

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant

Unto Him shall the
gathering of the
people be.

God Is
LOVE

YE SHINE AS
LIGHTS IN
THE WORLD.

JESUS
SAVES

The night cometh,
when no man
can work.

Volume 81, No. 3

81st Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

\$3.00 Per Year

May, 2003

CONSTRAINED BY LOVE

This message was delivered by Bro. Daniel Adams at Enterprise, AL Church of God on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2003. Edited for print by W.E.M.

I can sincerely say that I have enjoyed being here, but that's not the only reason I'm here. Have you ever been afraid? I'm sure that every one of us at some time in our life could look back and say I was scared of the dark. I know what that feeling is and I believe you do too. When you go out in the dark, maybe it's your own backyard, and you hear a noise and you don't know what it is, it startles you a little bit. A tingly feeling comes up your back and it's almost like the hairs stand up on the back of your neck. Initially you want to bolt and run.

I remember one time I lost my dog because of that fear. When I was a small boy I had a dog and Dad fixed a place in the back of the yard with a little eyelet in the ground. When we finished playing for the day, our job was to make sure the dog was chained to that eyelet so she wouldn't stray off in the night. One time I forgot to chain Lady up until it was after dark. I went out into my own backyard, and I got scared. So instead of hooking the chain like I should have, I took the end of that little snap that was on the

end of the chain and I just jabbed it into the ground and I ran back in the house. The next morning my dog was gone. I never found her again. I know what it means to respond to fear.

I might write a word on the board. *Coercion*. Coercion is related to fear. Do you know what it means to coerce? It means to restrain or dominate by force. Sometimes parents revert to that. As our children are small and they are not sitting still or they are not cooperating like we expect them to, sometimes we dominate them. We suppress them with a little force. We may take hold of them and just hold them tight. We may try to intimidate them and tell them, "Don't you even think about misbehaving or you'll get the reward for that when we get home." We coerce our children sometimes. But as time goes on I realize the importance of having something else in our relationship. For one thing when you have sons there is always a possibility that they will be able to overpower you some day. I'm getting older and they are just coming into their strength and their abilities. So if I rely on coercion entirely there is going to come a time that it will fail and I will not be able to control them like I feel is necessary at times. There has to be another element involved in our relationship.

There are times I look out among us as people, as the Church, as the congregation, and you can do this too. You can see someone that from your perspective is straying from the path. In times like this we might be tempted to try to

Contents

Editorials	4
Prayer Requests	6
Meeting Reports and Notices	7
Letters from the Readers	9
Foreign Mission Report	11
Obituaries	13

coerce them. You know and I know that the ultimate effectiveness of coercing other people into doing what we feel they ought to be doing is not very long lasting. It is not going to be a stabilizing force in their life. Instead it is going to be something they are going to buck against and they are going to look for opportunities to elude it and avoid it. I am not big enough and I am not capable of following someone else around to make sure they are in line all the time. So coercion is not good enough. Because I'm scared of misbehaving before the Lord is not a good enough reason for me to be here today. Fear comes into play sometimes but there is another motivating factor that we want to point to.

I'd like for us to go to I Corinthians the 12th chapter, the 12th verse and notice what it says, "For as the body is one, and hath many

members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another."

"...There may be a time that you respond to coercion from others and I trust that you will have grace in your heart to respond in a Godly manner to someone's good intentions..."

We have an illustration of a human body being compared to the body of Christ. If I am missing one of these components that are illustrated here, if I'm missing a hand, a limb, an ear or the sight of my eyes, if there is an element that's not there when other people look on me, then they will say there's something wrong. I see in this a uniform responsibility for each of us to contribute our part to the cause of Christ. I don't find rank and file, where the minister is up above the others and able to tell the one that cuts the grass you need to do a better job than that. There is no place for coercion in this body we are talking about. Each one of us is responsible to God Almighty. The Brother or the Sister

that has a temporal responsibility has an equal obligation to fill that place as well as the one who teaches the Sunday school,

leads in prayer or takes the pulpit. There is no difference in the integrity that is required before God.

It says in the 24th verse, "For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together." Do you know what the word tempered means? I looked this up in the dictionary and the first definition I found says, "Having the elements mixed in satisfying proportions." The elements make up the body of Christ. They are designed and proportioned to God's perspective and what He designs is right and proper. They are mixed in a satisfying proportion to the Lord. I don't find a place here for someone to stand up and try to coerce others into doing what they perceive is right. There has to be another underlying element that causes us to conform to the body of Christ

There may be a time that you respond to coercion from others and I trust that you will have grace in your heart to respond in a Godly manner to someone's good intentions but that's not going to be enough for you. Your parents may try to instruct you, and out of the sincerity of their heart they may try to coerce you a little bit, or maybe a whole lot, into doing the right thing and making the right choices. But you must have something more than that. When I see people straying and wobbling around in their spiritual experience there are times, I don't know how to do it, but I'd like to go up and say,

"what can I do to help you? It looks like you have taken off on a tangent here." I realize that no matter how I approach you there must be something more than coercion. What is it? All these members must be tempered. They must be the body of Christ. They must have all the elements mixed in satisfactory proportions. Our hearts and minds must be tempered. If my personality is not tempered by the Lord I'm going to offend somebody else and you are going to think I'm a little extreme. Other people that come along, maybe they need to be tempered with more perception or a little more aggressiveness. I don't know the right words to say here, but the Lord knows how to temper your personality and He knows how to temper my personality.

