You shaped this soul of mine.

You built no great cathedrals
That centuries applaud,
But with a grace exquisite
Your life cathedraled God.

Had I the gift of Raphael
Or Michelangelo,
Oh, what a rare Madonna
My mother's life would show.

—Thomas W. Fessenden

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MOTHER'S DAY—MAY 13

Dearest Mother,

Just a few lines to let you know how much I love you for who you are. I appreciate your Christ-like character and the high standard of morals that you have lived before me. Your smile, manner and carriage is meek and quiet. Modest in dress and simple in style, you are a distinguished person.

Mother, you have always taken time for your children's needs and we have been strong emotionally from the security of your love. We know you love us as individuals but with equal love. Through your example, we have learned to respect others and to abide by the Golden Rule.

Growing up we knew our roots were deep because you made all family reunions a "must attend" priority. Since family unity was nourished in our youthful days, we bring your grandchildren to extended family reunions. Thanks to you, we know that family loyalty is a priceless treasure.

As a child, you were taught "to work because idle hands become the devil's tool" and your children caught that message from you. Cleaning house, sewing and mending, washing and ironing clothes, planting and weeding the garden, cooking and baking meals, so full were your days that I know you were exhausted when in the evening you took time to read us a Bible story and tuck us into bed.

Family vacations were always a pleasure. You remembered to buy and pack the special treats that put fun into the traveling. We would visit, laugh and tease together. Then if we grew tired, we felt safe to sleep because we knew Dad was driving and you were right beside him to read the map and help him stay awake.

Mother, you have been a spiritual guide to our family. You insisted that we attend Sunday school and worship services, and participate in church events. With you, obeying the Lord is not a matter of choice but a way of life. Thank you, Mother, for showing us the Bible Way.

Not only do your children rise up and call you blessed, but so do friends and neighbors. Because you are truly caring about others, you have gained many friends who in turn care about your welfare. Our family has benefited from your wealth of friendships. We are pleased to see them honor you.

There are not enough words to express my gratitude for the happy childhood memories and lessons you have given me.

Our family is enriched to have such a wonderful member to live with, to learn from, and to cherish.

Love you always, ---Connie Sorrell



Who Has Wronged You?

By Bro. James McMurrin

When you read a letter, you get a mental picture of an existing situation. You find out what people are doing, what is proceeding well, surprises that have been occurring, who may not be prospering and other similar information. If you read two letters written by the same

people at different times, you gain an appreciation of the changes that have occurred between the times the letters were written. You learn the result of what was discussed in the first letter.

So it is with the letters which were written and became books in the Bible—in particular,

"It is so easy for us to blame others, and so hard for us to admit in the end that the one to look at is the one you see in the mirror."

the books of the New Testament. I and II Corinthians illustrate this happening. In I Corinthians, the Apostle Paul upbraided the Corinthian church, not only having open sin among its congregation, but for their lack of concern about it. They had adopted an attitude of "let's live with it," "it's not that big of a deal," "we can't just get rid of someone," and no doubt many other excuses—excuses you often hear today.

In the second letter he wrote, we discover the result of his reproof which was sent in the first letter. He commends them for their positive reaction. Their consciences were stirred, and they sought to take steps to correct the wrong, to root out the sin and to uphold the truth. As Paul describes it at one point in II Corinthians:

"Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, *what* clearing of yourselves, yea, *what* indignation, yea, *what* fear, yea, *what* vehement desire, yea, *what* zeal, yea, *what* revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter." II Corinthians 7:9-11.

As I read the list of reactions, that last term, "revenge," caught my eye.

The first thing to note is that revenge is always a reaction—never an action. In order for there to be revenge, there first must be a wrong perpetrated. If you take revenge on something, or someone, you are saying that a wrong has been done (usually to you), and that you are in effect "taking back" what has been stolen or destroyed. You are "getting your own" (and, in a carnal sense of the term, you often want to "add interest" as well).

But who had wronged them? What had been taken from them? Who were they to "revenge" themselves upon? Paul entreated

them not to lose their erring brother, but to comfort and encourage him, before he became "swallowed up" in sorrow and gave up. That doesn't sound like revenge as we know it. Could it be revenge against Satan? He isn't even mentioned here. In fact, there is only one focus of the letter when Paul discusses this situation, and that is the congregation itself.

The only people involved were themselves! When Paul used that word "revenge," then, he meant that they had been wronged not by someone else, not by an external enemy, but that they had damaged themselves through their own voluntary surrendering to the corruption they saw. The ones whom they needed to take "revenge" upon, the ones who were the objects of their vehement desire to correct, were the very ones who had put them into their dangerous situation: themselves.

It is so easy for us to blame others, and so hard for us to admit in the end that the one to look at is the one you see in the mirror. Even when we do realize it, we will often turn it into a time of self-loathing, a time of self-reproach, and a thing with which to destroy ourselves, but we seldom try to repair the damage! We cycle between denying that we have done anything wrong, and endless self-accusation in which we can do nothing right. Both of these reactions are traps. Neither will correct the situation. When we seek to take back that which we have stolen from ourselves through carelessness, neglect or for some other reason, we need to concentrate not on punishing the wrongdoer, but on correcting the wrong.

Paul mentioned this in the passage above, saying that "the sorrow of the world worketh death." If we react only in the flesh in our time of "revenge," we will seek to destroy, but not create. We will seek to tear down, but neglect to build. Paul said they sorrowed after a godly sort, and that it led to repentance which led to salvation.

The word "repent" means to "turn away," to change direction or course. The cleansing they performed among themselves was not one solely of destruction, nor was it one of making ex-

(Continued on page 14.)

