

FAITH AND VICTORY

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WHAT ABOUT THE HORSES?

By Bro. Clifford Cole

"I want to be the chariot driver this time!" said ten-year-old Adon to his older brother Ab, who was almost twelve.

"No, Adon, you were the chariot driver last time. It's my turn!" declared Ab.

Their argument went on for awhile with neither boy willing to give in to the other. It wasn't until both boys climbed up into two separate chariots that the arguing stopped. Now it was time to race! Father would not permit the boys to use his horses so they had to make do with what they had—their imaginations.

This scene had been repeating itself often since Father had brought the one hundred marvelous "war trophy" chariots home from the most recent battle with the enemy. In the eyes of Simeon, the chariot house guard, the boy's arguments were rather amusing. After all, were not there still ninety-eight empty chariots in

the big, new chariot barn? There really was no need to argue or worry about taking turns.

"These two boys normally get along well" mused Simeon, "except when they come here to the chariot house. Perhaps it is because both boys are in the middle of a family of six rambunctious boys. Their two older brothers usually pair up to play, as do their two younger brothers. One thing is certain, though, both Ab and Adon have an obsession for horses and chariots." As he left to resume his rounds Simeon said to himself, "Someday, these two boys will be fine chariot drivers."

The chariots had come to town about six months ago. Ab and Adon were with the rest of their brothers and townsfolk when the great cloud of dust surrounding the returning war party finally drew close enough for the various shapes and sounds to emerge distinctly. Right there in front for all to admire were twenty rows of chariots with five per row drawn by the finest horses ever seen. Their father, flushed with the latest victory, was out in front in a beautiful chariot and his general followed closely near his right flank in a chariot almost as grand as the first. It was indeed a glorious sight! Most of the onlookers in the crowd had heard of the chariots used by several of their enemies and many had seen a horse before, but this war prize was almost too much to imagine!

Ab and Adon could hardly wait to ask their Father about the chariots and horses that night. "Father!" cried Ab, "how did you get so many chariots and horses?"

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"Yes, Father, you never brought home chariots and horses before," chimed in Adon.

Their father took a deep breath before replying, "No, sons, this is the first time I have ever brought back chariots and horses from a battle. I don't think I could have taken care of anything like this before. Do you remember the stories of how my men and I used to scurry around in the mountains like a bunch of mountain goats? We even had to hide away in a cave one time. How would we have hid even one horse and chariot in that cave when the man that was seeking my life came into the entrance of the cave to take a nap? I'm afraid a horse would have given me away!" The boys thought about this and nodded in agreement as their father smiled and said, "But God has blessed us to be able to settle down now. We no longer have to run for our lives. We can now build a fine chariot house for the chariots and a stable for the horses."

As the rest of their family joined Ab, Adon and their father that night at the large dining table, Father said, "God has blessed us abundantly and has once again given us victory over our enemies. It is truly a miracle that we conquered an enemy who had a thousand war chariots!" Father rubbed his chin thoughtfully and went on, "But there is something that comes to mind.... I read about it a few weeks ago – something about horses." Father looked at Ab and said, "Ab, go get the scroll of Deuteronomy by my chair at the front entrance. Bring it to me at once. I want to read again what it says about horses." Ab soon returned with the scroll and, handing it to his father, eagerly took his seat again.

Father took the scroll and opened it up to the middle portion and read, "When thou art come unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me; Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother. But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way." [Read Deuteronomy 17:14-16.]

"What does this mean, Father?" asked Ab, frowning. "What about the horses and chariots you brought back today? Are we going to get rid of them?"

"No, son, we won't get rid of them. I brought back only one tenth of the chariots and just enough horses to pull the chariots. We destroyed the other nine hundred chariots and hewed all of the other horses. Surely God will understand that I'm not trying to multiply horses to myself. I will not use them in war for that would be in direct disobedience to God's law."

Years sped by and the king's sons grew older and more daring in their exploits. By now Ab and Adon were in their late twenties. Both had developed into remarkable chariot drivers. It had taken years of practice, many races and several chariot crashes, but both young princes were now able to handle their chariots with the grace and ease befitting their stations in life.

Sometime after his twenty-seventh birthday, Ab summoned his closest associates together and announced, "Loyal friends, I'm going to be the next king! Father is getting old and a little senile. We all know it's time for someone much younger to take the throne. The kingdom is in great need of a new leader!" Cheers filled the air as Ab beckoned with a grand flourish, "Who will run before me? Who will ride along with me in eleven other chariots?" As young prince Ab whirled along the parade route, some of the onlookers remarked, "What a fine, handsome young man the prince is! He's a wonderful chariot driver too!"

In the process of time, Ab stole the hearts of the people in the kingdom with his smooth words and impressive ways. When Ab felt the time was right, he sent messengers throughout the kingdom who would cry out declaring him king when they heard the signal trumpet.

A messenger loyal to the king brought the sad news of what Ab was plotting. The king's heart sank as he realized what had to be done. "I must flee while I can," he sighed. "There will no doubt be much needless harm to the innocent if I do not leave at once!"

The dreaded time came all too soon – the day of battle. As the king's army filed past him on their way to fight with the insurgency, the king cried out, "Spare my son! Please, spare my son alive!" When the terrible battle finally ended, young Prince Ab was dead. The rebellion was over.