Have you seen somebody in temporal things make a bad decision, say things that you knew when it came out of their mouth it was going to get them in trouble? I have worked with men, especially one, my supervisor. I've been working on somebody's car and it is going to take me the rest of the day to complete the job. When someone calls on the phone and it doesn't take long, I can overhear some of the conversation, I can tell they are talking about the car I'm working on. In just a minute or two they holler at me and ask, "When do you think you are going to be done with that?" And I say, "Well, I should be able to finish it by five o'clock this evening." And so he'll tell the customer, "It will be done today." And I think, "All right, I'll get to stay on this project and finish this job up." And ten minutes later they pull up another car and say, "I think you need to work on this other car." I think, "Why do you do this? You're going to get us both in trouble. You told this other man I was going to have his car done. Now you bring something else in and I don't know how long it will take." Sometimes I want to say, "Stop just a minute, think about what you are saying. You are going to get me in trouble, the customer is going to show up and ask, 'Why isn't my car done?'" But I am going to have to work for this man. He is older than I am and he realizes what is going to happen, or he will when the customer comes up and says, "Why isn't my car done?" This has happened before and I really don't have to tell him, he knows this. So I have to pull in my feelings. I can't coerce him. I have to allow him to respond to something different than that. I would only develop hard feelings with this man.

What happens when we have a lack of

desire? When we have a lack of desire of anything, we'll quit doing it. When we have a lack of desire to do what's right in our occupation we decide to either quit or get fired, one of the two. Well, you say, "That is kind of extreme." It is, but sooner or later that is what will happen. I've seen a new employee come to work, they are all fired up, the first week or two they are a ball of fire. They impress everybody who works there, doing everything right, overextending themselves, straining and heaving, running around in high gear all the time. Three or four weeks down the road the fizz is gone and two months later they are coming in late, whining about something they have to do on the job, and the next thing I know is they say, "I quit. I'll be in tomorrow with a truck to get my toolbox, I'm not working here anymore." What happened? Desire changed; their desire all fizzled out and they are gone.

You and I must have a desire to live for the Lord. If we don't have a desire to live for the Lord, we'll fizzle out. We won't be able to maintain a relationship with our spouse, our parents or our siblings. They are going to suffer the consequences of a lack of desire. I am trying to get down to the reason I'm here this morning. I've already told you a couple of reasons, but it has to be a better one than those. Let's look in II Corinthians 5:14-15. I find a tremendous challenge in this verse, and with the help of the Lord I want you to accept this from God this morning. It says, "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."

This is Easter Sunday, we recognize this as the day Christ arose from the dead, He rose from the grave to live forevermore. If you do not recognize His resurrection, all that we have said this morning, all that we sang about last night and this morning, is going to be worthless. But I believe He did. I believe He rose from the dead, and I believe He is alive right now, on the right hand of God. I believe He is there for you and me, and I believe that He is touched with the feelings of our infirmities. I believe that He does respond to the needs that we have in everyday life. And I believe that He is there for you and me today. I don't believe that He is going to try to coerce you to live for Him. He wants you to live for Him.

(Continued on page 14.)

FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend camp meetings), by Willie Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044 (USPS184-660).

(Periodical postage paid at Guthrie, OK)

Notice to subscribers: When you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your zip code number. The post office now charges 60¢ to notify us of each change of address.

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES



Single copy, one year \$3.00
Package of 5 papers to one address, one year \$12.00
Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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

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

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

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

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

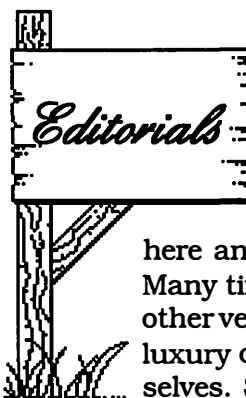
In order to comply with Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 518, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044
Office phone numbers: 405-282-1479, 800-767-1479;
fax number: 405-282-6318.

Internet address: <http://www.faithpublishing.com>

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



How many of you have been in the wrong lane of traffic and missed your exit? I am sure that has happened to many of you like it has to me. With a fast pace our society is racing here and there, coming and going. Many times the highways are full of other vehicles and we don't have the luxury of having the road all to ourselves. Several lanes of traffic may appear to all be headed in the same direction when suddenly you realize the direction you wanted to go is several lanes away from you and the flow of traffic will not let you into the lane you should have been in. Well, here we go, up the wrong road! Generally the consequences of an error like this can be corrected with only a little lost time and frustration before you can find a place to turn around and get back to the road that you wanted to be on. But it could happen that there would be more costs involved. Suppose the road was a toll road that didn't have a place to turn around for many miles and then you had to pay the toll before you could turn around. While we are supposing, how about taking a look at your gas gauge and noticing that your car is about out of gas. I think this would be a good time to wake up and let this all just be a bad dream. Hopefully this really wouldn't happen to anyone.

In Matthew the 25th chapter it gives the story of the ten virgins. Five were wise and five were foolish. The wise virgins took oil in their vessels with their lamps but the foolish took no oil with them. There was a period of time that they all slumbered and slept. During this space of time the foolish virgins could have gone and purchased oil and they could have returned and been one of the wise virgins waiting for the bridegroom, but for some reason they didn't take advantage of their opportunity.

I remember an experience that occurred in my youth. I was taking my first trip on the bus by myself and in Springfield, MO I was required to change bus lines. The two bus terminals were close together, which made it easy to walk from one to the other. I made the walk to the terminal without incident and spent several hours through the middle of the night waiting for my next bus to arrive. When it finally arrived there was quite a line of people waiting to get on and



The Foolish Virgins

I was close to the front of the line. As we began loading, the driver stood at the door and asked for our ticket. I pulled my ticket out and handed it to him and he looked at it and told me that my ticket was for another bus line and I had to have their ticket to ride their bus. He told me to go get the right ticket. I had to go wait in line at the busy ticket counter to get my ticket changed. The man at the counter said, "You've been here all night, why didn't you get this taken care of a long time ago?" I told him, "I didn't know I was supposed to." Thankfully the Lord had mercy on me and I was able to still get on the bus before it left. Since I was one of the last getting on the bus I had to stand in the aisle for part of the trip until a seat became available. But at least I was on the right bus.

Too many people today are foolishly spending their life without preparing for the time of judgment that is appointed to every person. They are whizzing through life, along with a crowd of others, in the fast lane that is leading to destruction. Unfortunately when this life is passed there is no way to come back and change what should have been changed. The five foolish virgins waited too long to become concerned about their lack of oil and were excluded from the wedding party.

