

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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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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Weighed And Found Wanting

By Sis. Amber Martens

"And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians." Daniel 5:25-28.

Many times when grading a student's paper a teacher cringes as she counts the number of missed answers. A concerned teacher desires each of her students to succeed. Writing a failing grade is one of the hardest parts of her job. It doesn't compare, however, to the anguish that accompanies the end of the year task of notifying the students and their parents that they will be required to repeat the grade. There are feelings of anger, sometimes harsh words, sometimes tears as the student considers the taunting reality of another year in the same

grade—being left behind as their friends all move on. The parents are also upset and outraged that their child has failed.

A good teacher will have done all that she possibly could to help the student. She will have made her expectations unmistakably clear and will have tried everything within her power to change the direction of her student's path.

Our God, Father of heaven and earth, is like a good teacher. He wants to nurture and teach us, to see us grow and progress in His word and excel in His righteousness, faith and love. There are times when the Lord talks to our hearts through reading His Word, through His ministry and many other ways. He writes a "grade" on the wall, He corrects us and He brings our actions and attitudes to light. It is not God's goal to put a failing grade on our lives! He loves us enough to show us how to change our direction—how to make a "better grade."

In the fifth chapter of Daniel we read about how God wrote a "failing grade" for King Belshazzar. The King was entertaining at a royal feast where he ordered the vessels that had been taken from the house of the Lord at Jerusalem to be brought out and they drank from them. The fourth verse says, "They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone. In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote."

Contents

Weighed and Found Wanting	1
Will God Fail Us? No, Never!	2
The Waters Were Made Sweet	3
Editorials	4
The Waters Were Made Sweet (cont.)	6
Prayer Requests	6
Meeting Reports and Notices	7
Letters from the Readers	10
Obituaries	14
The Family That Prays	15

Suddenly the king became terrified! His actions and attitude had been graded and King Belshazzar feared the results. King Belshazzar had failed the test. He called Daniel to interpret the writing and the words that he dreaded to hear resounded in his ears, "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." His kingdom was divided and given away.

This was not the first grade King Belshazzar had ever received. God had been concerned and given him "study tips" all along the way, hoping he would listen and change so that he would not fail. Sadly, this was King Belshazzar's final exam. The night of that feast, after seeing the writing on the wall, King Belshazzar was slain.

Whether you have just started your first year of school or whether you have become advanced in your education, God is concerned and desires to show us ways to improve. He is a

wonderful teacher—the Perfect Teacher. He wants us to succeed and He will help us pass the class.

May God help us to listen and follow instructions. If we will give attention to the writing on the wall we will truly learn from this Perfect Teacher. Then when our test results are made known, we will pass with "flying colors."

Weighed by the Word which is given now,

Search it and know thou art pure.

Unto its mandates in meekness bow,

Then thou shalt be secure.

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." II Peter 1:10-11.

Will God Fail Us? No, Never!

By Sis. Gladys Cashio

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7.

Recently I was praying for something and I said, "Lord, do it right now!" At that moment I felt a check, then I said, "Lord, You know what is best, help us to be patient and wait, Do this in Your own good way."

"And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint." Luke 18:1. When you pray don't fail to believe. One may say, "I have prayed and prayed and prayed about a matter and God hasn't answered." Then if you believe He hasn't, you have not the necessary faith. God doesn't see time as we do. Many times we are not long-suffering and willing to wait on the Lord. We must bring our cares to God with unwavering faith, pray until we know we have prayed and contacted heaven and then hand God our problems and walk away leaving them in the hands of Him the all wise, almighty God. If you were keeping some mother's baby and it cried until you could not quiet it, you would do your best to take it to its mother. Even though you had to travel for miles, you would go and when you had delivered it safely to her, you would then be able to walk away satisfied that she could and would take perfect care of the baby and you would not have to be uneasy about her doing a good job.

God doesn't measure time as we do. There is a long span of time from the cradle to the grave and God knows best just at what point in one's life to answer that agonizing prayer. Sometimes God says, "Now." Sometimes He says, "No, we cannot have what we have prayed for because we ask amiss," and sometimes He says, "Wait."

I used to pray for God to show me His will in a dream. I had it fixed in my mind to get the answer in that manner. But God doesn't want us to fix plans for Him to work out in a certain way. Finally I realized this, so I committed it to Him. Lately it was necessary for me to fully know God's will in two different matters and I prayed that in His own good way He would show me and He did in dreams which stayed with me until step by step He helped me to interpret them as clear as an open book. How I praise Him for this blessing!

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19. "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; ... And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us," Ephesians 3:16, 19-20. Praise Our God!

"The Waters Were Made Sweet"

By Sis. Anita Adams

Exodus 15:23-26, "And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? And he cried unto the Lord; and the Lord shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them, And said, if thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee."

This was shortly after they had crossed the Red Sea. They had come to the wilderness of Shur and had gone three days and found no water. All of us would be very thirsty by three days and what excitement there must have been in the camp to find water. What a disappointment for the water to be bitter! We each one have bitter experiences in our lives. We don't like them. We complain about them and wish they would go away, but let us look at this incident and see if we can learn what to do in our bitter times.

Moses cried unto the Lord. In our complaining let us make sure that we cry unto the Lord our God. It is the Lord that will show us what to do. The Lord shewed Moses a certain tree to cut down and cast into the waters. What happened? The bitter was made sweet!!! What joy in the camp now!

Do we have a tree that we need to cast into our bitter waters to make them sweet?

Is there bitter striving in your home? The Tree of Humility and giving in to the other's wishes makes the bitter turn into something sweet. Instead of each trying to get their own way, now there is peace.

There is the Tree of Kind Words that turns away wrath. We experienced this just recently. The day we moved our household items, there were several vehicles in the caravan. Our van was pulling a flatbed trailer loaded with the children's clubhouse. At one point the driver started to switch lanes, failing to see a car that

had come up on the right side. The car ran off in the ditch and ended up blowing out her tire. A woman from the car came up to the driver and was ready to chew him out. Not only was she ready but she started to chew him out. The brother expressed his regret and we asked how everyone was, thanking the Lord that nobody was hurt. What a change took place. She then made the comment, "I know we were in your blind spot." There are many times that the bitter can be made sweet by casting that Tree of Kind Words into the water.

The Tree of Submission can turn the bitter waters of disappointment into sweetness. Song #55 "Bondage of Love" in the *Evening Light Songs* book states in verse four:

"Forever I choose the good will of my God
Its holy, deep riches to love and to know,
The serfdom of love to so sweeten the rod,
That its touch maketh rivers of honey to flow."