Another nine years passed. The pain and stigma of his older brother's death in the terrible battle with his father's army was diminishing. Adon called his closest friends together to a banquet and stated his purpose in similar fashion to that of Ab, his deceased brother. "Who will run before me? Who will drive the other eleven chariots? I shall have the throne today!"

This time King David's response to a wayward son was quite different. "Cause Solomon to ride upon my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon." It wasn't long until Adonijah's party was abandoned and everyone ran for their life. Adonijah now realized that there actually was a new king – his brother Solomon.

Several more years passed and a conversation was overheard in King Solomon's court, "What is the going price for Egyptian war chariots and war horses, scribe?" Solomon's scribe replied, "Six hundred shekels of silver will buy a good war chariot, your majesty. A good Egyptian war horse costs one hundred and fifty shekels."

"Fine, scribe! Place an order for three hundred more chariots and a thousand more horses! I want them in my stables by the end of this year!"

It had been twenty-three years since Solomon had ascended his father's throne. God had blessed him abundantly. Was it not proof enough that he, the king of the greatest nation on the face of the earth, could afford one thousand four hundred chariots, forty thousand horses and twelve thousand horsemen? It was a truly marvelous sight to ride into one of his chariot cities and look down the long rows of chariot stalls and horse stables in the grand facilities he had built!

Something, however, kept nagging the king's conscience in his quiet moments. It was a few words found in his copy of the holy scripture, "But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way."

"It just isn't reasonable to limit myself on the purchase of horses and chariots," the king argued with himself. "Most of the other kingdoms around have chariots and horses for battle. It is only wise that I keep more than all of our neighboring countries so that they are

never tempted to wage war with me!" King Solomon compared his wealth to that of his father's wealth and reasoned again, "I have so much more wealth than my father. Surely it is good and proper for me to have a proportionate increase in horses, chariots, lands, gold, silver, wives and anything else I desire."

The story does not end with King Solomon. The Bible records numerous occasions of the succeeding kings of Judah and Israel using horses and chariots for both personal use and in battle. While the blame for the Israelites' eventual downfall cannot be laid solely on the implementation of horses and chariots, there is an interesting parallel in the acquirement of these horses and chariots, their eventual use in battle and the trust that was put in them.

God expressly forbade the king of His people from "multiplying horses to themselves," but why?

Deuteronomy 17:16: "But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way."

Deuteronomy 17:20: "That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel."

Psalms 20:7: "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God."

Psalms 33:16: "There is no king saved by the multitude of a host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength."

Psalms 33:17: "A horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength."

Psalms 33:18: "Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;"

Psalms 33:19: "To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine."

Psalms 33:20: "Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield."

Psalms 33:21: "For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name."

Psalms 33:22: "Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee."

Psalms 147:10: "He delighteth not in the

(Continued on page 11.)

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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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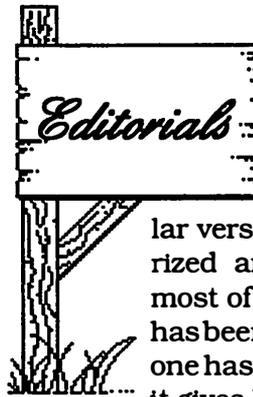
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"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28. This popular

verse has probably been memorized and quoted many times by most of the readers of this paper. It has been a great comfort when someone has experienced a great loss and it gives hope to those who are going through dark valleys of affliction and trial. Often we do not understand the reason things happen the way they do but this verse inspires our faith to believe that God really is in control and will bring about what is best for His trusting children.

No doubt, each reader can think of experiences in their life where God has given blessings that obviously required timing and planning to turn out the way they did. While the astute child of God will recognize the hand of God, the foolish son of this world will simply pass it off as what they would call chance, luck or happenstance. When one discerns the workings of God and testifies to His goodness and gives glory and praise to His name then it will strengthen their faith and cause them to realize how much God truly cares for them.

The life of Joseph was one that God miraculously directed. There were many strange and difficult events that led to the throne he occupied in Egypt. The timing of the Ishmeelite merchantmen passing by when Joseph's brothers had confined him in a pit was not an accident. His life was spared and He was sold to Potiphar as a servant. While in Egypt, in Potiphar's employ, he was placed in charge of his complete household. Joseph then faced the disgrace of being unjustly accused and put into prison. During the time Joseph was in prison God continued working in mysterious ways to save his complete family from starvation in the famine that was coming on the land. The timing of events were under the careful supervision of the Lord. The Butler and Baker both had dreams and God revealed their accurate interpretations to Joseph. The dreams revealed that the Butler would be reinstated into his job of serving Pharaoh and the Baker was to be put to death. Two years later the Butler remembered Joseph when Pharaoh was given a dream that he needed

an interpretation for and Joseph was hastily summoned to reveal the mysterious dream. This dream was a revelation from God of the coming famine and when Joseph explained the meaning to Pharaoh, Joseph was given authority to administer the storage of the surplus crops and the subsequent distribution of the food supply back to the people. All of these events were carefully planned by God and Joseph acknowledged this to his brethren in Genesis 45:5, 7-8. Notice what is written, "Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now *it was not you that sent me hither, but God:...*" This was more than a magnanimous statement from their big-hearted brother. It was evidence of the mercy and love of their heavenly Father working to spare the lives of Jacob's children.

