

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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The Music of My Soul

*There's a glorious strain that is waking the chords
Of the harp in my bosom today;
What a joy and a comfort that music affords—
O beautiful, heavenly lay!*

Chorus:

*Sweet, holy music,
Cheering my heart with love;
Keeping my spirit in glad attune
With the heavenly harps above.*

*O the melody sweet from the chambers within,
That is flooding my spirit with peace;
'Tis the song of my triumph o'er sorrow and sin,
And joy that shall ever increase!*

*I've a song thro' the day, yes, a song in the night,
That with Heaven's sweet orchestra rings;
And my harp in vibration accords with delight,
To all the soul music it sings.*

—C. H. Dewey.

Fervency

"...fervent in spirit." Romans 12:11. "This man (Apollus) was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord,..." Acts 18:25. In the above texts the word *fervent* is translated from the Greek term *zeo* and means "to boil, to be hot."

Webster defines it from the Latin term *fervens* and *fervor*, to be hot, to boil, to glow; and from *fuara*, to boil, to swell with heat, to swarm, as bees whose motion resembles the boiling of water. Festus declared with a loud voice that Paul was in the heat of anger; but he was only fervent in spirit.

John Bunyan tells us of the threats satan made to rob him of his fervency. He said to Bunyan, "You are very hot, but I will cool you; this frame shall not last always; many have been as hot as you for a spirit (short time), but I have quenched their zeal." "Well," said Bunyan, "I will watch and take what care I can." Satan replied, "Though you do, I shall be too hard for you; I will cool you insensibly, by degrees, by little and little. What care I, though I be seven years in chilling your heart, if I can but do it at last? Continual rocking will lull a crying child to sleep. I will ply it close. I will have my end accomplished. Though you be burning hot at present I can pull you from this fire. I shall have you cold before it be long."

Satan is even more determined today to cool down the fervor of God's people than he was in the days of Bunyan. Under his continual rocking he is lulling many to sleep. Under his opiates

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Attend the National Camp Meeting, Monark Springs, MO, July 21-30.

of worldliness the love of many is waxing cold. He is indefatigable in his efforts to lull you to sleep. He will rock for seven years if he can but quench your zeal. Well, as for me, I have been saved more than twice seven years and have more zeal and fervency of spirit than in the beginning.

James tells us that it is the fervent prayer

that avails. Peter exhorts us to love one another with a pure heart fervently, and to have above all things fervent charity among ourselves. "When you pray," says another, "let it be with attention, with fervency, and with perseverance."

—C. E. Orr

(Reprinted from the July 5, 1906 issue of the *Gospel Trumpet*. 100 years ago.)

The Only Way That Will Work

There are some people who believe that Christ's way of life was practical two thousand years ago, but in our complex society man cannot really follow Christ today. But according to the New Testament and the life and testimony of multitudes, we can follow Christ today. His way of life is still practical and reasonable and will work today, tomorrow, and so long as man lives on the earth.

Man can be just as holy, righteous and godly today as Christians of long ago. Christ just calls men and women to follow Him, forgiving their sins, purifying their hearts, and empowering them to live a Holy, triumphant life.

There are certain marks of characteristics by which a true disciple of Christ may be known. Jesus said, "By their fruits, ye shall know them." The attitudes and spirit we possess, our daily walk and conduct in life, reveal what we are.

The true follower of Christ is through with sin and sinful practices. He is saved "from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord." His habits are clean, exemplifying the Christian life. He no longer lives a worldly, sensual life, for "his delight is in the law of the Lord."

Those who walk in the Master's footsteps take their religion seriously. They read and study their Bible and live by it. They support the work of the Lord by their prayers, presence, talents, testimony and money. Jesus described them as "the salt of the earth."

Not only is the Christian to pursue an honorable vocation, but the methods by which he operates are to be honest and upright. He is to be fair and square in his dealings with others, never stooping to acts that are low, crooked and underhanded.

If one is to follow Christ, he must fix his eyes upon Christ. He is our example. We are to live as

He lived, walk as He walked and love as He loved. "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps:" I Peter 2:21.

Christ's way of life is the only way that will work. All other ways lead to failure and disappointment. Life falls to pieces without God. It is high time that men awaken to this fact.

Life cannot come out right unless the laws of God are obeyed. If life is to be right tomorrow, it must be lived right today. There are so many unhappy, defeated, confused people today because they did not live right yesterday. You can't break the laws of God today and feel good in your mind and soul tomorrow.

Last summer, as I was driving across the river bridge into Montgomery, WV, our small son, Wayne, said to me, "Daddy, stop here on the bridge." I asked him why he wanted to stop on the bridge in the midst of all the traffic. He replied that he wanted to throw his baseball into the water. When asked why he wanted to throw his ball away, he said, "I want to see it splash."

I think this very well illustrates the way multitudes are living today—just for a big splash. They throw overboard decency, virtue and character just for a big splash of worldly pleasure. And they wind up with a terrific cost. They are left miserable, unhappy and with a sense of guilt that drives them into despair. Man cannot be disobedient to the laws of God without suffering the consequences.

Regardless of how others may live around us, we as Christians can remain true to Christ and loyal to His cause, proving by our daily walk that Christian discipleship is the finest and most noble way to spend our days on earth.

—I. P. Alls (Selected)

Idols of Our Time

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images, both their children, and their children's children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day." II Kings 17:41.

America was founded on respect for God and Christian principles. Our founding fathers believed in the Ten Commandments and had them carved into many stone walls. They believed Christian ethics were an essential ingredient in the founding and continuance of our great nation. The phrase, "In God we trust" was engraved on our coins. One of our forefathers said, "Our government will work only in a Christian nation. It is totally incapable of ruling any other."

