

FAITH AND VICTORY

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SANCTIFY THE LORD GOD IN YOUR HEART

By Bro. Adriel Bowman

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts:...” I Peter 3:15. God has a rightful place in our hearts; this place we are to set aside, reserve for, hold Him in, respect Him, exalt Him, acknowledge and honor Him in. Don’t intrude upon what is rightfully His, or place anything else in it. It is His. It is for Him to direct, control and lead our lives. It is for us to surrender to Him. He allows situations, conditions, afflictions and hardships to come into our lives for our purposes to be affected, and brought into His will. His overriding will is to redeem us and get us to Heaven, yet most of our efforts are expended to understand the world around us and to effect as much comfort from this earthly life as possible. So much of man’s intelligence is based on the analysis and attaining to understanding of cause and effects of things we encounter in nature, relations with people, the physical world, our bodies, in financial matters, history, business matters, organizations, the church, our lives

and mechanical things. We compartmentalize, classify, compare, contrast and identify things in terms of their cause and their effects until we become intelligent and knowledgeable of all these things. How many times have we made judgments and decisions based on what we have seen and learned in the past? This learning is always rearward looking. Sometimes we may be right and sometimes we will be wrong. Only God knows the future and how to guide us into the unknown future. All of this mental effort tends to make us miss the spiritual and eternal realm that God has us involved in. Where is God in all this? It is true that we can, in a measure, see God and acknowledge God in the temporal world that we live in, but is that all that there is to getting to know God?

We stumble along trying to understand our lives within this natural and finite framework of our intelligence. God is using things that we are trying to analyze to get us to Heaven. We are to give Him His place in our lives. Things are in His control if we sanctify the Lord God in our hearts. We need to see Him in everything and see His overriding purpose. We are not just being hurt, opposed, inconvenienced or falling sick for what we can analyze as being apparent. We satisfy ourselves with restricted, temporal reasons—we are sick because of some virus or bacteria, we are hurt because of some selfish person, we are opposed because someone disagrees with us/dislikes us, or because people don’t like change; we are inconvenienced because there was a flat tire when we needed to leave and go

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somewhere in a hurry. God is behind these things. He governs causes and tailors causes for specific purposes to produce certain effects in our lives. He controls causes to produce the effect of getting us to Heaven. We see ourselves as being able to manipulate and control causes to effect our will in/on others and manipulate circumstances and situations around us to our advantage.

Our thoughts and analysis, efforts at understanding things and controlling things that affect our temporal lives, crowd God out of the place that is rightfully His. In so doing, we will become more worldly and carnally minded, and never get to know God and form that relationship with Him that He desires.

I Peter 4: 12-13 says, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." We have hard trials that just appear out of the blue for no apparent reason, without cause, and we wonder: now what brought this on me? Do you think by analyzing the temporal causes and effects of the fiery trials that envelope us from time to time, we can arrive at an understanding of His glory that is going to be revealed in us? Probably not. More likely than not, we will be prompted to complain, retaliate, justify ourselves, seek some temporal relief, find a way to avoid or circumvent the pain or suffering. But glory? Not at all.

Here are a couple of more verses: II Corinthians 4:17-18, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal." Our light affliction is limited in scope and time to this temporal world. By looking at it and concentrating our attention on it, we can learn more about this temporal world, and become more connected and attached to "the things which are seen." Jesus said, "...for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me." John 14:30. The more we are caught up with this temporal world, the more effect the prince of this world, the spirit that works in the children of disobedience spoken of in Ephesians 2:2, will have on

us. But, as earlier stated, we will never find the "far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." Ah, but "while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen," we will escape/transcend the things (efforts, reasoning, logic, understanding) of this world. If in our light affliction, we begin to look to God, put Him in His rightful place, wait upon Him to work things out for our good (Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.") instead of trying to work it out ourselves, our faith will begin to take hold. His glory will begin to be revealed in us and to us, and our relationship with God will strengthen as we are drawn closer to Him.

