

FAITH AND VICTORY

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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 80, No. 5

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Guthrie, Oklahoma

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Loving-Kindness

*"Awake, my soul, to joyful lays, And sing thy great Redeemer's praise;
He justly claims a song for me, His loving-kindness, oh, how free!
Loving-kindness, loving-kindness, His loving-kindness, oh, how free!"*

The songwriter said, "He justly claims a song for me." The writer didn't say, He claimed a song from me, but He, who weighs the world, justly claimed a **song** for each of us.

Justly is an adverb, and generally, adverbs do not carry much weight. But in this song, in this instance, it carries much weight. I believe the writer meant the deeper meaning of Christ's justice and His righteousness. By these He claimed for us, for you and for me, a song—justly and rightly. His justice claimed a song for me.

The song is the song:

Of love, the Beloved for the loved one.
Of redemption.
Of forgiveness.
Of holiness and sanctification.
For our diseases.
For our heartaches.
For our needs—whatever they might be.

He has claimed those individual songs for you and for me—for all mankind. As you go through your tests and trials, watch for the songs—those wonderful songs, given in the night, at the day-break, and during the heat of the day. Look for those songs. Songs of comfort, songs of victory, songs of thankfulness. Sing those songs, Saints. Sing those songs.
—Vesta-Nadine Severs

Contents

Count the Cost	2
Led By The Spirit Of God	2
Where Do You Live?	3
Editorials	4
Prayer Requests	5
Meeting Reports and Notices	6
Letters from our Readers	8
How A Little Girl Utilized The Telephone	9
A Double First Cousin	10
Family Time or TV Time?	11
The Weight Of God's Word	13
Question And Answer	14
Window to the Past	15
Not Growing Old	16

You are Invited!
Church Of God
National Camp Meeting
Monark Springs, MO.
July 19-28

Count The Cost

The souls who get saved and begin to serve God has begun to build a tower that will in time reach to heaven if they continue steadfastly in the faith.

The first thing a soul needs to do is to count the cost and see whether he will be able to finish it. Jesus says, "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" Luke 14:28. If he is not able to finish it men will laugh at him saying, "This man began to build and was not able to finish it." Now if a man would consider the matter properly he would soon find that within himself he has not the power, wisdom nor resources to build a tower that would reach to heaven. If he will consider a little more and hate or turn from his ways, thoughts, natural strength and resources, and take Jesus as his Captain, Overseer and Financier, he will find he has sufficient to finish it and gain heaven.

Here are a few things that we will have if we will count Jesus as our friend and helper:

"I and my Father are one." John 10:30.

"In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Col. 2:3.

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Psa. 24:1.

"Every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills." Psa. 50:10.

"If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fullness thereof." Psa. 50:12.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Matt. 28:18.

"Behold I give you power to tread on serpents and scorpions (spirits that sting and poison people) and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." Luke 10:19.

"And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things." Luke 12:29-30.

When a soul receives Christ and abides in Him, he has every provision necessary for building the tower to climb to heaven. Jesus says, "I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find

pasture." Jesus is the arm of the Lord that has reached down and picked us up. He is the only doorway into heaven. If Satan would come against us with twenty thousand and our strength was only as ten thousand, if we make Jesus our Captain, we can safely march against him and be sure of certain victory.

Consider carefully and prayerfully the last part of the fourteenth chapter of Luke.

The Lord has made a way for every soul to reach heaven if he will. Soul, have faith in God.

—Fred Pruitt

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LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD

"Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Romans 8:12-14.

We have here two influences that we have to deal with in life. We are faced with them every day. One is the flesh, which is the natural, earthly, material and worldly realm. Its voice speaks loudly and its attractions are strong and logical. Sad to say, most people follow the tendencies and desires that the flesh offers. And, to them, there is nothing else to consider or follow. Oh, that we could be more and more aware that there is something else to consider and follow! There is the Spirit of the Lord God Almighty that He has sent forth into the world. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, made it possible through His death and resurrection and ascension to the right hand of God that the Holy Spirit of His Father can be a personal and loving Guest and Guide to each one of His children. What a blessing it is to be led by the Holy Spirit in every detail of our lives! Every move we make on this mortal journey needs the guiding wisdom and understanding that only the indwelling Spirit can give. We have only to look around us and behold the wretched and foolish life and manner of so many of our fellow creatures of the dust. Such wickedness, folly, evil, and unprofitable works and activities stain the moral conduct and way that so many follow.

To be led by the Spirit of God brings the greatest happiness and satisfaction to the heart of man. Our own notions and ideas that originate from how things look and appear from a

fleshly standpoint are far from being what is right and best for us. The major steps in life we take are critical in their need for Holy Spirit guidance. What friends to have, what sort of conduct and pursuits of pleasure and profit, the decision to believe in and obey Christ, one's occupation and work, choosing a marriage partner, where to find residence, financial decisions and how to handle money—these and many more steps one takes in life are so direfully in need of the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We must take each one of these as they are met on life's journey to the Lord in prayer—earnest prayer. There will be those times when our prayers must be accompanied by laying aside food and the normal routines of life. We must be led by the Holy Spirit if we are to be the true children of God. There are many lesser important matters that may need Holy Spirit counsel and control.

