

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.

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Regarding Not What I May See

By Bro. Bob Wilson

The Lord has given us eyes to see, ears to hear, the sense of touch to feel and through these senses we receive and process information. This is a wonderful blessing from the Lord that allows us to enjoy the beauty of the world that He created. Through these senses we also enjoy close friendships with family and friends. These God-given senses enable us to communicate and respond to the environment that surrounds us and to relationships. Where would we be without our senses? Yet these same senses can hinder us.

For some time I had been praying about a particular need. Upon finding other information, it made the need look much worse. I found myself retiring for the evening with a feeling of despair that seemed to slowly drain my inner strength of faith and courage. The need looked great, beyond human ability. Perhaps it was all loss; perhaps there was no hope.

I am thankful to be serving God, One that lives in and beyond the realm of human limitations. The next morning, as soon as I set my foot out of bed, the Lord began talking to me and opening scriptures to my understanding. God had the answers! There was hope yet! My heart burned within me. The Word gave me courage and strengthened my faith. What appears to be an impossibility to us is possible with God. He sees not as man sees.

Later, other scriptures came to mind revealing what had been so subtly taking place in my heart. When Moses sent the 12 spies out to view the land and get a report of the enemy and his strongholds, they were affected when they saw the giants. They were hindered in their faith (relationship with God). They began to wander in discouragement, confusion and frustration. Are you able to relate to the reality of their situation? Perhaps even as they, feeling as a tiny helpless grasshopper before the giants. I'm sure we all can. How many times have we forfeited the rest, peace, joy and victory that belongs to us because our faith was hindered by our own senses and feelings.

The account of Peter also came to mind. He walked on the waves; which often in scripture represent difficulty, trouble, sorrow and disappointment. He was actually held up on and walked on those waves. Held up by the power of God, an ability that he didn't have on his own. However, the scriptures relate that when he saw that the waves were boisterous he began to sink. What he saw affected him and actually

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hindered his faith. I'll have to confess that I too have been affected negatively, many more times than I like to recall, by what I heard, saw or felt along my Christian journey.

I have been challenged by a text found in Ecc. 11:4, "He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap." Oh how human we can be, so easily affected by what we see when it comes to God's work in spreading the gospel. Perhaps we see someone that from the surface appears to have no desire for God. From all appearances they are going the wrong direction and seem to like it. We can withhold sharing the gospel, as the Lord provides opportunity, because they appear to be uninterested. It is important to note that we as humans have a way of denying or disguising inner needs that we may have. Perhaps we see those that have found the deepest depths of sin and their life seems to be one big tangled up mess. Consequently, we can get certain types of people in our mind, thinking they would make a good Christian if they were saved. Yet the truth is that all can make good Christians if they were saved. The new birth is a new creation that goes beyond human ability—it is a miracle of new life. God can still untangle big messes. Let us continue to sow in hope beside all waters.

A scripture that relates vitally to our stability in the Christian life is found in Isaiah. He encourages us that our strength is to sit still. What does it mean for us to sit still? Especially, in a hustle, bustle culture. To still our feelings, emotions, thoughts and ideas into quiet sub-

missiveness is not always easy but an important goal for the Christian. It is failing at this juncture that I (perhaps you) have presumptuously gone in my own strength, my own opinions and ideas only to once again meet failure and discouragement. Our own human reasoning can look so attractive and yet be so deceptive.

Psalms 27:1 admonishes us to "wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." Is being still and waiting on the Lord just a "cop out" to not do anything; an excuse? Or is there a divine reality that every heart can personally experience of the strength, stability and glory of the Lord when it comes to us through His living Word. Not just a letter that carries no application or substance. But one that is alive with strength, hope, courage and has been anointed by God to accomplish a specific purpose. Stilling ourselves and waiting puts you and me in a position to be able to see and hope beyond our present circumstances.

There will always be giants that appear and feel so overwhelmingly insurmountable. Perhaps they are giants of difficulty, temptation, persecution or hurt. Perhaps it is a walled in, fortified area in my own life that gives me difficulty time and time again. Let us be encouraged to understand that they will fall in time when consistently confronted with the anointed Word living in us.

Dear saints, let us not focus on the things which are seen. The Lord still has the fullness and answers to meet every need and challenge we may face in life. He is still God!



"Take Heed That No Man Deceive You."

By Bro. Larry Abbott

In Matthew 24, the disciples asked Jesus of the signs of His coming and of the end of the world. The very first thing Jesus told them was, "Take heed that no man deceive you." It seems Christ's greatest concern was that we know and understand the truth. In John 14:6 Jesus said, "...I am the way, the truth, and the life:..." He told His disciples that He would send them a comforter. In John 16:13 He said, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:..."

There is a great need among God's people to be purged of self and the world so we can

operate in God's realm. When we learn to operate in the realm of the Holy Spirit, it is remarkable how much closer to God we feel, and how much of Himself He will reveal to us. Being filled with the Spirit is a continuous appropriation, it is not some great "high and mighty," "once in a lifetime" moment where you experience the fullness of the Spirit and from then on you are at an all time "high" that never wanes. It takes a continual seeking and searching for His wisdom and understanding to know how we are to walk before Him. We need the Spirit's protection to keep us from becoming deceived.

The devil has many things in the religious world to "influence" us. He is operating in these last days under a great "spirit of influence." If he can't persuade us to become too "strict" on a standard, he will show us a way that is less than what the Bible teaches. He appeals to the flesh. Keep in mind, the devil's main work is to deceive. The apostle Paul said, "We are not ignorant of his devices." Dear ones, can we see the desperate need of the Holy Spirit to make us sensitive to the truth of God's Holy Word? The truths that have been handed down to us are so valuable.

