

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

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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Guthrie, Oklahoma

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Zipped

By Bro. Galen Kelly

Have you ever bought a product, new tool or toy for someone and tried to put it back in the original package? Have you had a backpack that wouldn't quite hold everything it did when you first packed it? Or a suitcase that will no longer hold what you once had in it, and so you can never get it zipped back up?

For compact transport of many large computer files, they are zipped by complex algorithms into a smaller space than what they work in when being used. Once they are at a useful place they are unzipped and are then used.

The Verse "...God is love" is an example of a product, given by God to man. It is a small verse, compact in length, short and easy to say. I know you have what it takes to unzip this file, so-to-speak. The more you unzip the love of God, the more there is to unzip, it just keeps expanding exponentially. How great is God's love! While we were yet sinners He vouchsafed His love to us

and for us by sending His Son to die for our sins to appease God's disgust with sin. Some have availed themselves directly of this love, while others have denied it personally, but all have been and continue to be recipients of God's love in so many ways.

Consider the people that live on God's mercy and take advantage of God's gifts with no apparent change or appreciation for them. God doesn't cut these people off or ration their benefits—He just keeps pouring in the love. What a rich Father. We have all experienced His goodness and know that it leads men to repentance. Those that don't change in this life will know without a doubt that God was good to them and wooed them daily. There is not one of us who knows anything about life without God and God's love in the degree I am conveying. Take a moment to think what it would be like to live without any of the daily blessings that we take as part of our rights, and yet there is a place where there will be no shining of God's favor or any of God's creation or blessings. This will be a place of eternal night, just by the one simple fact of not having any of the presence of God or His creation to rely on and enjoy. Isn't it great to know we have a choice. We can choose to change this selfish, unthankful life style and agree with God, accept His atonement and be saved from our sin. We can then be of the number that are approving of God's many gifts of love and living it out now and making progress towards and preparing to enjoy the fullness of His love by receiving the inheritance and the continuation of all love in Heaven.

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“And Your Sons and Your Daughters Shall Prophesy”

By Sis. Marsha Corteway

“And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,...And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.” Joel 2:28-29. This passage was quoted by Peter on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:17-18.) Men and women were both present when the Holy Ghost was given. (Acts 1:14.) “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost...” Acts 2:4.

Prophecy: Gift of speaking under the influence of the Holy Spirit. To declare or predict by or as by the influence of divine guidance. To teach religious matters; preach.

Prophet: A person who speaks for God, or as though under divine guidance; A religious teacher or leader.

“And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time....and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment....And Barak said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, *then* I will not go. And she said, I will surely go with thee: notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honour; for the LORD shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh.” Judges 4:4-5, 8-9.

Judges 4:8 quoted in the Septuagint goes on to say, “for I know not the day on which the Lord prospers his messenger with me,” or I need to know when the Lord will send His angel to give me success. Barak recognized that the Divine Spirit constantly rested on Deborah. So by having Deborah go with him she could let him know when to attack the enemy. “And Deborah said unto Barak, Up; for this is the day in which the LORD hath delivered Sisera into thine hand...” Judges 4:14. This Scripture helps us understand how God used the women also, as well as the man, in the Old Testament.

“Then sang Deborah and Barak...Praise ye the LORD for the avenging of Israel, when the people willingly offered themselves.” Judges 5:1-2. They praised God for the victory—together—in unity.

The New Testament has several Scriptures where it clearly states that a woman was either a prophetess, or a leader in the church. The Church of God operates under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

“And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age,...And she *was* a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.” Luke 2:36-38. She spoke to all of them about the prophecy of Jesus, and how it now had come to pass before their eyes. She was a prophetess.

“...Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla;...And he (Apollos) began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto *them*, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.” Acts 18:2, 26. To expound the Word of God is: to set forth point by point, state in detail, to explain the Word of God or to interpret and clarify the Word of God. This clearly proves that Priscilla was used of God in teaching His Word along with her husband, Aquila. We may note that Apollos was a Jew, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, yet he still lacked clear teaching of the truth on certain Scriptures. God provided Aquila and Priscilla to enlighten his understanding. (Acts 18:24.)