So what was to become the greatest nation in the world was set in motion on Christian principles. But they, just as the children of Israel, "...did secretly *those* things that *were* not right against the LORD their God,..." II Kings 17:9. Very soon the pride, social approval, slavery, covetousness and injustice to Indians, just to name a few things, began to turn the hearts of the people from God to themselves.

America is today still called a Christian nation. Some of the people still fear (respect) God, but most of us will agree that the majority of Americans love other things more than they love God. Whatever one loves more than God becomes an idol. Some famous people are given the title, "The American Idol." Millions of fans worship these persons and seek to imitate them hoping to also become successful. Parents encourage their children in the same types of careers. They start them in dancing lessons or soccer or tee ball, etc. at very tender ages when they should be enthusiastically training them in the love, wisdom and knowledge in the Word of God. I know a four-year-old who plays on a soccer team. When asked if his team won, he answered, "I don't know." Nor did he care.

Some, instead of worshipping a person, come nearer to idolizing the game, a team, cars, races, horses or a multitude of other things. Millions of fans all over the United States are glued to the television when their favorite teams play. Lawns are not mowed, cars are left in disrepair, even leaking roofs are sometimes ignored. All activity stops to take the time for the idol.

However, I believe the most dangerous idol to the Christian community is "The American Dream." A dream to have all our heart's desire, security, good health, a new home, cars for every member of the family, perfect children, glamorous wife, beautiful speed boat, time to play, admiration of others and peer approval. Haven't we been told, "You can attain whatever you dream? The possibilities are there, Go after it." And that is what we Christians have done.

We've given our idol number one priority in our lives. We invest in a grand education for a high paying job. We study more business tactics, the investment markets and tax-write-offs more than God's Holy Word. Dads are leaving for work before their children awake and returning after they are asleep.

Christian parents, even those professing holiness, are bowing to this idol. Both parents work away from home or run a business from home. Some mothers are home physically but they are so over committed with helping earn the "American Dream" life style that the spiritual cries of their family members are unheard. Apostle Paul said, "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." I Timothy 6:8. Christ said, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon (materialism). Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on...." Matthew 6:24-25.

Mom, is your waking thoughts on material gain or on how you can serve God, your husband or your children? Are we so involved in "things" and pressures of society that we wake up sweating over the long "to do" list, such as shopping, office work, appointments here and there, your children's over committed schedules of ball practices, various lessons and parties? But missing on the list is "teach God's Word to my children." Deuteronomy 6:6-7 reads, "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine

(Continued on page 13.)

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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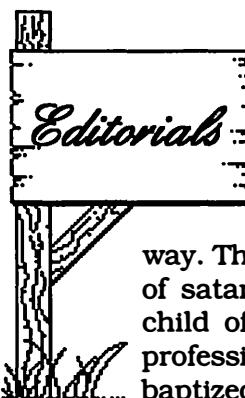
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For those who have given their heart to the Lord and are trying to follow Him to the best of their ability, they will find that it is not long before they are beset with obstructions in their

way. These obstacles are the works of satan to make it difficult for a child of God to hold fast to their profession of faith. After Jesus was baptized of John, the Spirit of God descended like a dove upon Him and God audibly spoke His approval by saying, "...This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17. Immediately after this public manifestation of God's approval, Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

Temptation is a fiery tool that the enemy of our souls will use on every child of God. This device is employed against the weaknesses of our mortal bodies. It can come in a variety of ways and it often is directed toward our pride or the natural propensities of our flesh. Sometimes we are made to feel that we are the only one who is assaulted in this manner and that we are all alone. However, I Corinthians 10:13 says, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." This verse should give understanding and hope to those who are suffering from temptation. It is nearly as old as man himself for it dates back to the Garden of Eden and the same tactics are still in use by satan today.

Sometimes temptation comes by being part of a group. This can be an extremely powerful form of temptation because it seems when everyone else is doing something—even though we know it is condemned by the Word of God—it is so easy for us to continue with the group and engage in the sin. How we need strength from the Lord to stand for what is right when we are placed in this situation! The devil takes advantage of many precious souls with this method and causes much harm to come to the work of God. It takes great determination and courage to stand like the three Hebrew children and not bow down to the idols the world, or a group, is worshiping.

There are other Scriptures that can be a great help to those who are suffering from

temptation. Hebrews 2:18 says, "For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted." The word *succor* means to aid, relieve, help. Our Savior truly knows what we are going through for He also has been tempted and yet did not yield to sin. Hebrews 4:15-16 says, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." When we are in heaviness through manifold temptations may we not fail to take advantage of the opportunity to come boldly to the throne of grace for that is the place we will find real help and deliverance.

As those who have had experience with a strategist soon find out, there is a sequel to temptation, that is accusation. Satan has many follow-up tactics that he uses. If you yield to one temptation He is really empowered with his next move. However, he will use the tool of accusation on a person even if they didn't yield to the temptation. He will accuse you of thinking about yielding when he presented the thought to begin with. Talk about someone who is unreasonable, yes, that is the kind of enemy we are fighting and must overcome. Woe be to the one who does yield to temptation. You had better get to your Savior quickly, like Peter did, and repent with godly sorrow, for satan would like to sift you as wheat and take every kernel of goodness you have. Whatever reproof or chastisement the Lord has for you is small in comparison to the evil that is in store for those who don't humbly return to the Lord.

The devil brings accusation to those who are in affliction as well as those who are tempted. He will try to cause us to feel the affliction is somehow a result of our "wickedness" or he will try to use our affliction as a tool to destroy our faith in God. Often, well-meaning people are motivated to say things that convey these accusations. The enemy motivates the thoughts and hides behind the "real person" who said them. We hear the person who spoke and it is harder to place the blame where it really belongs. When this happens and feelings get involved toward the offending party, then things really begin to get confused. Can't you hear the devil laughing over the resulting confusion? And it does happen quite frequently.