Today you have life. You have the precious commodity of time. You have opportunity. You have the ability to do many things right today. You have a Savior with outstretched arms calling for you to come to Him and be forgiven of all your sins. The Holy Spirit of God is longing to fill your life if you will only consecrate it to Him. Don't squander the God-given opportunity you have of obtaining eternal life. The right choice made today can change your eternal destiny.

— — — — —

With this issue we mark the completion of one year since we came to the Print Shop. Our heart is filled with thanksgiving to God for His loving care over us and for this work. His kind, patient dealings with our heart has calmed our anxieties in difficult times and given assurance that His mighty hand was under us. This last year I have seen the Lord answer prayer more than once in a miraculous way. God is still working in the lives of His people today. I have witnessed the arrival of offerings at crucial times when I knew it was the Lord that prompted some dear saint to give it because the amount and the timing were too right to be an accident. The same thing has happened with articles also—the length, the content and the timing were obviously from the Lord. There have been some real healings testified to in the paper this last year. I must say that my faith in the Lord has been strengthened. I do not believe He is finished with His church. The Church of God is still filled with blood washed members who are willing to give their all to God. They still are in tune to the gentle leadings of the Holy Spirit. The message of salvation, holy living, reigning over sin, purity, entire sanctification and unity of the believers are still valid truths today. The enemy has done much damage to the Church of God during the last 90 years. Confusion, division and delusion have caused many in the flock of God to be scattered and isolated. All of this is contrary to the will of God. Jesus prayed in John 17:11, "And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are." Wouldn't it be glorious to be in a camp meeting like they had in the early 1900's with thousands singing the songs of Zion and praises to God from the bottom of their hearts and the top of their voices? While we experience a measure of that at our camp meetings and I admit, I love it, I would like to see

it increased by a thousand fold. I would like to see the glory of the Lord fill the whole earth. I would challenge us all to re-examine the truth that was revealed to the saints in the early part of this reformation, to catch the same zeal and fervor for lost souls that they had and to yield ourselves as completely to the Holy Spirit as they did. I believe we would be amazed at what the Lord would do today.

— — — — —

The Lord blessed us to purchase another paper cutter for the Print Shop. A small printing establishment in Oklahoma City auctioned off their equipment after the death of the owner. It has a 35" length and a 34 1/2" cutting width which is 8" wider than the one we have been using. It will be helpful for trimming new books on three sides. We can adjust one cutter for one side and move the books to the other cutter adjusted for another side. Since we purchase our paper by the skid with a mill cut size of 23" by 35" and we cut it down to the size we use in our presses, the larger table on this paper cutter should make it easier to handle the paper for the first cut. We appreciate the Lord helping us to safely load and transport this heavy piece of machinery and we trust that He will make it a blessing for His work.

— — — — —

With a special day this month to remember our mothers it causes our mind to think back through the years to our childhood and the many things our mothers have done for us. The domestic tasks that they performed, the routine household chores that occurred day after day were done because they loved us. Yes there were a few times I know we tried their patience. Such as when we got grass stains all over the knees of our pants or when we slid down the mulberry tree with our shirt pocket full of juicy ripe mulberries. Now that I have had some children of my own, it is amazing how our perspectives can change over time as we gain life experience and our appreciation for our mother grows. A godly mother who teaches and prays with her children, who gives her life caring for her family is a wonderful gift from God. Her influence reaches far from the confines of a small home. Because it is instilled in her children it lasts from generation to generation. Her prayers continue for her children as long as she lives. How blessed we are to have a dear mother!

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



CA—Thank you for your prayers. My friend Doug's recovery from cancer surgery is going well. Mr. Anaya did not recover from his cancer and died. Please keep his wife Patricia in prayer. They did not have any children. —Dan Viser

LA—I want to thank the Lord for the way He has helped. I had a fall and hurt my knee and had to be on a walker for about a week. Now I am able to walk much better. Thank the Lord! I need prayer for my eyes and for my hearing.

—Sis. Velma Mancil

OK—Keep remembering my wife, Ruth, in prayer. —Bro. Bill McMakin

OK—I need your prayers.

—Sis. J. M. Jefferson

PA—Sis. Virginia Myers is pretty much confined to her bed and has many decisions to make regarding her care. She surely would appreciate your prayers.

—Sis. Barbara Campbell

SC—I desire prayer for my body and soul. Also, pray for our upcoming camp meeting. We desire to see our unsaved loved ones saved. Thank You, —Sis. Nettie Harbeson

Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Jon Busbee
Sis. Mamie Butcher
Bro. Hubert Corteway
Sis. Waneta Creel
Sis. Elaine Dunn
Sis. Evelyn Fredrickson
Bro. Troy Gentry
Bro. Jeff Gutwein
Bro. Lee Hilton
Sis. Melba Powell
The Lounds Sisters
Sis. Ruth McMakin
Sis. Anna Severs
Sis. Catherine Shaffer

MEETING DATES

Oklahoma State (Guthrie, OK)—May 23-June 1
Holly Hill, SC—June 1-8
Tulsa, OK—June 8-15
Green Bank, WV—June 13-19
Jefferson, OR—June 13-22
Alcoa, TN (Sisters' Retreat)—June 20-22
General Southern
(Loranger, LA)—June 29-July 6
Fresno, CA (Camp Meeting)—July 4-13
National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 18-27
Myrtle, MO—Aug. 1-6 [Note date change.]
Boley, OK—Aug. 21-24



MEETING NOTICES

OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING

The 69th annual Oklahoma State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held May 23-June 1, at the campground 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.

As is customary, the first service will be held Friday evening, May 23, at 7:30, with three services daily thereafter. Early morning prayer services and youth meetings will be held as announced.

An invitation to attend is extended to everyone. Your presence will be appreciated. Provisions will be made for those attending.