Submitting to the will of God will always turn the bitter into RIVERS OF HONEY. Nothing is much sweeter than honey.

The Tree of Obedience will keep the bitter waters of sin away. What was the 26th verse of our passage in Exodus? "If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee." When we are obedient children we receive the blessing of the Lord and "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." Prov. 10:22.

The Tree of Faith — "I know my redeemer liveth," (Job 19:25) made the bitter waters of loss and affliction sweet for our Bro. Job. The Lord blessed him with twice as much as he had before. Let us cast the Tree of Faith into our trials and watch the Lord work.

Another tree that Job used was the Tree of Commitment. Job 2:10 "...What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips." Throw in the Tree of Commitment when the going gets tough. The bitter will be made sweet and you will hold your integrity with God.

(Continued on page 6.)

FAITH AND VICTORY

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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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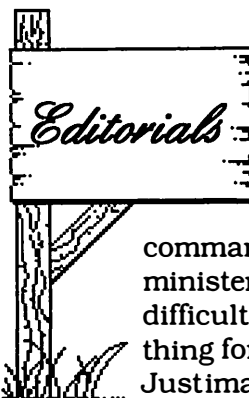
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"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;" I Timothy 6:17. This

command given to Timothy, a young minister of the Lord, was no doubt a difficult task. It is still a difficult thing for ministers of any age to do. Just imagine a young man approaching a "seasoned" CEO of a thriving, successful corporation and telling him to not be "highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches." That would likely motivate a scathing response. It is no wonder that Jesus said, "...It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." Matthew 19:24. The Lord knew that the wealth of this world brings a certain amount of empowerment and it is a great temptation to use that empowerment in an oppressive way to their fellowman and continue to enrich themselves. It is also easy for one with great possessions to fail to see the merciful hand of God extended toward them because their vision is focused on the things of earth.

Unfortunately there are many people who are trusting in uncertain riches. Not only CEO's of successful companies but it is the ambition of the population around us to possess as much of these earthly things as possible in the belief that they will bring them happiness and security. So this Scripture has a very broad application today. When you talk about somebody's money people become very sensitive because their heart and lives are so intertwined with it and that in itself illustrates the point of this Scripture—people are trusting in their earthly riches rather than in the living God.

There is an expression that is frequently repeated. It goes like this, "Nobody ever gave me anything, I have had to work for everything that I've got...." It is an admirable quality to be a hard worker but that does not give us the right to be highminded and uncompassionate to others. If we have had a hard pull in life it should cause us to be that much more compassionate on those who are also struggling. Furthermore, this statement ignores the many benefits that the Lord daily bestows upon us. All of our strength and ability comes from God, even life itself, and our attitude should be one of humble thanksgiving for His many blessings.

This verse instructs us to trust in the living God. While many around us are placing their trust in earthly things those who have placed their trust in the living God are the ones really being blessed and enjoying life to the fullest extent. God gives those who follow Him so much more than the loaves and the fishes. They may be having hard trials and suffering persecutions from their loved ones who don't understand but deep in their hearts is a wonderful peace and hope that man cannot take away. The eternal riches that they possess are not divided up by their relatives when they are gone because they are laid up in heaven and are awaiting them in the beautiful city of God.

II Peter 1:3-4 says, "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." God wants to bless us with "all things." Not only the things that pertain to this life but He wants to add godliness, glory and virtue—even His divine nature. He also wants us to escape the corruption of this world and the wrath of God that will be poured out on the wicked. If only the successful CEO could understand what the true young minister of the Lord was trying to tell him his response would be much different. He would understand that possessing earthly riches is like one small bird that finds a worm in a large flock of birds and when the others see what he has they descend upon him with such vehemence that it is unlikely he will get to enjoy any of it. According to Jesus there will be very few of the wealthy that will ever understand even though He said it was possible with God for them to enter into His kingdom. Perhaps a few of us will be blessed with the knowledge of God's great love for man and really enter into the joys of the Lord. Let us place our trust in the One who giveth us richly all things to enjoy and seek out those exceeding great and precious promises that will motivate and enable us to be more like Christ and keep the things of earth in the proper perspective.

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The Lord has blessed us to be able to reprint some of the books that have been out of stock. *Rays of Hope* by D. O. Teasley, *The Hidden Life* by Charles E. Orr, and *Around Old Bethany*, by R. L. Berry.

A brief quotation from the Preface of the book *Rays of Hope* will show the burden of the author. "This book is not intended to present dogmatic theology, but it is written for men and women who feel the need of encouragement and help in fighting the battles of everyday life. Many people in the world are overconscientious, timid and easily accused by satan. To such, I trust, the following pages will prove a help and a blessing." This book has been an encouragement to many through the years and could prove a blessing to you. It is bound in a heavy paper cover and contains 95 pages. Its price is \$2.50.

Some of the chapter titles in *The Hidden Life* would indicate how helpful this book could be in developing a relationship with God. Walking with God, The Hidden Life, Drawing Nearer to God, How to Have a Closer Walk with God, Looking at Unseen Things, Bright Pictures, Abounding Grace, What to Do in Case of Failure, Humility, The Rest of Faith, and several more helpful chapters. This 115 page book is bound in a heavy paper cover and has a price of \$3.00.

Around Old Bethany is a true to life narrative of a family in a pioneer setting who began searching the Scriptures for the truth of God's Word. It relates the conflicts they faced with false teachings and teachers that opposed the truth they were finding. As they walked in the light the Lord was faithful to reveal more light and understanding about His Word. Their influence in the community caused others to also see the truth and eventually led to the Church of God becoming established in their town. This 83 page book is bound in a heavy paper cover and has a price of \$2.00.

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We have been spending as much time as possible working on the hardback binding equipment. We thank the Lord for the progress that has been made. The conduit and wiring have been put into place throughout the building for all of the machines. Four of the machines have been brought to an operational condition. Two others are nearing completion. It seems that the work is progressing slower than we would like but we are thankful for each step that is completed and are trusting the Lord to help us with the remaining machines and supply the parts and supplies needed to bring them into operation.

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

"The Waters Were Made Sweet"

(Continued from page 3.)

Matt 5:44, "But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;" What a big tree, the Tree of Love is! It turns so many bitter experiences into honey. Take that tree and use it daily.

