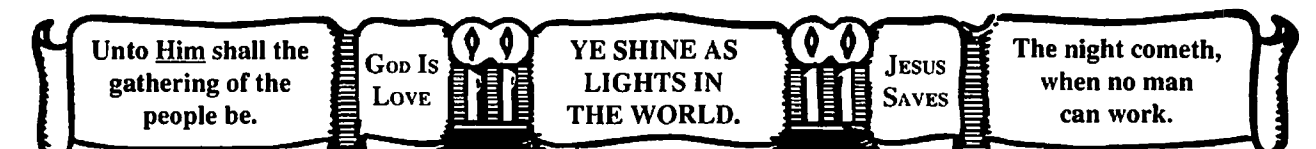


FAITH AND VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



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GENTLENESS

Fruit-bearing trees are used in the Scriptures to represent the race of mankind. The Savior likens the wicked to "corrupt trees," that bear evil fruit; and the righteous to "good trees," that bear good fruit. (Matthew 7:15-20.) He also teaches very emphatically the impossibility of being a "good tree," and bearing "evil fruit," or of being a "corrupt tree," and bearing "good fruit." Since the nature of the fruit we bear determines what manner of tree we are, it is very advisable, that we, as professing Christians, should frequently examine the fruit we are bearing. To be Christ's or to be a Christian, we must have the Spirit of Christ; for the Scriptures say that "...if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Romans 8:9. Those who have the

Spirit of Christ will, as certain as cause produces effect, bear the fruits of the Spirit. To not bear the fruits of the Spirit is full proof that you have not the Spirit. Then a close examination of the fruit you are bearing, will reveal to you whether or not you have the Spirit of Christ, and whether or not you are His and whether or not you are a Christian. You can make a superficial examination and allow yourself to be deceived. You can make excuses for yourself because of your weaknesses and thus deceive yourself. But a deep, close, thorough and profound examination will disclose to each one the manner of spirit he is of.

Gentleness is one of the fruits of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22.) If we have the Spirit of Christ we will bear this fruit. "Well," says one, "in my very makeup I am rough, harsh and hasty." No doubt, this is true, and one thing you need and that is to be made anew. When God finds a man who is rough, harsh and severe in his makeup, He will, if the man will yield to the operation of the Holy Spirit, make him mild, gentle and peaceful. I have heard of people's going to a hospital and by a scientific operation having abscesses and tumors removed from the stomach and other internal parts. God, by a blessed, wonderful and successful operation of the Holy Spirit, will take that roughness, harshness and severity out of your nature and instill mildness, tenderness,

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Attend the National Camp Meeting, Monark Springs, MO, July 16-25.

softness and gentleness instead. Harshness and roughness is a corruption in nature, which it pleases God, in His gracious plan of salvation, to remove. If you will allow the Holy Spirit to work in you that which is pleasing in God's sight, He will make you gentle.

What is gentleness? It is blandness, softness, mildness and meekness. It is the opposite of harshness, roughness, etc. It is sweetness of disposition, mildness of temper, softness of manner, kindness, tenderness, etc. Those who are of a gentle disposition will act without asperity. They are not morose, sour, crabbed and uneven; but are smooth and mild and even. Good manners are intimately connected with gentleness and good manners are no disparagement to Christianity.

The apostle Paul, by way of testimony, said to the Thessalonian saints, "But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children." I Thessalonians 2:7. Such was his manner. As a kind mother is to a delicate child, so was he to those whom he loved. Vastly different was he then from what he was when he was persecuting and wasting the church of God. He had been changed by grace. He exhorts servants of the Lord to "...be gentle unto all men..." II Timothy 2:24, and to be "...gentle, showing all meekness unto all men." Titus 3:2. David, in his sublime tribute of praise to God, in II Samuel 22:36 says, "...Thy gentleness hath made me great." Would you, kind reader, love to be more gentle in your manner? Are you too harsh and rough? Are you, if a parent, as gentle to your children as you should be at all times? Husband, are

you as kind and gentle toward your wife as you should be? Do you believe you fill the Bible measure on this line? Are you as gentle to your domestic animals as you should be? Or do you have impatient feelings and act in a hasty, abrupt manner towards them? If you meet with something quite provoking from your wife, or the children, or the animals, do you keep as mild and sweet as you know you should? Now, I hope you will examine closely. I do not mean to condemn you. I want to help you. There are many professing saints today who are not nearly so gentle as they should be. Why not be in earnest and seek God for help and make improvement? Why go along with crossness and coldness and snappishness in your life? Be gentle toward all. There should be a soft, sweet, gentle melody in your tone of voice.

Gentleness is a beautiful grace. Her excellence is great. This grace, by culture, is capable of much improvement. Too few saints experience it to the extent they should. I beseech you by the gentleness of Jesus to be in earnest and improve upon your gentleness. Never let one hasty, harsh word escape your lips—not even to your dumb animals when no one is near. Never allow a frown or a scowl to settle for a moment upon your brow. It will leave its mark if you do. Learn to be gentle in your home. Sometimes, when far away from home, you picture to yourself how gentle and kind and loving you should be at home. By God's grace you can be just as gentle as you see in the picture that you should be. May God bless you. Amen. —Bro. C. E. Orr



GRACE MINISTERED TO THE HEARERS

By W. M. Potter

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." Ephesians 4:29. The word *edify* means to build up, to improve, to enlighten, especially in things concerning eternal salvation. Paul admonishes Timothy, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy

2:15. "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof." Proverbs 18:21. As Christian workers, of course, we should use our tongues, not as busybodies or evil speakers, but so that good and wholesome doctrine may be spoken. As public speakers, it behooves us to have the real anointing of the Holy Spirit, otherwise grace is not ministered to the hearers.

