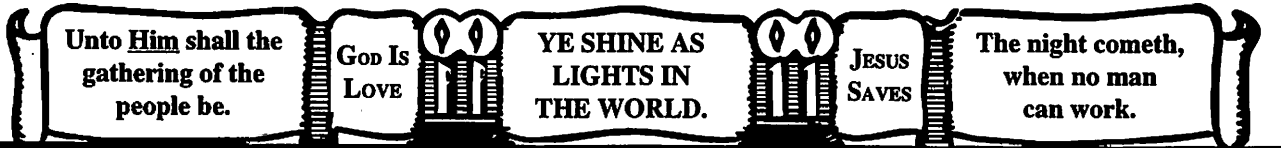


FAITH AND VICTORY

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GETTING TO KNOW GOD

By Bro. Adriel Bowman

Part I, Introduction

One of the things that young Christians are often perplexed about is how does one get to know God? Even older Christians yearn to know God better. Time is often spent thinking and meditating about the nature of God, His characteristics, how He manifests Himself, how one knows when He is speaking, etc. All of these questions are pertinent to the Christian experience. It is the Christian's goal to know more about God, to please Him, to allow Him greater access and influence in his life. We can know God by looking at nature around us, because that is His creation. We can know God by learning what He likes and dislikes and how He works. We can get to know God by reading and studying the Bible, because it contains His Word and some of His revelation. We can know God by letting Him live in us so we become His temple and abode. We can know Him by talking

to Him and letting Him talk to us. By these means we can become personally acquainted with Him.

If we look at the world and universe around us, we are inspired by its order, complexity and greatness. We recognize and acknowledge that a greater intelligence and power existed prior to it all. This did not arise from some random uncontrolled events. The whole of our known reality was created by God. He is the Creator. He knows all the laws that govern the earth, the universe, human nature and the heart of man. He knows the whole of human history. He truly knows all things. There is a great deal of reality, knowledge and truth that we will never know and are not capable of conceiving. But God is awesome; His power is awesome. He has more power than all the potential and kinetic energy and inertia of the universe. His dimensions are beyond human comprehension. He is eternal and timeless in existence. His intelligence is superior to all creation combined. His moral authority is absolute.

Contents

Here Am I	3
Editorials	4
Prayer Requests	6
Meeting Dates and Notices	7
Meeting Reports	10
Letters from the Readers	12
Obituaries	14

Part II, Historical Perspective

We begin to learn something about God by reading about Him. Starting in the Old Testament; Exodus 20:3-6 tells us, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in

the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments." This scripture gives some basic insight about God. God is a jealous god. He is the great Creator, He wants man's respect, allegiance and affection. The Israelites were God's chosen people in old testament times. They are symbolic of the people God has called to be His in modern times. By studying His relationship with these people whom He had chosen to especially communicate, we learn about God's characteristics. In Jeremiah 3:14, He used the expression that He was married to them. In Genesis 17:7-8, He made a covenant with Abram, the father of this chosen people, that He would give them the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession and that He would be their God. Exodus 34:10-28 says, "And he said, Behold, I make a covenant: before all thy people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which thou art shall see the work of the Lord: for it is a terrible thing that I will do with thee. Observe thou that which I command thee this day: behold, I drive out before thee the Amorite, and the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite. Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee: But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves: For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God: Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a-whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice;... And the Lord said unto Moses, Write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel...And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments." God made, in essence, a marriage covenant with His chosen people through Moses. In Exodus 25:21-22, God had instructed Moses concerning His place of worship, that he should "put the mercy seat

above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel." God wanted His Word to be held in the highest place of esteem in His worship. He wanted observance of His Word to be at the forefront in man's mind as he partook of God's mercies and communed with him. In short, He wanted a careful allegiance. Today, after we have covenanted with a marriage partner, we desire unfailing allegiance and faithfulness. We desire a partner that strives to please us, one that places our desires at the forefront and does all of this out of true affection. We feel personally affronted when our spouse fails in these matters, as when they may commit adultery or become untrue in their affections. We often feel this a just cause for separation, even divorce. God felt similarly.

Let's look further at this relationship. Years later, God's chosen people were split into two groups, Israel and Judah. Both groups committed idolatry. How did God react? In II Kings 17:5-23 and II Kings 21:1-16, God's wrath was kindled against these people because of this idolatry. He decided to forsake them, to let them be taken over by their enemies and removed from the land He had promised them. In other words, He separated Himself from them. He stopped protecting and defending them. He no longer went before them to defeat their enemies. This lets us know that God will be very severe with us today if we depart from Him, turn a deaf ear to His voice and walk in the manner of those that do not serve Him.

Part III, God's Call to His People

It is not God's will to leave people He has called to be His forever in this state of separation. In Jeremiah 31:31-34, the Bible says, "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my

(Continued on page 16.)

“HERE AM I”

“The Lord called Samuel; and he answered, Here am I. And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou callest me.” I Sam. 3:4-5a.

Perhaps all have heard the story of the child Samuel who heard the voice of the Lord and thinking it was Eli the priest, ran obediently to him. Eli had not called and told him to lie down again. When this was repeated the third time Eli perceived that the Lord had called Samuel and instructed him to answer, “Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth.” Although only a small child, the Lord gave Samuel a message for Eli. Samuel was in a condition that God could speak to him and trust him with a message. May the Lord help us to be always in a condition where God can speak to us and can trust us with whatever He wants us to do. Samuel answered, “Here am I.”

