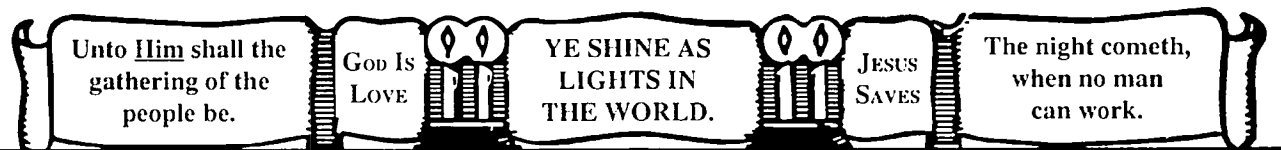


# FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

## Church of God Servant



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## Will Your Children Survive This Blizzard?

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

“...If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” I John 2:15.

Blizzards often completely paralyze the activities of city and country areas, and cause death to those caught without warm shelter or food. Many people in the United States have died in blizzards. In 1940, when I was a little girl living in Oklahoma, 144 people froze to death when a cold arctic front swept across the midwest. In 1958, there were 171 deaths in the northeast, also in the same area 100 died in 1996. New York lost 400 people to a blizzard in 1988. In 1993, 200 died in the eastern part of our country. These are records of some of the worst blizzards in the United States, but Europe records losing 1000 lives as the result of only one blizzard.

A blizzard occurs when masses of cold, polar air move out of the arctic regions and into the

Temperate Zone. When these air masses meet moist, warm air masses coming from the tropics, a cold front forms, separating the two kinds of air masses. Heavy snow falls along the cold front. High winds blow around the low-pressure area where the two air masses meet.

It seems to me that a spiritual blizzard is blowing across the Church. The chilling spirits of satan have moved into the temperate regions of Christendom and are paralyzing many. Revelation 20:7-9 tells us “...Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth,...and compassed the camp of the saints...” Chapter 9 also tells us that the bottomless pit would be opened and spirits would come out that were commanded to hurt all men which had not the seal of God in their foreheads. These prophecies of the end time are surely being fulfilled. Millions of seductive spirits are swarming across the land chilling down those who were once on fire for God. God said, “So then because thou art lukewarm,...I will spew thee out of my mouth.” Revelation 3:16. I wonder how many will be spewed out and eventually die in this awful spiritual blizzard? Then what will happen to the children of those who have cooled off or died?

Many people have lost their lives in blizzards because they did not suspect its force or from where it was coming. The World Book Encyclopedia states that weather forecasters can usu-

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ally tell when a blizzard is coming. But occasionally blizzards change direction and strike cities unaware because only the most skilled forecasters can see all the changes that may occur in a blizzard's path. This spiritual blizzard is the same. There is a subtle, intangible, spiritually evil force behind those things that cause the cooling off.

The impact of that spiritual force is far greater than we suspect. And satan is shrewd. He changes his tactics often so that only those who are the most skillful in spiritual warfare can detect the attack. From the history of the Church we know satan has deceived even those who were skilled in spiritual warfare. Lord, help us to be watchful and seek God to know when and how satan is working.

The subtle power of this blizzard is similar to a magnet or suction. Like quick sand, it will take us under while we're struggling against it. Have you not seen someone struggle and struggle to get loose from material things, but eventually a power stronger than they pulled them under? Satan will storm us with different things—pleasure, doubts, unforgiveness, the cares of life, etc. The cares of this life seem to be the most dangerous. Material things are necessary; our very existence demands their attention. But Jesus told us, "...seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33. He feeds the birds of the air and are we not worth much more than they? Yet to judge by our anxieties it seems that God cares for the birds but not us.

Jesus also warns in Luke 17:26-30 that as it was in the days of Noah and in the days of Lot so shall it be in the days when the Son of man is revealed. What was happening then? They were eating, drinking, marrying, buying, selling and building. What are we doing today? One would think that since food and shelter are more easily obtained than in years passed, that we would be more carefree about them. But we are not. Our conversation shows that the devil's snowflakes of materialism are flurrying through our minds. What is our conversation about? What shall we eat? What shall we wear? Where we are living and what we are driving. "...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Matthew 12:34.

Listen the next time you are in a group. What are the conversations about? The mouth speaks what is in the heart. So what then is on the

heart? Jesus said, "(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:)" By our conversations and where we spend our time and energies will our children judge us to be spiritual Jews or Gentiles?

The force of satan's blizzard is blasting every heart. He forces himself into our hearts through the lusts of the flesh that are not sinful. Food and shelter are not sinful, but satan through his demonic power is using these things to lure us into loving the world more than we love God. I John 2:15-16, says, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

Oh, that parents who love only legitimate things of the world could only see the damage it does to their children. Those things that are luxuries to us will be necessities for our sons and daughters. A blizzard of sinless desires will blind them. Will they be able to survive the awful storm and come out loving God with all their hearts?

During storms of physical persecution the saints have gone through all sorts of pressures, yet stayed true to God. But the pressures of materialism are so different that it is hard to distinguish when "things" are a blessing from God and when they are a curse. Planting and building, buying and selling are perfectly legitimate and even beneficial, but the power behind them presses upon men today until they lose their direction and become unbalanced. Notice how Christians are feverishly making business deals? They are hurrying here and there doing business and talking on the phone in every place, and all hours of the day and night. Their affections are buried by materialism and their spirits are so lean they fall under the lightest pressures.

Men talk about being caught in the rat race, and for what is the race? Is it not to accumulate the world's goods? Isn't it to enjoy as much of the world as possible? If we want to enjoy the world it's because we love the world. For who wants to enjoy what he does not love? In the days when it was really hard to make ends meet; a man would work at one vocation and spend his evening at home with his family. Today, fathers are working two jobs, or both mother and father are working, leaving little time for teaching children the Word. Some entrepreneurs have their fingers in several business

speculations. They are caught up in a marketing maelstrom that is whirling them madly around like a rat on a treadmill.

Are we not able to see that this is not God's plan for His people? God says, "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." Colossians 3:2-3. Are our children convinced that we are dead to the things of the world? At which do they see our eyes sparkle?

