

# 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. 9

79th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

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Dec., 2001

## You Are The Innkeeper

The traffic was heavy as families flocked in,  
Camels and donkeys, commotion and din;  
When Joseph and Mary stopped late on that day.  
I, the innkeeper, I turned them away.

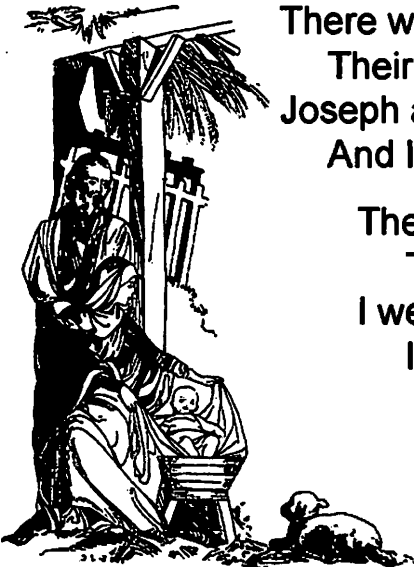
The merchants with bags of silver and gold,  
You couldn't expect them to stay out in the cold.  
But Joseph and Mary had not much to pay.  
So I, the innkeeper, I turned them away.

Wise rabbis came too, very solemn of face;  
For such honored ones I must sure find a place.  
But Joseph and Mary had little to say  
When I, the innkeeper, I turned them away.

There were officers also, haughty and bold,  
Their uniforms glittered with scarlet and gold.  
Joseph and Mary wore homespun of gray  
And I, the innkeeper, I turned them away.

The scenes of that day I would like to erase.  
The divine Son of God—I gave Him no place.  
I welcomed the rich but the humble that day  
I, the innkeeper, I turned them away.

O, if you are here and have made Christ no room,  
The One who died for you and rose from the tomb,  
When He's gently knocking, receive Him today,  
**YOU ARE THE INNKEEPER, don't turn Him away.**



## Changed on Christmas Eve

A young English woman married a man in government service. Her husband was a light-hearted young man who smoked, drank and gambled. As the years went on, he was promoted in service and had large responsibilities, but he became a hardened gambler and drinker.

As her husband went deeper into sin, she, through anxiety on his account, became deeply anxious about her soul, and as a lost, guilty sinner cast herself and all her burdens on the Saviour and became a new creature in Christ, with one burdened desire—to bring her husband to Christ. For 13 years she prayed with never-failing faith that the Lord would convert him. Every Sunday she would ask him to accompany her to services, and he as often refused. He would sometimes say that if she would go with him to some worldly place that he would go to church with her 40 times. Her invariable reply was, "As much as I long to have you with me, I could not bring reproach on my Saviour by going where He could not be."

On the Sunday before Christmas she repeated her invitation, when he laughingly said, "You have not converted me yet, old woman." She immediately threw her arms around his neck, and said, "No, and I never can; but the Lord Jesus Christ can convert you, George." From that time he became very uneasy, but more determined to resist his wife's entreaties.

On Christmas Eve he went with some of his companions to a dinner. After the dinner, he went home to take his usual Christmas gifts to his wife and children. When he was distributing them he found that for the first time since he was married he had forgotten a

gift for his wife. He was utterly at a loss to account for this and said to her, "I've never forgotten you before; now you may ask what you like, and I will give it to you." She quietly and earnestly said, "Come with me to the meeting tonight—that will be my gift."

"Oh, no," he said, "I cannot do that; ask for some gift." But she reminded him of his promise. When the time came for his wife to go to the meeting, she waited for him.

The children asked, "Do you think father will go with us?"

"Yes," she said, "your father never broke a promise to me." He had returned, and over-hearing this remark, it made him feel very uneasy. When they started he went with them, to the great joy of his wife. At the church door he turned and left them, intending to go back to his companions, but something compelled

him to return to his home.

There were pictures hanging on the walls, and his eyes fell on a representation of Christ on the cross. It attracted him, and smote him to the heart. The words which his devoted wife had so often read in his hearing came afresh to his memory: "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from him;... But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." (Isa. 53:3, 5). The past, with a wasted life, and the future, with an awful eternity, rolled in like billows over his soul. Here in this One who was despised, rejected, wounded and bruised, appeared the only hope of true peace now, and true joy hereafter.



He looked and looked, until it seemed to him as if it were Christ Himself hanging on the cross, and He said to him, "I died for you."

"For me, Lord?" the wondering man replied, and then and there, in agony of soul, he called on the Saviour to save him and to put away from him forever the taste for liquor and the desire for all sin. Like "the chief of sinners" he "fell to the earth" (Acts 9:4), and upon his knees, in his own house, with no one near but God, he acknowledged his "manifold transgressions and mighty sins" (Amos 5:12), and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour. He believed on Him, "who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification" (Rom 4:25), and rose from his knees a free man, with Christ as his Saviour and his mighty Deliverer.

That very night he wrote checks paying off all his gambling debts and ceased playing cards. He never tasted liquor again. His deliverance was complete. The gospel demonstrated itself in his life.

On that memorable Christmas Eve, the occasion of his new birth, he went to his old companions and told them what the Lord Jesus had done for him. They thought he was joking, and laughed at him. They tempted him to their utmost to drink with them, and when he was firm, they emptied their glasses over him and he walked out wet with the liquor. Then they followed him home with offensive songs and jeers.

