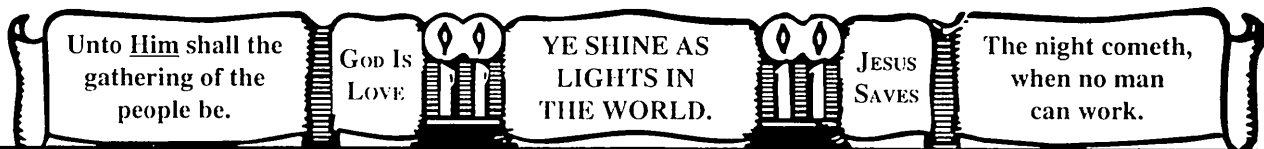


FAITH AND VICTORY

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Healthy and Unhealthy Fear

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

Cold, dark, clammy
Clawing at the throat;
Icy goose bumps
Crawling underneath the coat;

Hard, tight, jerky
Knots in the stomach;
Short of breath, faint—
Fear can make a person sick.

Unhealthy fear paralyzes faith and trust. It obstructs peace of mind and keeps the heart troubled. It is a dynamic emotion that the enemy is exploding today because he knows fear hinders God's work and he is set to terrorize God's people if he can. Let us see how the age old spirit of fear affects humans.

Peer pressure fear. Several times the scriptures tell us that the Pharisees wanted to capture Jesus, but they were afraid of the people. Finally, when they did capture Jesus, Peter was afraid to admit he knew Jesus and denied Him

three times, even to a young maiden. This peer pressure fear is still active today.

Laws and rules of a nation or society are enforced by the fear of consequences for disobeying. Fear of disobeying good rules is healthy, but evil peer pressure is a false guide to those who desire to keep faith and please God. If a Christian allows his sensitivity of acceptance and approval from others to dictate his choices and decisions, he will be unstable in his faith. He will struggle with the fear of standing for what is right.

A soldier of the Lord must not let the normal built in fear of other people's negative opinions, hate, rejection or cruel actions command his life. This pressure of fear will stop testimonies, witnessing, righteous living—it paralyzes faith in God.

To cast out this unhealthy fear, a Christian needs to perfect his love in Christ. "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." I John 4:18. Know that as a child of God perfects his love in Christ Jesus and His Father, there is less chance for unhealthy fear to take control. We become more concerned about obeying God rather than bending to the social pressures people attempt to place upon us.

Peter perfected his love and respect for the Lord and left a solid testimony. In Acts 4:13-22, we read how the Pharisees marveled at the knowledge and boldness with which Peter and John spoke. Under the threat of a beating, Peter

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and John stated: "...Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." Acts 4:19-20. They did not have the spirit of fear because they had a perfected love for Christ which gave them a sound mind and power to speak. Don't let fear of others stop your testimony or righteous living. Remember that "...God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." II Timothy 1:7. The respectful fear in God's love will give a Christian power to think righteously and live boldly like Jesus Christ did.

Unhealthy fear toward God. Jesus said, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matthew 10:28. In this passage Jesus explains that God has the power to give and take life. Respect the eternal laws of God. Obey God above man's laws, which change by social pressure. God will judge every soul to determine whether that soul goes to Heaven or to hell. Fear and reverence God in this regard. This is a healthy fear toward God.

However, sin separates a soul from God. If a person has deceit, jealousy, hatred, revenge or any another sin in his heart then the confidence between that person and God is broken. "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." I John 3:21-22. Obedience to the Father gives His child boldness to approach Him with needs. "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience...." Hebrews 10:22. A forgiven, clean heart or conscience before God will give assurance that the Lord hears my prayers.

Disobeying the laws of God breaks trust and confidence, which can lead to tormenting fear. Troubling fear can cause physical and mental disorders. It will make a person hide his God-given talent. Remember why the last servant was punished? He was afraid of the Lord. "Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strowed: and I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine." Matthew 25:24-25. This servant knew the Lord, but

he was not obedient. He had sin in his heart. It caused him to be afraid, tormented by the knowledge that God was powerful and would punish him, but he chose to hide, disobey and therefore, he suffered the punishment he was so afraid would come. This unhealthy fear immobilized him.

Revelation 21:8 lists "the fearful, and unbelieving" right along with the murderers, sorcerers, idolaters and other sinners. They will be thrown into the "lake which burneth with fire and brimstone." However, before this warning, there is a promise: "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." Revelation 21:7. Overcomers have their sins forgiven through the blood of Jesus Christ, and they obey the Word of God and His Holy Spirit.

