

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant

Unto Him shall the
gathering of the
people be.

GOD IS
LOVE

YE SHINE AS
LIGHTS IN
THE WORLD.

JESUS
SAVES

The night cometh,
when no man
can work.

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CONTENTMENT

By Bro. Bill Busch

Surely everyone, even though some may not even be aware of it, wants to be contented. Satan, using this world's "Vanity Fair," is deceiving many into thinking that the things and pleasures of this world are what they need to be happy, but the things and pleasures of the world will not satisfy or last. "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. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." 1 John 2:16-17. Only Jesus can give true and lasting peace and contentment. "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33. Praise God for this precious promise!

There are conditions that we must meet before we can receive the promises in His Word. "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." Heb. 11:6.

Faith and trust are most important requirements. It is a very darkened mind that can't, or won't, recognize that everything we see that has life, has life because God, the Creator of all things, is alive and gives life to all things that live. "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things." Acts 17:24-25. Thank God for life, *everlasting life*; praise, honor and glory to His Name!

Another requirement for us to meet is godly **love**. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Rom. 8:28. "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." 1 John 2:15. Oh, let us with our whole heart, mind and strength love God. "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." Mark 12:30. If we have this love we can claim the promise that "all things work together for good," even things

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that seem to be grievous and hard will be for our good. "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." Heb. 12:6. If we are having trials and tribulations let us accept it as chastening from the Lord and thank Him for His Love. The writer of Psalm 119 recognized the hand of God in his afflictions and their benefit. "Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now have I kept thy word." Psalm 119:67. And verse 71, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes." The Apostle Paul had experience in affliction and learned that it was for his good, so he was submissive and accepted it with gladness, even taking pleasure in it. "For this thing [a thorn in the flesh] I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." II Cor. 12:8-10. Let us not chafe under suffering and trials but in the midst of them pray "that the power of Christ may rest upon me," and we can be a help and blessing to someone in need.

Obedience and submission are also requirements, and Paul set us an example. "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need." Phil. 4:11-12. And verse 13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." God does hear and answer prayer. "And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible." Mark 10:27. If we have our lives surrendered completely to His will, we can accept trials and suffering and be contented and willing to endure whatever He permits to come into our lives. Let us be like Job; "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him." Job 13:15.

Oh, let us always have in mind the suffering that Jesus endured for our sake and be willing to partake in suffering for His sake. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Rom. 8:16-18. And, "But godliness with contentment is great gain." I Tim. 6:6. Contentment is an attitude and with God's help we can have it no matter what trials and sufferings He permits us to endure. I have an affliction, a "thorn in the flesh" that I have had for several years and I truly believe that it is "for my good" or He would remove it in answer to prayer. Praise, honor and glory to His name!

May we all live our lives in such a way that we will bring no reproach on the Name of our Savior, and that all we do or say will be for His Glory.

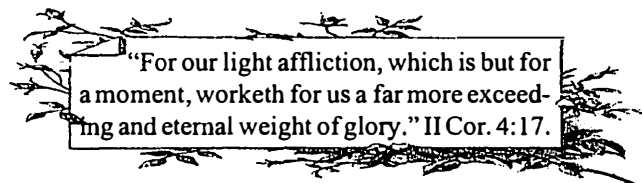
(Editor: This article by Bro. Busch was postmarked on February 4, 2004. He passed to his eternal reward February 10, 2004.)

OR—February 10, 2004—Bro. Bill passed from this time world with complete victory in Jesus. We drove out to pray and sing with him on Friday. As we sang the blessed songs of victory, with tears in his eyes and God's song in his heart, he would hold his hand high even though he had no nourishment for days and was so very weak. His testimony was, "If God wanted him to keep working with the people in his life and He would heal him, that was okay. If not, he wanted to go on home." What peace there is in knowing Jesus.

I checked with him before Sunday's services and he said he was weaker. Then today, Tuesday, he went to be with his Lord. His burden to the end was others, especially his children. He asked us to pray for them so I will pass that last request on to all.

In Jesus love,

—Bro. Steve Elwell



The Family That Prays

By Bro. Toney and Sis. Jeanie Samons

Who Can Find A Virtuous Woman

Proverbs 31:10: "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies." In the 21st century the word "virtue" is nearly obsolete in referral to women. But it must have also been so even in Bible days, for according to this passage of scripture, she was rare even then. The worth of a virtuous woman was far above rubies.

To those of us who are women, to be virtuous tends to make us feel we have to be perfect. However, according to one definition, virtue simply means total volunteer obedience to truth. There is a moral code portrayed in the Bible that can help us achieve this excellence of character.

1. You must be a student of the Word. The Proverbs 31 woman, "riseth also while it is yet night." Some of our time has to be devoted to Bible reading and prayer in order for us to be obedient to God's plan. Verse 17: "She girdeth her loins with strength." In Bible times the robes were girded up before a woman applied herself to work. We must gird ourselves with the Word of God and communicate with Him before we begin the duties of the day.

2. The eleventh verse in this passage states: "The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil." If, in the early morning, a woman will apply herself to praying for her husband and giving him special attention before he is sent out into the evil world, there is safety in this. There is much protection in a marriage and a home that comes only from a healthy, loving relationship between a man and a woman. The woman is the nurturer of this by the environment she sets for the home. With a well preserved household her husband will be proud to speak of home and be anxious to return to its haven.