After Isaiah had seen the vision of the Lord and the seraphim had touched his lips with a live coal from the altar he heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then Isaiah answered, “Here am I, send me.” He was ready to do whatever the Lord needed done. God wants us to be ready too. My heart is especially burdened that our dear young people may feel the responsibility of being ready for service. Remember, Samuel was only a child when God began to use him. He can use young people today. They must be obedient. Nor does God want any to feel that they are too old to do anything for the Lord. Eli was old but God would have used him to the end had he kept where God could have trusted him.

I remember one dear old sister who lived to be over ninety. One day she went to the Lord and asked Him why He was leaving her here so long. The Lord gave her this reply, “So that you may tell people, ‘Ye must be born again.’” She couldn’t be active as in younger days and sometimes had to be cared for by others, but she took the message seriously and began to use the opportunities given her to tell people that “they must be born again.” “They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing.” Psa. 92:14. God wants his older saints to keep in a condition where He can talk to them and they can answer, “Here am I.”

One day the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden was heard in the cool of the day.

Adam and Eve hid themselves. Why was it? The Lord had not spoken one word of reproof yet. Probably before this they had welcomed His presence and voice and delighted in communion, but now they hid themselves. They had disobeyed and were afraid of His presence. They were no longer in a condition where they could joyfully say, “Here am I.”

God had given Abraham the son he had promised. One day God spoke to Abraham and he answered, “Here am I.” God told him to take his son and offer him for a burnt offering upon a certain mountain. Abraham had answered not only with his lips, but his heart was ready to obey God. He started early the next morning. Sometimes God calls for a sacrifice, but let us be ready and willing as Abraham was. He will be sure to bless us as he did Abraham if we will be faithful. God called a halt to Abraham’s sacrifice just in time and made him to know he was not to go through with the ordeal. God accepted the will for the deed for he knew Abraham purposed to obey.

Saul was on his way to Damascus to persecute the disciples of the Lord but the Lord met him and spoke to him saying, “Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?” Saul said, “Who art thou, Lord?”; “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” He was in need of someone to pray for him and instruct him in the way of the Lord. The Lord called to Ananias in a vision and he answered, “Behold, I am here, Lord.” Ananias was ready to receive the instructions from the Lord. A precious soul was in need, and Ananias was chosen to fill that need because he was willing to be where God could speak to him. The Lord gave Ananias directions to find Saul and calmed the fears he had because Saul had done much evil to the saints. The Lord said that Saul “is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.” Ananias ministered to Saul and the Lord restored sight to his eyes and filled him with the Holy Ghost. Ananias was a valuable tool used by the Lord in the conversion of Saul. When the call came for service, he was ready and willing to be used by the Lord.

May God help us to ever keep in that place where God can talk to us and we can reply, “Here am I.” —*Faith and Victory*, April 1959

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.

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

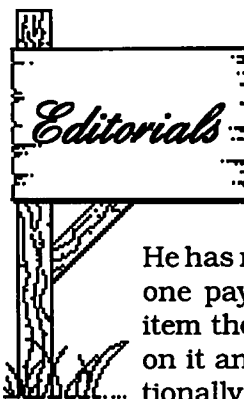
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How thankful we are to be included in the family of God. Jesus paid a great price to bring forgiveness, redemption and freedom to His family and it is important for us to realize that

He has not deserted us. When someone pays such a high price for an item they clearly place a high value on it and they are going to be emotionally attached to it. Jesus was motivated by a great love for mankind to suffer the cruel death He faced and now that He is "alive for evermore" His compassion for us is not diminished. He said, "...It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." What a blessing to have the Holy Spirit minister to our hearts. He can be with each one in their time of need and He is always there to bring comfort, hope and joy to our heart.

There have been many instances of severe weather reported in the central portion of the United States this spring. There were about 300 tornadoes reported in the first ten days of May. Some of these have left their trail of destruction very close to our loved ones. How thankful we are that the Lord has spared their lives. It has been wonderful how the Lord has kept His hand over them in the storm.

During this season of the year we are frequently advised during severe weather to go to a safe place. In life we likewise need a place of shelter from the storms that would overwhelm our soul. There are several songs in the *Evening Light Songs* hymnal that express the thought of finding a place of refuge in the Lord. One of those is number 75, "In the rifted Rock I'm resting, Safely sheltered, I abide; There no foes nor storms molest me, While within the cleft I hide."

Our Saviour opened a place of safety for our souls to be sheltered from the evil winds that are blowing. Thank the Lord for the secret pavilion we have found! If you are discouraged today, I would encourage you to examine your heart and make sure you have met the entry requirements for access to this secure refuge in Jesus Christ. Then sing or read song number 79, "Tis Well with Me" and let the knowledge of His tender, benevolent care bring assurance and cheer. "Since Jesus shed his precious blood, That I might ransomed be, I know he'll safely keep my soul, Whate'er befallerth me."

Bro. Steve Elwell from Oregon called this last month and alerted us to an internet auction by the U.S. Government that was selling several pallets of paper. We went to the internet auction site and viewed the information that was presented on the government surplus paper that was offered for sale and believed it would be useful for our work here at the Lord's Print Shop. Consequently on May 15, we purchased seven skids of paper at a greatly reduced price from what it would have normally cost us. This paper was located in Boise, ID and we were required to have it picked up by May 28. We had our shipment posted for truckers that were returning with an empty load in an attempt to have them haul it for us. But the Lord did not see fit to allow us to make connections for this shipment of paper.