There is an encouraging instance in the Scriptures where the Lord worked things out for the Shunammite woman who years earlier had persuaded her husband to build a room for Elisha to stay when he passed by their place. Sometime later Elisha told this woman there was going to be a famine for seven years and for her to take her household and sojourn wheresoever she could sojourn. During the time of the famine she went to the land of the Philistines. Upon returning to Israel at the end of the seven years of famine she found that others occupied her house and land in her absence. This necessitated a trip to the king to request her property be given back to her. One can see how the Lord worked to cause the king to grant her request. Notice what the Scriptures say about this visit, "And it came to pass at the seven years' end, that the woman returned out of the land of the Philistines: and she went forth to cry unto the king for her house and for her land. And the king talked with Gehazi the servant of the man of God, saying, Tell me, I pray thee, all the great things that Elisha hath done. And it came to pass, as he was telling the king how he had restored a dead body to life, that, behold, the woman, whose son he had restored to life, cried to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, My lord, O king, this is the woman, and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life. And when the king asked the

woman, she told him. So the king appointed unto her a certain officer, saying, Restore all that *was hers*, and all the fruits of the field since the day that she left the land, even until now." II Kings 8:2-8. Truly God took care of this woman who in previous years ministered to His servant, Elisha. This meeting was a witness to the king of the Lord's power, and also was a blessing to the Shunammite woman by having her property returned.

When Jonah took a ship to Tarshish a mighty tempest began to threaten the lives of the crew and the integrity of their vessel. The seamen began to call on their god for help. When the storm did not abate and all seemed to be lost they began to believe that someone on the ship was at fault and they cast lots to locate the one who had offended God. It was not a matter of luck that Jonah was identified as the guilty one. God was truly dealing with his soul and there is no escape for one who is running from the sovereign power of the Creator. Through a continuous chain of events dictated by God, Jonah preached a convincing message of impending destruction that caused the people of Nineveh to repent of their evil in sackcloth and ashes. Their sincere repentance spared many souls from the destruction of the Lord. God is pleased when people repent and turn from their evil ways. Ezekiel 18:32 says, "For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn *yourselves*, and live ye." The Lord will work in unusual and sometimes unsuspected ways to bring a person to repentance. When God is dealing with one's soul they should not be surprised at His dealings, for His love will move Him to arrange circumstances and cause events to take place that will awaken them to their desperate need of God.

It was a blessed day for the Ethiopian eunuch when "...the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert." The way that leads to the desert is not the way a man would generally care to go but God had a special rendezvous in mind. A hungry soul needed enlightenment and the wheels of God's plan to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ were whirring into action. The eunuch was reading from the 53rd chapter of Isaiah when the spirit of the Lord told Philip, "this chariot." When Philip ran to the chariot he heard the eunuch reading and asked

him, "...Understandest thou what thou readest?" the eunuch responded, "...How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him." Philip began at the same scripture and preached the wonderful story of Jesus to the man. When the man understood the message from God he became a believer of the report and the arm of the Lord was revealed to him that day. (Isaiah 53:1.) After a baptismal service by the side of the road he went on his way, back to Ethiopia, rejoicing. These events were not a mere coincidence.. The Holy Spirit was leading Philip to minister to a specific need and that objective was accomplished.

As the verse at the beginning of this article stated, "all things" work together for good to them that love God. Therefore we understand that many instances in the Scriptures could be enumerated here that would illustrate how God has done things according to His plan and that they did not happen simply by chance. God is alive and He is working in the hearts and lives of mankind today also. Too often we discount minor circumstances as well as catastrophic events that occur in our lives when we should be recognizing the Divine finger of God. His dealings are motivated by love for our soul and the circumstances that He allows to touch our life are intended for our good. Sometimes it may be chastisements that He permits to cause a greater awareness of the truth. He will also work through events to prune our vine and cause us to be more fruitful for Him. Tests and trials may be permitted to reveal our weaknesses and help us recognize where our strength comes from. Disappointments may teach us to rely on Him instead of ourselves and to focus more on things of eternal value instead of those things that are temporal. Life is not always filled with difficult things; God also gives us many blessings that should cause our soul to rejoice and feel the warmth of His love. In agreement with the poet, if we would count our blessings we would be surprised at what He has done. These wonderful manifestations of His love should teach us how to love and appreciate each other in an unselfish way. They will likewise cause us to grow and mature in His grace and develop a healthy relationship with our heavenly Father.

The Lord has allowed us to make additional progress this last month on our hardback bindery equipment and the book, *Bible Readings For Bible Students* that we are currently working

through the hardback binding process. The machine used to apply adhesive to the back of the book block was brought into operation. The specially formulated animal glue is held in heated pots that are maintained at 140-150 degrees Fahrenheit by digital temperature controllers. The adhesive is applied by an inflated rubber tire that lifts into position as the book moves past the glue station. There will ultimately be three coatings of adhesive applied to the back of the book but this first gluing-off operation is needed to seal the stitching and stabilize the book block, preparing it for having its edges trimmed to size and allowing the pages in the folded sections to open. The adhesive must have a specific water content to maintain a proper viscosity for application. When it is heated the moisture continually evaporates and must be replenished. This has been a learning experience for us and to facilitate our understanding of the adhesive we purchased a refractometer to measure the total amount of solids in the mixture. This handheld instrument has been helpful in determining the proper amount of water to add to the adhesive mixture. We were pleased that the gluing-off operation was accomplished in a satisfactory manner and the book is now ready to be trimmed. We will be storing the book blocks in this condition until the casemaker, the machine that makes the book covers, is closer to being brought into operation. We will be concentrating our efforts on that machine which still needs quite a bit of work done on it. We are pleased with the progress that has been accomplished on this machine in the last month and plans are being made to continue restoring other parts of it in the near future.

