

FAITH AND VICTORY

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May Our Roots Be Established In HIM

By Bro. Adriel Bowman

In Matthew 13:5-6, 20-21, the sower in the parable went out to sow seed. He sowed seed with the intent of reaping a crop, the fruit of his labors. In verses 5 and 6: "Some (of his seed) fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away."

The root of a plant is a most important part. It is an unseen part, under the ground. It is not the most beautiful part of the plant. However, without the root or a proper healthy root, the plant cannot grow and prosper and bring forth fruit. The root is the support of a plant; it holds the plant up in times of adversity (unfavorable times). It takes as much time to grow a root as it does for the plant to mature above ground and bring forth fruit. In verses 5 and 6 of the parable,

the plant sprouts above ground and attempts to mature, but at the first sign of heat and light, which should have made it grow, it withers away because it has no root. In verses 20 and 21, Jesus reveals that "he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended." What is the cause for this withering? There was enough watering present to begin growth; enough inspiration of the Word and encouragement to start out. Well, we know that the places of stone were present. So the reason that it couldn't really take root is that the roots couldn't penetrate the ground.

One of the greatest necessities for establishing a good root system is to break up the ground and take out the stones. This must be done when a person wants God and His life to come in and take root in their life. Hosea 10:12 says, "break up the fallow ground." Fallow ground is unseeded land, plowed, but left inactive for a period of time, after which it must be broken up before planting. God's Word cannot penetrate a hard heart and bring forth fruit. The heart must be softened, pliable, broken up, yielding, penetrable and opened up to receive the Word, not just "hear it" with the ears and rejoice. Many new hearers of the Word rejoice greatly at the beauty of the thought of deliverance from trouble and pain in their lives. Others glory in the new profession and outward show of

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religion and piety. They have an outward manifestation of life in God. However, their hearts haven't been opened up to deliverance from sin and acceptance of righteousness.

It is after the Word of God has taken root in us that we can be called as Isaiah 61:3 says, "Trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord." The promise of God begins to be manifested in us—beauty for ashes, oil of joy for mourning, garment of praise for heaviness. But this is just the beginning of the work of God in us. Jeremiah 17:8 says this tree of righteousness shall be as a "tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit." The secret shown here for not failing in the time of adversity, is the roots spreading out by the river.

Have you ever heard of some who came to hear the Word preached and say they didn't get anything? Have you noticed the complainer, the critic, and the faultfinder fail of the grace of God or continue for some time without maturing spiritually? They eventually shrivel and fail

because they do not thirst after righteousness, search the scripture and seek after God in their own lives.

To be in the place where one doesn't faint in adversity, they must "spread the roots." God provides for us to be rooted and grounded in Him. To profit from what God provides, we must actively seek God and His righteousness rather than passively expect God to make us spiritual. We are to take an active interest in our children's schooling and spiritual welfare as well as our own. We must actively study the Word, actively obey and submit to God, take an active interest in things God is working in. Actively trust and hope in God. Actively seek the mind of God. Work to remove from the heart that which keeps God from working. Let us not be satisfied with spreading the branches, displaying the evidences of God. Let us "spread the roots."

The heat, the drought, the rain (Matthew 7:24-25), hardships, winds of doctrine (Ephesians 4:14), the infirmities, the persecutions, the reproaches (II Corinthians 12:10) of life are nothing to stop the Word of God from bearing fruit in our lives. These things and God's grace and mercy come to prove us that we may be established in Him.



Magnify the Lord

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

When Mary and Elisabeth greeted one another, Elisabeth knew right away that Mary was the chosen mother of the coming Messiah. Elisabeth affirmed: "And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord." Mary replied, "My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." Luke 1:45-47.

So it is today. Blessed are those who believe in the performance of those things which the Lord has done. Simple faith, simply believing. That is what it takes to please God. (Heb. 11:1.) All types of people—poor or rich, plain or beautiful, simple-minded or intelligent—each one is required to have faith in Jesus before he can possess salvation.

The seed of salvation is easy to understand. God gave humankind His only begotten Son. Jesus Christ gave His life that all who believe might have salvation from sin and eternal life in heaven. Those who truly believe magnify the

Lord with their lives and give the Lord praise from their lips. "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." Col. 1:12-13

It is a chain of giving, because God is love (I John 4:8) and love desires to give. Let us remember the good gifts that the Father has given us through His Son. We are granted pardon from our sins, mercy when we err, grace in our trials, deliverance from our temptations, counsel for our decisions and healing from our diseases. The Lord our God is infinite and eternal. What can we give unto the Lord for all He has done for us? All good things come from Him so let us who believe in His Son MAGNIFY HIS GLORY.

"Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand." Phil. 4:4. Give the

Lord the gift of praise and honor that is due Him. Tell others of the Lord's goodness to you. Testify of His healing power when He has had mercy on you. Share His love with those who are hurting today. It pleases the Lord to hear our words of kindness and thanksgiving. He wants our speech to magnify His name today and for all eternity. "We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned." Rev. 11:17.

Not only should our lips praise the Lord, but our entire body, soul, mind and spirit. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." I Cor. 10:31. The way in which we dress and care for our bodies should agree with our praise to the Lord. Our bodies are His temple and (I Cor. 6:19) we need to magnify His graces in the way we dress His temple. Our souls will stay pure if we meditate upon good things (Phil. 4:8) and do as Mary who

"kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:19.) Wholesome thoughts will drive the enemy away that he may not sow tares in the furrows of our minds. As we listen minute by minute to the counsel of the Holy Spirit, our spirit will become more like Christ every day. He enjoys our fellowship when we commune with Him in spirit and in truth. It is sweet music to our Saviour and King when our spirits blend together in spiritual worship in the house of God.