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.

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.

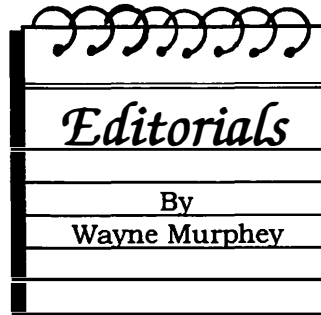
A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

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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Editorials

By
Wayne Murphey

"Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD..."

—Jeremiah 31:12

This verse appropriately describes what took place April 12-15 on Mount Zion Campgrounds near San Jose City, Philippines. Congregations from the surrounding area came together to sing, testify, pray and listen together to the Word of God.

On April 8, nine of us from the States left the Oklahoma City airport to attend this gathering of God's people in the Philippines. Included were Bro. Michael and Sis. René Smith, Sis. Grace McMillan, Sis. Stephanie Huskey, Bro. Galen Kelly and his two children, Benjamin and Allison, my wife, Mary, and myself.

We thank everyone for their prayers on our behalf. We are glad to report that God ministered to the needs of all of us from America, as well as others who attended the camp meeting. We are thankful for how God prepared the way for our protection and for the camp meeting to take place.

The Philippines are in a state of political unrest, with the Muslims on the southern island of Mindanao and the Communists on the northern island of Luzon.

About three months ago, the New People's Army (Communist) tried to levy a revolutionary tax on a bus company. The bus company refused to pay the tax, so the NPA burned two of their buses at a location close to the camp grounds. The Philippine army responded by sending troops into the area and setting up a camp on a mountain overlooking the camp grounds. The army did find two people whom they suspected of being sympathizers with the NPA, and they put them to death. Up until two weeks before the camp meeting, the Philippine army was making patrols through the camp grounds to make sure there were no communists there. Because of this unrest, the evening meetings were not held past about 9:30, and those of us from the States spent the nights in San Jose City rather than on the camp grounds.

Upon arriving in the Philippines, we found the camp ground, located approximately 10

miles outside of San Jose City, to be in readiness. Bro. Matias Tanguan and others of the saints have done an outstanding job in overseeing the completion of the tabernacle, a baptistry, two dormitories, rest room facilities, and sidewalks and stairs leading to the tabernacle and baptistry.

Besides regular services, we were blessed in having a prayer and fast day for the sick. Many people were anointed and prayed for, and there were testimonies of God hearing prayer.

During one afternoon service, a young boy fell down the steps leading to the tabernacle, resulting in a severe injury to his head. He was brought into the tabernacle for prayer. Later his grandfather took him to a hospital where they x-rayed the boy's head. The doctor told them that the child had a brain hemorrhage and would need surgery. While they were still in the x-ray room, the boy made a miraculous change and the surgery was cancelled. The next day the boy was home and doing well.

All of the Lord's ordinances were observed during the meeting. Thirty-three people were baptized, and the Lord's supper and feet washing was a time of special fellowship.

On the last day of the camp meeting a ministers' meeting was held in which the native ministers shared how God had worked through their ministry to spread the Gospel. It was also a time of encouraging each other and sharing a vision of the current pressing needs.

Again, we thank all who held us up in your prayers. There were times we had a keen awareness of how much we needed God's help.

Several photos from the trip can be found on pages 6 and 7.

I offer an apology to those who have written the Print Shop but have yet to receive an acknowledgment of their letters and offerings. My work load of late has been such that I have been unable to keep up with correspondence. In the near future, I hope to have more time to devote to letter writing. Until then, I ask for your understanding.

We do appreciate so much those who have an ongoing interest in the progress of the work here. Maintaining the multiple ministries of Faith Publishing House means there are al-

ways needs, and we are so grateful for how God burdens the hearts of His people to assist in the cause.

Reprinted copies of the *Evening Light Songs* hymnal were taken to the book binder in Illinois in March. We are expecting the hymnals to be completed just any day, at which time we will restock and mail out all back orders.

On page 14 of this issue you will find an article with a ministerial focus. Sometimes preachers are the segment of the church with the greatest need of encouragement and instruction, but at times, their needs are overlooked. As someone said, "Who ministers to the minister?"

In doing research on problems experienced by church leaders, I came across some thought-provoking revelations. One minister connected with a mainline church stated, "We have less chance to make heaven than the laymen." A well-traveled evangelist in America made a similar declaration: "There are a lot of good laymen who are going to make heaven, but not too many preachers."

Once the popular news commentator, Paul Harvey, in speaking on the subject of preachers, stated, "The office tends to make a man a demagogue." A demagogue is "a popular leader who stirs up the people to get something for himself." It is easy to lay the label of demagogue on ministers of a different persuasion than ourselves, but the devil will use the same temptations on all.