Our stock of several tracts had been depleted over the last several months and we are thankful that many of those have now been replenished. God has been good to us and we are happy to be doing what we can for our loving Savior and the furtherance of His eternal kingdom. It is our prayer that this work will be effective in rescuing the lost and an encouragement to the saints. We request an interest in your prayers that we will be steadfast, unmoveable and always abounding in the work of the Lord.

Correction: On page 14 of the February issue of the *Faith and Victory* the credit line for the poem titled "All Is Well" should have read —submitted by Sis. Jeanne Eck."

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



KS—Please pray for me.

—Sis. Dorothy Huston

OH—Pray for a man that has started drinking again. He quit for awhile but now he has started again. He has been a Christian but has now backslid. He says he reads the Bible. Please pray he will get back to the Lord. Thank you,

—Anonymous

OH—Please remember me in prayer. There are days I feel I can't go on but at the same time I know He is in the storm with me.

—Name withheld by request.

SC—Remember Sis. Marie Weatherford. She has serious physical problems that at times cause her much suffering.

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

Prayer pulls the rope below and the great bell rings above in the ears of God. Some scarcely stir the bell, for they pray so languidly; others give an occasional pluck at the rope; but he who wins with heaven is the man who grabs the rope boldly and pulls continuously, with all his might.

—Spurgeon

MEETING DATES

- Enterprise, AL (Spring Singing)—March 25
- Miami, FL—April 9-16
- Boley, OK (Spring Meeting)—April 14-16
- Wichita, KS (Spring Meeting)—April 23-30
- Oklahoma State (Guthrie, OK)—May 26-June 4
- Jefferson, OR—June 16-25
- Green Bank, WV—June 16-22
- Wichita, KS (Sisters' Retreat)—June 23-24
- Fresno, CA—July 2-9
- General Southern (Loranger, LA)—July 2-9
- National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 21-30
- Myrtle, MO—August 4-9
- Spoooner, WI (Tent Meeting)—August 23-27

MEETING NOTICES

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.

MIAMI, FL, SPRING CAMP MEETING

The Church of God in Miami, Florida would like to extend a cordial invitation to attend our Annual Spring Camp Meeting. Lord willing, it will be held April 9-16. The services will be 7:30 p.m. nightly, with two services on Sundays. Adjustments may be made to the scheduled services, as the Lord leads. Please come praying that the Lord will anoint and bless each service, so that souls will be saved and the saints will be edified.

Accommodations will be made for all who come. If you are planning to come, please contact Bro. Charles Clay at (305) 235-4271, or Bro. Kenneth Baxter at (305) 258-5310.

BOLEY, OK, SPRING MEETING

The Boley, OK, Church of God Spring Meeting will be held on April 14-16. The services are

scheduled as follows: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, 11:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Worship Service 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. (No Sunday evening service.)

We solicit the support and prayers of all of our ministers and saints for this meeting. The chapel is located on Oak Street just north of the Boley High School.

—Submitted by Sis. Savannah King (918) 667-3654 or (918) 667-3392, Sis. Anna Mae Thompson, Pastor.

WICHITA, KS, SPRING MEETING

April 23-30 has been set for the Wichita Spring Meeting. With God controlling it, we are expecting special blessings to be showered on all who attend. Please pray for us here. There will be three services on Sundays. Monday through Saturday there will be services at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and let God help you in any way you need.

The chapel address is 2509 North Grove St. Take off I-35 at the exit for Hwy. 135 and 81. When you exit from Hwy. 135 onto 13th St. you will go east on 13th for nine blocks to Grove St. At the traffic light turn left on Grove and go north until you pass 24th St. The chapel is the second building on your left (west side of the street.)

For further information contact Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at (316) 778-1848 or Bro. Theodore McCray at (316) 682-5132.

SPECIAL NOTICE

SPRINGFIELD, OH, CHAPEL PURCHASE

The Lord has blessed us, The Church of God in Springfield, OH, formerly Dayton, OH, to be able to purchase a chapel on Race Street in Springfield, OH. There is still a balance of \$15,000 that must be paid in full in six months. We express heartfelt thanks and appreciation to each individual and every congregation that has supported this work. We are so thankful to have a place to meet and not have to worship in our homes. Please pray with us that we will be able to reach honest souls and that we will be a lighthouse for God in this area.

Anyone desiring to help with the balance, please send contributions to Church of God Building Fund c/o Rick and Dianna Cox (Treasurer), 2341 Shrine Rd., Springfield, OH 45502.

Phone : (937) 964-9101. Or contact our pastor Bro. Larry Abbott, 5665 Kizer Ln., Springfield, OH 45502. Phone (937) 390-1563.

INSPIRING POEMS AND SONGS

A book has been compiled and recently published of poems and songs written and composed by Bro. Ulysses Phillips. This 268 page book, *Inspiring Poems and Songs*, is available for \$10.00 plus \$2.00 shipping from Olive A. Davenport, P.O. Box 9434, San Bernardino, CA 92427.



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

CAN—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. This finds me encouraged in my walk with the Lord, although sometimes we face trials that seem hard to bear and they weigh us down somewhat. They shouldn't, because the Scriptures challenge us to cast all our cares on Him for He careth for us.

