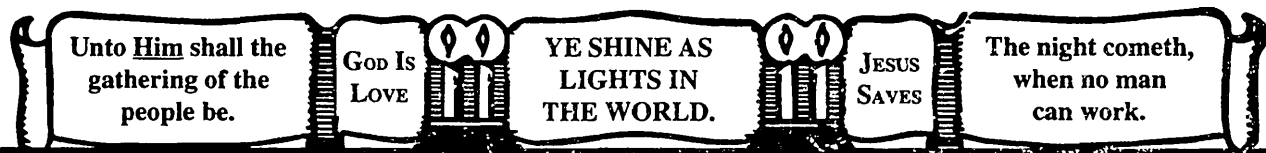


FAITH^{AND} VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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GOD, THE GREAT CREATOR

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth". Genesis 1:1 "...The worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things that do appear". Hebrews 11:3 "By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast". Psalm 33:6, 8-9.

My heart has been overwhelmed of late with a fresh awareness of this earth and the heavens above as being the creative work of such a great and wonderful God. It did not just happen or evolve over millions of years as foolish scientists would have us to believe. It was planned and brought into being by the authority and power of God's Word. I have always believed that God created everything, but it has become, so much

more of late, such a wonderful truth to my heart by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Almost three hundred years ago the poet Joseph Addison penned these lines:

The spacious firmament on high
with all the blue ethereal sky,
And spangled heav'ns, a shining frame,
their great Original proclaim.
The unwearied sun, from day to day,
does his Creator's pow'r display;
And publishes to ev'ry land
the work of an Almighty hand!

I am filled with wonder, worship and admiration when I look up and consider the beautiful sun that rises so graciously in the morning and goes down out of sight in the evening. How brightly and gloriously it makes its daily run across the sky! I look at it and my heart glows with love, honor and respect to God Who put it there. He placed it in the heavens and gave it commandment to do what it is still doing today. There is a blessed order and wise function of the sun in its movement from the southern part of the heavens northward. This brings about the seasons. At its farthest position south on December 21 we have the first day of winter. After that, gradually and day by day, it works its way a little farther north each day until about March 21, where it rises and sets midway between the north and south. This makes equal day and equal night, or equinox. Then it continues on until June 21 where it is at its farthest point north, after which it begins to move toward the

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south again. Jesus said that His Father "...maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good...." Matthew 5:45. Oh, how great and good Almighty God is to make such a wonderful and beneficial light to shine down on the earth and humanity!

The beautiful moon in its monthly cycle is another one of God's masterpieces of creation. And then think of the great network of stars! All of this was created by our wonderful God! Let us also consider the earth and all it contains. I look at the many different kinds of trees, and my heart just melts with wonder and admiration! We have a great pecan tree, and access to another one in our neighbor's yard. Last year we had a bumper crop and this year these trees are doing it again. The pecan tree, in the spring, buds out its blossoms which pollinate and soon fall off, but then little shoots appear that develop into pecans which are enclosed in hulls. These hulls will eventually break slowly open and the wonderful pecan inside will drop to the

earth. Inside the shell is the savory kernel that is so nourishing and enjoyable. The Almighty God designed it and gave it to us!

Then think of the other nuts and various fruits that God created for man's good: Apples, peaches, pears, grapes, dates, grapefruits, lemons, oranges, pineapple, apricots and other wonderful things! Look at the many wonderful flowers! Think of the grasses that cover the ground to make beautiful lawns and food for cattle. Oh, it just fills our hearts with thanksgiving and appreciation to our wonderful Creator. He is a good, wise and gracious God! Sin separated man from His fellowship, but He sent His Son Jesus Christ to redeem us from all iniquity and bring us back to His embrace. He is holy, just, merciful, kind, compassionate, considerate, patient, long-suffering, helpful, faithful and every other good quality of heart toward us poor and needy human beings. Let us read, in the wonders of His creation, the message that He wants us to receive from Him!



The Dinner Table

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." I Corinthians 10:31.

