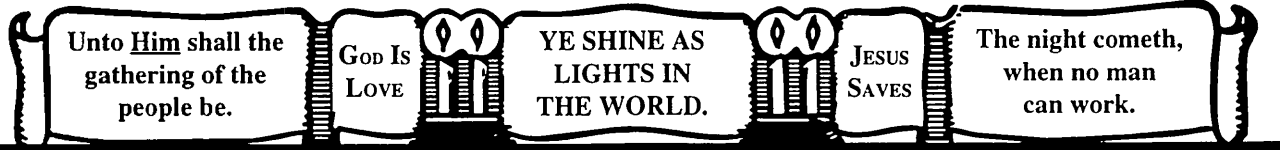


# FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

## Church of God Servant



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### JUNE 17, 2001

"It is not flesh and blood," wrote Johann Schiller, "but the heart which makes us fathers and sons."

.....

"Father!—to God Himself we cannot give a holier name."

.....

When a father overheard one of his

sons say, "If you do that, father won't love you," he approached his children with these words: "I shall always love you. When you do what is right, I love you with a glad heart, and when you do what is wrong, I still love you, but with a heart full of sorrow."

.....

Horace Mann, speaking at the opening of a reformatory for boys, said that if only one boy was saved from ruin, it would justify all the cost and labor of establishing the institution. Afterward a friend asked the eminent educator if he had not exaggerated a little. "Not if that boy was my son," was the reply.

.....

A father who was discussing his wayward son with a friend received this reply: "If he were my son, I would kick him out." The father

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answered: "Yes, if he were your son, so would I. But he isn't your son; he is my son, and I can't do it."

.....

One winter day a man found it necessary to go to see a neighbor who lived beyond a steep and rugged mountain. He had climbed the dangerous trail for some minutes through the drifted snow and along the edge of a precipice when he heard a voice call: "Be careful, Daddy. I'm walking in your steps."

.....

When a little boy said an ugly word, he looked sheepishly at a man who stood nearby. The man told the boy

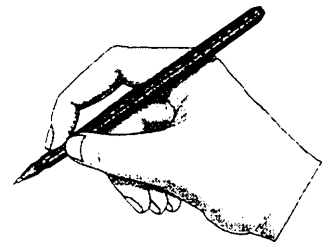
that the use of the word wouldn't hurt him and that he should learn to say whatever he wished. The little boy was puzzled for a moment and then said: "If you were my father, you would not say that."

.....

When a young man had been given a prison sentence, the judge reminded him of the distinguished career of his father, a famous lawyer. "When I went to him for advice or companionship," the youth recalled, "he would look up from a book on the law of trusts and say, 'Run away, boy. I am busy.' My father finished his book, and here I am."

## An Open Letter. . .

The following is a letter written several months ago by Bro. James McMakin to his nephew, Bro. Tracy Dilliner.



*Dear Tracy: Your mom told us you have gotten saved. That's the most important thing you could ever do in this world. I am so glad to hear that....*

*When I was a child I went to Franklin School. Every year the schools in Shawnee, OK, competed against each other in races, pole vault, high jump and other track and field events. It was called "Little Olympics." We didn't have coaches to tell us how to train, or to get in shape by jogging and doing exercises to strengthen our legs. You just ran as fast as you could and if you won you got a ribbon. I really wanted a ribbon in the worst way. I was the fastest person in the First Grade so I was appointed "Mascot" of the school.*

*In the "Little Olympics" there was a mascot race—one mascot from each school in*

*Shawnee. It was a 50 yard race. When it was about to start we all lined up at the starting line. I was pretty nervous as I had never been in a real race with people I didn't know. We were told to not jump the gun or we would have to stop and start over again. The starter guy with the gun said, "On your marks, get set, bang!" The gun fired and we were off. I was so far ahead of everyone else that I thought I had jumped the gun. So I stopped and looked back, and everybody ran past me.*

*I realized then that I should have kept running and not stopped and looked back. By that time they had all crossed the finish line. I just*



*stood there on the track and didn't even finish the race.*

*My brother, Bill, was on the sidelines. He came and put his arm around me and said, "That's okay, but why did you stop and look back? You were winning but you stopped." By that time I couldn't say anything because I had a big lump in my throat and the tears were running down my face. I was really sorry because I really wanted to win a ribbon.*

*The moral of that true story is—don't look back. Keep running the Christian race. Win that reward of everlasting life. If you stumble, and we all do, get up and keep running and don't look back. The apostle Paul wrote in I Corinthians 9:24, "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain." (Also read Hebrews 12.)*

*In I Timothy 4:7 he wrote, "I have fought*

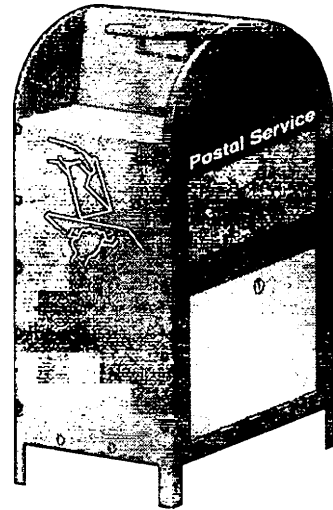
*a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."*

*Don't be like that little first grade boy who quit before the race was finished...*

*Remember, we are praying for you to have a long life of living for the Lord and enjoying His love and grace.*

*Love,*

*—Uncle James and Aunt Lorraine*



## The Piano

Selected by Bro. Bill Busch

Wishing to encourage her young son's progress on the piano, a mother took the small boy to a Paderewski concert.