3. "She looketh well to the ways of her household." Verse 27. "She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet," Verse 21. It is the responsibility of the woman to clothe, feed and

keep her household in order. It is necessary, even in this modern day, to know how to cook, to sew and to be creative and thrifty in the ways of her home. You can only create a true home by this kind of caring input. All of this must be supplemented by cleanliness, efficiency and diligence. A family is judged by the mother's management of the house.

4. Another reference to women is found in Titus 2:5, where he instructs women to be "discreet, chaste and keepers at home." Discretion, chastity and virtue are words unknown in the vocabulary of most modern women. To keep your mind and your heart pure requires an effort with the vulgarity in the world around us. Women have always tended to be more sensitive and alert to the threats against virtue but our modern society is desensitizing us to these things. This is undoubtedly why the Apostle Paul instructed the women to be "keepers at home." It is a full time job keeping the home pure and filtering what comes into the home. Though it is a joint effort with your husband to set up guidelines in your home, the woman will be the one at home responsible for their enforcement. Therefore it becomes her duty to be alert to anything that will be brought into the home that would threaten the family. Inclusive in this are the filtering of music, reading material, computer and video exposure, as well as friends.

In conclusion, the "virtuous woman" is a very industrious woman. Proverbs 31:27, "...she eateth not the bread of idleness." Given to the application of truth to her life, she will have no time for a job or career outside the home when she becomes responsible for a family. In addition to meeting the needs of her family, verse 21 states: "She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy." What a woman! If she is successful in applying these things to her life, it is a promise that, "Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." Verse 28. What more fulfillment can be achieved?

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

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

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

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

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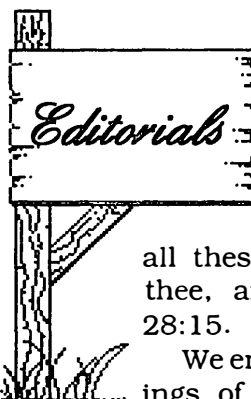
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"But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee." Deut. 28:15.

We enjoy talking about the blessings of the Lord and we love to consider the beautiful Heaven that He has made for the righteous. But there is another side of a just and righteous God that we should also be aware of. Ecclesiastes 8:11 says, "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." The Lord may allow the wicked to continue on and on even until it may seem that they are completely getting away with their sin. The mercy of the Lord may extend so long that even the righteous may be tempted. (Psa. 73:3.) But do not allow God's love and mercy to hide the truth of His justice from your understanding. Sin does not escape the observation of God. The Scripture says, "Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings." Jeremiah 32:19.

If the fruit of your doings is sinful, you are in a very dangerous and serious condition before God. Hebrews 10:31 says, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Notice the words of Jesus who spoke very clearly, "And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him." Luke 12:4-5.

Some people have committed serious offenses against God and their fellow man and then brag and laugh about their sins. If they only caught a glimpse of the righteous fire in the eyes of God toward their sin, they would immediately fall on their knees and seriously repent while life afforded them the opportunity to do so. James 2:19 says, "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." They know something that the sinner doesn't seem to know, and they

aren't telling him either. They know the fierceness of God's anger toward sin. The Bible speaks in several places about the "fierce anger of the Lord."

The devil has given people the idea that they can excuse sin. Some even teach that you must sin every day—they say you can't help it. Some have been diagnosed by a psychiatrist as having some sinful "disorder" called by a fancy name and say, "I can't help it." And they don't even try. Some people say, "I was just born this way." And they don't try to change. Some try to cover their sin and may have succeeded in hiding it from the eyes of man, but they haven't hidden it from God and they are in trouble. Many are bound by sinful habits and addictions and think there is no hope for them, but God is able to deliver their soul from sin. If you will purpose in your heart to turn from your wickedness and serve the Lord, He will help you. God will not accept your excuses, but He will hear the soul that truly repents. Jesus is aware of the fierce anger of the Lord, and He was willing to do something for you and me to avert that anger and purchase our redemption. He paid a terrific price to open the doors of the prison house of sin and let you and me go free. He loves you and greatly desires for you to be made a clean, new creature and become a part of His kingdom. His hand of mercy is reaching to you today. Will you reach your hand toward Him?

On February 9th I flew to New York City and on the morning of the 11th I began the journey back home by car. On the afternoon of the 11th the Lord blessed me to be able to visit the gentleman in Pennsylvania that has the bindery equipment we have been considering for the Print Shop. While the machinery is old and will require a substantial amount of work and expense to put it back into operation it appears to be well-built, very serviceable and capable of producing quality book bindings. He gave us some samples of the work that was produced on the machines that are very nicely bound. I believe the Lord would have us to proceed toward the purchase of the equipment and at the time of this writing we are currently negotiating terms of the purchase.

We appreciate the saints who have been praying with us and giving of their means to make it possible for the Print Shop to obtain the needed items. We are continuing to seek the Lord to provide for His work and that the Truth

will go forth with greater power and victory. The progress that has been made is encouraging and we are anticipating brighter things in store for the Church of God as a result of the sacrifice of His devoted children.