Surely if God can save a drinking, swearing, smoking, gambling sinner of the deepest dye, and make him a "new creature" in Christ, He can save anyone, even you. Burdened, weary, sin-sick soul, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29.) Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and obtain eternal life. God is able to save the worst sinner, and He is both able and willing to save you. —Selected

## **A Mother's Prayer Answered**

Like most boys who become great men, Hudson Taylor, the missionary to China had a good mother. She had prayed for him and asked God to make him a minister of the gospel. But when he was 15, he went to work in a bank, and grew careless about his habits and failed to pray. This brought grief to his mother and to his sister, Amelia. Amelia made up her mind that she, too, would pray for her brother.

One day his mother went away on a visit to a friend some 70 miles distant. Having nothing special to do one afternoon, she went to her room, locked the door and prayed for her boy who continued to drift away from God.

Hudson Taylor was at home and being alone, went to his father's library and began to search for something to read. He found a little tract entitled, "It is Finished." Becoming fascinated he read some of it. Hudson did not know that on that very afternoon his mother was praying for him. She prayed on for hours and then something told her that she had prayed enough and she began to sing. She was sure God had answered her prayers.

Hardly aware how it came about, Hudson found himself upon his knees, "Oh God, I thank Thee for Your great love, for Your plan which has included me. Forgive me, Lord, for my sins, for my blasphemy, for my unbelief."

Two weeks later Mrs. Taylor returned. She could hardly wait to see how her prayer was answered and Hudson could hardly wait to tell her. He had told Amelia, but had pledged her to keep it secret that he himself might tell it to his mother. He was the first to meet her at the door, but before he could say a word, her loving arms were around his neck, and as she kissed him she said, "I know, my dear boy; I have been rejoicing in the glad news you have to tell."

He was disappointed and said in surprise, "Why has Amelia broken her promise that she would tell no one?" Then his mother told him that she had not heard from Amelia or anyone else, but that God had whispered it to her heart when she had prayed for him one afternoon two weeks ago.

From that day, Hudson Taylor began to prepare himself to be a messenger of the gospel.

# 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).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

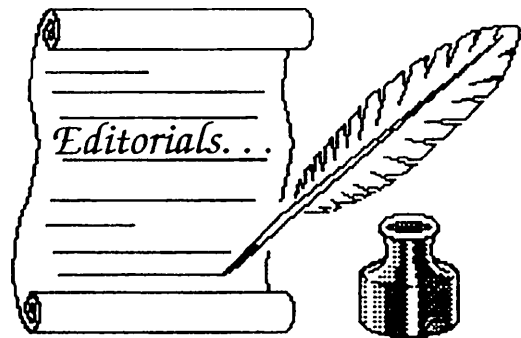
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Postmaster: Please send address corrections to: Faith Publishing House, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044.



December is a month of reflection. As we review 2001, we thank God for His faithfulness in our behalf. We are grateful for His provision which allowed another year of publishing the gospel to be completed.

This month also offers a special time for remembering the gift of God's Son to this earth. As we consider the significance of that event, we praise God and echo the refrain of the angels—Glory to God in the highest!

It's also a time when we anticipate the arrival of a new year. As you keep us on your hearts and in your prayers, we feel confident that together we can accomplish much.

Income tax time is right around the corner. If you made a contribution to this work during 2001 and would like to have a receipt for claiming deductions, please notify us.

Wall calendars are now in stock for the year 2002. These make nice Christmas gifts, and each features a colorful nature scene with a Bible verse for every month. The new calendars differ slightly in size from those of previous years. They measure approximately 10" X 10" and are available for \$3.00 each, which includes postage and handling.

Bound volumes of the 11 issues of the *Faith and Victory* paper for the year 2001 will soon be in stock. The price is \$5.00 per book, which includes postage and handling. Junior *Beautiful Way* yearbooks will also soon be available (52 papers for the year 2001) at \$5.00 each. This price includes postage and handling. The limited supply of these books will be sold on a first-come basis.

We are glad to announce we have completed the CD documentary of the Philippine mission work for the years 1998 - 2001. The CD contains pictures, video clips and narration of the build-





**A PRECIOUS MEETING  
IN  
VANCEBURG, KY**

As part of a recent trip to visit our children in Kentucky, Bro. Danny and Sis. Angela Gellenbeck, and their children, we journeyed on Sunday afternoon, October 21, up to Vanceburg, KY. We were welcomed in the home of Bro. Meredith and Sis. Mary Hughes, who pastors the little congregation of the Church of God in that place. We truly felt the blessing, inspiration and fellowship of the Holy Spirit in their company, and in the services we were permitted to be in with the saints there in their lovely new chapel, just recently completed.

We were with them three nights, Oct. 21-23. We were really blessed as the Spirit of the Lord inspired richly with His Word and gave sweet anointing and great liberty in bringing forth the truth. They rejoiced in the glorious Word of the Lord. We thoroughly enjoyed our stay with them, in the services with the saints and in the home with Bro. and Sis. Hughes.

We for your remembrance of them in your prayers. The weight of the burden of the work rests heavily upon Sis. Hughes, and she leans hard on the Lord for strength, inspiration and wisdom to know how to help the souls she loves so dearly. They welcome the saint ministers to come and visit and be with them in meeting. Pray for them, for they are truly worthy of your prayers.

We left there aglow with joy and the deep satisfaction of knowing that we had been in the will of God to visit and share the precious Word that the Lord had lain on our hearts.

Yours for the work of the Lord,  
— Bro. Leslie and Sis. Sylvia Busbee

**OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING**

The 95th annual Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held at Guthrie, OK, from December 21-30, 2000. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U.S. The first service will be held Friday evening, December 21, at 7:30 p.m. Daily worship services throughout the remainder of the meeting will start at 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. There will also be morning prayer services and youth services, the time of which will be announced at the meeting.