Grace seems to be a very strong word. No

other word seems to convey to our minds so much as the word grace. We might define it thus: the strength of the divine favor, or the unmerited (on our part) love and mercy of God. It is our gracious privilege to so wait on our God in the secret places that we become so overwhelmed with the love and grace of God that every utterance may minister grace to the congregation. An intellectual knowledge of the Scriptures is not sufficient. We must, to please God, have a real yearning and tender compassion for souls, "Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth." I Corinthians 8:1. We must tarry and wait at the feet of

Jesus until we become endued with Heaven's best gift of love that "never faileth." Charity will then control the intellectual man and grace will be administered to the hearers. "As every man hath received the gift, *even so* minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." I Peter 4:10-11.

—*The Gospel Trumpet*, July 21, 1904.



BE A SPIRITUAL TREE

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

How long will grass live without water? During the hot July and August months in mid-America, grass will turn brown and crisp in four or five days in the blowing oven heat of 100 plus degrees. The shallow grass roots will soon shrivel up in the dry, dusty soil and make the earth ugly and sometimes bare.

The life span of a person is compared to grass in the Scriptures. "As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more." Psalm 103:15-16. Even the life span of one hundred years of age rushes quickly by compared to the long, countless time of eternity. We are each one allotted a season to work within and the Lord is looking for a harvest—are your flowers drying under the heated winds of pressure or are you growing roots into the living water of a resurrected hope?

Big trees that grow a taproot deep into the earth will stay green and graceful during the droughts. A righteous man who delights in the law of the Lord and meditates on His Word is "...like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Psalm 1:3. What a beautiful comparison! Just as the tree has physi-

cal depth, we need to have spiritual depth.

Anyone who wants to be a "spiritual tree" must draw from the living water that has not ceased to flow from the pierced side of Jesus Christ. His fountain will never run dry. It is free to "whosoever will" come, taste and see that the Lord is good. This cleansing fountain will deliver souls from sin and heal all manner of sickness. (I Peter 2:24.) When a person drinks from this water there is no thirsting for anything else. (John 4:14.)

Then as we deepen our roots into the Scriptures and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, our life will bring forth good fruit to feed others right amid the trials and tests we undergo. (Galatians 5:19-24.) The peace and joy that we feel in our souls will bless and encourage others who are hungry after righteousness.

Jesus spoke about growing and producing good fruit. (Luke 8:5-15, Matthew 7:15-20.) He expects us to be rooted and grounded in Him in breadth, length, depth and height that we may bear fruit in our season of time on this earth. (Ephesians 3:17-20, Luke 13:6-9.) We need not be as dry, brittle grass in the day that the Lord expects fruit in our life, but we can be like the tree planted by the water—strong and productive until our last breath.

**FAITH AND VICTORY
16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY**



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

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

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

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

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

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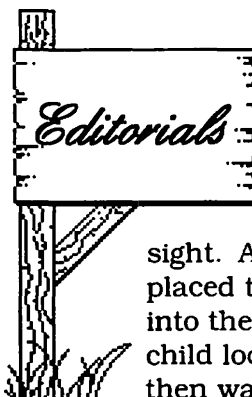
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A popular game that is played with children is "Hide the Thimble." When the group of children are out of the room the thimble is placed somewhere in the room, preferably in plain

sight. After the thimble has been placed the children are called back into the room to look for it. When a child locates it he says, "I spy" and then waits for the others to find it.

After awhile the ones that have located the thimble will begin giving hints to the children who are still seeking it. They will tell them they are "hot" when they are close to it and that they are "cold" when they are away from it.

A familiar passage of Scripture in Isaiah 55:6 says, "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:..." The Lord wants us to seek Him and He wants us to find Him precious to our souls. He wants us to find the treasure of eternal life that is in His hand. This verse brings out some very valuable points for our consideration. The first is that the Lord may be found, and secondly the Lord is near. It also sounds a warning that He may not always be found and that He will not always be near. Therefore it is important that we diligently seek Him now. If we postpone our search for Him, our chances of finding Him diminish.

The Spirit of God and others in the family of God may give us directions and tell us when we are "hot" or "cold" but each of us must find Him personally. If we are made aware that He is close to us then we should intensify our search for Him—that is the response of those playing the game and should also be true for those seeking God.

If you are seeking God, get your Bible and continue your search. A few Scriptures that could be helpful in our search are James 4:8-10. These verses tell us to draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to us. They also tell us to cleanse our hands and purify our hearts and to humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord. John 12:35-40 emphasizes the importance of believing and walking while we have light and of being children of light. II Corinthians 4:2-4 says we should renounce the hidden things of dishonesty and that the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them that believe not. The god of this world is satan and he works on us through the lusts of the flesh. Those are identified in

Galatians 5:19-21. Don't try to seek the Lord through the lusts of the flesh even though man may try to appeal to you through that method. Those who rely on such methods to attract a following are not true servants of God and they will only bring you into bondage—they are blind. (II Peter 2:18-20, Matthew 15:13-14, I Timothy 6:3-6.)

