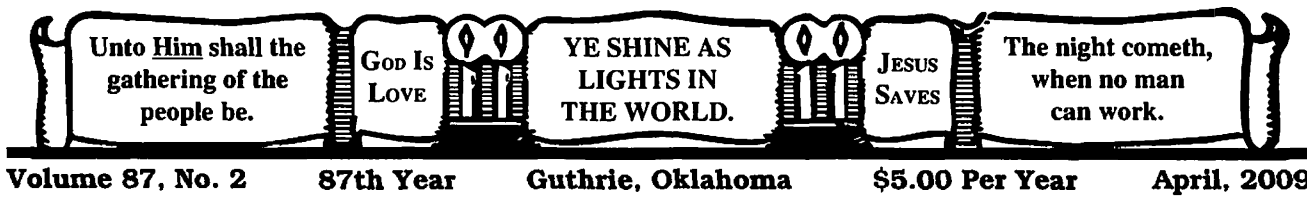


FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



Volume 87, No. 2 87th Year Guthrie, Oklahoma \$5.00 Per Year April, 2009

Forgetting Those Things Which Are Behind

By D. O. Teasley

Dear reader, have you forgotten the past things—every trial, disappointment and discouragement? If you have not, let me exhort you today, even now, to do this one thing—to forget everything of the past that will not help you gain the prize of eternal life.

How much have you ever gained from meditating on past failures, disappointments and discouragements? If you have sinned and God, by forgiving your sins, has put it behind you, what good can you gain by grieving over it? Failures and accusations are unpleasant to meditate upon. Grieving over the sins and the failures of misspent days is a poor way to occupy your present precious moments. "...Let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2.

The starting-place of the Christian race is where we lay aside every weight, where God

forgives our sins, relieves us of the burdens that satan has laid upon us, looses our bands and sets us free. Like a man who runs in a race, from the moment we leave the starting-point we should trouble ourselves no longer about the things that lie back of us; for the greatest accomplishments and the highest achievements of a life in sin are of little value compared with the grace of God. Of how little value, then—yea, how worthless and what a hindrance—to meditate upon are the failures and the sins of the past! Think of your past failures only as things left behind, as weights laid aside at the starting-point.

"And Joseph called the name of the first-born Manasseh (forgetting or making to forget, see margin): for God said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house." Genesis 41:51. Joseph is a fair type. He had so completely forgotten the trials and the disappointments of his former life through the joy of his present surroundings that he called his first-born son "Forgetting." He had forgotten not only his toil, but also all his father's house. His father's house is a type of the worldly friends and the kindred ties that hinder us in the Christian race. Jesus says, "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he can not be my disciple." Luke 14:26. "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." Matthew 10:37. This does not

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mean that a man who runs in the Christian race should not love his kindred nor provide for those of his own household, but that he should forget them and forsake them in every connection that would hinder him in the race of life or tie him to the present evil world.

While Job kept his eyes upon his troubles, he feared to forget his complaint or to leave off his heaviness and comfort himself; but when he got his eyes upon God, "Then Job answered the Lord and said, I know that thou canst do everything and that no thought can be withholden from thee." As long as your attention is given to your trials or to your discouragements and despondent feelings, you are not likely to see above them; but if you will forget those things that are past, and will set your eyes upon God, victory is certain. "For then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot; yea, thou shalt be steadfast, and shall not fear: because thou shalt forget thy misery, and remember it as waters that pass away: and thine age shalt be clearer than the noonday; thou shalt shine forth, thou shalt be as the morning. And thou shalt be secure, because there is hope; yea thou shalt dig about thee, and shalt take thy rest in safety. Also thou shalt lie down, and none shall make thee afraid; yea, many shall make suit unto thee." Job 11:15-19.

Satan has hindered many dear souls from enjoying the blessings of God and from pressing on in the Christian race by pointing them to sins of the past—sins which God had forgiven. What if the mistakes of your life have been many; what if you have been in the depths of sin; did not Jesus forgive the vilest of sinners? Did He not say to the adulteress who was caught in the very act, the vilest of sins, "Neither do I condemn thee; go and sin no more"? Hath not the Lord said, "Though ye have lien among the pots, yet shall ye be as the wings of a dove covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold"? Psalm 68:13.