The campgrounds are located east off of Sooner Road on Lake View Road, which is a little over four tenths of a mile south of the intersection of South Division and Sooner Road. All who come will be cared for. The expenses of the meeting will be met by freewill offerings.

We especially urge the saints in Oklahoma and the surrounding states to attend this meeting. Pastors and gospel workers, please encourage your congregations to spend part of their Christmas holidays at this meeting. Come praying with a burden for the unsaved and for all those who need help in soul and body.

Please send all contributions for the coming State Assembly Meeting directly to the State Treasurer, Sister Brenda Wilkins, 1023 E. Prairie Grove Rd., Guthrie, OK 73044.

To obtain further information about the meeting, contact the pastor, Bro. Stanley Dickson (405) 260-8822.

**CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING**

The annual California State Assembly Meeting at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA, will convene, Lord willing, Friday night, December 21 at 7:30 p.m. There will be three worship services daily, 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., commencing Saturday, December 22 and continuing through December 30, 2001.

For more information, you may contact the Sunset Guest Home at (818) 899-2022.

—Fari A. Matthews



**LETTERS**

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne: I thank God for our Lord, Jesus, who in three short years changed the way people thought and lived. He even changed times (time is calculated by His birth

and by His death). He was meek and lowly, yet in Revelation the 19th chapter, we see Him astride a white horse leading His people along. Written on His thigh is "King of Kings and Lord of Lords." He was king of kings even while here on this earth, being abused, evil spoken of, with no place to lay His head. I Peter 2:21 says that He suffered that He might be our example that we should walk in His steps.

We may be thankful for many things, but this should be uppermost, that you and I should be counted worthy to know Him and His resurrection. I never cease thanking God for His beloved Son. I love Him because He first loved me and was mindful of me to die for me that I might be saved. We all have much to be thankful for, but Jesus is above all.

Your blood-washed brother,  
—Bob Mickelson

CA—Bro. Wayne Murphey: During the summer of 2000 I was sharing time with my daughter Sarina. She was driving to Washington D. C. three times a week from her apartment in VA, to do research for the National Park Service. She would leave me off, and I would spend the day visiting the museums, congress and other historical places. While waiting for her to pick me up, I observed a large group of people all dressed in maroon skirts and pants and white blouses and shirts. I asked one of them who they were and learned they were a religious group and that they had been to the Capital lobbying. I am a singer.

As they came near a still small voice told me to sing. I asked, "Lord, what?" The scripture came to mind of how God had promised to fill our mouths. (Mark 13:11.) I opened my mouth and this is what came out. "When the saints go marching in, etc." The group began to sing and get in step. I kept repeating the song over and over. As new ones came close, they began to sing and get in step. When the group had finally passed by they were all singing and marching.

The scripture says, "Fear not: for I am with thee:..." Isaiah 43:5. "Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven." Matthew 5:12. I felt blessed for obeying the still small voice that said "sing."

Your brother,  
—Ivan Forbes

KY—Dear saints: Greetings in Jesus' name. The Lord is so faithful to us all. As you all may

know, we have been in need of a new chapel for some time. The one we were using was very much run down, hard to heat and cool, and had no indoor facilities. We prayed and trusted the Lord to help us. He said He was a very present help in time of trouble (Psalm 46:1) and would give us the desire of our heart (Psalm 37:4).

By faith we started looking at lots that were for sale. After looking at a few, we found the one we felt the Lord wanted us to have. Soon we were blessed with enough funds to buy it. When we would go past the lot and see it, we would look to the scripture in Hebrews 11:1.

We kept praying and waited patiently on the Lord. Months later we started building the chapel as God kept supplying the money. Well thanks be to our faithful God, we have been in it going on two months or so. There were a few things we needed for the kitchen to be finished. We needed a stove. Soon we were notified that a young couple was going to buy one for us. The children are using the kitchen as of now for their Sunday School classroom until the Lord blesses us with enough money to add the classrooms on. He blessed and helped through it all.

The Lord also blessed us while we were building the chapel with twenty-two used pews that were for sale, and we were able to buy them. We want to express our heartfelt thanks to all for their prayers, offerings and labor. May God bless you all.

Christian love and prayers,  
—Church of God Black Oak,  
Sis. Mary Hughes

PA—Dear *Faith and Victory* workers: As Thanksgiving approaches it causes one to be more fully aware of how grateful we need to be for the many blessings we receive from our God. One includes the work of the Print Shop....

We were also blessed to have an encouraging and instructive Fall Revival in September. God was once again faithful.

We surely seek the Lord's mercy and wisdom for us, our nation, and world in these especially difficult times.

Keep us in your prayers and may God bless your efforts for Him. —Barbara J. Campbell

KS—Dear Bro. Murphey: I have been having a lot of pain for several months, and it seems like I have a hip joint slipping. I have been praying. Sometimes it seems worse and at times it is better. I went to the doctor to see what is

causing the problem, and if I should stay off my feet for awhile or keep walking. The doctor had x-rays taken and said actually the joint looked pretty good. I am keeping up about the same exercise and praying and believing that it will soon be much better.

The last few days I have been reading and enjoying the November *Faith and Victory*. I have read a little more than half of the paper, and received insight, understanding and enjoyment from the articles. The Thanksgiving poem was beautiful; Sis. Mary Murphey's article was good as always. And I learned a lot about what the Lord is doing in our country as well as overseas.

Thanks again for all the effort put forth by all the workers at the Print Shop and all who contribute to the *Faith and Victory* and the *Bible Lesson* booklet. May His Word grow and blossom in our hearts and throughout the whole world.

In Christ's name,  
—Sis. Naomi Dickerson-Hiebert  
— — — — —

KS—Dear Bro. Wayne and saints: May the Lord bless each one of the workers at the Print Shop, and all of the saints all over the world.