The meeting will be operated by freewill offerings. If you would like to make a contribution, you may do so by sending it directly to the state treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, 1023 E. Prairie Grove Rd., Guthrie, OK 73044.

For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Stanley Dickson, (405) 260-8822.



HOLLY HILL, SC, CAMP MEETING

The Holly Hill, SC, Camp Meeting will be held, Lord willing, June 1-8, 2003, with the first service beginning at 10:00 on Sunday morning of the 1st, and the last service scheduled for Sunday morning of the 8th. The weekdays will begin with prayer service at 8:00 a.m., followed by breakfast at 9:00 a.m. The regular morning service will begin at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be served after the morning service. Any afternoon

services will be as announced. Evening services will begin at 7:30 p.m. Food will be available in the kitchen after the night service.

We're looking for the Lord to bless us with His precious presence again this year and to send the ministers and workers of His choosing. We extend a hearty welcome for each one to come be with us. If you are unable to come in person, we still need your prayers. We are praying for the Lord to save the sinners, heal the sick, and uplift the believers.

Lodging and meals are by freewill offerings. There are limited accommodations on the campground, but the Lord has ways of making provisions for those who come! We do also have a few camper hookups on the grounds for water, electric and sewer; first come first served basis. Let us know and we'll try to arrange a place for you to stay! For any that may prefer a motel, there are some about ten miles away in Santee, SC.

The campground is located on Bayview Street between Camden Road and Eutaw Road, Holly Hill, SC. For more information, contact the pastor, Bro. Carl Shaffer (803) 492-3256 or one of the brethren: Bro. Floyd Crummie (803) 496-5768 or Bro. Alvord Pratt (803) 492-3366.



GREEN BANK, WV CAMP MEETING

The annual Camp Meeting of the Church of God in Green Bank, WV, will begin on the 13th of June and extend until Thursday, the 19th of June. We welcome everyone to attend this meeting. The Lord has been faithful in the past to bless us, but we ask you to please pray that the Lord would send the ministers of His choosing and that those attending would be ministered to by the care of God's people and the power of God's Word.

The first service will be on Friday the 13th, at 7:00 p.m. There will be additional services each morning at 11:00 a.m. and each evening following at 7:00 p.m. Meals will be served on the grounds and lodging furnished for those desiring to stay any length of time. It would help us meet your lodging needs if you would contact us before your arrival so that we will be better prepared. We ask you to please bring your own bedding, and if possible, a jacket and a fan. The weather is very unpredictable here at that time of year. There are also motels nearby for those interested in that type of accommodation.

The camp meeting will be held at the White Pines Campground just off Rt. 92 and 28 in Arbovale. There will be signs directing you to the campground. The meeting is conducted on a freewill offering basis. If you have questions or would like to make lodging reservations, please call Bro. Toney Samons, (304) 456-3017, or correspond with us at P.O. Box 173, Green Bank, WV 24944.

Please pray with us for the success of this meeting, the encouragement of the saints and the saving of souls.

— — — — —

JEFFERSON, OR, CAMP MEETING

Once again, we look forward with anticipation to what the Lord has in store for the Jefferson, OR, meeting which convenes June 13th at 7:30 p.m. and continues through the 22nd. 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. services will be held during the week. Afternoon services at 2:30 p.m. are added on weekends. Lodging, meals and RV hookups are available. For more information, contact Bro. Cliff Smith at (503) 581-4575 or Bro. Bob Wilson at (541) 327-3621.

Special thanks to the saints and ministers who have supported and carried a burden for the people here. The Lord taught us that we could do nothing without Him; therefore, we are leaning heavily upon Him to meet the challenges of our day.

— — — — —

ALCOA, TN, WEEKEND SISTERS' RETREAT

A weekend sisters' retreat is planned for June 20-22, for sisters beginning at the age of 25. Married sisters under the age of 25 may attend. The theme for this sisters' retreat is "Cultivating a Life of Godly Character." We would invite you to submit additional ideas and topics that you would be interested in discussing at this retreat. 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 need additional information, please contact Sis. Mary McDonald at (865) 977-6997 or Sis. Carrie Porter at (865) 984-2348.

You may also send us e-mail at tnsistersretreat@yahoo.com or via postal mail to Evening Light Church of God, 322 Lindsay St., Alcoa, TN 37701

GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMP MEETING LORANGER, LA

Lord willing, this meeting will begin Sunday, June 29, with services daily through July 6. Come for a blessing and please support this meeting in your prayers.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Please bring sheets and linens, if possible.

Power and water hookups are provided for those with campers. Meals will be served and expenses met by freewill offerings.

From Loranger, go two miles south and about three and one-half miles east on Hwy. 40.

For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about ten miles east of the Tickfaw exit. (Take Hwy. 442 east which runs into Hwy. 40.)

For more information, contact Carlos Doolittle: 20231 Hwy. 40, Loranger, LA 70446. Phone: (985) 878-8122. The chapel phone is (985) 878-2788.

— — — — —

NATIONAL CAMP MEETING MONARK SPRINGS, MO

The National Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO, July 18-27, 2003. All are cordially invited to come and bring others to enjoy the blessings we are expecting from the Lord.

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

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

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

Of special note, the general business meeting has been moved this year from the last Saturday of the meeting to 9:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of the meeting to enable more of those who attend to participate in the business decisions.

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

Instructions For Making Dormitory Reservations

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

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

Name and phone number

Date of arrival

Date of departure

Number of adults and children in party

Things to keep in mind:

Bring your own bedding if possible.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Love and prayers,

—DeLoris and Randel Bradley

1540 2000 Rd

Bartlett, KS 67332

CHANGE OF MYRTLE, MO CAMP MEETING DATE

We would like to notify the saints of a slight change in the date of the Myrtle camp meeting. Instead of beginning on Wednesday following the Monark meeting, and continuing through Sunday, it will begin on Friday this year and continue through Wednesday of the following week. The date for this year's camp meeting is August 1-6.