I wish I could put on paper what I feel about family time around the dinner table. It is a most marvelous experience. Some of my fondest childhood memories are when our family shared the day's experiences while eating Mom's homemade cooking. I can still see my Dad leaned back in his chair telling stories. We would laugh until our sides ached. And while the words were flying; I was learning values that are still with me today. You have probably heard the phrase, "The family who prays together, stays together." Well, I feel that way about eating together. It is second in importance only to prayer.

President Ronald Reagan said, "All great change in America begins at dinner tables." This is true in business, in politics, and in families. What happens at the dinner table has a profound effect on our lives and those of our children. Much good can be accomplished or much bad can result from our eating habits. Polite, respectful, grateful attitudes can be

developed. Vast amounts of knowledge can be absorbed while enjoying a good meal. Wounded spirits can receive healing, and depressed emotions can soar again making amazing and positive changes in ones ability to live for God's glory. And children who are failing in school can acquire enough courage to pass a history test after sharing dinner with those who love and support them.

However, no good comes out of a meal where mother is complaining, children are jumping up and down like Jack-in-the-boxes, toddlers are washing their hands in the water glasses, boys dropping food, girls fussing over places to sit, and Daddy, all the while, reading the evening paper. I know some children who quit eating with the family in their teen years because mealtime was a hurtful, instead of a happy, time. Sad is the child who grows up in such an atmosphere or in a home where each person eats what he wants whenever he wishes. They are missing a great experience. Let us seek God to know how to make dinnertime profitable for the family and bring glory to God.

Parents set the mood for productive mealtime. Mother, no matter how grumpy you feel, serve your family lovingly and show appreciation for Father, who provides for the food, and gratefulness for each son and daughter that God has so graciously given. A mother's respectful attitude will foster respect in each member of the family. Children will be thankful for father's provisions if mother is grateful. They will respect mother if father is grateful for her. We must do as Jesus did, who took upon himself "the form of a servant." He served even his enemies. While parents are serving their families in love, the children are learning respect for one another, and the joy of serving others. Submission to God's way is so rewarding that the results will be an awesome blessing to the entire family.

Dinner should also be a time of reverence to God, for without His blessing there would be no food. Children should sit quietly while a sincere prayer of thanksgiving is offered. Many families say a memory verse together or individually. Some sing a hymn before eating. (I know a family of twelve in California, and each one said a memory verse before eating. As far as I know, only one child strayed away from God.) Whatever good habit you are striving to form, be consistent and do it to the glory of God. Be careful that it does not become a hurried ritual. Every time the family gathers around the dinner table, invite Jesus to be there. Pretending that He is there with you will encourage a happy experience. (If your children are young, impress on their minds that Jesus is there by setting an extra plate for him.)

Children should not be allowed to complain and fuss about the food. They should be encouraged to at least taste new foods. If a child fusses or refuses to eat what is served, just calmly send him or her to bed without eating, while forfeiting snacks between meals. Let them hear the family laughing and having fun at the table. If they cry themselves to sleep, hopefully, they will eat without grumbling the next time. However, if they throw a fit, beat on the door or come out of the room, they must be disciplined for that behavior. If the child is accustomed to getting foods he or she wants, then this method will need repeating several times until he knows you will not give in to his whims.

If our children experienced hunger like children in third world countries do, we would not have a problem getting them to eat food that is

common and nutritious. Even though we have the opportunity to give our children what they want to eat, we should not. They must learn to eat whatever is served, wherever they are. There is no spouse waiting for your child who will gratify all of his or her wishes. We should prepare them to face a real future. Moreover, think about how Jesus looks at us when we're spending money to satisfy our selfish whims or those of our children. Our hearts should be full of compassion for the poor, and God should be free to lead us to give generously to help others for God's glory. Jesus said, The law is fulfilled in this one commandment, "And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself." Luke 10:27. How is our love for the saints in poor countries manifested, and how do we support our afflicted and persecuted brethren? How does that compare to the times we pamper our children's appetites and ourselves?

Family dinners do not need to be expensive to be enjoyable. The atmosphere is what makes the meal beneficial or detrimental. Some of my family's most enjoyable meals were a bowl of potato soup and a wedge of corn bread. When we lived in Mexico, one day all I had to cook was corn meal, pizza sauce and a little cheese, so I made corn meal pizza. It became a family favorite. My younger children asked, "Why doesn't Pizza Hut offer corn bread pizza?" Be creative and see how you can improve your family's dinnertime and at the same time have money to give to the poor.

