

FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



Volume 83, No. 4 83rd Year Guthrie, Oklahoma \$5.00 Per Year June 2005

Don't Forget Monday

By Bro. Joel T. Tanganan

"Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort *you* by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more." I Thessalonians 4:1.

When Sunday comes, people say it is God's day. Millions and millions of people stop working and take a day off from work. Many will visit a church building to join others in worship, in singing, listening to the teachings of God and to study His Word. But after Sunday, here comes Monday. A question could be asked, "Where is God's place in their life?" After Sunday their lives and attentions are focused on worldly things. They forget God. Their spirit weakens and they can no longer remember Him.

Many who went to church on Sunday take the name of God for granted. Many who claim to

be "Christians" do not give honor and respect to the Almighty God. They do not care about God's law and ignore His plan of salvation.

Where do these people get the idea that God will be given honor and respect, attention and worship only on Sunday? They can not say that it comes from the apostle Paul's writings because in I Thessalonians 5:17 it says, "Pray without ceasing." This verse is telling us to continue praying and talking to God. There is an assurance that God is listening to those who spend time in communion with Him—from Monday till Saturday also.

In verse 16 of the same book and chapter it says, "Rejoice evermore," meaning, let us give praise to Him continually. How about verse 18? "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." If we will only analyze this verse, we will see that we must use all of our time in giving thanks and praise to God every moment and every day of the week.

Sunday is a very special day of worship for the Lord, but we should not stop there. Monday must not be forgotten and all the days of the week. A Christian's life is not for Sunday only. We should not give only one day of worship to God. God deserves praise, honor and worship every day of our life. Let us look up to Him always. Let us all worship God on Sundays and let us also continue to work with Him from Monday to Saturday. Let us not be what they call "Sunday Christians" only.

Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Don't Forget Monday | 1 |
| Grace to Grace..... | 2 |
| The Heart of the Fathers | 3 |
| Editorials | 4 |
| Prayer Requests | 6 |
| Meeting Reports and Notices | 6 |
| Letters from the Readers | 9 |
| Obituaries | 14 |
| The Heart of the Fathers (Continued) | 14 |
| Great are thy tender mercies, O Lord | 16 |

Grace to Grace

By Bro. Brandon Martens

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved)...For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." The word "grace" appears one hundred thirty-one times in the New Testament. One hundred thirty of those times, including the passage above, it has been drawn from the Greek word *charis*, which is defined as follows: graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act (... especially the divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life, including gratitude.) *Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary*.

Notice the section that speaks of "the divine influence on the heart and its reflection in the life." This is what sets the New Testament "grace" apart from the Old Testament "grace." In the Old Testament "grace" is found thirty-nine times. In all but one case it has been translated from the Hebrew word *khane* which means: graciousness, that is subjectively (kindness, favor) or objectively (beauty.) (*Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary*.) It is practically the same definition except there is no mention of a Divine nature having an intimate effect on someone's life. We are now living in the New Testament dispensation. Sadly, many people are living under the Old Covenant definition of grace expecting it to save them. Brothers and sisters, sinners and saints, the time of God winking at our sins is past. He sent His Son to change us. If you come to the Judgment Day and you have not let this Divine influence work in your life, you will not hear, "Well done my good and faithful servant." "How sad when He will say, depart ye for aye, when the day of His grace is past." Now is the time to let Him work in you. If you are living under the Old Testament grace, it is time to move from grace to grace. In light of this definition, explore what grace means to you. Be excited. "...many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see." (Matthew 13:17.) Grace means God, through His Spirit, has come to each one of us. What are we doing with His offer of grace? Someday it will be past.

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was need-

ful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness..." (Jude 3-4) Grace, as noted before, involves the power of God to change a life, to cause that life to reflect Him. Here we are warned of men who would try to change "grace" into "lasciviousness." Now before you start thinking this is a problem long since past, look at what *lasciviousness* means. The Greek word that *lasciviousness* was translated from means licentiousness, once again according to *Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary*. *Licentiousness*, according to Webster's dictionary means: using license; indulging freedom to excess; unrestrained by law or morality; loose; dissolute; exceeding the limits of law or propriety; wanton; unrestrained. When a person teaches that souls no longer have to measure up to the Word of God because we are saved by grace, they are "turning the grace of God into lasciviousness...." If they willfully continue in this path, they will become the certain men Jude is writing about. Please note that these men were not ordained unto life but unto condemnation.

Dear soul, if you have unknowingly been teaching or living believing that God's grace is simply forgiveness for whatever you may do wrong, remember this verse. "The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy." Psalm 145:8. Accept the fullness of His grace which will save you. Allow Him to work in your life to change you. He stands ready and waiting for you. To the soul who would harden his heart to light when it is clearly shown, read in Romans the first chapter. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;... Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,... Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts,... Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and

served the creature (man) more than the Creator (God), who is blessed for ever." Romans 1:18, 21-22, 24-25. Following these verses in Romans there is a description of what happened

to those people. The same will be true today for those who refuse to allow God to work in them to change who they are. Please make the right choice. It is time to move from grace to grace.

The Heart of the Fathers

By Sis. Marilyn Cole

And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. Malachi 4:6.

Our nation is experiencing many social ills in the twenty-first century that have germinated in the confusion about how fathers are to wisely nurture their children. Current trends include fathers who totally deny their responsibility and seek to end the lives of their sons and daughters even before they draw their first breath, and fathers who are excessively indulgent to their children in a wish to buy their respect. There are dads who are physically present but not involved in the lives of their children, and fathers who dominate with a self-willed heavy hand with little regard for the developing child's needs. None of these represent the kind of Father we have in heaven. A great number of our children are coming of age without ever having known the guidance they so desperately need to mature healthfully into young adults. This situation leaves both sons and daughters with gaping wounds that are too often passed on to their own children. God is good to us, however, and He has promised to be a Father to the fatherless.

We have the most wonderful heavenly Father that can be imagined, but children who have had an unfulfilled relationship with their earthly fathers have difficulty believing just how deeply God really cares for each of us. He gave us a beautiful example in His own love to us. If you are presently a father or may be one someday, please take time to examine and study the effects of your actions, as they will surely impact your children. God has placed great responsibility in your hands, and surely one day you will be accountable for your efforts or lack thereof in filling the needs of your children as God has designed.