We are in troublesome times. We don't know what tomorrow holds, but we know WHO holds tomorrow. We must keep our hands in the Master's hand and hold fast.

Christian love, —Sis. Shirley Knight  
— — — — —

LA—Dear ones: We thank the dear Lord so much for His goodness and tender mercies to us. As you may know, Herbert has had Parkinson's disease more than nine years. The Lord has stood by us and helped us through many times that were a question of what to do next, but He has been our "refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1.

I began to have health problems in March of this year, 2001, and felt so helpless. I leaned heavily on the Lord and began asking for prayer. The dear Lord blessed by giving Scripture promises to hold onto. He then let us see some improvement. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." Psalm 103:2.

God's people in other locations, as well as our family and the local congregation, have been so much help and encouragement. I thank God for each one and for all the prayers and love shown during this time, and for those yet giving us encouragement.

God has been faithful to answer prayer and

has given us much help and healing. A few weeks ago I was healed of an irregular heart beat. I don't have the disorder now. Herbert had a skin condition on his back that has healed. We have much thanksgiving! We are yet asking for prayer.

With Christian love and our prayers,  
—Herbert and Mary Flynn  
— — — — —

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne: May God bless you all and the work that you do.

Please remember my mother in prayer, Sis. Viser. (She is a sister to the Lounds sisters.) She is now in a convalescent hospital as she is unable to live in her home due to needing 24 hour care. She is only able to hold a limited conversation due to having dementia which is like Alzheimers. But she does bless her meal and knows that the Lord is always there.

(Also, please remember my dear friend who just started AA meetings to help stop drinking alcohol. She is trusting that God will help her, and she needs much prayer.)

Again, may God bless you all and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.  
May God bless, —Don Viser  
— — — — —

OK—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings to you in the mighty name of Jesus, our gracious Lord.

I am glad for what He has done for me, giving me the hope of eternal life and giving me grace to hold fast to that hope. In return, I want to do all I can to help others to find that hope and to help to hold fast also. I count this the greatest privilege that we can have....

May the Lord bless you and all the workers there.  
Your brother in Christian love,  
—T. V. McMillian  
— — — — —

OK—Dear ones: I just want to send a note of thanks for everything you have done for Ralph and me during my sickness. We appreciate the cards, calls, food and prayers on our behalf. Please continue to hold us up in your prayers.

—Sis. Dorothy Wilkins  
— — — — —

MS—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in the name of God, the Father, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, and the precious Holy Spirit. Grace be unto you and peace be multiplied. I pray this letter finds all of you in the best of health and in good spirit.

I am writing to share what great things the



Lord is doing here in this prison. I stand in awe! I have heard of people being healed but I can speak of it now from first-hand experience. (Acts. 19:11.)

I will start here. The wife of the man whom I share the cube with had cancer. Nothing she ate would stay on her stomach, at home or at the visitation room. The man who lives next to my cube told me about the prayer oil saying, "that stuff don't work." Well the other man's wife who had the cancer was sitting not too far from him, and he saw how ill she was. The young lady gave her heart to the Lord and the Lord healed her the same day. I thank God for moving on Bro. David Hargrave to come visit me, otherwise this might not have been possible.

Since I have been here two officers have gotten saved. One of them had a serious back injury. His back had a ruptured disk which gave him a pinched nerve. The doctor said he needed an operation.

When he returned back to the doctor they told him someone was supposed to have brought him there. They were surprised that he had walked in. The Lord had healed him.

There was another case in which a young brother had a sinus problem. We anointed him and immediately the Lord healed him. Time will fail to tell what wonderful works the Lord is doing here.

There was Bro. Mack who had blood sugar problems. The doctors were confounded. When they checked his blood it was low, which was normal, so they asked if he had eaten. His reply was, "No." So they told him to go eat supper and come back. When he returned his blood sugar problem was gone.

I am looking for the Lord to heal a young man who has a withered hand. I am standing on Jeremiah 32:17, Jeremiah 32:27 and Jeremiah 33:3. Will you all be in agreement with me? I want to thank the saints for the real truth and not a watered down doctrine.

I could go on but it's time to bring this letter to a conclusion. Please continue to pray for my family, the work here and for myself.

From your brother, —Jackie Riley



### FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

#### From Lagos, Nigeria...

November 26, 2001—Dear Bro. Wayne: I greet you in the Precious name of our Lord and

Saviour Jesus Christ. I want to thank God for yet another opportunity to write you, sending love and greetings from the brethren over here with us.

My wife and I were away for almost two weeks. We traveled to Asana for evangelistic work and to prepare the people for the Annual Convention coming up in Asana, by the grace of God, from the 20th to 23rd of December 2001. We are believing that God will do a new thing again this year. We had water baptism by immersion on the 18th of November, 2001. Thirty (30) youths from different congregations came together to be baptized in Asana. This is a clear indication that the work is progressing. We do believe that the Lord will continue to prosper His work in Nigeria as you continue to pray for us. He will continue to add souls to the church by conversion.

The adult education program, an arm of the proposed Pruitt Foundation for the Poor and Needy, has thirteen (13) people on the role at the moment. Two teachers are handling the work there. The problem many of those attending are having is the inability to read without reading glasses. They have made requests to the church to assist in providing them with reading glasses. We are trusting God to meet this need in a very short while. The work is enormous but the laborers are very few. Assist in prayers that the Lord will send committed and concerned laborers to these hungry souls.

I just got an e-mail from Bro. Smith that he will be coming to us in Nigeria again this year. We will be happy to have him back. We will pray for his safe trip down and for the success of his visit to Africa this time again. I am sure that you and all the saints there are doing real good in the Lord. The days are evil so we should be on the alert, always looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

My love to your wife and all the saints in the Print Shop.