When the children of Israel crossed the Jordan River, they were commanded to take twelve stones "out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm," and they were placed in the land of Canaan for a memorial to their posterity. Today we have a heritage from which to draw our faith and trust in the living God that is so rich and deep. We have seen and experienced God's salvation delivering from the bondage of sin, His healing power to raise the sick, and His never failing grace to help His people in times of trouble. We want to proclaim that God is well able to do

these things today! People are definitely changing and losing their fear of God, but, praise His holy name, our God can never change! Isaac digged again in the wells of his father, Abraham, and called them by the same names. (Gen. 26:18.) Oh, how we need to dig deep in the wells of our fathers—the early brethren. Those wells of deep sincerity, deep humility, deep devotion, deep spirituality, deep godliness and deep holiness of life. We must separate ourselves from the evils of the world and worldly things. Proverbs 22:28 says, "Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set." When holy men of God have tried and proven God's Word and ways, let us consider the value to take heed to the truth that has been given to us.

May God help us to live a consecrated, dedicated, separated life unto God which characterized the saints of the early church. Paul said, "Be filled with the Spirit." This is what we need today. The Holy Spirit's protection is so valuable to our eternal soul, and to the glorifying of God's kingdom on earth. Let us all remember the words of Christ. "Take heed that no man deceive you."

May God bless His children everywhere.



Preparing for the Final Exam

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

Have you ever been eager to take an examination, a school exam, a driving exam, a college exam or a job exam? Most of us will agree that exams usually make us anxious, concerned about the outcome. Before an exam, a person will study the material that will prepare them to make a good score. Then when the appointed time comes for the written or oral examination, they will be ready.

We will take the greatest examination of our lives after we die. In Hebrews 9:27 we read, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Just as death is certain for each one of us, so is the final exam given by God. "Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained;..." Acts 17:31. "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ..." Rom. 2:16.

There will be no escape from this last examination of life and the first score will be the final outcome. Either a person will go to heaven to live with Jesus and the angels forever, or to the burning hell prepared for the devil and his angels for eternal torment. (Mat. 25:31-32; Rev. 20:12; Jude 14-15.)

Since we know this final judgment day or appointed examination is coming, doesn't it seem reasonable to prepare ourselves for it? Wouldn't it be sensible to take pretests over our lives before we come to the final exam? King David wrote, "Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart." Psa. 26:2. While we have time on earth to make positive changes in our lives, we should ask the Lord to examine our hearts and see if there be any failing defect in us.

(Continued on page 12)

FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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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.

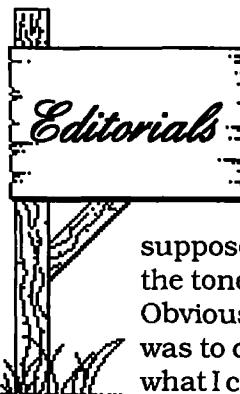
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I remember some years ago taking a hearing test. They had me to put a pair of headphones on and the examiner played different tones through the headset with varying intensity. I was supposed to indicate when I heard the tone and which ear I heard it in. Obviously the purpose of the test was to determine if I could hear and what I could hear. Our ability to hear is a wonderful blessing that has been given to mankind. The delicate, sensitive mechanism that was engineered by God to allow us to hear is a miracle of His creation.

I have noticed children sometimes when their parents speak to them in a normal, audible voice, that it seems they do not hear. It is almost as if they have a hearing impairment. Perhaps the parent tells the child, "quit kicking the bench" and the child appears not to hear and keeps right on kicking the bench. The parent sometimes thinks, well the child didn't hear me. I will have to speak louder so they can hear me. They then raise their voice and tell the child, "Quit kicking the bench." What happens at this point may vary with the individual family and child. The child may suddenly be able to hear and stop the disturbing activity, or it may still not seem to hear and continue on. Some parents wind up screaming at their children, others don't because they realize that it is not a hearing problem that the child has.

There are things that can keep someone from hearing besides a problem with their ears. If a person is asleep, they do not recognize what is going on around them. They can become so absorbed in their own thoughts that they don't hear someone call. They can be distracted and not hear. There can be other loud noises that drown out other sounds. They could be so far away that the sound is below the threshold of hearing. And of course, they could be dead. That was the challenge Ezekiel was faced with when the Lord took him to the valley of dry bones and told him to, "...Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD."

People today are having problems hearing the Word of the Lord, the voice of the Lord and discerning the spirit of the Lord. It is not limited to those who are dead and do not know God, but even those who call themselves His children

and they do have ears. Jesus used variations of the phrase "he that hath ears to hear, let him hear" several times in the New Testament. This hearing problem has not only affected us today, but it has been a problem with mankind since Adam and Eve tried to hide in the garden when the Lord came by. Satan is using many things today to make the hearing problem worse. Sleep, self-absorption and distraction are having a terrible affect on people today.

A few months ago I went into an Ultimate Electronics store that had its showroom packed with the latest full color, Big Screen, High Definition, Dolby Surround Sound home entertainment systems. If absorption and distraction was a problem in Jesus' day, satan certainly has some good tools today. As the new editor of the *Faith and Victory*, I thought, "O, Lord, we don't have a chance. We can't compete with this. Nobody wants to read a black and white paper when they can sit and be entertained with one of these." The Lord made me realize that there are deep yearnings of the heart that still cry out for God. These yearnings are not satisfied simply with entertainment no matter how grand and expensive the machine is. Unfortunately, the entertainment is causing the voice of the Lord to be obscured.

God is gently calling His people to open their hearts and minds to hear His voice today. In the 19th Psalm David wrote, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard." The ancient tribes of the earth have heard and worshipped in the light of this call, but God has given us more understanding. He has given us His law and His Holy Word, they have given us much insight into the way that He wants us to live. Yet, man can have the Law and the Word and still be legalistic and oppressive. God wants to give us more in addition to these. He wants to give us His Spirit to abide in our heart and instruct us in the way of Truth and Holiness. For us to be able to live in true Holiness the way God would have us, we must be able to hear the still small voice of His Spirit speaking to our hearts and then we must hearken to His voice. To hearken means to hear intelligently and indicates our intention to obey. In Deut. 28:2 it says; "And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy

God." The chapter enumerates some of the blessings that will come if we hearken unto His voice.

