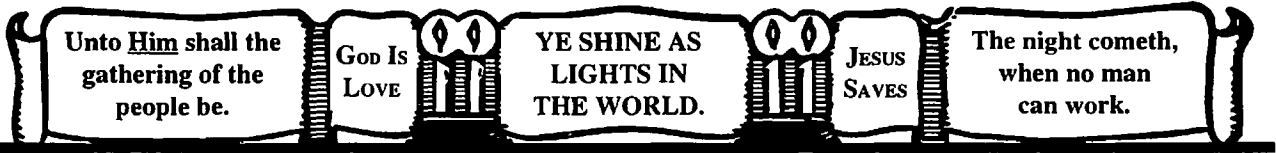


# FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

## Church of God Servant



Volume 79, No. 11      79th Year      Guthrie, Oklahoma      \$3.00 Per Year      Feb., 2002

### THE LAW OF BLEMISHES

By Vesta-Nadine Severs

"And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto Aaron, saying, Whosoever he be of thy seed in their generations that hath any blemish, let him not approach to offer the bread of his God. For whatsoever man he be that hath a blemish, he shall not approach: a blind man, or a lame, or he that hath a flat nose, or any thing superfluous, Or a man that is brokenfooted, or brokenhanded, Or crookbackt, or a dwarf, or that hath a blemish in his eye, or be scurvy, or scabbed (leprous), or hath his stones broken; No man that hath a blemish of the seed of Aaron the priest shall come nigh to offer the offerings of the Lord made by fire: he hath a blemish; he shall not come nigh to offer the bread of his God.

"He shall eat the bread of his God, both of the most holy, and of the holy. Only he shall not go in unto [through] the veil, nor come nigh unto

the altar, because he hath a blemish; that he profane not my sanctuaries: for I the Lord do sanctify them.

"And Moses told it unto Aaron, and to his sons, and unto all the children of Israel." Leviticus 21:16-23.

If a Levite had only one son, and he was born deformed or had other blemishes, or contracted leprosy, or an accident caused a crippled foot which didn't heal, or any manner of deformity, that son could not perform the duties required in the temple. However, God permitted him receiving his allowance of bread so he and his family did not have to be beggars.

How sad for that family! The honor and prestige which went into serving God in such an intimate manner in the temple, was denied them. Not only would the parents be disgraced, so would their son. They could only lift their heads when, and if, their son might have a son born to him who was without blemish. Then how they could rejoice.

Now, the annals of time have rolled forward many generations. God's only Son has been born, with a new message for all.

"Come unto Me," He begged, "everyone who is sad, downcast, heavy laden with grievous sins, and I will give you rest. Come in your humility. Come with your sins."

Within a few years of saying this, the Son of God was Himself bleeding, scarred with the whip, nails protruding from hands and feet, with blood and water gushing from His side. What was the meaning of all this? Why the suffering? Why the ignoble death? Why?

*Now, in this new year of 2002, we still find people with blemishes and deformities— loads of unspeakable sins. How can*

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**they and others approach unto God, when His own Son became so horribly deformed?**

Because after He died, HE WAS RESURRECTED TO SIT ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.

When the people now approach, though their sins be as scarlet, though their loads be greater than the weight of many mountains, there sits the Son.

He turns to the Father and says, "Father, see My hands, see the blemishes of My feet. Notice, I pray Thee, my side from whence came the blood and water I shed for this man, this woman, this aged person, this child. Remember, I was there; I understand these people, I walked with them. I suffered for them."

God saw tears roll freely down Christ's cheeks. "Accept this one," Christ says. "Do it for My sake...do it for My sake."

God lifts His voice, the sound as mighty thunder rolling down the halls of heaven, "For my Son's sake, come,...approach My throne. You are welcome here because of the blood of My Son! Mingle your tears with His blood. Wash yourself, and exchange all your blemishes for rest and peace. We desire your presence. Come sit around our table with Me and My Son. We shall partake of the evening meal. I will see no more blemishes. You will bask in Our presence."

All because of Jesus! Come...my weary friend, come.

## HOUSE OF MERCHANDISE OR HOUSE OF PRAYER?

By Sis. Retha Cole

*"And the Jews' Passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise." John 2:13-16.*

I invite you to visualize the scene that Jesus stepped into.

"...Jesus went up to Jerusalem..." What does "Jerusalem" typify? The church. Jesus took a walk through the "church." "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name." Rev. 3:12.

"...And found in the temple..." We are the temple—you and I. A place designed for the dwelling of the Savior. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." I Cor. 3:16-17.

What did He find there?

"...Those that sold oxen...." Visualize a cattle show, where animals are presented in tip-top shape. Their fur is powdered so as to appear whiter. They look good as they are paraded around a course to impress the judges and onlookers.

What am I willing to "powder," in order to look "whiter" to those around me? And am I "adding" to the "course" to make an impression on those looking on?

"...Jesus found in the temple...sheep...." Poor, helpless, frightened, bleating animals! Who are the sheep? We are. You and I, listening for the tender voice of the Good Shepherd, afraid to follow any other. "...We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture." Ps. 100:3. Jesus said in John 10:11, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."

"...Jesus found in the temple...doves..." Timid birds known for their gentle, affectionate disposition, symbols of purity and peace and the Holy Spirit. "And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him,..." Luke 3:22.

What was God's plan for such a beautiful bird? To move about without encumbrance or hindrance. It is His plan for the Holy Spirit to have free course among us, both in our personal lives and in the collective body. Have I caged up the Holy Spirit's



freedom to deal with me or work through others?

*"...Jesus found in the temple...money changers...."*

...Men in control of the whole bill of sale. People determining if your money is worth as much as you wish...deciding whether you have exchanged enough for their selfish gain. Individuals who set the value and standard on the exchange of moneys.

Am I a "money changer?" Do I determine if others are measuring appropriately, sacrificing enough, paying a sufficient amount? Do I attempt to enforce the value and standard by which they must live?

Jesus walked into the temple and found a room full of people trading, bargaining and bartering for their own profit, hurrying to fulfill their own desires and agendas. The scene is SO contrary to what He came to dwell in and so incompatible with the sanctity of true worship.

*"...And when He made a scourge of small cords, He drove them out of the temple...."*

*"Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise...."*

*"...Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer?..."* Mark 11:17.