When we hear God's Word or when we have obtained something at a terrific bargain or earned extra money?

A storm has formed under the direction of satan and has moved out over the world. Let us say, "No" to collecting more "things" and take shelter under God's Word. That is the only way to protect our families and ourselves. It is the only way to avoid being paralyzed by satan's blizzard.

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## Decided By the Bible

The Bible is the standard by which to determine right and wrong. It is a unit in its teaching. It is the only safe rule to follow regarding the faith and practice of true Christianity.

The Bible never misleads those who follow it. And those who follow it may be sure they are going right. Everyone should receive the Bible preeminently above all the teachings of men. Man may make a mistake, but God does not. People change their doctrines, faiths and revise their creeds over and over, but the Bible is immutable. It is like its author; I am the Lord, I change not. We must neither add to it, nor diminish aught from it. (Deuteronomy 4:2, Revelation 22:18, 19.)

The Bible, like the very throne itself, is unshaken. People under the influence of unbiblical elements are jostled about here and there. Such are under the fluctuating opinions of fallen man. Poor, tempest-tossed soul! Anchor on the unmovable Rock of God's Word and you will see all things as they are. You will then know what is right and what is wrong. You will ignore every other rule of faith and practice but the Bible.

There is but one square or rule, literally speaking, by which to determine the correct measurement of things. Those who set it aside will have trouble and confusion. They will be biased by the clashing of opinions of others and have no certainty of any of them being correct. So it is with those who set aside the Bible. The Savior said, "...Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition." Matthew 15:6. Because of these things many are sidetracked from the Bible.

It is absolutely unsafe in these days of soul-peril (II Timothy 3:1-7), to receive one thing as orthodox from any body purported to be Chris-

tian in faith, doctrine or practice, unless he gives you book, chapter and verse in the Bible as reference. Jesus says, "...if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." Matthew 15:14. Then, for the safety of your soul here and hereafter, receive nothing from anyone relating to Christianity but that which you can read in the Bible. The creeds and doctrines of men will soon burn up with the rubbish of earth, but God's Word will stand forever. "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." And will "Not pass away." Let everything be decided by the Bible.  
—B. E. Warren

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## Take Heed Unto Yourself

Take heed unto yourself,  
Whilst thou are in the way,  
Lest when you've watched all others,  
You, yourself have gone astray.

Be not like dear Peter—  
Seeking what John would do,  
But quickly obey the commands  
That's given by God to you.

See not your neighbors' faults  
and all your own ignore,  
But take the blessed old Bible  
And measure your life all o'er.

Check not your brothers' eyes  
For little motes within,  
Just have a self inspection,  
Lest your beams become a sin.

Take heed unto yourself,  
'Tis needful in this day,  
Satan has so many snares  
To entrap you by the way.

—Sis. Olive Davenport

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

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

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A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

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

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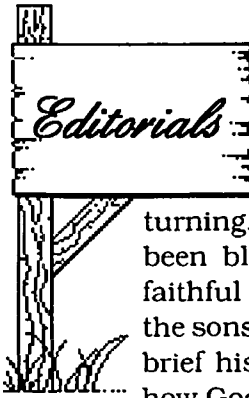
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"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variability, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17. All of us have been blessed by the Lord Who is faithful to bestow good gifts upon the sons of man. As we look over the brief history of our life we can see how God has protected, healed and

delivered us from many troubles that could have severely injured us or instantly snuffed out our life. Recently I was reading in my father's diary about how the Lord delivered him from a difficult situation that occurred in the early 1940's and was impressed with the unchanging nature of God. He has faithfully ministered goodness and mercy to those who trusted and served Him throughout the ages of history and there is no hint that His Divine nature will ever change toward His children.

Actually, in this life the goodness of God is even showered upon the sinner with the intent that they will come to repentance, but those who persist in the ways of iniquity will one day experience His wrath. It is not God's desire to destroy man, for He has ordained a way through His Son to redeem us from the pending doom of the wicked. Therefore it is important that we give a proper response to His goodness that we may find favor in His sight.

In the seventh chapter of Deuteronomy, Moses was instructing the people to keep the statutes and commandments of the Lord. He reminded them that they were a chosen people and how He had so wonderfully delivered them from Egyptian bondage to be His special people. Notice what he said, "For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the

LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;" Deuteronomy 7:6-9.

If one would consider a generation to be about 20 years, then a thousand generations would be 20,000 years. This is a long time in reference to the span of a man's life, yet it is easily within the power of an eternal God to make and keep such a promise. Psalms 119:89 says, "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven." It is a comfort to know that His promises will never fail and His mercies, which were great toward our parents and grandparents will also be extended to us when we obey His Word.

Those who love the Lord are special in His sight. Jesus said, "For many are called, but few are chosen." Matthew 22:14. How we respond to the call of God determines whether we will be chosen or rejected. "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it." Hebrews 4:1. Jesus commanded His disciples to "watch and pray." We have an enemy who is set against us and will stoop to any level to keep us from obeying the Word of the Lord and being accepted in His favor. The enemy would like for us to fear that God will not fulfill His part of the promises, however, as usual, satan gets things backwards. Let us simply and fully yield ourselves to God to do His will then we can safely rest on His promises and in faith know that we are truly one of His chosen people.

When Mary, the mother of our Lord, was visiting at the home of Elisabeth, she said, "For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation." Luke 1:49-50. The covenant God had with the children of Israel was broken by their disobedience time and again until it reached a climax when they crucified the precious Son of God. We received a wonderful blessing from God when He sent His Son to this dark world and it should always strike a chord of thanksgiving in our hearts. This prophecy of Mary has special significance to us today for we are among these generations that are blessed by the mercy of God's Son. Generations have come and gone from this earth since that time and yet the power of His precious blood is still the same in its ability to deliver the souls of men from the

darkness of sin. May we be faithful to do our part to see that our children and those around us have the same understanding and reverence of Jesus that has been passed to us so that this blessing can continue to the end of the world.