Fear of satan/the devil. Alone, a Christian is not a match against the wiles of the enemy; but by the power of God, one can resist him. (James 4:7.) There is no need to cower under accusations of the devil. "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." I John 4:4. The devil rules the world of sinners, but he does not rule God's children. We do not need to shrink under his attacks, but we can conquer and charge against the evils of the devil.

Just as Jesus healed and delivered when on this earth, so He is still able to conquer and deliver today. "...and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them." Matthew 4:24. In the name of Jesus Christ, through His shed blood, this same conquering power against the enemy is for God's children today. Jesus said that often "...this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." Matthew 17:21. He referred to a time when the disciples could not cure a man possessed with a devil.

Jesus said, "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 18:19. That is a powerful promise! How many Christians actually believe this promise and practice it? The devil knows that unity of prayer is powerful, so he separates Christians mentally by bringing negative thoughts about other Christians and how they perceive each other. After creating walls between God's people, he

knows that confidence and encouragement to each other is broken. An isolated Christian feels alone and is more vulnerable to the wiles of the devil. Then the enemy works on tearing down faith in God. Negative thought after negative thought chips away at confidence in the Lord. Soon the power to pray and get answers from the Lord is lost. The devil causes a climax of confusion about God's people and lack of faith in God so that there is a fear toward himself and the end result is defeat for Christians in the spiritual warfare. This is an unhealthy fear toward the enemy. Remember that it is the "fearful and unbelieving" who are classed as sinners and on the way to torment.

Instead, believe in the hundreds of promises that God has given to those who trust in Him. Some He fulfilled through His Son, Jesus Christ that His people may have abundant POWER. (Ephesians 3:20.) Power to overcome the fear of the devil's roaring about the future and the conditions of the world. Through the grace of Jesus Christ believers have hope in a better place in eternity, so the fear of death has lost its sting. He promised: "...I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:20.

Fear melts away when God's children focus on the love of God, the power of Jesus Christ and hope in Heaven.



LIGHT AHEAD

I once heard a story of how satan hunts for the souls of man. With the story was a picture of a man going down a long dismal street. On his right shoulder sat an imp, apparently speaking into his ear. The street represented life. Just where the man was, seemed the darkest spot in all the street, but far ahead of him light seemed springing up, which, however, was not seen by him at the time, for he was looking down. Often if we would look up, we should discover that just where we are is the darkest spot and that ahead the light of hope beams brightly, inviting us on to triumph and victory. The story ran about as follows:

Satan has many imps with which he hunts the souls of man. The most successful one of them he calls Discouragement. Once upon a time satan saw a man passing down the way of life, and he said to his little imp, Discouragement, "Catch him." Starting off with a bound, the imp soon overtook the man, and springing upon his shoulder whispered in his ear, "You are discouraged." "No," replied the man; "I do not think so." "Yes," said the imp; "I tell you, you are discouraged." "Well," replied the man, "I am not very much discouraged." Again the imp repeated, "I tell you, you are discouraged." Finally the man said, "Yes, I am discouraged." The imp then went flying back to his master and said triumphantly, "I caught him." Another man came along and satan again said to the imp, "Catch him." Leaping upon the second man's shoulder, he began as before by saying,

"You are discouraged." This man answered firmly, "No; I am not discouraged." But the imp repeated, "Sir, you are discouraged." This time the man answered, "I tell you positively I am not discouraged." But again the imp said, "Surely you are discouraged." On this the man became vehement and said, "You are a liar; I am not discouraged." At this the imp left him and slowly returned to his master, and reluctantly said, "I couldn't get him. I told him twice that he was discouraged, and he answered me promptly, 'No!' I told him the third time he was surely discouraged. At this he called me a liar and that discouraged me."

Firm resistance to the accusations, discouragements, and attacks of satan will put him to flight, and instead of being discouraged, downcast, and despondent, we can be victors in the name of Christ, and the instruments of satan sent to cast down our souls will themselves give away under the pressure of firm resistance and faith in God. Finally, dear reader, let me say, or rather let me remind you, that Jesus said of satan, "He is a liar and the father of it." Though many traps be set along the way to ensnare the feet of men; and many imps be sent out to hunt the souls of those who would do right, no power or imp of satan can stand before the soul of the least of God's redeemed who resists satan steadfastly in the faith and trusts firmly in the written Word of the Almighty power of the true and living God. "Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."