There is always the flesh that will assert itself to our minds. We must become keenly sensitive and wise to the threat of being influenced by the flesh. In the early days of the gospel, when the light and understanding of Christ was coming to the saints, Paul declared that physical circumcision, which was commanded under the law, was no longer required. He brought out that the true circumcision was "that of the heart, in the spirit." (Romans 2:29.) But there were those who hung on to the carnal commandment of circumcision of the flesh. Paul had this to say of them: "As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised and, they desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh." (Galatians 6:12-13.) People who hung on to those carnal commandments of the law were sowing to the flesh. And Paul declared, "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." (Galatians 6:8.) So we see that we can be sowing to the flesh in our religious beliefs. And this sowing to the flesh, not heeding the Holy Spirit's counsel, will bring a harvest of corruption.

We are to live constantly with a sensitive heart and mind, open always for the Holy Spirit to instruct, inspire and guide our thoughts and plans. It is true joy and inward peace and satisfaction to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, obey Him and experience the rich reward of being led by Him.

—Leslie C. Busbee

Where Do You Live?

By Bro. James McMurrin

"Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour." John 1:35-39.

Here is a picture of the disciples of John who were presented with an opportunity. The chance was given for them to talk with Christ. When John told them who He was, they set out to talk with Him. When Jesus knew they were there, He turned and asked them what they wanted.

How would you feel in that situation? What questions would tumble through your mind? Here stood Jesus, the source of all truth, the source of all knowledge and understanding. He was here, in the flesh, and He is standing before you, openly available, and all He asks is what you want. What do you say? What do you really want to know? "Lord, why do we do this and this...?" "Lord, how do I handle it when so and so does this to me?" "Lord, why does it say in the scripture that...?" "Lord, what should I do?"

They could have no doubt listed a thousand things they wanted answers to, just as we could. But they only asked one thing. "Rabbi, where dwellest thou?" On the surface, that seems to be a waste of time. Of all the things you could find out, why bother with that? Isn't it trivial? Many would say that it was.

It was not trivial to these disciples at all. Given the chance to ask whatever they wanted, it was the first thing they wanted to know. Why? It was because of where their focus was. It was not on intellectual pursuits. It was not on their own problems, or the problems of others. It was not on worldly fame or success. They were focused only on one thing, Christ. "Where do You live?" they asked. "What do You do, what is it that You occupy your time with, what sort of habitation have You made for Yourself.... Lord, tell us of Your personal life. Show us Your most intimate things. We want to know how You live."

(Continued on Page 12)

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 Willie 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 60¢ to notify us of each change of address.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES



Single copy, one year \$3.00
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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 sin 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 Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

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I awoke this morning with the phrase of a song streaming through my mind. "The Lion of Judah has broken ev'ry chain, And gives us the vict'ry again

and again." It is number 85 in the *Evening Light Songs*. Time after time the Lord gives us victory over the encroaching forces of the enemy. He delivered us from the hand of the oppressor and lifted us out of a horrible pit. Part of the third verse says, "With Him for commander we can but prevail; Our watchword is vict'ry, we fear not the throng, With the Lion of Judah we're ten thousand strong." With Jesus, The Lion of Judah, on our side we are assured of victory. Be of good courage dear ones. With Jesus as Commander of your life, your feet are upon a solid rock and your course in life will be established with eternal truth. The Spirit of the Lord will be your constant companion to guide you in the darkest night. Your soul will be sheltered in safety even though the fierce storm is raging around you.

I am grateful to the Lord for how He has blessed us this month here at the Print Shop. It has been a busy time for us. The *Beautiful Way* children's papers and the *Bible Lesson* quarterlies have been printed and mailed. We have reprinted several tracts that were out of stock. Below is a list of those now available. Maybe some of them would be of interest to you or to someone you know who would like to find the truth on a particular subject or issue important to their spiritual development.

A Husband's Challenge
A Remarkable Experience
A Remarkable Vision of Heaven and Hell
Art Thou Prepared for Eternity?
Does Jesus Live In Your Heart?
Don't Deceive Yourself
Freedom From Worry
How To Get Saved
Letter From A Friend
Make It So Plain
Once Saved, Always Saved
Religion Versus Salvation
Reverend is His Name
The Blood of the Lamb
The Governor's Pardon
The Incomparable Christ
This Thing is From Me

Time is Running Out
 What is Entire Sanctification?
 What Salvation Is
 What Shall I Do To Be Saved?
 What the Bible Teaches About Repentance
 What Then?
 Where Will You Live in Eternity?
 Who is That God?
 You Can't Do Wrong and Get By
 ¿Cuál Iglesia es Correcta?
 Hazlo Tan Claro que Yo Lo Entienda
 La Ultima Bebida Fria
 La Venida de Jesús

 We appreciate how the Lord sees our needs and knows how to help us. We were having problems with the adjustments on one of our presses and the Lord sent Bro. Jim Lynch, who was visiting from Oregon, by at the right time. He was able to help us make the adjustments on the press. The Lord is certainly good to us!