We can begin to see that the things that come our way in life are part of God's plan to get us to Heaven. He is all-wise, eternal; He knows exactly what it takes to bring about His plan in us. He loves us too much to hurt us. He doesn't bring or allow anything into the life of one that has sanctified Him in their heart that will destroy them. He doesn't, just by chance or whim, allow something to affect such a one by accident or without His control. He never answers us with, "Oops, I'm sorry," "I missed it," or "I didn't realize that trial would affect you like this." Emphatically, He knows us. He knows the past, He knows the future. He knows how to get us to Heaven. We can confidently look to Him in all things, and quit trying to figure and work things out on our own.

All thy griefs by Him permitted,
Needful is each one to thee;
All thy tears by Him are counted,
One too much there cannot be.
And if while they fall so quickly,
Thou canst own His way is right,
Then each bitter tear of anguish
Precious is in Jesus' sight.

For, too well thy Savior loves thee,
To allow thy life to be
One long calm, unbroken summer,
One unruffled, stormless sea.
He would have thee fondly nestle
Closer to His loving breast,
He would have that world seem brighter,
Where alone is perfect rest.

Put the Lord in His rightful place in your heart.

Discouragement

By Sis. Sarah Herron

Have you ever been in the land of depression where everything seems dark and dreary? Memories of better days are dim and so is the hope of ever seeing a brighter one? I have been there at different times in my life, and although I am not there now, I know I may find myself in that same place again. The Lord has taught me some things about depression. Some I learned from listening to others and their battles with depression, some came from my own experiences.

Discouragement and depression often go hand in hand. A person that is depressed is generally discouraged, and a person that is discouraged may soon be depressed. Discouragement often stems from the difficulties and disappointments of life. We may be disappointed by someone close to us, or with our own self. Sometimes we even feel disappointed with God. Discouragement and depression really set in when we focus on our problems and not on the Problem Solver. Often we will find ourselves in this place, not understanding how we got here and not knowing a way out.

The first step out of the land of depression is to recognize where you are. Denying that you are in a state of depression will not change your condition at all. It will only prolong your stay in this dark land. After acknowledging where you are, do not become entrenched by constantly reaffirming it with negative statements such as, "I am so depressed." Instead, make positive statements against this attack of the enemy. "I am fighting depression," still acknowledges your condition without reaffirming it.

The next step is to make a conscious decision to do battle against this deadly foe. Give the enemy of your soul notice that you are not going to lay down and just take it any longer. Express this challenge verbally: "By the help of the Lord, I submit myself to God and resist the devil in the name of Jesus." (James 4:7) Many times this determination to fight and resist the devil will break the spirit of depression or discouragement, at least in part.

The last step is taken by following the example of David. In many of his psalms, David cries and complains about his trouble, but he always ends with praises to God. This is the secret weapon against discouragement and depression: praising God and offering thanksgiving

for all that the Lord has done. Our eyes must turn away from our circumstances, the disappointments and discouragement and focus on our blessings and the Blessing Giver. As the song says, "Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your blessings, **see what God hath done...**"

These steps may seem simplistic, but I have found them to work time and time again. Others I have talked to have found deliverance from depression in the same way. It won't happen over night; it is a journey. With patience and perseverance, keep fighting by praising and offering thanksgiving to the Lord. *Do it even when you don't feel like it.* Eventually your feelings will come under control as you continue to fight. One day you will look back and see where you have been and what the Lord has delivered you from. Like David you will exclaim, "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, *ble*ss his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:" Psalms 103:1-2.

God is good; let us rejoice!



DRIFTING

By Sis. Gladys Cashio

"We are floating down the stream of time,
We have not long to stay.
The stormy clouds of darkness
Will turn to brightest day.
Then let us all take courage
For we're not left alone,
The life boat soon is coming
To gather His jewels home."

Life is a long chapter!! Here we are, willed by our Lord that we should be, none of us are an accident. Think of that! God willed us to be here for His glory. Before He put us here, He created what we would need. But man has since sought out many inventions. (Ecclesiasties 7:29.) God has a plan for our life and His Word teaches us to walk in it and be perfect. "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.

When one follows the world, one will develop an appetite for things that are not good for the soul. The things of the world can be found in

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

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

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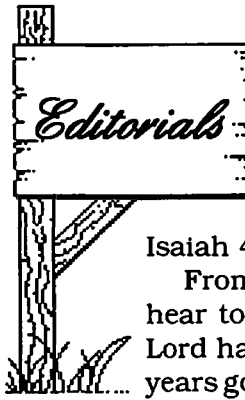
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"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Isaiah 41:10.