“I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.” Romans 16:1-2. Phebe, our sister (in grace), was a woman and stranger to Rome. Therefore, Paul is recommending her to the Christians in that place. Christianity and courtesy agrees well together in the Church of God. Phebe was a deaconess of the church at Cenchrea.

“Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.” Romans 16:3-4. This Scripture mentions Priscilla’s name first. Not only did they explain the Word of God more clearly to Apollos, but

they risked their lives for Paul by hazarding their lives to protect Paul in his great dangers at Corinth.

"Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us." Roman 16:6. Mary and the other women mentioned in the 12th verse of Romans 16 were laborers in that which was good. They were industrious Christians. True love for God takes pleasure in being useful for God, and it is also characterized by a burning desire, deep in the heart, from the Holy Spirit, to do His will. The verse also mentions Tryphena, Tryphosa, and Persis who labored much in the Lord.

"And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen...go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you." Matthew 28:5-7.

These women ministered to Jesus during His life, and they did not forsake Him in His death. They were by the cross even though their attachment to Jesus exposed them to imminent danger. The common opinion of women is that they are less courageous than men. However, the reverse of this can be true in those who are thoroughly converted to God. "And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail....Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me." Matthew 28:9-10. So these women were the first witnesses of the resurrection of Christ. They were told by an angel and our Lord Jesus Christ to go proclaim the first gospel message—that Jesus is alive and they had seen Jesus themselves, and He has indeed risen from the grave.

May we consider that we should respect God for our example and follow in His wise counsel. Notice what the following verses proclaim, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28. "For there is no respect of persons with God." Romans 2:11. The righteous God, our judge, will not act according to any principle of partiality. The reason God uses the word, *persons*, is because the definition of *person* is a human being, individual man, woman or child. The word *person* is a coinage word, meaning an invented word or expression, to avoid the masculine implication. God is plainly using the

word *person* to clearly include or make no difference between man or woman. We are equal in all respects before God. *Equal*: Of the same value, degree, intensity, quality; having the same rights, privileges, ability, rank; uniform in effect or operation; having the necessary ability, strength, power, capacity or courage; fair, just, impartial, any thing or person that is equal. To be equal to; match in value.

Now still considering that God has no respect of persons. Let us consider how God interchanges *man* to mean *woman* also. And when using the female gender He is also including man. "And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her. and the highest himself shall establish her." Psalms 87:5.

"Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh,..." John 12:15.

"...Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife." Revelation 21:9. The church is always described in the female gender. This clearly does not mean that the male is not included as God's Bride. When God calls a woman to the ministry, led and called by the Holy Spirit just as a man should be, she is qualified by God to operate under the leadings of the Holy Spirit in all ministerial operations. "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth." John 4:24. Man or woman can possess and do possess the same Holy Spirit if they are both sanctified. God is a Spirit. God is not overly concerned about the gender of the "vessel of clay" who preaches the gospel, but that the truth is preached through the influence of His Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the one Who gives the inspirations for the messages along with Gods workings. So we are not to look at the outward appearance, even as God had chosen the young boy named David. "...For *the LORD* seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart....Are here all *thy* children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him:...And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he." I Samuel 16:7, 11-12.

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;" Romans 12:10.

(Continued on page 10.)

FAITH AND VICTORY 12 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend camp meetings), by Willie Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044.

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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.

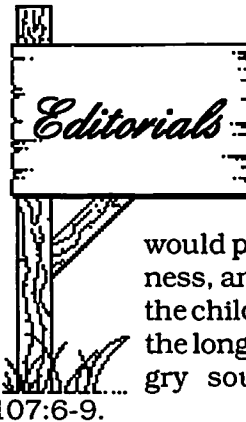
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"Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses. And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation. Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness." Psalm 107:6-9.

As the light of the sun peeks over the eastern horizon at the dawn of each new day, a storehouse of rich blessings are opened to the children of men. While the dew sparkles brightly on the lush green foilage and the birds sound forth their joyful morning welcome, life begins to stir in the villages and communities spread around the globe, and another manifestation of God's goodness is logged in the diary of time. The psalmist proclaimed, "Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness...." While physical life and vitality given by our Creator crowns the souls of Earth's mortals, it is only appropriate that they respond by praising His holy name. Surely, He is worthy of our praise.