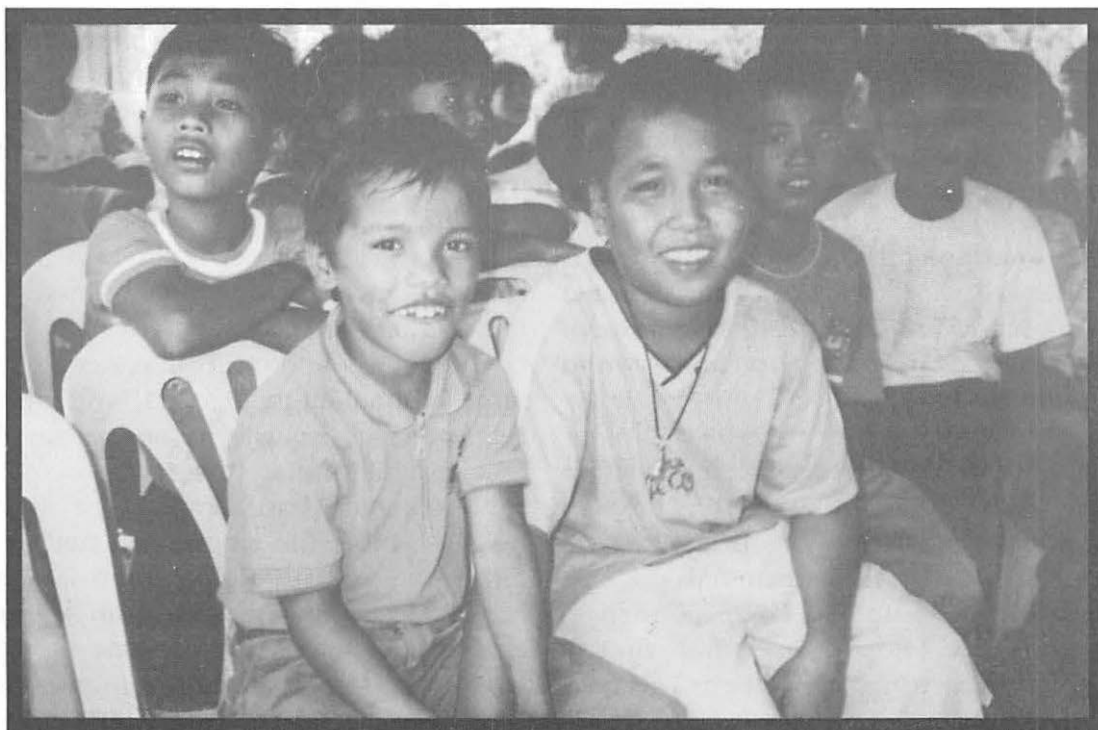
Preachers and church leaders are given a large responsibility by God, and we want to respect that, as well as encourage them to efficiently administer their duties.

The apostle Paul wrote to the churches to help establish the saints, but neither did he forget the ministers. Titus and Philemon received letters of instruction, and Timothy received several also. With this in mind, we would like to provide an avenue to challenge and strengthen the leaders of The Church of God. If you have insight or experiences you would like to share in the "Messages to Messengers" column, we would be happy to hear from you.

—Bro. Wayne Murphey



Philippine Tabernacle



Vacation Bible School



Church Service



Baptizing



LA—"Sis. Myrtle Savoie is in need of prayer. She suffers a lot.

"I would like for my sister, Gladys Beech, to be remembered in prayer. She is ninety years old and in a nursing home."

---Sis. Velma Mancil

LA--Sis. Sybil Goldsberry fell on April 14, breaking her hip. She needs much prayer.

FL—"I would like to request urgent prayer for Sis. Brenda Connor and family, also my sister-in-law, Ronnie Connor and family."

---Sis. Carla Connor

MO—"Bro. Austin and Sis. Ida Belle McMillian are in a battle of illness. I know many are praying and we do appreciate it."

---Sis. Marilyn Cole

OH—"Please pray for me. I have had a heart attack. I also have an ulcer and have been close to having pneumonia."

---Sis. Ruth Garrett

Nigeria—"This is intended to update you on the state of health of our sisters about whose cases I have written to you earlier.

"One of them, Sis. Waite Karibo, has particularly instructed me to write you about her present state which has witnessed little improvement. Her desire is for the saints abroad to join in prayer continuously for total deliverance.

"The other sister, Josephine, is still battling in the faith to be healed of the cancer. The church is still praying for God's will to be done."

—F. Naths-Igbanibo



Standing Prayer Requests

Sis. Lydia Bennett
Sis. Alscene Breckenridge
Bro. Jon Busbee
Sis. Mamie Butcher
Bro. Nathan Carver
Sis. Estelene Cramer
Bro. Dale Doolittle
Sis. Elaine Dunn

Sis. Eleanor Fingerle
Sis. Pearlene Gerald
Sis. Esther Gordon
Bro. Huey Gordon, Jr.
Bro. Ben Harrison
Sis. Mary Hughes
Sis. Daisy Johnson
Sis. Janice Johnston
Sis. Earnestine Jordan
Sis. Betty Lassché
The Lounds sisters
Sis. Mattie McIntyre
Sis. Bertha Miles
Bro. Allan Miller
Sis. Virginia Myers
Sis. Dollie O'Neill
Bro. O. C. Porter
Sis. Melba Powell
Bro. John Robinson
Sis. Myrtle Savoie
Bro. M. Agenemoh Sidi
Sis. Violet Sinkhorn
Sis. Kay Stover
The Mitch Taylor family
Sis. Anna Mae Thompson
Bro. Curtis Williams, Sr.
Bro. Max Williamson
Sis. Esther Wilson
Bro. Jack Witte



Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—May 25-June 3
Holly Hill, SC—June 3-10
Jefferson, OR—June 8-17
Tulsa, OK—June 10-17
Green Bank, WV—June 15-21
Fresno, CA—June 29-July 8
Loranger, LA—July 1-8
National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 20-29
Myrtle, MO—August 1-5
Bakersfield, CA—August 8-12
California State (Pacoima)—Aug. 24-Sept. 2

MEETING NOTICES

OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING

The 67th annual Oklahoma State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held May 25-June 3 at the campground located east off of Sooner Road on Lakeview Road, which is a little over four-tenths of a mile south of the intersection of South Division and Sooner Road.