"Fear not: for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame; for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name: and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; the God of the whole earth shall he be called. For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and as a

wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God. For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer. For this is as the waters of Noah unto me; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should go no more over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee. O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colors and lay thy foundations with sapphires. And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.

"In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD." Isaiah 54:4-17.

A discouraged person will often help the devil by bringing up things of the past that have been forgiven and trying to repent of them. The accused and despondent soul will often wander down by the dark shores of the sea of forgetfulness, and finding there a bark of discouragement, will launch it and sail out through the fog and mist of past life hunting for something over which to mourn. Often some mistake or sin of the past, which, like an ocean derelict, has long since been forsaken and forgotten is found; and pulling it ashore, the discouraged soul who is anxious to do something, invites friends and brethren to help in asking God to take notice and forgive. But God will not visit such a scene. What He has forgiven He has forgiven forever,

and He cannot forgive it a second time, "for," says He, "...their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." Hebrews 8:12.

If a man should come to God and obtain forgiveness of his sins, live a faithful life for a while, and finally back-slide and be lost, none of his former sins would be mentioned to him, nor would he be punished for any of the deeds of his former life, but only for those committed at the time of, and after his fall. Neither will the Lord forgive only a part of our wrong-doings. When He forgives, He forgives all, and forgives forever.

So the only possible way out is to resist the devil and all accusations; cut the shore-lines and consign the past to the waves of forgetfulness; make an eternal abandonment of all past sins and mistakes that God has forgiven; and set your face Zionward.

—Taken from *Rays of Hope*.



Somebody

*Somebody once came into my life,
When I was discouraged and blue,
Their word of good cheer dispelled every fear,
While the lilt of a song stanch'd
The hot, bitter tear,
And that somebody, dear, was you.*

*Somebody once bid me but try once more
When the whole world it seemed was untrue
Tho I'd given my best, with vigor and zest,
Heartsick, and faith gone,
I sought comfort and rest,
And that somebody, dear, was you.*

*Somebody once, when business was bad,
Smiled, when all else seemed askew,
They said, "Just forget, don't worry nor fret,
Life's battle you'll win
If it's but fairly met,"
And that somebody, dear, was you.*

—Carleton Everett Knox



Roy Dean Harmon was born July 4, 1915, in Glasgow, MO to Willard Dean Harmon and Elizabeth Evangeline Harmon. He went to his reward at 7:00 p.m., February 25, 2009, from his home in Pea Ridge, AR at the age of 93 years, 7 months and 21 days.

He met Virginia May Lowe in Springfield, MO and they were married 6 weeks later on August 22, 1935. They were united in marriage for 70 years. To this union were born three daughters and one son.

Bro. Roy and his wife were born into the Church of God, February 28, 1937 and they remained true to the end.

Preceding him in death were his devoted wife, Virginia; a grandson, Robson Dean Harmon; a great-grandson, Christopher Manning; a great-granddaughter, Katie Mahmens; and a brother, Clarence Leon Harmon.

Surviving his passing is one brother, Allen Eugene Harmon of Springfield, MO; daughter, Alta Mae Harmon of Cassville, MO; daughter, Dorothy Jean Montoya of San Dimas, CA; son, Robert Dean Harmon and wife, Norene of Bentonville, AR; and daughter, Carol Ann Blair and husband, Fred of Bentonville, AR.

He has 11 surviving grandchildren, 14 surviving great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

Bro. Roy Harmon was a minister in the Church of God for 70 years and preached his last message a few months before his passing.

Memorial services were held at Clark Funeral Home in Neosho, MO with Bro. Ed Wilson and Bro. Jerry Melot officiating. Burial was in IOOF Cemetery, Neosho, MO beside his beloved wife, whom he missed dearly.

Note of Thanks

We desire to express our appreciation and gratitude to those from the Neosho congregation that volunteered to spend nights with our Daddy his last several days so that he could receive good care at home. That helped us keep his wishes to be in his own home and not in a nursing home.

—The children of Bro. Roy Harmon

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.

Notice to subscribers: When you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your zip code number.

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

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Single copy, one year \$5.00
Package of 5 papers to one address, one year \$20.00
Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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.