On May 24, Bro. Efrain Huerta, who operates the large press to print the *Faith and Victory*, and I headed for Idaho in his one ton diesel farm truck pulling a lowboy tandem axle flat bed trailer. We knew when we left that the tires were getting old and that it had not been used for long distance driving, but we went trusting the Lord to make a way for us to bring the load of paper back.

When we were between Denver, CO and Cheyenne, WY a knot was discovered on one of the rear dual tires. We inquired about a place to get tires but it was late on Saturday evening and we were told that we couldn't get it replaced until the following day. We decided to go on to Cheyenne to spend the night. We reduced our driving speed and the tire did blow out but we were able to make it on in. On Sunday morning we were able to get a couple of tires at the Sam's store in Cheyenne, WY. We had them mounted on the front of the pickup and moved one of the existing tires to the back. We took the other old tire with us and the Lord gave us the opportunity to use it as we were crossing the state of Idaho. We found a filling station that had tire-changing equipment and they put it on to replace the second tire that went bad. By this time we knew that we were going to have to replace all of the tires on the pickup because we had not put our load on it yet and the tires were already going bad.

We spent Monday night in Mountain Home, ID and planned to travel the 40 miles to Boise the next day and have our tires changed and then get our load of paper. When we were about ten miles from Boise the drive shaft broke loose

from the rear end. It bent the drive shaft and damaged the yoke on the rear axle. After examining the damage we decided to pull the drive shaft and engage the four-wheel drive and the Lord helped us to make it to Boise. I'm sure we strung a little oil from our transfer case along the last few miles to town.

We located a salvage yard but they did not have a drive shaft that would fit our truck. They referred us to a couple of shops that rebuild drive line components. The first one we visited did not prove satisfactory but another one across town was very professional and willing to help us promptly. They were able to make a new drive shaft and had it fixed by about 3:40 p.m. The government warehouse that had our paper closed at 4:00 p.m. When I made the statement that we didn't have time to get our load that evening the manager of the drive line shop said, "You have still got time to get there. What is the address?" He looked up our address and told us how to get there. Ten minutes before closing time, we arrived at the warehouse and asked about getting our seven skids of paper loaded. The man in charge said, "I wish you would have called first." But I was glad I didn't call. He probably would have told me it was too late. As it was, he agreed to load us up. About 45 minutes later we pulled out of their yard so they could close the gates and we went to work strapping our load down.

We placed four skids of paper on the trailer and three skids on the bed of our oneton pickup. After we secured our load, we had prayer and started for Wal-Mart to get some tires. About 10:00 p.m., with new tires all around on the pickup, we started for home with 10,080 pounds of paper. Bro. Efrain assured me that in Mexico they would put a lot more than one ton on a one ton pickup. The trailer axles were rated at 3500 pounds each and we had about 5760 pounds on the trailer and 4320 pounds on the pickup. We drove through the night and the next day. We were travelling through Wyoming and were having trouble with the engine heating as we climbed the mountains. Sometimes we were only able to go in first gear at 5-7 m.p.h. At those times we were carefully watching the temperature gauge on the engine trying to keep it from crossing the last mark into the red. As the afternoon progressed it seem to get worse and we decided to try to wash out the radiator or do something to help it to cool better. While we were stopped

examining the radiator we discovered a lot of grass and leaves, possibly even a bird nest blocking the air flow between the air conditioner condenser coil and the radiator. At a car wash we washed and picked as much of it out as we could get hold of and that greatly helped the airflow and cooling of the engine. Eventually we began to pass the peaks of the Rockies and things seemed to run smoother as we came down the hills. The Lord blessed that we were able to make it back to the Print Shop with our heavy load.

There were times along the way that the enemy would suggest how expensive it was going to be to mail this paper out after we went to all the work of printing on it then paying the post office postage for every ounce of weight. But we tried to ignore him. We are serving a great God and we only have to go up the hill that we are on today.

Our heart rejoiced when we pulled into the driveway here at the Print Shop. The Lord had kept the rain off the paper all the way home. Around Denver, it looked like we were running into rain but the Lord held it off while we passed by. After we arrived, Bro. Efrain told me to get under the truck and look at the transmission. Upon examination a crack was visible that ran halfway around the bell housing that mounted the transmission to the motor. He said, "Only me and the Lord knew it." He had discovered the crack in Boise when they were repairing the drive shaft and he didn't tell me all of the way home. He was praying for the Lord to hold it together and help us make it home. Which He did. Thank the Lord! Sometimes we may not fully understand the burden our brother is carrying even while we are sitting next to him, but our great God knows all things and He knows how to help each one of us.

The Lord richly blessed in the Oklahoma State Camp Meeting held here in Guthrie. While we were unable to attend all of the meeting we were praying for it and the reports are wonderful. See page 10 for the personal testimonies of many young people who were blessed.

At press time we are saddened by the death of Sis. Frances Deforth. She has been a faithful member of the Guthrie congregation for many years. She will be greatly missed. Pray that God will comfort her companion Bro. Roman Deforth, her children and family

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



FL—Remember Bro. Richard Monkman in prayer. He has severe congestion in his lungs and other physical needs.