 As has been the custom, we will not publish an August issue of the *Faith and Victory*. Lord willing, we are looking forward to being able to attend the National Camp Meeting at Monark Springs, MO. We pray the Lord will meet His people with a special outpouring of His Spirit. I hope we will be able to see you there

If you desire to contact me directly by e-mail, my personal e-mail address is:

wemurphey@yahoo.com
 —Bro. Willie E. Murphey



MI—Please pray for me.

—Sis. Renate Hess

LA—“My poison ivy is better, but it has burning spells and I still need prayer. Also, pray for other needs I have in my body. The Lord helps me to keep my courage up. I am thankful for how He has helped me.”

—Sis. Velma Mancil

CA—My sister's eight-year-old granddaughter has a brain tumor. Please remember her in prayer.
 —Doris Pihaylic

OK—My husband isn't well and my sister still can't walk. They both need very much prayer. I need prayer also, because I am going through a difficult time.

—Sis. Darlene Adams

OH—Please pray for me. I have a serious physical condition; it could be cancer. I need prayer.
 —Ruth Garret

■■■■■■■■■■
Standing Prayer Requests

- Sis. Ruby Bell
- Sis. Lydia Bennett
- Sis. Alscene Breckenridge
- Sis. Nellie Brown
- Bro. Jon Busbee
- Sis. Mamie Butcher
- Bro. Nathan Carver
- Sis. Estelene Cramer
- Sis. Waneta Creel
- Sis. Frances Deforth
- Bro. Dale Doolittle
- Sis. Elaine Dunn
- Sis. Eleanor Fingerle
- 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. 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 and Sis. Lula Williamson
- Sis. Esther Wilson

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

ALBUM OF TAPES AVAILABLE

Dear Saints, My soul has recently been blessed and greatly challenged by listening to messages brought by some of our ministers of the past who have gone on to be with the Lord. I felt very inspired to share some of these messages, which have been such a blessing to me, with the whole church. Therefore, I have put together a collection of six of them in an album titled "VOICES OF THE PAST (*Proclaiming Timeless Truths*)." They are as follows:

Bro. Darlas Gibson — "Smoke of Confusion"

Bro. Murphy Allen — "Finishing Our Course With Victory"

Bro. Clifford Wilson — "Pure Religion Versus a Corrupt Culture"

Bro. Mart Samons — "Another Generation"

Bro. Bob Forbes — "Jesus is Coming—Be Ready!"

Bro. Chuck Elwell — "Them That Love Him"

I would be more than happy to send this album to anyone who is interested. A donation of \$10.00 will cover all costs. You may send your request to Bro. Harlan Sorrell, Rt. 1 Box 118A, Myrtle, MO 65778 or by e-mail at hsorrell@ortrackm.missouri.org.

—Bro. Harlan Sorrell

Oklahoma State Camp Meeting Report

The 68th annual Oklahoma State Camp Meeting for 2002 in Guthrie, OK has become a part of the history of the Church of God. Just as our God has been faithful to come and meet with His people in times past, He came once again to bless and anoint the worship services.

The messages from the Lord were uplifting, challenging and timely for the day in which we live. God sent messages to us on a variety of topics and doctrinal teachings. It is a pleasure to report that souls responded to the call of the Spirit and sought help at an altar of prayer. Seven people were baptized in obedience to the Word of the Lord.

In the state business meeting on Saturday, June 1, it was decided to begin construction of a family unit to provide lodging for visitors of future camp meetings. The initial plans are to build up to 12 units. Each family unit will house up to 6 people. Each unit will be equipped with its own heating/air conditioning unit and will have a bathroom with shower.

The target date for beginning the plumbing and concrete work is September 1, 2002. The family unit will be completed on a "pay as we go" basis. We are trusting in the Lord to provide the necessary funds, labor and expertise for the building of this needed family unit.

We invite you to please begin to pray for and to make plans to attend the Assembly Meeting here in Guthrie on Dec. 20-29, 2002.

—Bro. Stanley Dickson



CAMP MEETING DATES

Fresno, CA—July 5-14

National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 19-28

Myrtle, MO—July 31-Aug. 4

Bakersfield, CA—Aug. 7-11

California State (Pacolma)—Aug. 16-25

Boley, OK—Aug. 22-25

Spooner, WI (Tent Meeting)—Aug. 29-Sept. 1

Danville, KY (Tent Meeting)—Sept. 5-8

Wichita, KS—Sept. 22-29



FRESNO, CA, CAMP MEETING

The Fresno Camp Meeting will begin July 5, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel located at 388 North First St., if God tarries His coming. We invite you to join us in worship, praise and food for the soul and body.

The schedule of services is as follows: Daily—10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday there will also be a 2:00 p.m. service.

Come get a blessing, and be a blessing to us!!

From Hwy. 99, take the Ventura exit east to First St., and left three blocks. For information and lodging contact Pastor Charles Taylor, (559) 348-9029 or Bro. Charles Parrish, (559) 221-6808.

NATIONAL CAMP MEETING MONARK SPRINGS, MO

The National Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO, July 19-28, 2002. All are cordially invited to come and bring others to enjoy the blessings we are expecting from the Lord.

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

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

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

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

Instructions For Making Dormitory Reservations

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

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

Name and phone number

Date of arrival

Date of departure

Number of adults and children in party

Things to keep in mind:

Bring your own bedding if possible.

