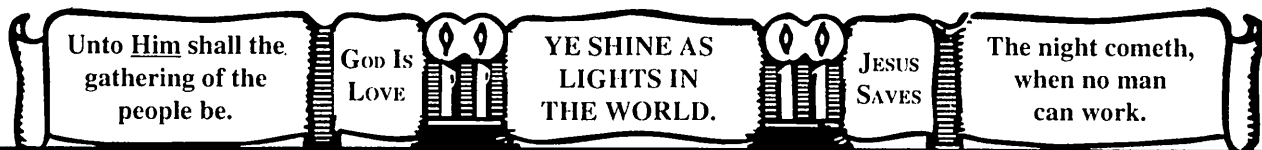


# FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

## Church of God Servant



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## THE HIGHWAY OF HOLINESS

By Bro. Phillip Kelly

In His sermon on the mount, Jesus taught about the way that leads unto life. This same way had been written about more than seven centuries earlier by the prophet Isaiah in his description of the future Zion. "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called, The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Isa. 35:8-10. In another place Isaiah writes, "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a

highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Isa. 40:3-5. This passage is quoted in all four gospels concerning John the Baptist. John went before Christ much like a surveyor goes before the highway crew. The correlation of these scriptures prove that Isaiah was prophesying of the way of holiness we find by following the teachings of Jesus Christ. It was not merely describing some future highway to be built in literal Israel. The spiritual highway of the Bible is for the redeemed only, strait and narrow, and called the way of holiness.

Isaiah gives us a word picture of the travelers who use this road. He calls them "wayfaring men," "the redeemed," and "the ransomed of the Lord." Wayfaring men are simply men who are travelers. Travelers of the Bible generally walked from place to place. Necessarily they left most of their belongings and took only what they could carry. The travelers on this highway aren't traveling for business or pleasure. They are "the redeemed" and "the ransomed of the Lord." Redeemed and ransomed have very similar meanings; in fact, each is used in the dictionary definition of the other. Both speak of someone whose freedom from an oppressor has been purchased by a third party. After Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, they were put out of the garden of Eden and denied access to the way of

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the tree of life by cherubims and a flaming sword which turned every way. From then until the advent of Jesus Christ, the human race was denied access to the tree of life. Jesus paid the price the flaming sword demanded and replaced the flaming sword with a fountain of blood. We read in Revelation 22:13-14, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." The margin says, "Blessed are they that wash their robes, that they may have right to come to the tree." Isaiah stated that the unclean shall not pass over this way. It is easy to see that only redeemed travelers have access to this road. As one song writer put it, "Everyone who would enter must pass through the blood and reign in the kingdom of love."

Isaiah prophesied that the highway would be made straight. "Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain." Isa. 40:4. God's design of the highway of holiness didn't include heart stopping curves and thrill hills. The purpose of this thoroughfare is to bring the souls of men into close proximity with their Creator. The shortest distance between two points is always a straight line. God's desire for His people to be focused and determined is manifested by the straight nature of this highway. Jesus spoke of the entrance to this highway as being strait, or restricted, and the way narrow. There is not room for worldly ideas and philosophies on this highway. There is not room for bad attitudes and selfish desires. There are no scenic turn-outs or pleasurable side trips. This highway is designed with one purpose, to bring the souls of men into contact with their Creator. In his letter to the Philippians Paul wrote of his experience on this highway. "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:14. Paul refused to be distracted by the things of this life. The valuable things he left behind when he became a traveler on the way of holiness, he counted as dung. He focused all his attention on attaining the high calling of God. Since the time of Jesus Christ, many people have sought to reconstruct the highway

"God's highway is straight.... If we change course, the inevitable result is to leave the highway of holiness...."

of holiness, trying to make it more inclusive. God's highway is straight and cannot be changed. If we change course, the inevitable result is to leave the highway of holiness and wander aimlessly through a spiritual wilderness, a place of rugged mountains and treacherous valleys.

When God created the human race, the one quality He desired to see in them was holiness. He left the decision to each individual. In Adam, the option to live a holy life was taken away. But in Christ, we again have the choice to please God through holiness.

The real meaning of holiness is found in Jesus' conversation with the lawyer. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself." Luke 10:27. As we begin to sanctify and dedicate our affections, our will, our time, our energy and our thoughts to loving and pleasing God, the unavoidable result is a drastic change in lifestyle. Holiness on the inside will change the things we love to do, the places we love to go, the clothes we wear, our mannerisms, our speech, our thoughts, etc. What people see on the outside is only a by-product of a far greater work that has taken place on the inside. Holiness, a full dedication of our lives to pleasing God, is the one thing that can take the redeemed soul to heaven. Hebrews 12:14 says, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."

The life of Jesus Christ was the epitome of holiness. His birth, life, ministry and death painted a perfect picture of a holy life. I John 2:6 states, "He that saith he abideth in him (Jesus) ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." All Christian people today like the thought of being redeemed and saved from their sins. But when it comes to following Jesus and partaking of the very essence of what His life consisted of, they have no stomach for it. Many professed Christian people say it is impossible to live above sin, or they shrink the definition of sin to include only a few of the most evil deeds. The whole mission of Christ was to return the human race to the spiritual state we were in before Adam and Eve yielded to temptation. This is accomplished by the miraculous working of the blood of Christ and the Holy Spirit

coupled with our conscious choice to follow the way of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 10:26-29 says, "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins. But a certain fearful looking for of judgement and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought

worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?" Anyone who refuses to walk the highway of holiness is refusing the only road that leads to a relationship with God and, ultimately, eternal life. May God help us, the saints of the twenty-first century, to follow this way as have the saints of all ages.

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## "LET US GO BACK TO OUR FATHER'S PRAYING GROUND."

By Sis. Naomi Jennings

I have a heavy burden on my heart; people today need to go back to their father's praying ground. You can read in Jonah 2:1-2. It says, "Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice." Thank God!