ID—Pray for Sis. Ruby Harris. She is having trouble with double vision and other problems with her eyes.

KS—Bro. Willie, Will you add Sis. Blinda Simon's name to the prayer list? She has cancer that has spread to three different organs. We are seeking for and looking for healing from God and desire any who so share this request to pray with us. Thank you, —Sis. Shirley Knight

KS—I sure would appreciate your prayers. For several days I have had a lot of pain and numbness from the waist down especially on the right side. Sometimes it is very difficult to stand or walk. The dear Lord has healed me and my loved ones many times through the years and I know of His wonderful touch that has healed many other people. I am looking forward to the touch of my loving Savior's hand.

—Sis. Naomi Dickerson Hiebert

LA—Bro. Manuel and Sis. Marie Mitchell are sure in need for their bodies. Keep remembering me.

—Sis. Velma Mancil

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
The Lounds Sisters
Sis. Ruth McMakin
Sis. Melba Powell
Sis. Anna Severs
Sis. Catherine Shaffer
Sis. Blinda Simon

MEETING DATES

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.]
Bakersfield, CA—Cancelled
CA, State (Pacoima, CA)—Aug. 15-24
Spooner, WI (Tent Meeting)—Aug. 20-24
Boley, OK—Aug. 21-24



MEETING NOTICES

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. Alvoid Pratt (803) 492-3366.



TULSA, OK, CAMP MEETING

The Tulsa, OK camp meeting will begin on Sunday, June 8, 2003 and end on Sunday, June 15.

There will be morning and evening services Monday through Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday School will begin at 9:30 a.m., worship service at 10:30 a.m. with afternoon services on both Sundays.

All are invited to attend. Come praying and expecting great blessings from the Lord and also to be a blessing in the services.

The church address is 1102 E. Pine Pl. (The nearest main intersection is Pine and Peoria.) For more information contact the pastor, Bro. Charles Lowe, (918) 584-6838 or Bro. Charles Rhodes (918) 272-9682. The chapel telephone number is (918) 585-2442.



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.

FRESNO, CA, CAMP MEETING

The Fresno camp meeting, Lord willing, will be July 4-13. The first service will be Friday night at 7:00 p.m. Throughout the meeting, services will be at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Both Sundays there will be 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. worship service and 2:00 p.m. afternoon service.

Directions to the church: From the north on Hwy. 99 take the Belmont exit, go east about three miles to First St., turn right and go two blocks to Grant. The church is on First and Grant. Coming from the south on Hwy. 99, take the Venture exit, go east to First St., turn left and go to Grant.

For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Charles Taylor at (559) 348-9029. The church phone number is (559) 486-9977.

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

MEETING CANCELLATION BAKERSFIELD, CA

The annual gospel meeting in Bakersfield, CA has been cancelled due to the uncertainty of our new chapel construction and the pending sale of our present location. We solicit your prayers for the completion of the construction and for a future meeting to be announced in our new chapel at a later date. For more information contact our pastor, Bro. Hayward Cox at 661-836-3877.

CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The California State Camp meeting will be held this year from August 15, 2003 to August 24, 2003 at the campgrounds located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA 91331. The first service will begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday, August 15th, with three services daily thereafter. For more information, please contact either the Sunset Guest Home at (818) 899-2022, Bro. Paul Phillips at (661) 251-6956, or Bro. Herbert Clay at (818) 897-1396.

SPOONER, WI, TENT MEETING

Lord willing there will be a tent meeting Aug. 20-24 at Spooner, WI. We are praying and expecting an outpouring of God's Spirit at our tent meeting that will start with a special prayer service Aug. 20th. There will be two services daily, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. Sunday Worship services will be at 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. We extend a special invitation for everyone to come to help with the burden for the Great Mission of rescuing and encouraging souls. Come praying to be a blessing and to receive a blessing. For more information contact Bro. Ron and Sis. Martha Zecharias, (715) 635-2994.

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) 667-3654.

WICHITA MEETING REPORT

We are thanking God once more for the blessings He granted to us during our meeting in April. The Word was rich and very helpful as always. We appreciate the ministers that were able to attend and bring us word from God. If we only had a recorder in our head so we could replay the messages as needed, but the Holy Spirit is to bring it back to our memory as we need it.

Some sought help at the altar to be able to walk closer to God and be even better examples for Him. The singing was blessed and really was empowering to souls. We do appreciate the Lord for being mindful of us and reviving us to be better soldiers for Him. May we all prove faithful.

—Sis. Shirley Knight

**OKLAHOMA STATE MEETING REPORT
GUTHRIE, OK**

I want to thank the Lord for having mercy on me and saving my soul. Please pray for me that I would be all He would have me to be.

—Aaron Kramer, 16

The Guthrie OK camp meeting was a blessing to me and many other young people. God answered many prayers throughout the meeting. I'm glad to be serving the Lord with 15 other young people who got saved also. Keep praying for me that I may stay true to the Lord.

—Cynthia Huerta, 13

Tuesday night, May 27, 2003, will always stay imprinted in my life. The special song and the message was definitely sent from God. Several young people got saved during the altar call. After service the young people went to the dining hall and sang and testified. By the time the night was over 14 young people had accepted Christ as their Savior or reconsecrated their lives to Christ. The Lord is still working. Several more have gotten saved in the past few days. This meeting has been a wonderful blessing to me. Seeing so many of my friends make a decision to follow Christ renewed a longing to be everything God would have me be. Please pray for all of us that we will stay encouraged.