May we ever be challenged to give entirely of ourselves in praise; materially, physically and spiritually. Because all good things come from our Mighty Creator, let us use those good things to His glory and honor and let us dedicate our will to His service and praise. Like Mary who obediently carried within her the Messiah, let us allow Jesus Christ to be magnified from within us. May our lives shout, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."

"Committed to Thy Trust"

By Sis. Cheryl Smith

I Timothy 6:20 says, "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust." The Lord has been impressing this thought upon my mind so heavily, I felt I must write and share my burden with the saints. The thought came to me that, with all due respect to the precious Word of God, I should put my name here in the place of Timothy's. "O Cheryl, keep that which is committed to thy trust."

I was born in Dayton, Ohio, the granddaughter of Bro. William A. McCoy, who was the pastor of the Dayton congregation for about 40 years, and the daughter of Bro. Willard and Sis. Helen Underdown. My parents brought me up in the truth from infancy, and at a remarkably early age I developed a sincere, genuine love for the unadulterated truth of God's Word. I have been thinking of the saints of yore, the ones who were in my grandfather's generation. Most of his generation have passed off the scene and gone on to their reward. This fact leaves me with a deep sense of sadnessand a great feeling of responsibility. They have left us with a heritage that has been entrusted into our hands. Do we realize how truly precious it is?

Saints, we MUST hold fast! We can't let the truth slip away. Oh, we need to guard it and hold

on to it with all we have within us! It has been "committed to our trust." It is our turn to carry the truth to our children.

The definition for the word trust that best fits this meaning is: "Keeping; care; custody; something entrusted to one; charge or duty." I was thinking of the Olympic torch. It is something that is deemed very honorable and precious in the world of sports. The torch is passed from one person to the next, and the person carrying it does so with the greatest sense of pride, carefulness and duty. Is not the truth much more precious and serious? The "torch" is now in our hands and we are responsible for its care, custody and the surety of it being passed on. How important it is that we don't drop it, damage it, compromise its integrity or fail to treasure it!

I feel such an urgency to follow the Lord all the way in these last days. We are living in a sifting and a shaking time. Hebrews 12:27 says, "And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, **that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.**" God is sending a shaking through our midst. He is now

(Continued on page 13)

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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.

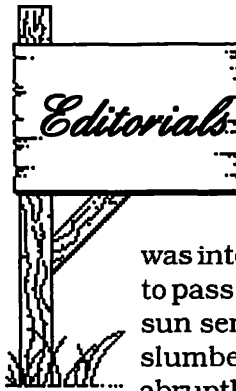
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This morning while I was asleep on my bed I had an unusual awakening. The sun shone through one of the tiny openings of the mini blind covering our bedroom window. The small opening was intended for the adjusting strings to pass through, but this morning the sun sent a ray of brilliant light to my slumbering eyes and brought me abruptly to consciousness. It was easy

to move my head a little one way or the other and no longer would it shine in my face. I could have gone back to sleep, but as I thought about this awakening, I got up and raised the blind to allow the full sunlight through the window. The brilliance of the shaft of light that streamed through my window illuminated even the tiny particles of dust floating in the air.

Many people today have curtains and shades over the window of their hearts to keep the sunlight of truth from arousing them from their slumber. II Corinthians 4:4 explains so clearly the current condition of man, "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." If only we could be awakened to what the "god of this world" is doing to us, we would most gladly open our hearts and minds to the "glorious gospel of Christ."

The "glorious gospel of Christ" will bring a complete change in our lives. It will awaken us to what sin has done to damage and corrupt our lives and spirits. It will show us how far away from God we are and of how much we need to be forgiven. It will show us what an ugly mess we have made of life. No wonder people hate the light. It will reveal the filth of their hearts and the evil spirits that inhabit the dark dungeons of their minds.

But if you will allow the "gospel of Christ" to shine in your heart, the evil spirits will be cast out and flee like cockroaches from the light. The blood of Jesus Christ will wash and purge your heart from sin and uncleanness and give you the wonderful hope of eternal life in heaven with His holy angels. As you walk in the light of truth, you will find His grace is abundantly bestowed upon you. The fruits of God's spirit will begin to spring up in your life and true joy will flood your soul. As you consecrate and yield yourself com-

pletely and totally to God, He will fill you with His Holy Spirit and make you a vessel fit for His service. Then you will begin shining light to those around you. Will they wake up and open the shade, or will they move their head and go back to their slumber in darkness until they are eternally lost?

There have been several favorable comments on the article by Bro. Ivan Eck printed in the November issue of the *Faith and Victory* entitled "Come Unto Me." It has been requested that we put it in tract form. Currently it has been paged up and we have plans to print it shortly. It should be available by the time you read this. We have also been working on the book *Holy Spirit Baptism and The Second Cleansing* by Russell R. Byrum. The press run is complete and it is now ready to be folded and assembled into book form. It also should be completed in December.

Please continue to keep your heart open to the Lord about writing inspired articles and testimonies for the paper.

We have ordered wall calendars for the year 2003. These are scriptural calendars with a beautiful scenic landscape picture for each month. They will be available for \$3.50 each. This price includes postage and handling.