In Jonah 3:5-9 it says, "So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered *him* with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he caused *it* to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that *is* in their hands. Who can tell *if* God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?" God did repent and He spared that city.

In Matthew 17:21 Jesus said, "Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." To fast, according to the dictionary, means to abstain from food. If there ever was a time that people need to cry out to God with fasting, it is now. Our world is in all kinds of trouble. Sin and violence is in every state. War is raging. Souls are being hurled out into eternity. God help us!

When word came unto Nehemiah of the conditions existing in Jerusalem, notice his reaction. "And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province *are* in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned *certain* days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven, And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments. Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant,..." Nehemiah 1:3-6.

God heard his prayer and gave him favor and let him rebuild the city. Have the walls been torn down in your life? Question: Are you weeping, mourning, fasting and praying? Or are you asleep and unable to see the wolf at the door?

I spoke about the war that is burdensome to our hearts. It may seem like we are unable to do anything. But, oh yes, we can pray. The attack on 9-11 should have stirred this whole nation. It scared some for awhile. You could see flags all over the states, but soon all was forgotten and people went back to reveling in sin. God forbid that we sleep. God pronounces a woe to them that are at ease in Zion. (Amos 6:1.) It is time to wake up and cry out to God! Where is our vision? Proverb 29:18 says, "Where *there* is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Oh yes, there are some

(Continued on Page 12)

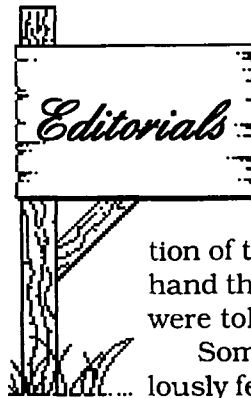
# FAITH AND VICTORY

## 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body." Matt. 26:26. Jesus gave to His disciples a portion of the bread that He held in His hand that memorable evening. They were told "this is my body."

Some time earlier Jesus miraculously fed a great multitude with five loaves of barley bread and two small fishes that Andrew reported belonged to a lad that was present. After that wonderful miracle there were those who sought Him, not because of the miracles, but because they had eaten of the loaves and were filled. Jesus then told them, "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed." John 6:27. Jesus then proceeded to give them a lesson on the "true bread from heaven." In this lesson Jesus identified Himself as being that bread from heaven. He told them, "He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him." John 6:56. When Jesus began to talk to them about eating His body and drinking His blood, they were offended and even His disciples said it was a "hard saying." And many disciples from that time walked with Him no more. "Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?" Then from the lips of Simon Peter came those famous words, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life."

Twelve of Jesus' disciples chose to continue to follow Him. They had left their occupations and the things of the world to follow Jesus. Peter said, "...Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee." Mark 10:28. Jesus had called them and they had chosen Him.

A phrase from song number 288, *Ever Lead Me*, has recently been a source of inspiration. It says, "...Thou art my portion, All is in thee,..." There are several texts of Scripture that speak of the Lord being our portion. In Psalm 119:57 it says, "Thou art my portion, O LORD: I have said that I would keep thy words." In Lamentations 3:24 it says, "The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him." To choose the Lord for our portion will require giving up the sinful things of this world and following Him with all of our heart. Like Peter,

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we will leave all and follow Him. But when we get a vision of how wonderful and precious this portion is, the things we give up lose their significance and value in comparison to what we gain. We must be strong; it will require clinging to Him with all of our might, but we will find that He is also clinging to us. We will be led through persecution and ridicule but His blessing will be upon us. There is so much to gain from choosing the Lord for our portion.

There is a very special thought expressed in Deuteronomy 32:9. It says, "For the LORD'S portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance." Since we, by faith, are the spiritual seed of Abraham, the Lord has chosen us for His portion. This passage of Scripture goes on to tell about the wonderful way the Lord cared for the children of Israel. You would be blessed in your private devotions to read and meditate on these verses. We should give very serious consideration about what the Lord gains in benefit from choosing us to be His portion. Does He really have a portion in us? It should be a natural response, by those who love the Lord, to reciprocate and respond to the love that God has shown to them. Do we put Him first in our lives, or do we only seek Him when we have a need? Are we willing to give of our time, talents and possessions to further His kingdom, or are we selfishly spending it all for our own pleasure, enjoyment and entertainment? I fear there are those who seek to be wholly sanctified and promise to give their "all" to the Lord, and since their "all" is such a comprehensive gift they, in reality, wind up giving very little or nothing to Him. Their promises are so vacant because they are never filled by their actions, and they miss the blessing that comes from entering into that sacred inner court and, sad to say, God does not, in reality, have a portion in them.

Jesus gave up the splendor and luxury of heaven and came to this wicked world and suffered a torturous death to rescue our soul from destruction. There are those today who are eternally grateful for that sacrifice and have turned from sin and folly and are following the Lord wherever He leads. They have tasted of that true Bread from heaven and are delighted that it has become a part of their life. Perhaps you are one of that joyful number of the redeemed who can say with the Psalmist, "Thou art my portion, O LORD."

The Lord has blessed us to be able to replenish our stock of the book *Helps to Holy Living* by Bro. C. E. Orr. This sixty-four page book has

been a blessing to many. It is bound in a heavy paper cover and its price is only \$1.50 plus shipping.

Work is underway to prepare the *Evening Light Songs Concordance*. We were not able to meet our goal and begin shipping them in October, but we trust, by the help of the Lord, to do so in November. This 431-page volume will be bound in heavy paper cover and contains an exhaustive word index to the hymns in the *Evening Light Songs* book. Bro. Clifford and Sis. Patsy Smith as well as other saints have rendered a wonderful service for the people of God by compiling and organizing the data for this useful volume. If you would like a copy please let us know. The cost will be \$18.00 plus shipping charges of \$2.70 will apply to copies delivered through the mail.