As is customary, the first service will be held Friday evening, May 25, at 7:30, with three services daily thereafter. Early morning prayer services and youth meetings will be held as announced.

An invitation to attend is extended to everyone. Your presence will be appreciated. Provisions will be made for those attending.

The meeting will be operated by freewill offerings. If you would like to make a contribution, you may do so by sending it directly to the state treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, 1023 E. Prairie Grove Rd., Guthrie, OK 73044.

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

HOLLY HILL, SC, CAMP MEETING

Lord willing, our 2001 camp meeting will be June 3rd through June 10th, inclusive. There will be services daily at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., except for Sunday mornings which will be at 10:00 a.m., with a possible afternoon service to be announced. The camp meeting will end with the last Sunday morning service on June 10th.

We extend a hearty welcome to all to come and be with us. If you can't come, please agree with us in prayer that God will visit Holly Hill once again with a special camp meeting, that the saints will be stirred and challenged, and that sinners will be saved and bodies healed! We are praying the Lord to touch our hearts with that love—that burning love divine!

Lodging and meals are by free-will offerings. There are limited accommodations on the campground but the Lord has ways of making provisions for those who come! Just let us know and we will try to arrange a place for you to stay! We don't want anyone to feel that they have to get a motel, but sometimes there are those who prefer one. Here are some names and numbers of some motels up in Santee, about 10 miles away. Ramada Inn, (803) 854-2191; Super 8

Motel, (803) 854-3456; Santee Economy Inn, (803) 854-2107; Comfort Inn, (803) 854-3221.

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

GREEN BANK, WV, CAMP MEETING

The annual camp meeting at Green Bank, WV, will be held at the White Pines Campgrounds. The meeting dates are June 15-21, beginning on Friday night and ending on Thursday night. We are looking forward to another outpouring of the Spirit this year, and want to extend a special invitation to all to come and worship with us.

Services are held at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. There are lodging facilities, but we would appreciate you contacting us to let us know when you are coming to be able to serve you better. Please bring bedding, and if possible, a fan for the day hours and a jacket for the cool evenings.

The campground is located 1/4 mile off of Highway 92/28 in Arbovale, WV. There will be signs to direct you once you get there. If you would prefer a motel there are some in the area. You may call the numbers below if you need more information.

If you live in this general area and would like to attend the meeting, please get in contact with us and we will do all we can to find a way to get you there. —Bro. Toney Samons, (304) 456-3017, Bro. Marty Clevenger, (304) 456-3242, Keith and Shana Beverage, Secretary and Treasurer, (304) 799-4643

LORANGER, LA CAMP MEETING

Lord willing, this meeting will begin Sunday, July 1st, with services daily through July 8th. Come for a blessing and please support this meeting in your prayers.

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

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

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

For more information, write Bro. Nelson

Doolittle: 51367 Narretto Rd., Loranger, LA 70446. Phone: (504) 878-6111. The chapel phone is: (504) 878-2788.

— — — — —

NATIONAL CAMP MEETING MONARK SPRINGS, MO

The National Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO, July 20-29, 2001. All are cordially invited to come and bring others to enjoy the blessings we are expecting from the Lord.

The Monark Springs campground is located approximately five miles east of Neosho, MO. It is one mile east and 3/4 mile south of the intersection of Highways 86 and 59.

If you travel to Neosho by bus, you may telephone the campground, (417) 472-6427, or Bro. Mike Hightower, (417) 451-3636, for transportation.

The camp meeting is conducted on a freewill offering basis. There is no charge for meals or lodging on the campgrounds. You are welcome to come and enjoy the meeting. We are confident that God will supply every need. Meals will be served in the dining hall. Dormitory space and trailer spots are available on a first-come basis. Family units are also available.

The business managers are Randel Bradley (see address and telephone number below), and Mike Hightower, 13974 Newt Dr., Neosho, MO 64850. Phone, (417) 451-3636.

Instructions For Making Dormitory Reservations

Call DeLoris Bradley (620-226-3390), if not at home, please leave a message on the answering machine, or e-mail <rdbradley@ckt.net> I will call or e-mail to confirm.

Please give the following information so I can accommodate each one better:

Name and phone number

Date of arrival

Date of departure

Number of adults and children in party

Things to keep in mind:

Bring your own bedding if possible.

If you leave after the weekend be sure to let me know even if you are returning the next weekend.

No young people or children are to stay alone in cabins or family units.

After Wednesday the rooms start clearing out, so you might want to keep that in mind.

We have a boys and a girls dorm—if your child is staying in one of these we ask that you feel the responsibility of staying also for at least one night.

There is a men's dorm, ladies dorm and handicapped for ladies.

We want everyone to come and enjoy the fellowship of kindred hearts, while we worship the Lord together. Bear in mind we are at CAMP MEETING!!

Come praying that the Holy Spirit will have full reign in all that we as a group do, from the dorms to the kitchen, in cleaning of the restrooms and keeping our grounds orderly. Parents or guardians, please keep your children in services with you. I believe God would be pleased if we observe these things and will meet with us under the tabernacle in a greater way.

Love and prayers,

DeLoris and Randel Bradley

1540 2000 Rd

Bartlett, KS 67332

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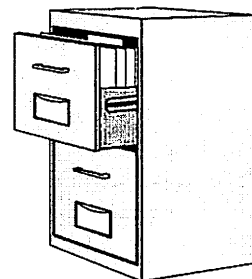
CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The annual California State Camp Meeting at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA, will begin, Lord willing, Friday night, August 24, at 7:30 p.m., and last through September 2nd. There will be three general worship services daily: 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

We extend a hearty invitation to all to come and worship with us. For directions, accommodations or assistance, call Bro. Herbert Clay, (818) 897-1396 or the Sunset Guest Home, (818) 899-2022.