From time to time we read and hear told the wonderful things the Lord has done for His Saints in the years gone by, and the enemy would like to make us believe that God is not working for His people today like He did in the past. But the Lord has blessed all mankind since the beginning of time. There are many instances recorded in the Scriptures that relate the miracles the children of Israel witnessed when they were delivered from the oppressive bondage of Egypt. The goodness of His mighty hand followed them into the land of Canaan and gave them victory over their enemies when they trusted in God and obeyed His Word. These writings continue to be an encouragement to us when we are engaged in the battles of life.

Notice this passage of Scripture from I Samuel 12:22, 24. "For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.... Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart; for consider how great things he hath done for you." The great things the Lord does for His people have not stopped—they continue in your life and mine. It is appropriate for us to remember those things and be thankful for His goodness. Below is a very incomplete list of generalities that have been reduced from realities in my life. Perhaps you will be reminded of similar instances in your life where God has been endeared to you.

- He forgave my sins when I came to Him with repentance.
- He filled me with the Holy Spirit when I consecrated my life to Him.
- He has healed me in times of sickness.
- He has given relief from pain when I was suffering.
- He has protected me in times of danger.
- He has given me extra strength in times of need.
- He has broken the spell of temptation.
- He has provided for my family in times of poverty.

- I went to encourage someone and was encouraged myself.
- He has comforted me in times of grief.
- He inspired hope when things seemed dark.
- He has helped me find things that were lost.
- He has given me things that were better than what I had lost.
- He has helped me to repair things that were broken.
- He has mended my heart when it was wounded.
- He has guided me when I was unable to see the way.
- He has been a friend to me when I was lonely.
- He has given me cheer when I was sad.
- He has helped me to be patient when I was in a hurry.
- He has given me peace in times of stress and trouble.
- He has talked to me in the night.
- He has reasoned with me when I was unreasonable.
- He has helped me resolve relationship issues.
- He has caused me to succeed in spite of making many mistakes.
- He had mercy on me when I tried and failed.
- He has permitted breakdowns to occur at a place I could obtain help.
- He has sent someone along at the right time.
- He has helped me to coast into a filling station when I ran out of gas.
- He has kept My vehicle from running out of gas at an inopportune time.
- What seemed coincidence later revealed the fingerprint of God.

The list could go on. We cannot begin to tell of the good things we have experienced in our lifetime. His blessings continue day after day and we sincerely thank Him for His love. You too have been recipients of His goodness and it is important for you to share it with others, for the enemy still has many in cages of sin and deception that keeps them from having the joys of salvation. God may have given you the key to their prison and you didn't realize you were carrying it. By sharing your personal testimony, you make a lasting impression on others.

A recording made of your experiences of God's goodness would be a cherished posses-

sion of your children, especially after you are gone to be with the Lord. Can you imagine the light that would come into the eyes of the minister who was given a tape or journal containing such experiences when he was requested to preach your funeral? Actually, you can benefit from meditating on His blessings today and especially when your next trial comes, for it will cause your faith to be strengthened.

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: To show forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night."
Psalm 92:1-2.

God has been good to us again! On the evening of January 19, I observed a Kolbus GD casemaker offered for sale on Ebay. It had a buy-it-now price of \$7,800 with a provision to submit an offer. This immediately attracted my attention because it is the machine we needed to bring our hardback bindery into operation. This fully automatic machine will apply heated glue to sheets of cover material, accurately place two pieces of heavy chipboard, along with a spine strip, into position on the cover material, wrap the edges and press them together to form the hard cover for a book. It is designed to produce 10 to 18 cases per minute. Sunday morning, January 20, I requested the Guthrie congregation to agree in prayer with us for wisdom in negotiating for the machine. That afternoon I felt led of the Lord to make an offer of \$5,000 for it. Monday evening the seller accepted my offer.

On Tuesday, January 22, we joyfully prepared the print shop van and trailer, and that afternoon my daughter Elizabeth and I started for Lafayette, LA to pick up the casemaker. We traveled to Bunkie, LA where we stopped at a quick-stop, which provided parking for trucks, and spent the remainder of the night. The following morning we continued on to Lafayette and obtained a motel. There we again contacted the sellers and made arrangements to load the machine. The sellers, Melvin & Lynn Traylor, treated us very graciously, loaded the machine and thoroughly wrapped it with tarps and plastic wrap to protect it. This extra kindness was appreciated for it was raining off and on through the day.