—Elizabeth Murphey, 17

I thank the Lord for saving me. I want to live for the Lord as long as I live. I am thankful for all the young people that got saved during the meeting.

—Gerald Sorrell, 14

I thank God that ever since that night God has taken the love away for country music. Not that it's bad but it isn't very godly. Every time I turn the radio on now it's not very satisfying. I think He wants me to think about Him more.

—Michael Gellenbeck, 16

Until May 27, 2003, I have been up and down with the Lord. But that night I really found Jesus. I may still make mistakes but I am not going to let that get me down. I am very encouraged. God showed Himself very real to many of us that night. I praise the Lord for saving me and keeping me on the upward track. Please pray for all of the young people that we will keep moving forward.

—Michelle Ann Huskey, 18

I thank the Lord for answering prayers and saving the young people in Guthrie, OK.

—Larendé Lewis, 20

I'm thankful to be saved and I'm really thankful for the way God answered prayers and saved so many people. It has really encouraged me. Please pray for me that I'll walk closer to God.

—Andrea Wall, 14

Before I got saved I thought that I would get saved when I got old. Then on May 27, 2003 I got saved plus 13 other young people.

—Maria Huskey, 13

I am thankful that the Lord saved me May 27, 2003. I am also thankful to have saved friends to talk to and to help me stay encouraged.

—Emilie Huskey, 13

I got a blessing the 29th. The message was for me. It was about change and how that the Lord can help us and wants to help us change. That message really gave me hope and encouragement. Thank you Lord!

—Sherie Benson, 17

It was really amazing to see all the young people get saved and submit to God. This meeting has really encouraged me!

—Emily Kramer, 14

I would like to thank the Lord for saving my soul once more. Bro. Michael Smith preached a mes-

sage about how there are seasons of sin. It may be enjoyable for a time but you will reap the benefit of your labor. The message spoke right to my soul and I'm happy to say that the Lord had mercy on my soul. I appreciate all the prayers that went up on my behalf. I ask that you would keep me in your prayers each day. Each day is an upward climb but by God's grace I will make it home one sweet day.

—Steven Sallee, 17

I thank God for saving me at Guthrie, OK summer camp meeting on May the 27th 2003.

—Sarah Clevenger, 14

I am thankful to be saved and that I am heavily blessed.

—Benjamin Kelly, 14

I am thankful that I could be at this meeting. I really feel like the Lord was there.

—Alison Kelly, 12

I want to thank my Lord Jesus Christ for coming down and saving my soul. I want to thank Him for dealing with my heart and having mercy on me until I gave my life to Him.

—Roy Huerta, 17

I want to thank God for giving me another chance to get saved. Pray for me that I'll live for Him until I die.

—Ryan Huskey, 15

I thank the Lord for His goodness to me. He is the best Friend anyone can have. One of my favorite scriptures is, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33. Pray for me that I will always keep Him first in my life and that I will allow Him to work in my life as He will. We truly need Him and one another.

—Julie Benson, 20

This meeting has been a great encouragement to me. Watching the young people and listening to their testimonies has been a great blessing! Don't ever be ashamed to testify. Even the smallest thing can be a blessing.

—Amanda Herron, 12

This past week has been such an encouragement. The messages, songs and testimonies have all provided food for thought. Simply being with the young people has been such a blessing. I pray that everyone will stay true to the Lord!

—Ashley Herron, 14

I'm thankful for being saved and for God's

many blessings to me during the Guthrie meeting. During the meeting God showed me how I often

choose my own path and then ask Him to bless me after I failed to let Him lead me in all aspects of my life. Please pray that I stay encouraged and that I will be willing to surrender all aspects of my life to Jesus and allow Him to direct each step that I take in this Christian life.

—Girma Moaning, 19

I would like to thank the Lord for saving me and making me a new person. Please pray that I'll be faithful to Him. I want to make Heaven my home.

—Sabrina Clevenger, 16

I love the Lord so much! He is so good to me. No, it is not always an easy road but God is very faithful to be there for me. I would also like to thank Him for being with me as I go to school every day. He has helped me to be willing to go to school as a person different from everyone else. Please pray for me that I can be the example that God would have me to be. I am thankful that God has kept me saved over the last 4 years. Thank the Lord!

—Ranelle Cole, 14

I want to thank the Lord for saving me this meeting. I also want to thank Him for saving almost the entire youth group here in Guthrie. I have tried other times to get saved but got dragged down. I want you all to pray for me to stay true and pray for all the ones who are yet to be saved.

—Andrea Huskey, 15

I love you, young people. In my mind I see us all standing together in a circle going through life together through the good and bad times. I want us all to stay together and not let this circle of togetherness—unity be broken. We can add to the circle but let us not break away from it. God is counting on each of us to be faithful.

—Jennifer Sorrell, 20

Twenty five followed the Lord in water baptism May 30, 2003.

