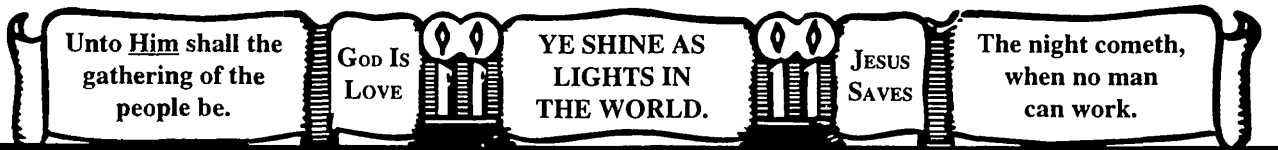


FAITH AND VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



Volume 81, No. 5 81st Year Guthrie, Oklahoma \$3.00 Per Year July, 2003

GETTING TO KNOW GOD

BY BRO. ADRIEL BOWMAN

(Continued from last month.)

Part IV,

Obeying and Communing with Him.

God reveals Himself to us through His Word, commandments. We must obey and keep His commands to know Him. I John 2:3 says, "Hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments." St. John 12:35 says, "Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth." St. John 14:15 says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." We get to know God by obeying His commandments. The more we do the things that He desires, the more He reveals Himself to us.

It is unthinkable that we could know someone without spending time in their presence and talking with them and they with us. When

we spend time in His presence talking with Him and He with us, then we are able to know Him. We learn about what He likes and dislikes. He will talk with us when we turn a listening ear to Him. Our relationship with Him will not be one-sided like some human relationships. He wants to talk to us and communicate with us the same as He did with the very first man He created. There is something of God in each of us today; it yearns for and is only truly satisfied with a communion with Him. As we talk to Him, spend time with Him, do His bidding, we begin to grow accustomed to His ways. We gain a certain familiarity with His presence. As a hymn says, "No more I think of God afar, but see thee, Lord, within."

St. John 10:4 says, "And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice." Then St. John 10: 27 says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." These promises are opened to us for following diligently after Him. We know Him, His voice and He knows us. We can sense His presence with our spiritual senses, we feel Him certainly, just as real as we can touch and feel the physical world around us. Note that in another case Jesus said He would tell people that He never knew them because they didn't do the things He wanted them to do. So, con-

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Come to the National Camp Meeting, Monark Springs, MO, July 18-27.

versely, when we do the things He wants us to do He begins to know us in this real sense. His spirit and our spirit become kindred. We can even begin to know the mind of Christ. II Corinthians 4:6, says, "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 2:9-12, says, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for

the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

As we turn our hearts to God in full devotion, God begins to shine His light into our heart, soul and mind. He reveals Himself, His ways, the deep things of Himself. They just begin to be opened up to us through our communion with Him. Our faith in Him takes hold to the extent that the spiritual things of God become a reality that we walk in. Our God becomes real, not mystical. His commandments and His Word become part of us. No more is our walk with Him, the obedience to His commandments, something that is forced on us by some external carnal circumstances or peer group. The true light, Christ, is shined into our hearts dispelling the darkness of this world.

So we begin to see more than what the carnal man can see with his eyes and sense with his other four senses. The things of God knoweth no man. No man can explain them. Paul said in the second chapter of I Corinthians, that he didn't speak to them with enticing words of man's wisdom, but his words were in manifestation of the spirit of God and God's power. God chose the foolishness of preaching, under His direction, to guide people into spiritual things. The preaching of God's Word under the anoint-

ing of His Spirit is one way God communicates with us and reveals Himself to us. It is important for us to come together and hear God's Word to learn about God and His commandments. How many people have tried to explore the things of God by some intellectual pursuit? How many people have spent time trying to make the things of God and His commandments fit into some logical pattern that makes sense to the unregenerated mind and heart? It can't be done. It is a futile pursuit. God is not

common. Our lowly finite minds cannot ascend to the level of the Creator of the universe. If we

submit to

Him, though, and become lowly in our minds, take His way, we find a way created for us by God whereby we easily become one with Him: part of Him and He becomes part of us. This is that second covenant that God wants to establish with us.

"How many people have spent time trying to make the things of God and His commandments fit into some logical pattern that makes sense to the unregenerated mind and heart?"

Part V

His Spirit and His laws within.

There is so much about God, His power and His knowledge that humans cannot verify that it is fruitless to try. Many have tried to come to some logical conclusions about the creation, life, the future of this world, ultimate morality in order to come to an understanding of man's place in the world. Other men choose to set aside the existence of God, the Almighty Creator and Ruler and regard their existence as a random occurrence. Still others feel that there is no other moral, intelligent existence greater than man. It is a fact that human reasoning cannot enable man to get in touch with God. Even the world's greatest theologians with all their studies cannot gain sufficient moral understanding to safely guide others into God's presence. Why is this? Hebrews 11: 6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." In other words, in order to know God we must exercise faith, something all humans have to some degree. It is the only means for the soul of man, through diligent effort, to make satisfac-

tory contact with God. Isaiah 55:8-9 says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Our own thoughts can cloud our vision of God; they need to be abandoned. Our ways of accomplishing and understanding things are either carnal or temporal in nature; God is neither. These need to be abandoned so we can become more receptive to God's ways and not limit our concept of God to the capability of our finite, temporal minds. God's way for us to become acquainted with Him and know Him, puts Him within reach of all mankind, not just the learned, the intelligent or the educated.