After they were seated, the mother spotted a friend in the audience and walked down the aisle to greet her.

Seizing the opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, the little boy rose and eventually explored his way through a door marked "NO ADMITTANCE." When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that her son was missing.

Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on stage. In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance,

quickly moved to the piano and whispered in the boy's ear, "Don't quit. Keep playing." Then leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child and he added a running oblige. Together, the old master and the young novice transformed a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. The audience was mesmerized.

That's the way it is with God. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren't exactly graceful flowing music. But with the hand of the Master, our life's work truly can be beautiful.



# FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend camp meetings), by Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044 (USPS184-660).

(Periodical postage paid at Guthrie, OK)

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

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

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## SUBSCRIPTION RATES



Single copy, one year ..... \$3.00  
Package of 5 papers to one address, one year ..... \$12.00  
Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 518, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044  
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fax number: 405-282-6318; home phone: 405-282-6170.  
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We should never forget what God has done for us. His love for man from the time of creation has been strong and eternal. Even after Adam and Eve surrendered their allegiance to Satan, God still loved them and made provisions for their salvation. Although the generation of Noah strained that bridge of love between heaven and earth, seem-

ingly to its maximum, still it bore up under the raging torrent of sin, and God spared the human race. Israel's constant backsliding served only to temper God's determination to send His only begotten Son to die once and for all for the sins of all people.

Neither should we forget what Christ has done for us. The visage of a man upon a cross with blood flowing from His side is ever before us. His cry of "It is finished" has echoed through the halls of history and still reaches the ears of those who have a contrite heart.

We have been the recipients of much more than we are worthy. But if we are to continue to receive from God, we must also give. Just as a river without an outlet becomes a stagnant pool whose waters are repugnant and possibly poisonous, so the gifts of God which are not passed on to others will turn our salvation into a profession only, and even a life of hypocrisy.

This is why the apostle Paul wrote to the Philippian church, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." Philippians 2:4.

Although the term "selfish Christian" is a paradox, it is what Satan would like every one of us to become. And it is often in the small things of life where we prove what we truly are.

"I have been a member of our congregation for thirty years," said an elderly man to his pastor, "and when I was laid by with sickness only one or two came to see me. I was shamefully neglected."

"My friend" said the pastor, "in all those thirty years how many sick have you visited?" "Oh," he replied, "it never struck me in that light. I thought only of the relation of others to me, and not of my relation to them."

That story reminds me of an incident years ago when I was visiting a bereaved family before the funeral of their loved one. One member of

the family was explaining to another why a certain relative wasn't coming to the funeral. The person receiving the explanation calmly replied, "It would sure be lonely for the family if everyone felt that way and no one came."

It is easy to forget to "look...on the things of others," as Paul said. If you are aware of what God has done for you, don't fail, in some way, to pass that consideration along.

On the 10th of May, we received reprints of the *Evening Light Songs* hymnal from the book binder in Illinois. All of the back orders have been mailed out and should have reached their destinations. If your back order hasn't arrived, please notify this office.

Word has reached us of several of God's children who have recently gone on to their reward. One was Rosalie Samons. Sis. Rosalie was a member of the Guthrie congregation and worked at the Print Shop in 1974-1975. We extend our condolences to her husband, John, and their family.

Two ministers of the Gospel were also called home this month. On May 3, Bro. Austin McMillian, of Neosho, MO, left his body of suffering and went to be with the Lord. For many years Bro. Austin labored to help others. He was truly a "servant" of God. His wife, Sis. Ida Bell, is feeble and needs prayer for God to strengthen her.

It was on May 21, that Bro. James Bruner went to be with the Lord. For many years he pastored the Sandusky, OH, congregation. His labors proved an active interest in the Kingdom of God. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Sis. Alberta, and pray God will console her.

We were also very saddened to hear of Bro. Jack Witte's passing on May 6. His wife, Joyce, is the daughter of my father's sister, Orene. Jack had a strong faith in God, and we were blessed to hear how God ministered to him during his affliction. I am sure his wife and children would appreciate your prayers for comfort in the days ahead.

During the night of May 17, we experienced a lightening storm in Guthrie. The next morning we discovered the Print Shop's key service unit of the telephone system had been ruined by electrical surges which seemed to have come into the building through the telephone lines.