Bound volumes of the 11 issues of the *Faith and Victory* paper for the year 2002 will soon be in stock. The price is \$5.00 per book, plus \$1.40 for postage and handling. The junior *Beautiful Way* yearbooks will also be available for \$5.00 each, plus \$1.40 for postage and handling. These include the 52 weekly junior Sunday school papers for the year 2002. There is a limited supply of these yearbooks and they will be sold on a first-come basis.

If you made a contribution to the Faith Publishing House during 2002 and need a receipt for income tax purposes, please let us know.

Since we are approaching a new year, let's make a special gift offer on the *Faith and Victory* for new subscriptions during the month of December. How about sending in five new one-year subscriptions (11 issues) for ten dollars.

Additional subscriptions may be added for two dollars each. Write *December Special* on your list of names and addresses. It must be post-marked on or before December 31, 2002. You must have at least five names to take advantage of this offer. Please double-check the accuracy of your addresses. Due to the increased cost of postage and paper, we may not be able to offer this special price again.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Lord for His blessings that have permitted us to complete this year of publishing the gospel of Jesus Christ. I also appreciate the burden the saints have for this work and their willingness to give and sacrifice to make it possible. May God richly bless you for your concern for souls. As we approach the Christmas season, may we see and understand more clearly the wonderful plan of salvation that the gift of God brought to this world through His Son, Jesus.

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



OR—Sis. Ruby Fern Busch is suffering from the effects of a stroke and is in much need of prayer.

CA—Please extend prayer to include Doug, Mr. Anays and Mr. Crauthers, all who have cancer.

—Bro. Don Viser

Philippines—Please remember me in your prayers, that God will bless me with good health.

Your Sister,

—Nellie Tibayan

IL—I would like for you to remember me and my family in prayer. The Lord has been so good to me, healing my body and taking care of me. I live alone and I am not very young any more.

—Sis. Elsie M. Offerman

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
 Bro. Hubert Corteway
 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. 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'Neall
 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.
 Sis. Lula Williamson
 Sis. Esther Wilson

MEETING DATES

Miami, FL (Revival)—Dec. 4-8
Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—Dec. 20-29
California State (Pacoima)—Dec. 27-Jan. 5

MEETING NOTICES

MIAMI, FL, REVIVAL

Lord willing, Bro. Ed Wilson will hold a revival meeting in Miami, FL, on Dec. 4-8, 2002. Services will be conducted nightly at 7:30 p.m. The chapel is located at 234 NW 47th St., Miami, FL. All are invited to attend. For additional information you may contact Bro. Robert McIntyre at (305) 233-2166 or Bro. Charles

Clay at (305) 235-4271. The chapel phone number is (305) 758-0160.

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 96th annual Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held at Guthrie, OK, from December 20-29, 2002. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U.S. The first service will be held Friday evening, December 20, at 7:30 p.m. Daily worship services throughout the remainder of the meeting will start at 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. There will also be morning prayer services and youth services, the time of which will be announced at the meeting.

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

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

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

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

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

Lord willing, the California State Assembly meeting will be held, December 27, 2002-January 5, 2003. The first service will be Friday, December 27, at 7:30 p.m. All other days the services will be 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. The last service will be Sunday, January 5, at 7:30 p.m.

Meals and accommodations are provided daily through freewill offerings. Please pray that God will have His way and send willing workers and ministers.

For further information, contact the Sunset Guest Home at (818) 899-2022, Bro. Herbert Clay at (818) 897-1396, or Bro. Paul Phillips at (661) 251-6956.



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: We trust God is keeping you encouraged and that you are drawing closer to the Lord.

Recently we played and sang one of Grandma Eck's favorite songs, "How can I ever praise my Lord enough, He's done so much for me,...Lightening flashed, thunder rolled, yet He keeps my weary, trembling soul!" I'm afraid that when I've seen the lightening flashing and the thunder rolling, I have been questioning God instead of praising Him and seeing His glory and power in the midst of it. I desire more praise in my heart, even in the midst of the storm.

We read in family worship about the glory of the Lord coming down and filling Solomon's temple after the priest moved the ark of the Lord into it. Then Solomon prayed and asked the Lord to bless His people, no matter where they were or what trouble they were in, if they would turn to Him with all their heart and pray toward Jerusalem. After his prayer, God sent fire down and consumed the sacrifice that was on the altar. The glory and awe of it struck me and I wished I could see the fire of the Lord come down. I had read about Elijah and Mount Carmel recently, so the Lord answering by fire was fresh in my memory. How impressive it must have been to be at either of these events and see the glory of the Lord.

God revealed to me that His fire now goes into our hearts and is manifested there. I was immediately challenged with the question: "Have I built a temple that the Lord is worthy to dwell in?" Song number 99 in *The Evening Light Songs* came to mind.

Not in the temples made with hands,
Tho' beautiful by art;
But God in mercy condescends
To dwell within my heart.

How wonderful that He would take
This poor abode of sin,
And wash me in His precious blood,
And now abide within.

No more I think of God afar
But see thee, Lord, within.
Oh, shine in me, thou morning star,
And keep thy temple clean.

Chorus: Oh, glory to Jesus
So sweet in me;
My body, thy temple
Shall forever be!

We can't, in our own strength, build a temple worthy of our Lord and Saviour, but isn't it wonderful that He would take this poor abode of sin, wash it in His precious blood, make it clean and holy, and then be willing to send His fire to fill it with His glory. What a beautiful, awesome picture!!! Maybe we don't see God sending His literal fire nowadays, but we can see the effect of His fire in our lives when sin is washed away and a new creature is formed in the image of God.