Last Sunday Sis. Phyllis Mader had a simple story for the children. She had a picture of a wheelbarrow piled full of cares this person was carrying. Then she had the large hand of God open and reaching down to take that load. The wheelbarrow was so very small when put beside the big loving hand of God, encouraging us to dump our load in. That lesson was a blessing to all.

The words in the song, *What a Friend We Have In Jesus*, says, "Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear. All because we do not..."—drop all our cares into the big hand of God and leave them there. Then go on in sweet peace! —Sis. Daisy Rabel

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings of Christian love. My heart is overflowing with the grace and love that is in Christ Jesus. So many good scriptures come to my mind which are encouraging and uplifting. "For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ." II Corinthians 1:5. "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." Ephesians 3:14-19. "And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace." John 1:16. "And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all *men*, even as we *do* toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints." I Thessalonians 3:12-13. "But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep *you* from evil. And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you. And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ." II Thessalonians 3:3-5. "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, *who* is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." Colossians 3:1-4.

When our hearts are fully and unreservedly given to God all these things can be real in our hearts. Then we can say with the poet, "Oh, drink of the river of pleasure, 'Tis sparkling with joy for thy soul, It flows in the bosom forever, That's given to Father's control."

— Bro. T. V. McMillian

MO—We each have a soul, which will be accounted for on the great day of judgment. As you read God's Word it says, and we know, that God is a kind and merciful God. But while we each have our many chances here on earth, one day God will be our "judge." Yes, God, our kind, compassionate, loving and forgiving God will no longer be merciful to any sinner. Even if they only had one sin that didn't receive forgiveness, God will still say to that person, "...depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity." Luke 13:27.

Oh, dear ones, my heart trembles to think that I might not make it to heaven if I tend to hold the smallest thing from my God. I am so thankful that the Holy Spirit is here to convict our hearts. Even if one seems to be right with

God to every other person they meet, they still have their innermost thoughts to deal with and that is where the heart is. The condition of the heart—that is really important.

Who can, in his right mind, say there is no God? Go look outside wherever you live and tell me if you think the grass, water, land or sky created itself. There are many different kinds of evidence our Lord gives us to conclude that everything was created by a greater power, "God." God is the great "I AM." It is from Him that we get our living breath. Those millions of stars didn't just "happen" to be there. To my mind the Bible is the most important evidence. Man didn't just imagine it all up. What man without God would ever write, "...Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Jesus, God's beloved Son, who was a Divine Man, spoke those words and only someone from that kind of power could have spoken them.

There was a story I heard from a minister at a camp meeting that got my attention. A boy was playing by the train tracks when a train started coming toward him. A man who was on a platform saw the dangerous situation and reached down for the boy and pulled him up to safety. Years passed by and the boy became a man. As a man he was in trouble for a crime he had committed. When he was taken to court he saw that the judge was the same man who had rescued him years earlier. He said, "Do you remember me? I was the boy you rescued by the train tracks. Won't you please help me now?" The judge replied, "Yes, I did help you back then but now I am your judge." To me those words mean no mercy. When God comes to be our judge, there will be absolutely no mercy granted for the wicked, for they have had their opportunity. Dear ones we have no idea when our last chance to change will be. It could be any second, minute, hour, day, month or year. Is our soul something to just "gamble" away? Or do we think it important enough to watch what we do, say or think every moment of every day? In other words, be watchful at all times lest we give in to our flesh and commit sin.

Let us end with prayer. "Dear Lord, I ask that You bless each soul that reads this. Help them to really look into their souls and give everything; fears, doubts, faults, sins and everything to You. I ask that You help us all to live and do everything to the glory of God our Father. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen."

— Sis. Christy Wattenbarger

Our Second Mission Trip to Ghana.

In the name of Jesus I send greetings to every reader and to all saints. I am very thankful for God's blessings on our trip to Ghana. God has proven His mercy and power and He is truly worthy to be praised.

My father, Wilhelm Laukert, and I arrived at the airport in Accra, Ghana on Saturday, January 28 at about 9:00 p.m. Two of the brethren, Bro. James and Bro. Emmanuel Attobra, waited on us. That night we stayed at Bro. James' younger brother's home in Accra. He is 27 years old and got saved the night before. The next day (Sunday) my father and Bro. Emmanuel went to Akumadan and Bro. James and I stayed in Accra until Monday because we needed to receive our freight from Germany. We had problems getting our freight and were required to wait until Wednesday. Wednesday evening we arrived in Akumadan. By the grace of God we were able to finish the work that we planned to do in Accra in two days. We erected an electro pump and a hand pump for the well. We made them a shower and a solar energy station. It was

also supported by the saints in Germany to start a chicken farm and to buy ground in Tanaso to start building a Church building and to start a building for the Church School. We also bought some new Bibles.

Because of the problems with the freight and the short time allotted for our stay we were not able to visit a lot of the people. Every evening we had a very blessed meeting with the ministers. Every morning there was a prayer meeting and on Sunday the whole Congregation came together and we had a very blessed service. After the service we left Akumadan to Accra to fly back to Germany. We also had problems with our flight back to Germany but the grace of God followed us on every step and I felt it especially. We returned home on Thursday, February 7 and we were well in body and blessed in our soul. I thank everybody who supported the work with funds and prayers. Please pray especially for the saints in Africa, for the work of God and for us, the Laukert family.

—Bro. Alen Laukert



What About The Horses?

(Continued from page 3.)

strength of the horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man."

Isaiah 31:1 "Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!"

Isaiah 31:3 "Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together."