While Mr Traylor was working with the forklift, I was talking with Mrs. Traylor and explained about our printing operation. I told her the purchase of this machine was an answer to

prayer. She replied with tears in her eyes, "I don't usually know how to talk about God to our customers, but it is an answer to our prayers also." It seems they had purchased the machine from a company who went out of business in Houston, Texas with the intent to resell it, and after storing it for a few months were happy to be able to move it on. I am thankful the Lord knows how to answer the prayers of all those who call on Him, and I trust the Lord will bless this couple for their kindness.

The following morning we left Lafayette in misting rain and started for home. The load was balanced well and the van pulled it without too much trouble. Before long the rain stopped and the Lord blessed us with a safe journey home. Late in the evening, with an expression of thanksgiving for the safe trip, we pulled into the Print Shop drive and proceeded to the dock where we unloaded our purchase and wheeled it inside the building.

Since that time, we have set the machine in place and provided a three-phase electrical drop connection for it. The machine powers up, and after a few more minor repairs and adjustments, should be ready for service.

Some time ago we purchased another model casemaker, also made by Kolbus. This machine was missing a number of parts. Several of the parts have been made, but due to the extensive rebuilding necessary to bring the machine into operation it has not been completed. Our latest purchase will allow us to bring our bindery into production much sooner and for this we praise the Lord. We still would like to utilize the DA-48 casemaker, since it is designed to run about twice as fast as the GD model. However, the GD will fill our more immediate needs and in time we still hope to bring the DA-48 into operation.

On February 7 we were saddened to hear of the passing of my aunt, Mary Lola (Pruitt) Embly. Her son, Ed, called from California to give us the news. Mary Lola was born, March 20, 1917, to Fred and Mary Pruitt. She married Elvin Embly November 20, 1937. They had three children, Mary June, Betty Ailene and Edward Elvin. Her husband, Elvin, preceded her in death. We trust the Lord will comfort the family in this time of grief. My mother, Frances Edna (Pruitt) Murphey is the only surviving sibling. Fred and Mary Pruitt began publishing the *Faith and Victory* paper in March 1923.

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



OH—Please remember me in prayer. I have been having severe pain in my lower back, around my left side and down my leg.

—Bro. John Gutwein

OK—Sis. Marilyn Rendall, in the Golden Rule Home, asked me to send in her name to be added to the prayer request list. She has many afflictions. She loves the Lord and is a good witness in the Home. —Sis. Florence Hughes

CA—My friend, Doug, has a nephew in the hospital; he can't walk and it has something to do with his spine. Please keep him in your prayers. May God continue to bless you all.

—Bro. Don Viser

Standing Prayer Requests

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

Drifting

(Continued from page 3.)

1 John 2:16, "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." As one floats down the path of the world, they are, "Drifting away from Jesus. Far from His courts of love. Oh, do you see! A life boat. Sails from the ports above! Over the bounding billows, Jesus, my Savior sends Help to my storm tossed spirit, Praise to the Friend of friends!

Oh, souls take warning, before it is too late.

The Savior With Me

*I must have the Savior with me,
For I dare not walk alone,
I must feel His presence near me,
And His arm around me thrown.*

*Then my soul shall fear no ill,
Let Him lead me where He will,
I will go without a murmur,
And His footsteps follow still.*

*I must have the Savior with me,
For my faith, at best, is weak;
He can whisper words of comfort,
That no other voice can speak.*

*I must have the Savior with me,
In the onward march of life,
Thru the tempest and the sunshine,
Thru the battle and the strife.*

*I must have the Savior with me,
And His eye the way must guide,
Till I reach the vale of Jordan,
Till I cross the rolling tide.*

—Lizzie Edwards

MEETING DATES

Neosho, MO (Singing, Revival)—March 1, 2-9
Boley, OK (Spring Revival)—April 17-20
Alabama (Spring Singing)—April 19
Vanceburg, KY (Spring Meeting)—May 15-18
Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—May 23-June 1
Holly Hill, SC (Camp Meeting)—June 1-8
Sisters' Retreat (location pending)—June 20-21
General Southern (Loranger, LA)—
 June 29-July 6
National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 18-27