—D. O. Teasley

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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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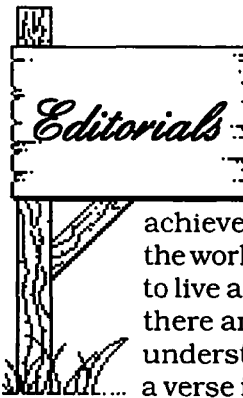
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At this time of year schools are concluding their classes and graduates are receiving their diplomas with the encouragement of educators to, "go out and achieve great and mighty things in the world." We want our young people to live a full and happy life, however, there are some realities they should understand about success. There is a verse in Ecclesiastes 5:3 that gives insight on this subject. "For a dream cometh through the multitude of business;...." One who expects to realize a dream must work diligently with small tasks, for these are the building blocks that create the magnificent structures that people view with awe.

People often overlook and despise the small things that really lead to greatness. Their pride says, "because I don't have ten talents, I will not worry about developing the one God has given me." This is a serious mistake that is causing many people to displease the Lord. How sad will be their fate when God calls them to account for their slothfulness. The voice of wisdom instructed the slothful to consider the ways of the ant. The ant has been admired through the ages of time for its social order, foresight and industry. While they are so small and can carry such a tiny amount of food at one time, yet they are not discouraged, they busily go about their work with seemingly tireless energy. While their food reserves are stored in small quantities, they are multiplied by the repetitious nature of their foraging habits which provide sufficient stores to accumulate. When winter comes they have a storehouse of food laid aside to carry them through the cold months. When we employ ourselves in faithfully doing the will of the Lord for our life, we likewise will lay aside an abundant store that will bless us throughout eternity.

A few weeks ago, while waiting in line at a drive-in banking facility, I realized there was going to be a few minutes to wait and I asked the Lord to speak to me during that time. A few moments later I saw an elderly lady coming down the alley in her battery powered wheel chair and I thought, "Wow, she is moving right along." As I reflected on her method of transportation, the Lord seemed to open the thought to me that, "a successful person is one who utilizes the resources they have on hand to the best advantage." While she had a handicap that kept

her from walking normally, she was successfully going where she needed to go with the means that were available to her. In considering this thought, the question of "What are our available resources?" then came to mind, and the Lord impressed me that knowledge is often a side benefit of counting our blessings. Just as businesses periodically take inventory of what they own, it is good for a child of God to count their blessings and praise Him for the good things He has given them. This awareness can be an invaluable aid when one needs to employ a resource in their life.

We should not overlook things that God has given us, even though they may seem insignificant, for He has the ability to use them to great advantage. When one consecrates themselves and their possessions to the service of the Lord, then He is able to use them, when He chooses, to accomplish His Divine purpose. When David went to battle with Goliath, he was only a youth with a sling and some smooth stones, but God utilized David and his simple weaponry to win a great victory for the children of Israel. The widow, who was in debt, with creditors who were about to take her two sons and sell them into slavery, only had a pot of oil. But the prophet of the Lord told her to take the pot of oil and fill all the vessels she could borrow. When the vessels of oil were filled and sold, she was able to pay the debt and live on the remainder. Jesus used many common, ordinary things to accomplish a noble purpose. He fed a multitude from the lunch of a young boy. He anointed a blind man's eyes with clay mixed with spittle and told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam to receive his sight. He confounded his faultfinders with a simple coin. Even His disciples, who did many wonderful things through the power of the Holy Spirit, were simple, unlearned men.

"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;" I Corinthians 1:26-27. "...But to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." Isaiah 66:2. The Lord understands there are not many great and mighty men who will humble themselves before the Lord to do His will. It would be wonderful if more would serve the Lord with all of their soul, mind and strength, but it is hard for those with riches and the praise of men to not set their heart on them. For when

earthly riches become the objects of one's affection, then God is deprived of His rightful place in their heart and His blessing can not be placed on their life. Proverbs 6:16-17 says there are seven things that the Lord considers an abomination. The first thing listed is a proud look. If people would realize that when they elevate themselves with pride they are separating themselves from the favor of God, then it would seem they would reconsider and take a more humble approach to life.

The small acts and deeds of mankind do not escape the notice of God, and when they are directed in a way that is beneficial to Him and are a blessing to His children, then He will take a special interest in that individual. Jesus made special note of the widow who cast all of her living into the treasury even though it consisted of only two mites. He said she had given more than all of the others. But just because a person is poor does not mean they automatically incur the favor of God. There are some poor people who are extremely selfish and filled with bad attitudes toward others who they feel are better off than themselves. When these attitudes dominate their heart they miss out on the blessing and favor of God that could have easily been theirs.