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On the evening of January 1<sup>st</sup> Sis. Janie Woodruff experienced a severe stroke and the following morning passed to her eternal reward. Many may remember that Sis. Janie worked for Faith Publishing from March 14, 1992 until June 29, 2006. A previous stroke and several other complications had seriously affected her health. We appreciate the service she rendered to the work of the Lord and we trust He will comfort her family in the days ahead.

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We are thankful that the Lord met with the saints that gathered for the Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting, December 22-31. Many messages went forth under the anointing of the Holy Spirit and we believe the meeting brought forth fruit that will last through eternity.

The date of the Oklahoma State Camp Meeting was set for May 25-June 3. We invite you to make plans to attend.

Prior to the Assembly Meeting someone stole the cooling coils from four air conditioning condensing units that were mounted on the north side of the Guthrie chapel. They obviously took them to sell for scrap metal since the prices on copper have risen. However, the cost of replacing the units will be several thousand dollars. We are looking to the Lord to supply for these replacements before the next camp meeting. Precautions were taken to help secure five other units that are also mounted nearby.

The family housing units that are under construction near the Guthrie chapel are looking nice on the outside. The bricklayers have bricked the exterior of the 12 units with a brick color that is a close match to the brick on the chapel. While there is still a substantial amount of work yet to be done to finish the interior of the project we believe they will be a great blessing to those attending the meetings when completed.

—Bro Willie E. Murphey  
wemurphey@yahoo.com

*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1.*



OK—Remember my mother in prayer, Sis. Lula Williamson. She has some serious physical needs.

—Sis. Maxine Pruitt

Pray for Sis. Marlene Anderson. She is very sick.

—Bro. Carlos Arriaga

Germany—1-5-2007—Dear Brethren and Sisters: I greet you in Jesus' name. I thank God for all He has done for me. I thank you for your prayers and your notes of encouragement. I have felt the blessing of those prayers. After being dismissed from the hospital I had stomach problems for three days. After the third day we prayed the prayer of faith in the family evening service and the Lord took away the problem. Praise God! Since that time I have recovered my full strength. Praise the Lord! Now I am able to eat, sleep and walk around and help my wife as much as I can. Thank God!

Your brother in Christ, —Alen Laukert

*(Bro. Alen has been recovering from a serious case of Tropical Malaria he contracted while on a mission trip to Ghana. We praise God for sparing his life in answer to prayer. —Editor)*

## Standing Prayer Requests

Sis. Marlene Anderson  
 Bro. Carlos Arriaga  
 Sis. Dorothy Burditt  
 Sis. Mamie Butcher  
 Sis. Gladys Cashio  
 Sis. Helen Carson  
 Sis. Waneta Creel  
 Sis. Dorall Forbes  
 Sis. Evelyn Fredrickson  
 Bro. Troy Gentry  
 Sis. Juliette Lounds  
 Sis. Melba Powell  
 Sis. Anna Severs  
 Sis. Cheryl Smith  
 Bro. Michael Smith  
 The Mitch Taylor family  
 Sis. Lula Williamson

## MEETING DATES

Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—May 25-June 3  
 National (Monark Springs)—July 20-29



## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

MO—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: As I was reading a few evenings ago in John, I was impressed with the statements he made about "I am."

When God was calling Moses to go lead the children of Israel out of Egypt, Moses asked what name to tell them that had sent him. "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." Who is that "I AM" and what does that name stand for? As I begin looking through Jesus' words He declared many "I am's." **I am** with you always, **I am** meek and lowly, **I am** the bread of life, **I am** the light of the world, **I am** the door, **I am** the good shepherd, **I am** the son of God, **I am** the resurrection and the life, **I am** not of this world, **I am** the way, the truth, and the life, **I am** the vine, and several more. Jesus was to be called "Immanuel" which means, "God with us." He came that we might know what that "I Am" stands for and to show us the Father. Praise the Lord for the revelation of the great "I AM."

—Sis. LaVerna Probst

CA—Dear Bro. Willie: Hope that all your family is well. Paulino still has a hard time walking. I can walk short distances without the walker. We thank the Lord for all the help He gives us. With Christian love, —Sis. Edith Lara

OK—Dear Bro. Murphey: My husband, David Hughes, passed away October 4. He was ready to go and went so peacefully. I felt the Spirit in his passing and through-out the funeral service. Bro. Carl Shaffer and Bro. McMillian officiated.

We have been here 11 years and because of his memory loss he was not able to communi-

cate. What he did was whistle hymns and later clapped his hands a lot. One of the workers said, "I just think he is praising the Lord."

In going through his things I found this. (*The Final Exam*) When I read it I said, "that tells exactly what kind of a person he was!"

May the Lord bless you in your work and labor of love. We are using the *Beautiful Way* books in our devotions for the residents here in the Golden Rule Home. One of the ladies liked the reading so much and said she would like to have one. Sis. Evodna Marler did get her one.

In Christ, —Sis. Florence Hughes

### The Final Exam

1. When others give their opinion of me, will they say I was 100% committed to God? Will they say I put Him first, even when it meant sacrificing my own pleasure or comfort?

2. When my family remembers me, will they remember that I was so close to the Lord that I began to reflect His presence to them—His love, His joy, His peace, His self-control—the fruit of His Spirit within me?

3. When the Divine bookkeepers tally up how much of my life and energy and material gifts were spent serving God, will they mark "zero," or "whatever was convenient," or some neat percent, or will they mark "all"?

4. When my church remembers me, will they say I was faithful, I was an encouragement to them to draw closer to God and each other, or will they say I was always a critical, petty, selfish person who always took but never gave?

5. Do I live as one who will give an account of myself to my Creator, or as if there were no final exam?

Dear Lord, You have given me this one life and many choices. Help me to make wise choices so I will not need to be ashamed of my final grade on the test. Help me to put the past behind, forgiven, and to make a fresh commitment, a fresh start TODAY. Give me the joy of Your presence. Give me the joy of feeling and seeing spiritual growth taking place in my daily life, because I have chosen it and am making time for it to happen. Make my life a witness we can both be happy of. Amen.

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OK—Dear Bro. Willie: The enclosed is just a little part of my testimony.

