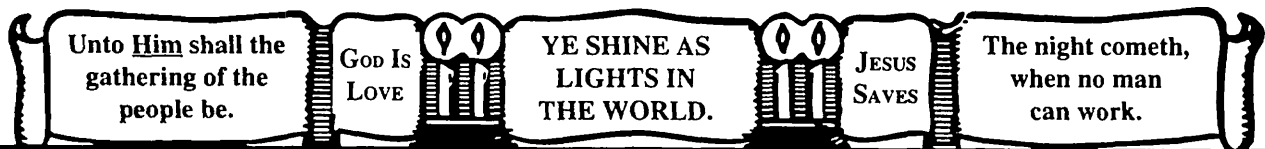


# FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

## Church of God Servant



Volume 83, No. 6      83rd Year      Guthrie, Oklahoma      \$5.00 Per Year      Sept., 2005

## A Vision Of The Thief

By Sis. Genevieve Carver

I wonder if perhaps most of us mortals have desired deeply to see an angel, for we have heard of some folks who have. I always wanted to be blessed by God to see an angel before I died, even if it were at my deathbed. But to see a "vision" would have been out of the realm of possibility, so I thought, and I never gave my mind the freedom to think on something that I believed could never come to me. A vision is a mystical experience of seeing (as if with the eyes) something supernatural. Surely visions were for the "man of God" for whom God had a special high regard, deep love and respect. I would never have been able to believe that God would be so gracious as to give a vision to me, but He did!

I remember it as being about 3:00 one afternoon when there appeared on my field of vision a scene in progress. Two men were walk-

ing on a road, coming from opposite directions and very soon to be abreast. The scene didn't continue long enough to bring them together; in fact, the vision was very short. I suddenly realized that all motion had stopped and I was looking at a still scene. With high interest I noted every detail and the truth of the message came directly into my heart and mind. I was greatly aware that here was a message of significance and I was thrilled in my spirit. I can describe it to feel like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus must have felt, when they told each other, after they had walked unknowingly with Christ, "Did not our hearts burn within us, while He talked with us by the way?" The two men had just recognized each other and were extremely joyous to see one another. I had a full frontal vision of the one man who was coming my way and only a side view to my right of the other man. Both were walking as if to meet the other enthusiastically. I had immediate, positive recognition of both men. The one I had seen only from the side was my late husband, and the other man of whom I had the full view was the thief from the cross on Mt. Calvary. Both men were smiling, and the thief's smile was so full it was almost a laugh. His eyes and whole face were lighted up with overwhelming joy.

After recognizing my husband, my focus remained on the thief in the vision. He was of medium build with full, medium brown hair but not a "shock" of hair. He wore a plain dress shirt with the top button opened. I remember it as being on the order of a gray or subdued blue

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color and his pants were a medium shade of brown without pleats. He looked neat and fresh.

It seemed that the two men were "in" on a silent secret understanding of each other without ever having seen one another before. This was Paradise and the first time they had met since arriving there. The thief was happy because he had been granted permission to be there with the saved people such as my husband and to be one of them. My husband seemed to realize that he himself was truly in Paradise because here was "the thief" to prove it.

I have used the words "it seemed" for there was no speaking in the vision. I was made to understand what it was all about as I looked on, and I knew the thief right off. It was without question, although I had never seen him before. The scripture came to me from I Corinthians 13:12, "For now we see through a glass, darkly, but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." From this scripture and the vision God granted me, I reason that when we all get to heaven we will all know one another, even our names, on sight, without introductions. Though we don't know the thief's name, I began to think as I was watching the vision that, "We'll call him Thief." He won't be offended and everyone will know he is happy. Thief will be a celebrity in heaven for all eternity. Everyone will want to see him as soon as they hear of him. Thief will be a memorial through all eternity that will speak the story of the merciful, forgiving Savior who on earth was not willing that any should perish.

At the beginning of the crucifixion, Thief had joined with the other malefactor in reviling Jesus as the chief priests mocked our Lord saying, "He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God." Matthew 27. Verse 44 reads, "The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth." Mark 15:32 records, "...And they that were crucified with him reviled him." As the crucifixion wore on, one of the malefactors, hanging on a cross, railed on Jesus, taunting Him to come down from His cross and save Himself and both the thieves, if He was the Christ. But then the other, Thief, rebuked him and said, "Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss."

And Thief then said to Jesus, "...Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." Jesus said unto him, "Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in Paradise." Luke 23:40-43. Thief had become a believer through the happenings of that day. He had changed 180 degrees—from railing and total unbelief—to total belief in Jesus being the Christ of God, the Anointed One, the Messiah that was to come.

After the first sight of my husband in the vision, I only looked back at him once. My interest was intensely on Thief. I kept my focus on him because of knowing who he was and because of his delightfully beaming face. My husband had passed away about three years before and I had longed to have a dream of him but never had. The vision of him now was not what I had desired. Actually, Thief had upstaged him! I cannot really be disappointed because of the blessing and message that touched my soul. As I later thought over the vision, I wondered why God had chosen to reveal him to me. I had never given much time at all thinking over him or studying the incident told in the Bible. Now I know it's the most wonderful story in the world! In Jesus' last dying, suffering minutes on earth, He saved a "degraded low-down thief" as he hung on the cross, pinned to it by nails through his flesh. Jesus saved to the last. It all makes me to believe there is hope for anyone of us who will believe in and confess Him. Don't give up, because Jesus is willing to save and carry you through the gates of His heaven and present you to His Father. Let's tell the world the story of such love and acceptance!



### Where Shall I Work?

"Father, where shall I work today?"  
And my love flowed warm and free.  
Then He pointed out a humble spot  
And said, "Tend that for Me."

I answered quickly, "Oh, no, not that!"  
Why, no one would ever see.  
No matter how well my work was done;  
Not that little place for me!"

The word He spoke, it was not stern;  
He answered me tenderly;  
"Ah, little one, search thine heart,  
Art thou working for them or Me?  
Nazareth was a little place,  
And so was Galilee."

—Selected

# His Wonders of the Deep

By Sis. Jeneé Doolittle

"They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; These see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep." Psalm 107:23-24.