The goodness of God is a testimony that He is good. It is a natural radiance of His personal character. Yet, consider how He views the ungrateful masses of humanity that receive His bountiful blessings and never respond to or acknowledge His goodness. No doubt, His heart is moved with the same grief that gripped the heart of Jesus as He overlooked the city of Jerusalem and wept over it. Because the inhabitants of Jerusalem failed to know the things that belonged to their peace and knew not the time of their visitation, their city came to ruins. (Luke 19:41-44.)

The Lord desires to lead folks in the "right way." When mankind take their "own way" they will invariably walk in the broad way that leads to destruction. As trouble overtakes them, wisdom would instruct them to "cry unto the Lord in their trouble." Psalm 107 is filled with references to those who foolishly turn God away and then find themselves sitting in darkness, in the shadow of death and bound in affliction and iron. If people in these horrible pits would only "cry unto the Lord" their life could be so different. The heart of God would be touched by their sincere prayers of repentance and He would take note of their need and respond in an

appropriate manner. God is still in the business of transforming the hearts and lives of those who give Him the proper opportunity to work.

The "right way" was defined by Jesus as those who enter in at the "strait gate" and walk in the "narrow way." A genuine experience of salvation and a life lived in obedience to the Word of God will lead men to a "city of habitation." "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness...."

Let each soul bask in the goodness of God today and every day. Make a conscious effort to recognize the sweet influences that brighten your life and give God the glory for those precious blessings.

If you are called to endure hard things, to suffer persecutions and to have slanderous things said about you for the sake of Christ, then Jesus said to "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven:..."

Sometimes there are storms of life that rock our mortal frame and bring us to our "wit's end." (Psalm 107:27.) Have you ever been to your "wit's end?" The psalmist encouraged those so afflicted to "...cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses." Psalm 107:28. When you have visited that humble place and the Lord brought deliverance, there is no question where your help came from. Don't fail to give Him glory for His wonderful works. The peace that follows such a storm is so blissful. The Scripture then gives us this comforting report "...so he bringeth them unto their desired haven." Psalm 107:30. May God help us to never lose hope, even when our personal resources are exhausted. We know that we are unable to reach our desired "haven" on our own merits or in our own strength, so give Him space to bring about the solution that is "right" for us. God has power to change the physical environment that we inhabit. The inspired psalmist declares His tremendous power by stating, "He turneth rivers into a wilderness, and the watersprings into dry ground; A fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein. He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into watersprings." Psalm 107:33-35. God's power is not limited. A word from His lips can create a dramatic change in our circumstances of life and another word can totally reverse those changes. It is of utmost importance that we place no limits on God by our unbelief. Let us rejoice in His goodness and His power!

This encouraging psalm concludes with these delightful words, "Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD." Psalm 107:43

Praise the Lord for His goodness!

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The goodness of the Lord has smiled on us this past month by enabling us to purchase another machine for the printing work. We have been in need of a three-knife book trimmer for a number of years.

When a book is "run" on our press it is printed in sections of 16 pages each. After these sections are folded they are compiled and bound to form a book. The top, bottom and front edges of the book then must be trimmed to cut off the folded edges of the sections and allow the pages to open. In the past this trimming operation was done on our paper cutters. The cutter was adjusted to the proper length of the top of the book and then all of the books were trimmed. The cutter was then adjusted for the length of the bottom of the book and all of the books were trimmed again. This operation was also conducted on the front edge of the books. As can be imagined, a considerable amount of time and effort has been expended in the past years performing this operation that required handling the book multiple times.