I am thankful for the great change since Jesus came into my heart. There was always a desire to live a good moral life for I loved the

truth and God's people even though I was not living as I knew I should.

While working in Mountain View, AR, I chose to remain at the workplace as the others went out to lunch. A very unusual thing happened as I was sitting; a presence seemed to be beside me even though I could see no one. A large screen appeared showing my whole life. It was shocking and I was very disturbed at what I saw. It would keep me and others out of Heaven. I began to cry, "My God, have mercy on me. Jesus, I do want to serve you with what time I have left. Deliver me from the things shown me and from this mess." The screen disappeared, but He did deliver in a strange way. For a time things went normally and the scene sort of left my mind.

Unexplainable things started happening, some little and some big, such as the time I was tilling the garden while I was at home alone. I lost control of the tiller and it bounced up and caught my leg behind the knee. I drove to the clinic where the doctor stated that if it had been a hair deeper it could have caused me to bleed to death. He didn't believe in miracles, but remarked if there was such a thing, it was one. It required 60 stitches, not counting the ones on the inside. The Lord helped me and I was not down for 9 months as he recommended and I have had no problems since.

Many other strange things happened from 2004 to 2006. At another time while I was working I became very ill. Something similar to vertigo begin to effect me. Things became distorted in my vision. I was taken to the hospital as they thought I was having a heart attack. Later, after improving, I realized I had some work to do in the attic. While I was on the ladder it suddenly slipped and I fell nine feet and hit my head on the concrete. This occurred around noon and I didn't regain consciousness until about dark. Finally I tried driving to two clinics which were closed. Knowing I needed attention, I attempted to drive to Batesville, 35 miles away. Only a miracle could have guided my truck around those hills and curves. Then for three hours I waited for their help. Finally they cleaned my injuries, bandaged me up and sent me home. It was very painful trying to get in the vehicle. In the next 12 days I lost 25 pounds because I wasn't eating and getting proper care. Most of the time I was "out of it." My daughter and family came and took me to their home. I

didn't recognize their home. For five months they cared for me like a baby. During that time I was in and out of consciousness. I began calling on God and asked, "God, why are you so far away?" I saw Him on the cross. He wasn't so far away that He didn't hear my prayers. He showed me where I was—in the valley of the shadow of death. He spoke to me saying, "read the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm." He was watching over me. I begged His forgiveness, repenting of all I had done. Praise God, salvation came through the blood of Christ. Now, I am happy to be home with Him again and with the people of God. While I have some things to learn and unlearn, I am thankful that salvation has returned to my home forever. Heaven is my ultimate goal.

Thank you to those that prayed for me and have helped during these trying times, especially to my daughter Lorain and Rhett who stood by me. —Bro. Troy Dale Meek

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MO—Dear Family and Friends: Greetings once again at the ending of another year! I know we say it every year, but "HOW SWIFTLY TIME DOES FLY!" In 2005, my main news was the building of my new house and some of the difficulties and problems I faced in the process. Especially, the problems I encountered when the contractor walked away from the job and left me with the house unfinished, after I had already paid him for certain aspects. (*Bro. Harlan Sorrell's letter describing the trying events he faced during the construction of his home was published in the January, 2006 issue of the "Faith and Victory."* —Editor.) Well, this year, I've got to tell you the rest of the story! By the way, I did get the house completed around April of this year and I've been enjoying living in it ever since. But something else has turned out to be such an unspeakable blessing that I've just got to share it. I know some of you have already heard it, so please bear with me while I share this with those of you who have not.

As you all know, I went through quite a trial last year when my carpenter did me the way he did. I felt that I had never been done such a great injustice in all my life. I was strongly tempted to take legal action against him, but the Lord dealt with my heart in a very personal way and showed me that I needed to just commit the situation to Him. I made my decision to do that and the Lord gave me grace to forgive the man and keep sweet and pure in my soul. Also, the Lord supplied all my financial needs that arose

from the situation and worked everything out. God is so good and so wonderful! But the story gets even better!

The apostle Paul said in Romans 12:19-21, "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

This year I got my chance to experience firsthand just how this scripture works! The carpenter who did me wrong got into some very serious trouble. A year ago this month, he went to jail, where he stayed until this past September. It was over an incident that happened at a bar in June of 2005. He was charged with four counts relative to an alleged rape.

After reading of the charges in a local newspaper, I assumed that the man was probably guilty. I figured he would probably end up going to prison for quite a few years. I had a concern for his soul, but I really didn't feel too sorry for him. I figured he probably deserved it. But I had a desire to go to his trial and hear the testimonies of the witnesses and see what the final verdict would be.

His trial date finally came on September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006. It was a jury trial, held at Doniphan, MO on change of venue from West Plains, MO, where he lived. As I look back on it now, I can see that God had his hand in causing the trial date to be set at the time it was. That was the week I was on lay-off, therefore I was able to go. Had it been during a week when I was working, it would not have been possible for me to have attended the trial. I know now that God wanted me there.

I'll never forget the look on John's face when he saw me in the courtroom that day. It was like, "Oh no, what now?" But I was looking for an opportunity to speak to and with him. (I had not spoken to him since he walked away from the job I hired him to do a year before.) I finally got my chance to speak to him in the courtyard as he was standing with his guard during a recess. At first he turned his back to me and seemed to ignore me as I was walking toward him. However, I walked right up beside him and said, "Hello, John!" He then turned to me and returned the "hello." Our conversation was rather strained at first, but at a certain point I told him



I wanted him to know that I was praying for him. It was at that point that he let his guards down. He said, "Harlan, I appreciate it. I sure do need it." From that point on, he seemed to appreciate my presence in the courtroom.

The trial lasted two days. There were many, many witnesses called. As I sat and listened to all the testimonies that were given, I began to realize that this man must not really be guilty of all he was being charged with. He had sinned greatly, yes, but I couldn't see how the woman who brought the charges against him could justly say she was raped in light of what the other witnesses testified that they had observed of her actions that night at the bar.