A wise father leads his family in the paths of righteousness. The love he gives his children reflects the love that the Father bestowed on us while we were helpless and undeserving. So the young child is not able to earn or deserve the

earthly father's love, but it is given because man was created in the image of the loving Father, God. The child belongs to him, it carries the father's name and is loved because he was engendered or created by the father. Mothers may do much to nurture their child but the father is the giver of life. Just as our heavenly Father guards and guides us and loves us with a love that would rightfully be returned, so the earthly father must be involved in demonstrating his love and involvement with his children. Each of us longs to be held close and cradled in the strong secure embrace of his father as a small child and still, on occasion, as an older youth. Just as we cherish the times when God draws us near and assures us that we are His and He cares what happens to us, so a child longs to hear those words from his natural parent.

God meets the needs of His children. He created this amazing earth and generously furnished it with so many good things before He created the first man and woman. The garden supplied them generously with healthful food, shelter and companionship, and still further He delighted in coming to talk with them in the cool of the evening. He wanted them to realize their higher nature and placed Adam in a position of responsibility over the lower creations to cultivate strength and wisdom as he executed God's plan for the garden. A wise father will do all he can to provide these same things for his sons and daughters. A comfortable home need not be lavish but will meet the physical and emotional needs of the family as they grow and develop. There must be time and room given for play and work. Friends and siblings, with thoughtful parental guidance, give the child experience in relationships and getting along in the world while he learns to appreciate his own strengths as well as those of others around him. As the child matures, he must learn to carry increased responsibilities so that he becomes acquainted with the skills and disciplines he will need to equip him to guide a home of his own or to

(Continued on page 14.)

FAITH AND VICTORY

16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend camp meetings), by Willie Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044 (USPS184-660).

(Periodical postage paid at Guthrie, OK)

Notice to subscribers: When you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your zip code number. The post office now charges 60¢ to notify us of each change of address.

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES



Single copy, one year \$5.00
 Package of 5 papers to one address, one year \$20.00
 Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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.

In order to comply with Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

The *Faith and Victory* (USPS184-660) is published monthly, except August, for \$5.00 per year by:

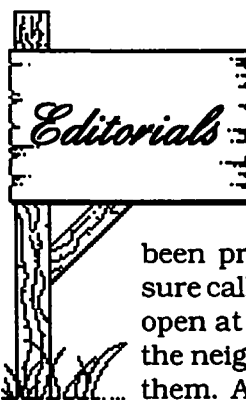
FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 518, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044
 Office phone numbers: 405-282-1479, 800-767-1479;
 fax number: 405-282-6318.

Internet address: <http://www.faithpublishing.com>

(Periodical postage paid at Guthrie, OK.)

Postmaster: Send address changes to: Faith and Victory, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044.



This spring my wife set out a few tomato plants and for some obscure reason, beginning from one end of the row, they mysteriously started disappearing one by one. They had been protected by a plastic enclosure called a "wall of water" that was open at the top and we wondered if the neighbor's goat had been eating them. After a couple of the plants disappeared, we put wire cages around those remaining. When the third plant disappeared we stacked the wire cages in a way that we were fairly certain the goat would be unable to eat the next one without us knowing it. Then one morning a few days later we noticed the fourth plant had likewise disappeared and the wire cages were undisturbed. We had observed that a little bit of soil was broken loose around the base of the missing plants and we began to think a mole or gopher was possibly the culprit. The root system was still intact on the missing plants and we could see the stem had been cut off nearly even with the ground level and the upper part of the plant was completely missing. In an effort to save the remaining plants, we dug a trench several inches deep around each one and buried used aluminum offset printing plates. Several days have passed since that time and the remaining plants are still standing so hopefully we have prevented the unseen creature from devouring the rest of the plants and we trust the Lord will allow us to enjoy some fruit from those remaining.

In Isaiah 53:2 a prophecy is given concerning Jesus Christ. It says, "For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground:..." Jesus came to this earth in the form of a man and while He was in a mortal body He was subjected to the pain and suffering that all humanity was made susceptible to since the fall of Adam and Eve. He was also placed in a harsh environment—the wicked leaders of the society in His day were not willing to accept the humble personage of Jesus nor the honest words of truth that He declared. When the time was right, God allowed His only begotten Son to be bruised for our transgressions and put to death.

In Genesis 3:15 God told the serpent, after he was successful in causing Adam and Eve to sin, "And I will put enmity between thee and the

woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." The suffering that Jesus endured as a "tender plant" in this mortal body was compared to having His heel bruised. His death on Calvary was only the conclusion of a small portion of His eternal existence. God was in the process of establishing His kingdom that would never be destroyed. (Daniel 2:44.) The kingdom of God has been established and in the words of Jesus, "...the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18.

The words of the fourth verse of song number 212 in the *Evening Light Songs* beautifully express the position that our Savior was elevated to after His sacrifice for the sins of mankind was accomplished. It says, "See the sov'reign of creation, King of earth and skies, All for sinful man's salvation thus he dies, he dies; Yet he lives, a mighty monarch, reigns o'er ev'ry foe, Causing mortal man to triumph over sin below." The power of God resurrected Jesus from the tomb and He is alive forevermore and is sitting at the right hand of God.

Jesus is giving the members of His kingdom power to overcome the wicked one. Romans 5:2 says, "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Thank the Lord for giving us "access" into His glorious kingdom and giving us power to live a pure, holy life in His service.

While it is wonderful to consider the marvelous power of God and the everlasting nature of His kingdom, we must also realize that the establishment of His kingdom in our hearts is also likened to a "plant" and must be cultivated and protected from the harsh environment (the world) that we live in. The world still does not know God and the spirit that is motivating the world today is the same spirit that prompted the cruel men to put the Son of God to a shameful death. In the illustration Jesus gave of the sower, He likened the Word of God to seed being spread on the ground. In Mark 4:19 it says, "And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful."