The machine God graciously allowed us to purchase is able to do this multiple step trimming in one smooth operation. It will trim our thickest books with ease. This Stahl VBF three-knife trimmer was offered for sale on ebay with a "buy-it-now" price of \$6,000 dollars. A printing company in Cedar Rapids, Iowa had taken it out of service about one year ago. The description stated that it needed reconditioning. It was discovered near the close of the listing, which didn't allow much time to contact the sellers for more detailed information. After prayerfully viewing the pictures and description, I felt impressed to make an offer of \$1,500 dollars for the machine. God favored us and the seller accepted our offer.

In the late afternoon of September 23, Neta and I left for Iowa in the Print Shop van pulling a tandem axle flatbed trailer to pick up the 4500 pound trimmer. Our trip went smoothly and we arrived about noon on the 24th. When the machine was viewed for the first time I was immediately impressed with God's goodness. The seller loaded it on our trailer with a forklift, we tied it down, covered it with plastic and a tarp and started our homeward journey.

We stopped for the night on our way home and through the night it began to rain. The covering protected the machine while we were stopped, but it did not seem wisdom to drive in the rain, which continued through the next morning. In the afternoon the skies were still cloudy, but the rain had stopped and the roads were dry, so we continued our travels toward home. We had talked to our daughter at the Print Shop, and she told us it was still raining there. The Lord kept us from running into any more rain on the way until we were about two miles from our Guthrie exit. Then it began raining lightly, however we were close enough to our destination that it caused no damage.

The machine has been set in our facility, wired up, cleaned and lubricated and is now ready for service. These used machines in good serviceable condition can sell for upwards of \$15,000. In fact a Wohlenberg trimmer, strikingly similar to the one we purchased, is currently offered on eBay for \$35,000. We magnify the Lord for this blessing.

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An error was made on page five in the last issue of the *Faith and Victory* concerning the years that Uncle Lawrence Pruitt managed the Faith Publishing House. It should have read, "1963-1982." Uncle Lawrence departed this life to be with the Lord on October 4, 1982.

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

Deeds of Kindness

*Oh, who can ever tell or know
The worth of deeds of kindness?
They stamp love's memory on the soul
Of those we leave behind us.*

*They rest the weary, toiling one;
They cheer them in their sadness;
Like balm they heal their bleeding wounds,
And fill their hearts with gladness.*

*Yes, tender words and deeds
Oft save a soul from dying;
They shine away the gloom of years,
And hush the sad heart's sighing.*

*Then every word in life we speak
In love should e'er be spoken;
And ev'ry act, both great and small,
Should bear a friendship token.*

—W. J. Henry



SC—Please pray for David, the infant grandson of Bro. Clinton and Sis. Christine Crummie. He has pneumonia and RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus.) RSV can be very serious and in this little baby's case, it has developed into a serious stage. Please also pray for the parents, grand parents and other family members during this trying time.

In Christ's love, —Sis. Cheryl Smith

OK—Sis. Tenaye Moaning is seriously afflicted. Please remember her in prayer.

—Sis. Marie Benson

OK—My sister, Patsy Doolittle, would like the Saints to remember her in prayer for some serious physical needs. —Sis. Linda Probst



Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Carlos Arriaga
Sis. Mamie Butcher
Sis. Gladys Cashio
Sis. Helen Carson
Sis. Waneta Creel
Sis. Patsy Doolittle
Sis. Dorall Forbes
Sis. Evelyn Fredrickson
Bro. Troy Gentry
Bro. Lee Hilton
Sis. Leta Inman
Bro. Mark and Sis. Darlene Knight
Sis. Juliette Lounds
Sis. Tenaye Moaning
Sis. Melba Powell
Bro. Jerry Quave
Sis. Olene Rector
Sis. Cheryl Smith
Bro. Michael Smith
Bro. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor
The Mitch Taylor family
Sis. Annetta Williamson
Sis. Lula Williamson

MEETING DATES

Fresno CA (Fall Meeting)—Oct. 28-Nov. 4
Guthrie, OK (Fall Revival)—Oct. 27-31
Loranger, LA (Assembly)—Nov. 21-25
Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—Dec. 21-30

MEETING NOTICES

FRESNO, CA, FALL MEETING

The Fresno, CA, fall meeting will be held, Lord willing, October 28 through November 4. Services will begin Sunday with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and services following at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. On Monday through Friday, services will be nightly at 7:00 p.m. Saturday services will be at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Sunday, November 4 will include Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., morning service at 10:30 a.m. and we will end the meeting with the 2:30 service.