Yours in His service,

—Bro. Anietie B. Essien



#### From India...

November 19, 2001—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings to you and the dear saints abroad. "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort

wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." II Corinthians 1:3-4.

Lord willing, our 37th General Convention will be held on January 9-13 at Karickom Bethel ground. We need your prayers for its blessings. Spiritual activities in each congregation are going on fine.

I am sorry to note that the saints forget to write letters to me. Please continue to remember our needs every month, including support for our ministers, literature ministry, etc.

Our prayers are for you and the dear saints everywhere. —Bro. John Varghese

### From the Philippines...

November 8, 2001—Dear Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary: Greetings to both of you in the Lord, and to all the saints.

It has been more than a month now since we started our mission work in this area. The ministry is very encouraging despite the chal-

lenges we have encountered. It is really a great job for the Lord since He placed us to be the lights and salt of the earth. We praise God for the wholehearted support of the brethren. Little by little we are able to saturate the place and spread the Word of God to the people through Bible studies, visitations, etc.

At present, we are holding our Sunday services at the rented house. We hope and pray that God will pave the way for us to occupy the worship center in Motalban.

November 2-4 was a three day fellowship/revival meeting at the campground. The saints gathered together to revive themselves and be ready again for more of life's battles. There was singing of praises, testimonies, preachings, divine healing and the observance of the Lord's supper. Every one of us went home strong and filled with the Holy Spirit....

Bye for now and may God bless!

—Bro. Pat, Sis. Rose and Jashen Tangunan



**Charles E. Abbott** was born in Dayton, OH, to William H. and Dovie G. Abbott on October 21, 1939. Charles died at the age of 62, on Tuesday, October 23, 2001. He was married to Phyllis Jean Hall on December 23, 1960. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Donald Abbott.

Charles is survived by his wife, Phyllis; daughter, Vickie and her husband Todd; son, Randall; 2 grandchildren, Amanda and Cody; 4 brothers, Carl of Vandalia, OH, Kenneth of Shawnee, OK, James of Englewood, OH, and Larry of Xenia, OH; 2 sisters, Betty Reynolds of Kettering, OH, and Della Gutwein of Shawnee, OK.

Charles retired from Delco Moraine after 39 years of service and was a member of the Church of God on Tyron Ave., Dayton, OH.

Charles had been ill for about two years. He gave his heart to the Lord ten months before his death and enjoyed his salvation to the fullest. His delight was being in service when it was service time, even when he didn't feel well.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Larry Abbott and Bro. Donald Sharp. Burial was in Miami Valley Memory Garden, Centerville, OH.

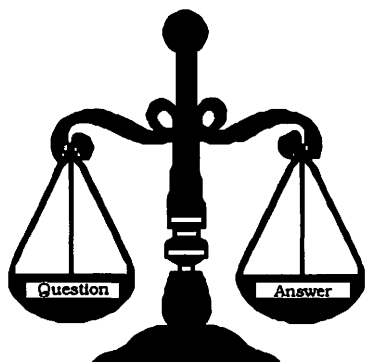
### Thanks

The family of Charles Abbott would like to thank all for their prayers in his time of sickness and for the prayers for his salvation. All cards, phone call, flowers, prayers and acts of kindness were very much appreciated.

**Bro. George Metcalfe**, 84, of KY, left this world on November 9, 2001, to be with his Maker. He left behind his wife of 38 years, Dorothy Metcalfe; a daughter and son-in-law, Ruth and Charles Knight; a sister, Lucy Hauser of Oakland, MD; six grandchildren, Charles Knight, Jr. "Bill" of Hinckley, MN, Rebecca Ann McDowell, Rosetta Kay Tinsley, Rhoda Sue Tinsley, Reba Fay Tinsley and Donald Eugene Knight all of Marion, KY; 16 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great grandson, several nieces and nephews.

Services were in the Crowell Cemetery on Nunn Switch Rd. in Marion, KY. They were conducted by Robert Phillips, a friend of the family.

## Where's the Balance?



By Wayne Murphey

**Question:** Matthias was appointed to be an apostle to fill the vacancy left by Judas. Why don't we still have apostles?

**Answer:** The answer to this question lies in knowing the purpose of the twelve apostles.

During Christ's earthly ministry, many disciples followed Him, but Christ appointed the apostles from the first twelve disciples whom He called. It is important to note that the apostles were with Christ from the beginning of His ministry and that He gave them a commission and sent them out to work miracles among the "lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Matt. 10:5-6.) God had a specific plan for the apostles for which Jesus was to train them.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter of Revelation, St. John beheld the new Jerusalem descending out of heaven. In describing it he wrote, "And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb." Rev. 21:14. Paul, in writing to the Galatian church, said it this way, "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." Eph. 2:19-20.

On the day of Pentecost, 3,000 souls were added to the church. Though a brand new church, a support group was already in place to take care of 3,000 newborn Christians. This support group consisted of the apostles. They were able to witness to the people concerning Christ, His baptism, teachings, the miracles He worked, and His death and resurrection, because they had seen it all.

They were also experienced in working miracles themselves and knew how to deal with

the Jews. They were perfectly equipped in laying a foundation for the Church, with Christ as the chief corner stone. As a result, the church survives today.

Smith's Bible Dictionary says, "The mother-church at Jerusalem grew up under their hands, and their superior dignity and power were universally acknowledged by the rulers and the people. (Acts 5:12.) Their first mission out of Jerusalem was to Samaria, (Acts 8:5-25) where the Lord himself had, during His ministry, sown the seed of the apostles' agency, during which its center was Jerusalem and the prominent figure St. Peter. The center of the second period of the apostolic agency was Antioch, where a church soon was built up, consisting of Jews and Gentiles; and the central figure of this and of the subsequent period is St. Paul."