Are you harboring revenge and wanting to get even with someone? The Tree of Forgiveness will make the bitter waters of revenge sweet. Revenge hurts the owner as much, if not more, than the person it is directed to. Cut down the Tree of Forgiveness and see the Lord get his vengeance. Romans 12:19, "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves,...for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

There are so many trees we can cast into our bitter waters that I can't list them all. May the Lord show you which tree you need to cut down for your bitter waters. Each bitter water takes a different tree and only the Lord can show us which one to cast into ours. I have been asking the Lord lately in my trials, "What tree do I need to cut down?" But remember that when the tree is cast in, the **Bitter will be made sweet.**"



A prayer request has come in for Vernon Robinson. He is suffering from stroke syndrome and is failing in body.

PA—I have a very urgent request for a friend. He is 47 years old and he has cancer. They plan to have a liver transplant on September 2. The man has a catholic background and I have given him some tracts. He seems to be a nice man but I don't know how he stands before the Lord. They are not sure whether he will survive the surgery.

—Bro. Parker Sliser

OK—Sis. Dora Doolittle is suffering from a broken hip as a result of a fall at her home on

August 25th. She is at home fully trusting the Lord. We marvel at God's answers to prayer for pain relief and are looking to Him for a miracle. She desires to go home to be with her Lord but is asking that the Lord's will be done. We praise God for His help thus far and would appreciate your prayers.

—Sis. Irma Sallee

KS—One of my brothers hasn't been well for some time. It seems he has multiple infections. We are very thankful it seems there is no cancer. We praise the Lord for that. Thank you for your prayers.

—Sis. Naomi Dickerson-Hiebert

CA—I have some unspoken requests.

—Sis. Opal Davis

PA—Hello, may I please have your attention. Please, I really do need your prayers about a job. You see. I used to work at the school as a janitor, I wish to work at the laundry room. Now what I have said to you is my prayer request. I hope that's no problem for you. I have been at the school eight years as a janitor worker. Please pray that God does give me that job at the laundry room. Please, I will be praying also and I do agree with you in prayer. I am an inmate here in a...jail.

—Mr. Ricardo Thornton

WV—Please keep me on your prayer list as I sure need God's extra help. Love and prayers,

—Sis. Melba Powell

OK—Wife is some better but still needs your prayers.

—Bro. T. V. McMillian

Philippines—Remember Sis. Divine Vedania, wife of Bro. Daniel Vedania. She has been having problems with a kidney infection.

Standing Prayer Requests

Carlos Arriago

Sis. Mamie Butcher

Sis. Helen Carson

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

Danville, KY (Tent Revival)—September 8-15
Wichita, KS (Fall Meeting)—September 19-26
Politilly, Honduras

(Tent Meeting)—September 26-October 3
Myrtle, MO (Fall Singing)—October 2
Holly Hill, SC (Fall Revival)—October 10-17
Baldy Mesa, CA (Fall Revival)—October 15-17
Fresno, CA (Fall Revival)—October 31-November 7
Miami, FL (Revival)—December 1-4



MEETING NOTICES

DANVILLE, KY, TENT REVIVAL

There will be a tent meeting, Lord willing, in the Danville, KY area beginning Wednesday, September 8, 2004 through Wednesday, September 15, 2004. Services will be nightly at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday morning service at 10:00 a.m. Other day activities and prayer services will be announced. Bro. Marty Clevenger and Bro. Ivan Eck will be the evangelists.

Meals and lodging will be provided by Dan and Angela Gellenbeck and other saints of the Junction City, KY congregation. We invite all to attend who would bear a burden for souls and support the meeting with your labors in song, prayer and personal outreach.

The tent will be located on the corner of Hwy. 150 and Hwy 1273 (Airport Rd.). From Danville, take Hwy. 150 approximately 5 miles East. The tent will be on the right just past Danville Memorial Gardens Cemetery. For further directions call the Gellenbeck's at (859) 238-9379.

If you are unable to attend, we ask your support in earnest prayer!

—Bro. Dan and Sis. Angela Gellenbeck



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.



POLITILLY, HONDURAS, TENT MEETING

A meeting is planned in the village of Politilly on the island of Roatan, Honduras Sunday, September 26th through Sunday, October 3rd. We plan to have both morning and evening services. The services are to be held in the tent on the mission property yard. The chapel will be used for additional sleeping quarters. Food will be prepared in the mission house.

We are looking to the Lord to send ministers and gospel workers of His choosing to the meeting. The saints are warmly invited to come. We want to give a special invitation to saved young people. This is an excellent opportunity to experience the mission field and outreach efforts. The young people of Roatan would be encouraged by meeting more young people from the States.

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." I Tim. 4: 12. Young people attending the meeting are urged to be examples to the young people in Honduras in heart, in conduct and appearance.

Flights are available from Miami, New Orleans or from Houston directly to the island of Roatan (RTB). Checked luggage limitations: height plus width plus length cannot exceed 62 inches. Weight cannot exceed 70 lbs. per piece (international only). Carry on luggage limitations: height plus width plus length cannot exceed 45 inches. Weight cannot exceed 40 lbs. per piece. Check with your airline to confirm that these limitations apply to the airline you have chosen.

Passports are required for international travel. Getting a passport can take up to 6 weeks. Passports can be expedited within about 2 weeks for a fee. For information on how to get a passport, you can visit the following website link: http://travel.state.gov/passport/download_applications.html

Please bring your own bedding, such as a sleeping bag and pillow. You will need mosquito

repellant (pump spray) for protection at night. The date of the meeting has been set for a dry time of year when the mosquitoes are much less of a nuisance.

For questions concerning the meeting you may contact Bro. Keith Fuller (330) 864-1128, Bro. Toney Samons (304) 456-3017 or Bro. Doug Wall dwall@ChurchofGodMission.com

Please let Bro. Doug Wall know via e-mail if you do plan to come so accommodations can be planned. We look forward to seeing you!

—Bro. Doug Wall, Roatan, Honduras
www.ChurchofGodMission.com

MYRTLE, MO, FALL SINGING

Lord willing, the annual fall singing will be held at Myrtle, MO on Sat. night, Oct. 2nd. at 7:00 p.m. We extend a hearty invitation to all to come be with us on this weekend. The cabins and dormitories will be available on the campground. There will be service Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. with dinner following in the dining hall. The campground phone number is (417) 938-4682. Other contacts are Sis. Carol Sorrell (417) 938-4493 or Bro. Harlan Sorrell (417) 938-4336.

HOLLY HILL, SC, FALL REVIVAL

Lord willing, the Holly Hill, SC Fall Revival will be held from Sunday, October 10 - Sunday, October 17, 2004. Services on the first Sunday will be 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Services during the week will be held nightly at 7:30 p.m. There will be one service held at 10:00 a.m. on the final Sunday of the meeting unless the Lord leads otherwise.