Romans 8:5, 7-9 tells us, "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you." I Corinthians 2: 10-12 says, "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God." This passage informs us that the spirit of God is fully able to provide us with the knowledge of God that our souls yearn for. Here we have a key to unlock the riches of God: possessing the spirit of God.

St. John 14: 16-17 says, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." Then, St. John 15: 26, says, "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me;" This is a confirmation that it is the Spirit of truth, the Comforter which will reveal God to us. St John 16: 13, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall

not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." This Spirit of truth is none other than the Spirit of God spoken of in I Corinthians the second chapter that knows the deep things of God and stands ready to reveal them to man. This Spirit of truth is the Spirit of God that has access to the power and knowledge of God, can make an abode in a man's heart. I have used the word "can" when speaking about the Spirit of truth, the Spirit of God, the Comforter abiding in man's heart enabling him to know God. We should note the conditions prerequisite for this: faith, diligently seeking Him, love, obedience to God's Word and abandoning the carnal mind.

In conclusion, Hebrews 8: 8-11, points us to the new covenant through which God will manifest Himself to His people. This passage says, "For finding fault with them, be saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when 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 when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to greatest." With the writing of the laws of God in our hearts, with the abiding of the Spirit of truth, the Spirit of God, will come the true knowledge of God. This is something for all of God's people to experience. It is a relationship in which Jesus can say that He knows us as His sheep and we know Him by His voice. When people persist in carnal ways, deeds and cares and don't understand the concept of suffering for Christ, converging more and more to the will of God for them over time, they don't have His Spirit within, His laws within, His truth within and His covenant within. They can never know God.

The exercise of the carnal mind in the spiritual realm always leaves one lacking in understanding. Common sense, human logic and reasoning provides no path to the knowledge of God.

FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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SUBSCRIPTION RATES



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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.

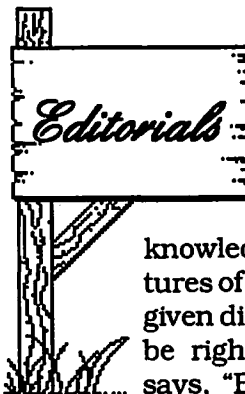
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"And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do." Gen. 18:17. While there are many things about the Lord that are hidden from our understanding, God has given us knowledge through the Holy Scriptures of His righteous nature. He has given direct instruction for us to also be righteous. In I Pet. 1:15-17 it says, "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning *here* in fear."

Many people today are living far below the standard of holiness which is clearly defined in the Bible. Do they think that they are somehow privileged and will get by with their sin? Notice what is recorded in I Cor. 6:9-10, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

Don't allow satan to deceive you into thinking that these sins are only bad when someone else does them. When someone breaks into your house and steals from you, now that is sin, but when you shoplift a small item from the store some seem to think that God doesn't notice. There are many examples that could be given to illustrate this deception that people are under. People rationalize their sins and try to make them not appear so bad in their eyes. But be stirred to the fact that God sees both transgressions and will judge and condemn them both as sin.

Your sins have not escaped the attention of God and they will exclude you from inheriting His kingdom unless you repent with godly sorrow and turn from them. Confess and bring your sins to the Lord for judgment now and as much as possible make restitution and restore those things you have taken. Allow the sacrifice that Jesus made bring you into fellowship with God and make you into a new creation.

I Tim. 5:24 says, "Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some

men they follow after." Don't allow your sins to follow you to the Judgment, because then it will be too late to repent and those sins which could have been forgiven will cause you to be cast into eternal punishment and you will be forever separated from God and all that is good.

While we do not know the "day nor the hour" God has not hidden from us the fact that Jesus will return and punish the wicked. In II Thes. 1:7-9 it clearly states, "...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."

On the other hand, when a soul finds forgiveness a great burden of guilt is lifted from their heart. They are truly set free. A sense of Divine peace will enrapture their innermost being and they will know that their sin is gone. You will never forget the relief and soul rest that you find in Jesus Christ. The wonderful hope of heaven is planted deep in your being and you will find the real meaning of life.

Work for the Lord has continued this last month at the Lord's Print Shop. Upon publishing the June issue of the *Faith and Victory* we immediately began working on the *Bible Lessons* and *Beautiful Way* Sunday school materials. The Lord blessed us to be able to mail them June 17th and 18th respectively. Many individuals and Church of God congregations are finding these helpful in their study of the Scripture and we rejoice that the Lord has made it possible to publish these materials for His people. It is our prayer that they will help build and unify the saints of God by providing a better understanding of His Word. Having a mutually clear knowledge of God's Word, I believe, will draw the brotherhood of Christian believers into closer fellowship.