We, as the people of God, will be able to experience greater unity and manifestations of His presence as we pay closer attention to the voice of His Spirit and not only hear but also hearken unto His voice. He will take delight in us and we will be delighted in Him!

We are happy to report that progress is still being made in the work here at the Lord's Print Shop. We have had our adversities but the Lord is faithful to deliver us. We serve a mighty God. The small book *Life Sketches of Sarah Smith* has been reprinted. It is ready to be folded and stitched. This book has been out for some time and we are thankful it can be back in stock shortly. The book *Parent and Child* by J. W. Byers is currently on the press being reprinted. It should also be ready in the coming month.

On January 13, a dark cloud hung over the Print Shop. Sis. Janie Woodruff, one of our faithful workers, suffered a stroke that affected the left side of her body. The coordination of her left hand was greatly diminished to the extent that her writing was not legible and her typing skill was greatly reduced. The fact that she is left-handed has made the resulting loss of coordination a great hindrance to her. She did not seem to suffer a lot of pain with it and we are thankful that it appears the Lord has kept it from progressing further since it first occurred. We are earnestly looking to the Lord to help her recover from its debilitating effect and to control the problems in her body that have caused it.

Sis. Janie is greatly needed here in the work of the Lord. She handles the accounting, invoices and statements on the orders that come in for Gospel literature. She also manages the mailing lists for our publications and keeps our computer files updated with the changes of addresses, new and renewal subscription information. She is one of our main proofreaders and is very helpful in many other aspects of the work. We are grateful for her willingness to serve the Lord here and fill these needed responsibilities.

She has been able to come back to work on a more flexible schedule, and we have observed that the Lord has brought about a marked improvement in her coordination. Our heart is

lifted to the heavenly Father to completely restore her to health. We also appreciate your prayers for her that this dark shadow will be lifted and bring glory to His name.

Next month we are going to remove all of the names on our standing prayer request list except those that have asked to be on it within the last couple of months. I am sure there are some who would still like for their name to be included on the list, so I ask you to call or write us and let us know that you still want your name included.

Camp meeting time will be coming again before we realize it. We would like for you to send in your camp meeting dates this month so we can publish them in time for the saints to plan their vacations. We are looking for the Lord to bless His people with a great outpouring of His spirit this year. Be praying that the work of the Lord will be effectual in reaching the lost and that the Church of God will experience positive growth this year. —Bro. Willie E. Murphrey
wemurphrey@yahoo.com



LA—I am thankful the dear Lord blesses me as He does in soul and body. Bro. Manuel and Sis. Marie Mitchell are still in need of prayer. Continue to remember me in prayer.

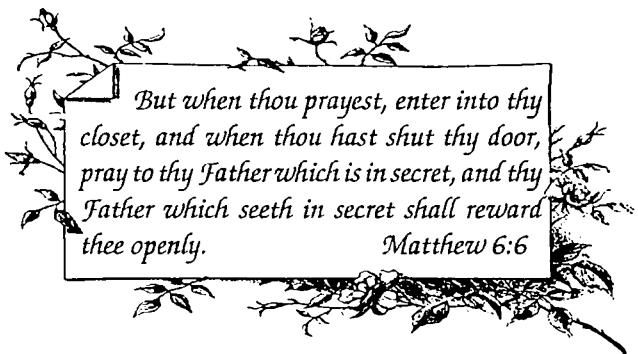
—Sis. Velma Mancil

LA—This is another day our Lord has made and I am rejoicing and glad in it! God is still blessing me. I can drive my car and even help others. But I still have back problems and I desire prayer. —Sis. Audrey Carver

KY—Please pray for Maneth Clark, soul and body. He is the father of the late Sis. Mary Hughes. Recently a physical affliction has caused him to be unable to walk. —Sis. Priscilla Cooper

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. Ruth McMakin
Sis. Bertha Miles
Bro. Allan Miller
Sis. Virginia Myers
Sis. Dollie O'Neill
Bro. O. C. Porter
Sis. Melba Powell
Sis. Anna Severs
Sis. Catherine Shaffer
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

Bakersfield, CA (Revival)—Feb. 12-16
Ministers' Meeting (Guthrie, OK)—March 6-8
Alcoa, TN (Sister's Retreat)—June 20-22



MEETING NOTICES

REVIVAL MEETING, BAKERSFIELD, CA

We are praying and expecting a special outpouring of God's spirit at our annual revival, which will be held Feb. 12-16. There will be two services daily at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Sunday school will begin at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday worship services will be at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

We extend an invitation for anyone to come and be with us. We urge you to join us in praying that many will be blessed. For more information contact our pastor, Bro. Hayward Cox, at (661) 836-3877. The Church of God chapel is located at 1802 Virginia Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93307.

—Sis. Janice Herring

GENERAL MINISTERS' MEETING

Dear saints: Lord willing, there will be a General Ministers' Meeting at The Church of God Chapel in Guthrie, OK. The first meeting will begin Thursday, March 6th, at 9 a.m., and the last session will end at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 8th.

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

We would also like to give attention to Bible topics relative to the ministry. We would humbly ask that any questions be submitted prior to the meeting to allow the ministry time to prayerfully consider them. Please keep your questions brief (three sentences or less) and as concise as possible. Questions can be submitted to the Church of God Ministry by Feb. 15th, in care of Bro. Charles Lowe, 1823 North Main, Tulsa, OK 74106, or Bro. James Bell, at the following e-mail address: triciaskitchen@juno.com or Bro. Keith Fuller, 244 Storer Ave., Akron, OH 44302.

Please contact Bro. Delmar and Sis. Brenda Wilkins at (405) 282-0566 for lodging sugges-

tions. We need to know how many are coming in order to plan for the meals, so please R.S.V.P. soon.

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

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

Yours for the work of the Lord,

—Bro. Stanley Dickson

ALCOA, TN WEEKEND SISTER'S RETREAT

A weekend sister's retreat is being planned for June 20-22 for sisters beginning at the age of 25 years old. So that we can have an idea of what you would like to discuss at this retreat, we would appreciate it if you would send in topics and ideas that you would be interested in discussing.