I am thankful for His mercy and His saving grace—for delivering out of situations I had gotten myself into. I'm also thankful for my family's health. —Lorenzo S. Lewis, 20

I really enjoyed the services during this meeting and got a blessing from every one of them. I was encouraged by all the young people who got saved. —Kevin Sorrell, 16

I am thankful to be saved and for all of the blessings that the Lord has given me during this meeting. It has been an encouragement to see so many young people get saved. Please remember me in your prayers when we move to Honduras. —Sara Wall, 16



LETTERS
FROM
OUR
READERS

KS—Dear Saints: Greetings to each of you. I desire to give praise to my Lord for looking my way and dealing with me to perfect His holiness in my life. This is an ongoing work and how I love Him for it. One of the ways He has worked recently is in giving me a physical touch and I thank Him for taking notice of my distress.

During the Monark camp meeting in July, 2002, I had my second gallbladder attack, the first being five years earlier. Then five months later I had two more and a month later another light one. Each of these attacks really took their toll on me as I could not eat for a time. My weight dropped rapidly and my strength declined. The condition progressed to bordering on being life threatening.

I had never faced a serious physical condition for myself. I wanted to trust God, but I felt responsible for my condition due to my eating habits throughout my lifetime. I felt I needed to do all I could, nutritionally, to fix the problem. I had been adhering to a balanced food plan for one year so I was familiar with what proper eating involved. A few weeks after the July attack when I could take some food again, I ate foods recommended for my condition and also incorporated some dietary supplements as I was run down. But I wasn't gaining much ground.

When I would pray there would be a distant, fuzzy image that included all my efforts, efforts

that were not accomplishing anything. Being concerned about my condition I bowed in prayer and sought counsel of the Lord...I made the consecration and gave up my efforts. I committed myself unto God to do the work for me and I give Him all the glory. I was anointed and prayed for and I found there was a blessing and a peace in trusting God to do what I needed to have done. The Lord answered and I am now greatly improved. Praise God!

"Blessed be the Lord my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight: My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust;..." Psalm 144:1-2.

Let us pray for one another as we sojourn this Christian walk.

Your sister in Christ, —Marilyn Eck

LA—For the past week the Lord has showed me that He produces miracles in my life daily: the grace to live free from sin; working good out of the mess I make from hasty decisions; protection throughout my day; healing headaches, sore throats, allergies and etc. I am beginning to see that I take so much for granted. I have never seriously considered that "life and breath are in His hands."

The Lord impressed me with the phrase "miracles of growth." I was intrigued by the thought that God's miracles are powerful instruments in aiding my spiritual growth. I try to get all that the Lord has for me in the trials that come my way; for I know that trials are one of God's main instruments for spiritual growth.

I also believe that God works miracles to show the great love He has for me. It is a tender, yet awesome way of drawing me lovingly to His side. I feel that God would have me look for the daily miracles—great and small—and see that it is only because of God that I have such blessings. In turn, He wants my thankfulness and affections to be His. But I must be willing for daily miracles to draw me closer to Him. I must want to find the miracles and let them produce in me a radiant reverence for the One who sends them.

I studied a little bit about the thankful man that was among the ten lepers who were healed. He turned back to worship his Healer—the One who had done the miracle in his life. He did not treat it as a natural occurrence. It drew him closer to God because he responded to the miracle.

God has taught me a lot about how to respond to setbacks and roadblocks when He allowed a work-related accident and also a vehicle accident last year. But this year the Lord is showing me the beauty of following Him in a different way. I appreciate His daily miracles and I want to respond with love, reverence and passion for my God. Please pray for me. —Sis. Andrea Meek
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CA—Dear Bro. Willie: Glory be to God and His dear Son, Jesus, who is my Lord and Master. I am enjoying the last days of my journey. It is a miraculous thrill to be happy and at peace, having no offense toward God and man. It seems to me that I am enjoying the best days of my life in spite of trials and temptations. The longer I live the sweeter it grows. May the Lord bless all of you in your effort to put out the blessed paper. —Bro. Bob Mickelson
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SC—Dear Saints: It is with grateful hearts we are writing to thank each of you who have responded to our needs. We want to thank you for your many prayers for us. As you know, our income was suddenly cut off when my husband, Andy, had to stop working due to back surgery and severe back problems. He has not been able to work on his regular construction job since October 19, 2002. Many times the devil has painted dark pictures and tried to fill my heart with fear, but each time we've nearly hit bottom God has sent relief through an offering from one of the saints or a caring friend or a family member. We have received cards, letters and financial donations from some we have never even met. I can't begin to tell each of you how much this has meant to us. We have two boys, ages 13 and 8, and they are seeing God work firsthand in supplying our needs. I have read and told them stories of how God met the needs of the saints of old, but nothing could ever establish faith in their young hearts like seeing God answer their prayers for help. We want to thank each one who has helped us and ask you all to please continue to pray for us. Andy will not be able to return to work for an indefinite period of time, and the doctor says he may need another surgery. This one is more serious than the last. God called me to home school our boys and that is what I am endeavoring to do. I want to be the godly wife and mother He would have me to be. Please remember us in prayer. Thank you all so very much.

—Sis. Marie Weatherford and Family

LA—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus. I hope all is well with you folks there. I felt like writing another testimony of the goodness of the Lord to me. I had another bout of affliction this past fall. It was rather serious and the devil tried hard to cause discouragement during my time of sickness but the Lord helped me through it. After about six weeks He brought me out of the illness. Praise the Lord! I am looking to the Lord to heal me of the diabetic condition that I have. I have much trouble with my feet. I need your prayers and the prayers of the saints for my complete healing.