In reading the many different Bible accounts of conflicts and difficulties among God's people, it is interesting to note that every time God's people relied entirely upon Him and not on their own military might or understanding, He helped them. When the people tried to outwit their enemies by "going down into Egypt" for their strength, God delivered them into the hands of their foes.

Today, we are faced with a variety of temptations to rely on our own understanding when faced with problems. We are encouraged by the world to try modern methods that seem to have

worked so well for them. These temptations come to us both individually and collectively.

One of the most sobering aspects of King David bringing home the war trophy chariots and horses is the fact that these articles eventually became commonplace among the Israelites in years to come. Although David never did use chariots and horses in warfare himself, his posterity did. It is a real challenge to our present generation to avoid bringing anything into the camp of the Saints that could lead to the eventual desensitization of something that hinders total reliance on God's Holy Spirit. What we as parents, leaders in our congregations, ministers and teachers accept in our daily lives and in our collective worship services as just "war trophies" may in all likelihood be used by the next generation to a greater extent. The next generation will simply "get used" to seeing the "horses and chariots" and start using them for what they really are—man-made instruments. Using these instruments in spiritual warfare is not pleasing to God.

The enemy of our souls would love for God's people to bring in what the rest of the world all around is using in their worship services. The devil knows that the surest way of affecting any kind of change is by bringing it in slowly by degrees. This logic is so well represented in the tactics of humanism, the New Age belief and any other way of thinking that leaves God out of the picture.

Man rule in the later part of the early morning church started out ever so slowly – so slow, in fact, that it probably was not easily tracked in one person's lifetime. To be sure, there were a few folks who saw its progress and ran for their lives and passed on the truth of Holy Spirit leadership. The people who did not abhor man rule for what is was eventually formed the religious group that led mankind into the dark ages.

In this modern age, it is usually taken for granted that a person who feels a call to the ministry as a preacher, missionary, teacher, etc. will attend a seminary or school that specializes in that field of training. To proceed with this kind of spiritual calling without the human wisdom and learning offered by an earthly institution is deemed foolish and "uninformed" by most church going people. It is almost unheard of. What does God think about this though? How did God prepare His ministry in the New Testament? There were, after all, specialized

The photo at the top left on the opposite page shows the water reservoir mounted on the mission house.

The photo at the lower left shows Bro. Wilhelm Laukert with some of the brethren in Ghana.

The lower right photo shows Bro. Wilhelm Laukert working at the mechanical pump installed on the well the saints in Germany had dug. They hired a local man to hand dig the well on a previous trip to Ghana. After they returned to Germany from the earlier visit they joyfully received word that water had been reached. Before this well was constructed the saints in Ghana had to walk quite a distance to obtain water.

The top right photo shows Bro. Alen Laukert finishing the installation of the solar panel on the roof of the mission house.

schools in place back then that prepared young men to do "God's" work. The Apostle Paul, before he was converted, attended one and "sat at the feet of Gamaliel." How does the Lord desire to prepare His ministry today?

Acts 4:13: "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."

I Corinthians 2:1: "And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God."

I Corinthians 2:2: "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

I Corinthians 2:3: "And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling."

I Corinthians 2:4: "And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:"

I Corinthians 2:5: "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

Most public places of worship today have at least one musical instrument, while many have a much larger group of musicians. It is not uncommon to have a choir that can sing in perfect harmony and musical precision. Does God need the kind of worship that can only be offered by someone who has superior musical skills and training? Will the folks who cannot carry a tune well or who do not have the ability (or desire) to play a musical instrument be excluded from an equal part in the worship service? Will not this make those on display performers and entertainers rather than simply worshipers of God?

John 4:24: "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

Acts 17:24: "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;"

Acts 17:25: "Neither is worshiped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things."

There are many new inventions that make life so much easier in our homes, at work, at

most business establishments we patronize and in our children's schools. Why not utilize some of this technology in our public worship services? After all, according to the scientific community, a person remembers over ninety percent of what they see. We also understand that if our emotions are touched, the events surrounding us at that particular time will stay with us longer. This fact seems to make the case to use every means available today to improve or "modernize" our worship services.

Consider Jesus' ministry. Could not the Creator have made fabulous displays of supernatural power during His sermon on the mount instead of simply talking to the people? When teaching by the seashore, why didn't He walk on the water where the multitudes could have seen Him? Why did He use a common fishing boat as His podium instead of standing on top of the water? He **could** have done these things—and wouldn't the people have received Him better? Ah, but remember the two times He fed the multitudes with a few loaves of bread and a handful of fish? The people began to follow Christ for the wrong reason, "for the loaves and fishes."

Zechariah 4:6 "Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts."

If God's people cannot effectively call after the lost and minister to those who are saved without depending on anything other than the power of God's Holy Spirit, what do we have to offer that is any different than those who do look to such things? Is God's Holy Spirit limited?

When Jesus comes back to receive His Holy Bride, "will He find faith on the earth?" Will He find a people who are willing to trust the Holy Spirit to guide each and every service they hold? Will He find a people who are willing to look foolish in the eyes of the world when they preach or teach? Will He find a people who will not push aside the Holy Spirit in their worship to Him, a people who choose not to rely on objects made by human hands in their services and choose not to summon human intellect to touch the heart of mankind? Saints of God, let us always worship our Maker with what He made and provided for us, not with what we can manufacture and provide for ourselves. May we never "go down into Egypt" and bring back their "horses and chariots."