For some time, I have had a burden for the sisters. Please pray that the Lord will have His way and bless this retreat.

Accommodations will be provided. However, if you would like to stay in a hotel, we can provide you with that information.

If you would like additional information, please contact Sis. Mary McDonald at (865) 977-6997 or Sis. Carrie Porter at (865) 984-2348. If you wish to send your comments via postal mail you may write to Sis Mary McDonald, 117 Dawnbrook Drive, Maryville, TN 37804.

VANCEBURG, KY MEETING REPORT

KY—The Saints at Vanceburg, KY are very thankful for how the Lord blessed in the weekend services we had Jan. 18-19. Bro. Marty Clevenger and his family felt a burden to come and be with us. Bro. Preston & Sis. Rita Vulgamore also came from Ohio to be in the meeting. Our hearts are rejoicing for the souls that were saved. The presence of the Lord was with us convicting and sweetly encouraging the saints to draw closer to Him.

We appreciate how the Lord has been laying a burden on the heart of His ministers to come to Vanceburg for services since the Lord saw fit to take Sis. Mary Hughes from us. The Lord has promised to "never leave us, nor forsake us" and we are thankful that His promises are true.

—Sis. Priscilla Cooper

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS



KS—Dear Bro. Willie and saints everywhere: May God bless each one in this New Year of 2003. The 21st century is moving right along. Let us as saints keep moving right along with Jesus. He is leading us to heaven and He will get us there safely.

The world is in such turmoil with many people believing anything but the right thing. It is so good to know that Jesus is the way and to be fully persuaded to follow Him.

Being a real Christian is a great way to live. We live the more abundant life and have peace and satisfaction. I just love being a saint of God and I mean by His grace to go right on until my crown is won. I invite anyone and everyone to join up with Jesus and experience real ecstasy.

Christian love, —Sis. Shirley Knight

CA—Dear Workers: Greetings in Jesus' name. Thank you for your recent supply of tracts sent last month. We continue to distribute them, praying they will awaken someone.

We find encouragement in reading articles and testimonies in past yearbooks. Many have passed on but their life still speaks. May the Lord continue to bless the published word.

Sincerely, —Sis. Olive Davenport

CA—Dear Willie: I am happy to report that all is well with me. I am not the best physically but I am high spiritually. I am enjoying my new home at the Sunset Guest Home in Pacoima. There is much work to be done here and the labor goes on regularly.

We recently finished our camp meeting and it was among the best we have experienced. Many souls were saved. The preaching was exceptional and the results good.

God bless your labor of love and may He expand your work. Now unto Him who raiseth Jesus from the dead, be glory, majesty and honor, In Jesus name we ask. Amen.

—Bro. Robert Mickelson

OR—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings in Jesus' name, the name above all names. I trust this will

find all at the Print Shop doing well and happy in the Lord.

I well remember a Sis. White in the Jefferson congregation in the late 1930's who, when asked how she was, would say, "I'm so happy in the Lord," and her life truly bore that out. We have to live right to be happy in the Lord and I think the apostle Paul gives good instruction for right living in II Cor. 1:12. "...That in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God." Jesus said we must be like a little child to enter the kingdom of heaven and every day I pray for His will, and not my own, to be done in my life in all things.

With Christian love and prayers,

—Bro. Bill Busch

MO—Dear ones at the Print Shop: The second week of January 2003, I traded for an '88 Chevy pickup. It was about a week before I got the tags on it, that was the 12th of January. My son David needed it to go to work and take some feed troughs up to some calves as he went to work, so I had to take my car to work. I didn't like to try to drive it on bad roads, but the next day about an hour before it was time for me to come home, it rained just a little and then started snowing. I guess the rain had frozen in spots.

As I was coming home my car hit a slick spot and left the road. It tore my car up and hurt my chest. I have been off work since then, as my chest hurt so bad. There was a week that I could not lay down at all, but I am able to now. I went back to work Monday night (1-20-03) and worked two nights. But they said I had better stay home for the next two nights, as some of the feeding equipment does not work right in real cold weather. It will freeze-up in the silo and they have to go up and start it. I can't go up in the silo, so one of them would have to be there for that anyway. Oh, in the mean time, I have a Jeep to drive, so we have two rigs to drive again.

The Lord has helped and been with me all the time. I just can't thank Him enough for how He has helped me. He is so good to us. I am glad too that I gave Him my life and have Him to help me all the time.

Your Brother in Christ, —Clayton Gaines

TN—Dear Saints and Friends: Greetings in Jesus' precious name, a name worthy to be praised. Amen.

I am thankful that the Lord brought me over to another New Year and I'm still saved. Praise the Lord!

I was ministering to the congregation on the last Sunday of the year 2002, and I asked them if they had a name for God and how He's been to them for the year, what would His name be? They began one by one saying, "Wonderful," "Blessed," "Helper," "Provider," "Gracious," "Problem Solver" and "Comforter," along with an explanation. But, O Glory, I told them mine was "Faithful."

Getting back to work after the holidays (I work third shift) and upon wakening after prayer and meditating on God's Word, He gave me a song, pg. 56, The Faithfulness of God. He only gave me the chorus and one verse.

Chorus: Oh trust in God, Oh trust in God, Oh trust in God, Oh trust in the faithful God.

Verse 3: The word he has spoken shall forever stand, It will never pass away. By it were the heavens made the sea and all the land, It is surely the same today.

"For I am the Lord, I change not...." Mal. 3:6.

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday and to day and forever." Heb. 13:8.

"For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." Psa. 119:89.

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is." Jer. 17:7.

"They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness." Lam 3:23

"...and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds." Psa. 36:5.

O Praise the Lord for His faithfulness. Our God is great and is greatly to be praised. I will ever thank the Lord for His faithfulness to me and pray that I can be just as faithful to Him as He has been to me.