On April 5th Bro. Michael Smith and Bro. Galen Kelly along with two of his children plan a brief trip to the Philippines. Lord willing my daughter, wife and I plan to accompany them. We plan to return on April 13th. The saints there have a special place in our hearts, and we are looking forward to meeting them again. When we visited there in 1999 their fervent love for us and for the Lord made a great impact on our lives. The chords of Divine love that bind our hearts together are strong and have blessed us with many cherished memories. We pray the Lord will pour out His Spirit upon the saints there and that we will be mutually edified by our time together.

The Lord blessed us to be able to reprint the book, *Steps Heavenward* by R. L. Berry. This 123 page book provides good instruction on living a victorious life. Some of the chapter titles are: The New Experience, What to Do First, Unavoidable Temptations May Be Overcome, Have Faith In God, The Family of Feelings, The Source of Power, Conformity to Jesus, Claim Your Inheritance and many other encouraging chapters. This heavy paper bound book could be a blessing to those who are striving to live a faithful life for the Lord. The price is \$2.50 plus shipping. If you would like a copy let us know, and we will be glad to send it to you.

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

Wonderful Peace

Far away in the depths of my spirit tonight
Rolls a melody sweeter than psalm;
In celestial-like strains it unceasingly falls
O'er my soul like an infinite calm,

What a treasure I have in this wonderful peace,
Buried deep in the heart of my soul,
So secure that no power can mine it away,
while the years of eternity roll!

I am resting tonight in this wonderful peace
Resting sweetly in Jesus' control,
For I'm kept from all danger by night and by day,
And His glory is flooding my soul.



WV—Remember me in prayer, I've had a very hard winter here. I turned 84, and my health is not like it use to be. Love and prayers,

—Sis. Melba Powell

OK—Please continue to keep my son in prayer. He is some better. Thank our dear God! The Lord is so real to me. He takes care of me. I live alone, and I will be 92 years-old the fourth of May. I love God so much.

—Sis. Gertrude Haven

OK—Pray for Sis. Marilyn Randall. She is in pain all the time.

—Sis. Florence Hughes

OK—Remember Bro. Hyrum Ray in prayer. He is very weak in body and is suffering from a broken arm.

TX—Our son, Damien, broke his arm. Please remember him in your prayers.

—Sis. Kymi Rich

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Standing Prayer Requests

Carlos Arriago

Sis. Mamie Butcher

Sis. Helen Carson

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

Sis. Marie Mitchell

Sis. Melba Powell

Sis. Anna Severs

Sis. Catherine Shaffer

The Mitch Taylor family

MEETING DATES

Shawnee, OK (Revival)—March 10-14

Oklahoma City, OK (Revival)—March 24-28

Enterprise, AL (Spring Singing)—March 27

Miami, FL (Spring Meeting)—March 28-April 4

Springfield, MO (Spring Singing)—April 3

Boley, OK (Spring Meeting)—April 16-18

Wichita, KS (Spring Meeting)—April 18-25

Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—May 28-June 6

Holly Hill, SC—May 30-June 6

Green Bank, WV—June 11-17

Jefferson, OR—June 11-20

General Southern

(Loranger, LA)—June 27-July 4

National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 16-25

Myrtle, MO—July 30-August 4

MEETING NOTICES

SHAWNEE, OK, SPRING REVIVAL

The Shawnee congregation cordially invites you to join them in revival services March 10th-14th. Lord willing, the services will be nightly at 7 p.m. Bro. Stephen Elwell has a burden for the meeting. The chapel is located at: 1415 Gordon Cooper Dr., Shawnee, OK.

Come worship the Lord with us.

—Bro. Bill McMakin (405) 275-2575.

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OKLAHOMA CITY, OK, SPRING REVIVAL

The Oklahoma City congregation invites you to attend their Spring Revival meeting, March 24-28th. Services will be Wednesday through Saturday at 7:00 p.m. On Sunday, Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., Morning service at 10:45 a.m. and afternoon service at 2:00 p.m. (night service dismissed.) Lunch will be served at the chapel. Bro. Darrell Johnson has a burden for the meeting.

The address of the chapel is 5900 N.E. 23rd St., Oklahoma City, OK. For further information contact Bro. Loren Busbee, (405) 478-3860 or Bro. Galen Kelly, (405) 424-8400. The chapel phone is (405) 427-1223

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ENTERPRISE, AL, SPRING SINGING

The congregation of the Church of God in the community of Enterprise near Warrior, AL, invites you to a singing on March 27th at 6:30 p.m. Activities will begin Saturday morning. On Sunday there will be regular services with dinner on the grounds.

The chapel is located two miles west of I-65 at exit 289. (Approx. 30 miles north of Birming-

ham.) For further information or accommodations, please call Bro. Roy Herron at (205) 647-7869 or Bro. Marshall Whitson at (205) 647-6325. Also, several motels are located in nearby Cullman, AL. Come with a song! Everyone is welcome.

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MIAMI, FL MEETING NOTICE

Lord willing, the annual spring camp meeting in Miami, FL will be held March 28 through April 4, 2004. Services will be nightly at 7:30 p.m. with two services on Sunday. The daytime service schedule will be announced at the meeting. Come expecting a blessing, and if you are unable to attend please pray that the Lord will bless the meeting. The chapel phone number is (305) 758-0160. It is located at 235 NW 47th St, Miami, FL. For further information please contact Bro. Robert McIntyre at (304) 233-2166 or Bro. Charles Clay at (305) 235-4271.