Obedience to God is of paramount importance if one desires His blessing. Some people justify themselves in believing they are obedient in the great things of God's law but are not very careful about obeying those things they consider to be minor. Naaman, the captain of the host of the King of Syria, is one example of someone who nearly lost the blessing of having his leprosy healed because he was reluctant to dip in the Jordan River seven times. Naaman's servant rescued his master with the following conversation, "...My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?" II Kings 5:13. When Elisha's order was followed, Naaman was healed. Joash, King of Israel, is another example of reluctantly obeying the orders of Elisha. Israel was oppressed by the King of Syria and Elisha told Joash to smite upon the ground with his arrows. Joash struck the ground three times and stopped. The prophet of the Lord was displeased with the King's performance and told him that was how many times he would be able to smite the enemy. Had he been more diligent to obey the Prophet, the King of Syria would have been defeated. Consequently, Israel continued to be oppressed by their Syrian enemy.

The Psalmist sums up what our attitude should be concerning our obedience to the will of God. He says, "Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way." Psalms 119:128. If we will follow this principle in our life we will find the blessing of God rich to our souls. It is very unwise to selectively obey the Word of God, for this will surely bring deception and is the chain that binds the souls of man into the dark bondage of sectism.

Faith in God is a necessary part of a Christian's life. The Scripture's identify minute amounts of faith as having great recompense of reward. Jesus spoke of "...faith as a grain of mustard seed..." enabling its possessor to move mountains. While many consider it such a small thing to have faith, in reality it will mean the difference between life and death. For Hebrews 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." This chapter of Hebrews is filled with reports of those who have had faith and pleased God at the peril of their own life. Those who exercise faith become heroes in the eyes of God. A measure of faith will draw a line between those who possess salvation and those who profess salvation. As the second book of James clearly brings out, living faith will motivate works that are pleasing to God. On a related matter, some people seem to think nothing of murmuring and complaining about their circumstances of life, and this is sad indeed, for their complaining is a flag they carry with them that tells everyone, "I don't have faith in God." There are legitimate needs that every child of God has from time to time and it is appropriate to take those needs to the Lord in earnest prayer. Our prayers must be prayed in faith that recognizes God's passionate love for us, and His ability to provide for our needs. When our faith grasps His promises for us, we can leave our burdens at His feet and go in peace—then we are no longer carrying discouragement to everyone we meet. For God is truly displeased with the continual complainer and in His eyes it is not a small thing.

May each reader be encouraged to appreciate the small things God does for them, and find pleasure in joyfully serving the One Who died to purchase our salvation. As He sees your faithfulness in the small things, then it will not be long before He will entrust you with greater responsibilities and you will, "...Grow in grace,

and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." II Peter 3:18.

This last month we have had our share of computer related problems. Our internet service provider was down for several weeks and that has limited our ability to send and receive email communication. In this same period of time our computer was infected with a virus that destroyed the functionality of its operating system. While this was a severe handicap to the work of the Lord we are thankful that it is now in operation again and we appreciate the improvements that have been made on this system.

Our heart is grieved by the passing of Bro. Stanley Dickson, on May 22. Bro. Stanley was the pastor of the Guthrie congregation. His encouraging words of counsel will be sorely missed by the Saints all across this country. Please pray that God will comfort his wife, Sis. Karen Dickson, who is a faithful worker at the Lord's Print Shop, and his two sons and their families.

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



MI—Please remember me in your prayers as I have a very troubling neurological problem at this time. Your brother in Christ,

—Milford Parsons

LA—Precious workers at the Print Shop: Just a note to thank you for all the work you do and to thank our Lord for all He means to all of us. I am not at all well at this time and do need your prayers. Let us all keep faithful, we know our Lord loves us and we mean to be faithful. He has surely been good to us. With love and prayers,

—Sis. Gladys S. Cashio

OK—Rodney Sorrell would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, support and all the concern shown to him during his illness. He knows the Lord is hearing your prayers

because he has felt the answers many times. May the Lord bless all of you richly. Thank you,

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

OK—Remember Sis. Annetta Williamson in prayer. She is very weak and is experiencing a lot of discomfort from her declining physical condition. Also remember her daughter, Sis. Cynthia, as she patiently cares for her mother.

Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Carlos Arriaga

Sis. Gladys Cashio

Sis. Helen Carson

Sis. Genevieve 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. Virginia Myers

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. Annetta Williamson

MEETING REPORTS

WICHITA MEETING REPORT

Thank God for spiritual blessings. Our meeting provided just that. We had a number of ministers over all to come and break the Bread of Life to us. We had some very encouraging words about "Being Happy," "He Is Alive," and "Christ's Love." We had serious messages about "Obedience," "Are you Committed?" and "Having on the Robe of Righteousness."