Sincerely, One who means to go on,

—Sister Mary McDonald

SC—Dear Saints: Our hearts are burdened for a family in need, Andy and Marie Weatherford. The husband and father has been out of work for several months following back surgery. He recently found out that he will not be released to go back to work until May, or maybe even longer. They are in serious financial need at this time. They have two young boys, and are in danger of losing their home. Please pray for this family.

—Sis. Cheryl Smith

(For more information about this family you may contact Bro. Carl Shaffer (803) 492-3256. —Editor)

BC Canada—Dear Sir: Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today I begin to live the days of the eightieth year of my being on this earth. When I was thirty-eight years old, I was born from above. Thank you, Lord!

In the beginning of 1962, I died and was on my way to Hell and when I was but 75 feet or so from its doors, One, who was with me granted my request to let me go back in my body. I promised Him that I would never again sin, but He said, "Go back in your body but you will still sin." As you can imagine, I've spent years trying to find a way to live here without sinning.

One day I prayed to the Lord Jesus, asking what would happen if I read the book of Romans and believed the words, after understanding what I read, and then did what the words said. Instantly two hands appeared over my head holding a big chain. The hands pulled on the chain breaking it in two. From this I understood the power of sin is broken by believing what God says in the book of Romans. Of course, He will have us believe every word of His Scriptures, but I was seeking to be free from sin.

When I witness as to how the Lord Jesus Christ made me free from sinning, very few receive it. I'm hoping you will believe me.

Yours in Christ, —Bro. S. E. Cousineau

From India...

Jan. 17, 2003—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to all of you dear ones again this New Year in the glorious name of Jesus. Thank you for your letter dated Jan. 6 and the enclosures were noted with much appreciation. May God bless each dear one who prays and supports our labors in India.

We thank God for the blessings He showered on our 38th General Convention last week which ended with many blessings and victories. Bible studies, morning services, night meetings, baptismal service, feet washing and the Lord's Supper, Ministers' meeting and etc. were real good.

Two brothers from Meghalaya state, which is about 3500 Km from our place, also attended our convention. They speak Khasi language as well as English. Meghalaya is a state on the north eastern side of India. I have the desire to visit them and Lord willing our work can be started there. Let us exchange our prayers.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese



Opal Bernice Bradley was the youngest daughter born to Hattie (Lamberson) and Jesse Everette on May 15, 1925 at Grubbs, Ark. She died on Jan 4, 2003 at the age of 77 years at the Chetopa Manor Nursing Home.

In her early teens, Opal got saved and had a tender conscience to do those things that pleased her Lord. As a member of the Church of God, she taught the Junior Sunday School class.

At the age of nineteen she and Roy Madison Bradley were married in the home of a minister at Newport, AR. To this union one daughter, who died at the age of 2 months, and three sons were born. They lived on a farm near Weiner, AR and she worked alongside her husband chopping and picking cotton. They raised a large garden and after working in the fields all day she would come in and can produce until late at night.

On an old treadle sewing machine, Opal made shirts for the boys. She also enjoyed making quilts and quilting them by hand. She was a faithful wife and mother. When the boys were out at night they could count on Mama being up watching and praying' until they got home. She was on her knees praying for mercy for her son, Luther, the night he died.

After the boys were grown, they moved to Grubbs, AR and Opal worked as a housekeeper. In 1979, they moved to rural Bartlett, KS. After Roy passed away in 1984, she moved to Shawnee, OK and worked for 18 years as a laundress. She was a blessing to the sick by going into the homes of different ones and staying as long as needed. Because of failing health, she moved back to KS in Feb. 2001.

After falling and breaking her arm this past November, she was admitted to the Chetopa Manor Nursing Home. We thank God for His mercy in sending the angels while she was sleeping to carry her to her eternal home. No more changes in life, no more heartaches.

Her husband, Roy; daughter, Lela Mae; and one son, Luther, preceded her in death.

She leaves to cherish her memory, two sons, Randel and DeLoris Bradley of Bartlett, KS and Jerry and Joyce Bradley of Searcy, AR; 10 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren; two sisters, Ivie Mross of Pleasanton, TX and Mattie Kagen of Newport, AR; and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

The family would like to thank each one for their prayers, thoughts and expressions of love during this time.

The funeral service was conducted on January 7, 2003 at Bath Funeral Home in Chetopa, KS with Bro. Michael Smith and Bro. Ivan Eck officiating.

— — — — —

Mary Ellen Cooks, the youngest daughter of the late Robert T. and Mary I. House, was born on March 23, 1942 in Dover, OK. She departed this life on October 22, 2002 in Wichita, KS at the age of 60 years and 7 months. Her parents, five sisters and one grandchild preceded her in death. The House family moved to Wichita in 1947. Mary (Ella Mae, as many family members and friends knew her) attended school at L'Ouverture, Horace Mann and North High in Wichita.

Mary had worked with the Head Start program in Wichita and was office manager at the American Heart Association until her retirement after 28 years of employment there. She loved to write/type letters and send cards to friends and relatives, collect pictures and do things to help others. Mary gave of herself to those she loved and she received joy, peace and love. She was special to many because many were special to her. She will be greatly missed by all that knew her. She leaves to mourn, then cherish her memory; two sons, Darryl J. Cooks and Gary L. Cooks, both of Wichita; three grandchildren, Gary L. Cooks Jr., Stephanie Clardys (Cooks) and Calienta Cooks; five sisters, Ardelia E. Ballard, Virgie L. Logan, Sonya M. House, Gaynell N. Ross all of Wichita, KS, Ora D. Scruggs of Modesto, CA; a cousin, Marvin Phillips Sr. and his wife Elverta were her

special brother and sister; one uncle, Lincoln "Demp" House; two aunts-in-law, Delores House and Glennell Gracey; nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

The funeral services on October 30, were officiated by Bro. Emmanuel Gracey. Her body was laid to rest at the Maple Grove Cemetery.