We would like to extend a hearty invitation to all who would like to attend. All are welcome and each one will be accommodated. If you plan to attend and would like to stay on the church grounds please call Sis. Beverly Pratt at 803-496-3057. If you need directions, motel phone numbers or other information, please call Bro. Floyd Crummie at (803) 496-5768 or Bro. Tommie Platt at (803) 496-5414.

Most of all, please pray for this meeting. We need the anointing of the Holy Spirit in our services and we rely upon His leading and direction in everything that is to be said and done. May He have His perfect will and way in every part of this meeting is our prayer.

BALDY MESA, CA, FALL REVIVAL

The Baldy Mesa, CA congregation welcomes you to our Fall Revival to be held October 15-17, 2004. For further information you may contact the pastors, Bro. Travis and Sis. Alice Johnson at (760) 261-2564.

FRESNO, CA, FALL REVIVAL

The Church of God congregation of Fresno, CA extends a hearty welcome to all to attend our Fall Revival starting Sunday, October 31 through November 7, 2004.

On Sunday, October 31st Sunday school will be at 9:30 a.m., Morning worship at 10:30 a.m., Afternoon service at 2:00 p.m. and Night service at 7:00 p.m. Through the week the services will be nightly at 7:00 p.m. On Sunday, November 7th Sunday school will be at 9:30 a.m., Morning worship at 10:30 a.m. and Afternoon service at 2:00 p.m.

Pray with us that there will be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in every service and that souls will receive the help that is needed for both saints and sinners.

To locate the chapel when coming from the north on Hwy. 99, take the Belmont exit, go east three miles to First street, turn right and go two blocks to Grant. The chapel is on First and Grant. Coming from the south, take the Venture exit, go east to First street and turn left and go to Grant. The address of the chapel is 388 North First Street.

For further information contact Sis. Dannella Taylor at (559) 348-9029 or Bro. Eric Carter at (559) 292-8217. The chapel phone number is (559) 486-9977.

MIAMI, FL, REVIVAL

You are welcome to attend the Miami, FL Revival meeting that is scheduled to be held December 1-4. Services will be nightly at 7:30 p.m. The chapel is located at 235 NW 47th St., Miami, FL. For further information you may contact Bro. Charles Clay (305) 235-4271, Bro. Lester Walker (305) 253-8512 or Bro. Kenneth Baxter (786) 554-8833.

MEETING REPORTS

We are very thankful to report that the Myrtle Camp Meeting, 2004, was richly blessed of the Lord. The attendance was good, the Word went forth with power and anointing and many

souls were blessed. We thank God for His faithfulness to us once again. We also want to thank Sis. Jeanne Eck for taking the responsibility of head cook this year and for all the wonderful meals we enjoyed. May the Lord richly bless her for her service in this capacity. We appreciate everyone who came and helped make the meeting what it was and look forward to seeing you here again next year as well as many others.

— Bro. Harlan Sorrell
(for the Myrtle congregation)

SPECIAL NOTICES

WICHITA, KS. BUILDING PURCHASE

KS—Dear saints and friends: The Wichita, Kansas congregation has been looking for a new place of worship for about 20 years and have explored many options. Our existing place of worship is old and very inadequate for our needs. After much prayer the Lord has blessed us to find a much better and larger building. The building we want to buy has a large sanctuary, kitchen and dining room, nursery and many classrooms that could be used as sleeping areas during meetings. It is in a good location close to Wichita State University and major highways

and is in excellent repair. The seller is willing to sell the church to us for much less than the original price because they need the money to modernize the large building they purchased. We have over one-half of the purchase price in our building fund and will place our existing chapel and grounds on the market immediately. We need to raise about \$65,000 more within the next 60 days in order to complete the purchase of this facility.

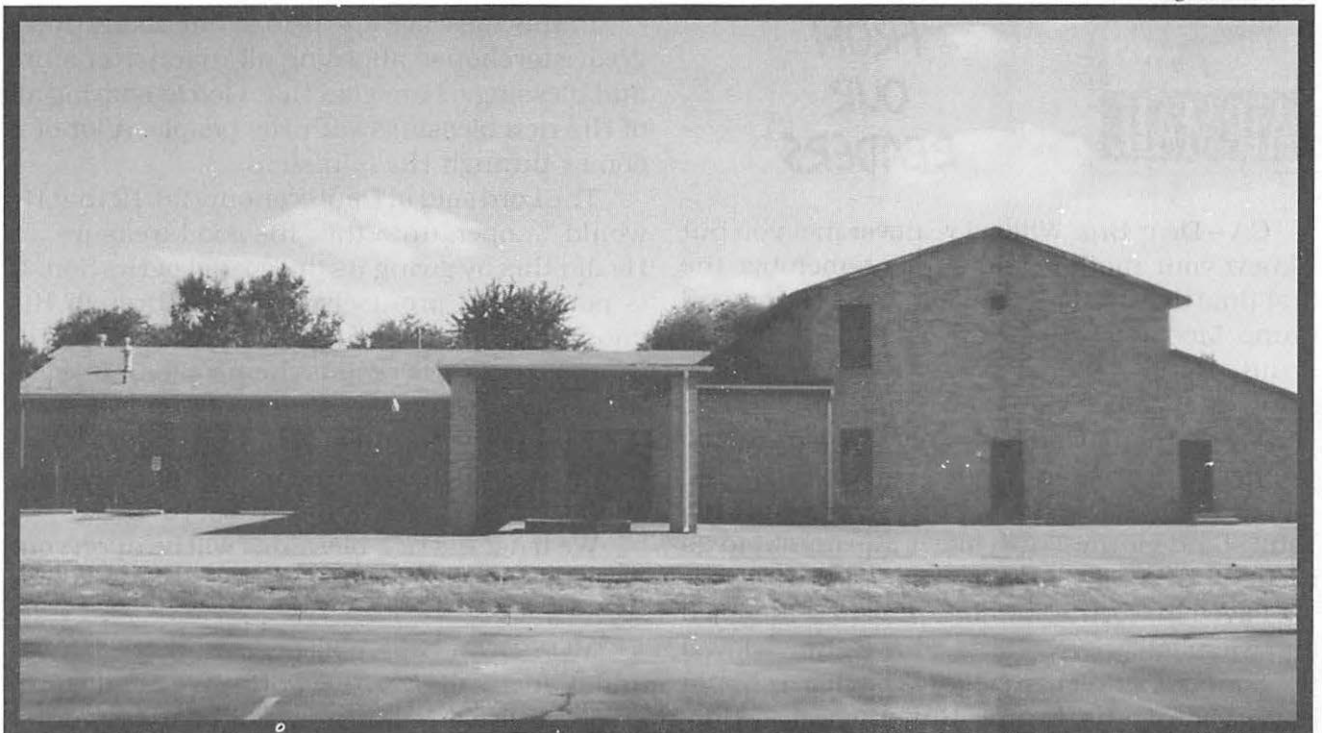
We are asking all those who have an interest in the work of the Lord to assist us in this endeavor. We feel this move is the Lord's will and necessary at this time. Please pray with us about this URGENT need and help us if you feel so led by the Lord. We also ask that you share this request with anyone you know who might be interested. Please send your gift to the following address: Shirley Knight, Secretary, Church of God (Evening Light), 1101 N. Estelle, Wichita, KS 67214.