### House of Prayer...

"House of prayer" describes a place of serenity and unity. It portrays a serene ambiance of people unified for the same cause. It is a place where the Holy Spirit is allowed free reign and where the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. (Gal. 5:22-23.)

It is a place where people are invited in and encouraged to stay, where wounds are allowed to heal, and the injured are nursed back to health—a place where souls will be encouraged and uplifted, and growth is recognized.

What does Jesus find when He walks into my "temple?" Am I merchandising...bargaining...trading...? The Lord wants us swept clean and filled with only His graces. Then, and only then, will He find a "House of Prayer."

## IT APPEALS TO ME

By Sis. Mary Murphey

It appeals to me...the gentle Jesus, knocking patiently at my heart's door. Not demanding an entrance, not yelling or threatening or accusing,...not bellowing "I know you're in there! Open up!" Not kicking in the door. No, ...He simply knocks, and waits for a willing response. (Rev. 3:20.)

Won by His winsome approach, I respond, "Won't You please enter? I am honored at Your visit. Sorry to have kept You waiting."

Another description of Christ's approach is found in Isa. 1:18. "Come now and let us *reason* together, saith the Lord:..." My reply? "I accept Your invitation. I want to hear what You have to say. You are treating me with regard—why should I not respond with the same?" As Christ approaches with His winsome appeal and gentle entreaty, I open like a flower to sunshine.

Perhaps you've felt a similar sense of compliance when, on occasion, someone politely requested something of you. Do you remember the power of their positive persuasion and the pleasure you felt at complying? What a willingness welled up within you, all because of a

gracious approach! Such is the appeal of One who rules by love. Our reverence for Him is born of respect, for has He not shown consideration for us? His regard compels us to obey.

Opposite the approach Christ used, is the method employed by some well-meaning theologians, who in their zealous attempt to influence others to righteousness, "thunder from Mount Sinai." The result? People sometimes choose to submit through dread and fear, or else raise a resistance.

Such a response underscores the need for wisdom in how the Word of God is presented. As Prov. 11:30 declares, "...He that winneth souls is wise."

One consultant, paid to tell people what to do, said "Most listeners raise their defenses and become guarded when other people try to tell them what to do or claim to know what's best for them. The tendency to resist advice may not make sense," he said, "but it's human nature."

With that in mind, it would be well to work to create a climate of compliance.

Think about it. Maybe you recall an experience of your own when you were approached in an aggressive or accusatory manner. If so, you probably felt defensive or resentful, or perhaps

(Continued on page 15.)

**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 60¢ 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.

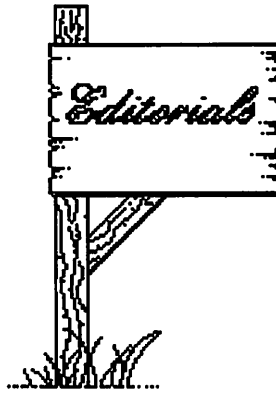
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Office phone numbers: 405-282-1479, 800-767-1479;  
fax number: 405-282-6318; home phone: 405-282-6170.  
Internet address: <http://www.faithpublishing.com>

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



This issue of the *Faith and Victory* completes 79 years of publication. Words cannot express our appreciation to God for His care over the work through the years. His blessings have been equal to the tasks and He has sustained the work even in times of adversity. We thank Him for His grace.

This work began in 1923 as a calling and personal ministry of my grandfather, Fred Pruitt. It has been sustained through the years by the support of others who shared his vision to place the printed Word into the hands of those with spiritual hunger.

It seems appropriate at this time to say "thank you" to all who have been willing to assist in these efforts. There is a special promise for you—"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." Heb. 6:10.



Our world is full of people whose hearts are vacant of the love of God and the hope of eternal life. That is why we pray for God to call more people to labor in His harvest. (Matt. 9:38.)

It has been encouraging to hear reports of how the Holy Spirit is burdening people to work for Him. In this issue you can read of Bro. Michael Smith's recent efforts in West Africa. The saints there in Ghana and Nigeria have needs for which they have asked us to pray. Let us keep them on our hearts.

Another concern we have for which we ask prayer is the health of Bro. Matias Tanguan and Sis. Nellie Tibayan. They are ministers in the Philippines and are much needed in the work there. Due to sickness, they are unable to be as active as they desire. Please pray for them often.



Our printing efforts to help carry out the great commission have required that we order 5,000 more pounds of paper. This is always a large expense and we find ourselves depending again upon God for all sufficiency. (II Cor. 9:8.)

We are also endeavoring to catch up on out-of-stock literature. Although there is much to

do to complete the task, we are grateful for every book and tract which comes off the press.

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In last month's *Faith and Victory*, we asked that you send us summer camp meeting dates so people could arrange their schedules to attend the meetings. We appreciate the information we received, but we do not yet have an extensive list. If you know the dates for your camp meeting, please send that information soon. We will include it in next month's issue.

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It seems the month of January was the month of heavenly home-goings. As reflected in the obituary column, a number of saints left this earth to behold the face of God.

The Guthrie congregation was especially affected. The first to leave our midst was Sis. Hattie Dean. Sis. Hattie was a long-standing member of the congregation, her family having moved to Guthrie in 1927. Her Christian kindnesses and faithful presence will be missed.

One week after Sis. Hattie went to be with the Lord, Sis. Dorothy Wilkins joined her. In the mid 1980's, Sis. Dorothy helped edit the *Beautiful Way* Sunday School papers. There are probably young adults who still remember stories by "Aunt Dot."

Sis. Dorothy was also faithful to help at the Print Shop each month, applying mailing labels to *Faith and Victory* papers. This was a job she seemed to really enjoy and she helped just as long as her health permitted. We will miss her.

One week after Sis. Dorothy left us, Sis. Betty Lassché passed into the presence of God. Sis. Betty was also one who carried a burden for the work of the Lord. She and her husband, Bro. Bill, came from Canada to Guthrie to serve the Lord here at the Print Shop. We appreciated their labors.

The Springfield, MO, congregation also felt a vacancy this month when God called home Bro. Leo Porter and Sis. Bertha Yoder.

Sis. Margie Wall, of the Four Corners, OK, congregation, went to be with the Lord on January 13. We will miss her correspondence with Faith Publishing House, and the special love she expressed for the lives of saints she has known.