The change has been made to give more time for preparation for the Myrtle meeting following Monark, and to give those desiring to attend more time to rest between the two meetings. We extend a hearty invitation to all to attend the Myrtle camp meeting this year. Please come and stay the whole meeting, if possible.

— Bro. Harlan Sorrell

BOLEY, OK, CAMP MEETING

The Boley, OK camp meeting will convene Aug. 21-24, Lord willing. Services will be nightly at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday there will also be services at 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Sunday school will be conducted at 9:45 a.m. on Aug. 24th.

We extend a hearty invitation for everyone to come be with us and are looking to the Lord to send the ministers of His choosing. Pray that God will pour out His Spirit upon this meeting.

For further information contact Sis. Savannah King (918) 667-3365.



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Winnipeg, MB—Dear Workers in the Lord's Vineyard: Greetings with the words of I Cor. 15:58. Thanks for the *Faith and Victory*, the tracts and your prayers. Easter will be in a few days. Good Friday will especially remind us of our Savior suffering affliction for us. Jesus shed His holy blood at the cross of Calvary. May the Lord grant me grace to continually reflect on His compassion. God gave His only Son who indeed is risen. We are so blessed that we can share the gospel in this free country. The Lord has blessed us for many years in His Church.

Yesterday was Palm Sunday and we heard again the Word of God so generously. Aren't we especially privileged to have the Bible? How many are hungry for the Word of God and cannot enjoy their own Bible. The Lord anointed again the lips of our Pastor, Bro. Harry Klinger "Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." Bro. Klinger came back from Calgary, Alberta where they had a revival meeting. I understand that precious souls came to the Lord. We need revival.

Next month, May 18-19, a milestone will be set for the Church of God in Winnipeg for 75 years of blessings the Lord has showered upon us. Thank you for your prayers.

When my wife was still living and was Sunday school teacher, she used the *Beautiful Way* papers. May I ask for a binder of *The Beautiful Way* for myself or to share? I am looking forward to hearing from you. In Jesus love,

—Bro. Wilfred Froese

— — — — —

LA—Dear Bro. Willie: It is with much thanksgiving that we have the Lord with us. A lot of things come in life we don't understand, but the Lord has promised to always be with us. It is a comfort to know He is always looking on and taking care of us even though our faith is tried. He said He would have a tried people. Our prayer daily is that we will keep holding on as long as He sees fit to leave us here.

Thank the Lord for His workers there. May the Lord bless everyone is our prayer. Please remember us in your prayers. Manuel and I both need a touch from His hand. We thank God for all the past blessings. In Christian love,

— Sis. Marie and Bro. Manuel Mitchell

— — — — —

OR—Dear Bro. Willie and all at the Print Shop: I will use the greeting the Apostle Paul used in His epistle to the Ephesians. "Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ." I hope this finds all there well and happy in the Lord. I pray that He will give you divine wisdom and guidance in your labors for Him and reward your labors with many souls brought to Jesus for Salvation.

A few weeks ago I was on the freeway and needed to get off at exit 179, but without thinking of why I was doing it, I found myself on the off ramp at exit 177. I thought, why did I get off here, but at the top of the ramp there was a car parked with steam coming from under the hood and I knew that I had been led by Divine Guidance to turn off there. A young Hispanic woman was at the car and she didn't speak English very well. After I looked at the car and saw there was nothing I could do to it, I made her understand that I would take her to a telephone where she could call for help. At exit 180 there was a service station with a pay phone and as we stopped there she let me know she didn't have any money to make a call, which I was thankful that I could supply. I stayed until she had completed her call and she said, "Brother help."

I then went on my way thankful and praising God that I could be a neighbor to someone in need.

With Christian love and prayers,

—Bro. Bill Busch

— — — — —

LA—Dear Ones: I feel like I need to send in my testimony of how the Lord has taken care of my right arm and shoulder. I took a hard fall on Dec. 12, 2002. I was putting a quilt on the bed and as I flung it out over the bed I became overbalanced. I saw that I was going to fall and I struggled to keep from hitting a sharp cornered table. Thank the Lord, I did not hit the table but this may have caused me to fall harder. I fell on my shoulder and arm. I felt something move in my shoulder. I was in excruciating pain and I slept very little that night. To get in and out of bed caused almost unbearable pain. I had several days and nights of excruciating pain.

I was praying for the Lord to help me know what I should do and I opened the Bible and my eyes fell on this verse in Mark 5:19. The Lord was telling the man He had just healed, "...Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee." I felt this was my answer and the Lord was going to take care of me. The Lord is so very good to us. He has definitely taken care of me and I am so thankful. I do want to tell what the Lord has done.

I am not completely well, but I can use my arm. I can do my housework and drive the car. I could not use my arm at all for some time. I could not comb my hair or do much of anything for awhile. I still have pain with some movements but I am so very thankful for all the Lord has done for me.

I have had very good help and attention from my family and friends. I appreciate all the help. The Lord helps us in so many ways.

I want to always thank the Lord for His goodness. I think of the scripture in Psalm 107:8 that says, "Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" Pray for me,

—Sis. Hassie Palmer

— — — — —

OK—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings to you and all the workers there. I am glad that I can have a part in the work of the Lord. I feel that the work of God is the greatest work there is. The motto says, "Only one life to live and it will soon be past, only what is done for Christ will last." I am glad we can lay up our treasures in heaven.

Your saved brother and sister,

—Bro. and Sis. T.V. McMillian

OK—Dear Bro. Willie: I was challenged this week with the salmon's return to its original stream before it dies. They have to swim up streams for miles and over rapids sometimes as tall as five feet high. To do this they have to jump high out of the water and somehow push forward against the natural flow of the stream.

We originated from God. Genesis tells us we were made in God's image. To make it back to our originality we are going to have to go upstream of the world and it's thinking. We are going to have to sail high above its standards. If we just relax the current will carry us downstream and we will not make it to heaven. "The law and the prophets *were* until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." Luke 16:16. May we be willing to put forth the effort to get back into the image of God and gain our heavenly home.