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

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

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

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

There is a mens' dorm, ladies' dorm and a ladies' dorm for the handicapped.

We want everyone to come and enjoy the fellowship of kindred hearts, while we worship the Lord together.

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

Love and prayers,

—DeLoris and Randel Bradley
1540 2000 Rd
Bartlett, KS 67332

MYRTLE, MO, CAMP MEETING

The annual camp meeting of the Church of God at Myrtle, MO will begin, Lord willing, on Wednesday morning, July 31 and continue through Sunday night, August 4, 2002. We extend a hearty welcome to everyone to attend. We are expecting another Holy Ghost-anointed meeting this year. There will be general services each morning at 10:30 and each evening at 7:00. The afternoons will be left open for community outreach or special services as announced. We ask an interest in prayer from the saints everywhere for this meeting. Everyone come and be with us, if you can.

For information concerning lodging, etc., please contact Sis. Carol Sorrell at (417) 938-4493. Provisions will be made to care for all who come. If possible, please bring bedding, as there is a limited supply on the campground. Cabin space is also limited, but there are usually plenty of beds available in the dorms. Several electrical hookups are available for those who desire to bring motor homes or campers.

The campground phone number is (417) 938-4682. For further information, contact Sis. Carol Sorrell (above) or Bro. Harlan Sorrell at (417) 938-4336.

—Bro. Harlan Sorrell
hsorrell@ortrackm.missouri.org

CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The annual California State Camp Meeting at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA, will begin, Lord willing, Friday night, August 16, at 7:30 p.m., and last through August 25. There will be three general worship services daily: 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

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

Please note: This date is one week earlier than previous years.

BOLEY, OK, CAMP MEETING

The Boley, OK camp meeting will convene August 22-25, Lord willing. Come and help us in this battle against sin while we have time and opportunity.

For further information contact Sis. Anna Mae Thompson (918) 667-3648 or Sis. Darlene Adams (918) 667-3765.

Tent Meeting in Wisconsin

Lord willing, there will be a special tent meeting in Spooner, WI. It will be held Aug. 29-Sept. 1, with Bro. Ivan Eck and Bro. Marty Clevenger, who have a burden for the work in Wisconsin.

We invite all to come and be a support and help in these special services. A special invitation is given to those who will be coming for the first time and those who have an interest in old-fashioned, Bible truths.

We will try to have accommodations for all who come, but would appreciate it if you could call ahead and let us know if you plan to attend.

For further information contact Bro. Ron and Sis. Martha Zacharias at (715) 635-2994.

Danville, KY, Tent Meeting

The saints at the Junction City, Kentucky congregation would like to invite everyone to a tent revival beginning Thursday, September 5, 2002 and going through Sunday, September 8, as the Lord wills. Services will be nightly at 7:30 p.m. and there will be prayer services and outreach activities during the day. We will provide meals and lodging as we have room and as the Lord provides, and there are plenty of motels in the area.

The location of the tent will be approximately 3 miles southeast of Danville on Hwy. 150 at the intersection of Hwys. 150 and 1273, just past Danville Memorial Gardens Cemetery, on the right.

For more information, contact Dan Gellenbeck at (859) 236-6683 or (859) 238-9379. Please come praying that we would reach souls in this area and that the meeting would be blessed by God's presence. If you cannot come, please support us with your earnest prayers.

Wichita Meeting Announcement

Lord willing, the Wichita, KS fall meeting will be held September 22-29, (Sunday to Sunday). Both Sundays we will have three services. On Monday through Saturday there will be two services daily (11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.).

Please pray that God will have His way in the meeting, and that He will provide and send workers as He so chooses. We need and desire God to work in many ways. We trust Him to direct in all phases of the meeting. The church address is 1701 N. Ash. The phone number is (316) 267-9582.

For further information you may contact Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at (316) 778-1848 or Bro. Theodore McCray at (316) 682-5132.



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

MO—Dear Bro. Murphey: "I enjoy the *Faith and Victory*. May God bless each and every one there for their labor."

Christian Love, —Nelva Stanley

OK—Dear Bro. Willie: "Greetings to you in the lovely name of Jesus, the name which is above every name and which the poet has said "is the hope of earth and joy of heaven."

We trust the good Lord will bless all of you there at the Faith Publishing House as you labor to serve the saints and get the Gospel out to all of the world. I am glad that Jesus has promised to be with you "even to the end of the world." He has said that "our labor will not be in vain."

Your Saved Brother, —T.V. McMillian

KS—Dear Willie Murphey: "...I praise the Lord for answering several prayers recently, for His help in small things and larger things including His healing touch for my brother and sister-in-law and my niece.

I pray for each one of the helpers there at the Print Shop." —Sis. Naomi Hiebert

AL—Dear Ones: "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God,..." Psalm 48:1. I feel that I have so much to praise God for that my written testimony is long overdue. It is time for Vacation Bible School again and I have only told a few about what the Lord did for us last year.