DIRECTIONS: From 99 North, exit Belmont and turn left. Then go to First St. and turn right. Go to the second block and turn left on Grant. From 99 South, exit Ventura east. Then go to First St. and make a left, then go to Grant. Then turn right. The chapel sits on First and Grant. If there are any questions you may call Bro. Eric Carter at (559) 593-8776.

SPECIAL NOTICES

CARETAKER NEEDED FOR THE SUNSET GUEST HOME

CA—Dear Saints: Please pray that the Lord will send a new administrator and new manager to operate the Sunset Guest Home at the state campground in Pacoima, CA. For further information contact Sis. Alice Johnson. (760) 261-2564, pastorx2@hotmail.com

—Sis. Alice Johnson



LETTERS
FROM
OUR
READERS

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings of Christian love to you and to all the readers of the *Faith and Victory* paper. I wanted

to write my testimony and exalt the Lord and His wonderful plan of salvation. Jesus likens the Kingdom of God to "...treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field." Matthew 13:44. I have found that this field, or this Kingdom, has a lot of precious things to enjoy.

When we sell out and give up the sinful things of this present evil world, then we hear Jesus say, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32. "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." Romans 14:17. Jesus said, "...If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit,...)" John 7:37-39.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23. When all these good things flow out of our hearts and lives, it satisfies our souls and pleases God all at the same time. "To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified." Isaiah 61:3.

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." Hebrews 13:20-21. All of this is brought about by the great Shepherd and by His blood and us believing and obeying Him. He tells us in II Peter 1:11 that this is an "everlasting Kingdom." We walk by faith now, (II Corinthians 5:7) but when the Lord comes back to be glorified in His saints (II Thessalonians 1:10) then, "...we shall see him as he is." I John 3:2. Then we shall see Him as He is and forever reign with Him in that heavenly Kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him. (James 2:5.)

Your brother in Christ, —T. V. McMillian

AFRICA TRIP REPORT

After receiving emails from Bro. Paul in Africa and corresponding with him for a considerable time, the Lord gave us a burden to go to Africa on a missionary trip. Bro. Paul was asking for teaching on the Church of God.

Before Doug and I traveled to Africa, our request was for strength, inspiration and protection. We are happy to report that the Lord answered our prayers. Our trip was blessed of the Lord. We visited three main areas in early August of 2007, two in Kenya and one in Tanzania.

Our first stop in Kenya was at a congregation in the Embu area, which is northeast of Nairobi. There were many that came to services from other towns and villages. In this place, there are about seven ministers working together in different congregations. Some came from as far as the Coast Province to attend the meeting.

Most of these folks have backgrounds in different groups calling themselves "Church of God," which creates confusion about the one true Church. Some are also from a Pentecostal background. A group of folks from a Pentecostal movement traveled far to hear the teaching of the Church of God. There seemed to be a hungering for the truth.

On our return to Nairobi, we visited with Bro. Ishmael and a group of ten ministers affiliated with him who are interested in the truth. They expressed thanks for the literature they have received from Bro. Willie Murphey. They have congregations scattered around Kenya.

We were very glad to pick up Bro. Alen Laukert at the airport after our return to Nairobi. Bro. Alen is a missionary from Germany. Having him on the trip was a great blessing.

The following day, we traveled as a group to southwestern Kenya. We found saints that readily received the truth of God's Word and that were eager to learn. They are in the poorer part of Kenya, but poverty does not hinder them from serving God with their whole hearts. Approximately six ministers work together in that area in different congregations.

The chapel where we held services was made of split rock and mud. It took them a year to build this chapel, going to the hills, splitting the

rocks and hauling them back in wheelbarrows. They would like to cement the outside of the chapel with a plaster so the chapel will last longer in the rains.