NEOSHO, MO, SPRING REVIVAL

The Neosho, MO congregation extends a cordial invitation for you to attend our spring revival meeting, and we ask your prayer support as well. We plan, Lord willing, to have a singing Saturday evening March 1, then continue the revival March 2-9, with services Sunday mornings at 9:45 and each night at 7:00. You may obtain more information about lodging, etc. by calling Bro. Ed Wilson, (417) 455-3805, or Bro. Cliff Cole, (417) 776-2331.

BOLEY, OK, SPRING REVIVAL

The Boley, OK congregation of the Church of God extends a warm welcome for you to attend our Spring Revival to be held, Lord willing, April 17-20. Evening services will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday through Saturday. On Saturday we will also have services at 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. On Sunday we will have Sunday School at 9:45 followed by a worship service at 11:00 a.m. and concluding with an afternoon service at 2:30 p.m. For further information you may contact Sis. Savannah King at (918) 667-3654. Sis. Anna Mae Thompson, Pastor

ALABAMA SPRING SINGING, NEAR WARRIOR, AL

The Church of God congregation near Warrior, AL is planning a singing, April 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel. Activities will begin at 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning at the park in Hanceville, which is the same place as last year. On the following day, April 20, there will be dinner on the grounds with services at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. The chapel is located approximately two miles west of Interstate 65 at exit number 289 in the Enterprise

Community. For further information please contact Bro. Roy Herron at (205) 647-7869 or Bro. Marshall Whitson at (205) 647-6325.

VANCEBURG, KY, SPRING MEETING

The Vanceburg, KY, Church of God congregation, Lord willing, will hold a spring meeting, May 15-18. There will be morning services at 11:00 and evening services at 7:00. We encourage all who feel a burden to come and support the meeting. The meeting is conducted on a freewill offering basis. There will be meals prepared daily on the grounds. This meeting will be held on Ruggles Campground in Tollesboro, KY. We are depending upon the Lord to lead and direct in sending the ministers of His choosing. Accommodations will be provided; please bring bed and bath linens. There are RV and camper hook-ups for those who wish to bring them. For those who may desire to rent a motel, they are available within 20 miles of the grounds. For further information and to make reservations, please contact Bro. Dallas Cooper at (606) 796-3645 or (606) 202-1366

Driving directions to Ruggles Camp from Maysville, Vanceburg, or Flemingsburg: Take Highway 9 (AA Highway) toward Tollesboro (13 miles East of Maysville, or 17 miles West of Vanceburg.) At the intersection of Highway 57 in Tollesboro, turn South toward Flemingsburg. This turn will be between mile markers 28 and 29. Go South approximately 3.5 miles and look for the intersection of Highway 1237. There is a large "Ruggles Camp" sign at the road. Turn to the left (East) and proceed approximately 1.5 miles. On the right there will be a smaller "Ruggles Camp" sign, turn to the right and follow the lane into the campgrounds.

From Flemingsburg, take Highway 57 North into Lewis County, and watch for the intersection of Highway 1237. There is a large "Ruggles Camp" sign at the road. Turn right (East) and proceed approximately 1.5 miles. On the right there will be a smaller "Ruggles Camp" sign, turn to the right and follow the lane into the campgrounds.

HOLLY HILL, SC, CAMP MEETING

We would like to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to all to attend our Holly Hill, SC camp meeting to be held from Sunday, June 1

through Sunday, June 8, 2008. Lord willing, we will have two services daily, and meals will be provided for all. If you would like to come and need accommodations, please call Sis. Beverly Pratt at (803) 496-3057 or Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Smith at (803) 492-7975 to make arrangements. Please come if you can, and if you aren't able to come, please pray for the precious Holy Spirit to lead, guide and bless in this meeting. We are looking forward to what the Lord has in store for us, and we welcome all who can come and be with us.

In Christ's Love,

—The Holly Hill, SC Congregation



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

CA—Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord: I want to give my testimony of the goodness of God to me and His blessings. I thank the Lord for what He has done, and is still doing for me. Praise, glory and honor to His precious name!