When Job was suffering from a multitude of severe trials and afflictions, he had three "comforters," the Bible also said they were "friends," come to see him. Each one had plenty of accusations to level at Job to explain the reason for his pitiful condition. The response he made to these "comforters" should cause all of us to be careful about our words and dealings with those who are going through a dark valley. Notice his words, "Then Job answered and said, I have heard many such things: miserable comforters *are ye all*. Shall vain words have an end? or what emboldeneth thee that thou answerest? I also could speak as ye *do*: if your soul were in my soul's stead, I could heap up words against you, and shake mine head at you. *But* I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the moving of my lips should assuage *your grief*. Though I speak, my grief is not asswaged: and *though* I forbear, what am I eased? But now he hath made me weary: thou hast made desolate all my company. And thou hast filled me with wrinkles, *which* is a witness *against me*: and my leanness rising up in me beareth witness to my face."

May the Lord help us not to cause one who is suffering to be filled with additional "wrinkles" that are of our making when they are already burdened to the point of despair. As Job pointed out, our affliction may make the added burden harder to work through. The enemy would have us say things that would hopefully cause one to be pushed over the brink of despair and lose their soul in hopelessness. This is not the way the Spirit of the Lord would deal with us. He would try to help us press on against the accusations and dark clouds of affliction and realize there are brighter days ahead. Like Job said, "*But* I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the moving of my lips should assuage *your grief*." Let us endeavor to deal with our brother in this manner—to be a hand extended, reaching out to those who are cast down and speak words that would lift them from their despair.

If we are the one suffering from the accusations of the enemy, may we take courage and not be deceived about the true nature of God. He would like to paint God with the colors from his dark palette and make you believe God is the one who is evil.

We should remember that the things we are going through are only for a season. Heavy

temptations, trials, accusations and even afflictions will not last forever. If something is permitted to go on and on, the Lord will help us to adapt to it in some way and give us grace and strength to overcome.

Another tactic of the enemy is to cause us to become focused on our temptation, our pain or our pitiful condition. When that happens we lose sight of our eternal goal, the greatness and magnitude of our God, the wonderful love and mercy of our Savior and the unfailing promises of His eternal Word. Then, we are sad indeed. But when we can once again comprehend the wonderful love of God, it will be a ray of sunshine that will drive the dark shadows of night from the chambers of our heart and mind. With a clear vision of the greatness and goodness of God in our heart it becomes increasingly difficult for satan to succeed with his devices. Revelation 12:10 says, "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night." Jesus brought deliverance from the bondage of our accuser and all glory and honor belongs to Him. How wonderful for us to discover the ability to rejoice when these hard temptations, afflictions and persecutions come our way. As the scripture says, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:" I Peter 1:6-7. Jesus said, "Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Matthew 5:11-12. When the apostles had been beaten, it says in Acts 5:41, "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name."

This kind of experience with the Lord can only come when one has a clear vision of the Savior, a total commitment to His will and a faith that holds steadfast even through clouds of confusion. The knowledge that you are pleasing the Lord and will be rewarded for doing what is right should keep your heart filled with cour-

age. "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9.

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Sis. Janie Woodruff, who has worked for the Print Shop since March 14, 1992, has felt a need to discontinue her employment here due to health reasons. Some may remember that on January 13, 2003 she suffered from the effects of a serious stroke. The Lord blessed her to regain much of her physical coordination that was lost. In the fall of 2005 she became aware that her blood sugar was seriously out of balance and this condition has severely affected her health.

June 29th was her last day of work here. We trust the Lord will richly reward her for the time and labor she has given to the Print Shop. Do remember her in prayer that God will bless her and bring healing to the physical needs of her body and work out the details of her life in the changes she will be making.



Sis. Janie often answered the telephone in her office. Her cheerful voice will be missed.

The *Beautiful Way* papers and the *Bible Lessons* for the third quarter were sent to their destinations. The lesson titles for this quarter are: The Value and Function of Prayer to God, Christ Foretells of the Holy Spirit, Christ's Mission as the Son of God, A Lesson on Stewardship, The Poor Rich Man and the Rich Poor Man, Jesus Foretells the Final Judgment, Humble thyself to Walk with God, Bearing the Cross, Jesus Sows the Gospel Seed, Christ, the Bread of Life, Jesus Offers Freedom from Sin, The

Blessing of Giving, and Strength Made Perfect in Weakness.

If you would like a copy of these lessons be sure to let us know. They are available for \$1.50 plus shipping charges apply to mailed copies. A one-year subscription, which includes four quarterly issues, is available for \$5.00. It is our prayer that these lessons will be a blessing to all who will devote time to studying them.

As is our usual custom, we do not publish an August issue of the *Faith and Victory* paper. We do plan, Lord willing, to attend the Monark Springs National Camp Meeting near Neosho, MO. We would be happy to see you there.

May God protect His people as they travel this summer. Your brother in Christ,

—Willie E. Murphey
wemurphey@yahoo.com

Prayer Requests

OK—Sis. Dorothy Burditt is appreciative of the saints' prayers in her behalf. She has been suffering from congestive heart failure and is in great need of a healing touch from the Lord.

OK—Sis. Velda Wisner is still in much need of prayer for healing. She is seriously afflicted with cancer.

OK—Remember Sis. Carrie McMillian in prayer. She has been in the furnace of affliction for some time and more severely so recently.

LA—Sis. Gladys Cashio desires the saints to remember her in prayer for the physical needs of her body.