This illustration should be a wake-up call to many people today. No doubt tears are streaming down the cheeks of our Savior when He sees people carelessly allowing the cares of this world and their riches to choke the spiritual life out of their heart. What about the part of this

verse that says, "and the lusts of other things entering in?" May the Lord help each one to be aware when the enemy would bring these "other things" into our life and cause our spirituality to wither. You don't have to be rich to have the life choked out of your heart; the enemy has many "other things" to accomplish his evil purpose and he is satisfied to use any method to stunt your spiritual growth and silently steal the most valuable thing you possess.

Philippians 2:15 gives this timely counsel to the children of God. "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world." By carefully guarding the precious treasure of our heart from the crooked perverseness of this world, the "planting of the Lord" in our heart can become "trees of righteousness" that bring glory to His holy name. (Isaiah 61:3.)

— — — — —

By faith the work of the Lord is progressing at the Lord's Print Shop. The headstone on the grave of my grandfather and grandmother, Fred and Mary Pruitt says, "They manifested faith in the living God." After starting this work in 1923 there were many times that they stepped out on the promises of God by faith and this work was blessed and rewarded as a result. It is our prayer that God would give us the same courage to step through the doors that He opens and by faith take advantage of every opportunity to reach hungry souls and to cause this work to move forward and that the same pure message of truth would be a blessing to the cause of God and His church.

We have made a small measure of progress on our hardback binding equipment. The wiring of the multiple circuits on our backlining/headbanding machine is moving along nicely and should be completed in the near future. The intermediate rollers on our Harris offset press were badly deteriorating and they were sent out for recovering and have been returned. An opportunity has presented itself for us to obtain three skids of paper at less than a third of the price we normally pay and we have agreed to take them when we are financially able. Also we had the opportunity to buy another small offset press, a Multilith 1850, at a very reasonable price and we agreed to its purchase. It will either complement or replace the Davidson press we currently use to print tracts, *Beautiful Way*

papers and book covers. We also feel a burden to take advantage of a new door that has opened in a foreign country and plan to supply them with 500 to 1,000 copies of the book, *The Church of God* by D. S. Warner. We have printed 2,500 of these and they are currently waiting to be assembled and stitched.

There has been a request for the article we printed in the May issue of the *Faith and Victory*, "The Church of God and Sects Contrasted" by H. M. Riggle to be published as a tract and we are considering making that available.

There are times in the management of this work that decisions and steps must be taken when the end cannot be clearly seen and in these times we feel a great dependence upon the Lord. Pray for us that God will give us understanding to make the right decisions and reveal His holy will for this effort to promote His kingdom.

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

Prayer Requests

OK—Sis. Geneva Lowe is suffering from the effects of a stroke and is in much need of prayer.

OH—Sis. Betty Goldstein is having problems with her eyes and desires prayer. She also has other burdens that are weighing heavily on her heart.

CA—Bro. Don Viser has several friends who have cancer or other physical needs. Please remember them in prayer.

Standing Prayer Requests

Carlos Arriago
Sis. Mamie Butcher
Sis. Helen Carson
Sis. Waneta Creel
Sis. Charlotte Dilliner
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. Marie Mitchell
Sis. Melba Powell
Sis. Anna Severs
Sis. Catherine Shaffer
The Mitch Taylor family

MEETING DATES

Green Bank, WV—June 10-16
Tulsa, OK—June 12-19
Jefferson, OR—June 17-26
Okmulgee, OK (Sisters' Retreat)—June 24-25
General Southern
(Loranger, LA)—June 26-July 3
Fresno, CA—July 3-10
National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 15-24
Myrtle, MO—July 29-August 3
Bakersfield, CA—August 10-14
Boley, OK—August 18-21
California State (Pacoima, CA)—August 19-28
Spoooner, WI (Tent Meeting)—August 24-28

MEETING NOTICES

GREEN BANK, WV, CAMP MEETING

The annual Green Bank Camp Meeting is scheduled to begin on Friday evening, June 10 and continue through Thursday evening June 16, Lord willing.

Services will be held daily at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Two meals will be served daily, with breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and the noon meal immediately following morning service. There are no afternoon services scheduled.

All are welcome to attend this meeting. Dorm spaces are available for the young people as well as rooms and private homes for others. Please bring your own bedding and towels. Come prepared for cool weather. You may want to bring a heater or fan as we have unpredictable weather in June. It would be good if you could call ahead so we can better arrange accommodations. Please provide as much of the following information as possible: name and phone number, date of arrival and departure, number of adults and children in party. However, if you decide to suddenly drop by, you will be welcome. Accommodations will be provided.

The campground is located off Route 28 and 92 in Arbovale. Signs will be posted to direct you to the grounds. Camper hook-ups are also available.

For further information call Bro. Mike Carpenter at (304) 456-3250 or Bro. Jim White at (304) 456-4192.

Come praying that the Holy Spirit will have full reign in this meeting.

TULSA, OK, CAMP MEETING

The Tulsa, OK, 2005 Camp Meeting will begin on Sunday, June 12 and end on Sunday, June 19.

There will be morning and evening services Monday through Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. On Sunday, Sunday school will begin at 9:30 a.m., worship service at 10:30 a.m. with afternoon services on both Sundays.

All are invited to attend. Come praying and expecting great things from the Lord and also to be a blessing in the services.

The chapel address is 1102 E. Pine Pl. (The nearest intersection is Pine and Peoria.) For more information contact the pastor, Bro. Charles Lowe, (918) 584-6838 or Bro. Charles Rhodes (918) 272-9682. The chapel telephone number is (918) 585-2442.

OKMULGEE, OK, SISTERS' RETREAT

The 2005 Sisters' Retreat will convene on June 24-25, 2005 at the Church of God chapel in Okmulgee, OK, at 1515 E. First Street, for sisters age 21 and up. There will be two full days of sessions. We will need individuals to volunteer to teach these sessions (married or singles.)

The theme for this year is "Possessing Those Traits of Godly Women." This retreat will be supported by freewill offerings. Please pray that the Lord will have His way and bless this retreat. Donations can be sent to: Sisters' Retreat 2005, Church of God—Evening Light, 322 Lindsay Street, Alcoa, TN 37701.