We ask ourselves, "What would Jesus do?" However, do we follow Him? Did Jesus ever eat or eat food that hurt His body? Jesus said, "...for I do always those things that please him." "...He humbled himself, and became obedient...." Philippians 2:8. Jesus brought His body into submission in every area of His life. Are we willing to "do what Jesus would do" when it comes to eating? To be glorifying to God, one must submit to all of God's will.

Jesus said, "Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man." Matthew 15:11. It seems that we like to excuse our bad eating habits with this verse while devouring

(Continued on page 9.)

FAITH AND VICTORY 12 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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SUBSCRIPTION RATES



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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.

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.

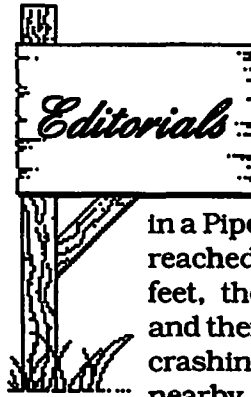
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About 2:00 p.m. on the afternoon of September 29, 2004, a private pilot departed from New Garden Airport runway 24 and started his take-off climb in a Piper PA-28-180. As the aircraft reached an altitude of about 200 feet, the engine began to sputter, and then lost power and went down, crashing into the wooded terrain nearby. The pilot was fatally injured. Subsequent investigation found water contamination in the fuel sampled from the engine fuel pump and from the fuel bowl of the carburetor. Reports indicated that this area of Pennsylvania had received eight to ten inches of rain in the preceding two days.

Recently, NASCAR driver, Denny Hamlin, attempted to accelerate out of turn four from a restart in an event held in Atlanta, GA. His chevy began to accelerate and then cut out, caught again and then shut down. Another driver was unable to avoid him and smashed into the back of his car. Fortunately there were no lives lost in this incident. The malfunction of the engine was caused by water in the fuel.

The physical laws that govern the mechanical operation of internal combustion engines demand a certain level of purity for the fuel that powers them. Filters and sediment bowls are designed to trap foreign materials that might clog the fuel jets or injectors that atomize and deliver the fuel to the combustion chamber of the engine. Of course, when too much water contaminates the fuel the engine won't run, as illustrated by the two previous examples. Surely all of us are aware of this fact. Pilots are very careful about checking their fuel system for the presence of water. It is a routine preflight procedure. I am sure the participants in future NASCAR events are going to be more careful about this happening to them again.

God has ordained spiritual laws requiring the purity of our heart. I Timothy 5:22 says, "...keep thyself pure." Proverbs 4:23 says, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Jesus gave this promise, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8. Shouldn't we be as careful about keeping our hearts pure as the operators of fuel powered vehicles are cautious about keeping their fuel free of contamination?

Our government has enacted many laws to protect our environment. We do not want to pollute our atmosphere, water and land. While all of this legislation was being implemented, some of the greatest pollution the world has ever known has been spread far and wide among our society by the entertainment industry. The Scriptures say: "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." I Corinthians 15:33. There should be no question in our minds as to the reason our young people are involved in such wickedness. Their babysitter has been the movie industry, which has filled their innocent minds with all manner of horrible evil. Parents have a responsibility to protect themselves and their children from this pollution. Parents, get rid of the TV. See to it that the Internet does not become the same source of corruption.

"Shall I count *them* pure with the wicked balances, and with the bag of deceitful weights?" Micah 6:11. All of us can judge this question. Who wants to be cheated? You would not want to go to the gas station and pay for ten gallons of fuel and only receive nine because the pump was purposely not calibrated right. Neither would you want to receive a quart of water with your fuel. We must therefore be careful that we are not the party with the "deceitful weights." Some folks seem to think it is acceptable for them to defraud others, but they sure complain when they are "taken." Those who do such are actually judging themselves. A child of God must be pure. Instead of taking advantage of others they would rather give an extra blessing to their fellow man.