LETTERS
FROM
OUR
FILES



MO—Dear Bro. Wayne and Print Shop workers: We really enjoyed visiting the "Faith Publishing House" web site. Being somewhat isolated, it was so good to hear the Sunday morning service in Guthrie on-line. We are also looking forward to the Bible Study and more services on-line. We appreciate the efforts to

make the gospel so accessible to ones who are seeking for the Truth. May God bless each and everyone there at the Print Shop.

Christian love, —Paul & Jody Inman
— — — — —

KY—Dear family in Christ: My name is Keresa Chatman. I attend services at the Church of God in Garrison, KY. I would like to give the Lord praise for healing a knot I had on the back of my neck, and also for being so merciful to my unsaved son when he has been sick or has hurt himself. One time when he was about 10 years old, he thought he could ride his bicycle off a hill. He ended up scratching himself real bad, put a bad bruise on his side and did some damage to his ribs. My mother anointed and prayed for him. As of this day he has never had any serious problems stemming from that accident.

I would like for all the saints to remember me. I fell a few years back and hurt my right leg. I still have trouble with it...I am still praying and keeping faith that the Lord will heal it completely some day.

Also, remember all my unsaved loved ones.

I praise the Lord for all the mercies He bestows upon all of us every day.

—Sis. Keresa Chatman
— — — — —

Philippines—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. We thank the Lord that you all had a safe trip back home. All of us, especially here in the congregation of Manila, were very happy that you and Sis. Mary, Sis. René and Bro. Michael, Sis. Grace, Bro. Galen, Benjamin, Allison and Sis. Stephanie were able to attend the camp. We are truly blessed by the prayers, messages and Bible Studies that you all shared with us. It was a great encouragement for us here in the Philippines to do our best in serving Him.

Please give my regards to the saints there.

In Christian love, —Sis. Arlene Tibayan
— — — — —

CA—Dear saints: Greetings in the Lord. I have so much for which to thank Him. I can say with the poet, "When I look over the past, I can see how His wide arms of mercy held me." Especially is this true during the illness and passing of my husband. Truly the Lord had to prepare me, and this He did with patience. When I realized the seriousness of his illness, my very heart ached; how I began to cry for mercy.

While at the Monark Springs Camp Meeting, we were looking forward to healing service. Edward was anointed and prayed for. After prayer, we looked up at the motto under the pavilion, which said, "Have Faith in God." We fastened onto that promise along with others the Lord had given us. Isaiah 41:13, was an anchor promise which we often referred to. "For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee."

On our return home, he declined rapidly. We did attend some of the California State Camp Meeting. Attending service was his joy. All through this illness the Lord was there for us.

One morning he was taking a shower, and as he remained in there so long I decided to check on him. When I opened the door he was against the wash basin unconscious. From all appearances he seemed to have expired. The Lord gave me presence of mind to call our son-in-law, Robert, who came right over, also my husband's brother, Leonard. Edward was still unconscious when they put him in bed. Bro. Robert prayed and my husband began to revive. During the ordeal he burned his leg on an electric heater without realizing it.

At one time he wanted to walk alone in the house. He was too weak and fell. After being helped to the sofa, he lay there and began to pray. He prayed two separate prayers, and each prayer was for the Lord to sustain me as though he was going to leave me. These are just some of the special times that the Lord was with me.

The Lord in his faithfulness, through a dream, told me to "Let him go." We are so thankful that He brought us to the place that we could. On the last Saturday prior to his homegoing, we noticed a change. Again we heard him pray. On the Sunday of his homegoing all the children came. The grandchildren wanted to sing for him. The first to arrive sang, "What Will It Be to Be There?" He responded with his hand. The second group of grandchildren arrived singing the same song. This time he lifted his arm in response. Praise the Lord! Our niece and nephew from Alaska felt led to come, not knowing the Lord was going to take him home. Thank the Lord for their obedience. Also a niece from San Bernardino was with us. Later in the evening, the Lord called Edward home peacefully.

Our hearts are still filled with praise and thanksgiving as we think of the love of God and the support of the saints, relatives and friends.

Through his illness the Lord kept Edward from suffering, which was a miracle. Continue to pray for us. —Sis. Olive A. Davenport

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AL—Dear Bro. Wayne and saints: Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. My soul magnifies the Lord who has proven again and again His faithfulness and merciful kindness. I trust this finds you encouraged and well.

I have been in severe testing since moving to Tuscaloosa, AL, but I praise God for all He has brought me through, and for all He is accomplishing in me, and for all He is teaching me about Himself. I am still pressing toward the mark—conformity to Christ Jesus.

In February the Lord was especially gracious to me and my daughter, Nellie, and the two grandbabies when we were traveling from Tuscaloosa, AL, to Tulsa, OK, on Highway 40, about 30 minutes from Hagen, AR. We had just gone down a hill on a large bridge and were going up the next incline when my water pump went out, breaking the timing belt and some other belts, causing the van to shut down before reaching the top of the hill.