Jesus said in Matthew 5:8. "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." This verse helps us understand that sin will keep a person from seeing God. No matter how hard one may seek the Lord, until the problem of sin is resolved they will never find His sweet presence in their life. When one realizes they have been guilty of some of the sinful things listed in the above mentioned Scriptures they are then confronted with the question of what to do about it. In Acts 26:19-20 Paul related how he showed the ones at Damascus, Jerusalem and throughout the coasts of Judea and also the Gentiles that they should repent and turn to God and do works meet for repentance. That is still the only way to be free from the burden of guilt that sin places on a person. True repentance will open the door of the heart and allow an individual to find the joy of salvation. The sacrifice the Son of God made to bring our forgiveness makes Him precious to us and when we see the Son, we also see God and His great love for us.

When one truly sees God, they have a desire to be like Him and they want His divine attributes reflected in their lives. For His presence to dwell with them they realize they must live free from sin because sin is what separates them from God. As one progresses in their experience with the Lord they become aware of a need for greater power in their life to overcome the carnal urges that lead to sin. The source of this carnality is inherited through no fault of our own from Adam. We cannot repent of it because we were not responsible for it. We can only repent of the sin that it leads us into.

The solution to this dilemma is to consecrate our all to God and His service. Romans 12:1 instructs us to present our bodies a living sacrifice to God. When we are free from sin the Lord then will naturally lead a young convert to dedicate his life, talents, time, resources and all the good things that God has given him back to God. Romans 6:13-14 encourages us to not allow sin to have dominion over us but to yield ourselves to God and our members as instru-

ments of righteousness unto Him. In I Thessalonians 4:3 we are told that our sanctification is the will of God. He wants our body set apart for His service and when we yield fully to Him the Holy Spirit will be able to dwell in our heart without conflict. The carnal nature inherited from Adam will be purged from our heart and perfect peace can reign in our soul, mind and spirit. We must make a conscious choice to consecrate our all to Him without reservation before His Spirit will dwell in us. God does not force Himself upon any soul but is pleased to fill to overflowing the ones who will give all to Him.

Dear reader, are you "hot" or "cold?" Have you found this close fellowship with the Lord giving you power over sin and keeping your soul in perfect peace with the Holy Spirit, or are you still wandering in the wilderness like the children of Israel, murmuring and fretting and finding it difficult to please God? Too many have an "up and down" experience because they have not surrendered everything to God. To you who are in that condition the Lord is beckoning you to cross over the Jordan River into the Land of Beulah. Allow the Holy Spirit to purge carnality from your heart, leave the world behind you and by faith join the happy people in the land of Canaan who are finding victory over every sin and enjoying the land that is flowing with milk and honey. It can be yours to enjoy today! Don't believe the lie of the enemy that is saying you must die and go to heaven before you can find this peace and victory. It begins here on earth and continues into eternity. A full consecration is the cure for a lukewarm experience that God will not accept.

Don't look back but give everything to God today and the fruits of the Holy Spirit will begin blooming on your vine immediately. Your companion, children and co-workers will notice something has really changed about you, because God will be living in you and your body will truly be the temple of the Holy Spirit.

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The *Beautiful Way* papers and the *Bible Lessons* quarterlies have been mailed out this month. The theme for the third quarter are lessons concerning various people who came in direct contact with Jesus and received help from Him. These lessons should inspire us to also make personal contact with Jesus and receive the help from Him that we need in our lives. Some of the lesson titles are: The Roman

Centurion; Simon, the Pharisee and the Sinner Woman; Christ's Message to Nicodemus; Jesus Offers the Gift of the Water of Life, Jesus Heals the Man Diseased for Thirty-Eight Years; Jesus and the Man with the Legion of Devils; Jesus with Mary and Martha; Jesus and the Woman Taken in Adultery; Jesus and the Distressed Mother; Jesus and the Blind Man; Jesus and the Man of Little Stature; Jesus and You and Me; Christ and the Church, His Chosen Bride.

The subscription price for these quarterly lesson books or *Beautiful Way* papers is \$1.25 per copy or \$5.00 per year. If you would like a copy of the third quarter *Bible Lessons* or the *Beautiful Way* primary and junior papers let us know and we will be happy to send them to you.

The *Bible Lessons* books were assembled, stapled and trimmed all by machine for the first time. The Lord blessed us to be able to obtain a Rosback collator, stitcher and three knife trimmer in Delaware in May of this year and the *Bible Lessons* were the first books we were able to assemble on it. To utilize the machine required us to slightly modify the layout sheets and make minor adjustments to the folder to provide a lip on the sections of the book. This lip permits the machine to open the section, pick them from the stack and then assemble them into one another. We worked nearly all of one day setting up the machine and making adjustments to get the work to flow smoothly. But once it was working properly we were able to do the books in three to four hours, which is a significant time savings over doing all of these operations by hand.

We appreciate the mercy of the Lord in helping us to locate and obtain these machines, and we trust they will prove a blessing to His people.

The Oklahoma State trustees, in cooperation with the Guthrie local trustees, have obtained a building permit to construct a building that will provide motel type accommodations for those attending the camp meetings, assembly meetings and ministers' meetings as well as other meetings that may be held here at Guthrie throughout the year. We are planning a building that is divided into 12 units. Each unit will be equipped with a bathroom containing a tub/shower combination and will also be provided with heating and air conditioning.

The site for this project is north of the existing chapel and the ground has already been leveled to begin construction. Lord willing, we plan to start work on the plumbing, footing and concrete floor in the very near future. We are very excited about these family accommodations because we know what a blessing it will be to those attending our meetings that have traveled from a distance. Pray with us that this work will progress rapidly and that every need will be supplied to complete this greatly needed facility.