For those needing hotel accommodations, we have reserved rooms at the Days Inn located in Okmulgee, OK. For four (4) individuals to a room (two queen-sized beds) the total cost will be \$55.00 per night. If you have comments or would like additional information, please contact: Sis. Mary McDonald (865) 977-6997, Sis. Carrie Porter (865) 984-2348 or Sis. Clara Phillips (918) 758-4240 for directions to the location in Okmulgee. Please send all e-mails to tnsistersretreat@yahoo.com.

GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMP MEETING

You are invited to share in the General Southern Camp Meeting scheduled Sunday, June 26 through Sunday, July 3. There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Please bring your own sheets and linens, if possible. Power and water hook-ups are available for those with campers. Meals will be served and expenses met by freewill offerings.

From Loranger, LA, travel two miles south and about three and one-half miles east on

Hwy. 40. For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about 10 miles east of the Tickfaw exit. (Take Hwy. 442 east which runs into Hwy. 40.)

For more information, contact Bro. Carlos Doolittle at (985) 878-8122. The chapel phone is (985) 878-2788. Come praying for a special visitation from the Lord and that lives will be changed.

FRESNO, CA, CAMP MEETING

The Fresno Camp Meeting starts July 3 through July 10, in the chapel at 388 N. First St. We invite you to worship with us during our camp meeting. On the first Sunday there will be three services and Sunday school. Sunday school will begin at 9:30 a.m., morning service will begin at 10:30 a.m., afternoon service will start at 2:00 p.m., and evening service will start at 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday there will be services at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The last Sunday, following Sunday school, there will be morning and afternoon services at the regular times with the evening service omitted. Please join us for food for the soul and body.

From Hwy. 99 North, exit Belmont and turn left. Continue to First St. and turn right. Go to the second block and turn left on Grant. From Hwy. 99 South, exit Ventura East. Go to First St. and make a left; then go to Grant. Turn right. The church sits on First and Grant.

For further information, call Sis. Dannella Taylor at (559) 348-9029 or Bro. Eric Carter at (559) 292-8217.

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 15-24, 2005. 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

BAKERSFIELD GOSPEL MEETING

Greetings from the Church of God here in Bakersfield, CA. Welcome to our annual gospel meeting. The dates are August 10-14. There will be two services daily: 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. On Sundays we will have Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., worship service at 10:30 a.m. and an afternoon service at 2:30 p.m.

All are welcome. Come expecting a blessing. Join with us praying for the success of the meeting that many souls will be blessed.

Bro. Hayward Cox, pastor, (661) 836-3877.

BOLEY, OK, CAMP MEETING

The Boley, OK, Church of God Camp Meeting will be held August 18-21, 2005. Services will be nightly at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday, August 20, there will be three services, 11:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday services will begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., worship service at 11:00 a.m. and afternoon service at 2:30 p.m. (No night service.)

We are soliciting and appreciate the prayers and support from all of the ministers and saints in behalf of our camp meeting. Some overnight lodging is provided. The chapel is located at 220 N. Oak, Boley, OK just north of Boley High School.

For further information contact Sis. Savannah King, (918) 667-3654 or (918) 667-3392. Sis. Anna Mae Thompson, Pastor.

CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The California State Camp Meeting will be held August 19-28, 2005 at the campgrounds located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA 91331. The first service will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, August 19, with three services daily thereafter. For more information, please contact either the Sunset Guest Home at (818) 899-2022, Bro. Paul Phillips at (661) 251-6956, or Bro. Herbert Clay at (818) 897-1396.

MEETING REPORT

WICHITA MEETING REPORT

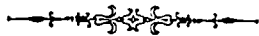
Thank the Lord our meeting went well. Bro. Darryl Johnson delivered a stirring message for the dedication service Sunday, May 24. He exhorted us to see about our individual temple and make sure God is dwelling in it. His presence will cause us to be spiritual within our new

building and souls who need salvation will be attracted to God living in our lives and will also want to be saved, thereby adding to the church and filling more of the seats and space.

We had a number of ministers attend the meeting at one time or another. One would come, stay a night or two and then leave and another would come. We thank the Lord for the help of each one. There was good altar work as different ones sought for deeper depths and higher heights in the Lord. At the end of the meeting Sis. Mary McDonald made us aware that we had been given a number of spiritual remedies in the messages that we heard. 1. The blood. 2. Empty out self. 3. Take the land. 4. Know God. 5. We have a heavenly Father. 6. Trust and Pray. 7. Be encouraged. 8. Walk without fear. 9. Give up our will. 10. Be filled with the Spirit. 11. Healing. 12. Never give up. 13. Be doers of the Word. 14. Christ is the answer to all of our needs.

We thank the Lord for His blessings.

—Submitted by Sis. Shirley Knight



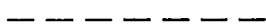
LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

KS—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey: The Lord has answered many prayers for us down through the years and recently He has answered some very special prayers. We are so thankful.

“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.” Jeremiah 33:3.

Christian love and blessings,

—Sis. Naomi Hiebert



OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings to you in Jesus’ precious name. I am so thankful for Jesus and for what He means to us. He is our righteousness, our wisdom, our joy, our peace, our comfort and our hope of eternal life. One scripture says, “Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.” I Peter 1:8. Some blessed day our faith will be lost in sight and we will see

Him as He is and enjoy His everlasting kingdom with all the saints and with all the things that He hath prepared for them that love Him. All of this is worth pressing forward to.

Your Brother in Christ, —T. V. McMillian



OK—Dear Saints: I hope all are encouraged and pressing forward in the Lord. He surely is a great God and watches out for our every need.

In February I went to Missouri to do some work and after a couple of days felt tired and quit to rest that evening. At the time I did not realize that a sickness was coming on me that would last over a month. I was able to drive myself home to Guthrie, OK and on arrival went straight to bed. After two or three days the Lord allowed me to get worse and I was unable to rest and had severe pain in my body. We called for prayer and I was anointed but God did not heal yet. He allowed the restlessness and pain to continue. After about two weeks into this illness I began feeling better but also noticed my left leg hurting. The pain in my leg progressed to where it hurt so badly that I could get almost no rest day or night. We called for prayer and many times the saints came and prayed and through much importunity to God I began to slowly improve. I thank Jesus Christ our Savior for answering prayer and healing my body of this illness.