This morning I was impressed with the story of the woman with the alabaster box of very precious ointment. The people around Jesus were filled with indignation that so much money was wasted. But Jesus said, "Why trouble ye the woman? For she hath wrought a good work upon me. For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always...." What is it that I think is too expensive to pour out on Jesus? What about my life? Does the devil try to tell me it is a waste to sacrifice it for the Lord? The visitation of Christ is very short. Oh, may we pour our hearts and lives out upon our Lord and work a good work for His kingdom.

Oh, pilgrim of Jesus, over life's troubled sea,...ever keep heaven in view.

—Daniel and Anita Adams

Ok—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus, the One whom the Father sent to be the Saviour of the world. I am so glad that Jesus came and brought salvation in reach of mankind. I am also glad for the effects of His life while here and for the great ransom paid for our salvation by the shedding of His precious blood. Jesus shed His blood because He loved us. (Rev. 1:5.) The Father was willing to take that as a ransom for our sins. (John 3:16.)

When Jesus was born, the angel of the Lord announced to the lowly shepherds, "Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy,

which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day a Saviour which is Christ the Lord. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."

After Jesus had lived here about thirty-three years and had finished the work the Father gave Him to do, which included Him shedding His blood and opening up the way into the holiest place for us, He sat down at the right hand of God to make intercessions for us and is able to save to the uttermost them that come unto God by Him. (Heb. 7:25.)

When we believe with all our heart and accept Him as our Savior, then we become His children and as we walk in the light as He is in the light, the blood of Jesus keeps us cleansed from all sin. Then when our walk on earth is done, He will take us to that eternal city where the Lamb is the light thereof, there to inherit all the things that our heavenly Father has prepared for them that love Him. No wonder the angels said, "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy." Jesus said, "These things have I spoken unto you that my joy might remain in you and that your joy might be full." To inherit all that God has prepared for us in a glorified body like His, will indeed be the fullness of joy. (I John 3:1-3, Titus 2:13, Phil. 3:20-21, I Pet. 5:4, I Cor. 9:25, Phil. 3:13-14.)

Your saved brother, rejoicing in Christ Jesus, who is our hope of eternal life. (Titus 1:2.)

—Bro. T. V. McMillian

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MO—Dear Bro. Willie: May God bless the work there abundantly. I am enjoying my salvation and the little place He has placed me in this life. I want to be faithful to Him.

Christian Love, —Sis. Esther Hightower

— — — — —

OH—Bro. Willie Murphey: Hope everyone there is doing fine. I'm thankful for God's blessings unto me. Jesus has been so good to me.

I mean by the help of the Lord to keep pressing on unto the end.

Pray for me, —Sis. James Bruner

— — — — —

SC—Dear saints: I appreciate your labors for God. Keep encouraged and putting out the good work. I am praying for you.

Love and prayers, —Sis. Helen Underdown



From India...

Nov. 19, 2002—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to you dear ones in the precious name of Jesus Christ.

The Evening Light Evangelical Team here is working in different areas each month and are getting good results. Our aim is to get some new stations opened for the church.

Lord willing, our 38th General Convention will be held January 8-12, 2003. All are cordially invited. We need your prayers and support for its spiritual success. We will have conventions in most of our congregations after the General Convention.

In the news I heard of a storm in some of the states in the USA. I trust God has protected His children from calamities. Our prayers are for you.

With love and prayers, yours in Him,

—John Varghese

— — — — —

From Nigeria...

Nov. 22, 2002—Dear Bro Willie: I greet you in the most precious and wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who died that we might have life and that more abundantly

I want to use this opportunity to inform you that we are in the peak of preparations for the 2002 Annual Convention in Asana. This will, by the grace of God, be coming up from the 19th to the 22nd of December 2002. We do believe that God will work out things for His children by bringing more souls to His kingdom this year again. We earnestly covet your prayers and that of the saints over there in that wise. We are working hard and praying for yet a wonderful harvest come this year. Please get the saints to join us to pray that more shall be accomplished for the Lord this year and that God should pull down all the strongholds of the devil in the lives and land of the people in this area.

I know that Bro. Smith will not be able to be with us this year. We really would have loved

that to have been possible. All the same, I am sure that God will see us through. Remember us and the meeting as you pray.

An open invitation is therefore given, through this medium, to as many as would want to be with us in Asana, Nigeria, for this meeting. You are highly welcome. You may get in touch with me through the e-mail address: rosan@intracom.net.ng.

Thank you very much and God bless you.

Yours in His service, —Anietie B. Essien

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From the Philippines...

Nov. 10, 22, 2002—Dear Bro. Willie: Cheerful greetings of warm love, peace, hope and joy in Jesus' name. I trust that you and your family are all in good health as you continue to do God's will.

I am very much inspired and very much encouraged to work in His vineyard, because I know God is so good. He's never left me in times of trial. Since we started our worship service in March 2000, my husband and I were the only baptized members of God's Church here in Muntinlupa.

God has continued to bless His church here in Muntinlupa. After more than two years of labor, I praise God with thanksgiving and a joyful heart. Since October, (last month) there are now nineteen souls who worship God here. Fourteen souls have fully surrendered their lives to God and have been baptized. Five souls are still waiting for God's conversion.

We have a goal that "each one may bring one soul to God." I praise God, our brethren have tried their best to bring one. Each one is now trying to reach out for someone else. With God's grace and guidance, we hope and pray that souls will soon be added into His Church. Sunday school pupils are also growing in number.