A. K. (Ken) Hutchinson was born December 9, 1922 to Gerald and Elsie Hutchinson in Mulvane, KS. He was the fourth of seven children. He went to be with the Lord November 11, 2002 after a lengthy illness. His parents and eldest brother, Clyde Hutchinson, preceded him in death.

He married Ruby Whishon on October 21, 1945. They had 57 years together and reared two children. He is survived by his wife, Ruby; Dean and Deborah Hutchinson (son and daughter-in-law); grandsons, Kevin Scott and Aaron Dean Hutchinson; Anita and Terry Tillett (daughter and son-in-law); grandsons, Eric Matthew and Aaron Richard Tillett. Also surviving are brothers, Eldon and Herbert; sisters, Bernice, Ruth and Marie.

Services were held at Weddle Mortuary in Stayton, OR, November 15, 2002. Bro. Bob Wilson, pastor of the Church of God in Jefferson, OR officiated. He was laid to rest at Fairview Cemetery at Gates, OR.

I thank the Lord for His help and blessings to me and our children at the passing of our dear husband, father and grandpa. The prayers, food and every kindness was much appreciated. A special "thanks" to those who were with us at the last. God bless you all.

Sincerely,

—Sis. Ruby Hutchinson and family

Lois Elizabeth Prichard was born May 29, 1927, in Wichita, KS and departed this life December 29, 2002, in Wichita at the age of 75. She was the daughter of Lloyd and Luella Macy. At the age of 16 she married Dee Johnson and to this union six children were born. In 1969 she married Lee Prichard and acquired three more sons. She worked as a ward clerk in Pediatrics at Wesley Medical Center for 32 years, retiring when her health began to fail several years ago. She made and decorated cakes for a number of years, often burning the midnight oil to be sure the cakes were real pretty.

Lois attended the Church of God and was a faithful and devoted member. She loved being at church and attended as long as she was able to press out when she was sorely afflicted. She loved the Lord and was able to submit to and look forward to going home to heaven after being told in October that her time was short.

Her survivors include her faithful husband Lee; three sons, Jimmy and Don Johnson of Neosho, MO; Danny of Howard, KS, Lloyd "Buddy" of Wichita, KS; two daughters, Jerry Lou Dody of Portland, OR and Barbara Sisk of Leon, KS; Three stepsons, Robert Lee, William and Ronnie Prichard; two brothers, Don Macy of Idaho, Lloyd "Sonny" Macy of FL; two sisters, Barbara Bohn of Wichita, Joanie Bohn of Columbus, OH; 18 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; a number of other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were officiated by Bro. Emmanuel Gracey. She was laid to rest in the White Chapel Memorial Gardens.

Bro. Walter Watson was born May 2, 1923 in Huffman, OK to Mrs. Ruth and Mr. Walter Watson, natives of LA and GA. He was the second of five children. He passed from this life November 18, 2002 at the age of 79. His parents, two brothers and one sister preceded him in death.

Walter worked on a farm for much of his young life, until his parents relocated in Oklahoma City. He was later employed at the Oklahoma Paper Co. until he retired.

Walter answered the call to salvation in 1989 and attended Green Pastures Church of God under the leadership of Bro. Charles Chandler until his health failed him.

Walter leaves to cherish his memory one daughter, Mrs. Rose Regina Walker and husband Bobby Walker; two grandchildren, Bobby Jr. and Deliece Walker, all of Oklahoma City; one brother, Willard Watson; niece, Luticia Chinedu of the home; a host of other nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, cousins, saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted on November 19, 2002. Bro. Charles Chandler officiated. His burial followed in the Trice Hill Cemetery, Oklahoma City, OK.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." —Psalms 116:15

Preparing For the Final Exam

(Continued from page 3)

Is there wickedness in me? Sin, the transgression of God's law, separates us from the Lord. (Rom. 3:20-23.) If we feel a distance between us and God, then we should take inventory of our thoughts, attitudes, words and actions to see if there is any disobedience in us. Have I disobeyed the written Word of God? Did I fail to obey a whispered command from the Holy Spirit? Any time the Holy Spirit checks a sanctified Christian and shows them an error in their life, they have a responsibility to follow His leadings to correct it. (James 4:17.)

Jesus talked about the agreement of the Word and the Holy Spirit that "...will reprove the world of sin,..." John 16:8. Jesus told His disciples "...the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14:26. Deep love for our Lord Jesus Christ will compel us to study the written Word of God, listen to the Holy Spirit's dealings and then apply this agreement to our lives.

In the same passage of scripture Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." As we read through the parables and the lessons that Jesus taught, we need to examine our hearts and ask, "Am I obeying the commands of Jesus?" "Does my spirit or attitudes reflect His image?" If we see an error or fault, let us be quick to correct it so that our communion with the Lord is not broken.

What we think about is often what we talk about. Our words tattle on our heart. Mean, immoral, inconsiderate words should not come from a sanctified heart. Jesus rebuked such a shame: "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasures of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things." Mat. 12:34,35 "Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be."

James 3:9-10. If there are words slipping through our lips that are not Christ-like, then we need to examine our hearts, identify the problem, and by the grace of God destroy the bad attitude that caused the wrong words to come from our mouths.

If our hearts are trusting in the Lord, then peace, purity, love and other good seeds will germinate our words and produce fruits of righteousness. Praise and rejoicing easily flows from a pure heart. It is by the word of our testimony that we overcome the enemy of our soul. (Rev. 12:11.) "For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Mat. 12:37. How careful we should be that the spirit of our words be of Jesus Christ! Oh, Lord, examine my words and my heart that there be no wicked attitudes flowing from me! The deeds that we do and the places that we choose to go also portray the contents of the heart. Do our works show faith in God as Father Abraham's did? (James 2:17-26.) At the great judgement day our works will be tried by fire. The stubble, wood and hay of fleshly desires will burn away and only the gold, silver and precious stones of spiritual works will be treasures for heaven. (I Cor. 3:11-15.) Do we spend more time in playing or in praying? Do we read the newspaper more or the Bible? Do we neglect to help those in need because we want something bigger and better ourselves? Why waste so much energy working for the flesh when we can use our time and talents to encourage others to serve the Lord.