We had a larger number of children attending our Vacation Bible School than ever before, friends and neighbors of children in our congregation. There were over 20 in the large Sunday school room doing crafts on Tuesday morning. It was drizzling rain so we had to be inside for the three hours of V.B.S. Some of the adults were in the sanctuary when we heard a tremendous noise. It just lasted a few seconds, but it

was terrible! As we looked at one another in shock, someone opened the door to the outside and saw that a large tree which stood directly behind the Sunday School room had fallen. It was completely uprooted and had hit the edge of the roof and bent the tin a little, but had missed the room and the ramp outside.

As I thought of the tragedy that could have occurred if the tree had fallen on us, I was overwhelmed with a sense of awe and thankfulness for the Lord's mercy and protection. We had noticed that tree when working on the chapel grounds before and had commented about it overhanging the roof of the Sunday School room, but we didn't dream it would have such shallow roots and that sodden ground could bring it down without even a wind blowing. Looking at it from a human standpoint, it should have fallen directly on the building, from the way the heavy limbs were all on that side of the tree, but we believe God made it fall to the left instead. "How great is our God, How great is His name. How great is our God, Forever the same. He rolled back the waters of the mighty Red Sea and He said, 'I'll never leave you. Put your trust in Me.'"

We usually are only at the chapel for several hours during a week for our regular services. Even during V.B.S., we were only there for three or four hours each day, so we think the Lord wanted us to be there to witness His protecting power over, not only our property, but our lives as well.

Last summer, our daughter, Amber, had a very serious illness. There were 62 cases of encephalitis reported in their parish in Louisiana and several people died of it. We are so thankful for how the Lord healed her and gave her peace during the worst of it. Knowing that she was in God's hands was a comfort when we were so far away and unable to help her.

I am encouraged to read your testimonies of God's goodness; so I pray that these instances of God's power will strengthen your faith. "With God, all things are possible."

—Marshall and Melonie Whitson

From India:

June 20, 2002—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey and dear saints abroad: "Greetings to all of you dear ones again in the precious name of Jesus. Thank you for your letter dated June 4.... May God bless the Church of God camp meetings in America this year.

All of our congregations are doing fine. The monsoon rain is not strong yet in our area, but will be strong in the next few weeks. Please remember the needs of our 20 ministers in your prayers.

Our *Evening Light Song* books in the Malayalam language have been out of stock for the last several months. This song book is 350 pages with 400 songs. We urgently need to print and publish this song book to distribute to the congregations.

Our prayers are for you and the ministry there. Yours in His Service, — John Varghese



How a Little Girl Utilized the Telephone

From Touching Incidents

A Mother, living not very far from the post office in this city, tired with watching over a sick baby, came down stairs for a moment the other day for a few second's rest. She heard the voice of her little four-year old girl in the hall by herself, and, curious to know to whom she was talking, stopped a moment at the half-open door. She saw that the little thing had pulled a chair in front of the telephone, and stood upon it, with the piece against the side of her head. The earnestness of the child showed that she was in no playful mood, and this was the conversation the mother heard, while the tears stood thick in her eyes; the little one carrying on both sides, as if she were repeating the answers:

"Hello."—"Well, who's there?"
 "Is God there?"—"Yes."
 "Is Jesus there?"—"Yes."
 "Tell Jesus I want to speak to Him."—"Well?"
 "Is that you, Jesus?"—"Yes. What is it?"
 "Our baby is sick, and we want you to let it get well. Won't you now?"
 No answer, and statement and question again repeated, finally answered by a "Yes."
 The little one put the ear-piece back on its hook, clambered down from the chair, and with a radiant face went for mother, who caught her in her arms.
 The baby, whose life had been despaired of, began to mend that day, and got well.

“A Double First Cousin”

By Bro. Galen Kelly

In business reports we often hear of “durable goods” and how they are supposed to last so many years before they wear out. I would like to promote a durable good that never wears out and is always useful. This product has been in production many years and has stood the tests of time. This is not something that needs to be shelved because it grows obsolete.

Love’s double first cousin is MERCY. When we are hurting we want this commodity; when we see the error of our ways we cry out for mercy; when we see the pit from whence we were digged, we plead it for others. A compassionate people cry out and beg the Almighty for mercy to be shown and supplied to others.

Mercy is very useful when we don’t understand what to do in situations or when we make wrong choices and get ourselves in a jam. I’m sure you can think of instances where nothing has worked so well as mercy. From the Holy Writings we glean mercy from cover to cover. “His mercy endureth forever” writes the psalmist. It is very durable. It overtook the law and rewrote it with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. From the Royal Law we read in Deuteronomy 19:19, “Then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother:...” This was directed to stop the spread of evil, but we can use it to do unto others, as we would have them do unto us. Galatians 6:7 reads: “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”

Can we expect to reap a harvest with mercy as its fruit if we do not sow and weave it into our lives? I’ve heard people

who make no profession of Jesus or His mercy say, “What goes around comes around.” Is it not a law? Micah 6:8 says, “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love (kindness and) mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

The blessing pronounced by Jesus Himself is “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.” Matthew 5:7. Mercy pleads with tolerance in Luke 6:35-38: “But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: 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 (the measure you use when you confer benefits on others) that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.” From the Old Covenant, Psalm 18:25 says, “With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright.”