We thank you for your prayers and monetary support and know the Lord will bless you for your part in this work for God. If you have any questions, please call either Sis. Shirley Knight (316) 683-0006 or Bro. Emmanuel Gracey (316) 461-1267.

—Sis. Shirley Knight

View of the lovely facility the saints at Wichita, KS are desiring to purchase.

Photo by Al Harris



TAPES AVAILABLE

Cassette tapes and/or CD recordings of singing from the Monark Springs and Myrtle camp meetings are available. You may order either tapes or CD's or both. **Please specify which you desire.** They are categorized as follows:

1. Congregational Singing (Monark.)

(Note: The cassette tape contains 4 additional songs which could not be included on the CD due to lack of space. They are *Evening Light Songs* #80, #174, #182 and #497. If you want these songs you must order the tape.)

2. Special Singing (trios, quartets and groups. Monark.)

3. Special Singing (solos and duets. Monark.)

4. Special Singing (Myrtle Camp Meeting only.)

Messages are available on cassette tape only from both the Monark and Myrtle camp meetings. You may write and request a list for ordering. All tapes and CD's are priced at \$3.00 each and that price includes postage. Please direct all requests and/or orders to Harlan Sorrell, Rt. 1 Box 118A, Myrtle, MO 65778; e-mail address: hsorrell@ortrackm.missouri.org; phone (417) 938-4336.



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

CA—Dear Bro. Willie: I've never met you but I knew your mother and dad. I remember the first time they went to Louisiana, the Hammond Camp Meeting, with Frances' dad, dear Bro. Pruitt. I still remember most of the old time saints that came down there while I lived there. How I still thank God for being raised in such a wonderful Christian home. Our mother and father taught us the truth and lived it before us. I still stand for the Truth like it was taught to us then.

I lived in Northern California after I married and wasn't near any saints. I have always loved the Lord but didn't live close to Him like I should have when I was young. But praise His Holy

name! For the last 50 years He draws me closer and closer to Him. It is wonderful to have such peace and joy from the Lord. I surely love all of God's children and pray much for each one to keep the victory over the devil each day. It's so wonderful to hear of those that have turned back to God for help after becoming discouraged but oh how sad for some that have turned away and do not seek His love again.

I was married for 62 years and lost my husband almost a year ago. I carried such a burden for him to be saved and oh how happy we were when he turned to the Lord and was saved a short time before he passed away.

So saints do keep encouraged. The devil is working so hard to discourage and deceive God's children. But Jesus has the victory to enable us to be faithful to the end.

With much Christian love to all of God's children,
—Sis. Hazel (Williamson) Savage
— — — — —

OK—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings of Christian love. I trust all is going well with you and yours and with all the faithful workers there at the Lord's Print Shop. I have been blessed here of late by listening to some CD/tapes that Sis. Stice so graciously shared with us. They are mostly sermons of Bro. I. C. Chandler and Sis. Opal Wilson. They are very good and encouraging. The last one was one of Sis. Opal's. The title of it is, "Happy is that People Whose God is the Lord." Psalm 144:10-15.

In this message she brings out about God's great storehouse affording all manner of store and blessings. I am glad that God is sharing all of His rich blessings with His people. A lot of it comes through His ministers.

The Lord said in Deuteronomy 28:12 that He would "...open unto thee his good treasure,..." He did this by giving us the gospel of His Son. It is poured out profusely upon us through His good Spirit and through His preached word. (I Peter 1:12.) "Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted." Psalm 89:15-16.

We trust His rich blessings will be upon you.
Your brother in Christ, —T. V. McMillian
— — — — —

MO—Dear Bro. Willie, co-workers, saints and readers all over the world: We send warm greetings of fellowship from our hearts to yours.

Isn't it wonderful to be serving a risen Savior!

The Lord has been working in our lives. Ephesians 2:10 tells us that we are His workmanship.

Lynette has had a very serious affliction for approximately 12 years. She became weaker and weaker as the years went by. There were times when she would pass out, etc. She lost so much blood that her color grew pale and she became very frail.

She would have times of improvement and try to go on only to have the affliction drag her back down. We were getting very concerned and crying out to the Lord for help. Many of you had asked about her. She is very private and didn't disclose much detail. But how we did appreciate your prayers!

Approximately two months back the Lord spoke to her and gave her a solid Scripture to stand on and has done a miracle in her body. She isn't a young woman but God has healed her. All praise and glory go to Him, always and forever!

We just can't praise Him enough. She is healed without any kind of operation, etc.—even though we did have some examinations.

Isn't God good! How can we repay Him? We can't but we can tell and express His love to others. Thank you for doing that and letting us share our testimony with you.

In Christ, —Bro. Paul & Sis. Lynette Sorrell

From the Philippines...

July 30, 2004—Dear Bro. Murphey: Lovely greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Regards to Sis. Neta, Sis. Elizabeth, your son and family. Please give my greetings to Bro. Michael Smith and family and to Bro. Galen Kelly and family. We cannot forget the nice fellowship that we had during your visit to the Philippines. It is truly a great encouragement to all of the Brothers and Sisters in the Philippines. We think of the nice conversations, the sharing of opinions and some discussions about the gospel work in the Philippines. Also I am so thankful for the open-hearted expressions to really understand about the situation and condition of the gospel work here. Thank you so much for your kindness, your patience, your real love, care and concern for us!