These scriptures were a real challenge to me. If I ever want to get a taste of who God really is and what He can do for me, I have to be willing to break away from the shoreline and sail into some bigger water. Launch out into the deep!

When we visit the ocean, most of the time we focus on the beach, or the shore. It's relaxing to hear the waves lapping on the sand, watch the breakers form and roll, and find seashells of every shape and size. But in reality, we miss so much of what the ocean really is. There is so much more to it than the breaking waves we all find so refreshing. Way out there and down under the water, the ocean opens up into another whole world that is powerful, fascinating and mysterious.

Many times, as Christians, we miss the essence of what being devoted to the Lord really is. If we will cut our ropes and dare to launch out, we will find that God has experiences and

treasures for us that are priceless. The waters may be a little rougher and storms more frequent, but this is the very opportunity to see what kind of God we serve! This is when He comes on the scene and works in the miraculous ways we've longed to witness for ourselves. We will stand in awe of His power and love and be able to see God for who He is.

I am reminded of an article Bro. Bob Wilson wrote some time back. He was using the scripture in Ezekiel 47. The water in this chapter was living water. Anything this water touched was healed and purified. It was a mighty river that could not be swam over—it was the wonderful river of God's love. The man in the passage was led deeper and deeper into the water until he could no longer touch bottom but had to let go and let the force of the river carry him.

This is what God wants from us. He wants us to cut the ropes of selfish humanity and completely yield to the force of His love. We will then have an experience like we have never had before and the rewards of it will be deeply fulfilling. Launch out into the deep!



## Heart-Garden Watering Weeds?

By Bro. Carlos Doolittle

During an extended drought, I was dragging hoses to keep plants alive and healthy. I began to think of our heart gardens. What did the prophet mean in Isaiah chapter 58 when he said that we can be "like a watered garden?" Isn't Palestine a somewhat arid climate? I remember reading that Solomon dug irrigation ditches to water his orchards. As a landscape horticulturist, I am familiar with burying PVC pipe, solenoid valves, wire and sprinklers for an automated irrigation system. In my experience, a watered garden takes both planning and effort. Water often represents the Word of God in Scripture. Think how necessary it is for spiritual growth and progress in our lives. Naturally, rain is critical to our crops. The "early and latter rain" was critical to crops in Israel, also. In Isaiah 44:3 the Lord says, "... I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed,

and my blessing upon thine offspring. And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses." Just as our God sends rain on the just and the unjust, so He wants His Word to reach to all.

When I picture God's Word raining freely down on our hearts, I recall the many church services and meetings I've attended where truth was freely taught and practiced. These "times of refreshing" are so necessary for our spirits, but, of course, they are not enough. These truths fall on the ears of both the just and the unjust. We must construct reservoirs and frequently tap into the Source for ourselves so that we may be able to grow in the dry times between.

Isaiah 12:3 tells us one way to acquire water for our souls. "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." The rest of the chapter instructs us to praise the Lord.

(Continued on page 12.)

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

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

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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.

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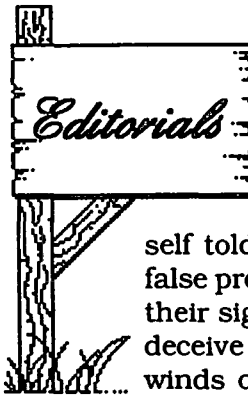
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There are many spirits at work in the world today attempting to deceive and destroy the souls of men.

We were warned in the Scriptures that this would happen and Jesus, Himself

told us that false Christs and false prophets would arise and with their signs and wonders attempt to deceive the very elect. With these

winds of false doctrine blowing so furiously around us, we should be sure we are secured to something that has eternal stability and that will keep us from becoming a spiritual catastrophe.

Jesus referred to two types of men who built houses in Luke 6:48-49. It says one digged deep and laid the foundation on a rock and the other man laid his foundation on the earth. Both houses then were subjected to the severe winds and forces which brought extreme pressures to bear on these structures. While one collapsed, the other stood firm. Surely all of us admire the one who stood firm in the pressures of life and none of us want to be like the second man that had a complete loss. Notice what the difference was that caused the first man to be considered a wise man. Jesus said, "Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will show you to whom he is like." Oh, so that is the reason his house was able to stand. He came to Jesus, he heard His sayings and did them.

These three things are still essential for us to be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Jesus is not here in a physical form for us to come to in person like He was at one time, but we come to Him now in spirit through prayer. His sayings are heard by reading His Word and listening to His still small voice speaking to our hearts. The Lord also speaks to us through His true ministers and we can come to Him by attending worship services where God's people are gathered in His name. Gathering with His people and listening to His servants bring forth the Word of God should enhance, not replace, our personal contact. Prayer, reading and meditation on the Scriptures provide a vital link to God that cannot be replaced. Many people are led astray and lost because they have failed in this area. False prophets abound in numbers and what they say must be compared to the Scriptures for our soul to be protected from their deceiving influence.

I John 4:1 says, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." We should be careful how we "try" the spirits. Often, instead of comparing them directly with the Word of God, we compare them among ourselves. It may be that the ones we choose for a comparison have not measured to the Word either and the resulting distortions cause both to go in error.

While it is very important for us to come to Jesus and hear His sayings, it is equally important for us to follow through with the knowledge we have been entrusted with and do them. All of us have known those who have been thoroughly instructed in the ways of righteousness and yet they failed to do what God was expecting of them. Generally when one is unwilling to do the Lord's will when they have such knowledge, they fall prey to the spirits of deception. Their knowledge causes them to be more accountable and when their hearts refuse to obey then their vision of truth becomes distorted. Sadly, this is the state many find themselves in today and they seem to be blindly oblivious to their lost condition before God. How careful we should be to be "...doers of the word, and not hearers only,..." James 1:22.

The application of the Word in our lives is what really causes the fruit of righteousness to mature. The first two are important by helping us have knowledge of His Word and how it should apply to our lives. That knowledge will also help us understand His divine nature, His abilities, His plan and expectations of us and His willingness to give us strength to carry out His will. However, actually doing His will is what brings us into His favor and fellowship. This choice is left in our hands.