Now is the time to examine our daily work and see how many treasures we are laying up in heaven. God has given us life, time, money and talents—are we using them for His glory? On the final exam, our stewardship must meet the Judge's approval. (Mat. 25:14-30.) Time will be over and there will be no second chance to work for the Lord.

How prepared are we for the final exam? Check over the list: no sin, obedience to the written Word and the Holy Spirit, good words, spiritual works—all under the blood of Jesus Christ. Study and know what will be expected of you on that final Judgment Day. "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling," knowing that our God is a consuming fire purging out all impurities that will hinder us from passing the final exam. (Phil. 2:12; Heb. 12:29.)

DECISION

By Grace E. Kriebel
G.T. Feb. 26, 1903
100 years ago

Decision is one of the most necessary principles of the human character, and, when actuated by the Spirit of God, it becomes a mighty thunderbolt against the forces of the devil. It is that which every child of God must have in order to ever reach heaven and immortal glory; for there are so many ways which satan has schemed to bewitch and seduce God's elect from the path of righteousness, that, in order to keep under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, we must have a decided, No, to all his suggestions, and a decision to go through at any cost. Just as soon as our decision weakens, our faith becomes weak, and inroads to our souls are made by the devil. We are not able to trust God for the fulfillment of His contract, if we are letting down a little here and there, and are undecided.

When we first started out in this blessed way to serve God with all our heart it took all there was for us, and how gladly did we lay aside every weight and the sin which did so easily beset us, and felt that we could run with patience the race that was set before us. But how is it today? Are the same weights laid aside never to be taken up again? Are you as decided against them as you were then, or have you, like Lot's wife, looked back? The Word tells us that "No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:62.

One of the most successful ways satan has of weakening the decision is by getting you to neglect secret prayer and earnest devotion to God, perhaps, making you feel that your work is so rushing, or temporal duties so great, that you must attend to them first; and, if you will let down just a little the first time, he will try it again and again until God finally lets you into a good hard battle with the devil, and you are awakened to the fact that you are weak, and God, far off. Little by little you have been bending to his forces, until you are captured and overcome.

"Let us run with patience." I like this thought, and truly it is sweet to the soul who is all given up to God, and whose only object in life is to live to please the great Giver of all good. Do you feel yourself to be as patient in this race for God as you were ten years ago when you first gave your heart to Him, or has your patience grown threadbare at times, and have you given away a little?

If this be the case, stop and examine the heart, and look well to it, before another day shall pass by, that you are decided to go the whole way with God. Satan would like to have you pass on with a profession without the real possession. But, if this is not your experience and you are on the Bible line, then give no listening ear to the enemy of your soul. We are weak of ourselves, but if wholly given up into the hands of God, He will uphold us and be to us strength in every battle. "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him." Isa. 59:19. We have no time to grow faint-hearted, but the Lord commanded, "Be strong and of a good courage." What are the trials of this life to compare with the grandeur and beauties of heaven?



FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH

By C. W. Naylor
From the Book *Heart Talks*

Paul said, "Fight the good fight of faith." This world is a battle-ground of spiritual forces. If we are spiritual beings, it is impossible that we should hold ourselves neutral and stand apart from those forces that are in conflict. We must stand on one side or the other of the battle array. Jesus has said, "He that is not with me is against me." Since we must be in the conflict whether we will to be or not, it behooves us to be on the right side. When we know that we are on the right side, then the thing of greatest importance to us is the method of our warfare. Since we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities and powers of evil, it is not strange that our weapons should be "not carnal" weapons, which are effective against material foes, but those spiritual weapons that are "mighty through God."

One great outstanding fact in this battle of life is that it is necessarily a battle of faith. As I observe some people's methods of trying to fight this Christian warfare, it seems to me that they are rather fighting the fight of unbelief, or of doubts. Instead of being confident with the confidence that true faith gives, they are all the time fearful. They are never certain they are going to win. They are never certain that their methods are going to prevail. They are always

trembling and uncertain. When they do gain a victory, it seems more like a piece of good fortune than the result of their fighting. When they see a conflict coming, they shrink from it and look for some way to evade it. They are filled with fear of the outcome. Sometimes they fight in desperation and win; and when they see that they have won, they are surprised. They were almost sure that they would lose the battle; they were almost certain of defeat, but in some way they won. That victory, however, does not give them much courage to meet the next conflict. They meet it with the same fearfulness, with the same unbelief, with the same doubt. There is not the joyful note of victory in their song. They do not face the future with confident expectation of winning. They are continually harassed with their doubts; they are constantly troubled with forebodings. It is better to fight thus than not to fight at all, but there is a better way than this to fight.

Faith is the mightiest of all weapons. When our spirits are armed with faith, we may go confidently into any battle. We may have expectation of winning. We may know before we fight that victory is ours. We may face our adversary with calm confidence and with a consciousness of an indwelling power that is greater than his power. Has not God said, "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world?" If our faith claims that to be so, then God will make it so to us.

We must have faith in God. He is our leader. The army that does not have confidence in the ability and courage of its leader is half defeated before it goes into battle. Most of us, I think, have confidence in God's ability as a Leader, and in His power and wisdom, and believe that He is able to overcome our foes. It is not His ability that we doubt. The only question that confronts us is, "Will He use that power to conquer our enemies?" We see that He has made many promises. It is easy to believe, in a general way, that they will be fulfilled; but when it comes to making direct applications to the situations that we meet, it is there that faith sometimes fails. Will God fight for us on this special occasion? Will God help us now? Will He really make good His word to us? or will He fail us in the critical moment?

If God's promises are true, then the ones that relate to our particular needs are true, and they are true now. If they are true to others, they

are true to us, for God is no respecter of persons. And if they are true to us, they are true to us now as well as they were yesterday and will be tomorrow. It is so easy to think that God would help others. They are more worthy than we are. Do you feel this way? Do you feel that if it were somebody else in your place, you could easily have faith that God would help? Then, why not have faith that God will help you?