One computer was also affected by the surge. We are thankful that repairs have been made and we are back in operation, but this was an unanticipated expense.

The continuation of the Print Shop operation is not always an easy task. We are encouraged to labor on but it is indeed a work of faith. Constantly before us are ever increasing operating costs. Utilities are higher than at any time, postage was recently increased, and we hear of another postal increase in the near future.

We know that all this is not too much for God to handle, but we ask all who love the truth to pray with us for His purpose to be fulfilled in this work. We are expecting the Gospel to be circulating the globe when our Lord signals the end of time. If it is God's will, we would like to be a part of helping to publish it.

In Christ's love, —Bro. Wayne Murphey



OH—"I am sending an urgent prayer request for my daughter, Janice Craig. Please pray for her healing." —Sis. Juanita Blankenship

OR—"We have a very urgent unspoken request." —Bro. Bill Busch

OH—Sis. Alma Boggs has requested prayer for herself, her son and her daughter.

IN—"Please pray for my son, Jimmy, and myself. I know God can heal us. And remember my unsaved children." —Sis. Dessie Wilson

MS—"Please remember me, my wife and brother-in-law. We all need help from the Lord in soul and body." —Bro. Harold Griffin

OH—Bro. Preston Vulgamore suffered a severe stroke and is in need of much prayer.

OK—"I am writing requesting prayer for my son, Dennis. He is in real need of prayer for his soul and body. Pray the Lord would put a desire in his heart to live for Him.

"I also have some needs in my body for which I would appreciate prayer." —Sis. Ruby Bell

KY—"Please pray for my dad, Douglas Hall,

of the Loranger, LA, congregation. He is getting quite feeble and forgetful." —Sis. Alice Hall

FL—"Will you please remember my mother, Sis. Helen Underdown, in earnest prayer? She is suffering to the point that she is hardly able to walk and is literally crying in pain. We are really in a battle here and need prayer."

—Sis. Cheryl Smith



### 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  
 Bro. Randall Flynn  
 Sis. Pearlene Gerald  
 Sis. Esther Gordon  
 Bro. Huey Gordon, Jr.  
 Bro. Ben Harrison  
 Bro. Lee Hilton  
 Sis. Mary Hughes  
 Sis. Daisy Johnson  
 Sis. Janice Johnston  
 Sis. Earnestine Jordan  
 Sis. Betty Lassché  
 The Lounds sisters  
 Bro. Jimmie McDonald  
 Sis. Mattie McIntyre  
 Sis. Bertha Miles  
 Bro. Allan Miller  
 Sis. Virginia Myers  
 Sis. Dollie O'Neall  
 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. Preston Vulgamore

Bro. Curtis Williams, Sr.  
 Bro. Max Williamson  
 Sis. Esther Wilson



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)—August 24-Sept. 2



### MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

#### WICHITA, KS, MEETING REPORT

The Lord was faithful as always to bless the saints during the Wichita Spring Meeting. It was a good meeting. The Word was rich and if heeded, we will all be deeper, stronger and better Christians.

We were urged to really listen to God and to come to the standard of holiness which is the Benchmark. We were exhorted to heed the cry of God when He warns us to make and take care of spiritual needs. We were encouraged as escapees to act like it and keep on running. We were exhorted to get an understanding of truth and to live holy in order to continue in the truth. We were told of the importance of a touch, especially from God, and how necessary it is to be faithful to God. We appreciated each minister who came and expounded the precious Word of God to us.

The first day of the meeting was a sad one for us. Bro. Thomas Edward Davis suffered a fatal heart attack right in the chapel. We are thankful he had such an easy passing and has crossed on

over to the other shore at the age of 86. His funeral was in Denver, CO (his home before moving to the Sunset Guest Home in Pacoima, CA). We had a memorial service for him here in Wichita, and it was real nice. I believe he would have approved of it.

—Submitted by Sis. Shirley Knight

### **TULSA, OK, CAMP MEETING**

The Tulsa, OK, Camp Meeting, Lord willing, will begin on Sunday, June 10, 2001, and end on Sunday, June 17, 2001.

There will be morning and night services, Monday through Saturday, at 10:30 a.m., and 7:30 p.m., with afternoon services on both Sundays.

All are invited to attend. Please pray that every one who does attend will receive a blessing and get the help that they may need.

The church address is: 1102 E. Pine Pl. (The nearest main intersection is Pine and Peoria).

For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Charles Lowe, (918) 584-6838 or Bro. Charles Rhodes, (918) 272-9682. The chapel telephone number is: (918) 585-2442.

### **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.

### **DURHAM, NC, REVIVAL**

Lord willing, we are planning a revival meeting in Durham, NC. Services will be held June 28-July 1, at 7:30 nightly. We are praying that the Lord will send ministers and saints of His choosing. Come praying that we will have an outpouring of the Holy Ghost. If you need any more information, contact Bro. Jerry Lennon, (919) 544-2203; chapel (919) 471-1613.