Your brother in the Lord, —Doyle LaCroix
— — — — —

OK—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings to you in the precious and everlasting name of Jesus our faithful Lord. I am glad that Jesus is the same yesterday today and forever. He loves for us to believe His Word and is faithful to keep His promises. It is wonderful to know God and trust Him.

The Lord has helped both wife and I in our bodies for which we are indeed grateful. I am almost well from the affliction that I had for over a year. Wife is some better but she still has a heart condition which gives her some pain and causes her to be very weak and limited in her strength. We desire a continuation of your prayers. Your saved brother, —T. V. McMillian
— — — — —

OH—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings in the precious and most holy name of Jesus. I trust the Lord is supplying and upholding the great work of reaching out to a lost and dying world. I would like to send you an account of what the Lord is doing here in the Dayton congregation. The Lord has blessed us with a growth spurt of about six or seven families added to our worship services on Sunday morning... Beginning June 1, 2003, we will no longer be worshiping in the little chapel we have had for over fifty years. We have had the selling of it before the Lord for some time, and He has so graciously answered prayer. Our problem is we don't know where we are going to worship now. The congregation is spread out by several miles in distance, and we need the Lord to open up a place to go. Also the relocating is going to cost considerably more than what we have on hand at this time. Most of the people are retired on fixed incomes, so are limited to what they can contribute. If anyone has any of the Lord's money, and would like to help us here, it would greatly be appreciated. I

really do feel the Lord is trying to do something in Dayton. I know He owns the cattle on a thousand hills, and He has promised to take care of His own. For further information contact Bro. Larry Abbott, 5665 Kizer Lane, Springfield OH 45502, (937) 390-1563 or Bro. Rick Cox, 2341 Shrine Road, Springfield, OH 45502, (937) 964-9101. God bless you. We will be praying for your success and blessings in His work. In God's love,
—Bro. Larry Abbott

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.



John Dee Carter, the oldest son of Paul and Mable Carter, was born July 7, 1935 in Beggs, OK. He passed from this life April 4, 2003. In 1946, the Carter family moved to Bakersfield where John continued his education until he enlisted in the U.S. army in 1950.

In 1958 John met and married Lois Hammond. To this union two children were born. In 1964, he was united in marriage to Joyce Hill. To this union two children were born.

At an early age John's exceptional ability to design and invent was clearly recognizable. John's mechanical genius and keen interests in cars and trucks were displayed throughout his career. For many years his detailing skills were demonstrated in his employment by numerous car dealerships and detail shops. He eventually opened his own business, Carter's Detail Shop. As a specialist in his field he experimented with various chemicals, making waxes and shampoo

products that were superior, earning him special recognition from the Bakersfield Californian.

John accepted the Lord and used his abilities and generosity to help many. For years he faithfully and willingly served the church as the building maintenance chairman. He took pride in his work and made sure each job was performed correctly.

His love for people, sense of humor, genuine concern and generous nature was an inspiration to all he encountered. He will be greatly missed by all. He was preceded in death by his mother Mable Carter and his father Paul E. Carter. He leaves to cherish his memories, one brother, Lee A. Carter and wife Quincy; two sisters, Bobbie J. Grissom, Norma H. Sherman and husband Archie, all of Bakersfield, CA; three sons, John Dee Carter, Jr., Detroit, MI; Johnathan D. Carter and wife Dorothy, Temecula, CA; and Leland J. Carter, Ridgecrest, CA; and three daughters, Monica Johnson and Susan Carter, Detroit, MI; Mechelle Morris, Bakersfield, CA; seventeen grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, saints and friends.

Memorial services were officiated by Bro. Hayward Cox on April 12, 2003. Interment followed in the Garden of Memories, Hillcrest Memorial Park, Bakersfield, CA.

Brandon Ethan Arlis Clayton was born to Ken and Gloria (Porter) Clayton on April 27, 2001. He was a sweet and loving little boy. He died in a house fire on May 13, 2003. He is survived by his father and stepmother, Ken and Jessica Clayton; his mother, Gloria Clayton; four brothers, Michael Porter, Kenneth, Darius and Alexzander Clayton; one sister, Anika and grandmother Dena Porter. Memorial services were conducted by Bro. James Bell on May 18, 2003.

We thank each one who expressed their love by calling, sending flowers, cards or food and for those who were present at the services. May God bless each one. —Sis. Dena Porter and family

Virgie (Marler) Flynn was born to Frank and Katie Marler on July 31, 1925 in Kime, MO. She passed from this life on March 19, 2003 at the age of 77 years at the Golden Rule Nursing Home in Shawnee, OK.

As a young child she moved with her family to Senath, MO. Having been taught the Bible

truth all her life, the Lord continually dealt with her. At the age of 22 years she yielded her heart to the Lord and was saved at the Monark Springs, MO camp meeting in July of 1948.

On June 14, 1964, she married Kenneth Flynn of Loranger, LA and to this union was born one son, Kevin Flynn, on Sept. 13, 1965.

After her husband passed away in Dec. of 1996, Virgie lived with her son and his family in the house that she had called home for many years. One morning she had a stroke, thus precipitating a move to the Golden Rule Nursing Home in Shawnee, OK where she lived until she went to her eternal home.

She was preceded in death by her father and mother; her sister, Cassie Sell; three brothers, Louie, Willard and Lenard Marler and her husband, Kenneth Flynn.