This brings us to the next, important thought: We must have faith in ourselves as well as in God. We must have faith in our integrity and loyalty. Do we mean real business for God? Have we thrown ourselves unreservedly on the side of God in this battle? Do we intend with all our souls to fight the good fight of faith? Do we have it really settled that we are going to do the right? So many *want* to do the right, but they are not sure that they *will* do it. They mean to do it, but they are constantly afraid that they will fail in doing it. This is not faith. Have confidence in yourself; not only in your loyalty and integrity and purpose to serve God, but also in your ability to do it. You can do it. You can do it as well as anyone else. That doubt and fearfulness that you have will only be a hindrance to you. Get rid of it. Develop confidence in yourself not overconfidence that depends upon yourself, but that true confidence that depends upon God helping you and that arms you with courage and trust in God and in yourself.

You must also have confidence in your weapons. Our weapons are "mighty through God," we are told. God has told you how to win and just as surely as you follow His instructions and trust in Him for results, He will cause you to wear the victor's crown. Our cause is a righteous one. Have faith in that cause, and know that right must triumph. But remember that you cannot win unless you put your faith into your fighting. "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even your faith." Believe that you will win. No matter how weak you are, no matter how great your foe, no matter what may confront you, go into the conflict with that courage that is born of faith. Believe that God will give you the victory. Do not consider defeat at all. Let your faith mount up, and say: "I can win, and I will win. In God I will conquer." Throw away your doubts. Make an end of them. Trust in God. His Word is true. You can believe it if you will, and believing it, you shall be more than conqueror through Him that loves you.

Death-bed Repentance

BY W. J. HENRY

A great many people think that they can live for the devil all the days of their life, and that after having refused to serve God in their health, resisted the Spirit of God, refused His mercy and trampled on His blood, they can repent on their death-bed, and God will have mercy upon them and save them. They fail to understand what repentance is. God's Word says, "The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance." Then it is not fear of death. "Godly sorrow worketh repentance;" not sorrow because we must die and are afraid of going to hell. People who have had the opportunity of getting saved in life, and refused and neglected their salvation, and chose rather to live to please the devil and the lusts of the flesh, have not a single promise in the Word of God that they can be saved on a death-bed.

The Word positively teaches: "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him." Jno. 6:44. Again, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." Isa. 55:6. This plainly teaches that God by His Spirit is drawing us to Him, and when He is especially near to us, and if we come when He is drawing by His convicting Spirit, and call upon Him for mercy while He is thus so near, He will hear us, and as the next verse says, He will "abundantly pardon." It also teaches that if we do not come while He is drawing us by the gentle wooing of His convicting Spirit, there may come a time when we can not come at all, and there is a time when He is not near us and will not hear us.

In the first chapter of Proverbs beginning with the 24th verse, we read as follows: "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at naught all my counsel, and would none of my reproof. I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; when your fear cometh as desolation, and your desolation cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me." This truly is an awful warning for us to repent while God is seeking us, and a positive proof that if we will not heed His call, the time may come when He will not hear us.

"But" says one, "was not the thief saved in

his last hours?" Yes, we believe that he was, but we have no proof that he ever had the privilege of turning to the Lord before. You and I have better privileges than he had, and dare not wait until death and take chances of being saved, as he. I do not say that a man can not be saved on his death-bed, but I have little confidence in such repentance. I fail to see a single promise in the Word for those who neglect or reject the offers of mercy in health in the hopes of being saved on a death-bed. Besides this, I have seen some who thought they were going to die, profess to get saved; but as soon as they got well they went back into sin the same as before, which proved they were not really saved.

Let me warn you, dear reader, to repent while God is calling you, before His Spirit of conviction takes its everlasting flight. If you hear His voice inviting you to come, do not harden your hearts, hasten to let Him in **TODAY**.

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MISUNDERSTOOD

*Misunderstood? Ah, soul, there's One
Who understands thee well;
Take comfort in the thought of Him,
To Him thy burdens tell.*

*Full well He knoweth all thy heart,
Full well He understands;
He sees the struggling tear-drops start,
He sees thy broken plans.*

*Misunderstood? He knows thou'ret true,
He sees thy faithful soul;
And He is faithful, friend, to thee,
He'll help thee reach thy goal.*

*He'll bear thee up on eagles' wings,
Above the storm and strife.*

*O soul, take courage in the Lord;
There's hope and joy and life !*

Misunderstood? What matters now?

*Commit it all to Him,
Commit thy wounded, troubled soul,
Thine eyes with weeping dim;*

*Commit it all to One who cares;
Thy sorrows all He feels
O soul, lift up thy weeping head;
There's balm in God that heals!*

—Mary J. Helpington

50 Years Ago

Excerpts Taken From
Feb., 1953
Faith and Victory

"We are moving along now in the new year of 1953. Today as we write these editorials, we note that it is the ninth of January. The assembly meeting here at Guthrie closed on Sunday evening, January 4th, with victory in the Lord....The attendance was not so good at the beginning, but it kept increasing until on the last Sunday of the meeting the new meeting house was filled almost to its seating capacity, both in the morning and afternoon service. The approval of the Lord was upon the meeting from the beginning unto its ending. Many will long remember this first assembly meeting held in the Lord's new house of worship....For a number of years the need of more room has been apparent to quite a number of the saints. At first the saints considered building an addition to the old chapel, but that was hard to do in a suitable way because of the way the old one was built. The need of more room was brought to the attention of the saints in the summer camp meeting, also in the previous assembly meeting. There was much discussion with the final decision to sell or tear down the old one and build a new building and make it suitable in every way to the growing need. The new building is made modern, having rest rooms for both men and women and Sunday school rooms in the back. I believe that all the saints are now thankful that the new building was built instead of adding to the old one. This new building is strongly built in every way, walls of cement blocks, and will perhaps be standing when Jesus comes if it is not blown to pieces by the atheists and infidels in the fast spreading communist movement."

—Fred Pruitt