### **FRESNO, CA, CAMP MEETING**

A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend the Fresno, CA, Camp Meeting from June 29th to July 8th. On Friday, June 29th, and Saturday, June 30th, there will be a 7:00 p.m. service. On Sunday, July 1st, and July 8th, there will be Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., general service at 10:30 a.m. and evening service at 7:00 p.m. Beginning on Monday, July 2nd, and going through Saturday, July 7th, there will be a 10:30 a.m. service and a 7:00 p.m. service.

Please pray with us that souls will have more of an interest in attending camp meeting and will come expecting a blessing. Souls need salvation, deliverance, healing and edification.

The directions to the church are: Coming from the north on 99, take the Belmont exit, go east about three miles to First Street, turn right and go two blocks to Grant. The Church is on First and Grant. Coming from the south on 99, take the Venture exit, go east to First Street, turn left and go to Grant. For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Charles Taylor, 3014 Helm Ave, Clovis, CA, 93612, phone: (559) 348-9029 or Bro. Charles Parrish, 1325 E. Fedora, Fresno, CA 93705, phone: (559) 221-6808.

—The Fresno congregation

### **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.

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### 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, and in 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

#### MISSIONARY EFFORT

During the upcoming Monark Camp Meeting, a snack stand will be operated across the road from the campgrounds in an effort to raise offerings for the missionary efforts currently underway around the world. The stand will operate solely for the purpose of generating offerings for the mission fields, and will not result in any personal gain. Donations are being accepted for the purchase of supplies, and donations of labor will be needed to help operate the facility during the meeting. Anyone interested in supporting this effort may contact: Phillip and Cheryl Cole, P. O. Box 787, Granby, MO 64844. Phone: (417) 472-6331.

#### 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 go 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.



**REMODELING PROJECT**

We, the Church of God, Tennessee congregation, would like to get started on the remodeling project of our chapel. We do have some funds, but need much more. We have had several bids with the lowest bid being \$25,000.

We would like to thank all of those who have already sent something toward this project.

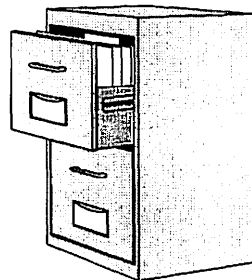
Anyone willing to help with this project would be greatly appreciated.

Please send your contributions to: Church of God Building Fund, 322 Lindsay Street, Alcoa, TN 37701.

Thank you, —Sis. Mary McDonald



**LETTERS FROM OUR FILES**



KS—Dear Bro. Murphey: Thank you for sharing about your recent trip and God's protection. It is always encouraging to hear of God's blessings and power.

My husband, Leo Hiebert, was brought up in the Church of God and was saved at the age of ten years. Like many people, he wandered away from the Lord. But the good Shepherd was always nearby and eventually he came back, or was brought back, to the fold. He suffered a lot with cancer but he had a lot of patience. He passed away the 20th of April.

As the song says, "Some through the water some through the flood, some through the fire, but all through the blood." Jesus is the only way of salvation.

Thanks to all who prayed for him, both body and soul. He went in peace and is now safely home with the Lord. We appreciate each one of

you who prayed for Leo—those known and unknown to us. We will always be so grateful for the love and prayers of the saints far and near.

With love in Christ,  
—Sis. Naomi (Dickerson) Hiebert and family



CA—Dear Bro. Wayne and all at the Print Shop: Greetings in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, our Savior, Sanctifier, Healer and our Keeper.

We thank God that you and the group that went with you to the Philippines had a successful stay and a safe trip both ways. It is a wonderful thing that the saints care so much for one another that a long trip such as you made is done gladly. And I am sure that the Church there enjoyed your visit. I appreciated the pictures in the *Faith and Victory* and the information regarding the state of affairs there.

We had a well-attended three day meeting at Los Angeles which had not happened for some time....

Please remember me and mine in your prayers, also us at Los Angeles and throughout California.

Yours in Christ, —Bro. Bob Mickelson



OH—Dear Bro. Murphey: Enclosed please find my renewal for the *Faith and Victory*.

My oldest son lives with me and has all his life. My husband, Melvin H. Sharp, died December 24, 1999. He had fond memories of time spent while he was a worker there.

I thank God for all His many blessings, and pray for His guidance in all things. Remember us in your prayers.

In Christian love, —Mary Evelyn Sharp



Philippines—Dear Bro. Wayne: I am happy to know that everything is well with you and your family. Here, the country is experiencing a crisis. [May 2.] But we are thankful to the Lord because my family and I are safe and well protected. This week has been a very busy week for the new leaders of the government. A lot of protesters from different parts of the country came to Manila to have a rally. The government is having a hard time resolving it. My mother was supposed to visit my grandma last week but could not travel to Nueva Ecija because most of the roads going there are temporarily closed. My family is hoping and praying that all of these problems will soon be resolved by the government without anybody being hurt again.