I surely want to thank each person who called, sent a word of encouragement, visited and prayed on my behalf to God for my healing. We can be thankful for a God who not only knows our individual pains and illnesses but also has a family of saints to support us when we are at a low point in our lives.

On one of the many cards we received, the following scripture from Isaiah 40:31 was of great encouragement. “But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.”

Sincerely with Christian love,

—Bro. John and Sis. Wanda Gibson



OK—Dear Bro. Willie, Sis. Neta and saints: April 17, 2005 our entire family was very nearly plunged into eternity. My eyes opened seconds before we crashed into a pick-up truck that had pulled across our lane. There was only time for “God have mercy!” He heard that prayer and caused His angels to cushion the blow. The

front of our van nosed down on the right and flipped upside down then rolled over two and a half times, stopping with the driver door against the ground. I was hanging suspended from the seat belt on the passenger side, unable to move. I saw Frankie climb past me and out my broken window. A fireman reached in and held me around the neck. I asked him about our boys. He told me they had gotten out and were all right. A group of fireman gathered around my window. One lowered a back board down through the window and strapped me to it. A few moments later they pulled me straight up and out of our van. Four hours after the crash we were home. We had all survived; bruised, broken and shaken up, but still alive. Thank God!

The overwhelming response from the saints has been very humbling. We have been permitted to see God's love in action. Different sisters stayed with us for days to minister to our needs. Calls started coming in. The saints were lining up to help us pray through the hours and days and weeks of recovery. The cards soon filled our shelves with beautiful pictures and encouraging words. To me the cards represented praying saints. How can we ever thank you all for the sacrifices you have made for us? Your support, your caring, fasting, praying and giving have bound our hearts to each of you more strongly than ever before. You have truly proven yourselves to be our brothers and sisters in Christ. We love you and thank you from the depths of our heart.

—Bro. Frankie, Sis. Lynne,
Josef and Benjamin Millis

— — — — —
KY—Dear Brethren: Greetings in Jesus' precious and holy name! I trust all are encouraged and still pressing on. I just wanted to do what I told the Lord I would. The Lord is healing my body of an affliction that I have had for over a year. Different ones have prayed for me and the Lord kept encouraging me to trust in Him. I told the Lord I would and here recently He has been blessing me with the physical touches that I stood in need of. The work isn't completed yet but my God has promised me healing!

In family worship the other morning He gave me the song *Living By Faith* and the Scripture found in I Thessalonians 5:24, "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." So I am standing upon my Lord and His Word that He is going to finish the healing! Praise God! The Lord has been bringing the Scripture to me at differ-

ent times, "...I am the LORD that healeth thee." Exodus 15:26. That is why He sent Jesus to supply our every need! Praise God! I love my Lord and want to serve Him with my all! Pray for me that I will be faithful! My husband and I and our little family want to please the Lord in all things.

Love and prayers, —Sis. Sarah C. Howard

— — — — —
SC—Dear Saints: We want to thank the Lord for His bountiful blessings upon us and give a report of Mom's accident and subsequent stroke. On April 8, 2005, Mom and Sis. Marie Weatherford came to our home for us to enjoy a visit and have an agreement in prayer. As they left, Sis. Marie was following Mom to make sure she made it home safely. A few minutes after they left, Mom was involved in a serious car accident. She had to be cut out of the car, and her car was completely totaled. As she sat in the car waiting to be removed from the vehicle, bleeding and frightened, Sis. Marie stood by her side comforting her, reassuring her and praying for her. Soon Bro. Andy Weatherford arrived and was able to get into the car with Mom. Both of them helped to calm her until the EMTs were able to remove her from the vehicle.

On April 9th, Mom was told, in so many words, that the extent of her injuries were a matter of life and death, and on that same day she had to undergo emergency surgery. God graciously brought her through the operation, and when we left her that afternoon, she was doing fairly well. We were told that her femur was broken, her heel had been crushed, and later told that her ankle was also broken. The next morning, on April 10th, I went into Mom's room, and I noticed that her speech was slurred, her mouth was drawn and something seemed to be wrong with her. I talked to a nurse, and the nurse also noticed something was amiss. After testing, Mom was told that she had suffered a stroke. Her speech, voice and swallowing were the main things affected.

It would take up too much space to mention the many ways God has been faithful, merciful and precious to all of us through this fiery trial. He has spoken to our hearts with comfort through the kind and loving hands of caring friends, saints from afar and through His tender Holy Spirit. After realizing that Mom will no longer be able to drive or to live alone, the dear saints in our local congregation generously

offered to donate their labor, time and love into building a room onto our home for Mom to live in. We have been so touched by the love they have shown to us here in our local congregation. There have been several who have labored many hours on the completion of this project, not for worldly gain, but out of sheer love, concern and compassion. We would like to thank each one who has lifted their hand to help, and we would like to especially thank Bro. Floyd Crummie for coming up with the idea and being so faithful in so many ways and Puncho Pratt and Bro. Andy Weatherford for being here almost every day since the beginning of this project. Many days they could have received pay for their labors, but they chose to be here working for the Lord, obeying His Word and showing their concern and love for Mom, a widow indeed. Also, we are grateful to Bro. Clinton Crummie who has spent much of his time in between jobs helping with the completion of this project.

Words cannot say how deeply we appreciate them and each one who is helping with this. We would also like to thank all of the saints who have called, sent cards and other gestures of love, the outpouring of e-mails we receive on a regular basis keeping us encouraged in the battle and each one who has breathed Mom's name in prayer. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cynthia Lennon came from North Carolina and prayed for Mom and their visit was such a blessing to us. A few days later, Bro. Larry Abbott came over 600 miles from Ohio to be with us and to show his love and support during this difficult time. Both visits meant more than we can say. We are without a local pastor, so the visits from the ministers were so precious and appreciated. Please continue to pray for Mom throughout the remainder of this trial. Also please pray for comfort and encouragement for Sis. Marie, as this was a very hard and traumatic event to have to witness and go through. Kevin, Zachary and I would also appreciate your prayers. Thank you all so much for everything. The saints are so precious to our hearts, —Bro. Kevin, Sis. Cheryl and Zachary Smith

— — — — —

MO—Dear Bro. Willie: I want to be faithful to share a thanksgiving with the saints of how the Lord worked out a new job for me recently. I live in Neosho, MO and had been working in Bentonville, AR as a draftsman at RTW for

several years (45-mile drive). For some time I had felt the Lord wanted me to switch jobs and find one closer to home. My wife has had some serious health problems, and the long work hours and long drive prevented me from being home as much as I felt I was needed.