Sis. Mary Taylor, of Webb City, MO, another saint of God, went to be with the Lord in December. She and her husband, Bro. Paul, who preceded her in death, were faithful in their

support of God's work. We are glad Christ has prepared a place where they can rest together from their labors.

A number of saints carried a burden for Sis. Ann Hulsey for several months, and God was faithful to save her soul and take her to be with Him in the month of December.

All of these saints left relatives and friends behind which need the comfort of the Lord. Do include them in your prayers.

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We enjoy hearing from all people, and if this paper has been a blessing to you, please write and let us know. We also welcome prayer requests, testimonies, questions or anything else God may put on your heart.

Let us uphold each other in love and prayers.  
—Bro. Wayne Murphey



## PRAYER REQUESTS

CA—"Please pray for me, that the Holy Spirit will minister to me and supply my needs."

—Milessetta Cole

SC—"Pray for me and my unsaved family."

—Sis. Lillie Russell

OK—Sis. Ruby Bell is in much need of the saints' prayers.

OK—"Pray for me and for others I know in a nursing home. We are still praying for everyone."

—Sis. Mary Jones

IN—"I am having trouble with my nerves and would like prayer."

—Sis. Betty Baker



## Standing Prayer Requests

Sis. Ruby Bell

Sis. Lydia Bennett

Sis. Alscene Breckenridge

Bro. Jon Busbee

Sis. Mammie Butcher

Bro. Arnett Carver

Bro. Nathan Carver

Sis. Estelene Cramer

Bro. Dale Doolittle

Sis. Elaine Dunn

Sis. Eleanor Fingerle

Bro. Randall Flynn

Sis. Pearlene Gerald

Sis. Esther Gordon

Bro. Huey Gordon, Jr.

Bro. Lee Hilton

Bro. Shawn Howard  
 Sis. Mary Hughes  
 Sis. Daisy Johnson  
 Sis. Janice Johnston  
 Sis. Earnestine Jordan  
 The Lounds sisters  
 Sis. Mattie McIntyre  
 Sis. Bertha Miles  
 Bro. Allan Miller  
 Sis. Virginia Myers  
 Sis. Dollie O'Neill  
 Bro. Charles Pierro  
 Bro. O. C. Porter  
 Sis. Melba Powell  
 Sis. Myrtle Savoie  
 Bro. M. Agenemoh Sidi  
 Sis. Kay Stover  
 The Mitch Taylor family  
 Sis. Anna Mae Thompson  
 Bro. Preston Vulgamore  
 Bro. Curtis Williams, Sr.  
 Bro. Max Williamson  
 Sis. Esther Wilson



## MEETING NOTICES

### REVIVAL MEETING, BAKERSFIELD, CA

To saints and friends everywhere: We, the Church of God at Bakersfield, CA, greet you in the name of Jesus with a special invitation to join us in prayer and/or presence at our annual revival meeting. Lord willing, it will convene on Wednesday, Feb. 13, and continue until Sunday, Feb. 17.

There will be two services daily, 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. On Sunday we will have Sunday School, morning worship and conclude with an afternoon service.

Come and be with us if you can. But if you can't come, please join us in prayer for the salvation of souls, sanctifying of believers, healing of bodies and for a special outpouring of His presence in each service.

— Submitted by the Church of God, 1802 Virginia Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93307.

—Pastor, Bro. Hayward Cox



### GENERAL MINISTERS' MEETING

Dear saints: Lord willing there will be a General Ministers' Meeting at The Church of God Chapel in Guthrie, OK. The first meeting will begin Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, at 9 a.m., and

the last session will end at noon on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We look forward to a rewarding time of fellowship and Bible teachings to enhance the work of the Lord. Interest has been expressed for instructions to establish the young ministers, build faith and encourage all to work more closely together.

We would also like to give attention to Bible topics relative to the ministry. We would humbly ask that any questions be submitted prior to the meeting to allow the ministry time to prayerfully consider them. Please keep your questions brief (three sentences or less) and as concise as possible. Your requests can be submitted to the Church of God ministry, by March 2, in care of Bro. Charles Lowe, 1823 North Main, Tulsa, OK 74106, or Bro. James Bell at the following e-mail address: triciaskitchen@juno.com or Bro. Keith Fuller, 244 Storer Ave., Akron, OH 44302.

Please contact Bro. Delmar and Sis. Brenda Wilkins at (405) 282-0566 for lodging suggestions. We need to know how many are coming to plan for the meals, so please R.S.V.P. soon.

Any freewill offerings for this meeting may be sent to Sis. Brenda Wilkins at 1023 East Prairie Grove, Guthrie, OK 73044.

If you are unable to attend, there will be tapes available upon request. We ask the saints to pray for this meeting that it will be edifying, uplifting and successful.

Yours for the work of the Lord,

—Bro. James A. Bell



### DURHAM, NC, BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

We want to express our thanks to everyone who gave and supported the building fund.

The Health Department inspector is requiring that we replace our existing septic tank system, so that will delay us in receiving the building permit.

Continue to pray for us in this project. When we receive the building permit, we can start construction. We are looking for the Lord to provide. We believe that God will supply our every need according to His riches in glory.

Anyone who wants to help in any way may send correspondence to: Church of God Building Fund, 6219 Kelvin Dr., Durham, NC 27712

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS



SC—Hi to everyone: I am so glad I can truly say I am a sister in Christ.

I have been very sick for almost two years, but I thank God I am much better. I am still having some problems using my hands, and I cannot walk yet.

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers. I am thankful that the Lord is good to me. I am doing all I understand to live up to His Word.

A sister's love to all, —Nettie Harbeson

MO—Thanks so much for publishing the *Faith and Victory*. I have grown up with it and really miss it when it doesn't come.

I love our Lord today. He has been so good to me. He is a great Comforter and a stability to my life. I trust Him for His guidance, and I am not afraid of the future because I know my Lord will be with me.

May God bless each one there. —Sis. Esther Hightower

CA—Thank you for reminding me about the expired *Faith and Victory* paper. I enjoy reading it and want to make sure it is still on its way here each month.

The Lord has been good to me another year. I am 70 years old. It is hard to believe that.

My sister, Ruth, recently gave her heart to the Lord. She has a lot of health problems, so please remember her in prayer. It was so nice for her to get back with the Lord. Many prayers have gone up on her behalf.