We are thankful the Lord made a way for us to purchase the Kolbus casemaker that we mentioned in the *Faith and Victory* last month. This machine will make the case or hard back that will go on a book. The production of the case is only one step in the process required to make a hardback book but it is a very important one. On Friday evening, October 3, My wife, Neta, and I left for Miami, FL to pick up this machine. We were driving the Print Shop's GMC, three-quarter ton van pulling a sixteen foot, tandem axle trailer.

On Saturday we were able to attend the wedding of my Uncle Lawrence Pruitt's great-grandson Dion Doolittle and Janee' Williamson. May the Lord grant them a long and happy life together. We were blessed to be able to worship the Lord with the saints in Loranger, LA on Sunday morning before continuing on our journey that afternoon.

We arrived at our destination Monday afternoon and spent several hours in loading and securing the equipment on our trailer. At about 5:30 or a little after we pulled away from the equipment dealer in Miami and headed home with a trailer and van heavily loaded with the casemaker machine. We spent the night at Ft. Pierce, FL and while there we worked on raising the height of the hitch to prevent the foot of the trailer jack from dragging the pavement so frequently.

On Tuesday afternoon and evening we visited Bro. Richard and Sis. Sarah Monkman in Mt. Dora, FL and enjoyed a short time of sweet

fellowship with them. We left their place that evening and continued on our way home. We arrived home on Thursday morning at about 8:30 a.m. We were tired but very happy to be safely home with the machine to be used for the work of the Lord.

We were aware that there were parts missing from the machine when we picked it up, but the equipment dealer we purchased it from assured us that they had more parts to it and that they would get them together for us. We were able to obtain a spare parts listing and instruction manual for the machine from the manufacturer, and we have been able to identify most of the missing parts. A detailed listing has been sent to the equipment dealer we purchased it from, and we are praying that they will be responsive to our need in locating what belongs with the machine.

More recently a man called the Print Shop and identified himself as being with the Old Order Amish. He said he had heard of our desire to obtain bindery equipment and he said that they had a full shop of hard case bindery equipment they were no longer using. It is a line of older Smyth equipment and the electric motors have been replaced with hydraulic motors. I asked what kind of price they were asking and he didn't know offhand. He asked how much we had budgeted for the equipment and I said, "Actually, we don't have anything right now. It just depends on what the Lord will supply and send in for it." We talked for awhile about the equipment and later in the conversation he asked about the name of our company. When I told him, he said, "Oh, we buy books from you." On ending the conversation he said, "We will discuss it and I'm sure we will give you a good price on it."

It will require further investigation to ascertain the suitability and affordability of this equipment, but I believe the Lord is working with the hearts of those that have the equipment we need and those who He would like to use to supply the means for it. We are placing this need in the hands of our heavenly Father, and in His will and order we want to step forward.

I appreciate those who the Lord has burdened to send in articles and personal testimonies for the paper. This continues to be an ongoing need. I realize that it takes time to be in touch with the Lord and to sit down and write an article or testimony that would uplift the soul of

your brothers and sisters in the Lord, but there is a special blessing awaiting those who will make that sacrifice of time and effort. Furthermore, it helps to bond the people of God together as you share your blessings with others and they are encouraged in the battle they are facing by your testimony.

We would like to obtain copies of *The Herald of Truth* paper that was published from 1917-1922 for historical reference purposes. If you have or know where any of these papers could be located we would appreciate hearing from you.

Lord willing, we plan to attend the wedding of our son, Stephen Murphey to Monica Whitson on November 22, in Gardendale, AL. The saints are invited to attend. It is our prayer that the Lord will direct their lives to His glory.

—Willie E. Murphey  
wemurphey@yahoo.com



FL—Pray for Bro. Robert Hetland. He has skin cancer, and please continue to remember my husband. Thank you, —Sis. Sarah Monkman

KS—I need prayer for the dear Lord's help and guidance. —Sis. Naomi Dickerson Hiebert

CA—Please request prayer for Mike and Ellen. They have financial needs. Pray for healing for Davis, Mitch and Wanda's mother and also Maya who is 19 years old and was in an auto accident. May God bless you always,

—Bro. Don Viser

OK—I still desire an interest in your prayers. I have been very much afflicted in my body.

—Bro. T. V. McMillian

### Standing Prayer Requests

- Sis. Mamie Butcher
- Bro. Hubert Corteway
- Sis. Waneta Creel

Sis. Elaine Dunn  
 Sis. Evelyn Fredrickson  
 Bro. Troy Gentry  
 Bro. Jeff Gutwein  
 Bro. Robert Hetland  
 Bro. Lee Hilton  
 Bro. Doyle LaCroix  
 The Lounds Sisters  
 Sis. Ruth McMakin  
 Bro. Manuel & Sis. Marie Mitchell  
 Sis. Melba Powell  
 Sis. Anna Severs  
 Sis. Catherine Shaffer  
 The Mitch Taylor family

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## MEETING DATES

**Sapulpa, OK (Fall Revival)**—Nov. 2-8  
**Loranger, LA. (Assembly)**—Nov. 26-30  
**Miami, FL (Fall Meeting)**—cancelled  
**Oklahoma State (Guthrie)**—Dec. 26-Jan. 4

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## MEETING NOTICES

### SAPULPA, OK, FALL REVIVAL

The Church of God congregation in Sapulpa, OK extends a warm WELCOME to everyone for our Fall Revival, November 2-8, Sunday morning through Saturday. Evening services will begin at 7:00 p.m. Bro. Michael Smith has a burden for the meeting.

### LORANGER, LA, ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Loranger, LA Assembly Meeting is scheduled to begin Wednesday night, November 26, 2003, at 7:30 p.m. Services will be 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. daily through Sunday, November 30, 2003. All are welcome. Please come praying for a visit from the Lord.

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 will be 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 Bro. Carlos Doolittle, 20231 Hwy 40, Loranger, LA 70446. Phone (985) 878-8122. The chapel phone is (985) 878-2788.

### MIAMI, FL FALL MEETING CANCELLATION

The Miami, FL fall meeting has been cancelled. For further information please contact the pastor, Bro Robert McIntyre at (305) 233-2166.