As is our customary policy, we do not publish an August issue of the *Faith and Victory* paper. Lord willing, this will allow us to attend the Monark Springs Camp Meeting. It will be held July 16-25. I hope we will be able to meet you there. May the Lord bless His people with traveling mercy as they attend the meetings this summer and give them an extra special outpouring of His Holy Spirit as they worship the living God of the Universe.

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

His Whisper of Love

For many a day have I pondered,
And longed for a haven of rest;
Till Jesus so tenderly whispered,
"Come lean, weary one, on My breast."

His whisper, so loving and gentle,
Fell softly on my listening ear;
Till I left all my sin and my sorrow,
And followed a Savior so dear.

'Twas only a deed of kindness,
'Twas only a soft word of love,
That led me to leave the dark pathway
And start for that mansion above.

So I ever intend to press onward,
In that happy and glorious way;
Till I enter that heavenly mansion
In those bright realms of unending day.

—Thaddeus Neff

"But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven." I Corinthians 11:5.



OK—Please pray for my wife. She has congestive heart trouble. Her feet and lower limbs are swollen and she has severe pain in her lower back and down her limbs. She and I both are trusting the Lord for the care of our bodies as well as our souls. We are standing on His promises which we know are safe.

—Bro. T. V. McMillian

CA—Remember Bro. Charles Taylor in prayer. He is severely afflicted in his body.

CA—I have several friends in need of prayer. Mr. Long who is battling cancer, Mrs. Molina's husband who was sent to Iraq and Mike and Ellen's health.

—Bro. Don Viser

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

"But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering." I Corinthians 11:15.

MEETING DATES

Fresno, CA—July 2-11
 National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 16-25
 Myrtle, MO—July 30-August 4
 Bakersfield, CA—August 4-8
 Boley, OK—August 13-15
 California State (Pacoima)—August 20-29
 Spooner, WI (Tent Meeting)—August 25-29
 Wichita, KS (Fall Meeting)—September 19-26

MEETING NOTICES

FRESNO, CA, CAMP MEETING

The Church of God at Fresno, CA schedule of camp meeting is from July 2-11, 2004. We pray that the Lord will awaken and stir souls more than ever throughout this camp meeting season.

—Sis. Gladys Foster

NATIONAL CAMP MEETING MONARK SPRINGS, MO

The National Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO, July 16-25, 2004. All are cordially invited to come and bring others to enjoy the blessings we are expecting from the Lord.

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

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

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

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

Instructions For Making Dormitory Reservations

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

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

- Name and phone number
- Date of arrival
- Date of departure
- Number of adults and children in party

Things to keep in mind:

Bring your own bedding if possible.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Love and prayers,

—DeLoris and Randel Bradley
1540 2000 Rd
Bartlett, KS 67332

Teachers Needed

For the afternoon children's meeting at Monark Springs this year, we have been inspired with some thoughts about Church of God missionary work. We need volunteers to help with the children. Please pray and ask the Lord what He may desire you to do. We need to know who will be available to help so we can schedule enough volunteers for each day. For more information contact Sis. Connie Sorrell in the evenings at (405) 282-7648.

MYRTLE, MO, CAMP MEETING

Lord willing, the Myrtle, MO camp meeting will begin on Friday, July 30th, and continue through Wednesday, August 4th. We are pray-

ing and trusting the Lord to give us another blessed outpouring of His Holy Spirit again this year and to send the ministers of His choosing to labor in the meeting. A hearty invitation is extended to everyone to attend.

We are thankful how the Lord blessed the workday held on the campground April 17th and for all the improvements made to the buildings, electrical system and general appearance of the campground.

Electrical hookups are available for campers and trailers, and dormitories are also available. A limited number of cabins are available. The campground phone number is (417) 938-4682. For further information contact Sis. Carol Sorrell at (417) 938-4493 or Bro. Harlan Sorrell at (417) 938-4336.

BAKERSFIELD, CA, CAMP MEETING

Dear saints and friends, Lord willing, the date for our annual camp meeting is August 4-8, 2004. We covet your prayers for a special outpouring of His Spirit, that many souls will be blessed.

Wednesday through Saturday there will be two services: 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. Sunday schedule is: Sunday school 9:30 a.m., worship service 10:30 a.m., afternoon service 2:30 p.m.

A hearty welcome is extended to all. Our new church address is 100 Oswell St. Phone (661) 324-4945. For more information contact Bro. Hayward Cox at (661) 836-3877.

BOLEY, OK, CAMP MEETING

The Boley, OK, camp meeting will convene August 13-15, 2004, Lord willing. Services will be at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Friday. Saturday services will be at 11:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday School will be at 9:45 a.m. and morning and afternoon services will begin at 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

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

For further information contact Sis. Savannah King at (918) 667-3654. Sis. Anna Mae Thompson, Pastor.

SPOONER, WI, TENT MEETING

You are invited to attend our annual tent meeting here in the great north woods of Wisconsin. It will be held August 25-29.

We offer to you through our Lord Jesus, salvation for the seeking soul, spiritual food for the hungry, spiritual renewal for the discouraged, healing for the body and sweet fellowship for the isolated and lonely.

There will be anointed, Spirit-filled messages daily as well as inspirational singing.

Accommodations are available on the grounds. Please bring your own bedding. Encourage all to call ahead so arrangements can be made. Contact Bro. Ron and Sis. Martha Zacharias at (715) 635-2994.

If you can't come, please pray!