How can a servant of the Lord really be a servant unless he does his Master's bidding? Too many are like those who Jesus spoke of saying, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" They will be classified with the disobedient and the slothful servant. (Titus 1:16, Matthew 24:26.) Do not allow this lethargic inactivity to find it's way into our Christian relationship because it will surely cause us to be destroyed. How subtly the enemy brings rationalizations to our mind to justify not doing the Lord's will. Some people seem to be experts at justifying themselves in wrongful things. Are you one of those experts? I hope not.

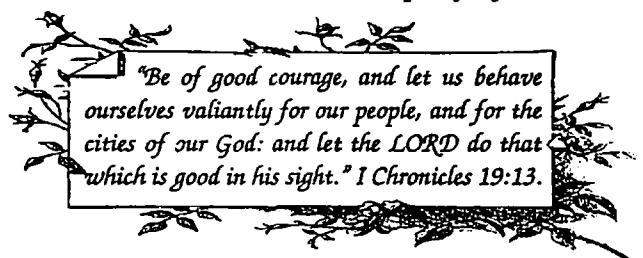
If so, it is time to take heed to God's Word and begin building your life on the eternal principles that He reveals to us. Then the storms and pressures that rock this world will not destroy our souls and neither will the judgment fire of His wrath consume us because we did His will. We will be sheltered safe within the arms of God.

Those who gathered for the National Camp meeting at Monark Springs, MO were blessed with a rich outpouring of the presence of the Lord. The saints of God singing the songs of Zion stirred the deep emotions of the heart in a wonderful, holy way and the messages preached with the anointing of His Spirit caused our hearts to burn within us.

The spiritual importance of the meeting will not be fully realized until the saints meet around the throne of God, but we are thankful for the good that has visibly come from it. We rejoice for the souls that sought the Lord at an altar of prayer and found Him precious and for those that received spiritual strength and help from the Lord. The healing power of God was also present. We have report of one brother who was so weak and sorely afflicted when he attended the meeting he could barely walk with crutches. The saints carried his need to the Lord in earnest prayer and God has answered. He is now doing much better, even joining into the activities with the young people. What a mighty God we serve! How blessed we are to be a part of God's family and share in fellowship with His holy people.

Our hearts have been touched as we have heard of the path of destruction left by the recent hurricane that has passed through the southern states. The saints in these areas have been in our prayers and we trust the Lord will help you in the days ahead and give you strength and courage to meet the challenges of each day with victory in your soul.

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





AR—Remember Sis. Virginia Harmon in prayer. She has broken her leg near the ankle and is very weak in body. Also remember Bro. Harmon and the family as they provide care for her.

KY—Pray for my son, Maneth, he got saved and desires the Lord to help him be delivered from cigarettes. He also has a personal, unspoken request.

My grandson, Michael, is thankful the Lord spared him and three of his friends who were involved in a car accident. He is recovering from injuries he received and is now out of a wheelchair and is able to use a cane to get around. He still needs prayer.

My daughter is expecting a child and has slight sugar and blood pressure problems. Please remember her also. —Sis. Kay Griffitt

PA—Remember Sis. Joyce Houck in prayer. She is having a very difficult time with her nerves. —Sis. Barbara Campbell

## Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Carlos Arriaga  
 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

Duncannon, PA (Revival)—September 8-11  
 Wichita, KS (Fall Meeting)—September 18-25  
 Durham, NC (Revival)—September 22-25  
 Myrtle, MO (Singing)—October 1  
 Politilly, Honduras (Tent Meeting)—Oct. 2-9  
 Holly Hill, SC (Revival)—October 9-16  
 Victorville, CA (Revival)—October 14-16  
 Alcoa, TN (Revival)—November 10-13  
 Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—Dec. 23-Jan. 1

## MEETING NOTICES

### WICHITA, KS, FALL MEETING

The Wichita Fall Meeting has been set for September 18-25. There will be three services on Sundays and two services Monday through Saturday (11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.). Please pray for the meeting and attend if you can. All are welcome. We are looking to God to lead and direct in the meeting.

If you need further information, you may contact Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at (316) 778-1848 or Bro. Theodore McCray (316) 682-3152. The chapel phone is (316) 267-9582. The chapel is located at 2509 N. Grove. Grove is only three blocks east of Ash (old chapel street). Go North on Grove past 24th Street to 2509 N. Grove.

### DURHAM, NC, FALL REVIVAL

Lord willing, we are planning a fall meeting, September 22-25, 2005. Services will be nightly at 7:30 p.m. May God send His ministers as He chooses. We are looking for an outpouring of His Spirit. Pray that sinners will be convicted and saints will be encouraged. Phone: (919) 544-2203, (919) 740-3748 Cell. God bless,

—Bro Jerry Lennon

### MYRTLE, MO, ANNUAL SINGING

Lord willing, the annual fall singing will be held at Myrtle, MO on Saturday evening, October 1 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.

**POLITILLY, HONDURAS, TENT MEETING**

A meeting is planned in the village of Politilly on the island of Roatan, Honduras October 2-9. We plan to have both morning and evening services. This is our second tent meeting. We really enjoyed the last meeting and look forward to the one coming up. We invite all the saints interested in coming to join us. If you do plan to come, please let us know as soon as possible so we will know how to make sleeping arrangements and other plans.

Please bring your own bedding, such as sleeping bag and pillow. You will need mosquito repellent (pump spray) for protection at night. The meeting has been set for a dry time of year when the mosquitoes are much less of a nuisance.

For further information you may contact Bro. Doug Wall at [dwall@churchofgodmission.com](mailto:dwall@churchofgodmission.com). The ones here really enjoy visitors coming from the States.

**HOLLY HILL, SC, FALL REVIVAL**

We would like to extend a cordial invitation to attend our fall revival. Lord willing, it will be held October 9-16. There will be one service daily at 7:00 p.m. Accommodations and meals will be provided to all who feel burdened to come and worship with us. If you are planning to come, please contact Bro. Floyd Crummie at (803) 496-5768 or Bro. Tommie Platt at (803) 496-5414, so arrangements can be made for your stay. We hope all will come who are able, and we trust all will pray with us for the Lord's blessings and anointing in our services. We are so dependent upon Him for all things.

**VICTORVILLE, CA, FALL REVIVAL**

Here we are, through God's grace, anticipating the special blessings of our Fall Revival. We are looking to reach our community for God October 14-16.

Worship will be Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday 12:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Pastors Travis Johnson, Alice Johnson and congregation invite you and your support and prayers. The Church of God chapel is located at 11515 Baldy Mesa Rd., Victorville, CA 92392. (This community is also known as Baldy Mesa.) Phone (760) 949-1617, chapel (760) 956-6330. Mailing address: P.O. Box 290861, Phelan, CA 92329.

**MEETING REPORTS**

We want to thank the Lord for how He blessed in our June camp meeting here at Holly Hill, SC. God's presence was real and our hearts were refreshed and encouraged by the precious preached Word. We are without a pastor, so we especially look forward to these meetings to uplift, encourage and revive our hearts. God is so faithful to bless and meet with us and keep us encouraged. In Christ,

—The Holly Hill, SC Congregation

**SPECIAL NOTICES****MONARK CDs AVAILABLE**

CDs are now available of the Monark services and special singing. Please contact Justin & Angela Sorrell at (417) 748-1522 or e-mail [jusnangela@yahoo.com](mailto:jusnangela@yahoo.com). Price is \$2.00 each. Address is 447 Twilight Dr., Crane, MO 65633.

**LETTERS  
FROM  
OUR  
READERS**

OK—Bro. Willie Murphey and Wife: Thank you for the encouraging letters you and others have written. I am sending my testimony that I am still encouraged to go to the end. I thank God for sparing me from being injured in several falls that I have had. I am thankful He has spared my life and I am trying, through prayer and songs, to work until the final trumpet call.

Christian love, —Sis. Mary O. Jones

AL—Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings to you and all the workers at the Print Shop. We are praising the Lord for all He does for us. We were able to attend two camp meetings this summer, West Virginia and Louisiana. All the messages were wonderful and being with the saints of God was very special. I had prayed that the meetings would be good and they were. I felt like each message was for me. We received so much good from both meetings.

I am learning more and more how to serve Him. Pray for me that I would be what He wants me to be. I truly want to go to heaven when I die.

Christian love, —Sis. Betty Herron

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings in the name of Jesus, the One that loves us and died to save us from our sins that we might live with Him in eternity and enjoy His presence forever.

We are glad and thankful for the many blessings that God has bestowed upon us. He has sent plenty of rain to keep the grass pretty and green. He also sent us rain spiritually to keep our hearts encouraged. I want to be faithful until I have finished my course here and then reap the reward that He has promised to them that love Him.

Your brother in Christ, —T. V. McMillian  
— — — — —

MO—Dear ones: I am rejoicing daily in the dear Lord's mercy and guidance in my life. The sale and move from where I had lived for 31 years loomed before me as a great undertaking, but as I look back at how the Lord has guided me, I just marvel at His working.

What would I do without Jesus? What would I do all the day with no kind Savior to help me? No one to care if I went astray. Life would be scarcely worth living if the dear Lord were not near, filling our hearts with His presence, filling our life with His cheer. I can truly sing with another poet, "As I look o'er the past I behold, how His wide arms of mercy held me." Praise and honor belongs alone to the great God of heaven. Christian love, —Sis. La Verna Probst  
— — — — —

LA—Dear Bro. Willie, Sis. Neta and children of our Lord everywhere: Greetings in our Lord's name! Praise Him for all of His goodness to mankind! What a mighty friend! Our Lord is blessing the work here. Many prayers are being answered.

Our schools in this area start August 15. Let us pray more earnestly for all children. Changes are coming rapidly. Only strong faith in God and prayer can protect them. Thank the Lord for the church schools. Dear children of God, keep on the move for God and right. Only if we remain faithful can we succeed.

Our precious sister Nava Jo "Short" Hutchinson was released from about 33 months of suffering. Close to two years of this time she was confined to bed. She talked very little, but we do have her testimony that she was happy. From all indications she was at peace with her Lord. Our hearts break when we think of all she went through. Yet, we believe God was working

out His purpose and we are comforted in knowing He does all things well. She was in Lake Manor Nursing home in New Roads, LA when she passed. Three of her sisters lived in New Roads and were there every day giving her the very best of care, reading the Bible to her and doing all they knew how to help her. Her response was encouraging.

Keep careful, prayerful and be faithful. Oh, the joy of standing before our Lord in judgment and hearing Him say, "Well done, my faithful servant." With love and prayers,

—Sis. Gladys S. Cashio  
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OK—Dear Willie and Neta: I want to thank the Lord for His great love and mercy that He has extended again to me. At 6:00 a.m. on July 4, I was awakened with my head spinning and an awful sickness and hurting going from arm to arm and in my chest. I prayed earnestly for help from the Lord. When that lifted a severe pain was in the top of my head on the right side. Then all down my right side went numb.

I realized that I had a light stroke and called Bro. Stanley for prayer. He and Sis. Karen came right over. They prayed about three times before the Lord undertook. Bro. Stanley prayed for the Lord to stop it and put it in reverse, and the Lord did just that.

The numbness began to let up. I stayed in bed all day. By the next morning the numbness in my face and limbs was gone. I thank the Lord for answering prayer and for His love and goodness to me.

I was a little weak and trembled a few mornings but am pretty much back to normal again. All praise unto the Lord!

I also had a blood clot in the left leg the Lord took care of a week ago. I just thank the Lord. He saved me when I was 26 years old and now I am 84. He has stood by me through all the tests and trials of life. He's been my constant companion. I dearly love Him. He's my first love. I want to live to glorify Him and make heaven my home.

Your sister in Christ, —Imogene Taylor  
— — — — —

MO—Dear saints and readers of the *Faith and Victory*: This thanksgiving is long overdue, but I wanted to share a divine healing. About a year ago, I started having pain in my neck every day. The pain would go up in the bone in the base of my head on the right side each time. It got where I could hardly turn my head or lean my head from side to side.



I felt inspired to be anointed in our local congregation. The Lord immediately eased the pain and within a few days all the pain and stiffness was gone. Thank the Lord! I am thankful He is our healer in Zion. In the past few weeks, there has been a little pain start up in my neck again. I just rebuke the devil and stand on Gods promises and claim my healing.

He has healed me of so many things the past several years. As a child, I had asthma very bad. I've had arthritis since I was twelve. God has healed me of both and I do praise Him.

Satan is till out to steal, kill and destroy. We need to hold our ground that the Lord has given us. I have been encouraged with the Scripture in Jeremiah 29:11. "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." God looks on each of us with such love and compassion. He wants only the best for His trusting children.

Stay encouraged, —Sis. Dena Porter



KS—Dear Ones: I truly want to honor my Lord for what He has done for me. The first week in June I broke out with shingles from the middle of my upper back, under my arm to the middle of my chest. I spent some sleepless nights from the deep pain that accompanied them. I have known others that had them for months and didn't feel worthy to ask for a quick fix for myself, so I began asking for grace one day at a time. As the people of God heard about my need, they began praying that the Lord would heal me and that the shingles would not run their normal course. He heard their prayers in my behalf and within two weeks the sores were dried up, leaving me with a sunburn sensation that He soon took away also. It has been marvelous in my eyes. Once again He has shown His mighty power.

Oh, the love of the family of God! During this time I was taking reservations for the Monark meeting and was hearing from saints in various locations. I received a call from a sister in Florida and I began telling her about the Lord healing me and she began rejoicing as she said they had been praying earnestly for me and couldn't wait to go to church that night to tell the rest. I had no idea that they had heard anything. We heard a message last night on "Have Fervent Love Among Yourselves." I have been a recipient of that fervent love. You are my people and your God is my God. I wouldn't want to do anything to break that sweet fellowship.

We also appreciate how the Lord spared our daughter, Retha, when she had a spell with her heart this spring. The times when we felt so overwhelmed and didn't really have time to just stay on our knees before God, we felt a strength in knowing others were praying for us.

We are Heaven bound and whatever it takes to get us there will be worth it. Keep loving and praying for us. —Sis. DeLoris Bradley



**From Germany...**

**Ghana Missionary Report**

In the name of Jesus, I send greetings to every reader of this paper and to all saints. I thank our Lord Jesus Christ for saving me through His blood and cleansing my heart from all sin, for making me His servant and making me free from my service to satan. I thank Him for also being the Saviour and Physician of my family and that He is the One on whom we trust and hope.

Three years ago the Lord called me to missionary service in Africa and talked about a certain country—Ghana. When I looked at the map the Lord showed me Ghana, but at this time I did not understand the voice of the Lord clearly enough and I also did not know much about the country. So I decided to travel to another country called Ivory Coast which I knew a little about. The last day before our departure to Ivory Coast I became aware that this country's main language is French and I did not understand a word of French. But thank God, even being in danger among robbers and murderers, the Almighty held His hand over us and helped us in every situation. A year later we travelled to Kenya.

Later, when I heard about Bro. Michael Smith's website and visited it, I read the report about Ghana and God again talked to me and reminded me of having talked to me earlier. After this we decided to travel to Ghana in order to visit the saints there and to help them.

The Lord lead us so wonderfully. I did not have the address of the saints in Ghana but my letter arrived at its destination so that I was able to establish contact with Bro. Maxwell. But we also had difficulties. When we arrived at the airport in Accra, nobody was there to receive us because the letter with our itinerary, which I had sent over two weeks before our departure, had still not arrived there when we arrived. We had to stay in a hotel for one night and find our way there the next day. But thank God, the Lord helped us and we arrived there safely.

Ghana is a free but a poor land. Most of the people understand the English language. The people there are thirsty and hungry for the Word of God and are also eager to learn in all things. Most of the time during our visit we stayed at the mission house the saints built when Sis. Dorothy Keiser was a missionary from the Church of God in Ghana. We also visited the congregations in three neighboring villages and held services in the evenings. In some villages there was no electricity and we had to use oil lamps. Most of the people are dressed poorly and only eat one meal per day. The preachers there ask for their food daily and God fulfills His promises.

With the funds that one family offered we were able to buy 25 Bibles for some of the ones in need. The Church of God in Roetgesbuettel also offered money so that we were able to start sinking a well to make it easier for the women to get water who have to either buy their water or bring it from a valley which takes a lot of time. Because the well was not finished until our departure from Ghana we and many of the saints in the whole world prayed earnestly that they might find water and thank God, in a letter which I received recently, Bro. Maxwell wrote that they found water.

There are more needs in Ghana. Please pray for the saints in Ghana and in the whole world. Please pray for the missionary work and especially for me, the least of your brethren. We have a longing to support the saints there in the future and to travel back to Ghana. May God bless you all and especially those who support the work of God with prayers and in deed.

Your brother, —Alen Laukert  
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#### From India...

August 28, 2005—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to you dear ones again in the marvellous name of Jesus Christ.

All of our congregations are doing fine. The week of September 3<sup>rd</sup> is our ONAM festival days. We decided to conduct youth camp meetings on that week. Our new fields at Vadasserikara, Thekkummala and Chembur are progressing. We request your prayers for the needs in these areas.

Our prayers are for the ministry all over the world.

Yours in His service, —Bro. John Varghese



**Edwin D. Eck** was born near Meno, OK to Dan A. and Ida (Becker) Eck on December 27, 1917 and was received into his adored Savior's presence on Sunday afternoon, July 24, 2005, from his home in Goltry at the age of 87. Edwin was the eighth of seventeen children. The family enjoyed singing and playing musical instruments. Edwin, as a young boy, played the drum. Later he began playing the mandolin and French harp. They played their instruments in many of the local farming towns and for family gatherings. Mixed with the work and everyday chores of farm life, the Eck children also enjoyed playing many games; croquet and horseshoes were some of their favorites.

Edwin attended the Cozy Palace School near Meno and graduated from the eighth grade, May 16, 1932, with class "A" honors. In 1940 he moved to Tulsa and lived with Bro. and Sis. Sam Barton. While in Tulsa he took a course in aircraft sheet metal at Spartan School of Aeronautics. After completing his training he worked one and a half years for Spartan Aircraft Co. in the manufacturing and assembly of aircraft parts. He began training for a private pilot's license for which he was approved in December 1946.

In December of 1946 Edwin found his sweetheart and their relationship blossomed into a lifetime of happiness. They were married Easter Sunday, March 28, 1948, in Myrtle, MO by Bro. Sam Barton. They began their life together in a small garage apartment owned by his sister. In 1949 they moved to a small three room house near Meno. It was here that their home was blessed with two daughters, Elois and Neta. In 1961 they purchased a farm with a two-story house near Goltry. To their joy, twin boys, Darrell and Merrill, were born in October of

1963. He was a wonderful, loving husband and father, providing a new home and working hard on the farm. Much diligence was given in maintaining his fields.

The Lord began dealing with Edwin at an early age and answered his prayer for healing while he was a young child. This healing was a memorial in his life that he never forgot. After his term of active non-combat service, the Lord began to gently deal with him about his spiritual condition and he responded to the call of the Lord and obtained a genuine experience of salvation. His walk with the Lord was kept fresh and vibrant to the end. The evening before his passing the song, "My Jesus I Love Thee," was sung at his bedside. It made an impression upon his mind as later that evening he quietly repeated the phrase, "I'll ever adore Thee." These were some of his last earthly words. His frequent testimonies and earnest prayers will be greatly missed by the congregation of the Church of God in Enid, OK.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dan and Ida Eck, six brothers, Joseph, Albert, Adam, Waldo, Clifford and Wilbert, and six sisters, Eva, Melinda, Carolina, Susanna, Inez and Rutha Mae.

He is survived by his wife, Lillian; two daughters, Elois Spinks and husband, Mark of Jefferson, OR, Neta Murphey and husband Willie, of Guthrie, OK; two sons, Darrell Eck and wife, Danita, of Goltry, OK, Merrill Eck and Pam of Beatty, OR; eight grandchildren, Coquette and Abigail Spinks, Stephen Murphey and wife, Monica, Elizabeth Murphey, Kysha, Slater, Kean and Christopher Eck; three step-grandchildren, Jeremy and wife, Miranda, Chelsea and Cameron Gilliland; three step-great-grandchildren; three sisters, Clara Wahl of Enid, OK, Ruey Tucker of Henryetta, OK and Ella Mae Jarvis of El Dorado, KS; one brother Paul Eck of Enid, OK and many nieces, nephews and a host of relatives and friends.

#### **Note of Thanks**

We desire to express our appreciation to those who have shown their love during his illness and passing. Your prayers, cards, flowers, meals, phone calls and words of comfort and concern have been a great blessing and have helped and encouraged us in a difficult time. May God bless and richly reward your thoughtfulness.

—The family of Bro. Edwin Eck

**Lucy Mae Hauser** was born on May 9, 1920 at Repton, KY to the late Arley and Nellie Metcalf. She departed this life on July 2, 2005 in Oakland, MD. She was preceded in death by her parents as well as two brothers and one sister. She was married to Paul Hauser and to this union one daughter, Nell, was born. Paul preceded her in death.

Lucy enjoyed life to its fullest and this was especially portrayed in her love for quilting, for which she was known widely. She also loved to cook and garden. Sis. Lucy served the Lord faithfully since she was a young woman and ministered to her family, neighbors and friends daily.

She is survived by her daughter, Nell, and her husband Keith Hauser, and three grandchildren: Linda and her husband Rodney Payne, Brian and wife, Shelby Hauser, and Michael Hauser. She also left to mourn two great-granddaughters: Heather and Christina Payne.

Memorial services were held on July 30, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. at the Texas Cemetery, just outside Oakland, MD, with Bro. Toney Samons of Green Bank, WV officiating.

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**Nava Jo "Short" Hutchinson** was a gentle, loving mother, grandmother and sister. She died Friday, July 22, 2005, at Lakeview Manor Nursing Home in New Roads, LA. She was born September 16, 1928, in Covington County, AL and was a 1946 graduate of Innis High School and a 1951 graduate of LSU. She studied at the University of Sorbonne in Paris and the University of Maryland. She taught school in Bogalusa, Darmstads and Frankfort, Germany, and Paris before returning to teach at Martha's Vineyard School in Ponchatoula, where she retired. She was preceded in death by her husband, Hardy Garfield Hutchinson; parents, Ada Ward and Zoner Franklin Short; four brothers, Foster, Thomas, Owren and James Edward Short; three nieces, Vivian Schofield Whitaker, Patricia Labatut Martin and Margaret Schwabauer Haverly; and two nephews, Paul Arthur Schofield and Joseph Eugene Labatut Jr. She is survived by an adopted son, John David Hutchinson and his wife, Sherry; three granddaughters, Brittney, Kristen and Lacey Hutchinson; two brothers, Benjamin Short and wife Ruby, and Carroll Short and wife Sarah; and two sisters-in-law, Helen Short and Betty Howell. Being one of ten daughters, she is survived by four sisters who are widows, Marie Schofield, Gladys Cashio,

Merle Freeman and Mildred Kimball; and five other sisters, Margaret and husband Donald Schwabauer, Glenda and husband Eugene Labatut, Dianne and husband John Kondroik, Mary Dale and husband James, and Clair Cita and husband Clarence Johnson; 34 nieces and nephews and other loved ones.

Funeral services were held July 26, 2005 with Bro. Michael Williamson officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery on LA Hwy. 40.

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**Warren E. Myers**, of West Rockhill Township, PA, died Thursday, July 28, 2005. He was 79 years old. He was the husband of Grace H. (Houck) Myers. The couple had celebrated their 59<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 6, 2004.

Born in Ottsville, PA, he was the son of the late Isaiah and Sadie (Kratz) Myers.

Mr. Myers sold cars for over 30 years until retiring in 1988. A U.S. Army veteran of WWII, he served in the European Theater. Bro. Myers was sweetly saved and proved his love for the Lord in his attention given to serving others.

Surviving with his wife are a daughter, Patricia A. Fretz and her husband Carl, of Blooming Glen, PA; a son, Michael L. Myers, of Bernville, PA; a grandson, Steven T. Fretz and his wife Lydia of Perkasio, two great-grandchildren, Alexa and Kylile Fretz; three brothers, Chester Myers, of Jacksonville, FL, Clarence Myers and his wife Irene, of Green Castle, PA and Willard Myers and his wife Jan, of Perkasio; and many loving nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a brother, Earl Myers.

Burial services and interment were held on Wednesday, August 3, 2005 at the Pine Grove Church of God, Newport County, PA. The service was officiated by Bro. Toney Samons of Green Bank, WV.

## Watering Weeds?

(Continued from page 3.)

Have you ever tried praising God in your dry times? The effort is a necessary part of honoring Him and drawing close to Him. I've had Him use those very praises, words of song and prayer, to minister to me. It has been water in a thirsty time. "...Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. Sing unto the Lord;..." Isaiah 12:4-5.

The promise in Isaiah 58 of a "watered garden" follows some conditions. (Read the whole chapter.) Selfless fasting and seeking and giving are pre-requisites. These are irrigation techniques for our heart-gardens. It may take some real heart searching and digging to get water flowing to the dry places where it is needed most. Notice that the first part of the chapter is a response to those who had been seeking the Lord but received no answer. "Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge?..."

Now, I ask you, would you like to exert this effort to water weeds? There are many functions necessary to maintain a beautiful or productive garden: watering, weeding, pruning, fertilizing, pest control, planting. For example, we till to amend soil before planting. Tilling controls existing weeds but it brings others to the surface. Those weed seeds and rooted pieces that we till up will try to grow. Many other weeds will encroach from outside sources. "Winds of doctrine" and spirits, as fowls of the air, will bring a generous supply to our heart-gardens. We must diligently remove weeds from our ground. Mark 13:33 and 14:38 instructs us to watch and pray. What are we to watch? Actions, motives, attitudes, thoughts, spirits.... These all must be carefully tended. What are the plants in our heart-gardens anyhow? They are the same as these "watch-ables" in our lives. For example, the scripture warns us to look diligently "...lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you,..." Hebrews 12:15. Also, the graces which we strive to cultivate may be likened to fruit-bearing and beautiful plants—bearing the fruit of the Spirit.

As a gardener, I believe that skillful weeding involves diligent practice. It takes a keen eye to catch the subtle differences in greens and textures of a weed among the desirable plants. In a well-maintained garden, the weeds that survive to bear seed are often the ones that blend in best with the surrounding plants. Only intentional scrutiny will expose a young blackberry brier nestled in a blooming lantana. The leaves are so similar...but the similarity stops there. The brier bears no colorful blooms through summer's heat, and under its leaves are vicious, curved thorns. It is much easier to remove this weed while it is young.

It is the same when we set out to watch for bad motives, unacceptable thought patterns, or thoughtless actions in our own lives. It is so difficult to see ourselves. Very likely, this is why we are instructed to watch and pray. We need

the Master Gardener to visit our hearts frequently.

In the midst of a prized strength of our personality, a double weakness may be rooting in and soaking up some sun. Wouldn't it be disappointing to haul bucket after bucket of

water to that lantana, only to have half of the water going to a look-a-like weed. Those folks in Isaiah 58 were seeking their own pleasure and fasting for strife and debate. In His faithfulness, God had let their irrigation ditches run dry.

How is your heart-garden?

## Holiness to the Lord

See that your religion be purely divine, and that first upon the soul and then upon all that thou has, there be written, "Holiness to the Lord!"

To be holy is to be devoted to God and given over entirely to His use. Our hearts and lives must not therefore, be "common or unclean." To live a holy life is transcendently above all success in moneymaking and all perfection in the sciences and the arts. To whatever extent God's Spirit is upon us and in us, so much our present condition is more excellent than the highest worldly good can advance us to. To the true believer, God should be the first and last and the all in all. Our whole life should be swallowed up in God. When we awake in the morning, our first thoughts should be of God and our meditations of Him should be sweet. Whatever we do, we should do all to the glory of God. In the various activities of life, we must be able, at all times, to say, "I do this," or "I do that, because it is His

will." I do it to please God; to glorify Him and enjoy Him.

O reader, can you take God for your Owner, your Sovereign, your Savior, your Portion, your All? If not, you fail to be a godly man. If His authority has not more power upon you than the authority of the greatest upon earth, you are none of His, whatever you may pretend. But if "Holiness to the Lord" be written upon you and upon all that is yours, you are devoted to Him and you are truly a child of God. Slavery to the flesh, the world and the devil is the mark that is written upon the foreheads of the ungodly; and satan, the world and the flesh have the services of such. But if you are consecrated to God and are bearing His name and mark upon you, let all mankind know that you are His, that you are resolved to live for Him, love Him and to trust Him. Let God be the very life of you, the beginning and the end of all you are to do.

—Richard Baxter, 1657

## We Shall See His Face

By Bro. Chinwendu Nwachukwu

Before our last camp meeting, a few other brethren and I journeyed three days ahead of the congregation to assist in the preparation of the campground and publicity in (Kwale) Delta State (of Nigeria). Most of the children desired to go with me that day, but I promised them that they would be joining the congregation.

Now at the arrival of the congregation at the campground while joy was resounding, a sister called my attention and said that her daughter and some of the children were asking her while in their journey if at their destination they would see me and others who left earlier. And she said, "Surely you will all see him!"

I was touched so much with this. It came so vividly to me that the saints and all of those who have gone to rest with the Lord earlier are all awaiting our arrival. And sometimes, the journey being so long, we may think we are not going to meet them. But the tender voice of the Lord still whispers: "By and by we shall meet on that eternal shore!"

"For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come". Hebrews 13:14. And Jesus said, "...I go to prepare a place for you,...that where I am, there ye may be, also." John 14:2-3. See what joy it would be when over there we meet with the loved saints in God's kingdom of righteousness! A brother said that he feels that God will make it possible for each one to communicate freely in His Kingdom no matter the distance. Yes, so it is. Anything that will give us absolute rest and joy is what He is preparing for us. For which reason we don't have to think about any rest here, and never "think the vict'ry's won, nor once at ease sit down, because thine arduous work will not be done, till thou hast got thy crown." It should really give us joy that we are enlisted in this band that is made up of only the redeemed, "those who sin has no more power over." May God keep us fit unto that perfect day.