Most of these people have a Pentecostal background also. The pastor, Bro. Peter, searched the Scripture and found inconsistencies between Pentecostal teachings and teachings of the Bible. It is amazing what the Holy Spirit has revealed to him about the Church of God. In Bro. Peter's search for the truth, he came across Bro. Michael Smith's web site. Bro. Peter and Bro. Michael communicated for some time, and Bro. Michael put us in contact with him.

In this area of Kenya, there are many orphans, mostly due to the AIDS epidemic in Africa. Bro. Peter's congregation has the responsibility for about 40 orphans. As more orphans are brought to the congregation, they are placed in different congregational member's homes.

Bro. Peter started a school for the orphans in the chapel. They meet six days a week. Beside the orphans, they have many more students who only have one living parent that can't afford to send them to the public school. They share just a few text books among all the students. It cost less than \$10 per student for textbooks. When we arrived, they had 90 students, and by the time we left, they had closer to 125. The school shares four crayons.

Bro. Joseph, who is in fellowship with Bro. Peter, is from the same area of Kenya, and has a congregation with 24 orphans and a school. These brethren are both serving these children as unto the Lord, depending on Him to supply every need.

Doug and Bro. Alen Laukert both taught about the Church. Doug and I also gave a lesson on marriage.

The number of people that would come forward seeking spiritual help or healing during the services was overwhelming. Many had unsaved and drunken companions. They need more teaching on the full message of the gospel.

Next we traveled to Tanzania, where Bro. Paul lives. He is married and has four boys and one daughter. He grew up in a denomination called, The Last Church of God. He became tired of corruption and left The Last Church of God. When Pentecostalism came to the area, he

rejoiced, thinking he had found true holiness. Pentecostalism proved to be a disappointment. He read in the Scriptures about the different Churches of God and desired to know what it really was and to find someone who believed and taught what the Bible teaches.

The first meeting in Tanzania was just for the ministers. Bro. Paul wanted the ministers he works with to meet us and hear the messages first. There were 28 ministers. They all showed great interest in what was being taught. They would take notes and look in their Bibles. Some of the ministers didn't own their own Bibles. Some only had a Catholic version. After a lesson on sanctification, an invitation was given to any ministers that felt they had been too carnal and wanted the infilling of the Holy Ghost. Most of the ministers came forward for prayer.

The next two days, we had services with all the ministers and the congregation. As altar calls were given, so many came forward that we couldn't pray with them all. Doug said if any of them wanted to talk to us in private and have prayer or counseling they could do so after service. For two nights we were up late talking and praying with many. We felt such heaviness because of the seriousness of the problems being shared and such a responsibility, because we knew they were expecting results. We still pray for the ones in Africa, knowing that only God can help them.

Tanzania is like Kenya—there are many widows and orphans. The congregation in Tanzania tries to help with the support of widows. We were deeply moved by the condition of the orphans and widows.

We returned to Nairobi and purchased 50 Bibles. Most of the Bibles were in Swahili. These Bibles were left behind for distribution by the ministers.

Since we have returned home, we keep getting reports of more being saved and baptized in some of the congregations we visited. We see a great opportunity.

We are so glad that God made a way for us to go. We deeply appreciate the prayers and support of the saints in the States as we made this trip. We believe there are true children of God in Kenya and Tanzania who are hungry for the Word of God. We look forward to returning to meet with God's children there once again.

—Bro. Doug and Sis. Lenita Wall



Darnell I. Abbage passed away August 28, 2007, after a long illness. He was born November 23, 1934, to the late Ervin and Nannie Hoffman Abbage. Darnell moved from Huntington, TN to Akron, OH in 1957. He was employed by Carter Lumber and the U.S. Postal Service, retiring with over 30 years of service.

Brother Abbage became a member of the Church of God in 1965, and served faithfully in the capacity of trustee and church treasurer. He was very diligent in everything that he did for the Lord. You could count on him to fill up the slack. He was a strong supporter of his pastors. One of Brother Abbages gifts was his gardening. He loved sharing his produce with others.