Training The Conscience

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"My soul is continually in my hand:..." Psalm 119:109

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God;...and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Revelation 20:12. The deeds of man, whether good or evil, are recorded by God in a book of remembrance, and Jesus said, "...the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." John 12:48. For this reason we must obey and diligently teach our children the precepts and standards of God's Word. What an awesome responsibility!

In the beginning the "...LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul (an eternal being)." Genesis 2:7. As God is eternal so is man who was created in His image. Every human has a soul that will return to God and give account for what they have done while living on earth (Romans 14:12 and Ecclesiastes 12:7.)

Parents should establish standards of right and wrong and impress them at a very young age upon their children. This is done primarily by not allowing yourself to transgress God's commandments, also by stories, memorizing scripture and day to day instructing. Making babies be quiet during worship is training them to respect God. When a baby arches its back in rebellion it is time to teach submission. Any naughty action at any age should be taken seriously and not laughed at.

This is building a moral conscience in the child. This moral conscience is like a million dollar bank account that your child can draw from at any given time. From this stored information the conscience will interact by prompting, confirming, warning or accusing. A child without this moral storehouse is like a ship without an anchor. He or she may drift into the teen years and make decisions that will ruin many lives. Parents, please do not let the years slip by.

James Dobson, who has dealt with thousands of children, said, "A child believes in God because her parents say it is the right thing to do.... About five or six years of age, however, she begins to think more about what she is told. Some children come to a fork in the road about

that time. Either they begin to internalize what they've been taught and make it their own or else the Bible stories become like the fables....I certainly don't mean to imply that parents should wait until the child is five or six to begin spiritual training. Neither are the subsequent years insignificant. But I am convinced that our most diligent efforts ... should be assigned to the child of five or six years." It is preposterous to think that our actions, the child's teachers, childcare givers, older siblings, television, videos, radio, etc., do not affect which fork the child will take.

Every child has the right to be protected from satan. Building a moral conscience is also a way of helping to protect your child. However, we can protect them only if we stay under the authority of God and receive of His wisdom. ("...It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Jeremiah 10:23.) God will show us how to deal with each individual child. ("...The devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." I Peter 5:8.)

Although every person is born with an inclination to sin, the soul cries out for communion with God. The conscience is God's avenue of communicating with humans. The Hebrew word *heart* refers to conscience in most passages. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psalm 119:11. A Greek verb that means *to know with* is translated *conscience* in the New Testament. Even people who have no Biblical teaching sometimes do what is right because they communicate with God by listening to and obeying their conscience. (Romans 2:14-15.)

God, working through the conscience, will warn us when we are about to do wrong and prompt us to do right. It will accuse when wrong is done and confirm when right is done or when a wrong is corrected. As choices are made throughout the day, the conscience is continually sending messages that either confirm or accuse our actions. The guilty feeling is a warning and the happy feeling is God's pat on the back.

Besides supplying a sense of right and wrong, the conscience also causes fear of rejection,

shame and accountability. After Adam sinned he doubted God's approval and hid. (Genesis 3.) Cain felt he would be killed because he had killed Able (accountability—Genesis 4:14). David felt ashamed after he cut off a portion of King Saul's robe. (I Samuel 24:5.)

Fathers and mothers are the child's conscience before a storehouse of right and wrong is developed. However, it is very important that we teach even very young children how to listen to and obey signals from their conscience. Positive and negative training does this. Negative is restrictions, warnings, consequences (spanking etc.), and are used predominantly in the early years. Positive training is primarily just encouragement when right decisions are made or when instructions are followed.

Positive training such as instructions, encouragement and reinforcement are used mostly in the middle (8-12) and upper years. If parents do not move from negative to positive training in the middle years they limit the child's capability to understand his own conscience. In these years he must assume the responsibility of his actions and report to you and God. Let him practice what you have taught. You will then have a chance to confirm good actions and encourage more right decisions. We must encourage children to do right as opposed to only discouraging from doing wrong. They should see obedience as attractive, not just to avoid punishment. Only very young children should refrain from doing wrong because they might be punished. Older children should think, "I will do this because it is right," or, "I ought not to do this because it is wrong."

The conscience of your child will become insensitive if he or she is allowed to do wrong and not be held accountable. "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." Ecclesiastes 8:11. It is easier to ignore the wrong. But what is that doing to your child's conscience? By neglect is it not teaching that God does not see every action? The Bible speaks of a "...conscience seared with a hot iron." When a conscience becomes seared or insensitive the child will find it difficult to respond to God's call to repentance. Do we want that to happen?

It is also important to teach children how to clear their conscience after wrong is done. Children respond in different ways to a guilty conscience; some are hyperactive, some are irri-

table, some withdraw and some become fearful. Be sensitive to each child. Abnormal actions may be a clue that a child needs help to clear a guilty conscience. It will take time and attention to be so alert but it will save time and worry in years to come. Patience is needed to probe into your child's mind and help him understand guilt feelings then bring him or her to an attitude of accepting the responsibility for his actions. This is not done by accusing or manipulating. It is done by asking key questions that will lead the child to understand his feelings, see his mistake and admit his error.

After responsibility for wrong has been accepted, then show him from God's Word (if there is a verse to fit the situation) how he has displeased God and must ask God's forgiveness as well as the person offended. Sometimes instruction and prayer is all that is needed. But there are times when suffering a punishment also helps to clear the conscience. When the conscience is clean the child will feel happy again. Help your child stay happy by helping him keep a clean conscience. This feeling of confirmation is God saying, "Great job."