**The answer to the initial question is that the foundation of the Church has already been laid, hence there is not a need for apostles today.** And the prerequisite laid out by the apostles in naming Judas' replacement forbids it. It had to be someone who had known Christ from the time of His baptism until His ascension. (Acts 1:21-22.)

A note of interest is that Paul considered himself to be an apostle, and is recognized as such. Although he wasn't one of the original disciples, he felt that he had seen Christ (I Cor. 15:8) and had been given a commission from God to lay the foundation of the Church for the Gentiles. (Acts 22:14-15; 21.)

In Ephesians 4:11, "apostle" is mentioned as one of the gifts of the spirit, and some conclude that it is something which should be active today. The *Interpreter's Bible* commentary says about this verse, "The previous usage of the writer (Eph. 2:20) shows that he thinks of the apostles and prophets as a closed corporation of unique significance—the honored leaders of the first generation who constitute the foundation of the church and were the original recipients of the revelation. (Eph. 3:5.)

In I Cor. 12:28 Paul ranks the offices in the Church according to importance. The first one was "apostles." This would be in harmony with the knowledge that they were the ones who laid the foundation of the church and played a role which no one else can replicate.

The apostles were much more than just reformers or gospel workers; they were the beginners of the Church. To have apostles today

is in effect acknowledging that we are beginning something new, rather than building on the foundation already laid.

It should be understood that the Church does not suffer by not having apostles today. The works which the apostles performed are still active and beneficial to us. In main, their works are the scriptures of the New Testament which we rely upon for guidance and inspiration for today's conquests.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

## ON GIVING

By Fred Pruitt  
(Written in 1951)

God gave His Son; Jesus gave His life, and by giving His life, brought redemption to man, the greatest and the most important gift man could receive. It is said of Jesus that "he went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil." Acts 10:38. The Lord (by example) taught us to give, hoping for nothing in return.

In Luke 6:38, we read, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom: For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

God loves a cheerful giver, and not one who gives grudgingly or of necessity, which would be giving because someone required it of you or urged you to give; but Paul says, "Let every one give according as he purposeth in his heart." II Corinthians 9:7.

The whole tenor of the scriptures is against God receiving any gift unless it is given freely as unto the Lord. The tithing system is a law system and should never be taught to the saints as a New Testament doctrine; for along with the other law doctrines, it was fulfilled in Christ; and as He gave all to purchase salvation for us, so we follow Him and give up all unto Him and let Him lead us in our giving. Jesus said, "If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." The saints of God are free in Christ, and they give freely of their substance to whom He directs, and in the manner He directs. It would be binding law on the free saints to make a rule for them to give in a certain manner, to whom to give, and how much to give.

Some advocate putting a box up beside the door where the people come in and go out. They have a perfect right to do so, as there is no New

Testament teaching against using this method for free-will offerings. Some say they get this from the temple-giving under the law. I do not find where a box in the temple was near the door, but in II Kings 12:9, it says that the chest where the money was placed was set beside the altar. This altar where sacrifices were offered was some little distance from the door of the temple.

In Mark 12:41, it is said that Jesus sat over against the treasury and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury. To sit over against would mean to be facing the treasury. The seats of the temple would not likely be facing the door. The scripture also said they were casting their money in, and it states that the widow threw her two mites in, so the treasury likely consisted of an open box.

We do not find any steadfast rule laid down in the New Testament for the giving of free-will offerings; however, we do find it recorded in the first of the 16th chapter of I Corinthians where Paul was asking for a collection to be made for the poor saints at Jerusalem, and he had given the same order to the churches in Galatia. He said for every one to lay by in store the first day of the week as God had prospered him, that there be no gatherings when he came. Likely he did not want them running around to gather up money after he was there, but wanted to give them the messages which were upon his heart. Paul used this method on this special occasion, but he did not bind it on the saints as a law.

One way of giving offerings which has been practiced by some people for many years is to place a box on the altar bench or some convenient place in the meeting house and let the saints put their free-will offerings in it. In this manner of giving, one could cast in a dollar bill and another could cast in a twenty according as God has or is prospering them, and no one would know who gave which.

It would be out of the Spirit of Christ to urge folks to give or to insist upon it. Let every one give freely. When it falls my lot in the larger camp meetings to mention a free-will offering, I often tell them that it is a free-will offering and if they cannot give freely as unto the Lord we would rather they not give, for I am persuaded God does not accept anything but an offering given freely as unto the Lord. This method of giving has been practiced from the beginning at some of the oldest camp meetings in the south,

and has been taught and practiced in the reformation from a very early date.

I have before me a book entitled, "The Sabbath and the Lord's Day" written by H. M. Riggle, dated 1904, which teaches this and shows a picture of a box on a bench close to the pulpit and the saints passing by and casting their free-will offerings into the box. I do not look upon this as a fixed way for the saints to give their free-will offerings; but do find that it is a very convenient way for the saints to practice, but not as a compulsory rule; for the Spirit of Christ may move individuals differently under different and varied circumstances; and to have any certain rule would hinder the Spirit from having freedom to work in and through individuals as He pleases, and would bring bondage where freedom should exist.

Dear old Brother Winn, known as Father Winn, told me that they have used this method of giving here at Guthrie ever since the meeting house was built, which was forty-six years ago. Yet this is not a law of giving, as we sometimes tell the saints to just hand their offerings to the ministers among us as the Lord directs.