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### MINISTERS' MEETING NOTICE

Plans are being made for a national ministers' meeting to be held in Guthrie, OK March 5-7, 2004. This meeting will be for the purpose of prayer, teaching and edification.

Bro. Keith Fuller has agreed to coordinate the preparations for the meeting. Any suggestions or questions may be directed to Bro. Fuller at telephone number 330-864-1128 or his mailing address at 244 Storer Ave., Akron, OH 44302.

The expenses for this meeting will be met on a freewill basis. Financial support can be directed to Sis. Brenda Wilkins, the OK State Treasurer. Her address is: 1023 E. Prairie Grove, Guthrie, OK 73044.

Further announcements will be made in the *Faith and Victory*.

In Christ,

—Bro. Stanley Dickson  
 405-260-8822

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### WICHITA MEETING REPORT

The Lord blessed us with a refreshing, exciting and very precious meeting. We thank Him for every blessing. The singing was really good and anointed and really blessed our souls. The Word was so anointed and helpful for all who heard it. We had messages on repentance, hungering and thirsting for God, how to be spiritually minded, preparing the way of the people, being born again, the cross and how we can indirectly worship the devil and not even know it. The Word was enlightening, informative, instructive and just good all around. Different ones sought for help, deeper depths, etc. at the altar of prayer and a young man got saved. We truly thank God for His faithfulness to us.

—Sis. Shirley Knight

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### THE MACEDONIAN CALL

There stood a man of Macedonia and prayed, saying, "come over into Macedonia and help us." The congregation here at Shawnee would like to have more help. They would welcome any of God's ministers who are established in the Church of God doctrines and led by the Holy Ghost to apply. It might be that if you could

come and labor with the congregation and became acquainted, the Lord might give you the burden to be pastor.

At the present time, Bro. Bill McMakin is in the leadership position, but doesn't claim to be a pastor and neither do I. I have done my best to be a fill-in since Bro. Michael Smith resigned over two years ago. I don't feel that I can effectually fill the place of a pastor. I am getting up in years and my health is not very good. So I do not physically feel able to fill the need here.

We have enjoyed ministering to the congregation here in our limited way, and they have been very good to us, and we love them very much.

If any of God's true ministers feel that God would have you to respond to this need you may contact Bro. Bill McMakin. His phone number is: (405) 275-2575.

We want the Lord to lead by His Spirit. Yours in Christ, —Bro. T. V. McMillian

both had a special agreement of prayer and the Lord plainly spoke, "Resist the devil."

One day, as we came before the Lord, it seemed the affliction would just not let go. In tears we cried unto Him. We picked up a slip of paper, turned it over and there was the poem, "Hold fast," the Lord had given me. "Hold fast a little longer, do not weep in deep despair, there's a Father up in heaven listening for your prayer." What an encouragement! The victory came and the Lord completely healed her, for which we praise Him.

Many times the Lord has answered prayer, to others some things may seem insignificant, but we have learned to take everything to God in prayer. Pray for us, —Sis. Olive Davenport

OK—Dear readers of the *Faith and Victory*: Greetings in Jesus! While reading some of the September issue, I rejoiced for those who have been blessed, especially the ones overseas, and felt a great need to pray for the numerous requests. It would be nice while visiting with others to go over the requests and have a season of prayer. We are instructed to bear one another's burdens. I do appreciate the *Faith and Victory* paper which is a means to convey our needs to the Church.

Recently I had an experience I want to relate. I thought, what is wrong? It seems everyone around me is ailing with something and I feel so good most of the time. I guess I almost wished for something! It wasn't long until a strange pain hit me and my left shoulder hurt so I couldn't sleep. After praying, asking God to help, I soon slept on that shoulder until morning.

The next day I noticed a bump, then later several red spots that caused a pricking sensation. Some thought, as I did, that it was shingles. In accordance with the Word, I was anointed and the Lord shortened the affliction. For this I am very grateful

Since God is so good to me I want to be more in earnest in praying for others and especially that the Gospel will reach and touch every soul. May He bless those, including the young people, who have recently given their life to God.

In Christian love to all, —Sis. Evodna Marler

AR—Sometimes we can take for granted the access we have to the truth through the literature we have received from one little print shop. The Lord is so good and faithful to His children.

—Sis. Charissa Bennings



### LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

OK—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings this afternoon. The Lord was good to me. I had a big problem yesterday. I would have gladly paid a young man to help me get an animal back in its pen. But, this young man was not at home and the Lord worked it out. Step by step He told me what to do. —Sis. Johnnye Lee Johnson

CA—Bro. Willie: Christian greetings! We praise the Lord for salvation and all its benefits. He has been very good to us this year, 2003, and answered prayers, keeping us encouraged.

In the early part of the summer my daughter, Sharon, had a cold which seemed ordinary, but after a few days it grew worse with a terrible cough and then a severe headache, something she had never had, which persisted for several days. We prayed earnestly. One morning we awoke with the verse of song, "Press on mid strong temptation, tell satan he must flee." This encouraged us to keep praying. Another time we



TX—Dear ones: I want to tell of God's mercy and goodness to me in this past year. On February 4<sup>th</sup> I lost my house in a fire. Right away God spoke words of comfort to me and filled me with such a sweet peace within that even my children were amazed at how calm I was concerning my loss. He told me, "Everything is going to be all right." Those words have been brought back to memory time and time again to bring courage and strength to me in times of need.

Then, on February 22, I almost lost my son Charles with chemical burns to his throat, face and arms. The Gellenbeck family and Sis. Mary Lawson were here with me and brought such a comfort and loving support to me. Oh, how I thank the Lord for His mercy and goodness to me!