May God's love guide you in the days ahead.

—Bro. Daniel and Sis. Anita Adams

— — — — —

KS—Dear saints: I was probably 12 or 13 when I left the Lord and drifted away. I went my own way and now in my 40's I have returned to the Lord and thank the Lord for having mercy on me when I was out of the ark of safety and for giving me another chance.

I thank God for the ones today that are carrying on the truth as it is stated in the Scriptures. Pray for me that I will stand where the Lord leads and for what has been revealed to me from the examples of the past and present. God bless,

—Bro. Doyle Stanley

— — — — —

OR—Dear Bro. Murphey: I just want to express my thanks for the letter from Sis. Anita Adams. I am going through a trial too and found such comfort and encouragement from her testimony in the March 2003 *Faith and Victory*. I so appreciate the faithful ones who trust and obey God's Word. We need these good examples to keep the flock of God inspired. Christian love,

—Sis. Patty Yankey

— — — — —

FL—Sis. Lydia Bennett has a burden for the children in Honduras. She will be going in June and is seeking the Lord to provide the means to fulfill her burden. Those who feel directed of the Lord to assist her in this endeavor may correspond with her directly. Her address is: Lydia Bennett, 14650 NW 13th Rd, Miami, FL 33167.

From India...

April 15, 2003—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey: Greetings to you and to the dear saints abroad in the Holy name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We had a wonderful five day VBS for the children last week. "And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's" (I Cor. 3:23) was the theme of the VBS. More than 100 children attended. Our convention at Kootarvila was also a blessed one. The work on the tabernacle building is progressing. We need your prayers.

Here is some good news. God blessed me with another grandson on April 11. My son Biju is thankful to God for this gift from heaven. Our prayers are for you always.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

— — — — —

From the Philippines...

April 2, 2003—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey: Greetings of Christian love in the name of our Savior. Hope you are all in good health as you receive this letter. It is my pleasure to express my thanks for your love for us. We had the *Faith and Victory* paper, which is so helpful to strengthen us in our spiritual life and continue the gospel work we are doing.

With God's help we have finished the church buildings and fences in three barrios, but it took us so long to finish them because of the scarcity of funds. Due to the hard living conditions in the Philippines, it is difficult to carry on the needs of the gospel work.

Thank the Lord we are opening new stations of worship in other places. The pastors are doing evangelistic work in different places and at the same time they do their best to care for several congregations. I'm so thankful for their commitment to serve the Lord. They realize their responsibility to support their families, but they also realize the need to bring the gospel of salvation to the lost before they die. I am doing my best to help them for their financial needs.

We purchased a lot in Bicos, Rizal on installment payments. It is my birthplace and I have many relatives there. The people were so happy to know our plans to put up a church building there. We are also looking for a church lot in the barrio of Consuelo, Guimba, where we can build a little house for the pastor to stay and with the Lord's help we hope to build a little church building for the people to meet for Bible studies and to have regular services. Most of the people are Roman Catholics and they are so devoted to their traditions. But when they heard the truth

of the Word of God we could see their tears fall because of joy and sadness. Joy because they heard the truth of salvation and sadness because they have been blinded by this false religion since childhood. They said it is not too late. They also want to help the pastors go to their relatives and friends to teach the truth.

When we see these people who are so hungry for the Word of God we are very much encouraged to spend our time preaching the message of salvation. They are requesting us to help them have a permanent place to meet for Bible studies so they can learn more about the Word of God and to learn spiritual songs to praise and worship God.

The jeepney that the saints bought for evangelism work cannot be used now. The mechanic said we need more money to fix it. It is very helpful for us, especially when we go to far places where there is scarcity of transportation. Most of the people in the barrios are farmers so we can assemble them for Bible studies at evening time and it is useful to transport the pastors back home after the gospel meetings.

Again we say thank you for your kind help and the sacrifices you have made for the mission work in the Philippines. Please continue to pray for us. We are praying for you.

You brother in Christ,

—Matias S. Tangunan

April 27, 2003—Dear Bro. Willie: Cheerful greetings of love, peace and joy in Jesus' name. We thank and praise God that we were able to attend the camp meeting. We had a blessed fellowship together, although not as many attended like they have in the past camp meetings. Some are still afraid of the threat of terrorism perpetrated by some of the groups in this country. But with God, Who always watches and cares for His children, we had a joyful and peaceful heart throughout the fellowship.

Our Manila Youth Fellowship has been moved and, Lord willing, it will be May 1-2. The City Hall granted us the permit to use the "Jamboree Lake," one of the tourist spots in Muntinlupa City. We thank God for that. Please pray for the success of the Youth Fellowship. We are expecting delegates from the Montalban Church of God.

After the youth fellowship, May 5, we will start our VBS. The young people are now very busy preparing for these activities. We believe

that through these children and young people, we can bring souls to God.

I have to go back to Nueva Ecija for my first cousin's funeral. He was hit by a car and died last week. We lost a minister of God.

Please give my love and regards to all the saints there. I love you with the love of the Lord.

—Sis. Nellie Tibanayan

— — — — —

March 25, 2003—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings of peace and love to you and to all the workers at the Lord's Print Shop. In behalf of the Montalban Church of God, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for you love and support for the Philippine mission work.

The Church in this place is growing. Home Bible studies, visitations and gospel tracts distribution are in progress. Fruits of these are two souls have accepted Jesus Christ and followed Him in baptism last February. Again, this month of March there are five souls who have sought salvation and two of them decided to follow in water baptism. Many souls from our surroundings have become interested in studying to know the truth about God and salvation. Please continually pray for us.

The school year ends this month and the school children will have their vacation. This is also the time when we conduct the Vacation Bible School. In our congregation, we will hold it the last week of April. Last year we were unable to have it because of the lack of supplies for the children. They were disappointed that it was postponed to the next year (this year). We are praying for the Lord to provide this need.