There we were, stalled in the dark, in the right lane, with no shoulder to pull over on. I repeatedly tried to turn over the engine to no avail. I put on my flashers and began praying. We began to realize how dangerous our situation was when we looked behind us to see the traffic approaching. We could see the top lights on the cabs of the tractor trailers as they came up the incline, only to find us stalled in their pathway. Time and again the cars and trucks coming at full speed would come up the incline, see us, then fight to get over to keep from hitting us! Nellie and I were praying and crying while trying to start the engine. At one point, two tractor trailers were neck and neck as they came up the hill trying to pass the other. The one directly in our lane slacked just enough to let the other one pass before moving behind him, just in time to keep from hitting us! One mini van could not get over and stopped just within inches of us, then went around. We felt so helpless. My daughter was hysterical, the children were crying, and I said, "Lord, is this how you're going to take me home?"

Though I was excited there was a calm peace within. I knew we were in God's will and in our prayer for traveling mercies I was led to pray for protection for the rear, which I had never done before. Then we thought of pushing the car.

Somehow, by God's help, Nellie got out and pushed the car up the hill to the top and it coasted down off the bridge to where I could pull over. I walked back to meet Nellie, and we just cried, praised God and clung to each other, thanking Him for sparing our lives. A trauma like that, where you have been to the edge of eternity and back, sure changes your perspective of what's really important.

An off-duty officer had seen us, pulled over and waited for us at the end of the bridge. She called a highway patrolman, who called a tow truck. This was God's mercy since I could not have told anyone where I was even if I had had a phone.

I have AAA, so we were towed to Hagen where we spent the night. The highway patrolman said that that bridge was one of the worst places in Arkansas on I-40, and that many tragedies had happened on it. Others we talked to since told us of things that had happened on that bridge. I know it was God who protected us, sending this big strong angel to stand at the rear of our van to deflect those tractor trailers and cars around us! Praises be to His name!

The next morning we were informed that the local garage couldn't repair our van but they would tow it to Little Rock, AR, to a dealership.

Needless to say, I was totally unprepared for such a major breakdown. I called some of the Prattsville, AR, saints, who so hospitably put us up for the night, treated us to some good home cooking, took us to Wednesday night prayer service, blessed us financially, and then paid for the car repairs, sending us on our way rejoicing! We were able to meet some of God's precious people and visit Sis. Rose Samons. Surely the "Lord is so near and His saints are so dear." What a mighty God we serve. We thank Him and His people for their blessings, support and prayers.

Continuously pray for me as I go to Honduras, Lord willing, to work for Him in the Christian school there.

My husband, Jackie Riley, is much encouraged. He has been moved to Yazoo City, MS, which is just four hours away. Pray for him, his prison ministering and our children, who we are holding on for God's reclaiming.

Remember especially the work of God here in Tuscaloosa, AL.

Love to all the saints, —Sis. Bonnie Riley

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CA—Dear willing workers, Greetings in

Jesus' dear name, whose promises never fail: In a world where change is constant, we can be thankful for the most important thing in our life to be ever the same.

His promise of joy is true in my life. There is a song which says, "The longer I serve Him the sweeter He grows."

It is true that in old age there are many afflictions but the Scriptures call it, "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." II Cor. 4:17.

My soul is satisfied. I enjoy salvation and continuously thank God for the Light of Life, the Bright and Morning Star....

In Christian love, —Bro. Bob Mickelson

LA—Greetings Bro. Wayne and all the workers at Faith Publishing House: We are still praising our Lord, Jesus Christ, thanking Him for salvation and all the good blessings He bestows upon us each day.

My dear husband, Max, is still in the battle of affliction, but the Lord blesses. Some days he is kind of "out of the picture," but then other days he is pretty alert. We just look to God one day at a time for grace and help. He always makes a way. Praise His dear name....

May the Lord bless you all from day to day and give you courage and grace for your every need. —Sis. Lula Williamson



From Nigeria...

March 31, 2001—Dear Bro Wayne: Love and greetings in Jesus' dear name from me to you. I believe you and all the saints over there, especially in the Lord's Print Shop are doing well in all things. We are in good hands with Jesus, and He is taking wonderful care of us.

I was away for over a week to attend the pre-camp meeting and the proper camp meeting program in Ukpom last week as I earlier in-

formed you. Ukpom is about two miles away from Asana. It was a wonderful meeting. Thirteen congregations were in attendance. The Lord moved in a very wonderful way to save souls, heal the sick and pour out His spirit and anointing on souls. We had many new souls added into the fold. I thank God that people were made to know why Christ died and rose again. We have to rise up with Him in the newness of life. Every moment of our lives must reflect, show and tell people that we are risen with Christ in newness of life. It was a touching moment as the Lord ministered to us individually in those meetings. People were filled with the spirit of God in the meetings. I thank God for the end time move of the Holy Spirit in this part of the world. It was a very successful meeting so I give God the glory for all that He did and for journey mercies.

I had a brief meeting with Bro. Ufot M. Akpan (the brother that is overseeing the work over there) concerning the take off of the Pruitt Foundation For the Poor and Needy. I have decided that we will make use of the uncompleted missionary house to start something. Arrangements have been concluded for the take off of adult education programs with effect from May 1, 2001. Letters have been circulated to churches around the area for registration. The aim is to expose the villagers to a little bit of education to enable them to read the Bible, at least in the local language for a start. It will be totally free of charge. A lot of interest has been shown, and I know it is going to be another powerful tool of evangelism as the end of a day's lecture is marked with a message from the Word of God. I have already employed a teacher for that purpose effective from May 1st. Do pray for the venture and pray also that this initiative be blessed by the Lord being a first move to the actualization of the Pruitt Foundation For the Poor and Needy in its permanent site which has already been acquired by me. This is an arm of that foundation. Pray also for God's provision of the needed materials and funds for this work. Pray also for my intended traveling to Asana with my wife next week.