Some of the saints take up no offerings in their meetings, but expect the saints to give to the ministers and in other ways bear the expense of the meeting as the Lord may direct; and that seems to work quite well, especially in the smaller meetings; but it does not give visitors, who do not understand, much of a chance to contribute as they would like and it is sometimes embarrassing to those with meager means to give their little amount in this manner to those receiving it.

I do not suppose that it is possible to eliminate every difficulty in any one method of giving; and as I look at it, I feel that the saints should have their freedom in Christ to give their free-will offerings in any of the following ways: making up the offering before hand; a box at the side of the door; a box on the altar bench; or give to the ministers for expense of a meeting privately just as the Lord may direct them by His Spirit. Begging for means in any of these ways would not be Christ-like, neither would it be faith in God.

I have traveled in evangelistic work for years and held meetings in almost all the states, and I have never taken up an offering for our meetings nor for myself, nor even hinted for any support, and God has always provided so we got along and did all He led us to do. God says in His

word, "The just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."

Pray for us, dear readers, that we will never draw back, but that our faith will grow and increase in the living God.



## Sorting Things in the Closet

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

In the autumn and spring I like to clean my closets. I sort out the clothes we will need for that season and store others away. Often there are clothes the children have outgrown or that we don't need. These I put in a box and give away. Clothes that we keep I wash and check for mending that may need to be done. This tends to be a continuous job that never ends.

So it is as we pass through the seasons of life. We sort through occurrences and circumstances which affect us and we learn from them. In our mind we separate what is good to keep and what we should throw away. A pessimist dwells upon the bad and will keep it on his mind more than he should. Though an optimist looks for the good in every situation, he can become careless and miss lessons intended for spiritual growth. To be indifferent to problems and trials is irresponsible; yet to worry takes away the peace and joy that is rightfully a Christian's. How long or how much of a problem should we be concerned about and when should we stop worrying about it?

For the answer, let us go back to the closet, the closet of prayer. (Matt. 6:6) Take all the assortment of troubles, trials and worries to the Lord. In each problem, ask Him, "Is there anything in this situation that I personally can do to make things better? Lord, are my attitudes right about this matter? What needs to be changed in my heart?"

If you wait quietly and sincerely before the Lord, He will answer. (Psa. 91:15; Isa. 65:24.) He speaks with authority and will never contradict the Holy Scriptures. When He tells you something to change, have the willing determination to obey Him and He will give you the strength and grace to do so. Jesus has said, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." II Cor. 12:9; Eph. 3:14, 16.

Sometimes the Lord will show us there are

(Continued on page 15.)

## FERVENT LOVE FOR GOD AND HIS SON

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

In I Peter 1:6-8 the apostle speaks of how we greatly rejoice in the hope of the gospel, "though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory." In this world we are sometimes surrounded with things that are displeasing to God. We are often pressed and opposed in our faith and love for Jesus. But we see here that this trying time is very valuable to us because it will enhance the glory which is to follow. God works this way. He allows those who love and worship Him to be tested and tried to prepare their hearts for the joy that awaits them.

We are separated from the Lord Jesus by the veil of the flesh. He has gone into heaven to sit at the right hand of God, waiting and yearning for the day when God will permit Him to be united with His beloved bride forever. While He tarries there in the heavens, veiled from our human sight, He holds constant communion with us through the channel of the Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit He reveals to our hearts His beauty and blessings. Since we have been set free from the carnal and vain things of this present world, our innermost being is reaching up to the Lord Jesus. We love Him, and are so desirous of loving Him more and more. Through the Holy Spirit that He has given us we have an affectionate relationship that is real and precious. Faith is stronger than sight and by believing and having a vision of His glory through the enlightenment of the Spirit, we rejoice and are overwhelmed by His sweet presence.

It is a wonderful experience to be in love and have a relationship with this invisible Friend and Lover of our souls. He is precious to us. Peter said again in chapter two and verse seven that "unto you therefore which believe he is precious." Jesus is precious. This means that He is dear, valuable, and very cherished in our hearts and minds. The very thought of Him sets joy bells ringing in our souls. We have never

seen Him in outward form, but we see Him with the eye of Spirit-enlightened faith. And what we see through this Holy Spirit revelation is so bright and sweet! It is just as real as if it were in the flesh, and even more so.

The apostle Paul agrees with Peter. He mentions in Colossians 2:20 about being dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world. Then in 3:1-2 he further says, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." He speaks again in Philippians 3:20 that "our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ." Hebrews 13:14 states that "here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come." Our interests, concerns, hopes, joys, anticipation and affections are not centered in the earthly realm. We are blessed of the Father with physical and earthly substance which we use and enjoy, but we are fully aware that these blessings are but temporary and soon will pass away. We do not allow our affections to be centered in these things. There is a richer treasure, and richer joys, and more enjoyable pleasures to be found. The things above are more real and so much more satisfying. Where Christ sits is fulness of joy and pleasures for evermore. (Psalm 16:11.) There all is pure and holy and everlasting. No stain of sin mars the bliss that the heavenly hosts enjoy. There dwells in effulgent glory our beloved Friend who gave His life and suffered that we might be saved from our sins.

Just as John leaned on Jesus' bosom at supper, so can we enjoy the embrace of the Son of God through the Spirit. Just as a wife who enjoys the embrace and tender love of a sweet husband will return his affection with joyful response and endearment, even so we can return to Christ our devotion, praise, worship, admiration and love. "Whom having not seen, ye love." Christ can be so real to us in the Spirit that we can love Him with all of our hearts. When we seek Him in prayer and fasting with all of the outreach of our hearts and He responds with a visitation of the Spirit and visits our souls with comfort, enlightenment, inspiration, revealing Himself to our eager hearts

and minds, it will cause us to truly rejoice with joy unspeakable and we will be filled with the glory of God.