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BOLEY, OK, SPRING MEETING

The Boley, OK Spring Meeting will be held April 16-18th. Lord willing, the services will be Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday: 11:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and Sunday School: 9:45 a.m., Worship 11:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m. (no night service). We appreciate all the ministers' and saints' support and prayers for our meeting.

—Submitted by Sis. Savannah King (918) 667-3654 or (918) 667-3392, Sis. Anna Mae Thompson, Pastor.

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WICHITA, KS, SPRING MEETING

Lord willing, the meeting in Wichita will be held April 18-25.

On Sundays there will be three services held. Monday-Saturday, there will be two services each day (11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.). We are looking to God to direct and work in all phases of our meeting. He knows just what is needed and who to send to perform it. We want to see sinners saved and believers blessed and strengthened. The times are so evil, and we all need to have on the whole armor of God. May we arm ourselves for battle. The Church is located on the corner of 16th and Ash (1701 North Ash). The phone no. is: (316) 297-9582. If you need to contact someone, you may call Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at (316) 461-1267; or Bro. Theodore McCray at (316) 682-5132.—Sis. Shirley Knight

ALCOA, TN, SISTER'S RETREAT

The 2nd Annual Weekend Sister's Retreat 2004 is being planned for June 18 - 20, 2004 for sisters beginning at the age of 25 years-old. We would appreciate it if you would send in topics and ideas that you would be interested in discussing either by postal mail (Evening Light Church of God, 322 Lindsay Street, Alcoa, TN 37701) or e-mail (tnsistersretreat@yahoo.com).

For some time, I have had a burden for the sisters. Please pray that the Lord will have His way and bless this retreat. Accommodations will be provided. However, if you would like to stay in a motel, we can provide you with information regarding surrounding motels in the area.

If you would like additional information, please contact either Sis. Mary McDonald at (865) 977-6997 or Sis. Carrie Porter at (865) 984-2348. If you wish to send your comments by postal mail, you may write to Sis. Mary McDonald, 117 Dawnybrook Drive, Maryville, TN 37804 or send an e-mail to tnsistersretreat@yahoo.com.

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Special Notices

MYRTLE, MO, WORKDAY

A work day has been scheduled on the Myrtle, MO campground for Saturday, April 17th. Projects include exterior painting of the chapel, exterior and interior painting of the women's dormitory, shingling the roof of the men's dormitory, general cleanup of the tabernacle, cabins and campground, etc. Anyone willing and available to help with these projects would be greatly appreciated. Please pray that the Lord will grant favorable weather for their accomplishment. For further information contact Bro. Harlan Sorrell at (417) 938-4336 or Sis. Carol Sorrell at (417) 938-4493.

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UNTO

"Live unto the Lord." Rom. 14 :8. The writer has been praying and thinking, and trying to comprehend what is meant by this word "unto." What does it mean to live **unto** the Lord? We can see at once that it means not to live **unto** ourselves. In verse 7 Paul says, "For none of us liveth to himself." We cannot live unto self and live unto Christ. One thing it means then is we have come to an end of self when we go to living unto Christ. We can see also that we have very

close relation to that which we live unto. The more wholly and fully you live unto a thing the more closely you become related to that thing. The man that lives unto his gold becomes closely related to it. The text means that every thing we do we are to do it unto the Lord. "Living means working." "acting," "speaking," "doing." So we are to work, act, speak and do things **unto** the Lord. We are to do things unto men, but there is some caution needed to be exercised here. Your doing for others is to not be quite so much for them as for God. You are to do things **for** them but do them **unto** the Lord. Doing things unto others or for others brings you into a close relation with them. If you do things solely for them you will be brought into a closer relation with them than you are with Christ and get to following them instead of Jesus.

—Bro. C. E. Orr



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

LA—Dear Bro. Willie and workers at the Publishing House: I am thankful for how the Lord blesses me to still be able to take care of myself and be at home. We are thankful He helps us to keep our courage and to keep pressing on. Please remember us in prayer. My eyes are bad and my seeing is dim.

—Sis. Velma Mancil

OK—Dear Bro. Willie: I was reading in family worship this morning the account of Zacharias and Elisabeth as recorded in the first chapter of Luke and the sixth verse. It said, "And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless." And it said of Zacharias, "...his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord." Luke 1:9. I had the encouraging thought that whatever our lot is, if we are righteous before God and if we will faithfully perform our duty, all will be well and God will bless us and see that we come out all right.

For a few months it has been my lot to be afflicted in body, and it also seemed it was my lot to burn incense—pray. I know also that others were praying for me. While I was afflicted I would look out the window and see my car and

wonder if I would ever be able to drive it again. Thank the Lord, and for the prayers of the people of God, I am able to drive again. I am getting better and stronger in my body every day. I appreciate what the Lord has done for me both spiritually and physically. I want to be faithful to God whatever my lot may be.

Your Brother in Christ, —T. V. McMillian

CA—I'm still praising the Lord for salvation and looking forward to that day when we can be at home with the Lord. Brotherly love,

—Bro. James McMakin

LA—Dear Bro. Willie: I want to thank the Lord for one of His many blessings. I have suffered with frequent and debilitating migraine headaches for over twenty-five years. For many of those years, I usually had a migraine six or more times a month. Most of the time the headaches lasted from one to three days. I would get so very sick and would be extremely sensitive to light and sound. This caused me to miss many days of work during my career. I am so very thankful that the Lord has relieved the headaches significantly since the end of September 2003. Since then, I have had only five or six headaches with only two of those being migraines. Those two lasted only eight or ten hours each rather than an entire day or more. I do not have words to properly express what an enormous blessing this has been. It has been such blessed relief!