Young ladies and young men have a responsibility before God to keep themselves pure from the sensual defilement that is so popular in our society. God has a beautiful plan for your life, and for His plan to be fulfilled and enjoyed to the greatest extent, you must keep yourself pure. Marriage is ordained of God, and His blessing rests upon those who enter into this covenant with purity. When one gives away their virginity, they can never retrieve it. Diseases and heartache will surely haunt those who allow fornication to defile their purity.

"For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:" I Peter 3:10. The devil presents a great temptation to young men to engage in conversation and speak in ways that

are not pure. It only takes a few words to convey an attitude that is sinful. The remark may bring chuckles or laughter and thereby implant itself into the minds of those around, possibly never to be forgotten. Profanity is another temptation that will bring defilement to those who allow their lips to bring about their destruction. God is very plain about this. In Exodus 20:7 He says: "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."

The counsel to watch your words should be taken seriously. James compares the tongue to the helm that turns a large ship. With our tongue we can bless or we can curse. "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!...so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body..." James 3:5-6. May God help us to use our tongue to lift our neighbor and bless those we meet.

All of us know the damage that can be caused by lies and have probably felt the sting of having them told about us. There are probably people on death row today because someone told lies about them. There are also those who have escaped the judgment of man because of lies. Naboth lost his life because of the false witness wicked Jezebel brought against him to obtain his vineyard for King Ahab. While the Lord sometimes allows people to do these things, let all be aware that He knows the truth, and no lie escapes His knowledge. Each person will be held accountable for the deeds done in their body, and what a horrible penalty awaits those that have prospered or caused injury because of falsehood.

Our conscience is a wonderful guide when it is properly trained by the Word of God and is carefully protected. Overriding its gentle, restraining hand and continuing to do evil can easily defile the conscience and cause it to be silent. I Timothy, chapter four explains that in the latter times there will be those who depart from the faith, give heed to seducing spirits, speak lies in hypocrisy and have "...their conscience seared with a hot iron." Oh, how we should nurture our conscience and protect it, for it is our friend and will help us protect our heart from defilement.

Space does not permit enumerating the multitude of evils that can corrupt a pure heart, but may the Holy Spirit bring those things to

your mind if they have been allowed to creep into your life. If you find some contamination that needs to be purged from your heart by the precious blood of Jesus, then be thankful that it has been revealed to you and take action. Repent, confess and restore what has been stolen, or seek forgiveness from those who have been injured, and allow the sacrifice of Christ to make you heavenly pure.

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 1:27. For a child of God to "keep himself unspotted from the world" is a full time job. We must never become careless with our soul, for the pollution that is around us will certainly bring spiritual death if we allow its corrosive stain to become a part of us.

Let your diligence create an environment that promotes the flow of holy praise from the depths of a pure heart. Allow your lips and your heart to join in lovely harmony with the beautiful words of Jude, "Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life...Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen."

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

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. Carrie Porter
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. Norma Tiller
Sis. Anneta Williamson
Sis. Lula Williamson



CA—Remember Bro. Robert Sherman in prayer, he is suffering from congestive heart failure and has retained much fluid.

IL—I desire prayer for a condition that is affecting the muscles around my eyes, causing my eyelids to close. It is causing discomfort and fatigue.

—Sis. Norma Tiller

OK—Please pray for Sis. Mamie Butcher. She had a fall recently and hurt her back and has other physical problems.

OK—Please include both of us, Carl and Rebecca Shaffer, in your special prayer.

SC—Please pray for my sister, Sandi. She is having problems with her vision and high blood pressure. We are praying for God to work a miracle in her body. Thank you so much.

—Sis. Cheryl Smith



SPECIAL NOTICE

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 or the Sunset Guest Home at (818) 899-2022.

—Sis. Alice Johnson

MEETING DATES

Loranger, LA (Assembly)—Nov. 21-25

Miami, FL (Fall Meeting)—Dec. 5-9

California State (Pacoima)—Dec. 21-30

Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—Dec. 21-30

MEETING NOTICES

MIAMI, FL, FALL MEETING

The congregation in Miami, FL, welcomes you to attend their fall Meeting. Lord willing, it will be held December 5-9. Services will be nightly at 7:30. Day services will be announced at the meeting. For more information contact Bro. Charles Clay (305) 804-8504 or Bro. Kenneth Baxter, (786) 554-8833.