Can mercy itself fall under this proverb? “There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than meet, but it tendeth to poverty.” Mercy is a durable good, it works in hard places. When it is applied, if there seems to be no results, remember you are building your account where neither moth nor rust corrupts, and where thieves do not break through and steal.

Family Time or TV Time?

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

My friend looked at me with eyes of wonder. 'You don't have a television? With so many children at home you don't have a TV to keep them busy? How do you live without a TV?' She was sincere in her question and I answered her.

"We visit. We work together and we play together. Our favorite time of the day is supper when we all sit around the table and visit while we eat."

"You do? That may be nice. We live in such a tiny house that we take our food to the living room and eat on TV trays while we watch the evening news and some family programs. Then I make the children do their homework and get to bed."

"Well, that would be different," I replied thoughtfully. All my childhood years and then through our 20 plus married years I have always known supper time as the daily family fellowship hour. Each family member has time to relate to the rest of us some things that happened in the day. We keep in touch this way. Prayer is offered, Bible discussions take place, questions and answers are exchanged, and we all go to bed feeling snugly bonded together as friends. Eating in front of a noisy TV would be disruptive to conversation, I would think.

Others have found it so, I learned when I read: *Unplugging the Plug-in Drug* by Marie Winn, who is a contributor to *The New York Times Magazine*. By experience, she and her husband have learned that without a television, their friendship is enriched and their family bond is strengthened with their two sons. She has documented several ways in which watching television causes a negative influence on children and family life.

TV keeps families from doing other things such as visiting and listening to each other, playing fun games indoors and outdoors and family festivities.

TV hinders many children from learning good reading skills. It often deprives preschoolers of a bedtime story read by Mom or Dad.

TV contributes to children growing up less civilized. Violent programs or cartoons desensitize adolescents to the reality of pain and the value of life.

TV takes the place of play. Toddlers who spend long periods of time before the flickering screen lose opportunity in learning cognitive development from active play. These toddlers are slower in developing manners among their peers.

TV makes children less resourceful. According to some parents TV makes them "plain lazy." Children should be able to think on their own and be responsible for and aware of their thoughts.

TV has a bad effect on a family's physical fitness. Dedicated TV watchers have more of a tendency to be overweight because they eat more and exercise less while watching television.

TV has a negative effect on children's school achievement. An impressive number of research studies prove that excessive television viewing has an adverse effect on a child's academic achievement. It lowers scores in reading, an important factor in every area of learning and it takes away from homework time.

TV watching can be a serious addiction. Adults often say, "I only watch the news." "I control what I watch." But ultimately the average American spends

more time in viewing TV programs than they want to admit.

How quickly does an average American agree to leave the TV off for a week or two? It is not easy. The TV is a gravitational idol in most houses. Many families who have turned off the tube for good after having it available for so long experience psychological withdrawal "pains." It takes time for the family to adjust to conversations, games, indoor and outdoor activities together, chatting at mealtime and reading. However, families who do take this challenging plunge report stronger family bonds and a whole new awareness of life about them.

Television can complicate matters for dysfunctional families. A majority of the programs project a negative image of a husband-wife-child relationship. There are few wholesome role models for the next generations to follow. TV programs offer little hope to teens in abusive home situations.

The best solution is to never bring the television into your home to begin with. The Word of God says, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes." Ps. 101:3. "Abstain from all appearance of evil." I Thes. 5:22. "...Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." I Cor. 10:31. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true,...honest,...just,...pure,... lovely,...of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Phil. 4:8.

Several leaders who encourage good moral standards for our American society, advocate less, if any, TV for a healthy home life. Those who have stopped the television from influencing their homes are not behind times, but they are at the forefront in leading families to a happier, healthier relationship with one another.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Where Do You Live?

(Continued from page 3)

All of the other questions that they could have asked faded to the background as they saw Christ. The only thing that mattered to them was Christ Himself, not their own problems or questions. They didn't want a transfer of knowledge. They didn't want advice. They wanted a transfer of life itself—they wanted to know Christ, not just as a casual Friend or trusted Counselor, but as the very center of their existence. They were more interested in the most trivial of details relating to Him personally than they were in whether or not they even made it to their own home that night. As long as they were around Christ, nothing else mattered.

If we seek to live for Christ today, that too must be our own passion. When Christ is before us, making Himself available to us, the most important questions we can ask Him are not those which satisfy our own intellectual curiosity or solve our own problems. It should be a desire to know Him better, and to have His life reflected in ours.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33.