In August of 2005, I became afflicted in my right leg and thigh. The pain was so excruciating that I could not walk and was bedfast for two weeks. I was unable to care for myself. My daughter, Brenda, who lives in Oakland, CA, came to care of me. I was not able to eat anything nor drink water for nine days. Brenda would try to give me food, and I would tell her, "I don't want to hear the word *food*." The thought of food would make me sicker. During that time I could not pray, meditate or read my Bible. On the tenth day, I began to take a little nourishment and feel a little better. The Lord then started talking to me. He began by showing me some of my shortcomings, and that got my attention. I began to pray and ask for forgiveness and plead His mercy. My body was going through great suffering.

As I was praying concerning the pain, the Lord spoke to me and said, "This affliction is from Me." I said, "Now Lord, you have a purpose in everything you do, so will you work your purpose out in my life. Whatever it takes, Lord, will you take me, break me, make me and work your purpose out. I am not asking for healing, I

know you are a Healer. You have healed me so many times. I desire to know what your purpose is." Well, He started by showing me my failures. My prayers were, "Lord help me to get it. I don't want to come short on any line." The Lord was helping me see so much more as I yielded myself to Him. I started thanking and praising Him for the affliction. When I would have such excruciating pains that I felt like crying, instead of crying, I would start thanking and praising the Lord. I found that thanksgiving and praise was a balm for pain. The Lord has proved to me that He is a present help in every time of need, and He is right there with us. He will never leave me nor forsake me. Sometimes in the night, when the pain becomes so hard to bear, along with thanksgiving and praise, I start quoting Scriptures. I know that He knows what is best for me and He has a purpose for this affliction.

I thank all the Saints for their prayers, their phone calls, their visits, their letters, cards and every expression of love and encouragement. The Lord has been blessing me from time to time in my body. I do not want to come up short, but I want to be all the Lord will have me to be, what ever it takes. Do continue to pray for me, and do remember my daughter, Brenda. She is still here with me and is so faithful in taking excellent care of me, for which I am thankful. Love and prayers to all the Saints.

Your sister in Christ —Sis. Gladys Foster



Prayer Meeting Testimonies Neosho, MO

Excerpts submitted by Sis. Roberta Wilson

Bro. Eugene Cole—There are emotional highs and lows in good services, but life is more than that. The kingdom didn't start out with emotional highs. Luke 17:20 says it "...cometh not with observation." There are times when I may *feel* the kingdom of God is not in me. However, His kingdom is forever, and so with our experience, it can last forever and is not measured in our highs and lows of life.

Bro. Stanley Robertson—God gives us scriptures before we know we even need them. Luke 11:11-13 "If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone?...If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them

that ask him?" Keep on asking and begging, for He said He would give good gifts to us. God answered prayer and brought Christy through her ordeal. Will He not give good gifts to His children—more than we give?

Bro. Clifford Cole—The Lord wants us to bear fruit in the dry season. When He saw the fig tree with no fruit on it, though it wasn't the season to bear fruit yet, Jesus cursed the tree that it should bear no more fruit. Upon the return of the disciples with Jesus, they saw it was withered and dried up. Don't you think Jesus wants us to bear fruit in hard times? Stephen was stoned and was bearing fruit in his dying days. Jesus wants fruit in dry and hard times—uncomfortable times—bad times.

Sis. Jan Johnston—"Give sunshine to others; tell Jesus the rest." I couldn't sleep, so I prayed, and the song came to me: "Then Jesus took my burden, I could no longer bear; yes Jesus took my burden in answer to my prayer. My anxious fears subsided, my spirit was made strong, when Jesus took my burden and left me with a song." It was a good trade.

Sis. Lana Johnson—"Be thou my strong habitation wherein we may resort..." God can be that continual resort in our high and low times.

Sis. Janette Booher—The Lord takes care of us in our humanities. I was overwhelmed in all the things I had to do (three children with whooping cough) and was feeling sorry for myself when the Lord said, "You didn't spend time with me" so I called Jathan to me and read a story about a cleaning lady. When she was asked what she did for the Lord, she replied, "All I do, I do for the Lord." The Lord spoke to me to refocus myself. The Lord wants us to take the challenges in life and help us.