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

The *Faith and Victory* is published monthly, except August, for \$5.00 per year by:

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 518, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044
Office phone numbers: 405-282-1479, 800-767-1479;
fax number: 405-282-6318.

Internet address: <http://www.faithpublishing.com>

Postmaster: Send address changes to: *Faith and Victory*, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044.



"Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the

time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." Ephesians 5:14-17.

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof." Romans 13:11-14.

There was a news report from Tampa, FL a few years ago about an elderly man who had a problem with sleepwalking. Sometimes people that sleepwalk do things that are embarrassing to themselves when they wake up. At other times they can actually endanger themselves, like this man in Florida. It seems he walked out of his house in the middle of the night and when he woke up he was in a pond near his backyard among a group of alligators. The poor man began to call for help and his calls woke up a six year old neighbor girl, who in turn woke up her family and made them aware of his calls. Fortunately, the man was helped out of his predicament without suffering any harm from the reptiles that surrounded him.

Another man, John Elliott, was a forest ranger who walked many miles one day through the deep snow of the high Rocky Mountain passes in southwestern Alberta checking for conditions favorable for impending avalanches. The blizzard conditions of the day caused him to be so fatigued that when he reached his cabin about nightfall he failed to light a fire or remove his wet clothing before he drifted off to sleep. The chill of the howling wind seeping through the cracks of the tiny cabin brought no alarm to the sleeping ranger. However, John's constant companion, a St Bernard, sensed the peril of his master and began to whine and bark until he

eventually roused him from his near comatose sleep. Mr. Elliott later said, "If that dog hadn't been with me, I would not be here today. When you're freezing to death you actually feel warm all over, and don't wake up because it feels too good."

Statistics for vehicle crashes directly relating to driver fatigue are hard to compile. However one source conservatively estimates that 71,000 injuries, 1,550 deaths and \$12.5 billion in property damage results each year from drivers falling asleep while at the wheel. Many states have installed rumble strips on the lane edges of the highway to help wake up dozing drivers before they run off the road.

These illustrations are presented to call our attention to the detrimental effect spiritual sleep has on the souls of man. We are living in a time when masses of humanity are walking down the broad road to destruction in their sleep. The Spirit of the Lord and God's ministers are trying to alert them to the place of torment that await the lost, but people are so soundly occupied in their foolish entertainment and worldly pursuits that they are failing to hear the call. They are marching through life oblivious to the things that pertain to eternity, and consequently, many souls each day are plunging over the brink and into perdition to be lost forever. Never again will the opportunity be given them to enjoy the matchless beauties of a heavenly paradise. Oh, it is time for the sinner to wake up and turn his heart toward God.

Another group of people are going to church occasionally—or sit at home and watch the "tele-evangelists"—and have made some light profession of faith, yet continue living a sinful life. The false prophets charm them with their flowery sermons and soothe their conscience with scriptures intended for the Saints of God that have left all the world to follow Jesus. The scriptural subject matter given to these people is very selective, for the truth would reprove their sinful deeds and call attention to the fact that they are snoozing on their way to destruction. Oh, wake up to righteousness, religious "professor," turn from the paths of sin and obtain a life-changing experience of salvation. God is not fooled by your empty profession. Why should you keep yourself in deception when obeying the truth would give you much greater joy and provide real fulfillment in life?

Some folks have once been enlightened to the truth of God's Word, perhaps when they were children or some time later in their life, and instead of humbling their heart and yielding to Him they are like Jonah, running away from Him. These troubled souls are seeking various ways to hide from their mind the truth that they know, oh so well. They are using the things of the world to try to induce sleep so they can be free from the torment of their conscience. Their road away from truth has been hard and they are weary from the stormy struggle that constantly brews in their mind. "...But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep. So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God,..." Oh, struggling one, wake up to what has really been happening to you, greater trouble lies ahead unless you return to God. Satan is delighted at your turmoil and continually feeds the fire of rebellion and bitterness that burns in your heart. Come back to the foot of the cross and lay down your heavy load; find peace to your soul. God's true people are waiting with open arms for your return. Jesus, the gentle Shepherd is calling, ever calling. There is mercy and forgiveness for you. Come home.