Let us be diligent to kiss the Son, worship Him purely, and receive with joy His instruction and discipline! (Psalm 2:12.) Let us seek to love the Lord with all of our hearts more and more. He is worthy of all the love, affection and sincere devotion we can render Him.



**Sorting Things in the Closet**

(Continued from page 13.)

feelings and attitudes that we have out-grown or that are imperfect. (I Cor. 13:11.) We must put away these imperfections that the Lord's work will not be hindered. "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Eph.4:31. Often we must do mending and repairing on our hearts in our closet of prayer before the victory will come.

As we humble ourselves before the Lord, He is able to help us overcome inward conflict. Once we have our own selfish ways, thoughts and attitudes in subjection to the Lord, He has more liberty to work for our good and for the welfare of others. The righteous robe of humility covers our deformed humanity and makes us beautiful in God's sight. "Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." I Pet. 5:5-6.

Often a burden or problem is too big for us. If we cannot do anything about it, then give it to the Lord. Cast all your care upon Him. He has broad shoulders and He can carry burdens that are entirely too big for a human. Give Him your worries, fears and frustrations because He does care for you. He has given us many promises and He never fails. "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." I John 3:21-22. When we are obeying the Lord, we need not worry. We must simply cast our cares upon Him and keep our confidence in

Him.

Anything we cannot change or help, leave with the Lord. DON'T WORRY. It is a waste of time and energy. We can cast away the burdens that don't fit our shoulders and put on patience and peace of mind. We must give all the "what ifs" to Him because they will tear holes in our peace of mind. As we obey the voice of the Lord, He will direct us into the future. He already knows what is before us. Let us keep our confidence in Him. "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." Heb. 10:35-36.

As we journey through life, let us continually go into our closet of prayer and sort out our troubles, trials, etc. before the Lord. Clothed in humility, we can cast out any misfit thoughts and attitudes and clothe ourselves with patience and confidence in Christ.



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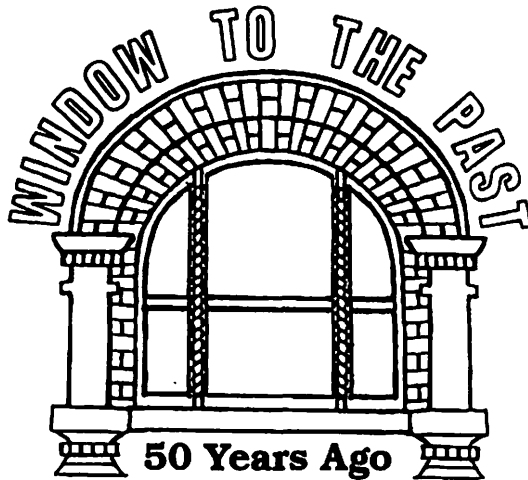
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**Excerpts Taken From  
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Suddenly there with the angel  
A mighty host began to sing,  
"Glory to God in the highest,  
On earth peace, good will to men."

Let us bear the message onward,  
Across the land and rolling sea,  
Till in heaven all the ransomed  
Their dear Savior they shall see.

Then we'll sing and shout the chorus  
Of salvation on that shore,  
And in those bright and glorious mansions  
Dwell with Christ forever more.

—Ulysses Phillips

**A Letter to Young Converts**

Be observative—especially watch "self." Self is a dangerous character that needs to be controlled and put under guard day by day. Many have been robbed and cheated of a "more abundant life" because self-praise and ego tried to enter in. God, our God, has a way out of all this if we earnestly seek for the sanctifying Spirit. Sanctification not only gives power for self-destruction, but also edifies the spirit body of Christ.

Cherish the truth and respect light. Do not live under your privileges, but enjoy every word that proceeds from God. It might be suggested that some people have an aptitude of twisting the truth to suit themselves. They are usually the quick-to-offend, and slow-to-pardon type. Such, you must treat cautiously

according to the instructions as given by Jesus: "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves. Be ye therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves."

May something be said this time regarding our vision? We discern through the natural eye the things of the flesh; but we must needs judge only through spiritual insight. God looks at the inward part, while man is carelessly apt to judge by outward show. Learn to define character by the fruitful works of the Spirit; the natural from the spiritual, and the spiritual from the artificial.

Finally, know your opponent, the foul spirit. He is your deadliest enemy. So be vigilant to keep a sweet, calm spirit when difficulties come in opposition to the instructions which you have received. If in these things you prove faithful, God can be called upon, who will not try you beyond your strength; but when strong temptations come, He will provide an escape so that you will be able to bear all things. "Fare ye well." Your brother in Christ, —Salvatore DiDio

I am rejoicing especially over the redemption of my dear old uncle's soul. He lived in Maywood, Calif. He was 83 years old and didn't believe in God and it seemed almost impossible to get help to his soul. Several months ago (maybe a year) I put in a request for prayer for him in our little congregation and just kept right on praying the prayer of faith until Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> we received word that he was going fast. We went to see him and I thank God, who is faithfulness itself, I found him a different soul. I asked him if he believed in God and he nodded his head yes. I asked him if he believed in Christ and he nodded yes, then I asked him if he loved God. Thank God he nodded "yes" again. My aunt told me what had taken place a few days previous. He had gone into a coma for awhile and when he came out of it he called her and said, "Jennie, I have just been down into hell and now I know there is a God." Praise God forever! He had taken him right down into the pit itself and made a believer of him. The next day (Monday) at 1:30 he was gone. Oh! How my heart did rejoice and praise our God for His infinite love and mercy.

—Wesley Trimble