It was always hard for me to think of leaving RTW as I was almost too dedicated to my job. In a way I felt indispensable and I didn't want to leave or even look for another job until I knew someone could properly fill my shoes. That was an honorable approach, but even with my boss aware of my intentions, somehow things dragged on and on for a long time with no real solution in sight.

I also had other concerns about finding a new job. One of them being the fact that after being at a company for 11 years it would be hard to find another job close to home with similar salary and vacation benefits.

Last summer at the Monark camp meeting, I counseled with a minister concerning some of this. He encouraged me to go ahead and start looking for another job. We are *not* indispensable and businesses almost always survive and carry on without us. God can work things out better than we might expect. I remember him telling me, "Don't put the Lord in a box. There might be some little company out there that you are just what they need and they'll be willing to pay you for it."

I started looking for another job and went to a couple of interviews, but it seemed nothing good had turned up yet. Then one day towards the end of last December, the owner of a local cabinet shop called me up. He wanted to talk with me about possibly doing drafting work for them. (I had previously worked for them out in the shop for a year while I was going to college.) Although it would be switching drafting fields (mechanical to architectural), I went ahead and discussed things with them. It seemed like things might work out. They said they would get back with me after the first of the year.

I didn't hear anything from them for some time, so I finally called them up and got confirmation that they were still interested. They said they had just been really busy with some other things. Without the new job at the cabinet shop being really finalized, I decided to go ahead and give my boss some notice that I would be leaving RTW. That would give me a little more time to finish up some projects there before leaving. He

understood that I was serious and started searching for a replacement.

A couple more weeks went by, and I still didn't hear anymore from the cabinet shop. I started getting anxious and worried. Had they changed their minds? Was I now going to be without *any* job? (My current boss was getting resumes in and reviewing them for my replacement.)

Finally I got to the point where I had it all committed to God. If a new job at the cabinet shop didn't work out, God must have something else in mind for me. I still felt like He had wanted me to change jobs. I guess God just wanted me to get to that place. He wanted to make sure I had the new job committed to Him too—even before I got it.

Shortly after that I was able to meet with the people at the cabinet shop again and get things finalized. I started working there on March 21, and I enjoy the job.

Looking back, true to the prediction, I seemed to be a good fit for the specific needs this company had. I was able to get comparable pay and they worked with me on the vacation issue. They were even the ones that initiated the contact as they came looking for me!

There were many other details (too many to mention here) concerning the transition. The way they all worked out so miraculously makes me know that God was doing it. All of this has meant a lot to me and my family and we are very grateful to God for it. With this testimony I want to proclaim along with others, "God is good and faithful when we trust and follow Him!"

Yours in Christ,

—Bro. Ronald and Sis. Lori Cole
— — — — —

OK—My heart is overflowing with praise and thanksgiving for an instantaneous miracle that God worked in my body. On June 7, 2004 I sustained an injury in my back and neck. Due to this injury, my body would spasm and jerk uncontrollably. For over eight months, my life was drastically changed. It was so bad that many times I was unable to sit through a worship service due to the severity of the spasms. I have been physically unable to carry on with the work that God had me doing prior to the injury. God did put a hedge around me. When I was able to be in service, I would not have the spasms while in the pulpit. My body would jerk before and after but not while preaching. That was miraculous in and of itself.

God had given me a real peace and rest during this affliction and I have been blessed and strengthened by the Holy Spirit. I knew that God was in control and I was in a safe place by submitting myself fully into His hands.

On Friday, March 25, before leaving for Canada, I was in a very severe battle. My body was jerking very hard and I had a bad headache, which has not been uncommon. I told my wife that it seemed like the nature of the battle was changing—and not for the better. Saturday morning, while in a motel in Seattle, I was praying and seeking God for reprieve. I asked the Lord to help me in the service that night to not have one spasm (I hadn't had a service free of spasms for months). I then said, "Lord, You could just give me this whole day." While in prayer, the Lord gave me a vision of Christ hanging on the cross with the blood flowing from His side. He inspired my faith to plead the power of that blood. God worked a miracle in my body that moment and, Praise God, I am healed of the spasms.

I have suffered this uncontrollable jerking for many months and the future was uncertain, but thank God He saw that it was enough. Since that time, when my nerves and muscles begin to send "foreign" signals to the rest of my body, I pray and plead the blood. God has been continually bringing that vision of Christ to me — and the blood has prevailed over the spasms.

God divinely, instantaneously healed me of this jerking. It has not been gradually getting better. It stopped immediately through the power of the blood of Jesus. There is still healing in the blood of our Lord. I cannot cease to give praise to God for this wonderful deliverance.

I am still suffering with serious complications from the physical injury to my neck and back and am continuing to pray that God will heal me of that also. But thank God, I have control over my movements now. I appreciate so much the prayers and support of the saints for my family and me during this time. We have a greater love for the saints than ever before and are thankful to be part of the family of God. Thank you all for your prayers. God has heard each of those prayers and seen each burden. In His time, God was moved on His throne and had mercy. As in the days of old, He stretched out His hand and divinely healed. "Thank You Lord...."

As many of you have shared in the burden, I wanted to share with you the victory. Please continue to remember me in prayer.

—Bro. Michael Smith

— — — — —

From Honduras...

April 29, 2005—Dear saints at the Print Shop: Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May the Lord's richest blessings be on you all for answering His call to do this wonderful work. I enjoy reading these papers and I am sure there are many, many more souls that are blessed from your work. There is a reward for each of us if we work faithfully. Praise the Lord for His marvelous work!

We are thankful for those that God has been sending from time to time to share His Word with us here in Honduras. We are truly thankful to the Lord for His love and the love and concern of His people. We can't afford to let one bit of the Word slip from us. We need to always let it find a lodging place in our hearts. Ephesians 6:17 says the Word of God is the sword of the Spirit and Hebrews 2:1 says, "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip."