Please extend our warm greetings to all the saints in the United States. God bless! Your brother in Christ, —Bro. Paterno Tangunan

— — — — —

Whatever our hands touch—

We leave fingerprints!

On the walls, on furniture,

On doorknobs, dishes, books,

As we touch we leave our identity.

Lord, send me out today

To leave heartprints.

And if someone should say,

'I felt your touch,'

May that one sense Your love

Touching through me.

Author unknown.

This is my desire, —Sis. Audrey Carver



Ruby Pauline Alverson (Bell) was born April 10, 1932 and went home April 6, 2003. She was the oldest of four children. Her mother passed away when she was 14, and from that time she was homemaker to her brother Paul and her sisters Louan and Faye.

Sis. Ruby married Joe Bell September 14, 1950, and they made their home in Tulsa, OK. There they raised sons Michael, Dennis and James.

She was a beloved member of the Sapulpa Road Church of God. Her love for the Lord and for her family has always come first. She showered both with many acts of kindness and selfless love. Sis. Bell was very humble, godly, a lover of peace, committed and faithful. Her holy life will remain as a beacon calling us all to the heavenly home she sought and has found.

Survivors are her husband Joe; sons Michael and Dennis Bell of Tulsa and James and Tricia Bell of Sapulpa, OK. Six grandsons, Phillip, Steven, David, Josh, Isaac, and Dustyn Bell, one granddaughter, Kayleah, and one great-grandchild, Abby Mae Bell.

Elmer Samuel Fingerle was born to Samuel and Eathel Fingerle on May 1913. He departed this life at his home in Long Beach, CA on Feb 13, 2003, at the age of 89 years. He was united in marriage to Eleanor Blanche Fingerle on Feb. 1, 1953. To this union one son was born, Gregg Samuel Fingerle of Huntington Beach, CA.

Bro. Fingerle received Christ as his personal Savior at the age of ten years at the Evening Light Saints Church of God chapel in Whittier, CA. His late father, Samuel Fingerle, was one of God's servants in the Church of God at Whittier, CA.

Bro. Elmer spent many hours in prayer for his family and loved ones. He and Sis. Eleanor enjoyed many happy years together working in their flower and vegetable gardens.

Bro. Elmer is survived by one grandson, Greigary Fingerle; three sisters, Bernadine Elmore of Othello, WA; Sadie Parks of Riverside, CA; Rachel Nelson of Stayton, OR; one brother, L. D. Fingerle of Riverside, CA and his Wife, Eleanor of Long Beach, CA.

His interment was in Forest Lawn Cemetery at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Cypress, CA.

Grace Nadine Berry Smoot was born to Charlie and Jennie Berry in Crittendon County, KY, on Aug. 4, 1921. She passed from this life April 2, 2003 at the age of 81 years. She was the sixth of seven children born into a close knit and loving family. While money was scarce, they worked hard on their small farm growing their own food and making a living. They willingly shared what they had with others and were known for their hospitality and wonderful cooking. Jennie would often read the 91st Psalm to the children and it became Nadine's favorite passage from the Bible. It gave her comfort all her life.

When Nadine was 16 she met her future husband, Lloyd Smoot. Three years later he came to a Kentucky camp meeting and immediately fell in love. They planned a spring wedding but it was moved up to Dec. 23 because of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Lloyd joined the Navy and Nadine traveled with him until he shipped out the next fall. They didn't see each other for 38 months but they wrote each other every day.

After the end of the war they built a little house in the country near Oklahoma City and reared their family. In 1953 they gave their hearts to God and taught their children, Brenda, and Alan, to love Him too. Nadine would rock and read to her children and teach them Bible stories. In the evenings they honored the Lord together in family worship.

She loved to cook, sew and care for her family. Her love reached to other children also. She would baby-sit for little nieces and nephews of Lloyd's. One family became very special to her. She became a surrogate grandmother to Debbie, Cheryl, Keith and Brett Butler. They called her "Nanine" and she fondly repeated stories of their little antics even in her old age.

Her love readily included the spouses of her children and was overjoyed with her grandchildren.

Nadine gave of her time and resources until there was no more to give. Even during the last months of her life she would try to give candy or some other gift to those caring for her.

She is survived by one son and his wife, Alan and Jacki Jansen Smoot; one daughter, Brenda and her husband Dick Kinchen; three granddaughters, Allyson and her husband Keith Williamson, Jennifer Smoot and Tessa Smoot; one step-granddaughter, Sue Allyson Brewster; two step-grandsons, Aaron Gamet and Gabriel Gamet; and one sister Ruth Brantley. She is preceded in death by her parents, Charles G. and Jennie Buchanan Berry; her husband of 39 years who passed away Sept. 28, 1981, Lloyd Smoot; three brothers, Adrian, Carl and Weldon Berry; two sisters, Alda Hayes Heady and Lucille Litchfield.

Memorial services were held April 6, 2003 at the Oak Grove Church of God. The officiating ministers were Bro. Steve Elston and Bro. Michael Williamson. Interment followed at the Oak Grove Church of God Cemetery, Loranger, LA.

CONSTRAINED BY LOVE

(Continued from page 3.)

He wants you to have that motivating force down in your soul that keeps you away from the evil paths. He wants you to have the courage to say no to the advances of the enemy who will try to spoil your soul, and spoil your testimony, and spoil your walk with the Lord. He wants you to be able to have that courage in your everyday life. Now it says "For the love of Christ constraineth us." I feel like I'm part of that "us." The love of Christ constraineth us. Do you know what constrain means? To force, by imposed constriction, or restriction, or limitation.

To force, that almost sounds like coercion doesn't it? It says here "For the love of Christ constraineth us." What kind of love did Christ have for the world; what kind of love did He have for mankind? Sometimes we feel challenged to stop and help somebody who has a flat tire or needs a ride. The love of Christ constraineth us. He was tempted in all points like you and I are, yet without sin. In another place it says that He took all the sins of the world. Now why would He do that? Was He scared of His Father? Was God coercing Him? It was more than that. I don't

A group of young people pose for a photograph Easter Sunday, April 20, 2003 at the Church of God chapel, Enterprise, AL. The Lord blessed the singing and services. Many saints came from quite a distance to be together in these services. The young people seemed to enjoy their fellowship also.