When I read the editorials I found peace and joy. I am inspired and encouraged to go on laboring for Him because our good Lord and God is with us as we travel and walk on rocky roads. When we have so many trials it is as if we are climbing a very steep mountain. The message "Come Unto Me" by Bro. Ivan Eck and your message in the editorials remind me of a song I always sing softly while walking during my visitation or when I'm in a jeepney going to my Bible Study meetings. I know you have heard this song, but still I wish I could sing it to all the

saints. So I'll rather write it.

There is no problem so big, God cannot solve it.

There is no mountain so tall, God cannot move it.

There is no storm too dark, God cannot calm it.

There is no sorrow too deep, God cannot soothe it.

If God carries the weight of the world upon His shoulder, I know dear Brother that He will carry you through.

If God carries the weight of the world upon His shoulder, I know dear Sister that He will carry you too.

And He said, "Come unto me, Ye who are weary and I will give you rest."

Bro. Willie, I thank God for His protection to His church here in Muntinlupa. I recognized that He gave the Holy Spirit to dwell in us, to lead us in all we do. We give all praises to Him.

Please remember me in your prayers that God will bless me with good health. Again, thank you for your love and concern. I hope that some day you can come again to visit us in the Philippines, including the Muntinlupa Church of God in Manila.

God bless you all! Your Sister,

—Nellie Tibayan

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Report On Trip to Germany...

Nov. 24, 2002—Dear Bro. Willie: This letter is so my brethren, the saints, can rejoice with us for God's blessings on our recent visit to Germany.

Bros. Ted Bock, Harlan Sorrell, David Bell, Nick Probst, and Sis. Jessica Williams left with Roberta and me Oct. 4. Some had to return after one week, but Bro. Ted, Bro. Harlan and I stayed until Oct. 21. During that time, we visited four congregations. We daily felt your prayers and saw the results in the works God did.

The saints there are largely the result of Bro. William Ebel's missionary labors during the early part of the "Evening Light Reformation." He worked with German nationals who had immigrated to Russia and established a number of congregations there. The folks we met have been striving to keep the faith through all the years since. They have rejected compromise and fanatical spirits and have looked for the humble, narrow way. Since the borders between Germany and Russia have been reopened, many of these people have come home and brought their Biblical Church of God beliefs with them.

The congregations we met average more than 100 members each, young and old. They showed a tremendous enthusiasm to know more about us. They want to find that we, too, treasure the precious things God has given our

spiritual ancestors and us.

We saw a number of souls seek God for salvation and had wonderful discussions about how God has blessed and kept them through persecution and adversity. We also spent many hours examining the doctrines they and we believe.

Thank you for the love, prayers and offerings that made our effort possible.

Christian love, —Ed Wilson

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TAPE AVAILABLE
"SONGS FROM GERMANY"

Dear saints: I count it one of life's greatest blessings to have had the privilege in the month of October to make a trip to Germany with Bro. Ed and Sis. Roberta Wilson, Bro. Ted Bock, Bro. Nick Probst, Sis. Jessica Williams, and Bro. David Bell. The hospitality bestowed upon us by the saints there was overwhelming, the fellowship was precious, and the memories will be with us forever.

We found true saints there who love the same things we love and who have made sacrifices above and beyond what most of us have ever known to preserve the things that we hold dear. Among them was a sister, who, many years ago while living in Russia, had hand-copied a songbook (both words and music), about the size of our Evening Light Songs hymnal, in an effort to preserve the songs that the Communists would not allow them to print. Many of the songs she copied are the same "Evening Light" songs that we sing, others are from old Gospel Trumpet songbooks that we don't have in our *Evening Light Songs* hymnal.

It was a great blessing to meet a young brother by the name of Juri Kaehm, who has a great interest in the ministry of song, and who records them singing all four parts himself. Juri was born in Uzbekistan, just north of Afghanistan. His father is a Russian and his mother a German. Having grown up in the foothills of the Himalayan mountains, he loves nature and God's handiwork. He also loves to sing. He speaks German, Russian, the native language of Uzbekistan, and is presently endeavoring to learn English. He hopes to come to the United States sometime and attend some of our camp meetings.

Before we left Germany, he gave us CD's of some of his recordings of songs in the German language. I have copied most of these recordings onto cassette tape and would like to make

them available to all who would be interested in having a copy. These recordings include not only Juri singing all four parts, but also a few songs of Juri singing with his wife and a few (at the end of the tape) of Juri and me singing together (in English). CD copies are also available.

If you are interested in either a cassette tape or a CD copy of "Songs from Germany," please contact me at the address below or e-mail me at hsorrell@ortrackm.missouri.org. This offer also includes a picture of the hand-copied songbook mentioned above, a picture of the sister who copied it, a picture of Bro. Juri and his family, and pictures of other saints we met in Germany. They will be computer print-out pictures and will be mailed to you with the tape or CD. Either the tape or CD (with pictures included) is available for \$5.00 postpaid. Send your remittance to Harlan Sorrell, Rt. 1 Box 118A, Myrtle, MO 65778.

Yours in the ministry of song,

—Bro. Harlan Sorrell



Sis. Christine Eck was born February 6, 1928 in Guthrie, OK to Christopher and Gladys (Britt) Bock. She graduated from Guthrie High School in 1945, and worked for two abstracting companies in Guthrie.