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WICHITA, KS, FALL MEETING

The world is in a real turmoil. The devil is bidding high for souls and fighting hard against the Church, but we will remain triumphant in our fight against the devil and the powers of hell. We plan to have our fall meeting September 19-26.

God is the Leader and the meeting will be as He directs. Both Sundays we will have three services. Monday through Saturday there will be two services each day, 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Please pray for the meeting and come and help us if you can. The church address is: 1701 North Ash (corner of 16th and Ash.) The phone number is (316) 267-9582.

For further information contact Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at (316) 779-1848 or Bro. Theodore McCray at (316) 682-5132.

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MEETING REPORTS

SISTERS' RETREAT REPORT

TN—We would like to give a special thank you for all those who have supported the Sisters' Retreat and those who came to give sessions. We here were so blessed by the contributions that were sent, the encouraging cards, letters, e-mails, phone calls and prayers. May God forever remember them. Many of the sisters received answers they have needed for a long time—a greater understanding on how to fulfill godly principles, how to love their husbands and their children and be a good helpmeet in the home.

The singles learned how to love God and prepare themselves for godly companions.

God truly blessed in every session and we give Him the glory and praise. Continue to pray for this burden.

Your Sister in Christ, —Mary McDonald

SPECIAL NOTICES

Gospel Work in New Mexico

Greetings from Albuquerque, New Mexico! The Lord has directed our move. If you are in the area stop and visit us! We have service on Sunday, 11:00 a.m. and Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Feel free to contact us when you arrive.

Our address is: 10627 Virgo St. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114. Our home number is (505) 890-1578.

We have been told by a local pastor here that less than 20% of the people attend church, however, the population here is over 500,000 with the surrounding cities! The field here is ripe to harvest and the laborers are few. Pray for us as we labor here reaching souls for Christ.

—The Brownes: Bro. Francis, Sis. Maxine, Matthew, Adam, and Miriam



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings in Jesus' name. I am so thankful for how Jesus took me out of this dark world, saved my soul and provided me with a wonderful family!

I would like to take this opportunity to convey to all the readers how thankful I am for the Oklahoma State Camp Meeting. I praise God for how the Holy Spirit worked through His ministers and people to bring out such important and needed messages. The meeting blessed me in a special way and I gained knowledge from it.

When I look out into the world I see a lot of spiritual and doctrinal confusion. It reminds me of the verse in II Timothy 3:7. It says, "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." I am very thankful that God has shown me the truth of the Gospel. Please pray for me that as I grow in the Lord and learn of His ways, I would gain knowledge in Him and have a full understanding of what He has for me.

Please also pray for my family and myself that we will know and follow God's will.

Yours in Christ's name. —Bro. Ben Goltry

SC—Dear Saints: Praise God! Praise God! I would like to share what the Lord has done for my family and me. I was anointed and prayed for during our camp meeting for an affliction that has caused me a lot of pain and discomfort for years. I felt led for us to sing “He is Just the Same Today” and while the ministers and saints were praying I felt like there was a great suction in my stomach. It was so strong until it was taking my breath, and Praise God, by faith I am HEALED! I have had no pain and felt like God blessed me with more energy and has healed another affliction in my stomach. I give the Lord all the praise!

I have more GOOD news! My husband, Andy, got saved early this morning! The saints have been under a burden and praying for him and he came to the last Sunday morning service during our camp meeting and we felt he was under conviction, but he did not make a move at that time. He told me that the Lord had been dealing with him.

I thank all the saints who have prayed for us and please continue to hold Andy up in prayer. As some of you know he got saved in 1999 and backslid shortly after. He really needs prayer that God will keep him completely delivered of all sinful habits and teach and lead him daily to sanctification so that he will have what he needs to keep the victory.

Please be encouraged to pray for your lost loved ones. Do not give up because prayer and praise changes things. May the Lord bless us all to keep the faith.

—Bro. Andy, Sis. Marie Weatherford & Family
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WI—Dear saints: Greetings to everyone. I would like to share my testimony and give an update for those who have heard about my situation with mercury toxicity. So many of you have sent cards and letters of encouragement and I know many prayers are going up for me. It means a lot to me and I want you all to know that I deeply appreciate it. I believe the Lord is answering those prayers.

It was around January 2003, a couple of months before our last baby, Natalie, was born that I started experiencing some health problems, including weight loss, hair loss, fatigue and just not feeling well. After Natalie was born I kept gradually losing weight, down to 25 pounds below my normal weight, and we didn't know what was wrong.

This spring, 2004, my husband, Norm, and I felt that the Lord laid a burden on our hearts to have a class on health through nutrition to benefit many young families here who seemed to understand so little about nutrition. In the course of our studying for the class we ran across a very fascinating book that has extensive information on mercury being the cause of many health problems. One major source of mercury toxicity is through amalgam dental fillings. I was tested and mercury was identified as the cause of my trouble.

I am on a very careful diet for detoxification and I am also in the process of getting all of my amalgam fillings replaced with composite fillings. The dentist uses a special procedure so you can't swallow particles or breathe the vapors as they are taking the fillings out.

I am feeling better and we are seeing some progress. There has likely been a lot of damage done to my digestive system, liver, kidneys, pancreas, etc. from years of the toxic metal accumulating in my body. We are thankful the Lord revealed what was wrong and is helping us to know what to do about it. We are very dependent upon God for complete healing of my internal organs. I know He still works miracles.

We were also pretty concerned about little Natalie. She was exposed to mercury through nursing for 11 months before we were aware of what was wrong. We've had her on a very pure diet since she was weaned and she is gaining weight and seems very healthy and alert. We are very thankful to the Lord for protecting her.