May God bless you, and may the year 2002 be a wonderful year of leading souls to the kingdom of God.

We pray for the work there often. Your brother, —T. Gus Poulos

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who gave His all for us. All that we can give back will never repay His sacrifice.

As we head into the new year, we look to continue growing in the Lord. The Word says,

"...But though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day." II Cor. 4:16.

We are on the upward way, never looking back. The armor of God has no protection for the back, so forward we go, wielding the Sword of the Spirit. Expect good things, look for them....

May the new year be a continuance of your progress as the Lord continues to bless your work. Best wishes to yourself and the staff. May the Lord of all grace be with you.

Yours in Jesus' name, —Bro. Bob Mickelson

KS—Dear Bro. Murphey: We have had a very good year of Bible study lessons and other literature. Thank you and all the Print Shop workers. May the Lord bless you and all who had a helping hand with the work.

I praise the Lord for all His wonderful works and words to lead us on to higher ground.

Many years ago my husband gave me a small metal teapot. It looked to be very old, and I thought of it as a special "keepsake." I put it away a few years ago along with some other small items. That last couple of years I had looked for the teapot but to no avail. Recently I prayed for the Lord to help me find some items, and within a short time I found the box where I had stored it in the basement.

Sometimes the dear Lord chooses to open our physical eyes to help us, and we thank Him for that blessing. But ah, how wonderful and miraculous it is the way He opens our spiritual eyes to His wonderful works and ways.

There are some passages of Scripture we may have read many times in the past, and then He opens our spiritual eyes and illuminates our pathway, ever leading us on to higher ground, and deeper thoughts. He fills our hearts and minds with more love, joy and truth in His wonderful ways.

In the last five rather short chapters of Psalms I counted at least thirty-nine times where the writer used the word, "praise." Truly, "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God,..." Psalm 48:1.

Blessings to each of you, —Naomi Hiebert

MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: Just a note to tell you how the January issue of the *Faith and Victory* brought help to my spirit—how the Lord worked "Year Untried," Sis. Mary McDonald's letter and the article, "Letting Go" together. The enemy has really given me a battle for a year or more.

I need prayer for the Lord to strengthen my faith, that He will work it all out for my good, and comfort my heart. —Sis. Evelyn Hazelrigg  
— — — — —

OK—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings to you this beautiful morning. I thank the Lord for the sunshine.

I have been thinking some about God's purpose for us as we pass our pilgrimage here. He is more concerned as to how we will come out at the end. The Scripture says the ending of a thing is better than the beginning. (Eccl. 7:8.)

We can take Joseph for a good example. He went through lots of sorrows and hardships, but God's purpose was that he might be the means of saving lives. So in his case the end was much more blessed than the beginning. I am sure it is that way with His children when their lives are fully yielded to Him. They pass through some hard places, but it is only to prepare them to be more useful in the hands of God. If we always allow God's purpose to be worked out in our lives, we will have been the greatest blessing to others and to ourselves.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, and to them who are the called according to his purpose." Rom. 8:28. —Bro. T. V. McMillian  
— — — — —

CA—Bro. and Sis. Murphey: May God continue to bless you and the work you are doing.

I thank you so much for praying for my family and friends. Please remember me in your prayers....

God bless, —Don Viser  
— — — — —

MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in Jesus' name. He has been so good to me, but at the present I have a burden for my son, David, who needs salvation the most of all.

David has liver failure. He drank heavily, but thank God for taking his desire for drinking away completely. He says he has no desire to drink anymore. The Lord has been dealing with him I am sure. Do pray he will yield to the Lord before it is too late....

In Christian love, —Nelva Stanley  
— — — — —

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne and all others: Just a note so I can get this in the mail. I hope this finds everyone there well and encouraged.

I certainly appreciate the prayers of the saints.

I would like to request special prayer for some great needs and problems. I know the Lord will take care of them in His own way.

I am praying for the strength to wait on Him. Sometimes it is hard to do. I found out in times past, when I feel the urge to try to solve problems myself, they get worse.

Thank you so much for your prayers and the printed Word. I truly enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory*.

I will close for now and get this in the mail. Love and prayers, —Sis. Doris Pihaylic  
— — — — —

KY—Just a note to say thanks for the prayers for my dear mother. She went to her heavenly home trusting the Lord, at 2:55 a.m. Sunday, December 30. It was predicted and greatly expected for her to have severe pain, but praise be to our merciful, compassionate God, she did not suffer and went easily.

Thank you, —Sis. Mary Hughes  
— — — — —

Kenya, East Africa—Dear Bro. Wayne: Holy greetings in the precious name of our blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

I am saved by the blood of Jesus, sanctified and cleansed with the washing of water by the Word of God (Ephesians 5:26). I am a member of the body of Christ, the Church of God.

I hope this note finds you in good health and care as well as those who labor with you in our Lord's service.

It's almost a year that I have been reading the *Faith and Victory* pamphlet from a friend, but now I have thoughtfully decided to write and request you earnestly to be mailing me this blessed publication. In actual fact, this paper has done, and is still doing me good spiritually, and has encouraged me.

In the past issues of the *Faith and Victory* journal, I have seen analytical reports and testimonies of the progress and development of the Church of God by Nigerian brethren from West Africa. This has greatly challenged my work as a pastor....

Yours in the Lord's service, —Ndwiga Samwel



## FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

### From India...

January 23, 2002—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to you dear ones again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ.



Our 37th General Convention ended with many blessings and victories. The attendance was good and all messages were really challenging. Many got saved and sanctified.

Pastor Ed Wilson, Sis. Roberta Wilson and Sis. Linda Probst were the chief guests in our convention this year. Pastor Ed Wilson instructed the church in the Bible Studies and preached in the morning and night meetings and in the ministers' meeting. He baptized nine men and women on Sunday morning, January 13. They were real blessings to the whole church. They visited some of our congregations also.

My son, BIJU, got married on January 19th. His wife's name is MINCY. Pastor Ed Wilson performed the wedding service. Please pray for their happy family life.