Four months later I collapsed while on the job and the lady called an ambulance to the scene. I was very dizzy, had a severe headache, high blood pressure, high sugar, etc. Once again, Sis. Mary Lawson was visiting and brought such comfort to me and prayerfully supported me through another battle. All of the saints were praying too and I appreciate each prayer that was prayed for me! I felt like I had a mild stroke because my whole left side was staying numb and I was unable to walk on my own. I found out I am a diabetic. I was so near death and I thank God for His mercy and goodness to spare me a while longer.

Well then, I was not only without a home of my own but I lost my job. Through these dark times it seemed that every door was shut when trying to find a house or job. In His faithfulness the Lord always reminded me of many things to be thankful for, and I am so glad I did not give up hope. Thank God for His mercy and goodness and numerous ways to bring comfort to our souls.

On October 1<sup>st</sup> we were blessed of the Lord to move into our own house to rent. It is so good to have my own place of prayer. Of course the parks and other places have their places of peace and solitude, but that is not always true. There is no place like home!

I had the opportunity to be at the Monark meeting and I went up for healing. The Lord has blessed and is blessing me daily. Thank the Lord! Lovingly yours in Christ, —Sis. Jan Wood

#### From India...

Oct. 11, 2003—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to all of you

dear ones again in the most Holy name of Jesus Christ. We thank God for the *Faith and Victory* paper and enjoy the good articles in it. Also we thank God for His ministry all over the world. May God bless the revival meetings this year.

By the grace of God all of our congregations are doing fine. Our Gospel team will conduct a one-day meeting at Kalayapuram on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October. In Meghalaya State a few saints have started an Evening Light Church of God congregation. Bro. Phanwanjah is pastor at that congregation, and they assemble in a rented building now. Please pray for the growth of this church. Our prayers are for you.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

#### From Nigeria...

Oct. 24, 2003—Dear Bro. W. E. Murphey: Greetings to you and the entire Print Shop family. I am pleased to say that the power of God has kept us safely since this year began, and that likewise, we've been ushered into the last quarter of the year. I believe that the same thing is rightly applicable to all of you. I thank God for His matchless and ever-present power over all of us.

Preparations are in top gear towards another national camp meeting that is scheduled to be held at Port Harcourt, Dec. 17-21. Please pray that real justification and sanctification be experienced during the camp meeting and that God's healing virtue will be greatly available to heal the sick.

We pray for you often. Remain encouraged always, and keep praying for the progress of the Lord's work here in Nigeria.

Yours for Christ, —Bro. O. B. Alalibo

#### From the Philippines...

Oct. 29, 2003—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings of hope and peace in Jesus' name! Thank you too for praying for my mother. I'm sad to say she died this morning at 4:00 a.m. I'm here at home to arrange and fix some things that we needed. Jon and I will be leaving Manila early tomorrow morning.

I don't know if Bro. Matias will be able to come because Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 is the camp meeting. The meeting was originally scheduled for Sept. 19-21 but was postponed for security reasons. I phoned Bro. Pat Tangunan to officiate my mother's funeral on Nov. 1, and he said

he would inform Bro. Matias about it. Bro. Matias and I have different mothers but we have the same father.

The pain in my heart is so hard to bear. Please pray for my family and me that everything will go smoothly. Arlene and Arnel will come on Friday.

Bye, thank you for your prayers, especially for loving us. Your sister, —Nellie Tibayan



**Jonathan Ray Busbee** was born November 10, 1962 in Anthony, Kansas to Leslie and Sylvia Busbee. He passed from this earthly life October 5, 2003.

In June of 1963 his parents moved with him and his older brother, Joseph, to Springfield, MO. During the eight years residing there, his older brother, Joseph, was taken in death. Two sisters, Jeanne and Angela, and another brother, Philip, were added to the family. Also, in Springfield he started to school at Fairbanks School. In July of 1971 the family moved to Bartlett, KS, for a year and a half of farm and country life. Then in December of 1972 the family moved to Guthrie, OK. He graduated from Guthrie High School in 1981.

In 1982, while living with his family in Guthrie, OK, he yielded to the call of the Lord Jesus to give his heart and life to Him. At the Monark Springs Camp Meeting of that year he was saved and born into the Church of God. Although he had many battles and temptations he kept that desire to live for God and the Lord helped him so wonderfully. He struggled with great and sore afflictions in body, but he purposed to trust fully in God all the way.

In January of 1986, Jon, as he was called, moved back to his boyhood home town of Springfield, MO. He became an electrician and worked

for several years for Sechler Electric of Springfield until he terminated his work on account of ill health.

On February 5, 1994 he was united in marriage to Dee Ann Newton, and to this union were born two children: Dena Jeanette and Nolan Ray. He loved the service of God and was faithful to attend services of the Church in the local congregation and in camp meetings and other services of the work of the Lord. He loved to sing and joined in with the congregation in worship of song and praise.

In the final weeks and months of his earthly sojourn the Lord blessed him much with encouraging dreams and spiritual inspirations. He testified of the Lord's blessings to him in the services he attended. During the early morning hours of October 5, 2003, the Lord took Jon from this life to Paradise above at the age of 40 years, 10 months and 25 days. "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his." Numbers 23:10.

He is survived by his faithful wife, Dee Ann, one daughter, Dena Jeanette age 7 and one son, Nolan Ray age 2, of the home; his parents, Leslie and Sylvia Busbee of Enid, OK; two sisters, Jeanne Marie Eck and husband, Herschel, of Bartlett, KS and Angela Grace Gellenbeck and husband, Danny, of Stanford, KY; one brother, Philip Glenn Busbee and wife, Rebecca, of Enid, OK; his step-grandfather, Hyrum Ray, of Guthrie, OK; his father-in-law, James Newton; two brothers-in-law, Michael and Wayne Newton; his wife's maternal grandmother, Verba Holdt, all of Springfield, MO; a special lifelong friend, Dena Porter and grandson, Michael; besides a host of other relatives, saints and friends.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Joseph Erle; his maternal grandparents, Erle and Vera Forbes; his paternal grandparents, Ray and Thelma Busbee; his mother-in-law, Jennetta Newton and special adopted grandparents, Uncle Bud and Nanaw Myrtle Porter.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday morning, October 8, 2003, at Greenlawn North Funeral Home with burial in Eastlawn Cemetery in Springfield, MO, Bro. James Bell, Sis. Dena Porter and Bro. Leslie Busbee officiated.