She is survived by her sister, Ruth Rachels of MO; her son, Kevin Flynn of Highlandville, MO and her granddaughter, Heather Nicole Flynn of Inola, OK.

Victor B. Phillips, son of the late Bro. Ulysses and Sis. Ella V. Phillips was born on Jan. 11, 1920 in Dover, OK and was called home on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2003 in Washington, D.C. at the age of 83 years.

The US Government employed him in Washington D.C. for many years. He used much of his expertise in recommending, formulating and assisting in implementing programs for the benefit of the underprivileged.

He was united in holy matrimony to Alice M. White. His father, Bro. Ulysses Phillips officiated. They were blessed with one son, Victor Jr. Victor and his wife Alice enjoyed traveling. This he did extensively for his career, church activities and vacations. He covered the United States and a number of foreign countries. Photography was his hobby. Wherever he went, you could count on him having a camera.

Both Victor and his wife Alice sought the Lord in the early years of their marriage and were saved. He especially enjoyed ministering to the sick, leaving them with words of his favorite poem, "Look Up." He believed in prayer. Many times at the end of a telephone call he would close with prayer. He never failed to give the Lord glory and honor to his parents for his upbringing. Bro. Phillips knew his end was nigh and made preparation. When asked one day where he was, his reply was "In God's Hand."

To cherish his memory, he leaves his darling wife, Alice, as he called her, of 57 years; one son, Victor Phillips, Jr. of Silver Springs, MD; two sisters, Joy Williams of Oklahoma City, OK; Olive Davenport of San Bernadino, CA; four sisters-in-law, Mrs. Alice White of Washington, D.C.; Dr. Lucille Jones and Armedia White of Oklahoma City, OK; Mary Eddens of Arcadia, OK; nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Joseph Lewis Sherman was born the youngest son of Archible Wendell and Norma Helen Sherman Jr., on December 22, 1984 in Bakersfield, CA.

Joseph, a gifted artist, aspired to pursue a career in graphic arts and computers after graduation. He was a helpful and caring person; he loved life, his family and friends. His bright outlook on everything and humorous nature easily inspired happiness in those around him.

Joseph loved the Lord and accepted Him at an early age. When he was able he loved to be a part of church activities. He especially enjoyed using his computer abilities to help with church projects. Joseph also loved serving with Bro Earl Jackson and participating in youth services and activities. Joseph's giving personality was shown not only by his monthly commitment to the Church of God building project but also by the continual interest he showed his family and friends.

Joseph often spoke of his ambitions in life. His highest hopes were to grow up and become educated, obtain his first job and some day be a family man. However, God had a greater calling for him. After a brief illness, on February 11, 2003 at the age of 18, the Lord called him home. As Joseph's favorite song says, "I have a home...where peace and joy do reign supreme and love shall be my only theme..." Joseph's loving and friendly disposition will be greatly missed by all.

Joseph was preceded in death by his sister, Wendelyn Faye Davenport. Those left to cherish his memory, his parents Norma and Archible Sherman; sisters and brothers, Tammara Sherman of Bakersfield, Andra and husband Abdiel McCray of Wichita, KS; Archible W. Sherman III and wife Arline of Jacksonville, FL; Paul Sherman and wife Kelly of Tampa, FL; Jacob Sherman of Bakersfield, CA; Philip Davenport of San Bernadino, CA; best friend William Grimes of Bakersfield, CA; many nieces, nephews, relatives, saints and friends.

Getting To Know God

(Continued from page 2.)

covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." This passage is mirrored in the New Testament in Hebrews 8:8-11. It was God's will to make a new covenant, a spiritual covenant with His people; a covenant which would include all people that would accept His call and become His chosen people. This new covenant is much broader in scope than the old covenant,

not limited to one ethnic group. It is not limited to the direct physical descendents of Abraham, but includes all those who are the children of Abraham's faith, in short, all who have accepted His full covenant of salvation today. This covenant is made through Jesus Christ and His shed blood. We can have the law of the covenant, the commandments of God, the testimony of Christ written within our heart. No longer are they written on the tables of stone like God did for Moses, nor on some piece of paper in ink, but by a transforming work of the Holy Spirit on the hearts of man, they are written in the fleshly tables of one's heart. This is done through salvation from sin, rejection of evil from the heart, dedication of our hearts to God in sanctification, having God remove the sinful, carnal nature we inherited from our forefathers and receiving the Holy Spirit within.

In the New Testament, we still have God's counsel against idolatry. In Matthew 6:24 we are told, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." (The wealth of this world.) Luke 8:14 tells us that worldly cares, riches and pleasures will choke the Word of God out of our hearts. In John 17:16 Christ says His people "are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." I John 2:15 says, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." Hebrews 3:12 counsels, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." In Matthew 22:37 Jesus said the greatest commandment was to love the Lord thy God with all of our heart, soul and mind. Then in St. John 14:15 He said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." Let it be established that God is a jealous God. He is a living, loving God. He wants our love. He wants our obedience to His commandments. He will not tolerate other loves in the heart of His chosen ones. And if we go after other loves and allow them to have the affection that is rightfully His, that is spiritual idolatry and spiritual adultery. He will separate us from Himself in the same manner as the chosen people of the Old Testament. He will no longer protect us but will allow our adversary the devil to take advantage of us.

(To be continued.)

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