Some of the lesson titles for this quarter are: Zacharias and Elisabeth Part I and Part II, Lowly Mary Highly Favoured, Simeon and Anna Waiting for the Consolation of Israel, Despised and Rejected by His Own Countrymen, The Sermon in the Plain, The Sinner Woman Who Loved Much, The Good Samaritan, The Peril of Earthly Riches, The Prodigal Son and His Brother, A Great Supper and Counting the Cost, Persistence and Humility in Prayer and The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus. These

lessons are a study of the truths presented in the gospel of Luke. They are only \$1.00 per quarter or \$4.00 per year. May their study bring a blessing to your life.

As is our usual custom we will not publish an August issue of the *Faith and Victory* paper. We do plan, Lord willing, to attend the National Camp Meeting at Monark Springs, MO. I trust the Lord will allow you to come also and we can worship the Lord together. It is always a great joy to see the saints of God gathering in from many different places and singing the songs of Zion and praising the Lord in the spirit of purity and holiness. Be praying that the Lord will anoint and open the windows of Heaven and give such a wonderful blessing to those in attendance that they will be overflowing with joy and that the glorious healing, delivering power of God will set free those bound by affliction and those locked in a choke-hold of satan. May this meeting be long remembered because of the Lord's presence.

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

Upon the mountain all alone,
Or on the stormy sea,
He sees, He knows our every need;
He hears our earnest plea.

When trials of life come thick and fast
And tempests blow awry,
A careful vigil still He keeps
With ever watchful eye.

Surrounded by satanic hosts,
Or hottest furnace glare,
When no one else is there to help,
He hears and answers prayer.

Prayer is a devotional expression of the heart and like the rising of incense, ascends to the throne of grace, imploring mercy, seeking help or giving vent to the praise and thanksgiving of the soul. It may be spoken in audible tones or may be a whisper, a gentle breathing of the desire of the heart or but a fervent thought sent out in petition to Him who is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think."

Prayer, mingled with faith, brings salvation to the sinner, healing to the sick, joy to the sorrowful and hope to the discouraged. It causes the enemy to flee, unlocks the great treasurehouse of the Lord, opens the windows of heaven and brings down showers of blessings upon the humble Christian.

—Bro. E. E. Byrum



CA—Please remember me and my loved ones in prayer. I broke my right leg and injured my hip in a fall. I am getting better. God bless you! With prayers and love in Christ,

—Sis. Helen Carson

KS—Thank you for your prayers. I am now able to stay up a while longer some days than other days and I am looking forward to the time I can stay up most of the day. I am thankful for the times the dear Lord has lifted me up mentally, physically, financially and above all else spiritually.

—Sis. Naomi Dickerson Hiebert

KY—Kay Griffett (sister of the late Sis. Mary Hughes) would like her 5-year-old granddaughter remembered in prayer. She has a bone disease that has caused her to be crippled and is scheduled to have surgery on her legs. They do not give assurance of the outcome and are also concerned that the anesthesia could go against her condition.

CA—Remember my family in prayer.

—Sis. Opal Davis

SC—I need you to agree with me in prayer that God will grant me the knowledge to complete my G.E.D. I've taken the test three times and each time I've come so close.

—Bro. Wayne R. Thomas

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

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
- Wichita, KS (Fall Meeting)—Sept. 14-21
- Webb City, MO (Singing)—Sept. 27



MEETING NOTICES

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.

"Good understanding giveth favour, but the way of transgressors is hard." Prov. 13:15.

WICHITA, KS, FALL MEETING

Lord willing, the Fall meeting in Wichita, KS will be held Sept. 14-21. On the two Sundays we will have three services. Monday through Saturday, we will have two services daily: 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited and if the Lord tells you to come, you will be expected to be here. We are looking for the Holy Spirit to be in charge and direct in all things. Please pray for the meeting.

The chapel address is 1701 North Ash St. and the phone number is (316) 267-9582. If you need further information, contact Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at (316) 778-1848 or Bro. Theodore McCray at (316) 682-5132.

—Sis. Shirley Knight

40th ANNIVERSARY SINGING AT WEBB CITY, MO

In 1963 Bro. Murphy Allen was inspired to have an inspirational singing. The saints at Webb City responded to this suggestion and the first singing was held on Sept 27, 1963. This was the beginning of the blessings of many singings among the saints. To commemorate this fortieth year, the saints at Webb City would like to invite you to another special singing on the anniversary of the same date, Sept. 27, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. The chapel is located at the corner of Devon and Tracy streets in Webb City, MO (two blocks east of the water tower.) For further information call (417) 472-6427.