The need in the Philippines is increasing as the gospel work is expanding. I am happy to report to you that Jay, the husband of Grace,

and Arnold have decided to give their lives to the ministry. We have now two groups of evangelistic teams giving all their time for the gospel work. One group of pastors is now in the province of Pangasinan, particularly in the towns of San Quintui and Umingan. I rented a little house for them to stay in. There are four, Bro. Jimmy Manaloto, Bro. Daniel Vedania, Bro. Arnold Vedania and Bro. Jay Ramos. This province is south of Neuve Ecija. One group is also doing evangelistic campaign in the province of Aurora, particularly in the towns of Dingalan and Gabaldon. They are Bro. Harlito, my son, Bro. Rogie Dela Cruz and Bro. Carlos Bienan. I am mentioning their names because you know them. I rented one room in an apartment at the center of the town of Gabaldon. They are now having regular worship services in these places. They are also having Bible studies and worship services in the Barrios in the homes of interested people. The town of Dingalan is overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

They have many expenses in these new places for the gospel. They need to buy their food, transportation expenses and other personal needs. Recently I bought some beds for them because they were just lying down on the cement floor to sleep and they were getting coughs. They also need warmer blankets because this time of the year is rainy season. They also need some chairs, Bibles and songbooks for their Bible studies and worship services. I am very much encouraged because they have many appointments of home Bible studies and community group Bible studies and some people are going with them on their evangelistic campaign.

We are very urgently needing church lots and buildings where they can assemble in their regular Bible studies and worship services. We are praying much for the Lord to provide these vital and worthy needs. The Pastors said they will be happy if we can build one chapel in the province of Pangasinan and one chapel in the province of Aurora. We are looking at the possibility in the barrios where lots are cheaper. Lots in the towns are now very expensive.

We have also visited the province of Tarlac, west of Nueva Ecija. We distributed tracts in the towns of Victoria and Moncada. We had a very nice group Bible study in the town of Moncada and they had many religious questions which encourage them and they asked us if we can

come back to have more Bible studies. They also said they will be happy and thankful if we can have a station of worship there. I am so thankful for the harvest of souls that the Lord of the harvest is giving as a reward of the hard labors of the pastors. The pastors are very happy and very much encouraged.

Again I say thank you so much for your unending love for us. May the loving heavenly Father open the way for you to come again to the Philippines. Surely it is always an encouragement to us and binds our hearts more tightly to bring more souls to Christ for eternal life. Please give my warm greetings to all the saints in the U.S.A.

Your brother in the gospel field,

—Matias S. Tangunan & family

August 25, 2004—Dear Bro. Willie: God bless you upon receiving my letter! I'm very happy to read your e-mail. I just arrived from Pangasinan Province where I encountered the tail of a typhoon the day I sent you my first e-mail. The rain and the wind is very strong and I was not able to see the road anymore so I stopped in a waiting shed because my motorcycle moves slow and I was so wet. I had to stop three times before I reached the place where many souls are hungry to hear the true gospel. I thank the Lord that He allowed me to speak to that group of people searching for the truth and on that night two of them got saved and decided to be baptized because they understood the will and love of God and I saw the tears in their eyes saying that they are sinners and that they wanted to feel the love of God and to be saved after almost two weeks of Bible study every night at their house. We are hoping and praying for some others in their Bible study group, as they say, are also planning to surrender their lives unto the Lord!

We scheduled the baptism this coming Sunday afternoon as they requested, if God wills. Many of their relatives and friends are now interested about the gospel, especially the true gospel.

We have many trials and satan comes to us in many ways but we trust the Lord to help us! We were suspected in a murder case because we were going to our rented room late at night after our Bible study because of the many questions about the topics that we were discussing. The murder case happened the same night and in the same place so the Baranggay captain asked

for our police clearance for legal purposes. But thank God because many people testified that we are a preacher and a good person we were given a police clearance and we also gave them our clear record.

I feel the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He leads us in the way that He wants to. Thank you for your love and desire to help us in the church growth here in the Philippines. I appreciate it a lot and we are doing our best to do it in God's special way and by the leadings of the Holy Spirit.

I'm so sorry about what happened to Bro. Charles Taylor. I used to cry every time that I had to do a funeral service for one of the brethren because it was so painful to me that they are no longer in my sight. But I now realize that they are in a much better place, together with the saints and Our Lord Jesus Christ having their crown in HEAVEN! And I want to also be that way with my loved ones, in heaven with everlasting life.

Please pray for my wife again and thank God my children are now in good condition. We pray for the Lord to bless you all.

Yours in Christ, —Bro. Daniel Vedania



Bro. Daniel Vedania and Bro. Jimmy Manaloto, both ministers of the gospel, conducting a "live" Bible study over an FM radio station. Bro. Daniel, a trained broadcast announcer, has a vision of owning a small FM radio station that would cover a highly populated metropolitan area of the Philippines to be dedicated to the Church of God. It would cost about \$5,000 USD to purchase the equipment and franchise.

August 3, 2004—Dear Bro. Willie & Sis. Neta: Warm greetings of love to you from the Philippines in Jesus' name. May you receive this letter in your fine health. I am also sending a copy of the Muntinlupa Church of God's bulletin for June and July. I thank God we were able to meet our deadline which is every last Sunday of the month. The Lord is helping us in this work and we praise Him for it.

Bro. Willie, may I ask you to print an article or testimony from our bulletin in the *Faith and Victory* magazine?

How was the National Camp Meeting at Monark Springs? I trust many souls have been renewed and revived. Sometimes I wish I was very near to your place, a ten hours drive maybe, then I could attend camp meetings there and be blessed by messages and gospel songs too. What a fellowship!

I often think of the fellowship we had at Lomboy last April. Your visit and your being with us was too short but we treasure the happy fellowship together.

I don't know what happened to my e-mail. I have paid our one year subscription last April but I cannot use it. They said there is a problem at the server. So I guess our communication is quite slow but I hope the problem at the server will be solved. Bye for now. God bless you!!!

Your Sister in Christ, —Nellie T. Tibayan

God's Power To Change

By Sis. Irma Ababon

I rejoice in the Lord always! I sing and pray giving thanks and praising Him for our Lord God is so good to me. I am in the family of God since April 2001 and since that time I can no longer count the many blessings that the Lord has given to me. Although the enemy tried to make his way into our lives by giving us problems but when I called upon the Lord and begged Him to help me the dear Lord helped me and we survived.

I got sick and my children got sick too. But when I prayed to the Lord to cure us we felt His healing power and touch and we got well. When my daughter Abigail, suffered with severe eczema, I asked the brethren here and abroad to pray for her total healing and I praise God the eczema was healed. This June when the school year started I noticed that there is a stain of

blood in her socks. While she was asleep I looked at her feet and I saw that there are again some small wounds. I am not worried anymore because I trust the Lord that He will heal my daughter Abigail.