Please continue to pray for the needs of our church here.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

#### INDIA TRIP REPORT

January 15, 2002—Dear Bro. Wayne and saints: Greetings in Jesus' name from the other side of the world—India. We, Ed and Roberta Wilson and Linda Probst, had a safe arrival and found the saints here much encouraged. The convention proved a blessing. We were much impressed with the messages and found a sweetness of spirit. The language of love is what we spoke when there was no interpreter. On Friday, Linda taught the children by drawing pictures as Bro. John interpreted—making bookmarkers and ending with passing out chocolates from America. The older ones came also. One man asked, "Am I young enough?" We sang "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" in English with some joining in. Some 500-700 attended at night. The Lord held a downpour of rain away from the tabernacle. It rained a kilometer from here, but not a drop here—what a blessing! We were sitting under a coconut frond roof on bamboo supports and keenly felt the need to ask the Lord to supply for a permanent roof for the tabernacle. (The structure is much like the one at Monark.)

It is so refreshing to see the gospel being spread in a Hindu nation. Bible studies were conducted in the morning service with Bro. John interpreting.

At this time we anticipate attending the wedding of Bro. John's son, Biju, on Saturday.

This trip was made possible through the

efforts of many—financial support, candy, supplies for children, toiletries for adults and most of all prayers. The Lord has surely blessed us. Our lost baggage was found; Roberta sprained her ankle but the Lord blessed by removing the pain and making her able to walk despite the swelling. It's been a great help for Linda to be here too. Please keep us in your prayers.

—Bro. Ed and Sis. Roberta Wilson

#### WEST AFRICAN TRIP REPORT

Greetings to all the saints in Jesus' name. I am very thankful for the blessings of God on my recent trip to Africa. God has proven His mercy and power, and He is truly worthy to be praised.

I left for Africa on November 29th and spent time in Ghana and Nigeria. I returned home on December 25th well in body and blessed in my soul.

The saints in Ghana are encouraged and there have been souls saved in all three congregations since last year. I baptized about 17 new converts. While I was in Akumadan, we had Bible studies, answered questions and had service at each of the congregations. On the last Sunday I was in Ghana, the congregations from Tanaso and Tadieso came to Akumadan so we could all worship the Lord together.

Bro. Maxwell, the pastor in Akumadan, has a physical disability in his legs. Approximately 17 years ago Sis. Dorothy Keizer purchased a motorcycle and had a three-wheeled machine built for Bro. Maxwell. The machine was very old and in poor working order. I spent a day in the city of Kumasi and purchased a motorcycle, a heavy metal sheet, and other parts for a mechanic to build a new machine to replace Bro. Maxwell's old one. Part of the funds for this project came from money that had been donated last year from the operation of the concession stand at Monark.

The saints in Ghana need continued prayer that they will grow spiritually and be rooted and grounded in the truth. The ministers there are also worthy of our prayers and support as they labor for the furtherance of the gospel.

After leaving Ghana and flying to Nigeria, I had a few days in Lagos that I spent with Bro. Essien and his family. I had time to study, pray and rest; and it proved to be a blessing to me both physically and spiritually. Bro. Essien and I traveled on an all night bus from Lagos to Port Harcourt. In the middle of the night, the axle on

the bus broke. It was the mercy of the Lord that it broke right as we were pulling into a bus station. The roads that we were traveling are treacherous and dangerous, and we were thankful that God "kept" the bus until we were at a convenient place for a breakdown. There was another bus at the station to which we were able to transfer. We arrived in Port Harcourt on Sunday morning and were in service with Bro. Igbanibo and the saints there.

We then traveled to the village of Asana where I spent the rest of my time. The congregations in the Asana area lost their way a number of years ago. The Lord is beginning to do a work in that place. We had Bible studies and question/answer sessions on three consecutive mornings with the ministers and gospel workers. It proved to be a real blessing and their desire is to grow and prosper. The convention in Asana was held from December 20-23. There were over 500 people in attendance the first night and many souls were saved. The Lord continued to be faithful throughout the meeting. Bro. Igbanibo and some of the saints from Port Harcourt came to Asana to help support the meeting. We concluded the convention on Sunday, December 23rd, with the Lord's Supper.

Bro. Igbanibo recently hosted a ministers' meeting of brethren from around the country of Nigeria in the interest of unity and fellowship. They plan to have another meeting in a few months. I firmly believe that God is doing a work in Nigeria to bring about the unity of faith and Spirit. There are needs and problems and the enemy will do everything he can to hinder spiritual progress. I encourage every reader to please pray that every stronghold of the enemy be broken down, that the Spirit of God could move as He desires. The brethren in Nigeria desire to eventually hold a national camp meeting. This effort is worthy of our support. They are looking forward to the day that a number of saints from America who are established in the way will come and be with them in services.

There are many needs in the gospel work in Africa as there are in other foreign works. The work is great but I thank God that He is in control. Lord help us each one to do our part and hear the voice of the Spirit. I thank each of you who carried a burden for me, my family, and the efforts in Africa while I was gone. Your prayers were not in vain and I thank God.

—Bro. Michael Smith

### From Nigeria...

January 17, 2002—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings to you, and all the saints over there, in the most precious and mighty name of Jesus Christ, our Lord who painfully took my place at the cross at Calvary to redeem me and all mankind from the bondage of sin. My heart is always filled with joy when I remember that I am free indeed, having been set free by Him through His blood. We need to maintain our freedom by walking consciously in His steps on a daily basis! Glory be unto His name.

I thank God for this opportunity to write. I want to thank God for the success, last December, of the convention in Asana. I thank Him also for bringing Bro. Michael Smith safe and sound down to be with us in fellowship during the convention, and for taking him back to the United States in good health. I really thank God for what He used Bro. Smith to accomplish during the short stay in Nigeria. The Lord really used him as a pastor and as an evangelist in handling the teaching on the general theme of the convention—LIBERATED UNTO HOLINESS. Souls were liberated and are determined to be marching on in holiness. It is our prayer that the tempo be maintained and improved upon on a daily basis.