Photo by W.E.M.

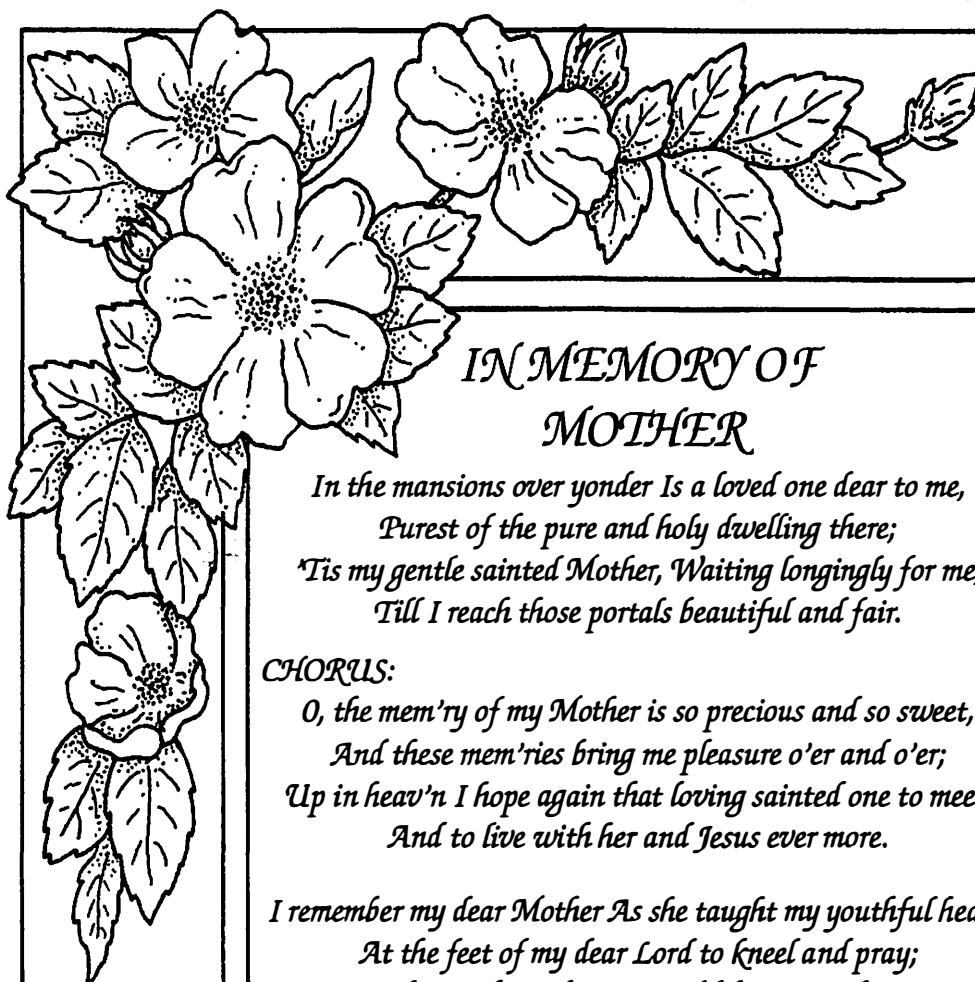


Parents want their children to turn out well. None of us are pushing our children in a path that will end in destruction. I don't want my children to end up with catastrophic life failures and feel all kinds of distress. I want the very best for my sons. I want them to find good companions and I want them to have grandchildren for us to enjoy. I want them to have good, wholesome relationships with their spouses. That is what I want for them, and you do too. But I can't make them do it. I can't pick out their spouse, I can't make sure they treat them right, sometimes we'd like to make them do that, but we can't do it for them. They are going to have to do that for themselves. They are going to have to

Today we commemorate Easter, the resurrection of Christ. What are we commemorating? We are commemorating a powerful love that should be constraining me. It should cause me to say: "O Lord, what can I do to be more like You? How can I be a better representative of You in this world?" I trust the Lord will take our feeble abilities this morning and convey to you the burden that we have. That each one of us have the desire, not of coercion, not because we are scared, but because we love the Lord, and we are not talking about a paradox here where love is fear. We are talking about where we love the Lord to the extent that I don't want to do anything that would displease Him. If we have that down deep in our heart, folks, we'll be successful. We will be able to meet the Lord in peace on the Day of Judgment. You pray for me, I want to be pleasing to the Lord.

Order Blank

FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY



IN MEMORY OF MOTHER

*In the mansions over yonder Is a loved one dear to me,
Purest of the pure and holy dwelling there;
'Tis my gentle sainted Mother, Waiting longingly for me,
Till I reach those portals beautiful and fair.*

CHORUS:

*O, the mem'ry of my Mother is so precious and so sweet,
And these mem'ries bring me pleasure o'er and o'er;
Up in heav'n I hope again that loving sainted one to meet,
And to live with her and Jesus ever more.*

*I remember my dear Mother As she taught my youthful heart,
At the feet of my dear Lord to kneel and pray;
O, I miss her smiles so loving, And life is not what it was,
Ere to yonder glory world she passed away.*

*She was very kind and tender, She was very pure and good,
And to know her was to love her fervently;
O, she was a faithful Christian, True to every holy vow!
Full of blessing was her holy life to me.*

This poem was written by Elisha A. Hoffman, a minister and hymn-writer who lived from 1839 to 1929. He was the author of such songs as "I Must Tell Jesus," "Are You Washed In The Blood?," "Is Your All On The Altar," "Leaning On The Everlasting Arms" and "Glory To His Name." It is a loving and tender tribute to a sainted mother. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