Please continue to remember us here in your prayers. Please pray that more souls will accept the truth and be ready to meet the Lord in peace.

Yours in Christ, —Sis. Lila Hamilton

— — — — —

From the Philippines...

April 26, 2005—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings in Jesus' name! Thank you, brother, for the continuous love. The Muntinlupa Church of God is doing fine. We have Saturday night Bible study in my house with the young people, and Bro. Louie Tangunan is with us whenever he comes home early from his job. April 1, 2005, we started inviting all passers-by to come and study the Word of God in my house. Now I have experienced talking to different people. Some are really interested in learning the Word of God and others just come for an argument. But this keeps me encouraged to go on. We need much prayer for God's direction and guidance for this work.

Bro. Willie, could you please send me some religious books or materials which we could use in our Bible study group? There are those who

come and read books and magazines in my house and we are planning to put up a Bible study center. May God bless our plans.

Please continue to pray for us. We love you. God bless you abundantly.

Your sister,

—Nellie T. Tibayan

— — — — —

From Nigeria...

May 31, 2005—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings to you, your wife, Neta, and other dedicated workers at the Print Shop in Jesus' precious name.

We thank God for the support He has continued to supply to the Faith Publishing work in the printing and dispatching of the truths to different people in the various parts of the world.

The *Faith and Victory* paper and the *Bible Lessons*, which have been in constant supply, continue to be valuable spiritual materials to us. A few Sundays ago, we studied together the subject of "Meekness" from the April *Faith and Victory*. It was real food to our souls. I collected the advance copy of the May issue last week. We are grateful for your dedication and those making the necessary sacrifice to ensure that the papers get to us.

In our recent, four-day revival work at Ogu we extended our outreach to some towns called Nonwa and Gokhana where we preached and distributed the *Faith and Victory* as well as the *Beautiful Way* papers. The afternoon of two of the four days were dedicated to the extension work. The cassette playing on our public address system mounted on the gospel van easily attracted people to us along the route we took. Papers were shared along the road to people who happily collected them. We are now praying that God should open the way for us to enter into these new fields we have found.

Our national camp meeting is planned for September 14-18, God willing. The five-day meeting will be held again this year in Port Harcourt. Since the church has no national campground, we hope to continue in rotation. Last year it was Kwale, as reported. A ministers' meeting to plan for the camp meeting will be held this weekend. The principal of a government secondary school allowed us to use their facilities for the camp meeting. Please pray that these efforts will be fruitful.

Thanks for your support and remember us for tracts and booklets if they are available.

May God bless you and reward your labor. Yours in Him, —Bro. F. Naths. Igbani



Willie D. (Bill) Daniels was born to John and Edna Daniels on February 12, 1933 in Hennessey, OK and departed this life February 17, 2005 in Wichita, KS. He started school in Hennessey, but his family moved to Wichita where he finished school.

He married Susie Phillips and three children were born to the union, Willie, Jr., Denise and Carleta.

He sought the Lord for salvation and was baptized some years ago and became a member of the Church of God. Because of his health he was not always able to attend church but really enjoyed the singing when he went. He loved the song, "Heavenly Love" and would often request it be sung.

Bill was always easygoing and able to comfort and console people. He was especially close to his sister, Johnnie Bea, and tried to take good care of her after her husband's death a couple of years ago. He was kindhearted and generous and will be missed by those who loved him.

His father, mother, three brothers and one sister preceded him in death. He leaves to cherish his memory, one son, Willie, Jr. of AR; two daughters, Denise (James) of Aurora, CO and Carleta of Atlanta, GA; two brothers, Earl (Mavis) of Wichita, KS and Osbie of Los Angeles, CA; two sisters, Johnnie Bea Gutierrez of Wichita, KS and Mildred (Thomas) Turner of Tucson, AZ; 12 grandchildren; five great grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

The Heart of the Fathers

(Continued from page 3.)

engage in pursuits in the adult world. As children move into teen years, they must be guided in learning to set goals, earn money for some of their wishes or needs, and learn to willingly carry a portion of the duties of the home. They learn to respect themselves for their own contribution and learn that their place in the home and family requires that they share in the work and responsibility.

Consistent, wise and firm discipline is a critical part of fatherhood. Developing an obedient and cooperative attitude in a child and supporting respect for the mother, begins with the loving relationship but is further shaped and molded by the regular oversight of a father who has his finger on the heartbeat of his developing family. Mothers surely have much responsibility and need to guide the home and cultivate productive attitudes in their children. But consider the words of Christ when He deferred judgment to the Father when He spoke of the day of judgment in which God would meet out judgment according to words He had spoken at the command of the Father. Fathers, your children must know that you have standards, reasonable expectations that they must strive to meet and that you are both willing to demonstrate those behaviors and expect and require that they follow your example. Both sons and daughters will benefit by the team effort shown by both parents working to bring about behaviors that create a home with respect, love, peace and a reasonable degree of organization that will include all members contributing to the whole. Mothers are on the scene most often perhaps, but the role of leadership of the father is critical to patterning God's discipline for us. We are assured that we know we are His children in part because He cares for us enough to take the time to guide us, shape us and improve us by means of His instruction and discipline. In the Bible, we read that Eli, one of God's chosen men, failed to discipline his grown sons and for this his lineage was ended. This disrespect did not begin only when the sons were adults but was surely present when his sons were about his knees. Perhaps Solomon's greatest downfall was a result of David's lack of guidance in an area that had been a weakness for his father as well. These stories and many others are preserved for our benefit, that we

"And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:8.

might learn from the mistakes of others and avoid them for our own children.