LORANGER, LA, ASSEMBLY MEETING

Lord willing, this meeting will begin Wednesday evening, November 21 and continue with morning and evening services daily through Sunday, November 25. We welcome all to join us. Please support this meeting with your prayers.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Power and water hookups are available for those with campers. Meals will be served and expenses met by freewill offerings.

From Loranger, go two miles south and about three and one-half miles east on Hwy. 40.

For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about 10 miles east of the Tickfaw exit (take Hwy. 442 east, which runs into Hwy. 40).

For more information, contact Bro. Carlos Doolittle at (985) 878-8122. The chapel phone is (985) 878-2788.

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting will be held this year, Lord willing, from December 21 to 30. The campground is located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA 91331. The first service will begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 21, with three services daily thereafter.

For more information contact either the Sunset Guest Home at (818) 899-2022, Bro. Paul Phillips at (661) 251-6956, or Bro. Herbert Clay at (818) 897-1396.

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held at Guthrie, OK,

from December 21 to December 30. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U.S. The first service will be held Friday evening, December 21, at 7:30 p.m. Daily worship services throughout the remainder of the meeting will start at 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. There will also be morning prayer services and youth services, the times of which will be announced at the meeting.

The campgrounds are located east off of Sooner Road on Lake View Road, which is a little over four-tenths of a mile south of the intersection of South Division and Sooner Road. All who come will be cared for. The expenses of the meeting will be met by freewill offerings.

We especially urge the saints in Oklahoma and the surrounding states to attend this meeting. Come praying with a burden for the unsaved and for all those who need help in soul and body. Please send all contributions for the coming State Assembly Meeting directly to the State Treasurer, Sister Brenda Wilkins, 1023 E. Prairie Grove Rd., Guthrie, OK 73044.

To obtain further information about the meeting, contact the pastor, Bro. Stanley Dickson (405) 260-8822.



LETTERS
FROM
OUR
READERS

NM—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: We've allowed too much time without sending you a written "Thank-you" for the many wonderful and valued "gifts" of printed materials—books, tracts, *Faith and Victory*, 1969 and 1970 issues, etc., etc. Our hearts have been fed, encouraged, thrilled and brought to tears of joy as we've read the Holy Spirit inspired thoughts, word's, testimonies and teachings (doctrines) in each printed work. Thank you so much for your kindness to us. We praise and worship God for showing us His true, pure and visible Church.

Love in Christ,

—Bro. Tony and Sis. Lisette Sanchez

Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings in the name of Jesus. I hope all is going well with

you and all the workers there at the Lord's Print Shop. I have been rejoicing in the thought of the word *eternal*. In Deuteronomy 33:27 it says, "The eternal God is *thy* refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms...." In Ephesians 3:11 it mentions "...the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:" His purpose is that we might have eternal life with eternal glory. (Titus 1:2, John 17:24, 1 Peter 5:10.)

He also says that since we are His children we become "...heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." In I Timothy 1:1 it mentions Christ being our hope. Then in Hebrews 6:19 it says, "Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;"

*I have a hope serene and sure, That anchors past the veil;
In all the storms it holds secure, Nor will it ever fail.*

*My hope is born of God's own word, And nourished by his grace;
His promise true my soul hath heard, And hope beholds his face.*

Your brother in Christ, —T. V. McMillian

KS—Dear Bro. Willie: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow. I am so thankful that they continue to flow to me. I am blest in my soul and still happy in the Lord. He has truly been good to me.

Fall has been somewhat late in coming, but the days are getting cooler now and the rains have been frequent. Soon this year will be behind us, and we don't know what is ahead, but we always know Who holds the future. Praise God! Christian love, —Sis. Shirley Knight

MO—Dear Saints: I thank the Lord for helping me with my move. But when you think of me, pray for me and my unsaved loved ones. Christian love, —Sis. Nelva Stanley

WI—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: We are so thankful to God for His protection and wonderful blessings for the past year and a half. Since Bryan retired and the Lord sent us out to work for Him, we have crisscrossed the United States four or five times. We have had the privilege to be in meeting with saints that we had not known before. The family of God is so precious and dear to our hearts. We have found

the saints to be humble, loving and kind, but fiercely in love with their God, and ready to fight against satan and all of his evil devices. We have witnessed souls saved, burdens lifted, bodies healed and satan defeated all across this land. Praise God forever! He is worthy to be praised! His mercy and care for His people endureth forever.