The jury deliberated less than an hour before returning with their verdict. During this time I noticed that John had his head bowed as if he were praying (which I found out later from him, that he was.) I also bowed my head in prayer and asked the Lord to show John mercy, if it could be His will. Each of the charges they had against John carried a minimum of five years in prison up to life in prison. John's life was resting in the jury's hands.

When the jury returned with their verdict the atmosphere in the courtroom became very tense. As the bailiff carried the verdict from the jury to the judge I noticed that John began trembling and shaking. My heart went out to him. Then the judge began to read the verdict on each count, one by one. It was "NOT GUILTY, NOT GUILTY, NOT GUILTY, NOT GUILTY!" After the very first "not guilty" was read, John began to weep uncontrollably. As each "not guilty" was read he began to cry harder. He bent over the table he was sitting at there in that courtroom and wept and wept and wept. I heard later that one of the jurors said, "When we saw that, we knew we had made the right decision." I don't think I ever saw a man more appreciative of mercy than John was that day. It was so heart touching. As you all know, I'm a tenderhearted man, and I couldn't sit there and watch all that without shedding tears myself.

After the judge had dismissed the court, I walked forward to shake John's hand. I had assumed that when the trial was over I would go my way and John would go his way. Little did I know what the Lord had in mind! When I stepped up to John, he threw his arms around me and I threw my arms around him and we stood there crying on each other's shoulders. He

said, "Thank you, Harlan!" After we withdrew from our embrace we stood there side by side with tears streaming down our faces, not knowing what to say next. Then John said, "Harlan, I don't know what to do now. I don't have anything. I lost everything I had." For the first time it dawned on me that this man was totally destitute. He had lost his home in a divorce about a year and a half before. Then, because of his loneliness and broken heart he got into heavy drinking and bar life, which led to the trouble he got into. Then, while he was in jail, he lost the house he was renting in West Plains and his so-called friends came in and took all his personal belongings—his tools and his truck, and disposed of them as they saw fit. Somehow they falsified the title to his truck, sold it and kept the money for themselves. (I guess they thought he would be going to prison so it wouldn't matter anyway.) So poor John came out of the ordeal with absolutely nothing left to his name but his jail clothes, the clothes they bought him for his trial and a few personal items that were given to him in jail. (If I remember correctly, he said not one person came to visit him during the whole nine months he spent in jail.) Also, he had no family in this part of the country to turn to for help.

So now, here I stood, side by side with the man I once felt had wronged me more than any man ever had. And now, he was needing help. What should I do? My mind was whirling. Finally, I said what my heart told me to say, "John, do you want to come home with me?" I could tell he hardly knew how to take that. He seemed really reluctant. He said, "Well, I believe there's a shelter in Poplar Bluff where I can go and stay until I can get back on my feet again." Also, he said he wanted to just go walk in the sunshine for awhile and be alone and think. He said he had hardly been in the sunlight at all during the nine months he had been in jail and he was anxious to just walk and enjoy the outdoors. So I gave him my phone number and told him to call me collect if he needed to.

I left the courthouse in Doniphan then and drove on home. On the way home I burst into tears several times just thinking about everything. I felt so good and so inspired in my heart. I felt that God was doing something good and something wonderful beyond my ability to really comprehend.

A few hours later, John called me. He had hitchhiked to Poplar Bluff and he had also

called his dad in Connecticut. His dad had told him that if he could somehow get back to Connecticut he would give him a place to live and help him get back on his feet again. But his dad had no money to send him to make the trip. John said, "Harlan, could you do me a great big favor? Could you buy me a bus ticket to Connecticut?" I said, "Yes, John, I'll do that for you." But I said, "John, I want you to see my house before you leave." He said, "Come and get me." He told me where to meet him, and I took off to Poplar Bluff to pick him up. He was very tired and hungry when I picked him up, so I took him to McDonald's in Doniphan on the way back home and bought him something to eat. (I didn't realize he hadn't had anything to eat all day until he told me.)

After we got home, the first thing was a tour of the house. He was very impressed with how it had all turned out. But he was so tired, he could hardly stand up, so he wanted to go to bed right away. I told him he could have the master bedroom. But I said, "Let's have a word of prayer before you go to bed." I then had prayer with him, and he thanked me.

He slept like a log that night. I hardly heard a noise from his bedroom until around 10:00 that next morning. After he got up, he said, "That was the best night of sleep I had in nine months! It was just so good to be able to lay down and sleep and feel secure." We had a wonderful visit together that day before we left my place, as well as on the way to the bus station. He said, "Harlan, you've been so good to me, after the way I treated you! I hope I can do something for you sometime." In our conversation I said to him, "John, you don't even seem like the same man I hired to build my house last year." He said, "I'm a whole lot more humble!" He went on to say, "Harlan, I was so proud. My whole life revolved around my possessions and what I had. I believe God allowed all this to happen to me to bring me down and show me just how nothing I really am." He said, "I want to give the rest of my days to God, however many they are. God has been so good to me, and I'm so unworthy."

He also told me how that on the night of July 4<sup>th</sup> he tried to commit suicide there in the Doniphan jail. He devised a plan to hang himself and carried it out, but the jailer found him and they were able to revive him. He had already lost

consciousness when they found him. He said that during the time he was unconscious to this world, he looked up and saw his dear grandmother who had died years ago. He said he reached for her, but he couldn't get to her. Instead, he felt himself sinking. He said he knew he was going to hell.

Before taking him to the bus station, he gave me his dad's address and phone number so that I could keep in touch with him. I also gave him some tapes and CDs and a couple of booklets to read. One of them was Bro. Mart Samon's testimonial booklet titled "From Darkness to Light."

Since John has returned to Connecticut we have continued to have steady contact through phone calls and letters. He told me on the phone, "If it hadn't been for you, Harlan, I don't know what I would have done...I think about you all the time and I pray for you every night before I go to bed." He also said he wants to buy a Bible and in a recent letter he said, "Things have been going well for me. Work is going good, and staying clean and sober is a wonderful feeling...You are such a wonderful friend, and I thank God for that. God bless you Harlan and I'll write again soon. Your friend, John."