If we truly desire the wisdom of Christ, if we truly want to see the things of this world through His eyes, we first must know Him for ourselves. And since God is infinite, this is a search that can (and will) continue for all eternity. Considering the size and importance of this task, we should do this as early and as often as we can. If we do so, we will be richly rewarded, for the presence of God will make itself known in our lives in many more ways than we could possibly imagine. God's wisdom is so much more than ours that we truly often do not even know the right question to ask. But the one that He is always willing to answer is the one His first disciples asked Him. "Lord? Where do You live?" —James McMurrin

The Weight of God's Word

Isaiah
40:8;

Joel
2:11;

Hebrews
4:12;

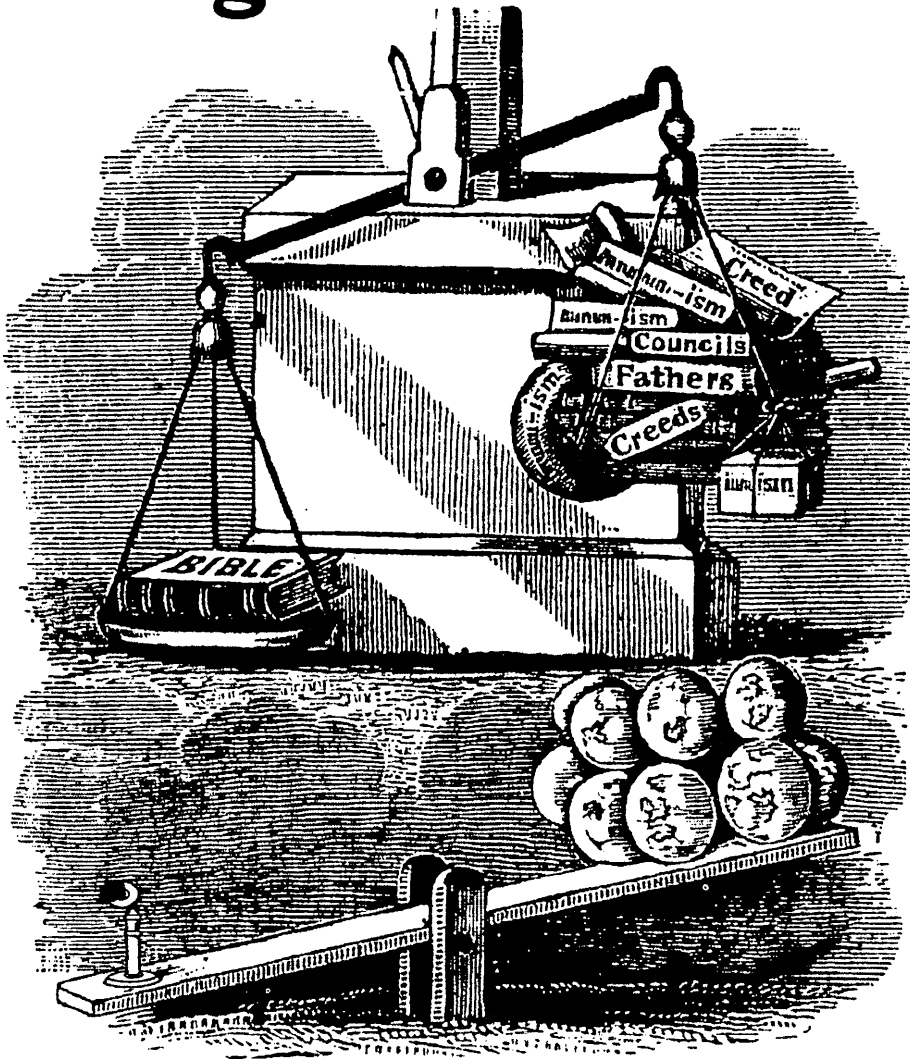
Matthew
24:35;

Luke
4:32;

Psalms
119:89;

Psalms
138:2;

Psalms
119:160;



Look where the impartial balance hangs on high,
The Almighty's word against weak man's to try;
Huge folios rare, and many a bulky bale,
Are brought, and laid upon the even scale:
Of "Council's" records many a tome is sent,
From the great Nicean, down to that of Trent;
"Creeds," "isms," creatures of the human thought,

Ancient and modern, are together brought;
And "Fathers" numerous, a learned line
From Pseudo-Barnabas to Augustine;
The Bible now, of Protestant the pride,
Is placed alone upon the other side:
Creeds, Councils, Fathers, isms, twenty ream,
Fly up like chaff, and straightway kick the beam.

A pair of scales are shown of equal balance, one side of which is loaded with books, packages and parchments. Here are the minutes of eighteen general councils, beginning with that held in Nice, in the year of our Lord 325, and ending with that of Trent, which began in the year of 1545, and closed in 1563, with many others. There are also the writings of the "Fathers," from those ascribed to Barnabas, but considered spurious, downward. Then there are Creeds without number, both of ancient and modern date; next follow the various isms of the

day, that set themselves up against the Word of God. These are all placed on one scale; the Bible is now brought and placed on the other, when lo! "Creeds, Councils, Fathers and isms" are but as the dust of the balance. Lighter than vanity, they fly up and kick the beam; one Bible outweighs them all.

This emblem is designed to show the authority of the Bible over the doctrines and commandments of men. When the lion roars, the beasts of the forests keep silence; when Jehovah speaks, the inhabitants of the world

ought to stand in awe. During the space of fifteen hundred years, God uttered His voice in the ears of the children of men. He has declared His will, and sanctioned such revelation by the repeated manifestations of His almighty power. He employed holy men as the authorized recorders of His laws, and closed the whole with the denouncement of a curse against all who should add to or diminish therefrom.

Notwithstanding this, there have been men in all ages who have set up their will against the great Jehovah. They have made a record of the same, forbidding what God has commanded and ordaining what God has prohibited. Thus, by their traditions, they make void the laws of the Eternal. What folly is this! What blasphemy! What rebellion! The words of the Lord are tried, pure and everlasting; those of men are short-weight, corrupt and are passing away. By the laws of God, not by the opinions of men, we shall be judged at the last day.