Standing Prayer Requests

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

MEETING DATES

Okmulgee, OK (Singspiration)—July 15
National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 21-30
Myrtle, MO (Camp Meeting)—August 4-9
Boley, OK (Camp Meeting)—August 18-20
California State (Pacoima, CA)—August 18-27
Spooner, WI (Tent Meeting)—August 23-27
Bakersfield, CA (Fall Meeting)—Sept. 20-24

MEETING NOTICES

OKMULGEE, OK, SINGSPIRATION

A singspiration is planned at Okmulgee, OK, July 15 at 6:00 p.m. Please make plans to attend and bring a song. Let us lift our hearts in joyful praise to the King of kings.

For further information call Bro. Warren at (405) 396-2839.

NATIONAL CAMP MEETING MONARK SPRINGS, MO

The National Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO, July 21-30, 2006. All are cordially invited to come and bring others to enjoy the blessings we are expecting from the Lord.

The Monark Springs campground is located approximately five miles east of Neosho, MO. It is one mile east and 3/4 mile south of the intersection of Highways 86 and 59.

If you travel to Neosho by bus, you may telephone the campground, (417) 472-6427, or Bro. Mike Hightower, (417) 451-3636, for transportation.

The camp meeting is conducted on a freewill offering basis. There is no charge for meals or lodging on the campgrounds. You are welcome to come and enjoy the meeting. We are confident God will supply every need. Meals will be served in the dining hall. Dormitory space and trailer spots are available on a first-come basis. Family units are also available.

The business managers are Randel Bradley (see address and telephone number below) and Mike Hightower, 13974 Newt Dr., Neosho, MO 64850. Phone, (417) 451-3636.

Instructions For Making Dormitory Reservations

Call DeLoris Bradley, (620) 226-3390. If not at home, please leave a message on the answer-

ing machine, or e-mail <rdbradley@ckt.net>. I will call or e-mail to confirm.

Please provide the following information so I can accommodate each one better:

Name and phone number

Date of arrival

Date of departure

Number of adults and children in party

Things to keep in mind:

Bring your own bedding, if possible.

If you leave after the weekend be sure to let me know, even if you are returning the next weekend.

No young people or children are to stay alone in cabins or family units.

After Wednesday the rooms start clearing out, so you might want to keep that in mind.

We have a boys' and a girls' dorm—if your child is staying in one of these, we ask that you feel the responsibility of staying also for at least one night.

There is a mens' dorm, ladies' dorm and a ladies' dorm for the handicapped.

We want everyone to come and enjoy the fellowship of kindred hearts while we worship the Lord together.

Come praying that the Holy Spirit will have full reign in all that we, as a group, do, from the dorms to the kitchen, and in cleaning and keeping our grounds orderly. Parents or guardians, please keep your children in services with you. I believe God would be pleased if we observe these things and will meet with us under the tabernacle in a greater way.

Love and prayers,

—DeLoris and Randel Bradley
1540 2000 Rd.
Bartlett, KS 67332

MYRTLE, MO, CAMP MEETING

The Myrtle camp meeting will begin, Lord willing, on Friday morning, August 4 and continue through Wednesday morning, August 9, 2006. We would like to invite everyone to come and stay for the whole meeting. There will be two services daily, 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., and afternoon services during the weekend, as announced. The last service will be the Wednesday morning service. We are praying for a Holy Ghost led and anointed meeting and ask the prayers of all the saints for this meeting. All who

can are urged to come and be a part. We have electrical hook-ups for campers and motor homes, a dormitory for the brothers and one for the sisters, and a limited number of cabins. Please bring your own bedding, if convenient. Provisions will be made to care for all who come. The meeting expenses will be met by free-will offerings.

For further information contact Bro. Harlan Sorrell, (417) 938-4336, or Sis. Carol Sorrell, (417) 938-4493. The campground phone number is (417) 938-4682.

BOLEY, OK, CAMP MEETING

The Church of God in Boley, OK camp meeting will convene August 18-20, with the Lord's blessings. Services on Friday will be at 7:30 p.m., services on Saturday will be at 11:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m. with morning services at 11:00 a.m. and afternoon services at 2:30 p.m. We will not have Sunday night service. Dinner will be served Saturday and Sunday.

We extend a hearty invitation to everyone to come and be with us and we are also looking to the Lord to send the ministers of His choosing. Be praying that God will pour out His Spirit upon this meeting.

For further information contact Sis. Savannah King at (918) 667-2654. Sis. Anna Mae Thompson, Pastor

CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The California State camp meeting will be held this year from August 18, 2006 to August 27, 2006 at the campgrounds located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA 91331. The first service will begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday, August 18th, with three services daily thereafter. For more information, please contact either the Sunset Guest Home at (818) 899-2022, Bro. Paul Phillips at (661) 251-6956, or Bro. Herbert Clay at (818) 897-1396.

SPOONER, WI, TENT MEETING

Lord willing, this meeting will begin Wednesday, August 23, at 7:00 p.m., with services daily at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. through Sunday, August 27.

Come for a blessing and to be a blessing and please support the tent meeting with your prayers.

There will be some accommodations but please call for arrangements. Bring your own bedding and linens if possible. Be prepared for cold nights. We give everyone a special invitation to come and be with us to enjoy God's many blessings of love. For more information contact Bro. Ron and Sis. Martha Zacharias at (715) 635-2994.

BAKERSFIELD, CA, MEETING SCHEDULE

For many years, it has been our custom to have a five day gospel meeting in August and a three day weekend meeting in September. This year we will not have a meeting in August here in Bakersfield. We invite you to join us at the State of California meeting in August. We will have a five day meeting in Bakersfield, September 20-24th. Services will be 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. Saturday, we will also have our annual 9:00 a.m., "Victory Brunch," which is a time of songs and testimonies of God's blessings as we share breakfast. Sunday services will be as follows, Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., Worship at 11:00 a.m. and Afternoon service at 3:00 p.m. We welcome everyone and solicit your prayers. For Information contact the Pastor, Bro. Hayward Cox or Sis. Tina at (661) 836-3877.