My brother, Jon, is now doing okay. We believe that the divine healing has already healed him. He was the one who delivered a message last Sunday. His topic was about the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and it was truly inspiring how he shared his own experience. He said that it is really wonderful that he feels the Holy Spirit is dwelling in him. I am so happy for my brother.

Well, I really enjoy writing an e-mail to you Bro. Wayne, I hardly noticed that it is already quite long. Thank you so much again especially for all the prayers.

Please give my regards to Sis. Mary and also, please tell her that I miss her. I miss all of you. I'm excited to see all the pictures.

In Christian love, —Sis. Arlene Tibayan

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OK—Dear ones: I am having to limit my writing as I need my glasses changed and can't meet an appointment right now.

I have been terribly ill, but I am better in some ways, praise the Lord. I have some infection in my body but they can't tell where it is right now.

I hope you all are doing well and can enjoy the rest of the spring and summer.

Those of you who can reach heaven with your prayers, please pray for me. I'm not out of the woods yet, though I am better.

I hope I can hear from some of you.

Take care of yourselves.

Lots of love, —Sis. Opal Kelly

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### From the Philippines...

April, 22, 2001—Dear Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary: Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

The moments we've had together, singing praises to Him, hearing God's messages, imparting personal experiences with the Lord,

testifying of the goodness and greatness of God and fellowshiping with one another were blessings from above. Truly we experienced great blessings from Him. Imagine people who have different nationalities and cultures coming together as one family with only one objective—to glorify and exalt our true and living God. Isn't it a blessing? God made a way for us to be able to understand one another. God made a way for us to be able to understand everyone's tongue. This is again another blessing. We were filled with many blessings even though your stay with us was only a short one.

Thank you, brother and sister, for your love to the work in the Philippines, your love to the unsaved souls, for your deep concern that the words of God be spread throughout the world and for the material blessings being shared with the workers in His vineyard.

Our God, who is also the God of our forefathers, is just and righteous. He is not blind and cannot see His people working for His glory; He is not dumb and cannot hear the agony of His people, nor mute and cannot say what He wants to say to His chosen people. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. We'd like to share a verse with you from the book of Hebrews. "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." Hebrews 6:10.

Kindly extend our best regards to all the saints down there! Praise the Lord!

In Christ's love,

—Bro. Pat, Sis. Rose and Jashen Tangunan

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### From India...

May 16, 2001—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to you dear ones again in the marvelous name of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake; but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." Mark 13:13.

May God bless each dear one who prays and supports the Lord's work in India. Our convention at Chayppankuzhy was a victorious one during the last week of April.

Last week I visited our congregations in the north of Kerala and preached in an all-day service at Chalakudy. Usually, monsoon rain starts in June and outdoor meetings cannot be conducted during monsoon season.

Schools and colleges reopen in June and children need help for their school expenses this month.

Thank God for your profitable visit in the Philippines. May God open the door wide for Gospel in all parts of this world. Our prayers are for you.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

#### From Ghana...

Dear Bro. Smith: Thank you very much for the good work you are doing in Ghana, both physically and spiritually.

The work is moving forward, but in Ghana we have many problems, especially in the Ashanti region. It hasn't rained for some time, so all the farmers are suffering. Their crops are destroyed. It has affected all of the people in the region because we don't have enough food to eat.

Secondly, the government of Ghana has increased the fuel price, so it has affected everything in the country. The church is suffering because it doesn't have any property which can support the work such as a vehicle or a corn mill....

Yours in Him, —Pastor Maxwell Nkansah

**[Editor's note:** Anyone who feels a burden to help the saints in Ghana may send offerings to this office at: Faith Publishing House, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044, and they will be relayed to the proper places.

Another note of interest is that word has been received from Malawi stating that a number of meetings are being held in Malawi and Mozambique, and the saints are all doing fine.]



**IN MEMORIAM**

**Harley Austin McMillian** was born June 5, 1920, to Robert Wesley McMillian and Ida Tekoa

"Cora" (Mixon) McMillian in Fayette County, AL. He entered into rest at his residence in Neosho, MO, after an illness, May 3, 2001. His age was 80 years, 10 months, 28 days.

Bro. Austin lived the first twelve years of his life near Bluff, AL, attending the Kirkland School through the 6th grade. He was reared in a Christian home and gave his life to Christ at a young age. By trade he was an auto body repairman, and worked in that field for over 40 years. He was an ordained minister for the Church of God. He dedicated his ministry to caring for the sick and helping with small congregations for many years. He modeled the Christian life to his family and all those who knew him by ministering to those in need and by preaching Christ and Him crucified. In recent years he ministered to Church of God congregations over a wide area. He lived in Neosho, MO, for a short time in the early 1940's. He moved to Michigan in 1956 from Alabama and returned to Neosho in 1964.