For the first time, a few weeks ago, we were privileged to travel outside the United States to attend meeting in Honduras. We found that the people of God are the same everywhere. Our spirit witnessed with their spirit and we had wonderful fellowship. There was altar work after almost every message. They truly hunger and thirst after righteousness.

We are encouraged by what we have seen God do and humbled that we could have a part in it. Continue to pray for us that we remain faithful to Him Who has called us into this great battle against satan and sin. Our love and prayers to you and yours.

Yours in Christ,

—Bro. Bryan and Sis. Sheri Rich

AL—Dear Saints, "Oh I wish that I could tell it, what Jesus means to me..." My heart is overwhelmed this morning with the love and goodness of God. As the *Bible Lessons* for this quarter have been telling us, there are blessings for the Lord's people who follow His recipe for their lives. God's ways are so **not** our ways. He says to turn the other cheek, to go the extra mile, to give the cloak also. I Peter 3:9 says, "Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing; but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing." This is true; this really happens! God pours out blessings in the form of songs, scriptures, or maybe even preaches a "just-for-you" message to your soul. He has done that for me. He can make mountains of blessing out of small "molehills" of kindness that cannot be described in words. He may use a small child, an old, crippled man, an unexpected phone call or a comment of affirmation to "lift your head and strengthen your feeble knees." There is a song that Sis. Forbes loves to sing, "Oh to be His hand extended, reaching out to the oppressed. Let me touch Him, Let me touch Jesus. So that others may know and be blessed." May He sometimes use me! Christian love, —Sis. Melonie Whitson

The Dinner Table

(Continued from page 3.)

junk food, scrumptious high fat and high-carb deserts, sugars and caffeine-laden drinks. I know there are thousands of ideas about which foods are good and not good for consumption. What we eat is not the main point of this article, but the ongoing effect that our eating habits have on our children, especially what happens when the family gathers around the dinner table. If our eating habits are harmful to our children, or us, we must bring that area of our life into submission to His will and glory.

How many little children have seen Mom, Dad or other sincere Christians continually indulging in foods and at the same time saying, "I know I should not do this?" We laugh and think nothing of it. The phrase, "I know I should

not do this" is being recorded in little minds. A small child does not reason that eating is a choice but not a sin. Do you not see the danger of the child thinking, "I know I should not do this..." when he or she is tempted to do evil? When that happens to a child, a special protection called inhibition breaks down and a portion of its protective power is lost. Consequently, submitting to the next temptation becomes easier. Most of us can relate to this, especially about eating. Each time we indulge, it is easier than the last. Let us ask ourselves, "Are we, by example, teaching our families that whatever we want is alright?" When the flesh has control, it is impossible to do all to the glory of God.

Remember, a child's mind is much like a secret video camera, which is recording our words and actions. It was clean and empty when it came into the world. So let us strive to do all to the glory of God, including the way we eat, so that no child is hindered.

Model Christians

By Sis. Marilyn Cole

Do you know a model Christian? Are you a model Christian? What is a model Christian?

We have a few models at our house. We have model cars, model tractors, model boats, model trains, and more of these are common gift ideas. When we take the little ones to the store and they want an inexpensive toy, we often let them pick out a new little Hot Wheels truck or car. You can buy models of so many things. Some of us collect them, build shelves for them, dust them and share them with our friends. Some little boys play for hours, zooming them around, having crash-up derbies, while others carefully store them in specially made cases and take them out gently to share their favorites with a friend. If you look long enough, you can find a model of almost every vehicle that has been marketed. New vehicles and vintage ones. Classic cars and solar ones. Dozers and graders, back hoes and dump trucks, cranes and caterpillars. The list is almost endless.