The problem of spiritual sleepiness can affect all of us and every child of God must put forth an effort to keep alert to this trick of the enemy. We must have the oil of the Spirit in our vessels for our light to continue to shine, and it will require diligence on our part to stay in contact with God for that supply to be replenished. When Jesus was agonizing in the Garden of Gethemane He asked Peter, James and John to tarry and watch with Him while He prayed. However, sleep overcame them and Jesus' closest earthly friends failed to watch in a most crucial hour. Had they been more diligent to watch they would likely have had greater strength to face the events that were to befall them.

Sleepiness causes one to be apathetic about issues that are of importance to them. Spiritually it may be characterized by one not being as fervent in spirit as they should be. It is said of Apollos, "...And being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord,..." We are instructed by the writer of Romans 12 to be, "...fervent in spirit; serving the Lord." James 5:16 says, "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." And in 1 Peter 4:8 it says, "And above all things have

fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins." When one becomes spiritually drowsy there will be a marked decline in speaking, teachings and studying the things of the Lord. There will be less passion for souls that are hurting and in need, and for those that are lost. Their prayer life will suffer and they will have fewer direct answers to prayer, which will in turn cause their faith to become weak. They will have less charity for one another and consequently their brother's faults will begin to seem more intolerable. This will result in an increase of bickering and squabbling, and divisions will begin to develop within the brotherhood of God's people.

When one loses their fervency of spirit they often become bored with the things which pertain to the Lord. The services of the Lord will become more of a form and the vitality that accompanies life will be missing. When these things begin to happen it opens up a whole new arena for the enemy to break down the work of the Lord. A variety of deceptions with various manifestations of carnality begin to rear their ugly head—envy, bitterness, manrule, harsh spirits—the sad result of God's people falling asleep. Spiritual death is sure to follow if we do not watch and pray as the Lord commanded.

May God's people stretch themselves and keep vigilant watch over their souls that their love for God not be diminished; that their spirits remain alive and fervently walk righteously and carefully before the Lord each day. God's blessing will be upon those who do so. Their candle will continue to shine in a sin-darkened world and God will give them "hidden manna" to eat." Psalm 25:14 says, "The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant." Those who are awake will not miss out on the special, personal blessings that God loves to reveal to His people. Precious times of fellowship with God and His people bring Him close to us, and His answers to our prayers make Him real and wonderful. As we see His marvelous works, our joyful hearts overflow with gratitude and praise for having such a wonderful Savior and friend. It is good to be alive in Christ Jesus! —Bro. Willie E. Murphey
—wemurphey@yahoo.com

"... To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." Revelation 2:7.



NC—Dear Friends at the Publishing House: I love you all and I appreciate the paper sent out. I need your prayers for my family and myself. I have a grandson in Iraq. —Sis. Agnes Burleson

OK—Remember Bro. Stanley Dickson in prayer. On the afternoon of April 10, he experienced severe chest pain that lasted for several hours and has left him in a weakened condition.

OK—Bro. Rodney Sorrell is still in need of healing from the Lord. His affliction is taking a toll on his physical strength and causes severe discomfort.

Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Carlos Arriaga
Sis. Gladys Cashio
Sis. Helen Carson
Sis. Genevive Carver
Sis. Elizabeth Corteway
Sis. Waneta Creel
Sis. Patsy Doolittle
Sis. Dorall Forbes
Bro. Troy Gentry
Bro. Lee Hilton
Jaden Howard
Sis. Karoline Kessler
Bro. Mark and Sis. Darlene Knight
Sis. Elsie M. Offerman
Sis. Melba Powell
Sis. Marilyn Rendall
Bro. Vernon Robinson
Sis. Ruth Shehee
Sis. Cheryl Smith
Bro. Michael Smith
Bro. Rodney Sorrell
Bro. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor
Sis. Imogene Taylor
The Mitch Taylor family
Sis. Norma Tiller
Bro. Delmar Wilkins
Sis. Anneta Williamson

MEETING DATES

Boley, OK (Spring Meeting)—April 17-19
Wichita, KS (Spring Meeting)—April 19-26
Alabama (Spring Singing)—April 25
Los Angeles, CA (Revival Meeting)—May 1-3
Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—May 22-31
Vanceburg, KY (Spring Meeting)—May 22-24
Holly Hill, SC (Camp Meeting)—May 31-June 7
Green Bank, WV (Camp Meeting)—June 12-18
Tulsa, OK (Sisters' Retreat)—June 12-13
Jefferson, OR (Camp Meeting)—June 13-21
Tulsa, OK (Summer Revival)—June 18-21
Fresno, CA (Camp Meeting)—June 28-July 5
General Southern (Loranger, LA)—
 June 28-July 5
National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 17-26
Spooner, WI (Tent Meeting)—August 19-23