Bro. Jerry Melot—I'm still thinking about the message Sunday morning. The world puts bandages on wounds, but God fixes the problem. We are no longer a victim but a child of the King. You may have problems, but you don't have to be a victim; you have keys to the kingdom of Heaven.

Bro. Mike Hightower—I've been on a week's vacation and just stayed around the house and let the cell phone battery die down. The song came to me, "Count your blessings," I did and couldn't find anything wrong with my life.

Sis. Ranelle Cole—We must seek God for our life and be honest with ourselves. In Judges 2:2

the Lord said to make no league with the enemy but tear down his altars, but you have not. Romans 2:4-6 says, despise not the goodness of God....who will render to every man according to his deeds. Verse 7, "To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:" I want to get deeper in salvation. Pray for me that I will continually strive to be what I should.

Sis. Alyssa Cole—"Let me lose myself and find it Lord in Thee." The last verse of this song says, let me bring at least one soul to Thee and let self be slain. That's how you win souls to the Lord—by losing yourself. It's hard and I've messed up and failed and the Lord let me see how I can't do it myself; it has to be the Lord.

Sis. Robin Moles—The Lord doesn't work in a hoop-la-yah, but like He did with Naaman—lowly. He told him to go down to the muddy waters and dip seven times to be cleansed. Not many want to sweep the floors and do the dirty work. Naaman should have said "Yes, let me run through the mud or whatever, just let me be healed." So with us—I want to be able to run through the fire or muddy waters to get to Heaven. Like Bro. Jerry said, we are not victims. The Lord doesn't just sprinkle patience or faith or love or whatever on us—no, it's in a trial. We must say, "the Lord allowed this to happen," so we can get what we need. We want more love? He will send someone unlovable. At night I envision myself snuggling up to the Lord and feel His closeness. I desire to have eyes to see that those things that seem "to harm me" are going to get me through.

Sis. Marleah Cole—I was thinking of a song that says He will give us strength to see us through no matter what. I am thankful for that song that He gave to me.

Bro. Don Johnson—I thank the Lord for this service. I needed every bit of it. I thought, "How's your life going?" The Lord asked Jonah "Doest thou well to be angry?" And Jonah said "yes, I do well." How could he talk to God that way! It makes me want to back up and get far away from a person who will argue with the Lord. Genesis says of all the Lord made "it was good." So I don't want to call anything bad in my life that He calls good.

Sis. Esther Hightower—I'm not much on writing, but this year I'm keeping a journal on the blessings of God. I can look back on last week and see what He did.



Elizabeth Frances Anne Wahl, Eck, Bliss, Goodman was born March 6, 1919, west of Fairview in the Oklahoma hills. She departed from this life and went to be with our Lord January 19, 2008.

Elizabeth Anne Wahl, known to many as Frances, married Adam Eck at 17 years of age. To this union 3 children were born: Lloyd of Edmond, Arlyn of Enid (deceased), and Arnetta of Enid. Adam preceded her in death in 1948, leaving her as a young mother with the responsibilities of a young family.

In about three years Frances met and married Glenn Bliss (a widower) of Enid. Glenn had five children: Shirley, Sam, Terry, Sharon and Jack (the names we knew each other by). To this union one son was born, Dennis (deceased).

Elizabeth entered her position in life with seriousness, accepting the role of wife to Glenn, and mother of all of us 9 children. Dennis passed away at the age of 22 years, and her marriage to Glenn was a little more than 31 years before he went to be with the Lord.

Fourteen years later Elizabeth met Howard Goodman of Pond Creek, and again accepted the role of wife and companion until his passing. With the marriage to Howard it completed her name: Elizabeth Frances Anne Wahl - Eck - Bliss - Goodman.

Elizabeth was a member of the Church of God congregation in Enid, OK until her passing.

Elizabeth's life was very active and full of activity. The duties and care of her husband, home and family were foremost in her mind. Responsibilities of life led her into the role of wife, mother, farmer, business woman and retail sales clerk at Simpson's Mercantile for over 30 years, where she was widely known as one having a strong desire to assist her customers.

Her three husbands, two sons, two sisters and three brothers preceded her in death.

She leaves a trail-of fond memories for us to recall. And for this we say, "Thank you!" from your children, 11 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, 3 great-great-grandchildren, and a host of extended family, friends and business associates.