We know that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord. We have learned so much through all this and are very willing to share with others what we've learned. Many people have been helped already because of this experience and I'm sure much more good will come of it.

Thank you all once again for your prayers and concern for me. Please continue to pray for complete healing.

Sincerely, —Sis. Camille Zacharias
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OK—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus—the One that has conquered all our foes and gives us the victory time and time again. He even helps us to be more than conquerors through Him that loved us.

I have been blessed here of late so much that it is hard to tell it all. But the poet said, “Tell

what He has done for you; others may need Him too." So I will tell some of the things He has done for me the last nine months.

Last October I came home from church one Sunday morning and I was sick. The glands in my neck were swollen. One of the doctors of the home here at Shawnee said that I had strep throat and an infection in my jaws. My jaws hurt constantly. My kidneys gave me trouble too. My feet were so swollen that it was hard to find socks large enough. I was awake some of every hour of the night for about six or eight weeks. I was very weak and barely able to go to the bathroom with a walker. Some of my children and grandchildren came at different times to help take care of me. Different ones of the saints and ministers came to visit me and pray for me which I appreciated very much. The dear Lord was faithful to hear prayer. After about four months I gained most of my strength back and was able to go to meeting again. The Lord also healed my throat, my jaws, took the swelling out of my feet and caused my kidneys to act normal again. To God be the glory! I thank Him for taking all of the pain away. I also thank the saints and ministers that were so kind to minister unto me and pray for me.

The Lord has also blessed me in other ways. While I was sick and not able to walk without a walker, I would look out the window and see people walking around the home here and I would wonder if they knew how to appreciate just being able to walk without pain. Now I am able to walk again and also to drive my car. But above all these things I am thankful for the spiritual blessings that he has blessed us with. In Ephesians 1:3 it says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." He gives us hope of eternal life through His Son. His gospel provides us, when it is believed and obeyed, every blessing that we need for soul and body. II Corinthians 8:9 says that Jesus became "poor" that we might be made "rich." Rich in faith, joy, peace, love and eternal life in the end.

Your brother in Christ, —T.V. McMillian

LA—I thank the Lord for the help He has given me for the last week and up until now, but I still need help in my body. The Lord is good to His children in all ways. —Sis. Velma Mancil

From India...

June 25, 2004—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey and dear saints in America and other countries: Greetings to all of you dear ones again in the Holy name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Protector and Comforter.

May God bless those who have opened their hearts for the ministry of God in India. By the grace of God we are doing fine in soul and body. Monsoon rain continues without any bad consequences yet.

God has helped us distribute school bags, umbrellas, note books, etc. to thirty poor, school going children in the first week of June. More children need help. Charitable works are a part of Gospel ministry.

As I mentioned to you earlier, the new work at Vadasserikara is progressing. As it is a remote and undeveloped area, no buildings are available there for rent. They urgently need a convenient place to assemble. We pray God to open the way to buy some land and build a chapel there for the gathering of the saints. Our prayers are for you always.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

HEAVENLY LIFE

*As I journey ever onward,
I can hear my Savior say:
If you follow close beside Me,
You will never miss the way.*

*But the pearly gates will open
And the soul with rapture sing
In the Mansions of our Father
Where the heavenly chorus rings.*

*When my days of life are numbered
And my body cold in death,
I shall have a blessed entrance
In that land of perfect rest.*

*All the way-marks in the Bible
Put within the reach of all;
Plain and perfect, by God given,
So there's none that need to fall.*

*If we live by all His precepts,
Nevermore from them to roam;
We shall meet with all the ransomed
In that bright and happy home.*

—Sis. Susie Whipple

The Family That Prays

By Bro. Toney and Sis. Jeanie Samons

VII. Child Training: Correction

In this column we have been discussing the important subject of child rearing. We have been dealing with the aspect of training your children and also creating a proper atmosphere in which to conduct this training. We believe that the more attention you give these two areas the less you will have to deal with the difficult, sometimes painful, and occasionally controversial subject of correction.

Correction, though not the most important part of child rearing, is a necessary part of the duties we have as a parent. Our children are not perfect and therefore all the training you can do will not cause your children to always do what is right. Think of the correction part as the accountability aspect of child rearing. Your children need to be informed of what your expectations are and need to know what the consequences of the failure to meet those expectations will be and then know that you will carry out your promises to correct misbehavior.

There are many methods that can be used to provide correction for misbehavior, and a good parent will try to find the severity level of the misconduct and correct accordingly. This will depend on the age of the child, the ability of the child to comprehend his own actions, and the particular circumstance that is involved. You should start at a very early age to correct small infractions of guidelines you have established in the child's little mind. They should learn what "no-no" means and know that failure to respond will get them: a time out in the chair or a spat on the hand, or maybe even a light swat on their backside. Be very careful in the use of your hands to do this. We are adults and they are very small and fragile. The purpose is not to hurt the child but to let him know his behavior is inappropriate. We must also realize that a child's comprehension level is not the same as ours and before we enact any kind of correction you should know that the child understands the limits and boundaries and knows what misbehaving them will cause. Sometimes children don't know why they did a certain thing and need to know that you are more concerned with your child knowing that you love them and are merciful than making sure every little infraction

is corrected. Be careful about having too general of an approach to this area of dealing with your children. I knew a man that had several children and his approach was to line all of them up every night and give them all a whipping believing that all of them had probably misbehaved sometime during that day. It is an indication of lazy parenting when enough time is not given to trying to understand not only what the infractions were but why the child has chosen to disobey.