MEETING NOTICES

BOLEY, OK, SPRING MEETING

The Church of God in Boley, OK invites you to attend their annual spring meeting April 17-19. The first service will be Friday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday there will be services at 11:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. On April 19, Sunday School will be at 9:45 a.m. followed by a worship service at 11:00 a.m. and the meeting will conclude with the 2:30 p.m. service.

For further information contact Sis. Savannah King at (918) 667-3471.

WICHITA, KS, SPRING MEETING

Lord willing, Wichita plans to have its Spring Meeting April 19-26. There will be three services on Sundays, and two services Monday—Saturday at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. We ask interest in the prayers of the Saints that the Lord will lead in everything and that souls will truly be helped and blessed. Come and help in the battle if you can.

The chapel is located at 2509 N. Grove, Wichita, KS. For further information or directions you may contact Bro. Emanuel Gracey at (316) 461-1267 or Bro. Theodore McCray at (316) 641-4170.

ALABAMA SPRING SINGING, NEAR WARRIOR

The Church of God congregation near Warrior, AL is planning a singing April 25, at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel. Activities will begin at 10:00

a.m. on Saturday morning at Dodge City Community Building, about one half mile west of Interstate 65, from exit #299. Dodge City is near Cullman.—Please take note, this is a different location than we usually have for the activities on Saturday morning and afternoon.

On the following day, April 26 there will be dinner on the chapel 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 #289 on Acton Bend Circle. For further information you may contact Bro. Roy Herron at (205) 647-7869 or Bro. Marshall Whitson at (205) 647-6325.

LOS ANGELES, CA, SPRING REVIVAL

Join with us, to welcome everyone to our Spring Revival. We desire that you will pray with us as we petition God for His Divine presence in this meeting, May 1-3.

Friday, May 1st Worship at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 2nd Ordinance Service at 1:00 p.m. Fireside Gathering for Youth, in the Dining Hall, at 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Worship. Sunday, May 3rd 10:00 a.m. Sunday School, 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Worship.

The Church of God chapel is located at 1381 Walnut, Los Angeles, CA 9001. Please contact us for information or directions:

pastorx2@hotmail.com
 Home (760) 244-9446
 Chapel (213) 742-0123

—Pastors Travis & Alice Johnson

OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING

The annual Oklahoma State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held May 22-31, at the campground in Guthrie, OK. The first service will be on Friday evening May 22 at 7:30, with three services daily thereafter.

An invitation to attend is extended to everyone. Your presence and your prayers will be appreciated. Three meals per day will be provided and every effort will be made to provide lodging for those who come from out of town or country.

We have a ladies dormitory, and sleeping accommodations are also available in the Sunday school rooms. The Lord has provided us with a separate family unit with twelve private motel style rooms. To the extent possible, these rooms will be reserved for families. Please let us know ASAP if you desire one of the family units and the number of nights you plan to stay. We

also request you bring the necessary linens and bath items.

At the present time we do not have camping facilities, but if you would like to bring your RV there are three RV parks within four miles of the church grounds. Call the persons below for telephone numbers of the RV parks.

Expenses for the meeting will be met by freewill offering. If you would like to make a contribution, you may do so by sending it directly to the state treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, 807 W. Lake Rd., Guthrie, OK 73044.

For further information contact Bro. Phillip Gellenbeck at (405) 282-2999.

VANCEBURG, KY, SPRING MEETING

Lord willing, the Vanceburg, KY congregation will be holding a spring meeting beginning on Friday morning, May 22 and ending on Sunday morning, May 24. On Friday and Saturday there will be services at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The meeting will end after the 11:00 a.m. Sunday morning services. We are depending on the Lord to send the ministers of His choosing for these services. The meeting will be conducted on a freewill offering. The meeting will be held at the Ruggles Campground in Tollesboro, KY as in previous years. Accommodations will be at the campground. There are RV hook-ups provided on a first come, first serve basis. There are also hotels 20 to 30 minutes away in Maysville, KY for those interested. For more information please contact Bro. Dallas Cooper at 606-796-3645 or cell phone 606-202-1366.