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

KS—Dear Bro. Willie: Praise God for continued victory. I am so glad that I love God and He loves me. I truly appreciate all of His goodness to me and the perfect plan of salvation that I enjoy so much. Jesus is so wonderful and more than amazing, as one song says. I am enjoying my journey to Heaven and wish everyone was on their way to the Beautiful City that God has prepared for us. Praise His wonderful and mighty name!

My plan is to attend the national meeting, if the Lord so wills. May it be a blessed and anointed one. God is able to do exceeding, abundantly above what we are able to ask or think, so let us expect great things.

May God prosper His work everywhere and may many prepare to meet Him in peace.

Christian love, —Sis. Shirley Knight

OK—Dear Willie and Neta: May the Lord bless you for your faithfulness and your labors in His work. The Lord has been blessing me in my trials and tests along the way. I thank and praise Him for all His mercy and love shown unto me.

I want to tell of an experience that I had May 17. I looked out of my kitchen window and saw the most beautiful sight. I had just painted my back porch the day before and had removed everything from it to the patio before I painted it. I have a beautiful large green leaf begonia in full bloom that I placed on a metal cart on my sidewalk. At the end of the sidewalk at the gate, I have a large pot on each side of the gate with artificial flowers in them.

The sun was almost setting in the west and the Lord put a spotlight through my large tree directly on these three pots of flowers. They were all three beautiful. But the live plant, the green leaf begonia, was the most gorgeous. They all appeared at a distance to be the same, but two were artificial and one was a live plant.

I was thinking, when the Lord turns the spotlight on us, what does He and others see? What does our life reflect under these conditions? Do they see something beautiful that shines out, or defects, imperfections and failures in our trials and afflictions? We are known by the fruit we bear. (Matthew 7:20.) The spotlight reveals to God and others what we really are. The Lord also sees what is in our hearts and lives. (Matthew 7:17.)

My begonia has life in it and produces its beautiful (fruit) or blossoms. The artificial flowers have no life, therefore they produce nothing, even though they appear to be beautiful. (Matthew 7:21.) This is the way a soul is that professes to have salvation but does not possess it. They lack the life of Christ in them. There is no life to produce the fruit. To produce fruit we have to be connected to the vine—Jesus Christ.

Let each one of us examine ourselves and see how we stand before the Lord when He turns His spotlight on us.

Your sister in Christ, —Imogene Taylor

OK—To all the Saints of the Most High: I praise God for His great mercy and goodness to me. I also thank the Lord for all His people who

have been, and are, my people. Since I became one with the family of God, the love of the Saints has been a real blessing to me. I have deeply appreciated the prayers, cards, phone calls and the love offerings during this battle of affliction God has allowed in my life. I am encouraged to press the battle "to the gates," and stand on the promises that are forever set.

I have known for quite some time that I am at my "Red Sea." Just as the Red Sea was parted and God's people crossed over on dry ground, I know that same power can deliver me. The Lord has always healed and taken care of me and I have confidence this affliction is not too hard for Him. If His will should be to heal me, it will be only for the glory of God. I believe it would also bless this generation of Saints, as well as my family, and be a witness in the earth that the day of miracles are not past.

I have not been able to work since May 5th. It was suggested I apply for disability. The Lord blessed to give me a very precious caseworker, who set an appointment for an examination while my daughter, Sarah, was here with me. Sarah and Sis. Maxine Busbee accompanied me to a young woman physician who seemed very moved by the sight of my affliction. Due to a new law here in Oklahoma, there is a very short waiting period for disability for cases considered to be terminal. So I have been blessed to

have the first disability payment in June. I truly praise my God!

I want to thank all that have entered into the burden for my healing. I have deeply appreciated the days of fasting and prayer by the various congregations. I was especially blessed when some of my children and loved ones entered into the fast as well. (My family has been so good to help me.) I have confidence the Lord has heard every prayer, and no matter how this turns out, I count it a great privilege to trust in God. He has never failed me, and I do not believe He will fail me now.

I want to appeal to all the Saints to not give up because of the name of a disease. Many times we give up too soon when the word gets out. The Lord dealt with my heart before the physical examination to not be afraid of the word "cancer." Our God is fully able to heal big things as well as little things. When I came to God for my salvation, He forgave all the big sins and all the little sins. And, now He says, "Which is easier, to say, thy sins be forgiven or take up thy bed and walk." Our faith is in the only begotten Son and the blood shed for our redemption as well as the healing of our house of clay.

Again, thank you each and every one who is praying for me. Let us all keep our eyes on Jesus.
—Sis. Velda Wisner

God's Hornets

By Bro. Harlan Sorrell



"And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee. I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land. And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out before thee. Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me: for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee." Exodus 23:28-33.

This was God's command to ancient Israel concerning their inheritance in the land of Canaan and the manner in which they would possess it. This is a "type" of our inheritance today in the spiritual land of Canaan, or the sanctified life.

Let us take special notice of the manner in which God said He would drive out the Canaanites. He said He would "send hornets." (See also Deuteronomy 7:20.) Cruden's concordance describes hornets as "the large species of wasp, whose sting is very severe." Imagine the natives of ancient Canaan, hiding in fear, perhaps, from the armies of Israel. Then God sends a swarm of hornets upon them. I know of few things that will make people move like a sting! Few people could remain quiet and hidden

when under an attack of hornets. If anything would bring the enemy out of his hiding place, surely this would! Now these Canaanites represent those things in us or about us, after we have been sanctified, that have to be driven out in order that we may fully inherit this good land.