He married Ida Belle Whitson, August 3, 1940, in Fayette, AL, and she survives. Additional survivors include: one son, Harlon McMillian of Bay City, MI; five daughters, Camilla Watkins, of Phoenix, AZ, Carolyn Rhame, of Rogers, AR, Marilyn Cole, of Granby, MO, Emily Cole, of Granby, MO, and Deborah Wesche, of Ann Arbor, MI; one brother, Thomas Vada McMillian, of Shawnee, OK; three sisters, Hallie Taylor of Fayette, AL, Melia Earnest, of Winfield, AL, and Pearlene Gerald, of Cullman, AL; twenty-four grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in the Clarke Chapel in Granby, officiated by Bros. Leslie Busbee, Bob Huskey and Clifford Cole. Interment was in the Brown Cemetery in eastern Newton County.

**Leo Hiebert (Lee)** was born July 27, 1924, in Hillsboro, KS, to Abraham and Suzanna (Ratzlaff) Hiebert, the youngest of seven children. He departed this life April 20, 2001 at St. Francis hospital, Wichita, KS, at the age of 76 years, 8 months and 23 days.

He is survived by his wife, Naomi, of the home; son, Jack, of Andover, KS; daughter, Vickie, of Manhattan, KS; one grandson, Jacob, of Manhattan, KS; and a sister, Anne Severs, of Neosho, MO. His parents, three sisters and two brothers preceded him in death. Besides his family, he leaves many other relatives and friends to mourn.

He grew up on a farm in the Fairview, OK, area, except for about two years when the family lived near Monark Springs, MO. There, at the age of ten, he was saved.

On January 23, 1947, he was united in marriage to Naomi Dickerson of Winona, MO. To this union two children were born.

Leo and his wife moved to Wichita on January 1, 1951. He went to work for Beech Aircraft, where he worked as a machinist, and worked there for 36 years. He was a dedicated employee who was never laid off or late to work.

In April 1958, Leo moved his family to Andover and lived there for the remaining 43 years of his life. He was an outdoor person and spent a lot of time hunting, fishing, building a home and gardening.

Some time ago, Leo renewed his faith in Christ and was ready to leave his illness and pain behind. He is now absent from the body and present with the Lord. The spirit has left the body of clay for the present, but we read in I Corinthians 15:54-55, 57, "...Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? ...Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

**Jack R. Witte**, 45, a lifetime resident and prominent dentist of Shreveport, LA, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, May 6, 2001. He was born January 10, 1956 to Frank J. Witte, Jr. and Anna Lee Wheeler Witte.

He was preceded in death by his father; his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Witte, Sr.; and a nephew. He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Joyce Mann Witte; daughter, Stephanie Witte; and two sons, Scott Witte and Jeffrey Witte. He also leaves his mother, Anna Lee Witte, of Houston, TX; sister, Mary Ann Fletcher, of Folsom, CA; two brothers, James Witte, of Houston, TX and Dr. Thomas Witte, of Palestine, TX; and ten nieces and nephews.

A 1974 graduate of Fair Park High School, Jack received his B.S. degree from Louisiana Tech in 1978 and his doctorate from Baylor College of Dentistry in 1981.

Playing catch in the back yard and lighting up at the thought of what to get his wife for Christmas—Jack was the epitome of a loving husband and devoted father. His faith, his family, and his friends were the joy of his life. He was always proud of his children and their achievements. He had such a strength about

him and a faith in the Lord that could not be shaken. His bright smile and joyous laugh will never be forgotten.

Services were held at the Willow Point Baptist Church, officiated by Bro. Sonny Simpson. Interment was in the Forest Park West Cemetery.

**Rosalie Ruth Johnston Samons** was born in Peoria, IL, on May 13, 1954. She passed from life to her eternal home April 9, 2001, at her home in Prattsville, AR.

She is survived by her husband, John; two sons, John and Joshua, of the home; and daughter, Julie Campbell, of Springfield, MO. She is also survived by her son-in-law, Darran Campbell; and granddaughter, Tara Dení. She also leaves three brothers, Ed, of Neosho, MO, Ben, of Columbia, MO, and Steve, of Ashland, MO.

One son, Jared, preceded her in death.

Rose gave her life to God at the age of fifteen and served Him faithfully until her death. In the early 1970's she worked at Faith Publishing House, as her desire was to work for the Lord. It was during this time, under the tutelage of Bro. Lawrence Pruitt, that she credits the ripening and maturing of her spiritual walk. Rose loved the Lord dearly and during her illness of two years, she trusted Him faithfully and was a great influence to many people.

Her funeral was held on April 13th, in Sheridan, AR, and was conducted by Bro. Ed Wilson, Bro. Jerry Melot and Sis. Maxine Busbee. She was laid to rest at the Philadelphia Cemetery in Prattsville, AR.

#### *Letter of Thanks*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their love and kindness to us during Rose's illness and death. Rose loved her husband, children, family, saints and everyone she came in contact with. The outpouring of love shown to us makes us know she was loved by many. A special thanks goes to the Prattsville congregation. It seems they could never do enough and for this we will be forever grateful. This is a tough time for us, but we know that our loss is heaven's gain. The song says, "I have more to go to heaven for than I did yesterday." I surely want to be faithful to God and meet her again someday. Thank you again.