A recent well-known magazine published an article that stated that fathers are the rule breakers of the home. Though good fathers are willing to experience fun and good times, it would be unwise to think this statement true. Granted, there may be times when the regular routine is varied, when a mistake is overlooked, when a special occasion merits an exception to the normal household order. But just as God is the one who delineated good and evil, who has promised judgment for doers of wrong, so fathers must support the spirit of the law of the home. Right and good must be upheld. The wise father may enjoy pleasurable times with his family without allowing compromise of respect for individuals and goodness to enter into the fun. Strong relationships of respect and love are forged when fathers take time to play and relax with their children. When a father can laugh and enjoy his children's giggles, when he can engage in conversation, a game or give a hug to his teenagers, they feel safe and secure. Children who see their father relax and enjoy time with them from time to time feel that life is good and something to be treasured. Though Christ was not a father, He took time to bless the children and His father's heart went out to the widow who had lost her only son and He paused to raise him back to life. He appreciated the simplicity and beauty in the innocence of the small child and, indeed, said that we may not see heaven unless we become so ourselves.

Our loving heavenly Father is no respecter of persons. Similarly, the earthly father strives to avoid partiality. Jacob grew up in a family where partiality and duplicity were present and he came to experience both in his children. God made good come in spite of these weaknesses, but much pain was felt by his sons and by Jacob himself because of this partiality. In all families, the privileges cannot always be totally even on every occasion but are accorded justly according to the need, maturation and responsibility of the child. Sons and daughters are all valued, and young and old are meted out due respect for their needs in an age appropriate equality.

A good father listens to his children. He encourages them to open their hearts to him, and he realizes that it is important for them to learn to trust him to care about the deep things of their hearts. Our heavenly Father longs to have us bring our hopes and dreams to Him and

ask His guidance in these matters. Similarly, a godly father cultivates his children's trust that they may learn to depend on his wise counsel in making choices that will determine the successes or failures they may experience in life. He demonstrates to his children his requests to his Father as he kneels and makes his needs known in prayer. And as he knows that his Father would not give him a stone if he requested bread, so he earns the trust of his sons and daughters that he has their best interests at heart and will provide for their real needs as best as he is able.

A great many more comparisons could be made between our heavenly Father and the role of natural fathers. These few items, though, will convince us that God is keenly interested in how you are carrying out this high position or how you are preparing to do so someday. The children of our nation are suffering today for lack of father love. Many of the fathers themselves, having never had a godly example, have no concept of the joy and responsibility that is possible to experience in parenting. They do know the satisfaction that can be felt to see sons and daughters growing up and raising up strong homes of their own.

God has a special place in His heart for the fatherless. His Word mentions in several places that His people share this tenderness and provide for the needs of those who are in that situation in life. It was a part of His reason for coming to earth that the heart of the fathers should be turned toward their children and that those children would grow up strong, secure and with a foreshadowing of the love of their heavenly Father from their relationship with their natural father. This is a great calling—a very great calling, indeed. Most men will be fathers in the simple physical, but what kind? How will their children face life as a result of their training. Our nation is crippled today for lack of men who have sought out God's guidance in their relationships with their children. God's Word and Spirit will guide those who seek His wisdom in this great calling of life. It is more important than your job, more than anything else you will do other than choosing to serve Him. It is your job to build the future men and women of God's families. Take time out to study His Word and dig out the truths that have been preserved for us as you guide your family. You are responsible to God for your care of these children, His little ones. You are called out for this high purpose. You are made in the image of God, our own heavenly, loving Father.

“Great are thy tender mercies, O LORD:...”

By Sis. Arlene Tibayan

I bought a booklet so that I could write my everyday blessings from God. It is called *A Personal Journal of Everyday Blessings*. I have been keeping this record for almost three months now and I thank God for the opportunity to write many of the blessings and wonderful experiences I have had in the past and I would like to share one of them.

Last February 14 I had an unforgettable experience. Again our dear Lord guided me and took good care of my life. That day I was late to work. We have a flexible schedule and I arrived after 9:00 a.m. and was supposed to leave work at 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.

At a quarter to 6:00 my office mate told me to go home and ride along with our sales people because they have a van service. I thought it was a good idea for me to save a train ticket that night. My house is far from the place where I work. Everyday, when I go to work, I have to take

a bus from Muntinlupa to Makati and from Makati City I take a train going to our office.

I did what my office mate told me and rode with them in the van to near the Ayala, Makati City MRT (Metro Rail Transit) station. Under the MRT station is a bus terminal going to Muntinlupa City which is my regular route home and is where I would have normally come. But that evening a friend sent a text message to my cell phone and reminded me that she would be waiting for me at the Landmark Department Store and would have dinner with me later on. So I asked the driver not to drop me under the MRT station but to take me to Pasay Road a few meters away from the station. As we passed by the Ayala MRT station, I can still clearly remember the crowd of people I saw waiting for buses. One of our sales people even said, “Oh, so many people!” I answered, “It is always like that, especially during rush hour.”

At 7:30 p.m. I was already with my friend at the mall and we were starting to have our dinner when a commotion started. I began to panic when I saw everybody running. I said, “What’s happening?” In my panic I didn’t realize that I was also running and I didn’t even know the reason for the commotion. Then I realized that I had left my friend at the restaurant so I went back. She said, “Arlene! Stay here. We are safe here.” So I tried to calm myself down and remember to pray. I was praying “Lord, take care of us. I trust that You will be with us.”

After my prayer some of the people said, “There was an explosion at the Ayala MRT station.” I was shocked at the news. I said, “Thank God, I did not drop there.”

The explosion that took place under the Ayala MRT was from a bomb that had been planted in one of the buses that stopped under the station. The bus with the explosives was lined up between two other buses and it caused all three buses to explode. Six people died instantly and more than 90 people were injured.

If I had not met my friend that night and had dropped under the MRT station, I would have been waiting for the bus along with all of the other people and I don’t know what would have happened to me. I thank the Lord for protecting my life. Sometimes I have been weak and I have made mistakes and wrong decisions, but I thank the Lord so much for taking care of my life and for giving me the privilege of doing God’s will and not my own. “To God be the glory.”

FAITH AND VICTORY **Order Blank** VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY

\$5.00 PER YEAR (11 Issues)

Mail this form to start or renew your own subscription — give a friend a gift — or do both! It only takes a minute.

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Start or renew my Faith and Victory subscription.

Send a 1-year gift subscription to the person named below:

Gift to _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail Order Blank and remittance to:

*Faith Publishing House
P. O. Box 518
Guthrie, OK 73044*

6/05

FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY