

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Church of God Servant

Unto Him shall the
gathering of the
people be.

God Is
LOVE

YE SHINE AS
LIGHTS IN
THE WORLD.

JESUS
SAVES

The night cometh,
when no man
can work.

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Who Was Shamgar?

By Sis. Patricia Rhodes

Although Shamgar was an obscure, little-known Biblical character in the Old Testament, he was too important to be omitted in the Scriptures. Who was Shamgar? What significant role did he play in regards to the children of Israel?

When the children of Israel did evil in God's sight, the Lord allowed King Eglon, a Moabite, to control them for 18 years. God's servant, Ehud, a judge, slew Eglon. Then Ehud and a band of Israelites slew about 10,000 Moabites. Afterwards the land was at peace for 80 years.

After Ehud, Shamgar was appointed judge. The Philistines were a threat to the children of Israel. Shamgar is an example of an ordinary man doing an extraordinary thing. This man was willing to do God's bidding. Shamgar was available to God at the right time and at the right place. Although Shamgar was a minor judge,

compared to Ehud, Deborah, Gideon and Samson, God was careful not to forget his valuable work by acknowledging him in the Scriptures.

Judges 3:31 says, "And after him (Ehud) was Shamgar the son of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox goad: and he also delivered Israel."

Shamgar used what he had—an ox goad. An ox goad is a long wooden pole that is equipped with a sharpened iron point at one end, with a flattened chisel-like blade at the other end. The sharp end was used to poke the tough hide of the oxen to keep them motivated for pulling the plow. The flattened chisel-like blade was used to scrape the plowshare free of roots, thorns and clay. Was Shamgar a man of war? Was he skilled in using a sword or a spear? Was he equipped with a shield and a helmet? Perhaps he was like David when Saul armed him with his brass helmet and coat of armour. David said, "I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them." And David put them off him. (I Samuel 17:38-39.) Shamgar started where he was and he used what he had. His ox goad became his weapon and God used him to deliver the children of Israel from the Philistines.

We can be like Shamgar by having a weapon of defense to slay the enemy of our soul. We can also use our spiritual ox goad as a special gift to bless God's people. I Peter 4:10 says, "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." God approached Moses in the wilderness through the burning bush.

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God asked Moses, "What is in your hand?" (Exodus 4:2). It was a rod. God told Moses, "... Take this rod in thy hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs." (Exodus 4:17.) David's ox goad was a sling and five stones. The widow woman of old blessed Elijah with the last of her meal and oil. A little lad shared his lunch with Jesus. His ox

goad was five loaves and two fishes. Samson used the jawbone of a donkey. Shamgar's success was based on the following: Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can. Your gift, dedicated to God, can become a mighty and useful tool to be a blessing to the body of Christ.



Children of the Royal Family

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul." Proverbs 29:17.

Balance is very important in teaching God's character. God is love and God is also a consuming fire. These two personalities of God must be kept in balance. We often hear about God's love but hear very little about His wrath. Children need to learn of and experience God's love. They must also be taught to fear His judgments if they trample over His principles.

Christians who have experienced God's protection, love and blessings for many years will serve Him out of a genuine love for Him. Children, however, who have not had personal experiences with God are not endeared to Him as older Christians and therefore will not obey Him because of their love. They need to fear His wrath as a reason to obey until they do fall in love with Him.

Our training should include both love and a healthy respect or fear of God. As well as learning John 3:16, they should learn such scriptures as, "The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it." Proverbs 30:17. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:..." Psalm 111:10. "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God,... And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God..." Deuteronomy 11:26-28. "He, that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." Proverbs 29:1.

There must also be a balance in the family structure. It is easy for parents, especially a mother, to fall into child-centered parenting and downplay the husband-wife relationship. The greatest influence you will have is not in parenting but in your role as husband or wife.

The marriage relationship is the first social relationship established; all other relationships must be subject to it. Many parents neglect this first relationship and center on their child. This is dangerous to the family structure and for the child. It fosters in the child self-centeredness, self-reliance and independence from the family and comes perilously close to idolatry. God promises blessings on those who follow His principles. The family structure—father, mother and child—in that order is one of them. If violated the blessings are forfeited.

There must also be a balance between siblings. Children must be loved and treated equally. This does not mean the small and older children are allowed the same privileges. Privileges are earned by older siblings as they demonstrate ability and trustworthiness to handle privileges.

Balance in work and play is also important. As the old saying goes, "All work and no play makes Jake a dull boy. All play and no work makes Jake a lazy boy." In play, children develop creativity. They dream and imagine what they will be in adult life. Often people have become the person he or she pretended to be in play. Many inventions are products of a childhood dream. Let your child dream and soar to great heights in play. The self-confidence he gains may be what will help to overcome some obstacle in the future.

Whether children are working or playing they must be supervised carefully. We should know with whom and what our children are playing. Many a conscience has been blackened during unsupervised play. Question your children when they have played with older or questionable playmates. If needed, help them clear their conscience through prayer.

We are raising kings and priests in the kingdom of God or soldiers for Christ. Just let your imagination work a bit and think how

carefully royal children are trained. Are they left alone to do their own thing? Or are they guarded so the crown stays in the family? Our crown is Christ's approval. Many a parent has lost Christ's approval because they were neglectful or not willing to obey God's commandments about child training. Children of the royal family must be equipped to take responsibility when the time comes. Our sons and daughters must also be able to take responsibility for their actions so that they may keep a guilt free conscience. Then they will not be condemned when they stand before God. They too are of a royal bloodline, an eternal bloodline. Do we treat them as such?

The self-confidence, approval, money or other rewards earned from work help children get a handle on life. Children who have learned to take responsibility for their own homes, keep their room tidy, bed made, clothes and toys in order, school book and homework in proper place and other housekeeping chores, will be far ahead of their peers who have not learned these disciplines. It is a curse to allow children to come to marriage without having learned these simple disciplines.

Let us keep balanced in all we do with our children. Let's teach both the love and fear of God. Keep balance in the family, among siblings and in work and play. The struggle you have balancing all these things will be over sooner than you realize. Then you can enjoy your children. They will give you rest because you have, by example and training, taught them how to lead responsible, balanced lives. It can be done. Don't lose heart.

It Couldn't Be Done

Somebody said that it couldn't be done
But he with a chuckle, replied,
That maybe it couldn't but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he tried.

So, he buckled right in
With a trace of a grin.
If he worried he well hid it.
He started to sing
As he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done
And he did it!

Somebody scoffed, "Oh, you'll never do that,
At least no one has ever done it."
But he took off his coat
And took off his hat
And the first thing we knew
He'd begun it!

With a lift of his chin
And a bit of a grin
Without any doubting or quit-it,
He started to sing
As he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done
And he did it!

—Edgar A. Guest

Rewarding Attributes of A Godly Nation

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

At the register I told the clerk that I wanted to pay on two separate bills from one big bill. Confusing, huh? It must have been to the clerk because I did not realize until I had left the store that he had shorted me a twenty-dollar bill. I was upset at myself for not remembering to get the change back. Should I go back to the store and ask the clerk about it?

"Oh, dear Lord," I prayed. "This is partly my fault but would You please have mercy on me again? I know I have been calling on You all day, but I really need You this time because You can cause that clerk to realize he failed to give me back the twenty dollars. I know I need that

money more than the store does and I will give You the praise for working out this miracle."

Have you ever prayed a similar prayer? I have thousands of times. Maybe some of us get into problems more than others, but I am so thankful the Lord is a present help in time of trouble. (Psalm 46:1.)

In a prayerful mood, I went back to that store and as I came up the escalator, I saw the clerk who had waited on me standing in a nearby aisle. My eyes met the young man's, and I smiled. Approaching him I said, "Sir, are you the one who helped me just a few minutes ago?"

(Continued on page 15.)

FAITH AND VICTORY

16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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

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

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

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

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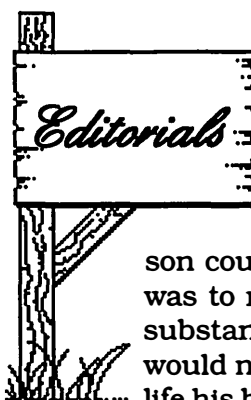
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In Luke 15:28-32, a father tried to console and instruct his faithful son who was tired from working in the fields and disgruntled over the return of his brother. The faithful

son could clearly see how wrong it was to run off and squander one's substance by living in folly and he would never have lived the reckless life his brother had. However, while

his brother was away, there were bad attitudes forming in his heart that were quite different from his father. The father met his wayward son with open arms and was glad for his return. His heart was yearning to see him again and wanted him to make the right choice and come home. The hardworking son did not have this same love for his brother. His attitude was, "Humph! So its you again. I suppose you now want some of my inheritance to squander. Well, I've got news for you. What is left is mine, not yours!" While you will not find these exact words in the Scriptures, they do seem to convey the attitude of the son that stayed home and worked.

Jonah was a prophet of the Lord that eventually did the Lord's bidding and convincingly preached to the people of Ninevah. When the people of Ninevah repented, Jonah was not glorying in the mercy of the Lord. He was waiting to see the destruction of the city and he was irate because the Lord accepted their prayer of repentance. He must have already forgotten about his earnest prayer a few days earlier.

When Jesus was in the home of Mary and Martha, Mary was sitting at the Master's feet enjoying the words of life that fell from His lips. Martha was busy serving and became quite disturbed that her sister was not helping her. When she approached Jesus about the matter, He reproved her for being troubled about many things and told her that Mary had chosen the better part.

Following the resurrection of Jesus, He met with His disciples. On one of these occasions He asked Peter three times if he loved Him. It had not been many days before this time that Peter had denied the Lord three times. Peter really did love the Lord and he had wept bitter tears of repentance over denying the Savior that dark night. When Jesus pressed the issue about his love, Peter became adamant and said, "...Lord,

thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee....” Following this adamant proclamation of his love for the Master, Jesus told Peter to “Feed my sheep.” The Lord then told him about some of the things Peter would face and finished by telling him to “Follow me.” Peter then saw John and asked the Lord, “...and what *shall* this man *do*?” The Lord told him, “If I will that he tarry till I come, what *is that* to thee? follow thou me.”

Prior to the crucifixion of Jesus, the Scriptures say “...he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem.” On their way Jesus sent some ahead to a city of Samaria to make preparations for their arrival. The people of Samaria did not worship in Jerusalem and when they became aware that Jesus was going to Jerusalem they would not receive them. His disciples, namely James and John saw this and they said, “Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?” Jesus rebuked them and said, “...Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save *them*. And they went to another village.”

Each of the above instances identify someone who could be considered close to the Lord but they acquired attitudes that were far different from the true nature of the Father. You may have observed that many of these attitudes have a carnal seed at their root that has been allowed to grow and taint their thinking. When our thinking is erroneous it generally will also show up in our actions causing them to be in error as well. Proverbs 23:7 states, “For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is he*...” Our actions have an effect on other people and when they are wrong that effect can be very unmerciful and hurtful. These attitudes are what cause divisions and injuries to occur among God’s people. When two people have wrong attitudes and they cross one another, things can really become serious. The Lord will allow trials and temptations to come our way to reveal these errors that exist in our heart and mind. God’s mercy is faithful to help us to identify the source of these problems when they occur in our own experience. Then it becomes our responsibility to go to Him in prayer and with our whole heart seek Him for deliverance. For the work of God to go forward these errors need to be cleansed from our hearts and straightened up in our mind. Sometimes our thinking pattern becomes warped because

of past injuries and we need the Lord to help us see things through His perspective. A great step forward in getting rid of these attitudes is when we allow the Holy Spirit to control our life.

The burning fire of the Holy Spirit in our lives will purge the carnality from our heart. For His Spirit to work we must give Him freedom to touch every part of our lives and hold nothing back. Many people pray for the Spirit to fill their heart and work through their life but they are not willing to turn the control of it over to Him. He is therefore hindered because their will has not really submitted to Him and it doesn’t matter how loudly they demonstrate and proclaim to be filled with the Holy Spirit, the fruit of their life simply declares otherwise.

The mixed messages that emanate from people indicate their lack of surrender. Consider the use of the word “filled.” The dictionary says, “*fill*: Occupy the entire capacity of.” How can our entire capacity be occupied by the Holy Spirit if we do not give ourselves totally to Him? If we will not follow, or will only partially follow the impulse of His Spirit moving in our heart, why should He give us those impulses if they will only fall on deaf ears? After considering these things we should more clearly realize the importance of a total consecration to the will of God. Let us make that surrender. Then when the Lord offers reproof or correction to us through His Word or through His Spirit we will say, “yes Lord,” and His power will begin making wonderful changes in our life and He will reveal Himself through our yielded vessel. The attitudes that once controlled us and caused untold grief and pain will give way to the mind of Christ and we will be a blessing to our fellow man.

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It was with joyful thanksgiving that our Smyth, model 12, book sewing machine purred into production. We were sewing the 27 sections of the book, *Bible Readings for Bible Students*. One by one, from the last to the first section of the book, the sections (signatures) were fed onto the saddle of the machine and carried under the presser foot. Eight awls pierced the center of the spine of the signature and four needles carrying thread came down through four holes punched by the awls. The loop carriers then caught the thread and carried it to the hooks that came through the other four holes punched by the awls. The hooks then lifted the loop of thread up above the spine and chain stitched it with the

thread from the previous signature. At the break between the books a pedal was depressed that caused the thread to be cut between the books. The sewn book blocks came out the back of the machine and were separated from each other where the thread had been cut by the operator. Occasionally a signature was not placed on the saddle properly and did not register properly when it was sewn. Those books were set aside and later taken apart and the bad signature was replaced with a new one and the book was re-sewn.

The variable frequency drive connected to the three-phase motor gave perfect control to the operator and allowed the speed of the machine to be adjusted to the speed of the operator. Much time had been spent in learning how to properly adjust the needles, hooks and loop carriers to prevent missed stitches. After these adjustments were made the machine operated beautifully and made accurately looped stitches for book after book.

After the books were sewn a small hydraulic paper cutter with a hydraulic clamp was outfitted to apply pressure to the stitched spine of the book block. This pressure was applied to squeeze the fullness out of the back and prepare it for the adhesive that will be applied by another machine in the next step.

We praise the Lord for enabling us to successfully complete yet another step in our hard-back bindery operation. We believe He is with us in this major endeavor and that its completion will be a great blessing to His saints and for those seeking the truth of His Word. "Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, The LORD reigneth." I Chronicles 16:31.

The Book and Tract lists that contain the materials we publish have both been reprinted and are available free of charge. You may write, e-mail or call us at 1-800-767-1479 and request one and we will be happy to send it to you.

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

Remember

*He who is the Bread of Life, began His ministry hungering.
He who is the Water of Life, ended His ministry thirsting.
He who was weary, is our true rest.
He who paid tribute, is the King of Kings.
He prayed, yet hears our prayers.
He wept, but dries our tears.*

*He was sold for thirty pieces of silver, yet redeemed us.
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, but is the Good Shepherd.
He died and gave His life,
And by dying destroyed death for all who believe.*

—Author unknown



KY—A serious illness runs in the family of a friend of ours who recently got saved. She is beginning to see symptoms of this illness in her body and we would appreciate the saints remembering her in prayer.

Another friend was seriously injured in a car accident about one year ago. An infection has begun working in her leg and seems to be spreading throughout her body. Please remember her in prayer.

—Sis. Kay Griffitt

Kenya—Remember the saints in Kenya that are still suffering from a shortage of rainfall. Pray that the Lord will bring an end to the drought and help His people through this severe famine.

LA—I thank the Lord for healing my arm that was so sore for several months. Praise the Lord!

—Sis. Cynthia LaCroix

Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Carlos Arriaga
Sis. Mamie Butcher
Sis. Helen Carson
Sis. Waneta Creel
Sis. Charlotte Dilliner
Sis. Evelyn Fredrickson
Bro. Troy Gentry
Bro. Robert Hetland
The Lounds Sisters
Sis. Marie Mitchell
Sis. Melba Powell
Sis. Anna Severs
The Mitch Taylor family
Sis. Velda Wisner

MEETING DATES

Bakersfield, CA (Revival)—February 8-12
Oklahoma City, OK (Revival)—Feb. 25-Mar. 1
General Ministers' Meeting
(Guthrie, OK)—March 2-4
Enterprise, AL (Spring Singing)—March 25
Oklahoma State (Guthrie, OK)—May 26-June 4
Jefferson, OR—June 16-25
General Southern (Loranger, LA)—July 2-9
National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 21-30

MEETING NOTICES

BAKERSFIELD, CA, WINTER REVIVAL

As Jesus stood to proclaim the gospel He said, "...The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me!" This is truly our desire as we enter the Bakersfield Winter Revival which is scheduled for February 8-12. Bro. Jerry Melot and his wife have expressed a burden to be with us. We request your prayers and welcome your presence. There will be two services daily, Wednesday through Saturday at 12:00 noon and 7p.m. Sunday Services at 9:45 a.m., Sunday School, Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. and an Ordination service at 2:30 p.m. For additional information please contact the Pastor, Bro. Hayward or Sis. Tina Cox at (661) 836-3877.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK, SPRING REVIVAL

The 23rd Street Church of God invites you to attend their Spring Revival Meeting February 25-March 1. The meeting will begin Saturday at 7:00 p.m. with an Inspirational Singing. On Sunday, Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m. and morning worship service will start at 10:45 a.m. Dinner will be served at the chapel and afternoon service will be at 2:00 p.m. No night service is scheduled for Sunday evening. On Monday through Wednesday evening the service time will be 7:00 p.m.

All are welcome to attend these services. Bro. Marty Clevenger has a burden for the meeting. The chapel is located at 5900 N. E. 23rd St., Oklahoma City, OK. For further information contact Bro. Loren Busbee (405) 478-3860 or Bro. Galen Kelly (405) 424-8400.

GENERAL MINISTERS' MEETING

A general ministers' meeting of the Church of God has been planned for March, 2006 in Guthrie, OK. The purpose of the meeting is for prayer, teaching and edification of the ministers and their spouses.

The dates of the meeting will be March 2-4, 2006. These dates are a Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

On Thursday, March 2nd, the day will begin at 9:00 a.m. The last session will be ending around noon on Saturday, March 4th.

On Wednesday, March 1, 2006, there will be a noon prayer service at the chapel in Guthrie for the success of the ministers' meeting. If you are able to come a day early to the meeting please plan on attending the noon prayer service.

It is requested for all of the congregations and the saints to set aside Wednesday, March 1st, for special prayer and fasting for the ministers' meeting.

Bro. Keith Fuller has expressed a burden to coordinate and assist in the flow of the meeting. If you have questions or if you have a burden for a topic for discussion during the ministers' meeting, please contact Bro. Keith Fuller, 244 Storer Ave., Akron, OH 44302. Phone (330) 864-1128.

It is certainly hoped all ministers and their spouses will plan to attend this meeting. Accommodations will be provided at the Guthrie chapel and in the homes of some of the saints here in Guthrie.

So that we may plan the menus and secure accommodations, please let us know if you plan to attend. Also, please let us know if you will be making your own accommodations.

Expenses for the meeting will be met on a freewill basis. Sis. Brenda Wilkins, the Oklahoma State Treasurer, has agreed to help with securing accommodations for those in attendance. *Please let her know, at your earliest convenience, if you plan on attending.*

Offerings for the meeting may be sent to Sis. Brenda Wilkins, 1023 E. Prairie Grove, Guthrie, OK 73044. Phone (405) 282-0566. Pastor's phone (405) 260-8822. —Bro. Stanley Dickson

NOTICE TO MINISTERS

I have a burden for a teaching session during the General Ministers' Meeting to be held in March to give advice and share experiences about gospel work in the foreign lands. Any ministers who have experience in mission work are invited to participate. Please make contact with me at l-e-wilson@msn.com.

—Bro. Ed Wilson

ENTERPRISE, AL, SPRING SINGING

The Church of God congregation at the Enterprise Community near Warrior, AL is planning a singing March 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel. Activities and a couple of sessions will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning at the park in Hanceville, which is the same place as last year. On the following day, March 26, there will be dinner on the grounds with services at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. The chapel is located approximately two miles west of Interstate 65 at exit number 289. For further information please contact Bro. Roy Herron at (205) 647-7869 or Bro. Marshall Whitson at (205) 647-6325.



LETTERS
FROM
OUR
READERS

AL—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus. The Lord has been so good to us. Everywhere I look I see His blessings. Sometimes we have to stop and listen to be able to receive what the Lord has for us. We can get so busy doing good things in this life that we miss some sweet blessings He has in store for us. Remember us in prayer.

Christian love, —Sis. Betty Herron

MO—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: I have been meditating on the scripture, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" When I got saved, as a teenager, I started digging in the "gold mine" of God's truths and ways. I have had to dig out many rocks of my own ways and thinking but each time I get rid of self I find a "nugget of gold" past anything I could have if I would have clung to my way or understanding. This is a job that I can't retire from until I draw my last breath or I will lose the "gold" I have already received.

The Lord was so gracious to me yesterday to save me an amount of money on a portable sewing machine and I felt I just had to give it to

the work of the Lord. I am starting to make quilts and I needed a portable machine to take to the class at Sis. Jeanne Hill's. Since I have a good machine at home, I found it hard to spend a large amount on one that I would just carry along with me. I was praying about it and looked in the ads in the paper and called about one advertised. I decided to go look at it. On the way I felt impressed to go by a thrift store I knew about. When I got there they had two portable machines. I chose the cheaper of the two and paid only \$6.98 for it. I brought it home, gave it a good cleaning and it sews very well. I told the Lord last night that the rest was His. How I worship the Lord for all of His goodness to me. I just feel spoiled by Him at times.

May God continue to prosper the printing work for His cause and reward you for the sacrifices you make to keep the Word going out to all who will receive it.

Yours for the service of God,

—Sis. LaVerna Probst

AR—We send greetings to all at the Print Shop. The Lord is helping us day by day and we thank everyone for their prayers for us. We do love the Lord for all He has done for us.

With love to all, —Bro. Roy Harmon

MO—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: I have been challenged with the scripture where Jesus saw Nathaniel and said, "...Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Thank the Lord that I can now be a spiritual Israelite through the blood of Jesus. The Israelites were God's chosen people and we too are "...a chosen generation, a royal priesthood..."

One of the meanings of the word *guile* is deceit. Can Jesus look at me as one of His chosen generation and say, "Here is a child of Mine in whom is no guile. She has no deceitfulness in her and she, in singleness of heart, is serving Me. She's not saying she loves Me and serving the devil with her actions. She knows in Whom she has believed and won't allow the devil to plant seeds of unbelief in her heart." I desire prayer that I will be an Israelite indeed in whom is no guile.

Christian love, —Sis. Anita Adams

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings in the name of Jesus, the One that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood. He loved us while we were yet sinners but since

He washed us in His blood He loves us even more. The scripture says, "We love him, because he first loved us." I John 4:19. This brings us into full fellowship with Him. "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world." I John 4:15-17.

I was glad for the privilege of attending some of the Guthrie Assembly Meeting. I received much good.

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

LA—Dear Saints: Thank the Lord for His great mercy to me. A grass fire, with its flames and smoke, came to within 15 feet of my home. The Lord stood by my home and kept it off my home. I had dedicated my home and car to the Lord for years.

Christian love, —Sis. Patsy Doolittle
— — — — —

CA—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am so thankful to see this New Year of 2006. I thank the Lord for taking care of me in 2005. I had a serious nervous attack in February of 2005. I was quiet and still all of March, I went to church only. Early in May I was much better so a sister and I were discussing that we would love to go to the Monark Camp Meeting. God inspired our faith and we went. I had missed 2003 and 2004. God blessed me to go to six meetings in 2005. He blessed my soul.

I am so thankful God is everything to me. He is my Savior, Sanctifier, Keeper and my Healer. I tell Him, "Lord, I'm so thankful You are my Master Physician." Many get sick and they have to call in a specialist. I'm so happy, my Master is never too busy to take my call. He's never on vacation. I never get a busy signal and I heard in our meeting last week, we never get a recorder, "Leave a message, I'll get back to you."

Oh, Glory to God for what a Savior we have! He never sleeps nor slumbers. We have an old enemy that never sleeps nor slumbers either. Old satan, he's always there to whisper to you, "See, this is your time to go." I say, "I rebuke you satan! When I go sweeping through the pearly gates you can't get in." Thank God! That's as far as he can go.

I would like to thank the Lord for taking special care of me this past year. God sees when we don't. At least three times I could have been taken into eternity. Thank God for sparing my life.

One young man just missed hitting my car by only a few feet. He was going so fast. Thank God he missed me. The second time I was on my way to prayer meeting at a sister's house. Another sister was right behind me. I looked and saw nothing coming but a huge semi truck and trailer was coming. The sister behind me called, "Lord bless her." It missed me by feet. It scared me so bad because I had looked. The Lord impressed me then to make sure I go to a traffic light and I have started doing that. God saw me through that one.

Miracles do happen. I was on my way to the train station. A passenger train passed by and there were no bells or whistles going. There were no guard rails, so I started to cross the tracks. I saw one light flash, but I was on the tracks by then. Just as I got off, a freight train shot by. I thought, "Oh God, Your angel was with me." You may think that was just carelessness but there was not anything to let me know another train was coming. I was shaking all over, thanking God. Then the Lord made me know that, light or no light, He is there. He saw the train that I didn't see, He knew there were no bells and guardrail, but His mercy was with me. Bless His Holy name. I realize I can't take care of myself. I'm wholly trusting Him to care for me. Some may say, "You were just careless" but God has blessed me every time I left my house. Lord, You can see danger that I don't see. He said, "The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." I have proved that to be so. I can sing the song, "I'll Not Be Afraid." I'm trusting God every step of the way. A family composed a song that says, "Oh, Lord God, there is no God like You." I've found it to be so.

I don't make New Year's resolutions, but I did request, "Lord, I heard three messages this winter about having the Holy Spirit—that is my request for 2006 and as long as I live."

Pray for me, —Sis. Naomi Jennings
— — — — —

OK—Dear Saints: We would like to thank the Lord for His mercy to us in the birth of our son last November. Upon arriving at the hospital for the delivery, we found out Katrina's blood

—Bro. Clint and Sis. Katrina Doolittle

Christian love, —Sis. Helen Underdown

The saints in Honduras are encouraged to serve the Lord. A few of their children have given their hearts to the Lord recently. A young brother, who has been saved for a few years, has felt a leading to preach the Gospel. It is very encouraging to watch them grow.

Last summer we had the opportunity to go out and hand out literature with the young people and some of the saints. We went to a few places on the island and also to the mainland. So many of the people there seem to be hungering for the gospel. Lord help us all to be faithful to do what we can for Him and to not become weary in well doing. Please pray for us that we will be diligent to move as the Lord leads.

Christian love, —Sis. Judy Trepagnier

From India...

January 31, 2006—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey: By the grace of God, our 41st General Convention ended with many spiritual blessings and victories. The attendance was very good and the messages were very challenging and rich to satisfy the souls. Ten people were baptized. Bro. Ed and Sis. Roberta Wilson, Bro. Nick and Sis. Kyra Probst from the USA attended our convention this year. Bro. Ed Wilson preached very good messages in the convention. We enjoyed the blessings through their presence.

There were 17 people that attended from Meghalaya state, which is one of the north-eastern states in India. Meghalaya is far away from our state and they traveled four days and nights by passenger train to reach here. Some of us visited them last year and we have a church there now. All went back home soon after the convention.

Bible studies, morning services, night meetings, baptism service, ministers' meeting, ordination service, ordinance service, C.G.Y.A. (Youth Association) meetings, etc. were real good services. We appreciate the prayers of the saints for the blessings of our convention this year. Please continue to remember our efforts for the growth of the kingdom of God in India in your prayers.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

INDIA MEETING REPORT

On January 7, 2006 Bro. Ed and Sis. Roberta Wilson and Bro. Nick and Sis. Kyra Probst left the U.S. to attend the 41st National Church of God Convention in Kerala, India. Our travel



Children from the Church of God Orphanage in India. Photo taken in Bro. Varghese's front yard.

time was approximately 40 hours each way, and we are thankful to God for His protection. While on the flight from Singapore to Cochin, India our mission began with a blessing when a young man approached Bro. Nick and began to question him about salvation. Before the flight touched down the young man had repented, accepted Christ, and exchanged contact information.

The meeting was January 9 to 15th, with approximately 500 in attendance. Two services were held each day—morning Bible study and night preaching. There was also an Ordinance service, Ordination service and Baptism and Ministers' Meeting.

On several occasions, we were also able to visit with the local pastors and visiting ministers individually and were encouraged to find them all committed to spreading the sound gospel of Jesus Christ and the doctrines taught in the Scriptures.

On Sunday, several people were baptized and later gave their personal testimonies of what led them to receive Jesus Christ. One testimony was by a woman who was a Hindu. She was diagnosed with an incurable disease so she decided to pray to the "Christian" God for healing. God healed her and she accepted Him as her Savior and became a Christian.

We were also able to meet the orphan children and their caregivers. There are 19 boys and 1 girl currently in the orphanage. They were delighted with the little toys we were able to give to them which were provided with pennies saved by the children from the U.S.

We are thankful to Bro. John and Sis. Sarah Varghese and Bro. Biju and Sis. Mincy Varghese for the wonderful hospitality shown to us.

We want to thank each of you for your prayers and financial support. We are reminded of this verse of song.

When taking his word to the lost ones,
It is not a gift we bestow:
By working and praying and giving,
We pay but the debt that we owe.
If millions are lost at the judgment,
Their cries shall our conscience upbraid,
Because when their souls we could rescue,
Our debt unto them was not paid.
They perish, they perish,
Yet Jesus to save them has died.
Go pay them the debt that we owe them,
Those souls who in darkness abide.

—Submitted by Bro. Nick and Sis. Kyra Probst



Doyle Glenn LaCroix, Sr. was born on February 8, 1940 in Jena, LA to Felix McCager and Viva Masters LaCroix. He passed away on December 23, 2005 at his home in Loranger, LA. Doyle was married to Cynthia Miller on July 1, 1959, and to this union five children were born—two sons and three daughters. Doyle gave his heart to the Lord at an early age and kept a love for God and the Church of God all down through the years. Even though he did experience some severe suffering, he kept his faith fixed on God, trusting Him even to death.

Doyle is survived by his wife, Cynthia, of the home; two sons, Doyle Glenn, Jr. and wife, Karen, of Loranger, LA and Mark G. LaCroix and wife, Martha, of Jasper AL; three daughters, Sonja Coleen Wall and Tod of Oklahoma City, OK; Kimberly Hope Palermo and Ken of Pearland, TX and Alicia Janell Champlin and Chad of Amite, LA. He is also survived by his mother, Viva M. Chavellier, of Hammond, LA; one sister, Audrey Camille Island of Oklahoma City, OK; his step-mother, Wannie Mae LaCroix of Jena, LA, and two step-sisters, Joy Bradford of Trout, LA and Willie Farris of Boyse, LA; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Felix M. LaCroix and one great-grandchild. Doyle will be missed by a host of relatives and friends. Services were conducted at the Oak Grove Church of God in Loranger, LA by Bro. Michael Williamson with interment in the church cemetery.

Note of Thanks

As the family of Doyle LaCroix, Sr., we would like to express our appreciation to everyone for all of the love shown to us during and after Doyle's illness.

We feel unworthy of the great outpouring of calls, cards, food, offerings, flowers and prayers that we have received. May God bless each one for your love and your generosity. Please, keep praying for us as this has been a very hard time for all of us as Doyle's illness was so brief.

—Cynthia, Glenn, Mark, Sonja, Hope, Janell and families.

Irma Catherine Shaffer was born June 9, 1925 to Wiley and Lillie Ora Shoemaker of Louin, MS. She graduated from Antioch High School. On October 16, 1948, she was united in marriage to Heber Shaffer. They resided in OKC until 1990 when they moved to Guthrie, OK.

To this union they adopted one son, Carl Ray, three Korean girls, Kimerly Sandra, twins Karolyn Jeannette and Kathleen Annette, and one son by birth, Craig Heber. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Heber Shaffer; four sisters, Lenora Shoemaker, Blanche Salem, Norma Butler and Gladys Smoot and two grandsons, Darin Ray and Derick Lee Shaffer.

She is survived by sons, Carl Ray and wife Rebecca Shaffer of Shawnee, OK; Craig Heber and wife Deborah Shaffer of Guthrie, OK; Kim Shaffer of Edmond, OK; Karolyn Mason of Guthrie, OK; Kathleen Marshall of Oklahoma City, OK; five grandchildren, Cynthia Ann and LaDonna Beth Shaffer, Christopher Norton, Tiffany Sheree and Corey Devon Shaffer of Guthrie, OK; and a host of friends and relatives. She died January 12, 2006 at Cole's Rest Haven Nursing Home.

Memorial services were held January 16 at Baggerley Funeral Home in Edmond, OK. They were officiated by Bro. Stanley Dickson and Bro. Leslie Busbee. Interment followed at Memorial Park Cemetery in Oklahoma City, OK.

Hyrum George Ray was born on August 1, 1914, in Madisonville, Tennessee, to John Henry Ray and Ollie Phillips. He passed away on January 21, 2006, at his home in Guthrie at the age of 91 years, 5 months and 20 days.

He gave his heart to the Lord in a little cottage meeting in 1939 and went to work at the Faith Publishing House soon after, where he met his future wife, Geneva Bailey.

Hyrum and Anna Geneva Bailey were married by Bro. Willie Murphey before the Sunday morning church service at the Church of God chapel at 6th and Warner on March 23, 1941. After the wedding ceremony they stayed for the

rest of morning service and lived happily ever after for 41 years until her death on September 14, 1982.

When the Lord did not see fit to bless Hyrum and Geneva with children by birth, He blessed them with two adopted sons, John and Jesse, whom they loved dearly. Hyrum and Geneva were some of the "special people" in the world who opened their home and hearts and cared for many foster children over the years.

Hyrum was a talented man who was not afraid to work. Over the years he worked on several jobs, including such employment titles as machinist for The Santa Fe Railroad, fuel truck-delivery for the Oil Pipeline and building engineer for The Oklahoma Publishing Company, from which he retired in 1977.

Bro. Hyrum had a servant's heart. Not only was he a genuine hero to some of the hurting children in this world, many times he noticed those in need and donated groceries, furniture and money to help make their lives easier. In addition to all of that, he generously gave of his time and labors to the Lord and His people for many years. He truly lived by the words of Jesus: "Freely ye have received, freely give," and whether it was with talents or finances, he joyfully gave back to God.

On June 20, 1983, God saw fit to relieve Brother Hyrum's loneliness and he was married to Thelma Busbee—in the same Church of God chapel at 6th and Warner, right here in Guthrie. This time Bro. Leslie Busbee performed the wedding ceremony after the morning service, and made it memorable and special for both families when he said, "Do you, Mom, take Bro. Hyrum...?" Dad Hyrum and Thelma were blessed with 13 years together until she was called home on September 18, 1996.

Dad Hyrum was preceded in death by his parents, two wives, Geneva and Thelma, one sister, one great-granddaughter and one step-grandson. He is survived by his two children, John and Lois of Guthrie, OK and Jesse and Beverly of Guthrie, OK, seven grandchildren, Ryan, Nicki, Todd, Andrea, Allen, Erick and Cody, six step-children, Lawrence and Dorothy Busbee of Woodward, OK, Leslie and Sylvia Busbee of Enid, OK, Leland and Barbara Busbee of Lorena, TX, Loren and Maxine Busbee of Edmond, OK, Doris and Harley Bardel of Casa Grande, AZ and Sandra and Rick Porter of

Ponder, TX; two sisters, Marjorie Haun and husband Bill of Sweetwater, TN and Beverly Bales and husband Charles of Knoxville, TN, 18 step-grandchildren and 39 step-great-grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.

Note of Thanks

We would like to thank all of the Saints for their love and support during the difficult days following Dad's death. We have been truly overwhelmed by the flowers, plants and sympathy cards that we have received. Dad has left a real void, but he was so anxious to go to Heaven that we would not begin to wish him back.

—The Ray family

The Disciple With The Tools In His Hand

*When I heard that God had called Grandpa Hyrum to His home,
A scene began to play inside my mind.*

*I saw multitudes of saints rejoice around God's throne,
Redeemed of all the nations of mankind.*

*Each individual one I saw was precious in His sight;
To every one was given gifts to bring,
According to the talents God had chosen just for Him,
A special place of service for the King.*

*Some had trumpets loud to herald truths to heathen lands.
Some, a silver pen to write His Word.
A golden tongue of language was the poet's offering,
And others taught the young about the Lord.*

*I heard the lovely music from lips that sang His song;
Some raised voices eloquent in prayer.
Others shone like stars, for many souls that they had won,
By preaching gospel messages so fair.*

*But there were those who had no silver pen, no golden tongue;
Who also gleamed with glory bright and grand
Among the faithful, chosen, disciples of the Lord—
Disciples with their tools in their hands.*

*Such was Grandpa, truly called and faithful at his post.
Not eloquent in prayer nor blessed with song
His time was spent in doing hard and humble tasks
For saints and sinners both—he labored long.*

*His gift was helping, giving time and means to one and all
He sought no earthly fame or great reward.
Where he could find a person who had a special need,
He gave with all his heart, as to the Lord.*

*And so he shines with all who gave their gifts back to the Lord;
His gift may not have seemed to all so grand.
But everlasting glory will be given to the one
Who served Him with the tools in his hand.*

—Sis. Angela Gellenbeck

All Is Well

*What's this that steals, that steals upon my frame?
Is it death? Is it death
That soon will quench, will quench this mortal flame?*

*Is it death? Is it death?
If this be death, I soon shall be
From every pain and sorrow free.
I shall the King in glory see!
All is well! All is well!*

*Weep not, my friends. My friends, weep not for me.
All is well! All is well!
My sins forgiven, forgiven! And I am free!
All is well! All is well!*

*There's not a cloud that doth arise
To hide my Jesus from my eyes.
I soon shall mount the upper skies.
All is well! All is well!*

*Tune, tune your harps ye saints on high,
All is well! All is well!
I too will strike my harp with equal joy,
All is well! All is well!*

*Bright angels are from glory come,
They're 'round my bed, they're in my room,
They wait to waft my spirit home!
All is well! All is well!*

*Hark! Hark! My Lord! My Lord and Master's voice
Calls away, calls away!*

*I soon shall see—enjoy my happy choice.
Why delay? Why delay?
Farewell, my friends, adieu, adieu,
I can no longer stay with you.
My glittering crown appears in view!
All is well! All is well!*

*Hail, hail! All hail, all hail! ye blood-washed throng,
Saved by grace, saved by grace!
I've come to join, to join your rapturous song:
"Saved by grace, saved by grace!"
All, all is peace and joy divine,
And Heaven and Glory now are mine!
Loud hallelujahs to the Lamb!
All is well! All is well!*

—Sis Jeanne Eck

Rewarding Attributes of a Godly Nation

(Continued from page 3.)

He nodded his head so I continued, "Do you remember if you gave me back a twenty dollar bill? I believe I failed to get my change back."

"You're right—I didn't give you back your change," he replied as he started walking toward the register. He apologized for the oversight and I apologized for being so, well, ignorant to not catch the error before I had left the register.

I walked out of that store thanking God for His mercy and that the young man was honest. Sometimes all we hear and read about is trouble, crime and dishonesty. It is refreshing to know that within our community there are still people who respect what is honestly someone else's. I am thankful to live in a country founded on Christian values.

Remember the story of honest Abe who walked several miles to return a few cents that weren't his? The American penny has Abraham Lincoln's image on it because of this account. The inscription, "IN GOD WE TRUST," is above his head. This inscription was placed on our coinage after he signed it into law on April 22, 1864. Lincoln's mother encouraged him to read the *Bible* and he surely believed the scripture: "Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men." (II Corinthians 8:21.) What a challenge to live by!

We have many stories of God's mercy in American history. During the birth of our nation, General Washington's troops suffered much during the bitter winter months of 1777-78. He never left his men but stayed in the camp to encourage them. In his daily prayers, he asked for God's mercy on his men. He was rewarded when reinforcement came and they were able to move forward. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance." (Psalm 33:12.)

Later, in 1782, when some people thought George Washington should become king over the United States, he strongly disagreed and protested verbally and in written letters. It was the sovereign mercy of the Great Creator who had helped the young nation gain independence. In honest humility, George Washington believed no human should wear a crown and claim the glory. His Biblical convictions in governmental matters greatly shaped the foundation of the United States of America.

In Psalm 85:9-10, we read: "Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land. Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other." Mercy and Truth married and lived (kissed) happily ever after. Talk about a love story built on respect! Honest communication in a marriage is a top priority for harmony and love in a home. When righteous attributes are in homes, the community has a good foundation. Families build communities; communities build cities; cities build states; states build the nation. When these Godly attributes of honesty, mercy, love and peace are forsaken in the homes the nation becomes destitute.

Pray for our country that we might lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. (I Timothy 2:1-2.) We need God-fearing leaders in every level of government. Parents must seek guidance in raising the children God has given them. The communities that we live within need to keep honest respect for each other.

Who knows—some day you may need an honest clerk to return twenty dollars to you.

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

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The Power Of A Living Bible

Nowhere is it more true than in the Christian life that actions speak louder than words. A young man had become an infidel, and would no longer read the printed Bible, but he could not help seeing the fruits of faith in the life of another.

In his father's house a young lady resided who was a relative of the family. Her fretful temper made all around her uncomfortable. She went away to school and was absent for some time. While she was gone she became a true and earnest Christian. On her return she was so changed that all who knew her wondered and rejoiced. She was patient and cheerful, kind, unselfish and charitable. Her lips that used to be always uttering cross and bitter words now spoke nothing but sweet, gentle, loving words. Her infidel cousin, George, was greatly surprised at this. He watched her closely

for some time, till he was thoroughly satisfied that it was a real change that had taken place in her and not just a front. Then he asked her what had caused this great change. She told him it was the grace of God which had made her a Christian and had changed her heart.

He said to himself, "I don't believe that God has anything to do with it, though she thinks He has. But it is a wonderful change that has taken place in her, and I should like to be as good as she is. I will be so." Then he formed a set of good resolutions. He tried to control his tongue and his temper and kept a strict watch over himself. He was all the time doing and saying what he did not wish to do and say. And, as he failed time after time, he would turn and study his good cousin's example. He would read this living Bible, and her true godly sincerity that spoke out in strong words, something deeper than he had found in just making a set of severe rules for himself to live by. He truly was sincere in his desire to do and be like her and to live as she lived, but what was wrong? He said to himself, "How does it happen that she, who has not as much knowledge or as much strength of character as I have, can do what I can't do? She must have some help that I don't know of. It must be as she says, the help of God. I will seek that help." He went into his bedroom and prayed to that God whose very existence he had denied. He prayed earnestly and sincerely. God heard him, helped him and he became a Christian. He was "born again" and from that day lived according to God's Word in all sincerity and truth. "And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them." Ezekiel 36:27.

—Selected

I Shall Not Pass This Way Again

Through this toilsome world, alas!
Once and only once I pass;
If a kindness I may show,
If a good deed I may do
To a suffering fellow man,
Let me do it while I can.
No delay, for it is plain
I shall not pass this way again

—Author unknown

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