The devil is seeking to capture our children's souls, not in one great leap but slowly and subtly. He does this by destroying bit by bit the keen sensibility of their conscience, thus hardening their conscience and blocking the avenue by which God speaks to their soul.

How will a child with a hardened conscience be able to hear God's still small voice? Without hearing Christ's voice how can he or she live so that at the judgment day he will hear God say, "Well done, good and faithful servant;... enter thou into the joy of thy lord"? Matthew 25:23. "...Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you..." Matthew 25:34.



Master, Say On!

Master, speak! Though least and lowest,
Let me not unheard depart;
Master, speak! for oh, Thou knowest
All the yearning of my heart,
Knowest all its truest need;
Speak! and make me blest indeed.

Master, speak! and make me ready,
When Thy voice is truly heard,
With obedience glad and steady
Still to follow every word.

I am listening, Lord, for Thee;
Master, speak, oh, speak to me!

—Frances Ridly Havergale

Accusation Point

It is not an uncommon thing for us to meet with humble and honest souls that have been so wrought upon by seeing the deceived state in which pride keeps some people that they have become so very careful, yes, to speak more properly, so fearful, that they themselves are baffled in their attempts to become established in the faith. The feeling that they must satisfy something in their own minds and give in to that slavish fear of perhaps waking up to find themselves deceived, causes them to "give down," and do what they consider is the safe thing, namely, make a fresh start. I have known a number who have repeatedly done this very thing under the awful accusing power of the devil. Through their self-interested fear and the accusations of the enemy to which in some way they have exposed themselves, they have been led to forget, overlook or actually to discount God's power and promise to keep the souls of those who are Christ's sheep. Oh, beloved, if you are a sheep, remember John 10:27-29.

Through accusations and fiery darts, the devil periodically seems to have his way with such souls as I have just mentioned. They have forgotten to discriminate between the chastening or correction of the Lord and the accusation of satan. They live in a circle. To think of them calls to mind the way of the pieces of wood in the Niagara River, which spend day after day in a whirlpool that is caused by a sharp bend at a certain point in the course of the stream. Here they go round and round until they are caught once more by the proper current of the river and are carried onward to the broad deep waters of Lake Ontario. Like these sticks of wood these souls have entered a spiritual whirlpool during their journey toward the rest of God. They enter it at a certain place called Accusation Point, and round and round they go. They are moving, but they are making no real progress toward the desired end; for every time they reach Accusation Point they recommence their circumnavigation under the delusion that they are making progress in so doing. God help such dear ones to take an everlasting STAND against the devil.

When those sticks come around to near where the main body of water takes its onward course down the river, they feel the influence of two currents, the one in the whirlpool, and the other in the river. Some go with the former and some with the later. Now when a soul gets near

what we have termed Accusation Point it is sensible of the influence of two spiritual currents—one that will keep it on the everlasting-go-round if it stays in it, and the other that will lead it on to the broad deep rest in God which it so much desires. If the devil can get that soul to "confess out," it will obtain a temporary relief in being freed for the time being from that current which would lead it on into perfect soul rest, but it soon comes round to the same point again, and the process is repeated until perhaps discouragement sets in and the soul cries out, "Here I am at the very same place I have been at before. It is no use to try any more; it will only be the same old story," and so it will if the same old practice is continued and the heart does not trust and believe out of its trouble instead of trying to "dig" out or confess out. It would be a good thing for some people to get real stubborn on the devil's hands. A little more consideration of the fatherhood of God and of what that involves, a little more exercise of good sense and of decided, resistant faith, would wonderfully help some individuals.

Bible Lessons



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

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The devil does not torment dishonest souls with the fear that they will be deceived if they "go through" and "walk over" some things instead of trying to confess. He assures them that there is no danger; they are all right; and he points to their good works, the sacrifices they have made and their seeming love of the truth. With this class I have nothing to do in the present connection, but there is a burning jealousy in my soul that every one of Christ's sheep—every willing and honest heart should obtain their inheritance of a blood-bought everlasting victory over the devil and might live where from one year's end to the other they are hid with Christ in God, safe from all accusing power. "Be subject therefore unto God; But resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7.)

We must let our faith and trust in God and in Christ in all His offices and relations surmount our fear of failure or of being deceived.

—George P. Tasker

Taken from the Gospel Trumpet, October 19, 1905.

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The Refiner's Fire

*He sat by a fire of seven-fold heat,
As He watched by the precious ore,
And closer He bent with a searching gaze
As He heated it more and more.*

*He knew He had ore that could stand the test,
And He wanted the finest gold
To mold as a crown for the King to wear,
Set with gems with a price untold.*

*So He laid our gold in the burning fire,
Tho' we fain would have said to Him "Nay,"
And He watched the dross we had not seen,
And it melted and passed away.*

*And the gold grew brighter and yet more bright
But our eyes were so dim with tears,
We saw but the fire—not the Master's hand,
And questioned with anxious fears.*

*Yet our gold shone out with a richer glow,
As it mirrored a Form above,
That bent o'er the fire, tho' unseen by us,
With a look of ineffable love,*

*Can we think that it pleases His loving heart
To cause us a moment's pain?
Ah no! but He saw through the present cross
The bliss of eternal gain.*

*So He waited there with a watchful eye,
With a love that is strong and sure,
And His gold did not suffer a bit more heat
Than was needed to make it pure*

—Anon.