I do desire your continued prayers. I suffer with back pain on a daily basis. The Lord has helped very much, but it is still a problem. Most of all, please pray that I will be what God wants me to be and that I will make heaven my home. Sincerely,

—Sis. Alice Hall

KS—Dear Bro. Willie and company: I am encouraged and determined to go right on until the crown is won. The times are evil but God's grace is sufficient. Praise God!

Christian love,

—Sis. Shirley Knight

From Nigeria...

February 27, 2004—Dear Bro Willie E. Murphey: Greetings in Jesus' ever precious and saving name. By God's manifold grace we believe that you and the Print Shop workers are still endeavouring to remain faithful in your respective duties. The fruits of your steadfastness in the Lord's business is being greatly felt

here in Nigeria with much gratitude that can't be fully expressed in writing. Our ceaseless and fervent prayer for you is that our heavenly Father be ever pleased to reward you abundantly in Jesus' dependable name. Amen. Please always remain encouraged in the precious promises of God made to us through Christ.

It's with deep regret I wish to inform you that the entire brothers and sisters in Tombia town including myself have deserted the town as a result of frequent wars that have claimed some precious lives, caused much destruction to property and made our living condition miserable. All of us, that is, members of the church didn't escape at the same time, because some of us prayerfully hoped that our state government would intervene and restore peace. But our anticipation never came to pass. And so on Sat., Feb 21, those of us who had been remaining behind were also compelled by the reoccurring war to escape out of the town. My dear wife and I, with the few others, are currently in a far away coastal town of ..., as refugees. Neither the authority of the town we have fled to nor the local government has accorded us relief of any sort since our arrival. The situation all of us are in is indeed pathetic. Therefore we do solicit your prayers now more than ever before as well as all possible assistance. Thanks for your support and cooperation.

Yours for Christ, —Bro. Onimite Alalibo

From the Philippines...

February 29, 2004—Dear Bro. Willie: Warm greetings of love and peace in Jesus' dear name! We pray that God will continue to bless your heart and all the saints who faithfully help and support the mission work. May our unending appreciation reach all of you dear saints.

My husband, Arthur, just left for Saudi Arabia. He is sad to be leaving the brethren because he said he is enjoying the fellowship that we have and worshipping God together is really giving him that unspeakable joy. But we have no choice.

Bro. Willie, before my husband left, there are three souls who accepted Christ and are ready for baptism. "This is what I will really miss," my husband said to me. Please include us in your prayers. May God remove the fear that is in our hearts and may we fully trust in Him.

We love you! God bless you! Your grateful Sister,
—Nellie Tiban and family

From India...

February 19, 2004—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to all of you dear ones again in the unique name of Jesus Christ. Please get the picture of our new tabernacle and some other pictures of our General Convention from Pastor Ed Wilson to print in the *Faith and Victory* next month.

Our Convention at Vilayanthur during the first week of February was also a very blessed and profitable one. Many outsiders attended the night meetings to hear the gospel. Convention at Thrissur will be conducted during the last week of February. Conventions in other congregations will be held in March, April and May. Please continue to remember our needs in your prayers. We pray for the expansion of each congregation in America and in other continents in the world.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

Missionary Report of India...

MO—March 1, 2004—Dear Bro. Willie and saints: This letter is to report the progress of the Church of God effort in South India and a brief summary of Bro. Artur Herter's (Roetgesbittel, Germany) and my January visit there.

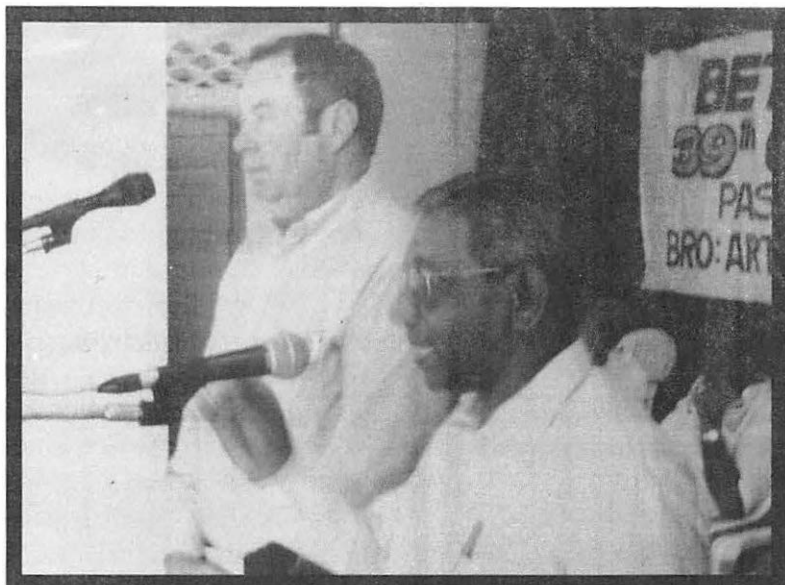
The occasion of the annual convention at Kottarakara was especially significant because it was the first held in the new tabernacle. In prior national meetings the saints worshipped under coconut thatch on dirt floors, but now they thank God for a fine, modern concrete structure. The spacious auditorium, dining and kitchen area and dormitories are quite a remarkable achievement for some \$20,000 in expenditures! Of that amount about \$4500 is yet unpaid. At the dedication many local officials spoke, welcoming the gospel effort.