—Bro. Ed Johnston



LETTERS
FROM
OUR
READERS

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: I read a devotion a few weeks back that spoke to my heart and I will share some of it with you. The title was *Stand*. The verse was Exodus 14:13 "...Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord,..."

These words are God's command to believers when they are reduced to great distress and brought to extraordinary difficulties. They cannot retreat. They cannot go forward. They are shut up on the right hand and on the left. What

can they do? The Master's word to them is, "Stand still."

At times like this it is good to listen only to the Master, for other and evil advisers come with their suggestions.

Despair whispers, "Lie down and die." "Give it all up."

Cowardice says, "Retreat, Go back to the world's way of action." "You cannot play the Christian's part. It is too difficult." "Relinquish your principles."

Haste cries, "Do something!" "Wake up!" "Waiting is sheer idleness."

Presumption boasts, "If the sea is in front of you, march into it and expect a miracle."

But **Faith** does not listen to despair, nor to cowardice, nor to haste or presumption. Faith hears God say, "Stand still." Remain upright and ready for action. Expect further orders, but cheerfully and patiently wait on the directing voice. It will not be long until God will say to you as distinctly as He spoke to Moses, "Go forward."

May God lead and guide you,

—Sis. Anita Adams

OK—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus our Saviour. Our God, when looking upon the world, said I will "Send them a Saviour and a great one." Again He said, "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth, for I am God and there is no else." In speaking of Him, Isaiah said, "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." He also said "The government shall be upon his shoulder" and "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end." Truly we serve a wonderful God. It will be a wonderful thing when the redeemed of all ages are gathered together in a glorified state to inherit the kingdom which He has prepared for them that love him. Your saved brother,

—T.V. McMillian

AR—Dear ones: We send greetings to all at the Print Shop and trust that you are holding fast to the Lord's Word.

The Lord is blessing us each day and we have no other thought but to keep trusting in His great name.

Virginia and I both look to the Lord for grace

and strength for each need, and thank the Lord, He does just that in providing all that we need along the way. How wonderful life has been after that night of February 1937 when the wonderful Lord spoke peace to my heart. We have learned a lot about the Lord and His ways during all these years and we have complete confidence that the good Lord will help us all the way.

So, dear ones, keep your lives in God's care. Amen and Amen! With love to all in Jesus,

—Bro. Roy D. and Sis. Virginia Harmon

KS—Hello to all: With much thanksgiving to the Lord we "pick up our pen" to share with you a few of our recent blessings. I think of a song... "For if I never had a problem, I wouldn't know that He could solve them; I wouldn't know what faith in God could do. Through it all, through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus..."

You may have heard of the tornado that affected some of the saints in our area on Sunday, May 4. Herschel was less than 2 miles from our house, weather-spotting for our county. He called and told me to take cover, as he was seeing definite tornadic activity. My children and I obeyed, but I took just a minute to look around inside my house and the Lord gave me peace in that moment of real consecration. (Our house is only 3 years old.) As I glanced out the window, I saw the wind beginning to really blow.

Afterward, Herschel called again and said that his mother's place (Marilyn Eck) had received a direct hit, as well as several other nearby neighbors. We discovered that there were trees down across the road less than 1,000 ft. from our house—that is how close it came to us. Our place had no damage.

Some of the others suffered damage to roofs and outbuildings, as well as many large trees completely uprooted. Kevin and Lynette Cole, Ivan and Eileen Eck, Mother, Randel and DeLoris Bradley, and Sam and Sharon Sorrell all had significant damage in various ways. The path that the tornado took went right in between Orin and Retha Cole and us (we just live 1/2 mile apart), apparently taking some turns to miss us! We thank God for His goodness to us all, that no one was hurt.

Bro. Sam and Sis. Sharon's place was hit pretty hard, and they experienced some emotional trauma as well. They are both not well in body, so I know they would appreciate your prayerful support.

Mother had debris from her big barn that catapulted across her yard a few feet from her house, leaving splintered 2x4s jammed into the ground. I can see the guiding hand of God, sparing her house from damage. This was quite unsettling to her, since she had lost her house to a fire 4 years ago.

Sometimes the Lord allows us to see close up that He really does take care of His children. We may not understand everything, but we are all truly thankful to Him for this recent reminder.

I also want to tell how the Lord gave me an instant touch of healing. I was at the Christian School Assembly in Myrtle, MO, on May 8. I had been suffering from a headache all day, but was thankful the Lord gave me strength to attend most of the academic activities. By 9:00 that evening I was very sick, so I went to bed. My sister, Angela, came and gave me some TLC and prayed for me, then left to go back to the activity in the dining hall.

My little son, Jason, had been taking a very long nap (in my condition, I had been thankful for that!) but he decided to wake up. I knew that my older daughter would be able to care for him and take him to bed if necessary, so I did not cross his will when he said, "I'm going out." I lay there a few more minutes, and then I began to realize that I was not suffering anymore! Now this is not normal for me, since my headaches usually come to a peak and then take several hours of bed rest to go away. I said, "Lord, why did You do this for me? I'm not worthy!" He so sweetly answered with the words of a song: "I am learning of my Saviour precious lessons every hour...I am learning how to trust Him with my life and for all things, and my spirit filled with glory in exceeding gladness sings! ...I am learning, I am learning of the lowly Lamb of God."