—Bro. John Samons

**Thomas Edward Davis** was one of eight children born to Thomas and Ada Davis on October 23, 1914, in Hennessey, OK. He was called from this life April 20, 2001 in Wichita, KS, at the age of 86. His parents, five brothers and his only sister preceded him in death.

He grew up in Hennessey and then lived most of his life in Denver, CO. He married and had two daughters.

He sought the Lord and received salvation late in life in answer to his parents' many prayers during their lifetime. He gladly embraced the Gospel, loved the Lord and really appreciated his salvation. He was isolated most of his saved life, but for a short time, Sis. Naomi Jones lived in Denver and they could encourage one another by phone. She moved away and later Cynthia Lowe from Tulsa married and she and her husband lived there and had services with him.

About three years ago Bro. Davis moved to Pacoima, CA, to the Sunset Guest Home to live. There he was able to attend church regularly and was so pleased and happy. He still liked to go to camp meetings in Kansas and Oklahoma. He tried to attend every revival meeting in Wichita because that is where he found the Lord and was converted. He had come to Wichita to be in the spring meeting when God called him home while in the chapel. He was loved and appreciated by his brothers and sisters in the Lord, and will truly be missed by all.

He leaves two daughters, Jacqueline Collins and Sandra Noles, both of Denver, CO; one brother, Elvee Davis, of Flint, MI; five granddaughters, which includes a set of triplets; other relatives, saints and friends.

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**James A. Bruner** went home to be with the Lord on Monday, May 21, 2001.

He was born in Muskogee, OK, on Nov. 2, 1916, moved to Akron, OH, in 1941, and remained there until his death. He worked for Goodyear for many years until he retired. He also owned and operated the A. B. Ash Co. for 14 years until his retirement in 1972. He was a member of the Evening Light Church of God, where he served as an elder and Sunday School teacher, and he was the pastor of the Evening Light Church of God in Sandusky, OH, until the time of his death.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Alberta; daughter and son-in-law, Pauline and Lee Bickley of Akron, OH; grandchildren, Marilyn

Bickley-Bell and Lee (Dawn) Bickley Jr., both of Akron, OH; great-grandchildren, Dannelle Bell, Chantel, Cameron and Capri Bickley, all of Akron, OH; special brother-in-law, Melvin Payne; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held at the Stewart & Calhoun Funeral Chapel on Saturday, May 26, 2001, with Bro. Keith Fuller officiating. Interment was in the Greenlawn Cemetery.



BY  
**WAYNE & MARY MURPHEY**

*"The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips." Proverbs 16:23*

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Once a man expressed to a minister that he had not entered the ministry because he considered the life of a preacher to be an easy and comfortable one. The minister made this reply, "The life of a conscientious minister is not easy. I have always considered a minister as the father of a larger family than he is able to maintain. No, sir, I do not envy a minister's life as an easy life, nor do I envy the minister who makes it an easy life."

There are many responsibilities connected with the ministry of which the laity are unaware. And just as there are many responsibilities, there is the temptation to shirk some of the duties. One of these temptations is in lacking the self-discipline to devote oneself to seeking God and preparing a quality message that will be effective when preached. While one must rely on the Holy Spirit for the timing and manner of delivery, as well as inspiration to do so, there are

practical ways to apply ourselves to ministering well. Some of these are mentioned below.

Some years ago, a very inexperienced speaker spoke to a farmers' association. For more than two hours, the audience heard every possible fact and idea remotely related to the topic as the speaker rambled on and on.

At the end of the talk, the president of the association approached the speaker. "You had lots to say and you came through real loud," he said, "but around here, we like a man who bales his hay before he delivers it."

That farmer's comment could probably be applied to some messages you've heard. They too were "unbaled," or what might be termed "shotgun sermons." The messages went every which way with no definite purpose. In fact, if asked, one might be hard put to describe the content of those sermons, because of their disorganization.

There is considerable value in knowing how to organize your thoughts. One version of Proverbs 16:23 says, "Intelligent people think before they speak. What they say is then more persuasive."

We cannot discount the worth of organization. The very universe depends upon it. Clarity and order have their rightful place, especially in sharing God's Word. Listeners should be able to exit at the conclusion of a service with a clear concept of what a minister has said. If they leave confused, little has been accomplished.

That is why it is helpful, when preparing a message, to keep in mind the following guideline: ***You should be able to state, in one simple sentence, what the Holy Spirit has revealed to you, and what it is you wish your hearers to do or remember.***

If you cannot state this purpose in one simple sentence, you probably don't have a clear message to communicate. In that case, the Holy Spirit may be leading someone else to minister His Word.

Once your purpose is clearly felt and understood, there is a need to flesh out the body of the sermon. Any material that does not support the theme you wish to communicate should be eliminated, or you run the

risk of an "unbaled" message.