Bro. Smith and I worshipped in Port Harcourt Church on Sunday, December 16th, 2001, before proceeding to Asana that evening. Bro. Smith had three days teachings in Asana, on the doctrines of the Bible from Monday, December 17th, 2001 until Wednesday, December 19th, 2001. This was primarily for the elders and workers in the church. It was a blessed and very refreshing moment in the presence of the Lord. The convention proper took off on the evening of December 20th. The first night had an attendance of 509 people. This increased steadily to 1,812 people on Saturday night and to 2,341 on Sunday, the last day of the convention. Souls were saved as they surrendered their lives to Christ. It is on record that 67 people answered the altar call to surrender their lives to Christ in the first night of the meeting and many other souls were added in subsequent days, increasing steadily to 108 altogether on Saturday. The ordinance of Holy Communion was observed Sunday, December 23rd, 2001, and that was the last day of the convention. Brethren from Port Harcourt, Tombia and Kwale came all the way to join up with the 15 congregations in the Asana area in the convention. We

were very delighted to have them around to strengthen the work of God in that area of the mission field. Continue to pray for the work over here.

Bro. Michael Smith had an opportunity to see the pupils in the adult education program while in session. This is mainly made up of people who did not have a formal education but want to be able to read the Bible. A good majority of the elderly people in the locality fall into this category. The school currently has two teachers, Bro. Udo Emmanson and Sis. Imaobong Benson and the number on role was over 30 as of last December. This is an outreach arm of the Pruitt Foundation for the poor and needy which we do pray should take off as the Lord will provide for it. We covet your prayers.

With increase in awareness and acceptance of the gospel over here, the work load is expanding and more evangelism tools are needed. Bro. U.M. Akpan can no longer cope with the field work all alone. We are praying that the Lord should provide more workers and the necessary tools for the sustenance of the work in this area. We really solicit your prayers for this work....

Yours in His service, —Anietie B. Essien

#### From Ghana...

December 28, 2001—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings to you and other saints in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Bro. Michael Smith's trip to Ghana helped us very much. The work in Ghana is still continuing to prosper because of the work God is doing....

We need to keep praying for the Lord to provide for the work. Our main target is to win souls for Christ.

We are praying that God will provide us with a vehicle to "go ye." May God bless you and all the saints in America. This big thanks goes to Bro. Michael Smith who bought a motorbike for me, and for those who helped and prayed for me to get it. May God bless you all.

Yours in Him, —Bro. Maxwell Nkausah

#### From the Philippines...

January 1, 2002—Dear Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary: Hello! Greetings with Christian love in Jesus' name.

I praise and thank God for giving us another new year to live and especially to worship and serve Him. This is a very wonderful and great blessing to His children. Looking back at the

year 2001, there were many trials of life that we have encountered, but there were also many blessings. I counted those trials as blessings in my life because they have made me stronger in Him. In those times of trials, He stood by me and did not forsake me. Oh, what a Savior we have!

In this new year, we are going to face new challenges of life, but we are ready to meet them because our God is with us. Our great God will always hold us firm so that we will not fall away if we continue to trust and hope in Him.

Bye for now. The Muntinlupa Church of God loves you all.

Your sister in Christ, —Sis. Nellie Tibayan



**James Monroe Hood** of Woodville, AL, was born October 12, 1929, to John and Lela Bartlett Hood in Winston County, AL. He passed away at his home on Thursday, November, 29, 2001, at the age of 72.

He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, Melva Geneva Byers Hood, of Woodville, AL; a son, Roger Hood and daughter-in-law, Melody, of Granville, OH; a daughter, Martha Hood, of Woodville, AL; a brother, Charles Hood, of Huntsville, AL; three sisters, Flonnie Strickland, Pearl Hall and Carolyn Gordon, all of Cullman, AL; and four grandchildren, Shona, Dorenda, Joelle and Derrell.

Bro. Hood loved his Lord and met to worship with the saints at Enterprise Chapel as often as he could. He was very familiar with God's Word and ministered to the congregation there. He will be sadly missed. Bro. Hood made himself strong in his affliction which lasted quite a long time. He would make the long, often uncomfortable trip to the chapel to be with God's people. Though tired and worn, he made a trip to see his

daughter in a nursing home just a few days before he passed away.

He did as David and hid the Word of God in his heart and that is what kept him until his last day. Anyone who knew him knew his deep, beautiful smile. Bro. Hood loved his family and did all he could to show it. Often when the grandchildren would come to visit, he would meet them with that smile and a homemade cake. I believe he lived the scripture, "Look not every man on his own things, but also on the things of others." He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

His funeral service was conducted at Cullman Heritage Chapel by Bro. Michael Williamson. Interment was in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.

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**Mary Lela Taylor**, age 82, of Webb City, MO, passed away Monday, December 3, 2001, at her home following a short illness. She was born July 31, 1919, in Republic, MO, moving to Webb city from that area. She lived most of her life in Webb City.

Mary Lela was a devoted wife and mother. In 1955, she gave her heart to God, and her life was then complete with God, home and family. She attended the Webb City congregation.

She married Paul Taylor, October 11, 1945, and they celebrated 52 years together before he preceded her in death on May 23, 1998. She was also preceded in death by her parents, Charlie and Maggie Hallenberger; two brothers and three sisters.

Survivors include one son, Tom Taylor and his wife, Sharon, of Webb City, MO; one daughter, Vicki Wilson and her husband, Dennis, of Yukon, OK; one brother, one sister-in-law and numerous nieces and nephews.

The funeral service and burial were in Webb City, December 7, 2001. The service was conducted by Bro. Ivan Eck.

#### Thanks

The family of Mary Lela Taylor would like to thank each of you who sent cards, called and visited her during her six-month illness. She enjoyed each one so very much. Then we would like to thank each one for the cards, calls, flowers and love at her passing.

A special "Thank You" to Bro. Ivan Eck and Sis. Kyra Sorrell for the sweet service and the beautiful songs.

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**Margaret Ann Hulseley** was born to Ernest

and Velda Ellis on January 20, 1954, at Pampa, TX. She was a resident of Pampa most of her life.

She was united in marriage to Gordon Hulseley on May 17, 1971, and to this union were born three sons and one daughter. She was a homemaker and a member of the Church of God. She made her peace with God and manifested a sweet, prayerful spirit.

Ann Hulseley passed from this life at Amarillo, TX, on December 16, 2001, at the age of 47 years, 10 months and 26 days.