HOLLY HILL, SC, CAMP MEETING

We would like to extend a warm and cordial welcome to come to our Holly Hill, SC Camp Meeting 2009. Lord willing, the meeting will begin on Sunday morning, May 31 and go through Sunday morning, June 7. There will be three services daily, including an early morning prayer meeting, an afternoon service, and an evening service. 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, so we can make arrangements for you. ALL are welcome! Come if you can, and if it isn't possible for you to be here, please pray that the Holy Spirit will have complete control in every service of this meeting. In the love of Jesus,

—The Holly Hill, SC Congregation

TULSA, OK, SISTERS' RETREAT

The 2009 Sister's Retreat will be held, Lord willing, June 12-13 at Tulsa Church of God located at 1102 East Pine Place, Tulsa, Ok 74106. The theme for this year will be "The Daughter of the King" Come one, come all, praying that the Lord will bless in these settings.

Friday will be a full day. Saturday will be a half day for those who are traveling in. The retreat will be supported by free will offerings. Donations may be made payable to Church of God-King's Daughter c/o this address: 117 Dawnybrook Drive, Maryville, TN 37804.

Accommodations for stay will be at Holiday Inn Express, 2316 West Cameron Street North, Tulsa, Oklahoma. The contact person is Christa. For reservations call (918) 585-7000 in the name of Church of God Sisters' Retreat. If you make a reservation and can't keep it, you will need to cancel within 72 hours. Childcare will be offered for those who need it.

For further information contact: Sister Mary McDonald (865) 977-6997. Please contact Sister Shelia Hawkins for hotel information and direction. Sister Shelia can also provide a ride to and from the airport.

JEFFERSON, OR, CAMP MEETING

The Jefferson, OR Camp Meeting will begin Saturday evening June 13 and end with the Sunday morning service June 21. We will have two services during the week: 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. with a 2:30 p.m. afternoon service on the first Sunday and last Saturday. For directions or sleeping accommodations contact Bro. Clifford Smith @ (503) 581-4575 or Bro. Bob Wilson @ (541) 327-3621.

TULSA, OK, SUMMER REVIVAL

The Church of God Tulsa, OK congregation is planning a Summer Revival Meeting on June 18-21. Bro. Darrell Johnson from Dallas, TX, has a burden for this meeting. Evening services will be held Thursday-Saturday at 7:00 p.m. Sunday services will include Sunday school at 9:30, morning service at 10:30, dinner, and afternoon service at approximately 2:30 pm. We solicit your prayers and extend a warm welcome to all.

For further information, you may contact Bro. Charles Lowe (918) 584-6838 or Bro. Charles Rhodes (918) 272-9682.



LETTERS
FROM
OUR
READERS

MO—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: The Lord really witnessed to me the other day. The news of the economy and all the negative reports had started to trouble my mind. I went to prayer and told the Lord that if we needed to do something different with our finances, etc., He needed to show us what to do. After praying for other needs, I opened my Bible to Jeremiah 29:1-11. This chapter is instruction to the Jews who had been carried away captive by Babylon. As I finished my reading and was thinking about the Jews, it seemed the Lord spoke to me and asked me what I had prayed about earlier. I was needing to know what to do in this troublesome time. "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, unto all that are carried away captives, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem unto Babylon; Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them; Take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands...And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace." "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." Jeremiah 29:4-7, 11. It was like the Lord was telling me to continue on with everyday life. Don't get all anxious and worried, for He has thoughts of peace toward His people. Pray for the peace of your nation. Pray for righteousness in your own life and in the lives of your leaders and the government, but other than that go on with your normal life. "Build ye houses and dwell in them, plant ye gardens and eat the fruit of them." What a comfort! Even in troublesome times our God is still looking over His people with thoughts of peace and not of evil.

Christian love, —Sis. Anita Adams

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus, Who God has given to us to be our great Shepherd and our great High Priest.

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shep-

herd 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.