As a mother and at the same time a father to my children since my husband died December 8, 2001, I thank God for giving me enough strength, physically and spiritually. I work for three families. I am doing their laundry. Washing their clothes for one day and ironing the clothes the following day. That makes my six days work from Monday to Saturday. At my age of fifty, how can my body endure this hard work? It is because God gave me enough health so that I can earn for our living and feed my children.

I also thank God for all the clothes my children and I are wearing. God touches the heart of my brothers and sisters in faith here and abroad. They gave clothes to me and my children. Some of my friends and relatives gave some slightly used shoes and sandals. Oh what a blessing!

In Luke 12:22-31 Jesus said not to be anxious for our life, what we are to eat or for our body, what we are to wear. Life is more important than food and the body is more important than clothing.

Consider the ravens: they do not sow, they do not reap, they have no cellar or barn, yet God feeds them. How much more important we are than the birds.

Or take the lilies; they do not spin, they do not weave. King Solomon who was famous and rich was not arrayed like any one of them. If God clothed the grass of the field which grows today and is thrown on the fire tomorrow how much more will He provide for us?

People always worry about what they eat or drink. Unbelievers of this world are always worrying after these things. We children of God need not worry about what we are to eat or drink. Our Father knows what we need. Let us seek first the kingdom of God and the rest will be given to us. God will provide all the things we need. Brothers and sisters, God is so gracious. There is always a shower of blessing for His beloved children who trust in Him all the time. Praise His Holy name.

—Selected from the June issue of the *Life In Light*, the Muntinlupa Church of God bulletin.

A Testimony

By Sis. Mariz Mabanta

In April 2002 my feet landed at the Manila Port area. My very first time to see Manila, the capital city of the Philippines. I feel a little bit scared. I very well speak the native language of Davao City, which is Cebuano, but I cannot speak well the Tagalog language. I can speak Tagalog but not as good as the so called Manilenians. But with my relative, who came to fetch me at the Port Area, I know I'll be fine. We went directly to Muntinlupa City. Their house is just across from the house where the Muntinlupa Church of God worships, at Saint Catherine Street in Phase 3 of Sto. Nino Village.

I am a member of the Church of Christ of the Latter Day Saints or the Mormon Group. When I learned that there is a church, which is very near to my relative's residence, I am so glad. I told myself I could attend this Christian church. When Sunday came I was invited by Sis. Dinah Duremdes and Sis. Rose Seiga. That time, two of Sis. Dinah's nieces, Rosalie and Jennifer Malawit, became my friends. So I attended the Sunday Bible study and the Worship service. I enjoyed participating at the Bible study and was very blessed with the message delivered by Sis. Nellie. That same Sunday, Sis. Nellie talked to me about the Church of God doctrines and showed me also that some of the Mormons doctrines are not Biblical. I am beginning to study the doctrines of the Church of God but after a month I left Muntinlupa City and stayed in Makati City. I worked for a rich family as their family cook.

Working for this rich family as their cook is not easy. But with God's help I have learned to cook different recipes from the cookbook. The worst thing that I have experienced was that I was spanked when I did not go with them to the Roman Catholic Church on Sunday. The problem is that I could not just leave my employer because I have a contract that I signed. After a year and a half of not attending church service or worship I went back to Muntinlupa City in November 2003. When Sis. Nellie saw me she said she is happy that I am back. I was again invited to attend worship services, Wednesday and Sunday and Bible Studies too. After studying the church doctrines, I decided to attend the December Camp Meeting in Lomboy, San Jose City, Nueva Ecija and there I was baptized into Christ. I wanted to serve and be with the Lord God forever. My favorite song is "Amazing Grace." My favorite verse is found in Psalm 19:9. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever, the ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous.

—Selected from the May issue of the *Life In Light*, the Muntinlupa Church of God bulletin



Hubert John Corteway passed from this life to be with the Lord Jesus on July 29, 2004, at 1:05 p.m. Hubert was born to Jack and Mabel Corteway on May 27, 1920. He was married to Aneita Jean (Wilkins) on June 27, 1942. To this union six children were born. He was preceded in death by his wife Aneita Jean, and two children Deborah Ann and Marvin Dale. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth (Forbes) Corteway and children David and Joe Edah Corteway, Sharon and Dwight Huskey, Jerry and Marsha Corteway, Mark Corteway and Darryl and Penny Forbes, 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. He was loved by his family, friends and church members. Services were conducted by Sis. Maxine Busbee, Bro. Leslie Busbee and Bro. Gordon Humphrey. Interment followed in the Sunny Lane Cemetery in Del City, OK.

Note of Thanks

Our family would like to say a very special thank you for everyone who prayed for our Dad, Hubert Corteway, for all of your visits, phone calls, your concern and prayers. May God bless each one.

—Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marsha Corteway and family

Charles Ellis Taylor was born in Okmulgee County, OK on September 22, 1945. He was the eleventh and youngest child born to Felix and Fannie Taylor. He departed this life on July 14, 2004 after a short illness.

He completed his elementary education at Hallie School and after graduating from Grayson High School in 1964 he attended Langston University.

On February 15, 1965, he was united in marriage to his childhood sweetheart, Dannella Crisp. To this union six children were born.

Bro. Charles accepted Christ as his personal Savior in January 1967. From that time to his death he lived a faithful and devoted Christian life.

In 1977, while living in Wichita, KS, God called him to the ministry. He believed in living what he preached and preaching what he lived. After a few years, in 1983, God called him to the mission field in Seattle, WA. He ministered in the Northwest and Canada for four years before returning to Kansas for a brief period of time.

In 1990 he was called by the Lord to pastor the Church of God congregation in Fresno, CA. He faithfully labored in this capacity until his death. His last sermon of encouragement and admonition to the congregation was from the text found in Nahum 2:1, "He that dasheth in pieces is come up before thy face: keep the munition, watch the way, make *thy* loins strong, fortify *thy* power mightily."

He was a gifted minister with a sound grasp of the Word of God. He was devoted to furthering the kingdom of God and reaching out to those that did not know Christ. He did the work of an evangelist, he was a volunteer chaplain for hospice and he preached to the homeless in the rescue mission as well as devoting himself to the congregation. He was sound in the faith and he gave spiritual counsel and encouragement to those that were both far and near.