She is survived by her husband, Gordon, of the home; three sons, Gregory Scott Hulseley, Philip Anthony Hulseley and Randall Curtis Hulseley, all of Pampa, TX; one daughter, Miranda Jeanne Hulseley Vargas, of Pampa, TX; five brothers, Kedron Ellis, Portland, OR, Keldon Ellis, Pampa, TX, Weldon Ellis, Pampa, TX, Steven Ellis and David Ellis, both of Amarillo, TX; five sisters, Elizabeth Jan Wood, Pampa, TX, Marsha Lermon, Lake Jackson, TX, Stacey Stubbs, Pampa, TX, Alinet Eldridge, Pampa, TX, and Kathy Taylor of NM; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted graveside in Pampa's Memory Gardens Cemetery on December 18, 2001 by Bro. Leslie Busbee, assisted by Phillip and Rosie Gellenbeck. The message text was Psalm 66:16-20, especially verse 19; "...Verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer."

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**Sis. Hattie B. (Johnson) Dean** was the youngest of five surviving children born to Robert and Sarah Johnson on January 6, 1915, in Dennison, TX. Her parents embraced the truth when she was very young, and a rich heritage of godly living was passed to her and her siblings.

At the age of 12 years, she and her family moved to the Guthrie, OK, area. On August 12, 1933, Hattie and Paul Davis were united in marriage at the old Davis home place west of Guthrie. Of that marriage three daughters were born. Paul Davis preceded her in death in 1940.

On January 8, 1944, she was united in marriage with Max Dean in Perry, OK. To this union, two more children were added.

Sis. Hattie had a special love for all her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and for the new great-great granddaughter born December 27th. She also had a capacity to love many people, and it was almost second nature for her to serve others. The many old graves in the Summit View Cemetery which were no longer remembered on Memorial Day, were one of her

deep concerns. When she was 85, she placed, with the help of others, 1,400 flowers on those graves.

Early in her life, she made a profession of her faith in God, which lasted to the end. She loved and worshipped with the saints of the Church of God chapel in Guthrie.

Sis. Hattie passed from this life on Thursday evening, January 3rd, 2002, at her home, with her children and grandchildren singing hymns the last half-hour of her life. Her passing was very peaceful and very blessed.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, three sisters, her husbands, Paul Davis and Max Dean, three granddaughters and one grandson. She is survived by four daughters, Dorothy and her husband, J.D. Wilson of Jamul, CA, Wanda Harris, Crescent, OK, Juanita and her husband, George Montgomery, Cullman, AL, Maxine and her husband, Loren Busbee, Edmond, OK; one son Robert and his wife, Geraldine Dean, Guthrie, OK; fourteen grandchildren, thirty-one great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild, a host of nieces and nephews and many life-long friends.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, January 5, 2003, at the Church of God chapel in Guthrie, OK, with Bro. Stanley Dickson officiating. She was laid to rest at the Summit View Cemetery. Sis. Hattie will be greatly missed.

#### Thank You

The family wishes to express our deep appreciation for the love, prayers and concern of each one during mother's illness and death. We were thankful for Bro. Dickson's faithfulness to visit and have prayer with mother. The sacrifices made to serve the large number of family members will never be forgotten. Thank you each and everyone!

**Dorothy E. Wilkins** was born February 13, 1927, in Pittsburgh, PA. She died January 10, 2002, at Colonial Estates Nursing Home in Guthrie, OK.

Her father, Victor Delmar, was born in Seville, Spain, and her mother, Dorothy Matern, came to America by herself from Hamburg, Germany when she was just 17 years old. They met and married in Pittsburgh, PA, later moving to Detroit, MI. Dorothy was just four years old when the family became separated and her father's whereabouts remains a mystery to this day.

Dorothy had poor eyesight as a child and

attended various schools for the handicapped. Because her mother couldn't support them, Dorothy was boarded out and her sister, Jane, was put in a children's home. Dorothy always made sure Jane was well taken care of and tried to shield her from the hardness of life.

Dorothy worked at Jolly Kids for a few years, a children's apparel factory, before meeting a handsome young man on furlough from the Air Force. She met Ralph at the Silver Star Roller Rink in Kalamazoo, MI. When it came time for the ladies to ask someone to skate with them, she chose the man in the uniform.

Dorothy had no religious upbringing. The first time she heard anything about Jesus was when she stopped to listen to a Salvation Army band play and then tell the plan of salvation. When Ralph invited her to church with him, after the first service, the minister asked her if she wanted to be saved and she said, "no." Later she told Ralph that she didn't have any idea what being saved meant, but it didn't take long for her hungry heart to decide that she wanted salvation, and Jesus truly was her best friend for the rest of her life. When life hurt, she would go pray and come out with a song. She was a real prayer warrior. No matter what the children were going through, they knew that if they could just tell Mom about it, that heaven would soon be hearing from her. They are going to miss that so much! Although she would never say it, her children would all agree that her greatest achievement was her family. Just talking about any of them would put a twinkle in her eye and a smile on her face. The greatest gift she gave them was an assurance that wherever they were and whatever they were doing, she was praying for them.

She was a member of the Church of God and a homemaker. She volunteered time and energy to the Faith Publishing House.

Ralph and Dorothy were married on a bright and sunshiny Sunday, October 18, 1945. Every year she would tell her children to plan on another beautiful sunshiny day, because every single anniversary for 56 years was a beautiful day. They lived in Portage, MI, until 1979, then they moved to Guthrie where they remained until her death.

Memories of Dorothy will be cherished by her husband, Ralph of the home; three sons, Dale and wife, Edie, of Portage, MI, Delmar and wife, Brenda, of Guthrie, OK, and Steve and wife, Sharie, of Edmond; four daughters, Ruth

Dollins and husband, Bill, of Edmond, OK, Chris Rogers and Ken of Kahoka, MO, Judy Morgan and husband, Gary, of Springfield, MO, and Nancy Allen and husband, Terry, of Fair Grove, MO; 22 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren; one sister, Jane Jackson of Schoolcraft, MI, and scores of friends.

Funeral services were conducted in the Church of God chapel at Guthrie, OK, by Bro. Stanley Dickson. Burial was in the Memory Gardens Memorial Park, Guthrie, OK.

### Thank You

The family of Dorothy Wilkins wishes to express their deepest appreciation to all our host of friends and saints who showered us with love, food, phone calls and visits during Mom's illness. Mom's greatest delight was when family and friends would stop by to visit. She was a wonderful godly mother and will be greatly missed by all.