It was refreshing to hear the things being preached to a standing-room-only congregation. One spoke of the contents of the temple—the typical significance of the shewbread, spices, candlestick and oil, golden pot of manna and stone with names in it. He said the tabernacle is complete and perfect; it is Christ. Another described his conversion: for years he resisted God. One night he heard wailing as of people mourning. Curious he went to see the cause. He found a group of seven agreeing in deep prayer; they had been fasting and praying for his salvation. He was very touched, and began to repent. As he did, his sins came before him as in a slide show, and he wept and begged



In India nearly all buildings, even people's homes, are named. Accordingly the tabernacle is named *Bethel Tabernacle*. Its true and proper name is *The Bethel Tabernacle of the Church of God*.





Bro. Ed Wilson and Bro. John Varghese address the saints in India.

forgiveness. He told how God healed him of smallpox. Another said the last prayer in the Bible is "Even so come, Lord Jesus." The last promise is "Behold, I come quickly." He said salvation is as if a man and wife would sit at their table with deadly enemies gathered all about. How can they? It is because the Lord sits with them. "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me." From the responses I judge this to have been the most effective of the three conventions I have attended; the church was obviously rejoicing in victory.

We were blessed to meet Bro. Phanwanjah, who pastors about 50 people in north India. He rode trains five days and nights to be with the saints, spoke excellent English and is very interested in any literature we can send.

The love of the saints in the U.S. and India over the years has had a great impact. For instance, we (church properties in India are held similarly to the way U.S. chapels are owned) have about 15 chapels in India besides the tabernacle. In the 1970's they cost about \$900 each. Today they are worth perhaps \$20,000 each. Bro. John has a "van" that is constantly in use in the gospel, and the pastors are (minimally) provided for.

We visited four chapels, but pastors were away doing their daily work of community and church ministry. I wept at their commitment, for they are educated people who enjoy nice things as much as anyone. Here's a photo of a typical parsonage cooking area. Two years ago we took them small shampoo bottles donated by motel visitors. I found one on a pastor's shelf. Although highly diluted, it was obviously still a prized possession. One pastor's wife asked us to step into the adjoining chapel and pray for her father who has oral cancer. Seeing her poverty I slipped 100 rupees into her hand, and Bro. Artur 200—

about \$6.10. Her face never changed expression, but big tears began sliding down her cheeks. The sum amounted to about one and a half days' wages for a skilled worker there. The love we send these dedicated ministers has resulted in many souls' salvation, some of whom have reached their final reward.



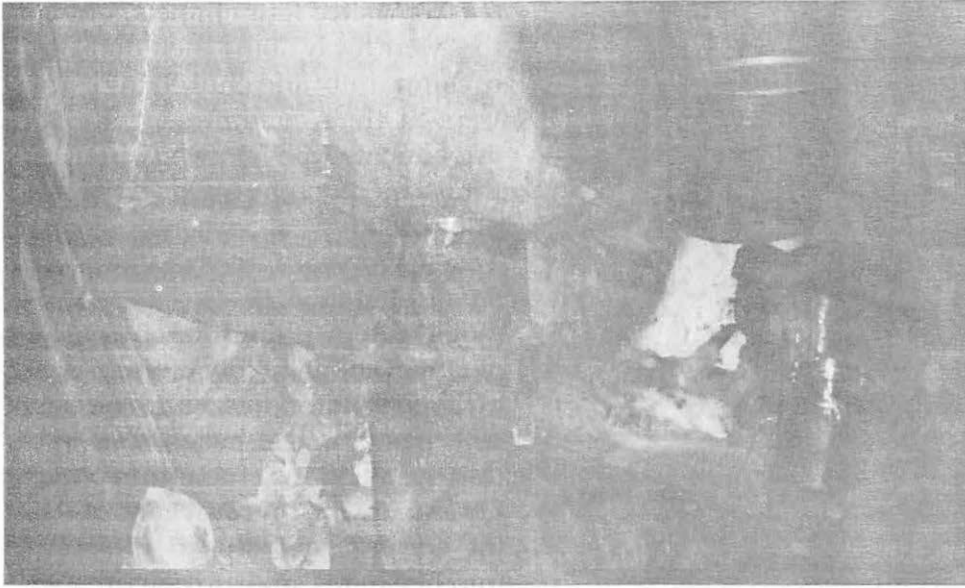


Photo of a small parsonage cooking area.

Below: Children in the orphanage near Trivandrum.

Bro. Artur was particularly interested to visit an orphanage operated by the church in India with support from the German church. It is about three hours' drive from Kottarakara, near Trivandrum. Two families from Kottarakara have consecrated to live there and care for the 20 children, aged up to 15, in the orphanage. They are bright, lively, affectionate children, without trace of bitterness or rebellion. They seemed to feel blessed to have the care they are receiving. They thronged us, embraced us, sang to us and begged us to sing to them. Despite their smiles, their thin little arms and legs gave mute testimony of the hunger they have endured before



coming to us. There is a waiting list of others.