On March 12, 1950 she was united in marriage to Paul D. Eck. They first lived on a farm south of Goltry, OK, later moving to another farm north of Ringwood, OK. In 1957, they moved south of Meno, OK where they farmed until 1998.

Sis. Christine was saved and gave her heart to the Lord Jesus on May 1, 1941, at the tender age of 13 years, during a series of revival meetings held by Bro. Willie C. Murphey and the

saints at Guthrie in a school house north of town. She maintained her faith in the Lord and was faithful to Him and His truth all of her days. She was a long-standing and faithful member of the Church of God, which meets at Hemlock and Independence in Enid, OK.

Sis. Christine was a hard-working farm wife, faithful mother, and active member of her church and community. She helped with PTA and school functions when her sons were in grade school and sold fresh cream and eggs to her neighbors and friends. She was a meticulous seamstress, making most of her own clothing, and a wonderful cook. Her chocolate cakes and apple dumplings were especially loved at church and family dinners. Her gardening and canning provided much of the food for the family table. She also enjoyed tending her many flowers and trees. She was an avid reader, amassing a large library of inspirational books.

Before retirement, Sis. Christine helped in all phases of farm operations, working long hours both inside and outside the home. She was a faithful steward of all God placed in her hands. Her faith guided her family in the path of righteousness and her prayers always supported them and others. She sent many cards and letters to those who needed an encouraging word. Her labors of love will be surely missed.

She is survived by her husband, Bro. Paul Eck, of the home; two sons, Gary of San Antonio, TX, Terry and wife, Tina, of Enid, OK; three brothers, Kenneth Bock and wife, Hazel, of Guthrie, OK, Ted Bock of Tulsa, OK, and Ronnie Bock and wife, Jeanie, of Sapulpa, OK; and two grandsons, Tony and Jonathan Eck, of Las Vegas, NV, besides a great host of other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were held November 16, 2002, in Enid, OK, and burial was in Pleasant Hill Cemetery near Meno, OK. The attending ministers were Bro. Leslie Busbee and Sis. Marsha Corteway.

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Mary Alma Clark Hughes, 65, of Vanceburg, KY, died Wednesday, October 30, 2002, at her home.

Born August 6, 1937, in Vanceburg, she was a daughter of Manneth Clark of Vanceburg and the late Gertrude Sparks Clark. She was a member of the Black Oak Church of God, where she was pastor of the church. She was also a homemaker.

Surviving, in addition to her father, are her

husband of 49 years, Meredith Hughes; three daughters, Debbie (Harold) Cooper of Tollesboro, Connie (Carson) Hall of Garrison, and Kathy (Mike) Applegate of Black Oak; two sons, Rick (Lynn) Hughes of Rectorville and Tim Hughes of Waverly, Ohio; three sisters, Lou (Roy) Chinn of Black Oak, Linda (Doug) Howard of Black Oak and Fonda (Jr.) Griffith of Black Oak; three brothers, Paul (Loretta) Clark of Lorain, OH, Herbert (Stephanie) Clark of Yakima, WA, and Rob (Julie) Clark of Black Oak; 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one brother, Ronald Dale Clark.

Services were conducted Saturday, November 2, 2002, at 1:00 p.m., at Black Oak Church of God in Black Oak. Bro. Larry Abbott officiated with burial in Lewis County Memory Gardens at Black Oak.

Thank You

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the saints for their prayers, cards and phone calls during Mary's sickness and passing. I appreciate them very much. I know she is in a better place today. May God bless each one is my prayer. —Bro. Meredith Hughes and family

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Sis. Zelda Edith Telford was born to John and Mina Ruth Clark on July 25, 1921. She left this life to be with the Lord on October 28, 2002, at the age of 81 years, 3 months and 3 days.

Zelda was born in Ten Strike, MN. She and her family moved to International Falls, MN, where she was brought up. Then the family moved to St. Joseph, MO. She moved to Los Angeles, CA, where she met and married Wallace Telford, who preceded her in death. To this union four children were reared.

Zelda met the people of God through Sis. Vera Forbes in 1949. She was an active member of the Church of God for over fifty years. Sis. Telford felt inspired to record the services of the Pacoima, Bakersfield and Fresno congregations. She was active until she became ill. Sis. Telford loved God's people.

Zelda was an interesting person and, of her many occupations, she was a registered nurse, a street car operator and, at one time, owned her own Thrift Shop and Rubbish company. If you knew Zelda, you knew she loved animals.

Zelda is preceded in death by her parents, four brothers and one sister. She leaves to cherish her memory four children: Robert of New Mexico, Joyce of Northfork, CA, Carol of

Rosamond, CA, and Teddy of Lancaster, CA; ten grandchildren; nineteen great-grandchildren; one sister, Vivian, and her husband Chuck Dallachie; two sisters-in-law, Alice Docker of Goleta, CA, and Virginia Clark of Oregon; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were officiated by Bro. Charles Taylor. She was laid to rest in Riverside Veterans Cemetery.



God's Special Mercy to Me

By Patricia M. Rhodes

"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23.

On Monday, October 28, I was involved in a serious automobile accident. A man driving under the influence was running from the police. He had already hit a car about a mile back, when he plowed into my car, totaling it. I later was told by the policeman that the driver had hit a total of five cars before being stopped by the police. Truly the Lord's mercy was with me. When he hit my car, I did not know it at the time, but according to an eyewitness' statement, I went airborne!