God works in the lives of His sanctified children relative to their inheriting the fullness of the spiritual land of Canaan just like this. He sends the hornets, those things that severely sting, into our lives. This brings all of those hidden enemies of our untempered self-life out of those places where they are lurking, of which we are totally unaware. The initial experience of sanctification and infilling of the Spirit is an instantaneous work. It cleanses our carnal nature and thoroughly purges our hearts. The Holy Spirit then comes in to abide and work in us. But He does not instantaneously temper either the natural or acquired traits of our humanity. The tempering of our humanity is a progressive work; a continual and ongoing process as long as we remain "in the body." We sing the song which says, "More like Christ, my heart is praying, More like Christ from day to day. All His graces rich displaying, While I tread my pilgrim way." If we truly mean what we sing, then we are inviting the Holy Spirit to do a tempering work upon our humanity. Sometimes this will involve some painful experiences. We are told in the Scriptures that Jesus, the Captain of our salvation, was made perfect through sufferings and that, though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience through the things that He suffered. (See Hebrews 2:10; 5:8.) Then Peter tells us in I Peter 4:1, "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind:..." We are called into the fellowship of Christ's sufferings and self-denial, that we also might be perfected.

One of the most important things for a newly sanctified soul to understand is this—even though it is now perfectly cleansed, so far as the heart and affections are concerned, there are still a lot of things regarding the natural human traits, thought patterns, personality, temperament and just the human make-up in general, which will need a lot of adjustment via the tempering work of the Holy Spirit. These things are not necessarily relative to sin, but can be very deep rooted into the self-life, many times

even beyond the point of our own awareness. These things are sometimes inherited or acquired through family backgrounds or personal experiences, etc. They are just a part of us as humans. Yet, they need adjustments in order for us to be truly molded into Christ's image in all things. The effects of the fall passed down to us from Adam are far more intricate than many people realize. They go far beyond our understanding and comprehension in many ways, and in many areas of our lives. Therefore, the plan of salvation through "sanctification of the Spirit" (II Thessalonians 2:13-14) includes, not only the purification of our hearts from a depraved nature, but also a healing process for our humanity. This process can only be performed by our continual yielding to the Holy Spirit's dealings with us regarding ourselves making adjustments in those areas He illuminates where adjustments need to be made, destroying and doing away with those things in us, or about us, which need to be destroyed and done away with. He comes to live within us, gives us a perfect heart, and then He goes to work to perfect those things concerning us. (see Psalm 138:8; also *Evening Light Songs* number 195, verse 2.) Sanctification is an experience of the heart and soul which fully opens the door to the Holy Spirit, giving Him full access and right of way to begin this lifetime process. But it is an experience that is contingent upon us keeping ourselves as fully yielded as we were the moment we received it.

God said that He would not drive out the Canaanites in "one year," but little by little He would "drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land." This reveals the progressive phase of the Holy Spirit's work in the sanctified life. We do not possess the fullness of all that sanctification provides the day we get sanctified. It then becomes ours for the taking, yes, but we must go forward in cooperation with our Guide, the Holy Spirit, in the great quest of "taking the land." This does not mean that we become more and more sanctified as we go along, but it means our experience in God becomes deeper, broader, richer and more fruitful. We possess more of this good land that is ours in the Holy Spirit whom God has given us as we learn to identify self, how to deny it and let the Spirit take control of those areas of our humanity where self reigned.

In verses 32-33 of Exodus 23, we find that the children of Israel were to "make no covenant" with the inhabitants of the land nor allow them to "dwell in thy land." Why? "Lest they make thee sin against me" or "be a snare unto thee." This is a very important thought. These inhabitants of the land represent traits, characteristics, etc. deeply rooted and perhaps hidden within the humanity of sanctified people. These are not sins, but are things that can become a "snare" and cause sin. These inhabitants of our land are our enemies. But how are we going to recognize them? God will send His hornets—those things that will sting "self." You can be sure that the hornets will bring self out of its hiding place! As we identify self in those areas of our humanity where it may be hiding, we can pursue it, overcome it and bring our humanity into the moderation of the Holy Spirit. We must make no covenant with self-interest.

We must not allow it to dwell in our land. When God sends His hornets and reveals to us those

things deeply rooted within our humanity that are related to the self-life, then we must conquer them and drive them out. There may be many yet hiding within our human make-ups, personalities and temperaments that the hornets haven't brought out yet, but when they do, make no covenant with them, but destroy them. This is all a part of God's process of perfecting that which concerneth us and enabling us to fully inherit the land which is rightfully ours—this Canaan of full salvation.

Did you ever wonder how someone who you knew had an experience of sanctification, and was living victoriously for awhile, ended up backslidden or under some kind of false spirit? Well, in many cases, this was how it happened. God's hornets brought some enemy relative to that individual's self-life out of its hiding place. But, instead of pursuing it, overcoming it, and slaying it, the individual made a covenant with it and permitted it to dwell in their land, that is, within his or her humanity. The result was, the soul was snared and ultimately fell back into sin.

We received the baptism of the Holy Spirit by giving Him permission to take full control of all aspects of our lives—by making a consecration of ourselves and all that pertains to us, both now and in the future. But, if at some future time we fail to fully cooperate and allow Him the complete right-of-way concerning us for any reason, we can grieve Him out of our hearts and make ourselves vulnerable to "other spirits." We can grieve Him in various ways. It can be through unwillingness to submit our ideas and opinions when He leads us into areas where those ideas and opinions conflict with those of some of our brethren. It can be through unwillingness to surrender our position for fear of humiliation and the affect on our image in the minds of our peers. It can be through the attitudes we take toward circumstances and people God allows to vex and try us along life's way. We could list many ways that sanctified people can grieve the Holy Spirit in various situations and circumstances they encounter

along their life-long journey to Heaven. And, if they grieve Him to a certain point (that point is

Did you ever wonder how someone who you knew had an experience of sanctification, and was living victoriously for awhile, ended up backslidden or under some kind of false spirit?

only known to God), He will withdraw and leave them, and other spirits will rush in to fill up the vacuum. And, many times, these spirits are not what most people would recognize as unclean or evil spirits, but they are religious spirits—spirits of a higher order, specially designed by Satan to counterfeit the Holy Spirit Himself. These spirits move in, then, and begin to act as Holy Spirit to the soul, leaving it blinded to its real unperfected, untempered and immoderate condition due to self not having been slain. The heart and soul are then defiled and no longer pure before the Lord, although they may yet be very pious, and even consider themselves more holy than others.