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:14-16. Then it is no wonder that David said in Psalm chapter 23, "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." Then he expresses his joy farther in verses five and six, "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever." Also in Psalm 16:11 he says, "Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." David saw these things through the Spirit. (Acts 2:30-31.) If we live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit, we also can be partakers of the good things that God has prepared for them that love Him. (Galatians 5:25, I Corinthians 2:9-10.)

Your saved brother, —T. V. McMillian

AL—Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: It has been a hard winter for us. Colds, etc., but the Lord has brought us through. The spring flowers and sunshine are beautiful. As the song goes, "God is everywhere."

I can't thank Him enough for all He does for us. Keep us in your prayers.

Christian love, —Sis. Betty Herron

TX—Dear Saints, Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: A pearl of great price is formed by constant irritation, a costly diamond is formed through constant pressure, and a useful vessel is shaped by constant molding of the potter's hand; we likewise are transformed into useful instruments unto God's glory, honor and praise through constancy. The Lord wants a faithful constancy through whom He can constantly work and manifest His glory and love. "Does the Master's plea for constancy find echo in thy

heart? Art thou pained to see the kingdom suffer loss? Throw thy soul into the conflict; Do thy faithful honest part, as a patient loyal bearer of the cross." (*Hymns Old and New*, #37.)

I desire to be more constant in the following areas:

1. Constant in communication. "Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name." Malachi 3:16.

2. Constant in showing love. "He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers..." Deuteronomy 10:18-19. "...Therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land." Deuteronomy 15:11. "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" I John 3:17.

3. Constant in thanksgiving and praise. "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thessalonians 5:18. "That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 15:6.

4. Constant in forgiveness. "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? ...Until seventy times seven." Matthew 18:21-22. "See that none render evil for evil unto any man..." I Thessalonians 5:15. "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink..." Romans 12:20.

5. Constant in Reading God's Word. "I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren." I Thessalonians 5:27. "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." Joshua 1:8.

6. Constant in showing loyalty to the One true God. "...Almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:" Acts 19:26. "...We ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or

silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device." Acts 17:29. "...They shall be greatly ashamed, that trust in graven images, that say to the molten images, Ye are our gods." Isaiah 42:17. "I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images." Isaiah 42:8. "Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places:" Numbers 33:52. "Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men..." Acts 19:19.

Lisette and I are yet praising God for sending us buyers for our home in Rio Rancho, NM, which sold in early October of 2008, after residing only two months on the market. We thank God for leading us to our new home (a one-half duplex) in El Paso, TX. We left a small 1,200 sq. ft. home for an even smaller one. (792 sq. ft.) We exalt God, our Father for giving us a home that is only eighteen minutes from the border crossing into Juarez, Mexico (our mission field) as opposed to a four and a half hour drive from our old home. Although we currently live in our new home from Friday through Monday, we continue to live in a rented tiny studio on Tuesday through Friday in Albuquerque, NM. This is due to our house cleaning customers we yet service in New Mexico. Please pray for the quick establishment of our house cleaning business in El Paso, TX or another type of employment, which will allow us to stay full time in El Paso, TX.

We continue to see the Lord joyfully open the hearts of numerous Mexicans in Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. Lisette and I praise God and give Him honor and glory for more than 100 souls, who have been saved through repentance by grace through faith in Jesus Christ! When Lisette and I started preaching and teaching the precious Gospel story of Jesus Christ about twenty-two months ago, we could not have imagined such an amazing reaping of saved souls through the astounding power of the Holy Spirit and power of the precious and holy blood of Jesus. Since many of these born again new Christians do not have a home, we have only seen many of them on one occasion. We are thankful for the many new Church of God professing members in Juarez that do have homes which allow us to visit them often. The Lord has caused us to miraculously meet up again with many of these new and homeless

members of the Church of God up to eight times. This really is a miracle, since they live on the streets of Juarez, a Mexican city with a population of 1.3 million, and they don't have a home address or phone number for us to call or locate. Many of them have given testimonies of drastic changes that God has worked in their lives following our first contact with them. For example, one homeless young man said, "I have been putting your teachings on holiness, cleanliness and reading the Bible to practice, and the Lord has set me free from drug abuse." When we first met this young man, he had waist long hair, hair lice, filthy and worn-out clothing and a "dead" personality. From the time of his salvation, around 19 months ago, his spirit and personality are alive and glowing with new life. Hence, his hygiene had dramatically improved and his hair is now very short. (I Corinthians 11:14.) Doesn't this remind you of the Gadarene man with the unclean spirits? "...And see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind:..." Mark 5:15. Praise and glory be to Jesus, Who alone has the power to cast out unclean spirits!