I was driving in the left lane. A split second before the accident, the Lord directed me to look into my rearview mirror. That prepared me to know what

was about to happen. "...When the enemy shall come in like a

"Since my injuries were not life threatening, they placed another injured victim in the ambulance with me. And guess who it was? The driver who hit me!"

flood, the spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him." Isaiah 59:19. The driver hit me so hard, that I and my almost 3000 pound car, careened to the right, across the right lane, the sidewalk, past several parked cars, and came to rest in the parking lot! When it landed, I could see that I was going to slam into some other parked cars head-on, but the Lord gave me the "presence of mind" to turn the steering wheel to the left. All of this took place in a matter of about 7 seconds. But it doesn't take the Lord a long time to work.

I have made it a practice for the last 15 years or so to wear my seat belt, and I believe that seat belts save lives and keep us from having worse

injuries during an accident. But I know, I truly know, that there was a Power, a definite Presence, in my car when the accident occurred. I could feel a wall of protection all around me. Not only was the presence of God's Holy angel holding me back, but there was a special comfort, a reassurance, a SOMETHING that I felt in the car that I cannot explain. "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." Psalm 34:7. "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." Psalm 91:11.

People came from all around. Someone said that something was leaking from the car. Instantly I got out. Later the policeman interviewing me said that he did not know how I maneuvered my car like I did, not hitting any other cars. And he did not know how I got out of the car, because when he went there to get my insurance verification, he had a very difficult time squeezing in that small space. Well, I know how. "...He preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked."

Afterwards the emergency departments arrived. The firemen put a cervical collar on my neck and strapped me onto a gurney, preparing me to go to Emergency. Although my injuries were minor, compared to what they could have been, I wanted to make sure that there were no broken bones, etc. I was placed in the ambulance. As I understand, another ambulance was called for the other people who were hurt. Since my injuries were not life-threatening, they placed

another injured victim in the ambulance with me. And guess who it was? The driver who hit me! He had been placed in handcuffs and other restraints. He was so angry to have been caught that he began using profanity. The paramedic gagged his mouth. He continued on with the profanity. I began praying for the Lord to rebuke the devil in the name of Jesus. Sure enough, he got quiet and seemed to have fallen into a sleep-like state. I never recalled him cursing again. Praise God! On our way to the Emergency, the Lord brought to my mind the Bible lesson we had just had the night before—"Love your enemies." I can truly say that the Lord blessed me to have no ill feelings against this man.

My husband and daughter met me at the

Emergency. I did not need any x-rays; I did not even have whiplash. The angel of the Lord placed his own, specialized cervical collar around my neck, protecting it. Glory to God! We walked out of the Emergency together. I was sore and shaken, had some severe bruises, but was none-the-less thankful and grateful for God's mercy.

My husband told me that a few hours before the accident he had prayed a special prayer for me, that the Lord would give me divine protection. He said that he usually prays for me during the day, but he said that this is the first time he recalled having prayed for protection. "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee." Psalm 91:7.

Although I had been through a traumatic ordeal, the Lord blessed me to drive the very next day, and I have been driving ever since.

So many people said that I was lucky. "Lucky," they say? No, I believe in Jesus, and the power of His might. Several times I have corrected different ones, including doctors and emergency workers, and I let them know that I am blessed, not lucky.

I am recuperating nicely. I still have some soreness and bruises, but I have nothing to complain about. My desire is to continue to live for the Lord. The Lord is worthy of my praise; He is worthy of my love for Him; He is worthy of my worship; He is worthy of my adoration.

"Committed to Thy Trust"

(continued from page 3)

sifting His people, the true and holy remnant, the ones who will follow Him all the way. Ezra 9:8 says, "And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the Lord our God, to leave us a remnant to escape,..." Oh, how I want to be part of that remnant! Saints, we have a precious and rare entity...one that has been handed down to us...this generation. We are responsible before God to lift up the standard, to hold it where it needs to be held. If we don't, who will?

How can I keep that which has been committed unto MY trust? I'm sure there are many things that could be mentioned here, but three ways came to my mind.

Keep a clear vision of the one, true, Church of God. I see her in my mind's eye, and she is glorious. She is sin free, unadulterated, undefiled, blameless, and she is **holy**. Do you have a clear vision of God's one, true Church?

Do you see His spotless bride? If you do, you should hold on to that vision. Guard it with everything you've got. If you don't, you should pray and seek God earnestly until He gives you that vision. Think of the saints that have gone on before us. They had that vision. They led and guided their generation; we must lead and guide ours. We are responsible before God to keep this vision alive and to instill it into the minds and hearts of our children. It is SO easy to lose that vision, to let it become unclear and distorted. Once we lose it, we have lost something more precious than gold.

Do not compromise. II Thessalonians 2:3 says, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first,..." Compromise is everywhere we look. People who once stood firmly against sin, are now accepting those very things and practicing them in their everyday lives. Does this not bring the fear of God before you when you see these things? It makes me tremble and shake in my spirit to think that it is possible for me also to lose out with God and compromise. God has committed this precious truth into MY trust. He cared enough for me that He let me be born into a Godly home where I was reared and raised in this way. How can I let Him down and not carry this on to MY next generation?

Be faithful at my post of duty. Just as soldiers are strategically placed in military maneuvers, so God places His soldiers in specific posts. You are not responsible for my post, neither am I responsible for yours. Your post may be on the opposite side of the world from mine, but we are both equally responsible to keep those things committed to our trust at our individual post. Our main post of duty is to our individual families. God blessed my dear husband, Kevin, and I with a beautiful, precious baby son, Zachary, almost two years ago. My feeling of responsibility to the truth has grown dramatically as I think and realize that if Kevin and I do not teach this child the right way, who will? We can't and won't let something so gravely important be left up to others who could let it slip. His little soul has been entrusted to Kevin's and my care. What an awesome responsibility! Papaw taught these truths to Mom, she and Dad taught them to me, now Kevin and I must teach them to Zachary. God has committed him to our trust. We must not let him down...he must know the precious truth as we know it.