Let us remember that the hornet stings God sends our way in life are needful and are sent to help us locate our enemy—"self." When God's hornets locate him, let us slay him lest he become a snare unto us and cause us to sin.

(Reprinted by request from June 1999 *Faith and Victory*.)

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"Never give way in the time of trial and then say that you did the best you could."

Idols of Our Time

(Continued from page 3.)

house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." This says that we should be teaching all day long as we go about our duties. It is impossible to be teaching little tidbits of truth constantly unless our minds are on God's Word. We cannot be concentrating on how we look, what we wear, what we shall eat or where we must go next.

A mother's first morning thought should be, "How can I meet the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of my family." Her first priority should be to train her children's spirit, to find out why little Johnny muttered his prayer last night instead of praying earnestly in his usual cheerful manner, or maybe praying about how to change Frank's attitude toward his father, or whatever such need arises. This can be done successfully if she is connected with Christ in an intimate way.

Have we become so blended with our idol of materialism and so disconnected with God and His Spirit that we cannot see the needs or hear the cries of our son's and daughter's spirits? Their boredom is a sign of a spiritual need. Are we trying to fill it with innocent entertainment as reading novels, watching good videos, playing games, and shopping in the malls, etc.? It cannot be filled with things. Can we stop the tiresome pursuit of "things" and get connected with their real needs? Quit making an idol of the "American Dream" and give yourself a chance to really serve the living God. That isn't easy to do because the pressures to conform to the world's financial standards are very strong. Some will even justify these pursuits using the scripture, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." I Timothy 5:8.

Before World War II it was unusual for mothers to work outside the home. Our society was content with small homes, simple food and the opportunity to train sons and daughters to be happy from the inside out. (Today, suicide is the number one killer of youth because they are carrying a great amount of guilt and have insurmountable problems.) It is normal for children to be trained by caregivers or train themselves. Teens will get into trouble following their natural desires unless mothers are in the home to protect them. Our sons and daughters will not learn the great principles that will carry them

successfully through life unless we use our time training them instead of seeking material things.

The saying, "more is caught, than taught" is true. That is why many young people turn away from God even though the parents have kept them in church two or three times a week, sacrificed for their Christian schooling or home schooling, had no television and protected them from other evils. The children catch the idea that mom and dad's number one priority is the "American Dream." They fear God but serve their idols, so do their children and their grandchildren, even as their fathers unto this day.

Let our prayer be: "Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way." Psalm 119:33-37.

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FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY

MY MIRACLE

I was born December 22, 1933 in Loranger, Louisiana into a true Christian home where there was spiritual reading and prayer at the beginning and end of each day. Church attendance consisted of Sunday School and Church Service in the morning, then back for evening Service. The next trip to church was Wednesday evening for Prayer meeting. This routine of spiritual support was punctuated by frequent revivals, camp meetings and assembly meetings.

My father was a solid man of God, slow to speak, but when he spoke, his words were taken seriously and demanded respect. My mother was a respected minister of the gospel. My first memories are of farm life filled with the above-described spiritual environment and topped off by traveling with my mother to revivals and other meetings.

It cannot be said that I was not brought up in the proper way. Early in my life I felt strong feelings that I was to go into some form of service for God. The enemy of our souls also started working to convince me that I did not want to do that. Despite several years of trying to serve God, the devil was finally successful in getting me to head down the way of evil. I'll not go into the details of that trip. The most I will say is that once I started the downward way, it snowballed and it wasn't long until he had burned so many bridges behind me that there seemed to be no way to return. As I look back now it is very plain to me that God had his hand on me all along, frequently protecting me from the enemy's effort to take me into eternity unprepared to meet the judgment. The enemy kept my eyes blinded to the times when God's mercy reached down to me and he must have celebrated each time I ignored God's mercy.

Nearly fifty years went by without me making any effort to seek refuge in the Savior's love or ask forgiveness for my sins. On March 6, 2001 I collapsed and was taken to the hospital. After the initial tests, they had to give me three units of blood before they could continue the diagnostic process. It took a few days to complete that process.

After all the tests had been done the doctors involved called a conference with the surgeon, my family and myself. I had already been given

the results of the test, but not a plan of treatment. They had shown me pictures taken by a scope from the inside of my stomach showing my entire stomach as a bloody mass of cancer. The conference began with the surgeon giving us a report on how bad the cancer was. At this point he said that he would have to take all my stomach out to hopefully get all the cancer. He then would put a feeding tube in my side to deliver nourishment to me. Also he would bring my small intestine up and connect it to the esophagus, hoping that it would heal enough that at some point in the future I could take nourishment by mouth. At this point, one of my sons asked him what was my chance of recovery. He replied, "His odds of surviving surgery are between 15 and 25 percent. If he can do that, and heal enough to start and complete chemotherapy, his odds of recovery would probably rise to 50 percent."