Bro. John Varghese and his son, Biju, are worthy of our gratitude for the fine work they have done as stewards of the resources put into their hands for building the tabernacle. Bro. Biju has recently begun a pulpit ministry and we are looking forward to his having many fruitful years furthering the gospel work in India. Please pray for him and his young family.

Please remember these dear souls who seek to serve the same Lord as we, who love us and who hope to meet us in eternity.

Christian love, —Bro. Ed Wilson

Mozambique East Africa



Children clutching blankets the saints provided.

I am thankful to report that God is continuing to bless the mission work in Africa. There are many different countries on the continent, and we are presently only working with four countries of which all have their particular needs and spiritual battles. I am looking to the Lord to open the way for us to spread the gospel in some of the other countries in Africa.

Last year various saints contributed funds to help supply some of the poor and orphaned children in Mozambique and Malawi with blankets to help keep them warm during the winter months. Due to that effort, hundreds of blankets have been distributed to children in need. There is a continual need for humanitarian support in Africa because of the widespread poverty. My primary purpose and burden is to share the gospel of Christ, but I am committed to helping meet some of these humanitarian needs as the Lord provides the funds.

God blessed in the various meetings in Nigeria this past winter. In the last few years,

based on my observation, there has been an increased burden for evangelism and outreach among the saints in Nigeria. From the African fund expenses were paid for three ministers from Ghana to travel to Nigeria and attend the camp meeting. This is the first time this has taken place and I trust not the last. This interaction between the saints of these countries is profitable and worthwhile. There is a real need for a vehicle for the evangelistic work in Nigeria. I have established a fund for this and am trusting that within six months we will have the \$10,000 necessary to meet the need. I have confidence that the vehicle will be a great asset to the native ministers and saints involved in the outreach effort.

I desire an interest in your prayers for the work of God that the gospel would go out with anointing and power. I long to see the gospel reach people who have never yet heard of the saving power of Jesus Christ. Please remember us in the mission trips planned for this year.

In the Lord,

—Bro. Michael Smith



William Richard Busch was born June 10, 1923, in Branson, CO. He passed away Tuesday February 10, 2004 at 80 yrs. of age.

Bro. Bill was the sixth of nine children. He was preceded in death by six of those. His father was of German descent, born in Russia, and came to America when he was 14 yrs-old. Bill's father and mother, Walter and Emma Wilson Busch, moved the family to the Salem, OR area in 1925, in a model T Ford, and that is where he grew up.

He was united in marriage to Doris V. Creson on December 9, 1950. Doris had two children, Roy and Cherie, which he adopted. They had two more children Walter and Evelyn. His wife, Doris, passed away July 12, 1994. He was united in marriage to Ruby Fern Wilson, March 10, 1997. She passed away December, 16, 2002.

Bill spent most of his life at auto dealerships in the parts department. The last twelve years he spent repairing ATM machines in Eastern Oregon.

Bill liked to read books, with his favorite being the Bible. Although he lived 200-300 miles from regular services he loved to worship with the saints. He had several hundred tapes of preaching and singing from which he drew great inspiration.

He is survived by a son, Roy Busch of Tacoma, WA; daughters, Cherie Kohn of Hermiston, OR; and Evelyn Woods of Spokane, WA; sisters, Margaret Hales of Aumsville, OR; and Marie Davis of Colorado Springs, CO; two granddaughters and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Monday, Feb. 16, 2004 at the Burns Mortuary Chapel in Hermiston, OR. Burial followed at the Desert Lawn Memorial Cemetery in Irrigon, OR. Services were conducted by Bro. Steve Elwell.

Chester D. Creel was born February 6, 1922 in Wright City, OK to Elic W. and Frances G. Herron Creel.

At an early age Chester joined the CCC program and then later worked at Tinker Air Force Base.

On June 1, 1946 he was united in marriage to Lela Duncan in Guthrie, OK. Chester worked at various places until 1960 when the couple retired to Enid, OK. He was a member of the Church of God.

It was on May 9, 1999, while his pastor was in their home visiting them that Chester let it be known that he was ashamed of all that he had done wrong. He wondered if God would forgive him. He was assured on the authority of the Word of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that he could and would be forgiven. With Chester praying and the others agreeing he found forgiveness and peace with God. He sought to hold on to the Lord the rest of his life. He loved to attend services of the Church and would very often call a song. He was in the Sunday evening service, Feb. 15, and called for the song "Amazing Grace." To the congregation he seemed especially happy and glad to be there.

Chester passed away on Monday, Feb. 16, 2004, at the age of 82 years and 10 days.

He is survived by two daughters: Ruth Boone of Oklahoma City and Theresa Kearns of Enid, OK; three sisters: Eldora Jennings of Guthrie, OK, Bonnie Sutton of Broken Bow, OK, and Fayon Chitwood of Norman, OK; three brothers: Leroy of Guthrie, OK, Halmon of Kingsland, TX, and Ray of Klamath Falls, OR; eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Chester was preceded in death by his wife, Lela, one son, one sister and two brothers.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Leslie Busbee and burial was in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Meno, OK.