What is a model car? One ad reads, "Premium die-cast collectibles feature lifelike detail, movable parts and precision scaled sizes. Ideal for collectors and children alike!" They come in Chevys and Fords, Cadillacs and pickups, Caterpillar and Case, Duetz and John Deere. They have tail pipes and windshields, tires and head lights. Some have doors that open and wheels

that turn. You can lift the hood and see a tiny intricately detailed engine, and the underneath side appears to have tiny precision axles, drive shafts and mufflers. They come in every color of the rainbow to replicate everybody's ultimate dream car. There is just one main thing missing. They have no source of power. Granted, remote controlled vehicles have a power source, usually stored in battery form. But model cars do not have any power. They do not run, and they do not have the proper parts to work if fuel were added to their miniature solid tanks. They do not have what it takes to crank up and run.

When we think of what a car is, we usually think of the synonym, *automobile*. An *automobile*, by definition is: "a car, usually four wheeled, propelled by an engine or motor that is part of it, and meant for traveling on streets or roads." *Auto* means self and *mobile* means moving, so *automobile* would mean self-moving, self propelled. We could broaden that definition by our common knowledge to include vehicles that are used to convey people or things from one location to another. In this one respect, the model cars fall short of the integral definition of a car or an automobile. They do not move themselves, nor are they able to carry loads of people or objects. They have no internal source of power.

Like a model automobile, some "Christians" are model Christians. They look like a Christian, they have worked hard to make sure all the details look just right. They have developed a pattern of what they believe a Christian is supposed to look like, and they are committed to maintaining that image in a perfect external replica of what a Christian should look like. But unfortunately, a Christian, like an automobile, is most accurately defined by what they **do** rather than what they look like. So a model automobile is not an automobile at all, because it doesn't do the work of a car. A model dozer isn't a dozer at all, because it does not "doze" soil and rocks. A model tractor isn't a real tractor, because it does not pull disks and harrows, to till the soil for the purpose of preparation for planting. Likewise, a "Christian" that does not do the work of a Christian is not actually a Christian at all. He or she only looks like one, but fails to do the work that Christ commanded His followers to do.

There were model religious leaders at the time of Christ. He had much to say to them. He called them "...whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness." These leaders, who thought they looked just right, were responsible for committing Christ to a mock trial and to the cross.

He drove them out of the temple for turning His Father's house into a house of merchandise. "And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: and when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables." Do you suppose those people sitting there selling sacrifices supposed themselves to be serving God? I suspect they had become accustomed to their trade, and perhaps it had been a very long time since they had asked themselves if their business had anything to do with worshiping God or availing anyone else of the opportunity to do so.

There were times when the apostles whom Jesus had chosen as his followers were led away from the truth of Christ's mission. At one time, He admonished them, "...Ye know not what manner of spirit your are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." James and John had offered to command fire to come down from Heaven and

consume some, because of differences of understanding.

So, are we models, or are we Christians? The only way to answer that is to ask ourselves what Christ's purpose was while here on the earth? What was His Spirit like, and what did He do?

The most significant thing He did, of course, was the beautiful gift of His life among us so that we would know how to live, and ultimately His death on the cross that we might be forgiven of our sins by believing on that gift. We can't do that same thing, and we do not need to. He did it perfectly for all of us on that day. We can do no more to add to the salvation that He purchased for all of us who would believe on His name. But, we may be called to lay down some of our desires even when we have done no wrong, that others may see the love of Jesus mirrored in us. We will not have to taste the cup of crucifixion as He did, but we may be called to suffer by forgiving someone and holding them up in prayer, so that He will send the Spirit to minister to them, earnestly imploring Christ to forgive someone who deserves His love no less than we do. Jesus blessed the little children. Jesus reached out to the unclean. He healed those who trusted on His name, on His power, no matter what others thought of them. He looked up in a tree and saw a sinner. He went to dinner at that sinner's house. Jesus listened to the cries that others ignored. He truly came to bind up the broken spirits, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free. He came to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers.

Jesus wasn't just a model. He was the real thing. He was able to look into the dark shadows of men's souls and reach out to those that others passed by as worthless. He looked into the souls of men and women; saw their needs and healed their afflictions.