Dear ones, there is no way I can put into words the joy and blessing that this experience has brought to my heart. It is beyond my ability to comprehend how God can take something that was such a setback and trial to me a year ago and turn it around into something so blessed and wonderful! As song 485 in the *Evening Light Songs* hymnal says, "He will turn what seems to harm me into everlasting joy." That is just what the Lord has done for me in this situation. I am so glad I put it all in His hands. If I had chosen to avenge myself on John by taking legal action against him for what he did to me, who knows, maybe that would have pushed him over the brink of despair and he might have actually committed suicide. Or, even otherwise, I would have made an enemy of him for life. But like I told him in one of my letters a few weeks ago, "It's so much better having you for a friend than an enemy."

I know I've truly gained John's confidence and friendship for life. He holds me in high esteem. He wants me to come to Connecticut and visit him sometime next year. Also, his father has expressed a desire for me to come visit. (He seems to appreciate so much what I

did to help his son.) I am hoping that it will work out for me to do that. I've never been in that part of the country and I would love, not only to see the country, but to go spend some quality time with John and meet his relatives. He has offered to take me on a tour of the New England states. So that's something I've got in the back of my mind and looking forward to in the year of 2007, if the Lord wills.

I have thought much lately of the words of song 329 in the *Evening Light Songs* hymnal:

*We are sowing every moment, Seeds that yield much good, or bad;  
And each one is surely growing, Cheering souls or making sad:  
Let us sow good seeds for Jesus, In the hearts of fallen men,  
Many happy souls will bless us, And a crown of glory gain.*

*Let us sow each seed in kindness, Praying God the fallow ground  
May be broken up in softness, And the fruits of peace abound;  
When the heart with sin is heavy, He will start the flowing tear,  
And the gems of truth from heaven, Fruit of life eternal bear.*

*Give us, Lord, much grace and wisdom, With the countless seeds we sow;  
Though we scatter some at random, They may germinate and grow:  
Some may fall in crowded places, On the dry, unyielding plain,  
But, if watered by thy graces, Not a seed is sown in vain.*

*Help us, then, O loving Savior, Bless the precious seeds that fall;  
We will sow in hope of gath'ring In this final harvest call:  
And the toilers who have mingled With the seed their anxious tears,  
Will return with shouts, and bringing Many sheaves in coming years.*

My great desire and prayer is that John will come to know the Lord in a real "born again" experience. I ask those of you who thus know the Lord to join with me in prayer to that end. As we live our lives from day to day, let us live by these scriptures: "Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children: And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour." Ephesians 5:1-2. "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And ABOVE ALL THESE THINGS PUT ON CHARITY, which is the bond of perfectness." Colossians 3:12-14. "LET ALL YOUR THINGS BE DONE WITH CHARITY." I Corinthians 16:14.

If we will live by these scriptures, then we can know the meaning of the angel's proclamation in Luke 2:14, "...and on earth peace, good will toward men." Love. —Bro. Harlan Sorrell



**Joseph Chandler** was born March 14, 1925, to Phillip and Dorothy Chandler in Jones, Oklahoma. He passed from this life November 24, 2006.

Joseph spent his childhood and early youth in the farming community of Fallis, OK. Tragically, his father died when Joseph was about one and a half years old. His godly grandmother, Ellen Chandler, became the central figure in his life and her influence would follow him until the end of his life. He attended Big Oak School in the Fallis area and later attended Douglass High School in Oklahoma City.

As a young man, Joseph developed a relationship with Virginia Festerman and became the father of two wonderful children, a son, Joseph Jr. and a daughter, Gloria. In 1951, he met and married Frances Adams and to this union two children were born, Charles Leroy and Phyllis Cecelia.

In 1952, Joseph was inducted into the United States Army. He served stateside during the Korean conflict, receiving the National Defense Service medal, and was honorably discharged in 1954.

Joseph was a master mechanic and operated Chandler's Transmission shop in Guthrie, OK for many years. After closing this business, he went to work for the Oklahoma City Public Schools, starting as a heavy equipment operator and after a short time, entering the plumbing department. He advanced and became a licensed master plumber. Joseph retired from Oklahoma City Public Schools in 1985.

Joseph attended services at The Church of God at Northeast 57th and Denver, under the ministry of his son, Pastor Charles L. Chandler.

As a young man, Joseph departed from the faith of his grandmother, but she was never very far from his thoughts. In March of this year, he

shared with his family that he had surrendered his heart to Jesus Christ. The following Sunday, he publicly proclaimed his faith and knelt at the altar asking the ministers to pray for him. In this new life, he loved to share in praying for the saints. Many times when a need was mentioned, he would tell his wife, "I prayed, too." He attended service as long as his health permitted, and at the end, he was longing to go home.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his daughter, Phyllis.

Joseph leaves to cherish his memory his wife of 55 years, Frances; two sons, Joseph Chandler, Jr. (Frances) of Guthrie, OK and Charles Chandler (Dianne) of Spencer, OK; one daughter, Gloria Glover of Oklahoma City; one sister, Mary Chandler of Spencer, OK; 15 grandchildren, Virginia Chandler, Jermaine Chandler, Joseph Chandler III, Marcus Chandler, Alvin Chandler, Reginald Chandler, Darryn Chandler, Felicia Lawrence, Eugenia Lawrence, Clayton Lawrence, Matthew Chandler, Aaron Chandler, Andrew Chandler, Nathan Chandler and Quinton Chandler; 35 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, saints and friends.

Funeral services were officiated by Bro. Charles Lowe on December 2, 2006. Interment is at Trice Hill Cemetery of Oklahoma City, OK.

**Orpha Lorene (Wilson) Mapes** was born September 14, 1915, to Sam and Beulah Wilson in MO. Her family consisted of two older sisters, Myrtle and Alice, a younger sister, Lois, and one brother, Clifford. Orpha married James Mapes in 1936.

Orpha worked as a dietician, retiring from the Tillamook General Hospital. Orpha and James raised their family in Tillamook, OR. One of the highlights of her life was getting to travel with her husband for 15 years. She was ever thankful for God's mercy in saving her husband shortly before his passing. She settled in the Salem area to be near her daughter and church family until her passing.