Around one year ago we met Israel, who was living under a bridge, and who was addicted to drugs. At that time, we placed our hands on Him asking God, our Father, to deliver him from unclean spirits, drug abuse and to heal him of a huge swollen area on his leg, which was caused by a spider bite. We had not seen Israel again, until just one month ago. He came running to us, as we were preaching and teaching on the streets. Due to the drastic change in his countenance, I did not recognize him. However, my dear wife, Lisette, did identify him. He then joyfully, with excitement in his voice; expressed to us how God shortly healed him of the swollen spider bite and more dramatic than that....how God took away his drug and other addictions. There is no question that Israel has new life in his soul. As soon as he gave us this heart rejoicing testimony, he quickly ran to find and bring his brother, who also prayed a prayer of repentance and gave his life to Jesus. (Due to His saved brother's testimony of what had occurred after he met Jesus through our preaching.) Apart from Israel's brother giving his life to Jesus in this street meeting, there were two other men, who stopped to listen and also were saved, along with others who asked for prayer and for Gospel meetings in their home!

We continue to have regular Bible teaching and Gospel meetings in three locations. We

have witnessed the Lord perform an abundance of miracles in all three homes of these families. In one home, Noemi's, the Lord saved her husband during our first meeting there about three months ago. Since that time Noemi's husband has been set free from his habitual alcoholic drinking practices. Noemi told us that he was a horrible drunk, nonetheless, he has not touched an alcoholic drink since that first meeting in his home. Her husband also said, "I don't even have the desire to drink alcohol or to enter a bar!" It has been three weeks since he last smoked! Oh, the Lord is worthy of praise for such mercifully kind miracles! Recently he has repainted and made many repairs to his neglected home of twenty years. Noemi is rejoicing and in awe of such changes! We have also witnessed the Lord healing her granddaughter, who didn't want to eat and was becoming very weak. Immediately after we anointed her with oil and prayed in Jesus Christ's name, the six-year-old girl said, "I'm hungry." She has not stopped eating since that time. In fact, the following week when we

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visited them, we brought a large bunch of bananas and five small Mexican rolls and she ate them all, alone, while we were having services. Noemi's husband had a small bump on his nose which concerned them that it could be cancer. After anointing and praying for him, this bump sunk in and disappeared the following week through the wonder working power of the Lord. Three weeks ago Noemi also gave a beautiful testimony of the Lord removing her desire to view soap operas and other fleshly entertainment on television.

One of the most remarkable miracles was given by the Lord to one of Lisette's sister-in-laws who live in the Dominican Republic. She was diagnosed with three brain blood clots about two months ago. The CT scan and other x-rays clearly showed these problem areas. According to the doctors, this would require immediate surgery. Due to this life and death tragedy, Lisette's brother called us and asked us to pray for his wife. A few days later, before the surgery, the doctors made a final examination of the brain and discovered that all three clots had completely disappeared. The doctors

could not give a logical explanation for this mystery. Due to this merciful miracle from the Lord, the surgery was cancelled. The Lord God be exalted for His unfathomable mercy!

A drug war, which began in early 2008, has been the cause of more than 2,000 deaths in Juarez, Mexico and over 6,000 deaths throughout Mexico. According to many sources, Juarez has become one of the most violent cities in the world, which was not the case when we first started our mission over 22 months ago. Mexico has deployed 8,500 soldiers and 2,300 federal agents to patrol Juarez and to crackdown on drug cartels. The United States has deployed thousands of soldiers to the Mexican border to keep the violence from spilling into the USA. It really does look like a war-zone, nonetheless the Lord's angels are protecting us. Please pray for the safety of the new Saints and that God's Holy Spirit continue to shield us as we do God's will in teaching His Word. The new Saints and sinners praise God for your gifts of clothing, shoes, food, monetary help and prayers. Thank you! Through sanctifying grace,

—Bro. Toney and Sis. Lisette Sanchez

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