In John 1:12-13 it says, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name; Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, **but of God.**" If we are true followers of Christ, we will have the power of His Spirit living within us to help us see as He did, give as He gave, and most of all to love as He loved. "By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Not to love just those we worship with, but **all** who need Him. We will look in the shadows of the structure of the Church and **see**

and **feel** the needs of those who are longing for Jesus' blessing. We will see the beautiful Spirit in whomever it may be, and fellowship with them if they are doing the work of Christ's body.

Does it work? Is it carrying souls out of darkness and into the light? Is our experience with Jesus enabling us to be vehicles that carry sinners and needy souls to the foot of the cross? We are promised that if we believe on Him, we will be given power to be the sons and daughters of God. Not just models who look like a toy car with all the parts molded into the right place to look like a perfect little coupe, sedan, tractor, pickup, or tractor-trailer rig. We will be actually carrying out the business of Jesus. We will be instruments of His love, His forgiveness, His mercy. We will be filled with His Spirit, seeing, hearing, feeling the pain and misery of those who need Him rather than filled with wrathful, condemnation for their sin. Freely we have received, so may we strive to bring others to Christ that they may receive just as freely and fully of His love and mercy. May we be filled with Christ's power to become the true Sons of God.



His Recompense

He was a middle-aged clerk in a large wholesale house. He had been there for twenty-five years, and for the last ten had occupied the first chair in the head office. He had no chums and no amusements. He had a cozy, comfortable room in a boarding house, and for a quarter of a century that had been home to him. During all these years he had been happy and contented, giving himself fully to his work and to his Church and Sunday School, but lately a restlessness had been stealing into his heart and with it a desire for change. Something seemed to tell him his life was a wasted one because it had not been wider and greater.

The other clerks had all left the warehouse, so he bent his head upon his arms and when he lifted it there were hot tears in his eyes. His was the burning of soul which consumes the vital energies and leaves a man powerless.

He started as someone opened the outer doors. It was the postman with the belated mail. Mechanically he gathered it up. There were two letters addressed to himself, one from the city, one from British Columbia. He opened the latter first and glanced at the signature. It was from a young man who had been under him for five

years, and who two years ago had left for the West. It ran as follows:

"Dear Mr. G—: I am writing to thank you for all your goodness to me while in your office. I am succeeding beyond my best expectations in business, and two months ago I gave my heart to Christ. For these two blessings of God I owe all to you, for in both business and religion you have been my example. I hope to help others as you have helped me."

The other was from one of his old Sunday-school students and read:

"Dear Sir: I have taken your advice and once more feel a free man. With the money you loaned me I have paid my debts, and with God's help and yours will redeem the past. I cannot thank you as I ought; but I do trust that I will be worthy of your confidence."

A new light came into his face. The old restlessness passed forever. He walked with the step of his youth. God had held the goblet of life to his lips, and he had drunk deeply.

—C. C. Wylie

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GOD SEEN IN HIS CREATION

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

*Besides the Heavens bright above, The earth is full of God's great love.
So many wonders great there be; Here are a few that we can see:*

*Just think of all the stately trees,
Whose leafy limbs wave in the breeze:
Some great, majestic, and so tall,
While others are serene and small.
The grand pecan, whose luscious fruit,
Are borne and nourished from its root,
Producing tasty nuts so fine
With fruits and others to combine.*

*The fruits of other trees portray
God's goodness in a special way:
The apple, orange, peach and plum,
At His commandment forth they come.
Consider then the fields of corn,
Of wheat, and rye; how they adorn
The earth from green to yellow hue
Until the harvest time is due.*

*All these are of God's wise design,
The gifts of His great love divine;
They manifest a gracious heart,
Such gifts of wisdom to impart.
And all the earth is brimming full
Of His great goodness wonderful.
Oh, let us honor give to Him;
Let not His praise be ever dim.*

*They all sprang forth at His command
To reproduce from His great hand
Throughout all ages up till now
To shew His majesty, and how!
He is a gracious God, and good,
To love and worship Him we should.
Give daily thanks for all He's done.
And for the Gift of Christ, His Son!*

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