Why Some Have Better Experiences Than Others

By C. W. Naylor

From the Book *Winning a Crown*

It is a fact commonly observed that some Christians have better experiences than others. This is true even from the beginning of their Christian life. The difference may be due to a number of things, but the most important cause for anyone's experiencing a lack of that abundance of grace all should have is no doubt found in the fact that he fails to yield himself to God as fully as he should.

This, of course, does not imply a refusal to yield fully, for that would be rebellion, and the soul could not be saved at all under such conditions. But in most instances it is undoubtedly due to the fact that the person does not comprehend the meaning and the necessity of complete surrender. He goes as far as he can see, and stops there, even though there are great fields of his nature that are as yet not fully yielded. Should rebellion spring from any of these, it would prove fatal to his soul life. When a question arises that involves this unyielded territory, he must immediately make a decision. He must either yield to God's will, or become a rebel. He cannot consciously refuse to conform himself to the will of God without grieving the Holy Spirit.

God yields himself to us as we yield to him and open the channel for grace. A full and complete yielding of ourselves opens wide this channel, and then grace flows into our hearts in abundance. It is in our power to close this channel and thereby hinder the flow of grace. Any reluctance on our part, therefore, to submit to the whole will of God obstructs the channel of grace, and results in a lack of spirituality in our lives. The Spirit works freely where there are no hindrances. Self-surrender is the hardest but most necessary thing. The more complete that surrender is, the more perfect is the working of God in the soul, and the more Christ-like we become.

It is not enough to surrender self to God, but surrender must be maintained. We must carefully guard ourselves lest we permit the

channel of grace to become obstructed. It may become obstructed at any time and in a great variety of ways. Self is liable to assert itself, and since it is possible at any time for us to withdraw our submission to God, no matter how spiritual we may have been or how much God may have worked in us, we must therefore be on our guard. We are so constituted that we naturally like our own ways and if we are not careful, we shall unconsciously choose our ways in preference to God's. But doing so cannot but react upon our spirituality.

Some are more spiritual than others because they exercise more diligence in their endeavor to conform themselves more perfectly to the will of God. Some grow very careless in this respect and just drift along any way. They take it for granted that they are the Lord's. They seem little concerned about becoming more perfectly His or about conforming themselves more perfectly to Him. They allow their attention to be taken up by the daily round of duties, by business affairs, by the ordinary things of life, and they give little thought to their drawing nearer to God. They, therefore, make little progress in the divine life. Many people are now not as spiritual as they were when they first began the Christian life. They have professed for years, but today they bear less of the fruits of the Spirit than they bore years ago. They have less of earnestness and power, and experience fewer of the manifestations of God's grace. Their zeal and their love have grown cold. What is the trouble? Is not the grace of God able to cause them to abound in all these qualities? It is not God's fault if they are not prospering—it is their own, because they have let the channel of grace be filled up. Keep open this channel in your soul. Seek day by day to get closer to God and to conform yourself more perfectly to him, then you may increase and develop and be enriched in God. But the keynote of spirituality is ever and always self-surrender.

What Bradley Owed

Adapted from Hugh T. Kerr
Submitted by Genevieve Carver

Bradley, a boy of about eight years old, had begun to learn the worth and value of money and found it was joy to own and buy things with it. He began to think of most everything in terms of money. He wanted to know the price of everything he saw. If something didn't cost much, it didn't seem to be worth anything at all.

You and I know that there are many things money can't buy. Some of them are the best things in the world. "The best things in life are free."

One morning when Bradley came to breakfast, he put a little folded piece of paper on his mother's plate. When his mother sat down she immediately opened it, as she saw that it was a note written by Bradley.

This is what Bradley had written:

<i>Mother owes Bradley:</i>	
<i>For washing dishes</i>	<i>2 dollars</i>
<i>For sweeping porch</i>	<i>1 dollar</i>
<i>For taking out trash</i>	<i>50 cents</i>
<i>For setting the table</i>	<i>1 dollar</i>
<i>For picking up scattered newspaper and magazines</i>	<i><u>50 cents</u></i>
<i>Total that Mother owes Bradley</i>	<i>5 dollars</i>

His mother smiled at Bradley when she read that, but she did not say anything.

When lunchtime came she put a bill on Bradley's plate, along with the five dollars. Bradley's eyes lit up when he saw the money and he smiled brightly. He stuffed the money into his pocket and began dreaming of what he would buy with his money.

Almost at once he saw a piece of folded paper beside his plate much like the first one. He opened it to find a bill from his mother.

It read:

<i>Bradley owes Mother:</i>	
<i>For ironing his shirts</i>	<i>nothing</i>
<i>For cooking and serving his food</i>	<i>nothing</i>
<i>For staying by his side during Chickenpox</i>	<i>nothing</i>
<i>For driving him to ball practice</i>	<i><u>nothing</u></i>
<i>Total that Bradley owes Mother</i>	<i>nothing</i>

Bradley was speechless as he sat looking at this new bill. He was only a few minutes in getting up and pulling the five dollars out of his pocket and placing them in his mother's hand.