"Don't mourn for me, for I've been looking forward to this time when God would call me Home. I have believed all my life that Jesus died that I might live. I'm thankful that He forgave my sins and washed me in His blood. My prayers are that others will find Him precious to their souls. I've done the best I know how to live for Him. I may not hear Him say "Well done" but I surely expect my kind and loving Savior to say, "She hath done what she could." I hope all of you will

get saved and make Heaven your Eternal Home. I love you and Him dearly. Mom and Grandma."

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Lois, sister, Myrtle Haugen, and brother, Clifford Wilson.

She is survived by her sons, Donald (Neva) and Richard (Kathye); daughters, Karen DeVries and Nancy Haertel; sisters, Alice Klienke and Lois Biggs; 13 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Sunday, October 8, 2006, at the Church of God in Jefferson, OR for Sis. Orpha Mapes who died October 5 at the age of 91. Officiating ministers were Bro. Steve Elwell and Bro. Bob Wilson. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

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A memorial service honoring the life of **Mrs. Ella Marie Mitchell** was held at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, December 3, 2006 in the chapel of Kinner & Stevens Funeral Home with Bro. Michael Williamson and Sis Genevieve Carver officiating. Burial was in the Belah Cemetery of Trout, LA.

She passed from this life on Friday, December 1, 2006 at her residence in the Belah community. Sis. Marie was born on December 5, 1924 in Guthrie, OK to the union of Harry and Minnie (Ott) White. She and her husband, Manuel, owned and operated Mitchell's Grocery, Mitch's Restaurant, and Montgomery Wards mail order store in Jena, LA for many years. She was a member of the Church of God in Midway, LA.

Sis. Marie was preceded in death by her husband, Manuel, a son, Ernest Duane Mitchell, a sister, Frances DeForth, and by her parents. She is survived by two daughters, Sherlene Nunnally and husband, John, and Loretta Mitchell and husband, Sean, both of Belah, LA; a son, Gary I. Mitchell and wife Gracie of Belah, LA; two sisters, Vera Henderson of Guthrie, OK and Virginia Mitchell of Jena, LA; five grandchildren, one great-grandchild, seven step-grandchildren and nine step-great-grandchildren.

To the Saints of the Church of God: Thank you for all the cards of care and encouragement that were sent to mother. She felt so humbled by them all. Although mother had some pain and suffering, it was far less than what I have heard from others trusting in doctors and medicine. We all appreciate the prayers that were sent up for mother. We could definitely see the Lord working.

Mother grew very weary with her sickness but she stayed the course and now wears the crown. We are so thankful for that. Thanks again for the saints' calls and prayers.

—Marie Mitchell family, Gary, Loretta and Sherlene

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**Albert Wesley Parker** was born to James Wesley and Catherine Elizabeth (Ware) Parker in Memphis, TN on February 27, 1922. He passed from this life December 25, 2006 at the age of 84 years, 9 months and 28 days.

On January 29, 1941, at the age of 18, he enlisted in the US Navy. After basic training he was sent to a Navy electrical school, which prepared him to serve on a destroyer, the USS Hambleton, manning the main electrical switchboard. In December of 1941 the United States joined with the Second World War that was already raging in Europe and the destroyer Mr. Parker was serving on was called into action.

While participating in the invasion of North Africa, on the night of November 11, 1942, Albert was released from his shift in the forward engine room only a couple of minutes before a German torpedo struck his ship tearing a 56 foot hole in the ship's hull, striking the engine room he had left moments earlier. Many of his fellow workers were killed while he miraculously escaped with only a black eye and a sprained shoulder.

During his tour of duty he traveled many places in the world including the far north where he mentioned seeing polar bears, walrus and Eskimos. After 21 years and 5 months of active service in the US Navy he retired on June 2, 1952 as a Chief Warrant Officer, W-3.

In later years he settled north of Edmond, OK and regularly attended worship services at the Church of God in Guthrie, OK.

He was preceded in death by his parents and eight brothers and sisters.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Parker, of the home; one son, Wesly Parker of Memphis, TN; one daughter, Ann Ralls of Byhalia, MS; three step-sons, Earl Benson of Guthrie, OK; Ray Benson of Edmond, OK and Cecil Benson of Guthrie, OK; one sister, Alice Johnson of Ashland, MS; and nine grandchildren.

Memorial services were held at Baggerly Funeral Home in Edmond, OK. Brothers Stanley Dickson and Lloyd Taylor officiated. Graveside services were held at Maplewood Cemetery in Harrison, AR by Bro. Willie E. Murphey.

**Janie Estelle Coulter Woodruff** was born February 25, 1952 in Mt. Vernon, IN to Roy and Eva Mae Coulter. She was the seventh of eight children. Her childhood days were spent growing up on a tobacco farm in Greenbrier, TN.

On the morning of January 2, 2007, at her home in Guthrie, OK, Sis. Janie received her call to come home and be with Christ.

On November 15, 1969 she was united in marriage to Jerry Lynn Woodruff. To this union was born two children, Michael Scott and Tracie Lynn.

Janie and her children moved to Wisconsin in the summer of 1980. In Wisconsin she came into contact with the Church of God at Shell Lake. Shortly thereafter she was born into the Church and with courage and determination has lived for the Lord Jesus ever since.

Janie was a single mother for several years and always gave what she had for her children. She made life fun for her children as she played games and read books to them and took them fishing and hunting.

Janie was firm and faithful in her determination to live for the Lord. Through life's trials and tribulations she was always faithful to seek the will and the life of Christ as her guide.

In the Spring of 1992, Janie and her daughter, Tracie, moved to Guthrie, OK. In Guthrie, Janie offered her talents to the Faith Publishing House. From the mowing of grass, to the printing of literature, to bookwork and record keeping, proofreading and to maintaining the mailing list she always proved to be a valuable and conscientious worker.

Sis. Janie continued to work at the Print Shop until 2006 when, due to declining health, she resigned. This proved to be a boon for her grandson, Dylan, as she then became his primary babysitter. She and Dylan developed a special and close relationship.