Bro. Charles' faith remained steadfast unto the end. He understood the power of faith and he never wavered. His testimony was that he knew the Lord could heal and his determination was to

trust Him. One of the highlights of faith in his life was when he was born. Bro. Charles' kneecaps were turned to the back of his legs. Through the prayer of faith God turned his kneecaps around to their normal position. He firmly believed that God is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Bro. Charles was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and pastor. He is preceded in death by his parents; Felix and Fannie Taylor and two sisters. Those he leaves behind with an eternal hope of being reunited with him are his wife of 39 years, Dannella, three sons; Marvin (Denise) Taylor of Fresno, CA. Charles LaMont (Kajuana) Taylor of Portland, OR and Alphaeus Taylor of Los Angeles, CA. Three daughters; Teletha (Eric) Carter, Tresa (Henry) Grimes, LaVonda (Ray) Jackson all of Clovis, CA. One special nephew Roshod Crisp-Higgs. Twenty grandchildren; DeAndre, Shawikka, Johnathan, Cidney, Shannitka, Nathan, Talya, L.J., Anthony, Ebony, Nysha, TeCara, C'Airre, Breanna, Eric Jr., Casiya, Ashley, Taylor, Amani, Amaya, and five foster grandchildren. He also leaves to cherish his memory six brothers and three sisters as well as the Fresno congregation, a host of relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted at Fresno, CA on July 17, 2004 and at Okmulgee, OK on July 24, 2004. Officiating ministers were Bro. Paul Phillips, Jr., Bro. Keith Fuller and assisted by others. Interment was at Hawkins cemetery, Hoffman, OK.



The Family That Prays

By Bro. Toney and Sis. Jeanie Samons

VIII. Church Manners

I Timothy 3:15 The deacons and bishops were instructed by Paul to know how to "behave thyself in the house of God." This included "ruling their children and their houses well." Timothy's responsibility to the body of Christ was referred to in this passage. The "body" is the Church of the living God. It can also be practically applied to our behavior when we come together to worship with the body of Christ. And anything that was given as instructions in the Bible was given to them so that they could set examples for the entire body of believers.

I think that we all are aware of the need to treat our places of worship with respect and honor. We would naturally teach our children a very respectful behavior when we come together in a place of worship. How our children esteem our place of worship is learned by the honor and respect that the parents give it.

We first of all must esteem it as a necessary part of our Christian life. The Bible teaches us to "forsake not the assembling of ourselves together." (Hebrews 10:25.) It is very important for our children to see us being at church services regularly and being there on time. You are proving to them it is very important to you. They must also see you as an active participant in the services: praying, singing, testifying, and taking part. We are a model in the way we dress for church services also. Traditionally people have worn their "best" to church. It is a way of showing you are giving God your best. We know we cannot use this as a place of dress competition or showing off but simply a way of respecting this time to worship God with a little more than daily requirements. This is something that many have lost sight of.

The "house of God" is a place we come to worship God, so naturally, we would always bring our Bible and use this time to do just that.

"Worship" means: adoration, confession, prayer and thanksgiving" according to the dictionary. We may want to reassess our true reason for being at church services. Adoration should refer to praising God. This has to be a public observation because it is a public worship service. Confession means we are there to learn about ourselves and humble ourselves and confess our needs to God and to others: prayer requests, in other words. Prayer is the actual public communication with God. We can pray privately, but again, we are in a public service, so we should be praying and agreeing in prayer in a public way. That is the reason we are there. Thanksgiving is public testimony to what God has done for you. These are necessary reasons to meet together to worship God. Our children need to be taught that this is the reason for being in "church." It is not a way of spending time or just enduring.

Many people have different ways of approaching the behavior of children in church services and we would be the last to say that there is a way set out in the Scriptures that is definite. But I think that we would all agree that there are practical tips to teaching your children church behavior. First of all, babies learn early that you are regularly coming to church. How often do you see very small children fuss when they enter a church building? They know it is "quiet time." So learn to use this as a time to set them down on the bench or floor and bring little things to entertain them quietly at this age when they cannot listen to the services. Our advice would be not to spend a lot of the time in the nursery (they quickly learn this is something they can fuss for) but to only take them there for the necessary times of changing and feeding and bring them right back to the services. This is not to say that there are not times when a child is not feeling well, etc, and this has to be adjusted. But the point is even a baby quickly learns that they can fuss and a parent will take them out or walk them. Do not always give them this satisfaction. Learn to get their attention by other means to keep them right there in services.

As much as possible children should be taught to sit in services. It is very disturbing to come to services and children are wandering from bench to bench and certainly we know that the noise level of children can be very disruptive. We can begin at an early age to teach our children that this is a quiet time and give them books or writing materials. Bring little Bible story books for them to look at, etc. It is good to have church bags for small children to keep them occupied and keep them sitting during church. When a child learns to read, require him to bring his Bible and teach him to

sing and follow along in the songbook and Bible. It is a wonderful thing to see their little minds reach out to this. Their memories are so wonderful and God designed it to be used in such a way as this. Memory verses in Sunday school are very important. These children will never forget those passages as they go through life. Teach them whole chapters. You will find it to be surprising what even a three and four year old child can memorize. Always reward your children for good behavior and memory work, certainly with praise and some parents use a merit system to motivate good behavior. They need to know you are pleased with them.

Decide between the two of you as parents what is an acceptable time for your children to sit apart from you. This cannot be dictated. But it is wise to keep your children close to you even then and know what is going on in church. It is not wise to turn your children loose to sit behind you in a church service and then never know what they are doing. Be aware that, though you don't, everyone else does know when they are talking and passing notes! We have a responsibility as parents to see that our children are behaving in church until the day they leave home. Make sure they are sitting in a place where you can observe this. And make sure you set out guidelines for the service so that they understand clearly what is acceptable to you and to the Lord for this special time. Continue to teach them that it is "God's house" and their behavior must be very respectable.

Teenagers are renowned to be the worst distractions in church services, because they are not babies, they are old enough to know better. Many times their behavior should not be contributed to being a teenager but to a lack of parental supervision while they are in church. Parents, take your responsibility seriously: those children are yours and not the responsibility of others or worse yet, not a responsibility at all.

We want our church services to be a blessed time for us all. If you are a parent, remember that you will not always get the full benefit of the church services because you have the duty of training and attending your children while there. But the Lord will bless you for taking your responsibilities seriously and even though you may not be blessed for the response to a song or scripture, the Lord will bless you for doing your duty as a parent. One last note: the more attention you give to your children in this training, while they are young, the more time you will have later to give in your church services because of a duty well done. May the Lord bless all of us.