Terribly has the curse fallen upon those who

have established human opinions in opposition to the Word of God. Witness the poverty, ignorance and misery of those parts of the world where human creeds prevail, and where the Bible is rejected; yea, witness in the case of every man who substitutes his will for God's. To the law and to the testimony, if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (II Timothy 3:16.)

"Search the scriptures." (Matthew 22:29.)

"We thank God without ceasing, because, when we received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God." (I Thessalonians 2:13.)

"Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it." (Deuteronomy 4:2.)

QUESTION AND ANSWER
BY
BRO. OSTIS B. WILSON
Reprint

QUESTION: Why do the saints raise their hands while singing? I want to know so I can enjoy their blessing also; but first I need to know the reason.

ANSWER: You are entitled to know why the saints do anything that they do as a regular practice. The reason that saints raise their hands while singing the beautiful, inspired songs of Zion is that the inspiration in the song finds a response in their hearts and they express that by raising their hands. It is also a means of testifying to victory in their souls along the line of truth being expressed in the song. Also it signifies an acceptance in their hearts of the particular truth in the song.

We read in Lamentations 3:41, "Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens." In this text is indicated that the lifting up of the hands has a direct connection with something transpiring in the heart, and in the case of singing indicates that one knows in his heart what it means and is accepting and experiencing in his heart what is being sung.

This same thought in regard to the lifting up of the hand is expressed in Isaiah 49:22 in showing God's attitude of outreach to the Gentiles. It says, "Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people:..." The lifting up of God's hand to the Gentiles signified His acceptance of the Gentiles into His salvation, the same as our lifting up our hands signifies our acceptance of the truth being expressed.

We have the same thought further expressed in Psalm 119:48, "My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved;..." This signifies an acceptance and love for the commandments of the Lord.

In Lamentations 2:19 it says, "...lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street." Here the hands were to be lifted up in entreaty and prayer for mercy from God in the time of extreme trouble and great need. Sometimes when a certain truth is being presented in song or preaching or however a person may feel a need of mercy and additional grace to fully measure to the standard on that line, he may lift his hand as a supplication from his heart for that mercy and grace while at the same time submitting to it that it is right.

Psalm 63:4 says, "Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name." Psalm 134:2 says, "Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord." These two texts carry the same thought which is that the raising of the hands is a means of expressing the individual's blessing and praise to the Lord. We have a song which says, "Lift up your hands and praise the Lord." When one lifts up his heart with his hand in this respect in praise, adoration, and blessing unto the Lord in the Spirit, it has an "electrifying" effect to inspire the whole congregation sometimes.

In former years there was much more of this than we see now and many times there were many hands up and much shouting and rejoicing and the spirit of the Lord would come down in great anointing, power and blessing. The word from here is that you just go ahead and raise your hand when you feel like it and know that you are on good scriptural grounds when you do it and enjoy the blessings along with the others.

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A Balanced Spiritual Diet

One morning I awoke early and was thinking about the goodness of God. The Lord brought to my mind a beautiful picture of His table spread before the saints. They were eating of the good things there. There were many dishes of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22) on this table, and to grow and be healthy every one had to eat some of all of them.

On the end of the table where the dishes of love, joy, goodness and peace were, there was a large group of the children of God. But, farther up the table there weren't so many, as these dishes contained long-suffering and enduring all things. It seemed that when some came to these dishes, they would turn away.

It made me realize we could not eat of just one or two things and expect to grow, as children who just want to eat pie and cake are not healthy children; but we must eat all the Lord sets before us. Then we will grow and be strong in His service

— Effie Miller

Not Growing Old

John E. Roberts

They say that I am growing old, I've heard them tell it times untold,
In language plain and bold—But, I'm not growing old.
This frail old shell in which I dwell Is growing old, I know full well—
But, I am not the shell.

What if my hair is turning gray? Gray hairs are honorable, they say.
What if my eyesight's growing dim? I still can see to follow Him
Who sacrificed His life for me Upon the cross of Calvary.

What should I care if Time's old plow Has left its furrows on my brow?
Another house, not made with hand, Awaits me in the Glory Land.

What though I falter in my walk? What though my tongue is slow to talk?
I still can tread the Narrow Way, I still can watch, and praise, and pray.

My hearing may not be as keen As in the past it may have been,
Still I can hear my Savior say In whispers soft, "This is the way."

The outward man, do what I can To lengthen out this life's short span,
Shall perish, and return to dust, As everything in nature must.
The inward man, the Scriptures say, Is growing stronger every day.

Then how can I be growing old When safe within my Savior's fold?
E're long my soul shall fly away, And leave this tenement of clay,
This robe of flesh I'll drop and rise To seize the everlasting prize.
I'll meet you on the Streets of Gold, And prove that I'm not growing old.

*"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward
man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by
day...While we look not at the things which are
seen, but at the things which are not seen:
for the things which are seen are
temporal; but the things which
are not seen are eternal."*

II Cor. 4:16, 18.

—Submitted by Genevieve Carver