Rejoicing, I got up, dressed, went to staff meeting and took care of my son, who very happily went back to bed with me 2 hours later. I am still in awe at the wonder of it all. How sweet this "lesson" was—how the Lord revealed Himself to me! Oh, it is so precious to trust in Him.

Recently, I attended a funeral where there was a division in the family from a divorce, which is ultimately from sin. I did not grieve for the departed one; I knew that they were safe in the arms of Jesus. But I wept as I witnessed all the bitterness and thought of the circumstances that had preceded this death. I wept because I

became aware, like never before, of the wealth that I possess. Psalm 112:1-3 says, "...Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments....the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Wealth and riches shall be in his house:..." No, not literal wealth, but that which cannot be bought with silver and gold—a blissful marriage to a godly man who lives out our marriage vows every day, a happy home with children who love the Lord, where the effects of sin are strangers. The air is pure, the atmosphere is peaceful, and prayer is a vital part of our lives.

Thank God for the heritage He has given us! Do we realize the wealth of it all? I would like to encourage us to view our wealth! Start counting our blessings! I realize there are many who do not have this kind of wealth, but the blood of Jesus can change your life. He can clean you up. He can break the chains of dysfunctional lives and homes. He can bring peace to your troubled soul and heal the effects of sin. There is healing in Jesus!

I do not feel worthy of what I have, but I shudder to think that had I not yielded my heart and life to Him when I did, what a mess my life would be in. Living for the Lord is the only way to be happy. Yes, you have to work at it. It takes sacrifice. Self-denial in the first degree, the cross, reproach, even shame, but if you are walking with the Lord, it will all yield the fruits of righteousness, and what a wealthy person you will be! The Lord gives you grace for each trial of self-denial. He blesses you with the spoils of the battle! Do you have anything to lose? Yes, you lose a life of heartache. You gain not only happiness on this earth, but eternal life as well. My desire for you is great, because I know what living for God will do for you!

Let us be true. Time is shorter than we realize. We look forward to seeing many of you this summer.

Our love to each one,

—Bro. Herschel and Sis. Jeanne Eck

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*"Build a little fence of trust around today,
Fill the space with loving deeds and therein stay;
Look not through the sheltering bars upon tomorrow,
God will help thee bear what comes of joy or sorrow."*

—Butts

This is a challenge to me.

—Sis. Audrey Carver



Frances Anna White Porter Deforth was born November 11, 1925 in Guthrie, OK. Her parents were Harry and Minnie White of Guthrie and she lived in Guthrie all of her life. On June 1, 2003 at 10:15 in the morning and at the age of 77 years, she left this life to be with her Lord; there ever to abide in His love.

Her grandfather William Ott arrived in Guthrie shortly after the land run of 1889 and Frances had a long-standing interest and knowledge of Guthrie's history. She was the second of five girls born into Harry and Minnie's home. She enjoyed all the things young girls enjoyed and would tell stories of her experiences growing up in Guthrie, which included the lean years of the great depression and of the changes she had seen.

Frances was instilled with noble work ethics and throughout her life she maintained those ethics of honesty and dependability.

On July 7, 1946 she married her childhood sweetheart, Clark "Junior" Porter. She and "Junior" owned and ran Clark's Food Market until 1965 when "Junior" left their earthly home for his heavenly home.

On Jan. 4, 1970 she wed Roman Deforth and they also made their home in Guthrie.

As a young girl Frances had a desire to be a missionary. Though she never left Guthrie, she was a true missionary to the community. She visited the sick and those in nursing homes and fixed many meals for people.

Frances was a dedicated Christian and attended the Church of God since she was seven-years-old. For many years she was the treasurer for the Church of God State Camp Meeting.

Frances is survived by her husband, Roman Deforth; one son, Merle Porter and his wife Shirley of Guthrie, OK; one daughter, Marsha

McCormac and her husband Robert of Broken Arrow, OK; four grandchildren, Dena Porter, Shelia Porter Lafferty and Kyle Porter of Guthrie, OK and Meridith McCormac of Broken Arrow, OK. She was blessed with three great-grandchildren, DaLynn, Mariah and Elija. She is also survived by three sisters, Marie Mitchell of Trout, La, Virginia Mitchell of Jena, LA and Vera Henderson of Guthrie, OK. Her parents, a young sister and her first husband preceded Frances in death.

Vera Mae Gellenbeck was born January 26, 1930 in Springfield, MO to Paul and Violet Pletcher Gibson, and died suddenly on June 25, 2003 in Stanford, KY.

On October 24, 1948 she was married to Harry Gellenbeck in a triple wedding ceremony along with Gene and Dorothy Porter and Henry and Barbara Gibson. The couple made their first home in Springfield, then lived in Kansas City, MO. They moved to Bethany, OK, where they raised their family: Paul, Mark, Steven, Phillip, Jeannine, Dan and Carla. Their youngest child, John, died in infancy. In 1978, Harry and Vera moved to Guthrie, OK, where they began to fellowship with the congregation there. At the time of Harry's sudden death in April 1984, they were once again living in Bethany. With her husband gone, Vera began to alternately stay with different ones of her married children. Her kind, cheerful, mischievous disposition made all of her daughters and sons-in-law feel she was a second mother to them. She made it her job to tackle a dirty kitchen and said she "loved to do dishes." She was a special grandmother to 23 grandchildren, remembering each of them at Christmas, and enjoyed taking them out to eat or just down to the store.

Vera was raised by devout Christian parents who taught her the fear of God. She went through dark periods in her life where the hope and peace of salvation seemed unreachable for her. Yet she raised her seven children to all see successful adulthood, and through the earnest prayers of her children and loved ones, she obtained a blessed experience of real salvation in the last months of her life. She gave her family her very best, and they in turn faithfully cared for her in the best way they could. Yet the one thing that could satisfy her soul, only God could give. Last December, she began to seek God earnestly to save her. By March, she testified that He had done something "Very Special" for

her. She was able to trust God fully for her body and soul and had a confidence and peace that was visible even on her countenance. For two weeks before her death, she listened constantly to tapes of camp meeting singing and requested to sing in family worship every night. The night before her death, she called the song, "God's Way Is Best." In her purse we found her handwritten words: "I am satisfied, I am satisfied. If by simple faith in Jesus I abide, then I know my soul is satisfied."

Although we rejoice in her final victory, her family, saints and friends will miss her. She is survived by her sister, Mary Elizabeth Paull, of Katy, TX; her brother, James Gibson of Kansas City, MO; sons, Paul of Oklahoma City, OK; Mark and his wife, Liz; Steven and his wife, Margie; Phillip and his wife, Rosie; all of Guthrie, OK and Dan and his wife, Angela, of Stanford,

KY; daughters Jeannine and her husband, Lonnie Miles, of Guthrie, OK; and Carla and her husband Bill Delano, of Oklahoma City, OK; 23 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Along with her parents, husband and son, she was also preceded in death by two great-granddaughters.

Note of Thanks

The family of Vera Gellenbeck appreciates all the tokens of love and support given by the saints and friends since her death. We also appreciate your prayers for her salvation and your encouragement in the last months of her life. She loved the saints and the truth of God's Word.

All your cards, flowers, food and offerings have meant so much to all of us. May God bless each one of you. —The Gellenbeck family



The Disciples of Jesus Christ

Simon Peter—Was a native of Bethsaida. He was one of the three apostles who were present at the transfiguration. When Jesus was betrayed, Peter displayed great courage, but when he saw that his Lord was detained as a malefactor, his courage failed him and he denied Him. But after the ascension of Christ, Peter evinced great boldness in the cause of the gospel. By his preaching about three thousand souls were converted on a single occasion and a little after, five thousand. The last incident of Peter's life supplied by the scripture narrative is his presence before the church at Jerusalem in A.D. 49. Of his subsequent career, our only knowledge is derived from tradition. His special mission was to the Hebrew race as Paul's was to the Gentile's. He is supposed to have preached through Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia chiefly to those of his own nation dispersed in these countries. He is supposed to have gone to Rome about the year 63 or at all events a short time before his martyrdom, which is fixed with much probability in the year 66 and is supposed to have been at the same time and place with that of St. Paul. Peter was sentenced to be crucified, and according to the tradition preserved by Eusebius, prayed that he might be crucified with his head downward, in order that his death might exceed in ignominy that of his divine Master.

Andrew—Was the first disciple of Christ and brother of Peter, also a fisherman of Galilee, was a disciple of John the Baptist previous to his recognition of Christ as the Messiah. The career of Andrew after the death of Christ is unknown. Tradition tells us that after the day of Pentecost he departed to preach the gospel to the Scythians; and on his journey to their country, preached in Cappadocia, Galatia, Bithynia and along the Euxine sea, winning many souls. Having planted the gospel in many places, he came to Patrae, a city of Achaia, where he sealed his testimony with his blood. He was fastened upon the cross with ropes, that he might be longer dying, the cross being two beams like the letter X. From this cross he preached to the people for the space of two days and by his admirable patience converted many to the faith. His death was thought to be A.D. 62 or 70.

James—The son of Zebedee and brother of John, is distinguished rather by his death than by his life and labors. He was by birth a Galilean and by occupation a fisherman. With Peter and John, he was a spectator of our Savior's transfiguration upon the mount and was with Him in the garden at the time of His agony. This apostle preached to his countrymen the Jews. Herod Agrippa, grandson of Herod the Great, caused a

great number of Christians to be imprisoned including this apostle. A short time after, sentence of death was passed upon him and he was slain with the sword. As for the tyrant, divine justice overtook him; he was eaten of worms until he died. James was slain in the year 44 A.D. There is an incredible legend of his having planted the gospel in Spain, and he is the patron saint of that country.

James—The son of Alphaeus. Little is known of this apostle's life and labors. He probably spent his time preaching the gospel in Judea. Hippolytus tells us that he met his death at the hands of a mob of Jews who came upon him while he was preaching in Jerusalem and stoned him to death. He is said to have been buried by the temple.

James—The Lord's brother, was the author of that epistle bearing his name. (*Some confusion exists about the identity of James, the son of Alphaeus, and James, the Lord's brother. While he may not have been of the chosen twelve, he was closely associated with the Lord, and his devotion to the Lord is noteworthy and was included in this list by Wickersham. Editor.*) In church history he is distinguished by the title of *the Just*. His communications, his writings and even his enemies contribute to prove him worthy of such marked approbation. The high priest Ananus gave order that he should be stoned to death. According to Josephus, the execution of the sentence excited great dissatisfaction among the people of Jerusalem. The date of his death cannot be precisely fixed, but it was probably about 62 or 63 A.D.

John—Was the brother of James, the son of Zebedee, also a fisherman. From his respect and attention to Jesus he seems to have been his favorite disciple. "The disciple whom Jesus loved." He was born at Bethsaida. He appears to have labored first in Jerusalem and Samaria and afterwards to have had his residence chiefly in Ephesus. During the reign of the emperor Domitian, he was driven to the isle of Patmos, but returned to Ephesus under Nerva, and died there at a great age about A.D. 100. It is believed that he was the only one of our Lord's apostles who died a natural death. Tradition accounts for this by representing his life as miraculously preserved.

Philip—Was born at Bethsaida. Our Savior called Philip to follow Him and he sought for

Nathanael, to whom he imparted the glad tidings. He preached in Scythia and Upper Asia. After many years he came to Hierapolis where the people worshiped a serpent by the name of Jupiter Ammon. He preached the gospel and many of the idolaters became ashamed of the god they had worshiped and were converted to the Christian faith. Satan, perceiving his kingdom falling, raised a persecution and the apostle was carried to prison, scourged and there hanged by the neck to a pillar. The martyrdom of Philip happened about the year 52 A.D.

Bartholomew—Supposed to have been Nathanael, that "Israelite indeed" was a native of Galilee, but nothing authentic is known regarding his life and labors. According to Eusebius, he carried Christianity into India. Chrysostom speaks of him as a missionary in Armenia and Asia Minor. In Albanopolis, in Armenia the Great, a place much given to idolatrous worship, the governor of the city caused him to be apprehended. His sentence was crucifixion and when the day of execution came, he went cheerfully to death sealing the truth of the doctrine he had preached with his blood.

Thomas—Also Didymus, are names of the same apostle. Origen informs us that he preached at Parthia and Sophronius says that he preached the gospel to the Persians, Medes, Carmanian, Hyrcanians, Bactrians and other people. He probably went to Asiatic Ethiopia and at last to the East Indies and preached the gospel so far as Pabroban. When the Portuguese first visited these countries after their discovery of a passage by the Cape of Good Hope, they received the following particulars; That Thomas came first to Socotra, an island in the Arabian sea, and then to Cranganore where, having converted many from the error of their ways, he traveled further into the East. Having great success in winning souls to the faith, the hand of persecution arose against him and he was slain by the Brahmans. Thomas, who at first was the weakest and most incredulous of all the apostles, is said to have become the most active and invincible of them all; traveling over most parts of the world and living without fear in the midst of barbarous nations.

Matthew—Called Levi, was born at Nazareth. He was a publican, or tax-gatherer. He preached in Judea for several years and at his departure wrote his Gospel. He wrote his gospel twice; first

in Hebrew in 40 to 45 A.D., then in Greek 60 to 65 A.D. After the overthrow of Jerusalem, Greek became their usual tongue as Hebrew had been before. Matthew, seeing this, prepared his Greek Gospel and their being no further use for the Hebrew one, it gradually disappeared; though Jerome affirms that he translated it into Greek and Latin. Our present Greek is no translation, but an original from Matthew's own hand. We have evidence of a Hebrew Gospel of his written some twenty years earlier. Eusebius informs us that it was found among the Christians in India in the latter part of the second century. The Hebrew Gospel of Matthew was the first of the four Gospels that was written. He is said to have visited Ethiopia, Persia and Parthia and to have died a martyr's death at Naddabar, a city of Ethiopia.

Thaddeus—Lebbeus or Jude, was the author of the smallest book in the New Testament and was evidently written at a late date causing it to be held in suspicion even as late as the Reformation. Little is known of the life and labors of Jude. He was the brother of James and consequently he was a younger son of Mary, the mother of Jesus. He is said to have preached the gospel in Lydia, Mesopotamia, Syria, Idumea and Arabia and suffered martyrdom at Berytus about 80 A.D.

Simon—The Canaanite, also known as Simon Zelotes. Some say he went into Egypt, Cyrene and other parts of Africa preaching the Gospel. Others add that he also preached the gospel in the western parts and even in Britain, where having converted great multitudes and sustained the greatest hardships and persecutions he was crucified and buried in some part of the island, but the exact place is unknown.

Judas Iscariot—By transgression fell from the honors of the Sacred College that he might go to his own place. His bag and his halter he has left behind with which to enshrine his awful memory. Let everyone that reads notice these relics of a wicked heart and beware of covetousness.

Matthias—Was one of the seventy whom Jesus made choice of as one of His disciples. After the crucifixion he was chosen by the apostles to supply the place of Judas. After the ascension he spent the first year of his ministry in Judea, where he was successful in bringing over a great number of people to the Christian

faith. From Judea he traveled into other countries and came at length to Ethiopia. Here many were converted, but the inhabitants in general being of a fierce and untractable temper resolved to take away his life which they effected by first stoning him and then severing his head from his body.

—Condensed from *History of the Church* by Henry C. Wickersham

“...and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:)...” Hebrews 11:35-38.

—Submitted by Sis. Marsha Corteway



Shall I Be Ashamed

*Shall I be ashamed of my Savior and King,
Who came down from glory, salvation to bring?
Who was cruelly crucified, wounded and maimed—
Of such a great Savior shall I be ashamed?*

*Shall I be ashamed of His wonderful word?
Or blush when the praises of Jesus are heard?
Shall the laugh of the skeptic my lips tightly seal,
Lest I my profession of Christ should reveal?*

*Shall I be ashamed of the people of God
Who walk in the pathway that Jesus hath trod?
Or shrink from opposing the forces of sin,
Lest I should the scorn of the multitude win?*

*I'll not be ashamed; no never, O Lord,
Be ashamed of my Savior, His cause, or His Word;
But joyful in Jesus His banner I'll bear,
The offense of the cross I will willingly share.*

—C. W. Naylor

Reverence Due the Name of the Lord

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

At the burning bush, Moses asked God, "Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. Exodus 3:13-14.

The Septuagint translates God's answer, "I am he who exists." The Arabic paraphrases the name, "The Eternal, who passes not away." What an awesome name! The Lord God did not need any other identification because eternity measures His existence.

The sun, moon and stars speak of His majesty, and the depths of the seas reflect it. The birds of the air, all creatures big and small, every plant of the earth, they all proclaim the creativity of our Lord God. "Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks,...For that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare." Psa. 75:1. God the Creator causes to be what is. Praise The Great I AM!

Father Abraham called the Lord, Jehovah-Jireh when God provided the ram for sacrifice instead of Isaac. (Gen. 22:14.) When Moses erected an altar on the hill where he had stood with uplifted hands while Israel prevailed over the Amalekites, Moses praised Jehovahnissi. (Ex. 17:15.) Gideon built an altar for Jehovahshalom or "God send peace." (Judg. 6:24.)

Jeremiah prayed unto THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, Jehovah-Tsidkenu, for the salvation of God's people and in a vision Ezekiel saw the spiritual Jerusalem and Jehovah-Shammah for He was there.

In times of trouble or distress these godly men had called upon the name of the Lord, and He had been there for them, and He still answers His people today. "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." Prov. 18:10. The Lord has ears that listen to people when they call upon His name for help.

We are to respect the holy name of the Lord our God. "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." Ex. 20:7. This is the third commandment God wrote

with His own finger on tables of stone at Mount Sinai.

In Old Testament times the name of the Lord was held sacred by the Israelites and blasphemy was punishable by death. (Lev. 24:15-16.) The Hebrew word YHWH (Jehovah) was always read adonai (Lord) because the name Jehovah was never to be said by anyone except the high priest on the great Day of Atonement, when he entered into the most Holy Place. The Lord our God expects us to reverence His sacred name and use it in devotion to Him.

Our heavenly Father lifted up His only begotten Son and proclaimed His name to be mighty also. Isaiah prophesied that God's Son would be born to a virgin, and his name would be Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isa. 9:6.) This prophecy was fulfilled when Mary gave birth to Jesus Christ, and when Jesus began His ministry on earth, His name was identified with miracles, healings and deliverance from sin and demons.

Often Jesus Christ told the multitudes who He was. He said, I am:

The Bread of Life,
The Light of the World,
The Door,
The Good Shepherd,
The Son of God,
The Messiah,
The Resurrection,
The Way,
The Truth,
The Life,
The True Vine.

Jesus informed them that, "...no one can come unto the Father but by Me." (John 14:6.) And that "Before Abraham was, I am" (John. 8:58.) Jesus is the Great I AM.

The name of Jesus Christ is to be lifted up with respect and awe right along with His Father's name. "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high: Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they." Heb. 1:3-4.