Share my love with all who love the Lord. My wife and all the saints over here send their greetings to you and all the brethren over there.

Thank you and may God bless you.

Yours in the Lord's service,

—Anietie B. Essien

March 29, 2001—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings to you and the dear ones there in Jesus' precious name. He is still good to us and we have no regrets serving Him.

We are gradually making preparations to take up the task of roofing the chapel. Next Sunday will witness us make our offering for the chapel project. We intend to buy some wood from the proceeds. This will be followed with the purchase of the corrugated roofing sheets. Our target is June, and by faith we believe the Lord will help us achieve this. Kindly join us in prayer in this behalf.

Yours in His mercy, —Bro. F. Naths-Igbani

From India...

April 20, 2001—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to you dear ones in the glorious name of Jesus....

Our Kothamangalam convention ended with victories. A few souls got saved. Our V. B. S. was also a blessed one. Spiritual activities are going on without much hindrances in each congregation.

Schools and colleges reopen in June. Parents need support in June to buy books and dresses and admission fees for children. Please pray and support for this need in June.

I pray for the Lord's work in all countries. Let us exchange our prayers every day.

Yours in His service, —Bro. John Varghese

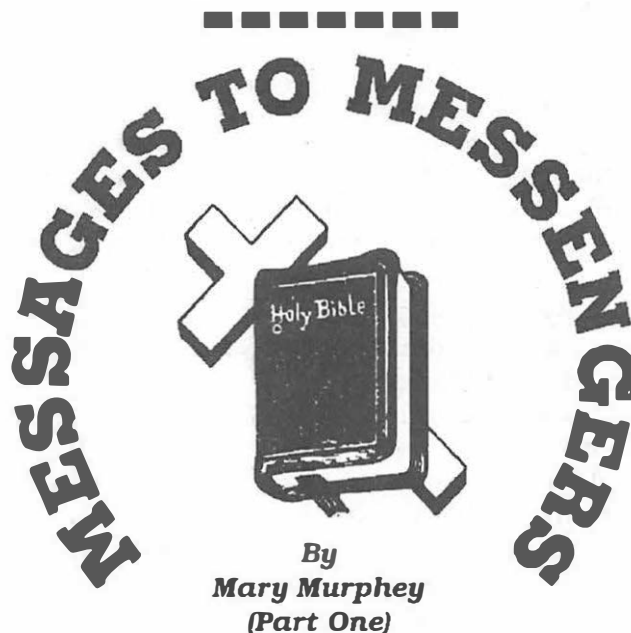
Who Has Wronged You?

(Continued from page 3.)

cuses. Their conclusion indicated, "There is a wrong here that should be corrected, and there is something here worth salvaging. Let us get rid of the wrong that we did to ourselves, and gain back the clean conscience before God that we lost." If we have no hope of redemption, God will not deal with our hearts. If He is dealing with yours, it is for your good. It results in pain only if you ignore it. He does not want you to ignore a wrong that you commit against yourself, nor does He want you to use it in a course of self-destruction. Both ways destroy your hope, and the chance of salvation He offers.

When God stirs your heart, He is seeking to redeem you, to put His image within you. He wants you to prove yourself clear, not by denying the wrong, nor by condemning the wrong, but by removing the wrong. When you are willing to do that, He will not leave you empty,

but instead will fill you with His own presence, and will create in you the holy, willing heart that He so longs to see.



"What we preachers would like to see is more of you get happy about what we have to say!"

This whimsical, yet earnest comment, was made by a minister at the conclusion of a worship service. He was referring to the lack of audience response to preaching in general.

The remark was worth consideration. Why indeed is there sometimes a reluctance on the part of an audience to respond to a preacher's message? Why do people sometimes seem disinterested in what has been said?

There are different answers to that question, and not space enough here to explore them all at once, but perhaps the issue can be partially addressed. First of all, as difficult as it is to acknowledge, some sermons are simply less than interesting. I know that's putting it plainly, but a message full of worn clichés will produce a worn response.

Ministers who invest time in study and prayerful preparation in order to truly feed their hearers are far more likely to receive an attentive reception. They are also more likely to accomplish their purpose. It is really a discourtesy to command the valuable commodity of someone's time if you are not prepared to make it worth their while. You owe your listeners the best, for their welfare, and the sake of the gospel.

Perhaps this is why Paul told Timothy to **study** to show himself approved unto God, and

also to **give attendance to reading**. He was to devote himself to developing a quality ministry.

By devotion to study, a minister can gain new perspective and insight on old truths. Restating the truth in a fresh way motivates people in a manner that a typical time worn approach does not.

Another way to maintain interest is by doing what Christ did. He used illustrations and parables in His ministry. This helped the hearers recall the principles Jesus taught them to live by.

"I can't remember everything the preacher said, but I can remember his stories," one lady remarked. Chances are, if listeners recall your stories, they will be more likely to remember the point behind them.

Consider one of Christ's illustrations. It was a comparison which some might even consider comical. "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." Mark 10:25. The novelty of the statement made it retainable, repeatable and effective. It could have been stated otherwise. Jesus could have said, "It's very hard for a rich man to be saved." Not quite the same, is it?

Stories have their place in ministering the Word. If relevant, they help to achieve the purpose of fixing truth in the mind of the listener. They also add the kind of interest which keeps an audience alert and attentive.

Once I overheard a man in conversation with a preacher. "Just about the time I start getting sleepy," he said, "you tell a story and it wakes me up."

Why not ask the Lord to bless you in using the positive tools of study and stories to intrigue, enlighten and evoke interest in the greatest message ever told? If you do, your audience just might get happy about what you have to say!