With my background and knowledge, the greatest feeling of despair, fear and torment began to overwhelm my entire being. There I was, after almost fifty years of ignoring all of God's dealings with my soul and facing death, with nothing to show my eternal Judge but multitudes of transgressions and sins. The only thing I could see in front of me was the devil's hell that I had heard about all my life. Needless

What was weighing so heavy was this question, "When my body takes the next stretcher ride will I be in it, or will I be in hell???"

to say, I began crying out to God for help, but it seemed all the prayers I tried to get through just bounced

back. They had my surgery scheduled for March 20, 2001 which was ten days after the conference. This entire time was spent warring with the devil. Satan threw every evil mountain of trouble, distraction and obstacle to prayer into the mix and the day of surgery arrived after ten days of agony with no relief in sight. A minister was able to get into the prep room the morning of surgery and prayed with me. His prayer had a touch of encouragement but nothing had changed in my solemn destiny. Then arrived the hospital staff, telling him to leave as they were taking me to surgery. In all my life, never had I taken a trip that weighed as heavy on me as the one down that hall, on that stretcher. What was weighing so heavy was this question, "When my body takes the next stretcher ride will I be in it, or will I be in hell???"

As they started in the door at surgery they stopped and said, "Mr. Joiner this room has not been prepared and we are going to park you here in the hall until the room is ready." My thought was thank God for some more time to pray. The prayer that I prayed was as follows: "Dear Lord, forgive my many years of transgression and sins. Also forgive me for running from the work you had for me to do as a young man. If you still have something for me to do I am committing to you now that I will do whatever you lead me to do. That being said the most important thing is I have to be ready to come home. Save my soul and make me ready by forgiving all my sins." Now this is where words do not exist to describe the feelings of peace, love, joy, comfort and forgiveness that flowed over my entire being, both inside and outside. No words in any language can describe how I felt. Shortly after being taken into surgery an anesthetic was given. All was peaceful as the sleep came upon me. At some point while the surgery was being done I became aware of my surroundings. I saw and felt nothing but was aware that they were doing surgery on me at that very moment. In fact I was wondering if the trip to my heavenly home was beginning. Then I heard a clicking sound followed by the sound of a strong, crisp, clear voice making the following announcement, "Howell Joiner is going to be okay." The announcement was followed by what sounded like all the multitudes of heaven singing and shouting the praises of God. Moments later it all went away and the next thing I knew it was hours later and the recovery room crew was trying to wake me prior to taking me to a room. I slept the remainder of the day and all night. The next day the surgeon came in and told me that he did not understand why the scans, pictures and tests had shown the cancer to be so much worse than what he found when he had me opened up. He told me that he had only removed 65 percent of my stomach and had taken biopsies everywhere so he could see how bad the cancer cells had spread. Now we would wait for the pathology results. A few days later he came into the room, pulled up a chair and sat down. He said, "I don't know how to tell you this, I painted a real dark picture before surgery. I have never seen anything like this. In all the biopsies we took we cannot find a single cancer cell. The only cancer cells we found were in the six and one half pound tumor mass and the damaged 65 percent

of the stomach that we removed. Another thing that I have never seen before is that for every cancer cell that was in the removed parts, there were two or more natural immune cells holding them captive."

That afternoon an oncologist came in and explained the process of deciding which medicine to use to fight the type of cancer, and the location of cancer, and to determine the method of delivering the medicine to the targeted cancer. In your case I see no reason to give you chemo, radiation or any other kind of treatment, as we have no target. He suggested that I be tested on a regular schedule in case of any recurring cancer. Five weeks later I was back working and have been going strong ever since. It is very clear to me that God not only saved my soul, He healed my body of cancer. I have taken all the follow up tests including the five-year CAT scan, blood work, upper and lower scopes. The results come back clean and clear with no sign of return of any cancer. Thank God, I have had the chance to tell what He has done for me many times, and to serve Him in many other ways.

Healed for over five years, I consider every day a bonus day and when I wake in the morning the first thing I say is, "Thank you for another bonus day and help me use it to serve you." There is another point that I want to make before I close this article. In the prayer I prayed on that stretcher in that hall I never once asked God to heal my body. At that point I was not concerned about my body, my soul was my only concern. When I told the Lord that if He still had something for me to do I would do it, I was not expecting to get to. Thank the Dear Lord I am still here trying to do everything I can to share the story of my dear Savior, JESUS CHRIST.

Now that you have heard of my miraculous salvation and healing, I want to encourage those that are walking in God's way to be true and faithful. Those that aren't, need to get on the upward way as soon as possible. The longer and farther you go the downward way, the harder and less likely it is that you will ever return and secure a home in Heaven. If that is not done, you will be doomed to the place that was prepared for the devil and his angels, the place I barely missed. Only His everlasting love and mercy lifted me out. Let us pray for each other that we will all be saved and that Heaven will be our eternal home.

With much Christian love,

—Bro. Howell B. Joiner

THE ANTHEM OF THE TREES

*I love to hear the trees their anthems playing:
Their metric swing beneath a stormy sky,
Where clouds across man's path are softly straying
And whispers of the wind are passing by.*

*When ev'ning falls across the meadows lying,
So cool and tranquil on an autumn day,
When all the earth for rest is softly sighing,
I love to hear the trees their anthems play.*

*Sweet music peals its notes upon my spirit,
As leaves and branches rustle in the breeze:
Not with my ears, but with my soul I hear it,
And muse with joy the anthem of the trees.*

*'Tis not the trees that make such music flowing,
For they alone no harmony afford:
Nor can the wind itself with all its blowing
Make melodies of praise unto the Lord.*

*What is it then? They twain can music muster,
And fill the air with notes to bless the soul:
The sacred strains that 'round the branches cluster
Are loosed when comes the breezes' sweet control.*

*A truth I see! For by the Spirit given
That blows among the branches of my heart
The strains of peace are sent and heard from Heaven
By souls around me, blessings to impart.*

*Alone I stand with profit none to render,
Though blessed with knowledge, talent, and esteem:
But by the breath of God so sweet and tender
From out my soul can flow that Living Stream.*

*Flow out from me, sweet Jesus everlasting!
Oh, touch the buds that droop beside my way:
Send forth Thy Spirit, all on Thee I'm casting,
And help me turn earth's darkness into day!*

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