Darnell was married to Della Mae Abbage, who shared his life and love until her passing in 1994. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, two sisters, two brothers, a brother-in-law and nephew. He is survived by his sisters, Olympia Bridges, of Akron, OH, Marylyn Holder, of Huntington, TN and Anna Hall, of Louisville, KY; nieces, Shirley (Dock) Brown, Pamela (James) Gibson and very special niece, Cora Dawkins; nephew, Michael (Linda) Bridges. He also leaves numerous great-nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

Lavern G. Shaw was born in Grayson, Oklahoma July 10, 1920, to the union of the late Elder Henry and Victoria Chaney. She departed this life on Saturday, September 8, 2007. In 1928 the family moved to Akron, Ohio. Lavern attended Robinson Elementary School and graduated from East High School. She married her childhood sweetheart, Swanson Shaw, Jr., in 1941. To this union, two sons, Robert and Ronald, were born. She also reared her four grandchildren.

After World War II she worked at Goodyear Aircraft, but her most important life endeavor was her devotion to being a homemaker, providing lovingly for her family. Her skills in the kitchen were well known and her specialty, cream cheese pound cake, was the favorite of many who had the privilege to eat it. Incidentally, it has been remarked that no one could cook cabbage like Sis. Lavern. When she did anything, she believed in doing it well and loved seeing others enjoy the works of her hands. She doctored her food with the precision of a brain surgeon. The atmosphere of her home demonstrated the talents and care of the virtuous woman in Proverbs who took time to see that her family and others were comfortable, and over the years she also provided lodging for God's people. She and her husband, Swanson, loved gardening and caring for flowers, maintaining a picturesque home known for its beautiful flowers and neat lawn. Besides these domestic skills, she found time to learn sign language to help the hearing impaired. Many times she could be found practicing sign language with whomever she could indulge.

Sis. Lavern was reared in a Christian home and loved her God. Rarely were you in her presence without hearing about what the Lord could do. She was a member of the Church of God for over 60 years and served as church secretary for 40 years. Sister Lavern was diligent and believed in pressing to be in God's service. She and her sister, LaDolia, loved to travel to church camp meetings in Oklahoma, California, and Missouri. Sis. Lavern was a very caring person, but her love was not a wimpy kind of love. It was a tough love that admonished you to be the best that you could be for God and others. The excuses you made sounded better to you than they did to her. No one left her presence without some knowledge of what was the right thing to do and the right way to be. For her straightforwardness, people learned to respect her for her high Christian and moral standards.

Sis. Lavern endured a long fight in her final affliction. She was often heard saying she wanted to go home. Early in her Christian experience, as she battled through the trials and cares of life, she had learned to love the song, "We Are Sure the Sun is Shining Just Behind the Clouds." This song was one of the last songs she heard as she began to slip away from this life, and now

she has found the Sun that shines without any clouds.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Swanson Shaw, Jr.; son, Ronald Shaw; two brothers, Henry Chaney and Richard Chaney and four sisters, Thelma Grant, LaDolia Fuller, Retha Chaney, and Viola Sanders. She is survived by her son, Robert (Holly) Shaw; grandchildren, Ronald S. Shaw, Lisa (Lorenzo) Shaw-Creighton, Michael Shaw, Gina (Chico) Shaw Rhashiatry; sisters, Blanche Porter, Mary Lakin-George, Marie Hubbard; special nephew, Pastor Keith Fuller; and a host of nephews, nieces, relatives and friends.



"And Your Sons and Your Daughters Shall Prophecy"

(Continued from page 3.)

Prefer: to place before; to put before for consideration or sanction, to put before something or someone else in one's liking, opinion, etc.; like better; to give preference or priority.

Though the ministers are equal in God's eyes, as these Scripture references have explained, we are all workers for God with one another. For the church to operate, as God would have it to, we all must be clothed with humility, preferring one another. We can see by this example of unity that with harmony and appreciation of one another, the Church of God will prosper more and more.

"For as the body is one, and hath many members and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body..." I Corinthians 12:12-13.

While there are many members, still they are all necessary for the completeness and harmony of the spiritual body in the church. We may differ in age, gender, nationality and intellectually, yet still we can say, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28.