It has been said that the best opportunity for gaining the attention of an audience occurs within the first two minutes. Unfortunately, there is sometimes a tendency for ministers to begin a sermon with what some have ruefully defined a "sermonette,"—a pre-sermon, followed by "the" sermon, accompanied by a "post sermon."

So much sermonizing dilutes the effectiveness of a message. A definite opening, where the subject is quickly introduced, is much more effective at gaining listener interest. Attention is less likely to wander if you simply follow the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in introducing your thought rather than meander towards it.

After the introduction, move into the body of the message. This is where scriptural points are presented and supplemented by support material, such as illustrations, which Christ commonly used in communicating.

Make sure, however, that illustrations reinforce the theme of the message. Any which are told simply for entertainment value, and are totally irrelevant to the topic, result in decreased respect for the speaker, and a message less focused.

The final element of an effective message is the conclusion. A simple summary reinforces a sermon and leaves listeners with the essence of what has been said. This need not be lengthy. One etiquette columnist advised guests taking leave of their hostess at a social function not to prolong the good-bye process. "When it comes time to leave, express your gratefulness and promptly depart," she said. That could apply to sermons also. Many a good one has been over-extended, to the detriment of both minister and audience.

Consider the advice Winston Churchill offered. He said a friend of his father's once told him: "Say what you have to say and when you come to a sentence with a grammatical ending,

sit down." That which is said after the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is through is simply "preaching in the flesh" and is very wearying to the listeners.

While we cannot overemphasize the need of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in

*"In order to communicate God, we need to get close to people, understand their needs and fears and hopes and dreams, and then start at that point and preach Jesus to them, putting the story into words and illustrations they can understand."*

—Leighton Ford

ministry, effective preaching requires some labor-intensive effort on the part of the minister. That's why the temptation exists to shirk applying oneself to the task of organization. However, a sermon with a central theme, an effective opening, a scriptural body, and a concise summary is more likely to be a sermon people will understand, remember and be blessed by. Most importantly, it must minister grace to the hearts of the hearers. But that's a subject for another column.



### **Is There An Imp There In My Seat?**

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

Where gathered are the saints today  
To worship God, to sing and pray,  
To hear His Word so pure and sweet—  
Is there an imp there in my seat?

Why such a question should there be  
For me to ponder wond'ringly?  
The answer lies quite clear and plain:  
My absence and excuses vain.

For why should my seat empty be?  
From being there what hinders me?  
What place should Satan find to fill  
Where I should be with steadfast will?

But so much work must needs be done  
Of household chores I have begun  
(Although I'm sure that all could wait,  
Completed at a later date).

The road is long and I'm so tired;  
To miss this once I won't be fired—  
But what if something for my soul  
I'd miss, and fail to reach life's goal?

If I'm not there and I could be,  
An imp could take my seat, you see:  
Instead of "Praise the Lord, Amen!"  
My seat will sound an empty din.

He who proclaims the "Good Report"  
Will have just that much less support,  
And some a solemn truth might miss  
In thoughts of "Wonder where he is?"

And what if all the rest would heed  
The thought: "To go I do not need?"  
An empty house 'twould be, each seat  
Might have an imp with dancing feet.

Oh, how much better it would be

If I would be there faithfully,  
The cares of life all left behind  
And I with an attentive mind

Would be on hand to sing and pray  
And back the truth that's preached today;  
Make all the service more complete  
And keep that imp out of my seat!

(The subject for this poem was suggested by  
Sis. Zelda Telford, Rosamond, CA)



### **Shocking Goodness**

by Sis. Raleah Murphey

"Shocking, just shocking!" is a phrase my husband uses quite often.

Do you ever find yourself feeling surprised when you hear of something good someone has done? The sad truth is, in our society today, the negative, evil stories have become the "norm" and genuine goodness is so rare that we find it rather shocking. It is an understatement to say that our world is in need of more "down-home" goodness. In fact, it wouldn't be bad at all to bump into pleasant people with helping hands more often, instead of those with a selfish, ready-to-cut-you-off disposition.

I sincerely believe if more examples of goodness were lived before us, our world would be a better place. It's likely there would be less domestic violence and fewer crimes in general. After all, it is the goodness of God, in common, ordinary people, which often leads men to repentance and life-changes.

Goodness promotes health and happiness, and it should begin at home, with the ones we eat and sleep with every day. Goodness can be as simple as treating your spouse to a smile and a pleasant "Good morning," regardless of the fact that you are sleep-deprived and tempted to grouchiness. It means being kind to your child even though you have put those same shoes on his little feet AT LEAST five times in the last hour. It may even mean giving up a little of your precious time to listen to the person who simply needs to talk. Each day, we have countless opportunities to display goodness to those right around us.

Goodness extends outside our homes as well. I am reminded of an incident Dr. James Dobson tells about. He was standing in line at a grocery store checkout one day when he