Janie is survived by her son, Michael, and his wife, Rhonda, of Seneca, MO; her daughter, Tracie Johnston, and her husband, Adrian, of Guthrie, OK; three grandchildren, Dylan Johnston of Guthrie, OK; Logan and Cheylin Woodruff of Seneca, MO.

She is also survived by five sisters, Louise Wooden, Geraldine Smith, Mary Murphy, Faye Morphis and Regina Biggs all of Springfield, TN; two brothers, David Coulter of Springfield, TN and James Coulter of Greenbrier, TN.

The memorial service was officiated by Bro. Stanley Dickson. Interment is at Summit View Cemetery in Guthrie, OK.

# WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT THE MISSIONARIES?

By Sis. Patricia Bell

I was three when my parents moved to Mexico to begin the mission work there. For me, life was very happy although I couldn't understand what the people were saying, and I found it strange that they didn't put clothes on the little toddlers. Our living standard was quite the same as the others around us, but I noticed that my father was always gone away helping people somewhere. Quite often he would bring many people into our home to have church and to eat.

As I grew older I learned to look forward to the saint's visits and then grew disappointed when it seemed we were forgotten; I realized that we were ambassadors for the Lord, and that we were representing a small part of His church. I was excited to be a part of something that others were also contributing to accomplish.

Since I have become an adult, living in the U. S., I have been surprised to see how disinterested people seem in supporting the missionary work; but just this week the Lord has given me an insight that helped me understand that most people don't know why it's so extremely important that we give to them; so I wish to share a picture of where most of the funds will typically go.

Here in the U. S. each one has the opportunity to work and make money for themselves and all we feel responsible for is "my own needs." The missionaries could survive on very little if all they needed was money for themselves. What people don't understand is that in most countries where missionaries are sent, the morals are low, the health standard is low, the education level is poor and the people many times live in a survival mode.

Besides the care of the Sunday school and the meeting house building needs, the missionary will travel extensively to visit and take the gospel to the people. The areas around the town they live in also need to be evangelized. The missionary, moreover, looks for opportunities to win the people's trust, so they will show the natives love with special gifts on their birthday, presents on mother's day, Christmas, etc. When someone's roof is leaking, for example, the missionary will buy supplies to fix it. They will be the first to go help in other similar needs. When some family member dies, the missionary will use his resources to give the family a decent funeral or in an emergency the missionary will use his gas to drive them many miles to obtain

help. Many meals are prepared, not only for their own family but for several others, almost everyday as people come over to their home to learn from the missionary. Food is taken for the family of a sick mother and will help look after the children. Missionaries repair flat tires, help supply water, lights and fix leaky pipes when necessary with their own funds. Missionaries will see after the handicapped, the elderly, the orphaned and the widows.

Most of the missionary's personal belongings will end up being mysteriously lost. Many native people don't think anything of taking something they "found" in one's yard or even leaning against the mission house. If something is not nailed down and they need it, they'll just help themselves. Many such losses are an every week occurrence for the missionary. As the missionary teaches and raises the community to a more civil standard, his losses will be great. Missionaries have a much harder and broader area of work than any one who is not there with them could imagine.

One might say, "That's not the missionaries purpose to help in that way," but one must realize that teaching the gospel without showing them love and care is not effective.

This is why it takes so much money for the missionary to be successful. Giving financially is one way we can help them feel like a shining conduit of the love of God. Let us not stop the flow upstream; it can be very discouraging and extremely tiring and lonely to our brothers and sisters laboring in the field.



*When at last sounds the din of the final crashing of ages, when time and eternity meet, amid the piercing, heart-rending cries of the lost followers of earthly fashions and false religions, there shall also be fulfilled this glorious prophecy of Daniel 12:3—"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." See to it that you take your place among the great throng of "shining ones."*

—Selected

# GODLY EXERCISE


Paul the apostle said, "...exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." I Timothy 4:7-8. We need spiritual exercise to keep strong in the Lord just as surely as we need bodily exercise to have strong muscles in our physical bodies. Let someone cease bodily exercise for a certain length of time and the muscles will become flabby and weak, so that a little hard work will tire them. The way to keep our bodies strong is to take care of them in a proper manner and give them plenty of good exercise. We will find this a profitable thing for us in this life. While this is profitable for only a little time the exercise of godliness is profitable, not only for this life, but for the life to come. It was this precious truth that was uppermost in the mind of Paul when the above words were penned to the beloved Timothy.

Christians are compared to soldiers, wrestlers, and men running a race. Those who follow the above occupations need strong bodies, well trained for hard service. As soldiers and wrestlers our contests are not with flesh and blood, "...but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:12. Our contests are spiritual and with spiritual enemies; and we need spiritual exercise and training to keep us continually fitted and strong for every contest. Every spiritual faculty and grace must be kept properly exercised in order that we be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. As we put on the whole armor of God to be properly uniformed as Christian soldiers, so we must learn how to skillfully use the armor by proper training and exercise.

If we need more spiritual strength, let us examine ourselves to see if we have been exercising the strength we have already received. Those who feel weak and timid should move out more for God in testimony and prayer in the public meetings. Those who are weak in faith should move out and trust God for things they need. People, who give down without resisting and fighting a good fight of faith, will never get strong. It is said of a certain tribe of natives of South America that the men live only by fishing

while sitting in their canoes, which they continually paddle about on the water. As a result of this kind of exercise, their arms and the upper part of their bodies is strong and well proportioned, while the lower part is weak and dwarfed in appearance. Now, those men have the same faculties that other men have, in order to be well proportioned and strong; but they do not exercise their lower limbs and consequently they are weak and dwarfed. A good many who profess godliness are sadly lacking in symmetry and strength for lack of godly exercise. They do not exercise enough in prayer, reading and public testimony for God. When tempted and tried they do not resist or are not able to do so. When sick they resort to earthly remedies instead of exercising faith and trust in God. Some are lacking in love because they have not been careful to maintain good works by doing little acts of love and kindness at every opportunity. If they would

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

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