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Invitation to Readers: For a future column, we would like for you to describe traits you appreciated in ministers you have known. You may also offer general suggestions on how you believe a minister can become more effective. Submissions may be edited for clarity, content and space. Please send your comments to "Messages for Messengers," in care of Faith Publishing House, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044.

On The Battlefield

By Bro. Michael Clyburn

I would like to consider the story of David and Bathsheba which begins in II Samuel 11:1. Many suppose David's problems started when he saw Bathsheba bathing and lusted after her. (II Samuel 11:2.) But if we read the first verse carefully it states, "And it came to pass, after the year was expired, AT THE TIME WHEN KINGS GO FORTH TO BATTLE, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. BUT DAVID TARRIED STILL AT JERUSALEM."

This scripture indicates David was supposed to be in battle with Israel, but instead he sent someone else to do his job. As a consequence, he fell into all kinds of sin. In actuality, his troubles didn't begin with Bathsheba, but because he wasn't where he was supposed to be, doing what he was supposed to do. As a result, David fell into adultery, lying and murder. His children were murdered and raped and another son rose up against him. He also temporarily lost his kingdom.

Not going to battle probably wasn't even a sin. But had David gone to battle against the enemy he would have not seen Bathsheba that day. By being just a little idle, he made provisions for the flesh and soon fulfilled its lust. (Romans 13:14.)

The Word of God tells us that we are God's kings on earth (Revelation 1:6, 5:10) and we are engaged in the world's greatest battle—for the souls of the lost. We also know that we are at the end of the acceptable year of our Lord (Luke 4:19), and the battle is worse than ever.

I had almost the same experience as David. I had become slothful (Romans 12:11) and discouraged because it seemed no one wanted the truth. I had given up on Christians with only a profession and had written them off as lost. I stopped reasoning with them at Bible studies, and just as David, didn't want to go into battle anymore.

What I had forgotten is that when a saint is not in battle or ready to fight for the truth, even as when a soldier of the world is not in battle, they take off their armor and disarm themselves. (Ephesians 6:11.)

I failed to understand that when I gave up on the fight for innocent and truth-seeking souls, I had put off my breastplate of faith and love and

had removed my helmet of the hope of salvation. (1 Thessalonians 5:8.)

Satan, seeing that I was now unprepared for battle, and had slacked off from watching (Mark 13:37), even had become "sleepy" (Mark 13:36) due to my spiritual laziness (Proverbs 6:10), began to attack heavily, just as a lion does its prey when it sees it is weak. Satan began to shoot darts of depression and worries. Because I had been out of battle, I was also spiritually out of shape. As soon as I tried to fight back, I realized I had taken off all my armor and placed my sword in its sheath.

After I realized I had gotten off track, I immediately fixed the problem. I learned a valuable lesson of how easy it is to become too relaxed.

If God has commanded you to be on the battlefield, be on the battlefield and fight for the Lord with all your heart. I understand that some saints' positions are not on the front line, but whatever your appointed position may be, be diligent in doing it. The minute we are not where God has appointed us to be, we give place to the devil.

Looking Ahead

By Sis. Gladys Cashio

Our Lord has given us so many things to enjoy and appreciate. Our blessings are numerous. We praise Him for loving us so much that He laid down His precious life for our eternal salvation. What a Friend! He came to save us from sin, but we must be willing to let Him come into our hearts and take first place. His will is always for our eternal good. To follow Him is wisdom. Learning how to live involves a lifetime, and then we go home. But while we are here the Lord has many blessings for us to enjoy. "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him." Psalms 34:8. "Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord." Psalms 34:11.

My heart reaches out to our youth. We are duty bound to do our best to lead them aright. To an extent we are at a disadvantage because of the teachings of the mass media. People's information today is often far greater than what we had years ago, but wisdom gained from experience is a better teacher than what the media exhibits. When those who have actually been over the road advise us, we would do well to consider what they have to say. There is something beyond the present

material gain and fame which is often presented to our young people.

Young people—when you have pretty well made up your mind as to what you want to do, and it seems good in your young eyes, *remember*, there is more, *so much more!* Go slowly and prayerfully. You want to take the steps which will be the best to live with!

Guard your youth. Your virginity is a *priceless treasure*. The Word of God teaches us purity. The definition for purity is "freedom from dirt or mixture, clearness, cleanness, freedom from evil, innocence, freedom from foreign or inappropriate elements or characteristics, correctness, pure." This is fitting for all walks of life.

When you meet someone you think you would like to spend the rest of your life with, pray much until you can allow God into the picture. Oh, the blessedness of being in God's will. If you learn to care for someone but you don't like some of their ways, be assured you are not likely to be able to change them. The two of you need to spend much time telling each other your intentions, expectations and desires. Remember, marriage is for as long as you live. This does sound serious, doesn't it? To be safe, seek the Lord for guidance and tread softly.

Keep in mind that maintaining a relationship with your spouse can be done with joy. Marriage needs to be young and tender, even in old age. Grow old learning to appreciate each other more.

Refer to the book of Proverbs. It will teach you the way of life.

Diamonds in the Rough

A diamond in the rough
Is a diamond sure enough,
For, before it ever sparkled,
It was made of diamond stuff.
Of course, someone must find it
Or it never will be found;
And then, someone must grind it,
Or it never will be ground!

But when it's found,
And when it's ground,
And when it's burnished bright,
That diamond's everlastingly
Flashing out its radiant light.

O Christian, please, who'er you be,
Don't say you've done enough,
That worst man on the street may be
A Diamond in the Rough. —Author Unknown