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**Betty Lassché** was born in Werl, Germany, on July 23, 1937, to Reint and Sylvia Middell. She passed away on Thursday, January 17, 2002, at 5:45 a.m., at her home in Guthrie, OK.

Betty Middell was united in marriage to William (Bill) Lassché on May 2, 1959, in Weston, Ontario, Canada. To this union were born four children: Barney Lassché of Brampton, Ontario, Canada, Sylvia McGowen of Wichita, KS, Grace McMillan and Randy Lassché, both of Guthrie, OK. It was at Bill and Betty's wedding that Bill's brother, Fred, and Betty's sister, Janita, became romantically interested, and later married.

Betty lost her father during the war when she was six years old. Knowing nothing of the language and customs of Canada, Betty immigrated there from the Netherlands with her widowed mother and five siblings, at the age of about fifteen, where she met and married her husband, Bill.

Betty will be remembered for her many talents. Her "golden hands" (so affectionately described by her husband) fed and sewed for thousands. She was the head cook for fifteen years for the Guthrie congregation, faithfully and gladly serving meals at camp meetings, assembly meetings and funerals. Betty worked as a drapery maker for years, going into business with her mother and her sisters in Brampton, Ontario, and later operating out of her home. Betty loved to sing gospel songs and

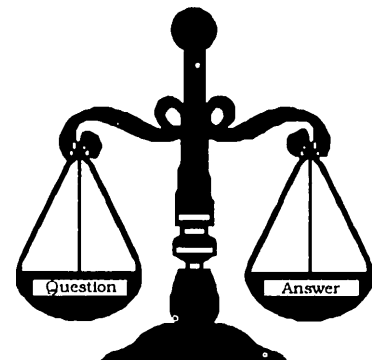
heaven's choir is enhanced by the fervency and purity of her soprano voice. The Guthrie congregation will miss her enthusiasm.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents, Reint and Sylvia Middell, her sister, Frances Middell, her son-in-law, Lee McMillan, and her nephew, Richard Middell. She is survived by her husband, Bill Lassché of the home, her son Barney Lassché and his wife, Colleen, her daughter, Sylvia McGowen and her husband, Brett, her daughter Grace McMillan, her son, Randy Lassché, ten grandchildren, three brothers, one sister, nieces, nephews and a host of relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted at the Church of God chapel in Guthrie, OK, by Bro. Michael Smith. Burial was in Memory Gardens Memorial Park, Guthrie, OK.



## Where's the Balance?



By Wayne Murphey

**Question:** What does the phrase "things under the earth" in Philippians 2:10 mean?

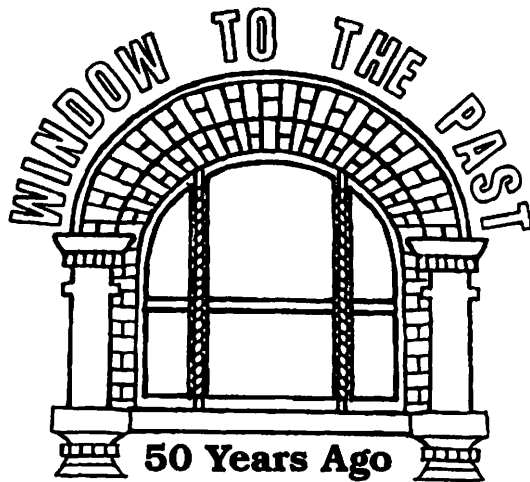
**Answer:** The verse in question says: "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth."

The first thing to note about this verse is that the word "things" is italicized, indicating it was added by the translators. A straight rendering of the scripture from the Greek reads, "So that in the name of Jesus every knee should bend of heavenlies and of earthlies and of underground ones." So this verse does not apply to inanimate objects, or things, but to people.

In naming heaven and earth and "under the earth," the apostle is expressing the thought that everyone everywhere, whether alive or dead, will bow before Christ on the day of judgment.

John the Revelator offered a similar expres-





**Excerpts Taken From  
Feb., 1952  
*Faith and Victory***

"The State Assembly Meeting here at Guthrie has gone down on record as one among the best assemblies every held at this place. The meeting started off in a good spiritual way and ended in a blessed and precious way. It was noted for the refreshing heavenly spirit that prevailed throughout the entire meeting. There were fifteen or twenty ministers present from different states.

"One dear sister in the Lord who has been in the way for years and had attended meetings far and wide declared in her testimony that she had never been in such a good meeting. That could be true, but generally the last meeting that folks have been in, if it is really good, seems to them to be the very best meeting.

"The attendance was good. In fact, the building would not seat the crowds until a large number of chairs were brought in, which filled up all the space.

"In the business meeting much time was taken in discussing the building of a larger meeting house to accommodate the increasing crowds." —Fred Pruitt

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"Truly I'm thankful for the privilege of living to see the close of another year and the beginning of a new one. None of us know what the New Year holds for us. As

I listened to the sounding of guns and whistles welcoming the New Year in, I thought of a message delivered by Bro. Willie Murphey at Guthrie about three years ago, I believe. The message was on the subject, 'Eternity.' He used an hour glass in delivering that message, likening the sand in the bottom section of the hour glass to the number of years of an individual's life, which has already passed, and the sand in the top section, which was slowly passing, was likened to those years one has yet to live. Only our eternal God knows the number of years left. As I thought of this message and the solemn song we sang that night, 'Eternity,' I applied the message to myself. Only God knows how many more years I have left and how I desire God to help me to live each day in this new year as though it were my last." —Frances Chandler

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"A few months ago we invited the young people from the other congregations around her to come and meet with us here in Pomona, [CA] the first Friday evening in every month. Last Friday was the third meeting we have had. The young people and juniors came from Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and the congregation out at the camp grounds in Pacoima. We appreciated the interest the older saints have by bringing them in their cars.

"Our last meeting was greatly blessed of the Lord. The presence of the Lord was felt. Conviction came down. Two got saved in the meeting and another one woke up their mother and grandmother after going home that night and asked for prayer to get saved. The ones that were saved are stirred to a closer walk. Sis. Opal Wilson was telling me the girl that was saved from their congregation gave a wonderful testimony. The Lord just blessed their hearts in listening to it. The boy that was saved that lives here in our congregation gave a wonderful testimony and even told of a victory over the devil already."

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—Marie Miles