Our approach to correction is affected by our own personality as well as our own experiences of growing up. Some people tend to look at life from a black and white perspective and will more than likely deal with their children from this position. Usually, God has put two people together whose personalities complement each other and will balance each other out. If you have been raised in an authoritarian home it will be easy for you to either repeat the process or react against that approach and become too permissive in your dealings with your children. The challenge is to find the balance somewhere in between the two.

We have divided the way we handle our children into four approaches: authoritarian, authoritative, neglectful and permissive. Studies show that the authoritative approach is the most effective because it provides definite and clear guidelines and expectations but does not include a harsh approach to enforcement of these guidelines, which would be labeled as authoritarian. Neglect is probably the most common approach and indicates a laziness in dealing with this subject or reflects the busyness of our modern world that keeps parents from taking the time that proper child rearing demands. But our generation has also been labeled as a permissive one and that has definitely affected the attitude in which our society corrects its children. There are no rights and wrongs.

Probably the most controversial aspect of correction is corporal correction. The term corporal correction is more appropriate than corporal punishment. The first reflects the idea that the ultimate purpose in using force as a means of correction is to correct and not just inflict pain. First of all we would like to caution

you to use this method of correction only when less severe methods have been exhausted. Secondly we would like to caution you that this method is not accepted today by the greatest majority of our officials and in some places has been made illegal. I know that we are to obey God rather than man, but if we know such behavior is going to incite repercussions then we would be wise to not make public scenes that could be viewed as child abuse. Part of the reason there has been such a negative reaction to this manner of correction is because of its abuse. It is never to be done in anger nor because your child has embarrassed you. Both ARE abuse and are not what God had in mind when He gave us instructions to use the rod. Proverbs 19:18 says "Chasten thy son while there is hope,..." implying that when a child is young is the time to chasten misbehavior because you must correct misbehavior before it becomes a habit that has to be broken. Proverbs 22:15 says, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." Thus we do know that this type of correction is needed and at some ages more than others. The rod needs to be used early and consistently and must be accompanied with words of instruction. Once this has been done you will always find that the tension between the parent and child is relieved. There is respect and better behavior immediately in most cases. It clears the air.

Here are some guidelines for using corporal correction. Make sure that you are in control and not angry. Sometimes this requires the

parent involved to withdraw and pray and think through the situation first. Then deal with the child through Scripture if possible, at least giving clear explanation of why you are dealing in this manner. Use this type of correction in a private place. Use the rod on the posterior. Permit crying (not screaming). Then comfort the child since the purpose is to restore. A note of warning, the person doing the correcting should do the consoling. And last, this type of correction should be used for willful disobedience or wrong attitudes, not small mistakes such as spilling of milk, etc.

Alternative methods of correction often work well when the child has outgrown the corporal correction, which happens at varying ages. They can be sent to their room or made to sit down when they are younger and a spanking is not in order. When a child is older you can always withhold privileges which seems to work well also.

What a challenge in today's world to have the time to do all of this effectively. But again we remind you that if you live close to the Lord, the Holy Spirit can lead you into this phase of life and give you strength and wisdom that do not come naturally. Spend a lot of time on your knees for the souls of your children. This kind of attention given for your children will give direction in the part of child training outlined here today but will also surpass any other method of correction since our heavenly Father knows just what we all need, including our children, and is waiting to assist us. God bless every home that is endeavoring to acknowledge the Lord in the training of their children.

QUESTION AND ANSWER
BY
BRO. OSTIS B. WILSON
Reprint

QUESTION: Please explain Matthew 19:9, "And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."

ANSWER: The basic law for interpreting Scriptures—any Scripture and all Scriptures—

is known as "Unanimity of Faith." This means there must be a complete accord and agreement of all Scriptures on any particular subject. To isolate one Scripture on any subject and put a private interpretation on it which is contradictory to the general plain teaching of the Scriptures on that subject is to do violence to the Scripture which will destroy the validity of that doctrine or teaching. Charles E. Brown said, "Now we ought not to found a doctrine upon a text of Scripture of doubtful meaning. We ought to found all doctrine upon Scriptural texts of plain meaning and then interpret the difficult texts by the plain texts." I certainly agree with this statement, and failure to follow this rule in

interpreting the above text has led to a general breakdown of standard on this very important doctrine.

Then what is the plain teaching of the Scriptures on the subject of marriage and putting away and remarrying etc.? Without question, it is that marriage is for life and there is only one cause for "putting away" (unfaithfulness to the marriage vow), and that if one marries another while the former spouse is still living, he is guilty of the sin of adultery before God. This is the teaching of all the plain texts in the Bible on this subject, as follows: Matthew 5:32, Luke 16:18, Mark 10:11-12, Romans 7:2-3, I Corinthians 7:10-11, 39, Malachi 2:14-16. All of these texts are plain and unmistakable in their teaching and definitely establish God's doctrine on this subject. Matthew 19:9 must be interpreted by them.

My understanding of this text is that it contains two parts. The Pharisees had asked Jesus if it were lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause—verse 3. This was the full extent of their question. They never asked anything about marrying another spouse after this one was put away. That was no question with them since that was common practice among them and divorce and remarriage was allowable under the law. They even had more than one wife and lived with them at the same time (polygamy).