Naomi Jennings passed away peacefully on Tuesday, November 6, 2007, at the age of 84. She was born in Holly Grove, AR on February 23, 1923, to John Henry and Hattie Davis. Naomi cooked many years for the Church of God Camp Meetings. She loved to write books, poems and Christian songs. She dedicated her life to God's work.

Naomi was preceded in death by her sister, Inez Mayo. She leaves her seven children to mourn her passing, Margaree Hightower, Morris Jennings, Dorothy Gray, all of Fresno, CA; Bobby Joe Jennings of Livermore, CA; Larry Jennings and Shirley Nutt, both of Fresno, CA and Gary Jennings of Hayward, CA; sister, Marie Batchelor of Fresno, CA; 25 grandchildren, 42 great-grand children, 2 great-great grandchildren, her church family and a host of relatives and friends.

A Celebration of life was held at Lisle Calaveras Chapel on Saturday, November 10, 2007, at 12:00 p.m. Interment was at Fresno Memorial Gardens.

Tenaye Marie Moaning was born to Henry and Myra Moaning in Oklahoma City on December 8, 1975. At an early age she gave her life to the Lord.

Tenaye was very outgoing and participated in 4-H and numerous other school and community organizations. Tenaye graduated with the Oklahoma Christian Home Educators Class of 1994. After high school she attended Oklahoma State University where she earned a Bachelors Degree in Biological Science and graduated with the Class of 2000. During her time at Oklahoma State University she was a member of Alpha Phi Omega and several other student organizations.

Tenaye volunteered at Hands On Museum as a youth coordinator and volunteered as a Big Sister at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oklahoma for more than 10 years.

While living in Tulsa, she was a member of the Tulsa Church of God. While attending Oklahoma State University, she was a member of the Sapulpa Church of God.

After graduating she worked for the Department of Human Services as a case manager in Norman, OK. Tenaye then worked as a Graduate Assistant for the University of Oklahoma. While there she pursued her Masters Degree in Human Relations. Her Masters Degree in Hu-

man Relations will be awarded by the University of Oklahoma with the Class of 2008.

Tenaye was most recently a member of the Church of God in Oklahoma City and she regularly attended service as long as her health permitted.

Tenaye went to be with her Lord and Savior on Monday, February 11, 2008 at 9:00 p.m. She was surrounded by her family and close friends.

Tenaye is survived by her parents, Henry and Myra Moaning; her brother, Girma and wife, Joelle, of Norman, OK; her youngest brother, Isaac; her three sisters, Ruth, Shelese and Deborah; one niece, Adora; uncles, Wilbert Hawkins, and wife Judy, of Los Angeles, CA; John Paul Moaning and wife, Beatrice, of Boley, OK; and R.A. Broadus of Casper, WY; aunts, Beverly Warrior of Cromwell, OK; Erania Tecumseh Hawkins of Tulsa, OK; and Ruth Hawkins of Long Beach, CA; cousins and a host of family and friends.

Tenaye was greatly loved and will be missed by each of us.

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We've Always Been Provided For

Author unknown

Submitted by Sis. Glenetta Carpenter

*"Good wife, What are you singing for?
You know, we've lost the hay,
And what we'll do with the horse and cow
Is more than I can say.*

*While like as not, with storm and rain,
We'll lose both corn and wheat."*

*She looked up with a pleasant face
And answered low and sweet;*

*"There is a heart, there is a hand
We feel but cannot see;
We've always been provided for,
And we shall always be."*

*"That's like a woman's reasoning—
We must because we must."*

*She softly said, "I reason not,
I only work and trust.*

*The harvest may redeem the day—
Keep heart whate'er betide.*

*When one door shuts, I've always
Seen another open wide.*

*There is a heart, there is a hand
We feel, but cannot see;
We've always been provided for
And we shall always be."*

*Days come and go—'twas Christmas tide,
And the great fire burned clear
The farmer said; "Dear wife, it's been
A good and happy year;*

*The fruit was gain, the surplus corn
Has bought the hay, you know."*

*She lifted up her smiling face,
And said, "I told you so!*

*For there's a heart and there's a hand
We feel but cannot see;*

*We've always been provided for
And we shall always be."*

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