Every husband is head over but one woman and that one is his own wife. (I Corinthians 11:3.) There is a natural, fleshly relationship in marriage where the man is head of his wife. This relationship works well the way God has designed it.

The spiritual kingdom, where God is working with persons to publish the gospel, will work according to Gods plan when unity and equality is respected with humility in each person. "...Ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." Philippians 1:27.

"...Let him keep silence in the church;..." I Corinthians 14:28. "Let your women keep silence in the churches..." I Corinthians 14:34. Both men and women are told to "keep silence" in this same chapter. It is important that we understand what this passage is speaking of. The general standard of the apostolic church clearly taught and practiced liberty for women. Women in the Church of God prophesied in public and labored in the gospel as previous Scriptures support. The women did prophesy and teach as in I Corinthians 11:5. Apostle Paul writes, "...every woman that prayeth or prophesieth..." and he then lays down some conduct for her. She could not be praying or prophesying if she could not speak. So Paul, in the same book of Corinthians, is dealing with women and men and the woman's subjection to her husband. Her conduct was being admonished in I Corinthians 14:35 where Paul writes, "...let them ask their husbands at home:..."

"Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence." I Timothy 2:11-12. This Scripture clearly is talking of the fleshly relationship of marriage between a woman and a man. And then it goes on to say, "For Adam was first formed, then Eve." Eve led the way in the transgression, so the consequence was that she was to be subject to her husband. By no means was this meant to say that when a woman is called of God, the same as a man, that she does not have liberty to teach or prophesy, and by all means, she must obey God the same as a man.

To understand the true meaning of the Scriptures, they must be considered in their entirety. We must not isolate one verse and form a "private interpretation." (II Peter 1:20.) One verse alone in a chapter may be explaining a certain subject in that chapter. Consider the admonition given by the following verses "...Rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" II Timothy 3:16.

"There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat. But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste? For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor. When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me. For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always. For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial. Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her." Matthew 26:7-13. Our Lord said this shall be told for a "memorial of her."

Have We Done What We Could?

*Are we bringing the gift of true love to the Savior?
Are we honoring Jesus so gentle and good?
Oh, how sweet it will be when our service is ended,
If we hear His voice say, "Ye have done what ye could!"*

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The Backslider

C. W. Naylor

Once I was happy, salvation was mine,
Heaven seemed round me with glory divine,
Deep in my soul was a fountain of joy
Pure and unfailing, and free from alloy.
But I have broken my promise to God,
And in my sin o'er His mercy I trod
I have been captured in satan's dark snare,
Led to the brink of eternal despair.

I can no longer this great burden bear,
When I remember sweet moments of prayer,
When the dear Savior seemed ever so near,
Whispering softly, "There's nothing to fear—
Only keep trusting, I'll never forsake;
Only obey, then no harm shall o'ertake."
But I have wandered so far from the light,
I am an outcast and wand'rer to-night.

Pleasure allured me and whispered, "You'll find
Joys that are greater and friends far more kind.
If you but follow me where I will lead,
You shall have pleasure and solace indeed."
But when I followed she led me away
Far from the light of that glorious day
Where Jesus' presence had filled me with light—
All, all is darkness and misery to-night.

Since from the Savior I wandered away,
I have no pleasure by night or by day:
Thoughts of the future so fill me with dread,
Even in laughter my spirit is sad.
There is a weight that is crushing my soul,
Over me ever the dark billows roll
Waves of such darkness that shut out the light—
Oh, I am wretched, so wretched to-night.

Lord, in my misery to thee I will turn,
My weak petition from thee do not spurn:
Take this great burden of guilt all away
That is so heavy by night and by day:
Give in my soul the sweet peace as of yore
When all my sorrows and griefs Jesus bore,
When He did save me from sin's awful blight—
Restore me again to Thy favor to-night.

Lord, I have sinned, in Thy mercy forgive,
Save me, oh, save, by Thy grace let me live.
I will this moment forsake every sin,
Turn from the follies in which I have been,
Will Thou receive me, O Lord, in my need?
Nothing of self, but Thy mercy I plead.
Hearken, I pray, to the words of my prayer,
Save ere I sink to the depth of despair.

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