# THE KINGDOM OF GOD

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

My soul is inspired with thoughts and scriptures concerning the Kingdom of God. Our first scripture is from the book of Daniel the prophet. In chapter two it relates how that Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, had a dream and consulted his magicians and astrologers about it, but they could give him no interpretation because he could not remember what the dream was. And, because they put him off, the king became angry and commanded all of them to be destroyed. But the thing was made known to Daniel and his three fellow Israelites who had already proven to be wise and valuable to the king. He pled with the king for time to pray and seek his God about the matter. The king complied to his request and in a night vision the secret of the dream and the interpretation was revealed to Daniel. He described the dream to the king in exact detail. In his dream the king saw a great image with a head of fine gold, the breast and arms of silver, the belly and thighs of brass, and the legs of iron and the feet part of iron and part of clay. He saw a stone, which was cut out without hands, smite the image upon his feet of iron and clay, breaking them in pieces, and then the whole image was broken to pieces together, and the wind carried them all away like the chaff of the summer threshing floors, and no place was found for them. And the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

Then Daniel told the king what it all meant. He said that the head of gold represented him, Nebuchadnezzar, the present king of Babylon. He said that after him would arise another kingdom inferior to his, as silver is inferior to gold. Then a third kingdom would arise, still more inferior, and then a fourth kingdom with the strength of iron mixed with the weakness of men would arise. He then said that the stone that smote the image referred to a kingdom that the God of heaven would set up. He said in chapter two and verse forty-four a wonderful prophecy of the kingdom of God: "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and

consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."

The first kingdom, represented by the head of gold, was that of Babylon. The second kingdom that conquered Babylon was the Medes and Persians. They were eventually overcome by the Greece, and the Grecian empire was overcome by the Romans. The Roman Empire was ruling the world when Jesus, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem. It was through this great Saviour who was made of God, the King of kings and Lord of lords, that the Kingdom of God was brought forth and set up in the hearts and lives of mankind.

Before Jesus started His ministry, teaching and preaching the Kingdom of God, He had a forerunner, one who went before Him. This was John the Baptist. Matthew 3:1-2 tells us that John the Baptist came "preaching in the wilderness of Judea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Then in Matthew 4:17 it tells us that "Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 4:23 spoke of Jesus going about all Galilee, "teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom."

We want to bring out the various things Jesus spoke concerning the Kingdom of God. Jesus said in Matthew 5:3, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." The kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven are one and the same. In speaking of the heavenly Father providing for our temporal needs as He does for the fowls of the air and the lilies of the field, Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." In John 3:3 Jesus told Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." He went on farther in verses five and six to say, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." Luke 17:20-21 brings out that when Jesus "was demanded of the Pharisees, when the

kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! For, behold the kingdom of God is within you." When Jesus was on trial before Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, He made this statement: "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

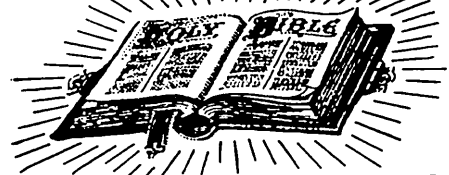
All these scriptures point to the solid truth that the Kingdom of God is a spiritual kingdom and one enters into it by a new birth, a birth to spiritual blessings and realities. It is not a physical or earthly dominion or rule, but it is a kingdom in the very innermost part of a man. It is not of this world but is from heaven and is a spiritual kingdom that we get into by being made a new creature in Christ, resurrected to spiritual things in heavenly places. When we turn from sin and this ungodly world and give our hearts to Christ and receive His new life in our souls, we are right there and then placed in the kingdom of God.

To enter the kingdom of God we must quit the sin business. The apostle Paul said in I Corinthians 6:9-10: "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind (this includes perverts, homosexuals, and lesbians), Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." Paul further said in Galatians 5:19-21, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." These scriptures are very explicit and plain about what it takes to be able to really enter into the kingdom of God.

Then the apostle Paul stated in Romans 14:17-18: "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and

joy in the Holy Ghost." Oh, what a wonderful kingdom this is! It is a kingdom that reigns within the heart and life of a person. It brings happiness, joy and victory over sin and this present, evil world. One must turn from sin and the things of this wicked world and take up their cross to follow Jesus all the way. This brings a spiritual birth, a born from above experience. We rejoice in this blessed truth about the kingdom of God that Jesus brought and made possible for us to enter into. And we pray from our hearts what He said to pray in Matthew 6:10, "Thy kingdom come." When we say, "Thy kingdom come," we are saying, "Lord, I give Your great and wonderful Kingdom an open welcome in my heart and life. I want Your kingdom to rule me: heart, soul and mind. Take possession of my life and let Your kingdom have complete sway." When we yield to the Lord in this way, He will set up His kingdom down in our hearts and will rule and reign there forever!

## Bible Lessons



"Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, we are CHANGED . . ." II Cor. 3:18

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# The Kingdom of God

*God's Kingdom is not meat and drink,  
Nor of this world below;  
Not what so many people think  
As through this life they go.*

*But it is righteousness and peace  
With vict'ry over sin.  
Where sin and strife and murm'ring cease  
And joy, the heart within,*

*It cometh not with outward show  
Of pomp and grandeur vain;  
It reigns within and makes one know  
The worth of lasting gain.*

*Christ came, a King to reign supreme  
O'er man in heart and life,  
To save us from the worldly dream  
And all its toil and strife.*

*He reigns above at God's right hand:  
For us He intercedes:  
He answers pray'r by His command,  
Supplying all our needs.*

*While onward rolls the stream of time  
And kingdoms rise and fall,  
The gospel bells of mercy chime  
With life and peace to all.*

*When one is truly born again:  
A creature all made new,  
An entrance He can surely win,  
God's will to know and do.*

*So he can pass his mortal years  
Triumphant over wrong,  
And God will wipe away his tears  
And fill his heart with song.*

*Come, enter in, for Christ the door  
For you is opened wide,  
And in God's kingdom ever more  
In joy you can abide.*

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

“All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.”  
Psalm 145:10-13.

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