#### **Special Note of Thanks**

The family of Bro. Jon Busbee desires to express our appreciation and thanks to all of our friends and brethren in the Lord for all the

comfort and support you have showed to us in this time of need. Your gifts and offerings of love, your cards and expressions of sympathy and all of your kind words and deeds to help lift our spirits has been so greatly appreciated. May the Lord bless and richly reward all of you. Lovingly yours in Him,

—Sis. Dee Ann Busbee, Bro. Leslie and Sis. Sylvia Busbee and family

## Comfort and Assurance from John 14.

By Sis. Anita Adams

The Lord really opened up to me some familiar scriptures in John the 14th chapter. I started reading in the 13th chapter about Jesus telling His disciples that one of them would betray Him and He gave the sop to Judas. In my mind, I doubt that the rest had any idea how soon Jesus would be betrayed, but Jesus knew, and what did He start out the 14th chapter with?—"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." The Sunday night before I read this, thoughts had been expressed about Samson walking down the road and meeting a lion. The Spirit of the Lord came upon him and he killed the lion. Later he was able to eat honey out of the carcass of that lion. It was mentioned that we many times meet lions in our path. Through no fault of our own, a major trouble looms before us, but by the help of the spirit of God we can overcome the lion and afterward, like Samson, reap a special blessing as recorded in Judges 14:14, "...Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness...." Jesus saw the "lion" ahead of these disciples and He said, "Let not your heart be troubled:..." He speaks those same words to us today. He sees the trouble that lies ahead and brings assurance to us with these words "...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." "Let not your heart be troubled:..."

In John 14:8-9, "Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him. Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father, and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?" Christ was the perfect ambassador for the Father. He always did those things that pleased

the Father, and His will was to do the will of the Father that sent Him. As the world looks upon us, can they say they know the Father because they have known us? What a challenge! I want to be a perfect ambassador for Christ so that they will know God by my actions, my words, my attitudes and my dealings with them.

The Lord really blessed me with the 18th verse. "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." The margin of my Bible says that the word *comfortless* meant orphans. What a blessed thought! We are not orphans wandering through this world!

An orphan is a child whose parents have died. Yes, Jesus died and was buried, but on the third day He arose and is ever sitting at the right hand of the Father.

"God is not dead, Oh, glory to His name!

Forever more, He is the same.

His mercies great and countless blessing  
prove

It is in Him, we live and move."

## "Each commandment thou hast given is a way- mark on the road..."

By Sis. Cynthia Meek

After we sang this song, number 121 in the *Evening Light Songs* book, a brother told of their recent experience while traveling in heavy rain. He and his wife had to watch closely for the road signs so they could be sure they stayed on the right road. He likened the importance of following the signs to our need to carefully follow the instructions in the Word that we may be assured of arriving at our desired destination—Heaven.

"Isn't there a scripture that says 'Remove not the ancient landmarks?'" a young mother asked. She explained that her daughter always identified their seat by a green tin of mints that was usually at the other end. However, it was not there this time. "Someone had taken away the landmark," she said. "She was able to find our place but it wasn't as easy." That's how it is with those coming behind us: it's not impossible for them to find the way, but it will be so much harder if we remove the ancient landmarks."

## “LET US GO BACK TO OUR FATHER’S PRAYING GROUND.”

(Continued from page 3.)

who are keeping God’s Word and walking in the light and are happy. But our heart is heavy because too many have lost the vision of the true Church of God and are no longer following the light of God’s Word. As a result their lives are lonely and miserable. Sin has tarnished the bright hope they once possessed and now they are wandering in darkness.

God’s Word sets the standard of right and wrong, not man, although there are some that do try to set a different standard and God is not pleased. II Chronicles 20:20 says, “...Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.” The true ministers of God are praying and preaching what God gives them. Yet many are not taking heed, they are taking their own way.

James 5:13-16 says, “Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

God wants us to love and trust Him. Let us trust God, soul and body. If you can’t trust Him, just ask Him and He will teach you. He is the best doctor I’ve met. Thank God! He has been my healer for 50 years. He has healed me of many things. We sing, “Oh, yes we’ll trust Him while we live, we’ll trust Him when we die.” There is a special blessing in trusting our Lord. We do have an adversary. While we are suffering he is right there saying, “Yes, you are going to die.”

I had a real sickness one night. It felt like my heart was really going to stop. It would flip, then seem to stop. My nerves were so bad I couldn’t sleep. Satan whispered, “You are surely going to die tonight.” I laid back and told him, “If I do I’ll wake up in heaven.” Thank God! He woke me up the next morning feeling fine. Praise God!

In Colossians 3:1-3 it says, “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.” When we are dead to a life of sin, we will walk “with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.” Ephesians 4:2.

I John 2:15-16 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. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

The world is getting the attention of many. When fashions change, the world changes. They wear whatever apparel the world provides. The saints of God cannot hold the Bible standard of modesty and wear the ungodly clothes the world provides. If we do, we are of the world. We should be different, act differently, dress differently and have different attitudes than what the world has. Satan is directing this old world and he is directing many to dress like the world.

I Tim. 2:9-10 says, “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.” That is as plain as it can be. Women of God should be ashamed to be immodestly dressed. God didn’t set two standards—one for the old and one for the young. Young people need to be modest too. I do believe some don’t know any better, so I am praying that all sisters will take heed. Mothers, be an example to your children. We do want to obey all of God’s Word and not become a stumbling block.

Romans 14:12-13 says, “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in *his* brother’s way.” We do not judge, God’s Word does. When we do not obey God’s Word we could cause our brothers and sisters to fall. Young and old, let us fast and pray that God will rebuke satan and that the power of God will work and save souls. Sin is abounding, but I believe that when God gets us where He wants us, souls will be saved. Thank God for saving me!

# Be Filled With the Spirit

By Willis Pelton

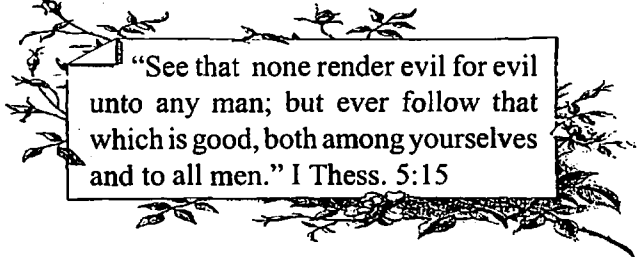
From the *Gospel Trumpet* Nov. 26, 1903

One of the main secrets of real success for God and that which brings real conviction to the souls of others is to be filled with God's Spirit. Another blessed thought is that when we are filled with His Spirit there will be no possible room in our hearts for anything evil. In fact, all evil must first take its flight before God will give us any degree of His Spirit. To be filled with God's Spirit does not always mean that a person must leap and shout. However such is always in the order of God when backed up by His Spirit. But it is not always an evidence of spirituality. There is a way to prove our spirituality and find out how genuine it is by asking ourselves the following questions: Does our life measure to the Bible? Is our consecration complete? Is all on the altar—time, talents, houses, lands, pocketbook and all? Do we understand fully what it means when we say we are stewards over what we have? Many people wonder why they are not as spiritual as they used to be. If they are not, there must be a cause. One of the causes may be as it was with the children of Israel. They started out all right but not being satisfied with enough of the temporal things of life they wanted more, and God "gave them their request, but sent leanness into their soul." Psa. 106:15.

Many start out today with a real bright experience and only have a little of this world's goods. But, as time goes on, they become more and more dissatisfied with their small amount of earthly possessions, and instead of looking after their spiritual welfare they find themselves grasping after the things of this world, and God will give them their request but sends leanness into their soul. God wants His people to be spiritual, and for us to be so our life must be blameless, our walk before God must be perfect, our spiritual affections placed upon things above, and we must be dead to this world.

A good supply of His spirit in our soul is a sure preventative of false doctrine. We will not be investigating to see if some other way is the best. John was perfectly satisfied with the Bible way for about sixty years. From the time he was first saved he taught the people the same doctrine that he had heard and accepted in the beginning. (I John 1:1-3.) Probably if he had not been in a good spiritual condition during all this time he would have become like others who get tired of the straight Bible way and want something new for a change.

Another advantage in being filled with the Spirit of God is that people will not get puffed up. Many are striving and putting forth every effort they can to become great in the eyes of others. They seem to forget that Jesus made Himself of no reputation. Such are generally willing to deny themselves of most anything for the sake of more knowledge. But while they are so anxious about this part of it, they fail to see that their soul is dead or fast dying for the want of spiritual food. God is pleased for His people to advance in knowledge, etc., but remember if we neglect the spiritual part God is displeased and we will become lukewarm and He will spew us out of His mouth.



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## THE SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY

**How the Christians Converted Peoples and Emperors to Their Religion and Made a Church Which Was Stronger Than the Roman Empire**

**Foreword.** Jesus was born at Bethlehem, in Judea, in the Golden Age of Augustus. Judea was a poor little country just south of Phoenicia. So important was the birth of Jesus that we count our dates from the year that he was born.

When Jesus grew up, He preached a new religion. His followers, the Christians, would not worship the old gods of the Romans nor would they worship the emperors. They were persecuted because they would have no god but their own. They were nailed to crosses, killed, and thrown to the lions in the amphitheatres, but they were willing to die for their religion because they believed that they would go to Heaven. Such strong faith made other people believe that the Christians must have the right religion. More and more people became Christians. Finally the emperors became worshipers of Jesus.

When the emperors accepted the Christian religion, most of their people gave up the old gods and became followers of the Christian God.

The Christians united in a great church, which seemed to them to be more important than the great state which the Romans had made. They thought so because they believed that the church helped them to get to Heaven, and getting to Heaven seemed more worthwhile than anything else that they could do. The church grew stronger and stronger, and the empire grew weaker and weaker. When the empire was broken up by the German tribes who came into it, the church lasted on. It was stronger than the empire. It led the Germans to become Christians too and took them into the church.

### I. THE BEGINNINGS OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION

**Why men lost faith in their old gods.** As we know the earliest men had gods long before they began to write about themselves. They believed that the gods made the lightning and thunder, raised the winds, sent the rain and made all living things grow. These mysterious gods were like men and women in shape, but

they could not be seen and they never died. Men worshiped them in strange ceremonies, gave them their best oxen, their best sheep and lambs and built temples to please them.

Each tribe and each people had its own gods and tried to do just what its own gods wished. But when different peoples became acquainted with each other they found out that their gods were much alike. The Romans found out that their great god Jupiter was like the Greek god Zeus, who lived on Mount Olympus in Thessaly. The peoples even borrowed and traded their gods. There were thousands of gods, and they became much mixed up. Everywhere people of one land were trying the gods of other lands, because they hoped that the new gods might be better able to help them than their old ones. In the end no one was very sure that any of the gods could help him.

**Why people became more eager to find a comforting religion.** When the Roman empire grew weaker and its peoples suffered from hunger and poverty and ill treatment, men longed for a religion which would give them comfort and hope. They began to say to themselves that there must be kind, sympathetic gods who would help people in trouble.

Many also began to hope that there was a happy life after death. They had so much trouble that they said there must be a better world to which they would go when they died. They longed for a heaven that would make up for all that they suffered on earth.

Everywhere in the empire men were wishing for a religion which would give them certain hope of a future life. You can imagine how glad they were when they began to hear about the religion of the Christians. It gave them comfort and seemed to be the true religion. More and more they turned to the faith of the Christians. But it took three hundred years for Christianity to spread to all parts of the empire.

**The teaching of Jesus.** Jesus was a poor man. He worked with His hands. He comforted those who were in trouble, and healed the sick. He taught a religion of love and peace. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," was the golden rule which He gave to the world. His life was the finest example of doing good to others that has ever been known in the world.

Jesus lived simply and did not look for

power or honor. He did the things each day that brought hope out of misery and love out of hate.

The teachings of Jesus appealed most to the poor and oppressed, and from these people came His first followers. It is not strange that those who were comfortable and happy were slow to accept the Christian teachings because they were satisfied with the lives that they lived.

#### **Jesus taught men to love one another.**

Jesus taught that loving kindness alone would stop all strife—kindness on the part of leaders, kindness and mutual love in families and communities. Such a spirit of helpfulness, He said, would save the weak from being injured by the strong and the poor from being ill-treated by the rich.

Many of these lessons were taught through parables which made them easier to understand by the simple folk who followed Jesus and listened to His teachings. These parables, or stories, illustrated clearly to the people of the time the points Jesus wished to make.

Later the story of the life of Jesus was written in the *Gospels*. These *Gospels*, with letters and other accounts of the early Christians, make up the New Testament. The New Testament and the Old Testament, which tells of the God of the Jews, are the Bible.

The worshipers of pagan gods had no such book. They had only vague myths which had been written so long before that no one knew that they were true. The Christians believed that their religion was the only true one.

The early Christians were poor people. The first Christians were Jews, but Saint Paul, who was born in the Greek city of Tar'sus, began to preach to other peoples who were not Jews. Paul made it clear that the teaching of Jesus was for all men. The Christians became missionaries. They went about the empire telling about their wonderful religion.

Most of the early Christians were poor people. Slaves and humble folk found great comfort in the belief that all men were equal before God and that they would be happy in Heaven when they died.

At first the people who believed in other religions laughed at the Christians. They did not understand why the Christians would worship only one God. Then from laughing

they passed to hating the Christians. They thought that the old gods were angry because the Christians would not worship them. So they tried for awhile to make the Christians give up their religion. Everywhere the Christians were scorned and sometimes mobbed and killed. When the emperor Nero was accused of starting a fire that burned half the city of Rome, he saved himself from punishment by saying that the Christians had started the fire. Great numbers of Christians were burned alive for this crime which they did not commit.

## **2. THE SPREAD OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION**

**Why the emperors persecuted the Christians.** The emperors did not try to make the different peoples they ruled give up their religions. But they did insist that all of them should worship the emperors. This emperor-worship was a way of showing patriotism to the empire.

People were so accustomed to having many gods that they were always ready to worship one more. But the Christians were different. They had only one God and would not worship the emperors. They could not hold any offices because the officials had to worship the Roman gods. They would not fight in the armies. So it was natural for the Romans to think that the Christians were not good citizens. If we had been Romans living at that time, we might have thought the same.

When the number of Christians began to increase, the emperors became afraid that they would destroy all loyalty to the state. So they persecuted the Christians, trying to make them give up their faith. But the Christians were so sure that their God was the only God, and they were so certain that they would go to Heaven if the emperors put them to death that they were willing to die for their religion.

The Christians who were put to death were called martyrs. We have a saying that "the blood of the martyrs was the seed of the church." It really did seem that every time a Christian was killed ten more came to take his place, so you can see how killing Christians seemed like planting seed.

**Excerpted from a sixth grade history book *Old Europe and Our Nation* by Row-Peterson.**

—Submitted by Bro. Leslie Busbee

## A NARROW ESCAPE

I feel it would be to the glory of God to relate how He cared for me in a trying and dangerous situation. In my senior year in high school, during Christmas break, I worked for a State Highway maintenance crew. There was flooding in the Willamette River at Salem, Oregon, and a large building washed down against the bridge, which was the only one across the river for many miles both up and down stream. Men from several different maintenance crews were sent to demolish this building to relieve pressure against the bridge.

My oldest brother and myself, with another man from our crew, were among those sent. We worked all day and into the night tearing the building apart and throwing the pieces into the river to be washed away.

Before dark there were electric lights set up on the bridge and a pile driver was brought to drive some pilings through holes in the bridge deck. Under the bridge deck, every so often, were twelve by twelve timbers that extended out about eighteen inches wider than the deck, and the Army Corps of Engineers had strung a steel cable looped around the ends of those twelve-by timbers. The floor of the building was six or seven feet below the bridge deck and a ladder was situated at one point to get up onto the bridge.

Around 10 p.m. the building was torn down, just the floor left intact with a few larger timbers that we were sawing into pieces we could handle. Mike, the other man from our crew, and I were the farthest from the ladder. We had just completed a cut and laid the saw down when Mike said he was going up on the bridge to get a drink of water. Just then the floor

started to move and someone yelled "it's goin' out" and we all started to run for the ladder. I had not taken more than three or four steps when I was in water almost up to my waist, but just then some pieces of wood large enough to support me floated by and I was able to get up on them. About that time all of the lights went out and as I floated under the bridge it seemed as if the supports for the bridge were being swept away. I had visions of the bridge collapsing and the pile driver coming down on top of me, but that didn't happen and I floated clear. When I was about twenty or thirty feet below the bridge I heard someone, I think it was Mike, yelling for help. He was more than twenty feet from me and of course I was unable to do anything for him. A couple of hundred feet down river was a railroad bridge and much driftwood had lodged against it. There was very little current there and I was able to climb up to safety on the railroad bridge. To get back to the highway bridge I had to go across the river, up to the highway and across the river on that bridge to get to where we had been working. The first person I saw to recognize was my brother, but Mike was drowned as was also a man from another crew. My brother hadn't been able to get to the ladder but did get hold of the steel cable and was pulled on up to safety. I was a backslider at that time and have many times thanked God for sparing me so I could get right with Him again before I was called into eternity. Praises to His Holy Name!

With Christian love and prayers,

Bill Busch