— — — — —
Manuel E. Mitchell of Jena, LA was born January 10, 1926 in LaSalle Parish to James Earnest and Eva Gibson Mitchell. He spent his youth in the Jena community where he learned responsibility and hard work. In some of his travels he met a young lady in OK named Marie White. He let his interest be known in her, stayed in OK, and worked there awhile since he didn't want to leave and possibly miss his chance with her. They were married on April 8, 1944. They would have been married 60 years this April. To their strong union were born three

children, two daughters, Sherlene and Loretta both of Jena and son, Gary of Jena.

Bro. Manuel and his wife, Marie, owned the Mitchell Grocery in Goodpine, later the Montgomery Ward Catalog Store in Jena, then Mitch's Restaurant. At an early age, Manuel bent his knees in service to the Lord and also bent his will to God. Bro. Edgar Martens was working for him in the grocery store one day when Bro. Manuel asked him to watch the store for awhile. He went to the back with Bible in hand—said he needed to “get alone with God for awhile.” He was there almost two hours. He and his wife were successful in their business and personal lives. This can be attributed to his awareness of his need of God. He also spent years of service teaching Sunday school at the Midway Church of God in Jena.

Bro. Manuel was called home on February 14, 2004 at the age of 78 years, one month and four days. He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Marie; his daughters, Sherlene Nunally and Loretta Wilkinson; his son, Gary Mitchell, all of Jena; ten grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. We mourn his passing but rejoice that he is in heaven with God, Jesus and the holy angels. The funeral service was conducted at Kinner and Stevens Funeral Home in Jena by Bro. Michael Williamson. Interment was in the Belah Cemetery.

Note of Thanks

LA—Dear Bro. Willie and to the saints everywhere: I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their love and prayers for Manuel during the several months that he was sick. The Lord blessed him many times with songs that he would sing and bring such a comfort to my soul as well.

I thank the Lord for the years he gave us. April 8th would have been 60 years. Manuel truly loved the Lord and wanted to live to please Him in every way. It was common for him to say, “Thank the Lord!”

One of the last songs he sang a part of was *I'm Going On*. “I mean to go right on Until the crown is won; I mean to fight the fight of faith Till life on earth is done.”

I'm left with precious memories of a gentle husband serving the Lord to his best ability, and I would add that it is also my desire to fight the good fight of faith until the Lord calls me to join that heavenly choir. I want to be with the One Who died for us all and meet our loved ones and friends for eternity.

I want to thank everyone who called, sent cards, flowers, came to visit—it all has meant so much to me and my family.

Christian love, —Sis. Marie Mitchell



I Believe

Everything about life on this planet has an ending. There is a time to be born and a time to die—and if you listen you can hear the ticking of the clock. Everything will come to an end.

But because we have placed our trust in Christ, what appears to be the end is only the beginning of something new and better. Life does not end. It simply changes locations and containers. Bodies that have given out because of wear and tear will be discarded. Ventures that were interrupted before they were completed will be forgotten. Relationships that were just beginning will merge into eternal, joyful celebration that will never end. While there is within us a desire to cling to natural life as long as we are able, none of us would want to live on forever with the kinds of aches and pains and struggles that accompany life on this planet. Such a plan would be cruel. So God provided for something far better—everlasting life without the limitations and complications caused by living in a fallen world. Physical limitations will no longer exist. Pain will not just be anesthetized, its cause will be eliminated. There will be no need for tears. Welcome to a new body, in a new place—where life will go on eternally.

I believe in eternal life. God so loved the world that He gave His only Son in order to provide everlasting life for me. I believe in a God Who loves. I receive His Son. I accept His gift of eternal life.

—Submitted by Bro. James McMakin

THE SWEET WHISPER

Author Unknown

I think off-time, as the night draws nigh,
Of an old house on the hill,
Of a yard all wide and blossom-starred,
Where the children played at will.
And when the night at last came down,
Hushing the merry din,
Mother would look all around and ask,
“Are all the children in?”

'Tis many and many a year since then,
And the old house on the hill
No longer echoes to childish feet,
And the yard is still, so still.
But I see it all as the shadows creep,
And though many the years have been
Since then, I can hear the mother ask,
"Are all the children in?"

I wonder if when the shadows fall,
On the last, short earthly day,
When we say good-bye to the world outside,
All tired with our childish play,
When we meet the Lover of boys and girls,
Whose own we have always been,
Will we hear Him ask as Mother did,
“Are all the children in?”

—Submitted by Sis. Genevieve Carver

*I have been in the Valley of Weeping,
I've been in the Plains of Despair,
Then I heard Jesus whisper,
"Take it all to God in prayer."*

*There have been days of loneliness,
Long nights with no one to care,
Then comes the soft whisper,
"Take everything to God in prayer."*

*When doubts and fears assail us,
We feel we are on the brink of despair,
"Listen," we will hear the low whisper,
"Take it all to your Lord in prayer."*

*There is never a day so sunny,
But a little cloud appears.
Then we can hear the sweet whisper,
"Take it all to God in prayer."*

*'When storm clouds surround us,
It seems even God doesn't care.
Heart be still! Listen for the whisper,
"Take it all to God in prayer."*

God is ever watching over us,
With His tender, loving care.
'Be calm, listen for the sweet whisper,
"Take it all to God in prayer."

*God wants to share all our sorrows,
He wants us to bring Him every care.
That is why the gentle whisper,
"Take it all to God in prayer."*

Then, dear child, take courage!
Let Him all your heartache share.
There is always the sweet whisper,
"Take it to the Lord in prayer."

—Mrs. Elmer Esterline

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