In the first part of this verse, Jesus answered their question after discussing at some length God's original purpose and arrangement for marriage by saying that the only cause for

which a man could put away his wife was for fornication. This relates to Matthew 5:32 where the same thing is stated and confirms the fact that a person has the right to put away a spouse for this cause because it is backed up by two witnesses and, according to God's Word, every word is established by two witnesses. (Matthew 18:16 and John 8:17.) "Putting away" is all that is under consideration up to this point. Then after He had answered their question He went ahead and introduced His own New Testament doctrine that if one marries another after that one is put away, he commits adultery. This, no doubt, shocked the Pharisees and it is certain it shocked Jesus' disciples by their response to that statement: "If the case of a man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry." Matthew 19:10. It is evident these chosen men understood from what He said that marriage was a binding thing, and if it were that binding and that difficult to get out of, it would just be better to not enter into it.

Therefore, I conclude that according to Matthew 19:9, a man is permitted to put away his wife for the cause of fornication and for no other cause, and that to marry another while that woman is still living is forbidden and to do so is adultery. In Matthew 5:32 Jesus comes out very strongly on this point and says if a man puts away his wife for any cause except fornication, he **causes** her to commit adultery. In other words he is a contributor to her delinquency for putting her away from himself when she is a loyal and chaste wife. God would hold him responsible right along with her for having done this thing and exposed her to this condition.



COURAGE

By Sis. Lottie Joiner

Jesus said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer (or courage); I have overcome the world." John 16:33.

This is a day when much courage is needed to press on for Jesus amidst the cunning craftiness of the devil. He, the devil, has great courage. We can see many ways in which he works to destroy the pure in heart, and if he fails in one way, we see him trying another. So he has courage to keep at his job and will continue to do so as long as time lasts. So we, as the saints of the most high God, need to keep our courage

up and fight against the devil. You will notice Jesus said, "I have overcome the world" (or the devil) so with Jesus in our hearts, we are able to stand against the combined forces of the enemy, for that same God-like power that caused Jesus, the dear Son of God to overcome is ours today if Jesus is reigning within us. With courage we can say, the Lord is our helper, we will not fear what men shall do to us.

The Lord told Joshua to be strong and of good courage, and we find that Joshua came out on the winning side just because he kept his

courage up and did what the Lord told him to do. The saints need courage. They need to live in a way that they will be an encouragement to sinners. Everybody needs courage. The drunkard in the ditch needs courage; the most wicked person needs courage, but they don't need courage to go on in their sins but to quit them and come to Jesus. When Jesus was here on this earth He was a loving, compassionate Savior. He was never idle but always doing good. At the time when the Scribes and Pharisees brought unto Jesus the woman taken in adultery, He did not discourage her at all. He wanted to help her though the Scribes and the Pharisees wanted to stone her, harm and condemn her. The same Pharisee spirit is in the world today. Instead of helping them and encouraging them as Christ did the woman, many will just kick them a little farther. Jesus wrote on the ground and the Pharisees continued to ask Him about it. Then He said unto them, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone," and they, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, so Jesus and the woman were left alone. "He said unto her. Woman, where are those, thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? and she said, No man, Lord. Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee, go and sin no more." Jesus did not encourage her to continue on in sin but He encouraged her to sin no more. We can see the love Jesus had for her even though she was a sinner. He loved her and He loves sinners today, but He does not love the deeds they are doing. If He did not love their souls, this world would no longer stand. He is standing with outstretched arms to receive all those who will repent and come to Him. Every one of the saints have had some encouragement from someone, or we would have never gotten saved. Oh how careful we should be to encourage poor, lost souls to come to Jesus. The devil has them bound, and the Lord is the only one who can help them. As long as the power of the enemy is raging, he keeps souls bound under his hands, but when the Lord's power rises, the old devil will have to back down. I heard Bro. Pruitt use the expression that when we get full of the power of God the old devil looks like a little measly fellow; so it is. The devil is a coward when God's power is against him.

David said, "Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." Psalm 27:14.

May God bless every reader is my prayer, and may we keep our courage up to encourage others and be examples of righteousness for the Lord while here below. I was told not long ago that some physician decided to experiment on folks like this and see what effect it would have on them. He picked out a fine, healthy looking man, and he, with others, decided that every time they met this man to tell him that he looked bad, to ask him what was wrong and to advise him to have something done for his health or he would surely die. As different ones began to tell him how bad he looked and time after time commented on how fast he was sinking; the poor man gave way to the discouragement that came from day to day and went to bed with a fever. After they saw what effect this had on the healthy, young man they decided to try another plan. They began to visit the man and each time tell him that he was looking better. They told him that he was looking fine and would be up in a short time. The man got all right, got up and went on about his business.

There has been, and are now, many down-hearted discouraged souls who have almost given up and gone to bed and taken fever, so to speak, just because no encouraging word came to them. There are others who have been in this fix but have gotten courage and now they are blooming for Jesus with a determination to press on in spite of foes.

May God bless every one is my prayer.

—*Faith and Victory*, July 1938.



What Shall I Take With Me?

They say, "We brought nothing into this world,
And we'll surely take nothing away;"
But I don't quite agree with them;
I'll tell you why this I say.

I brought nothing into this world,
A helpless babe I came;
But since Jesus gave me salvation,
It isn't now the same.

He said, "Nothing shall separate,
Neither in life nor in death;"
So I shall keep my salvation
Right through my dying breath.

Yes, I shall take my salvation,
That gift of God so free;
And I'll not be empty-handed
When the God of heaven I see.

—Sis. Mae Ola Johnson

(*The author passed to her reward at the Monark Springs Camp Meeting, July 29, 1954.*)