There was some altar work and rejoicing and praising God. The singing was a real blessing and encouraged many. We thank the Lord for power and victory. —The Wichita Saints

MEETING DATES

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

Myrtle, MO (Camp Meeting)—July 31-August 5

California State (Pacoima, CA)—August 7-16

Spooner, WI (Tent Meeting)—August 19-23

MEETING NOTICES

GREEN BANK, WV, CAMP MEETING

The annual Green Bank Camp Meeting is scheduled to begin on Friday evening, June 12 and continue through Thursday evening, June 18, Lord willing.

Services will be held daily at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Three meals will be served daily. There are no afternoon services scheduled.

All are welcome to attend this meeting. Dorm spaces are available for the young people, as well as rooms and private homes for others. Please bring your own bedding and towels. Come prepared for cool weather. You may want to bring a heater or fan as we have unpredictable weather in June. It would be good if you could call ahead so we can better arrange accommodations. Please provide as much of the following information as possible: name and phone number, date of arrival and departure, and number of adults and children in party. However, if you decide to suddenly drop by, you will be welcome. Accommodations will be provided.

The campground is located off Route 28 and 92 in Arbovale. Signs will be posted to direct you to the grounds. Camper hook-ups are also available.

For further information, call Bro. Mike Carpenter at (304) 456-3250 or Bro. Jim White at (304) 456-4192.

Come praying that the Holy Spirit will have full reign in this meeting.

TULSA, OK, SISTERS' RETREAT

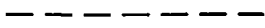
The 2009 Sister's Retreat will be held, Lord willing, June 12-13 at Tulsa Church of God located at 1102 East Pine Place, Tulsa, OK 74106. The theme for this year will be "The Daughter of

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 (918) 402-9006 for hotel information and direction. Sister Shelia can also provide a ride to and from the airport.



JEFFERSON, OR, CAMP MEETING

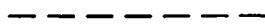
The Jefferson, OR Camp Meeting will begin Saturday evening, June 13 and end with the Sunday morning service June 21. We will have two services during the week: 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. with a 2:30 p.m. afternoon service on the first Sunday and last Saturday. For directions or sleeping accommodations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



FRESNO, CA, CAMP MEETING

The Fresno Camp Meeting will be held June 28-July 5. On Sunday, Sunday School will begin at 9:30 a.m., with services following at

10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday services will be at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The last Sunday, Sunday School will be at 9:30 a.m., morning service 10:30 a.m., and we will end the meeting with the 2:00 p.m. service.

DIRECTIONS: From 99 north, exit Belmont and turn left. Then go to First St. and turn right. Go to the second block and turn left on Grant. From 99 south, exit Ventura east. Then go to First St. and make a left. Go to Grant then turn right. The chapel sits on First and Grant.

If there are any questions, call Sis. Gwen Robinson at (559) 233-2492



GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMP MEETING

Lord willing, the General Southern Camp Meeting at Loranger, LA will begin Sunday, June 28, with morning and evening services daily through Sunday, July 5. If you can join us, come praying for a blessing.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Electrical and water hookups are available for those with campers. Meals are provided 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. (At the exit, take Hwy. 442 which runs into Hwy. 40.)

For more information, contact Carlos Doolittle at (985) 878-8122. The chapel phone is (985) 878-2788. Please do support this meeting with your prayers.



**NATIONAL CAMP MEETING
MONARK SPRINGS, MO**

The National Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO, July 17-26. All are cordially invited to come and bring others to enjoy the blessings we are expecting from the Lord.

The Monark Springs campground is located approximately five miles east of Neosho, MO. It is one mile east and 3/4 mile south of the intersection of Highways 86 and 59.

If you travel to Neosho by bus, you may telephone the campground, (417) 472-6427, or Bro. Mike Hightower, (417) 451-3636, for transportation.

The camp meeting is conducted on a freewill offering basis. There is no charge for meals or

lodging on the campgrounds. You are welcome to come and enjoy the meeting. We are confident God will supply every need. Meals will be served in the dining hall. Dormitory space and trailer spots are available on a first-come basis. Family units are also available.

The business managers are Randel Bradley (620) 226-3390 or e-mail <rdbradley@ckt.net>. and Mike Hightower, 13974 Newt Dr., Neosho, MO 64850. Phone, (417) 451-3636.

MYRTLE, MO, CAMP MEETING

The Myrtle, MO Camp Meeting will begin, Lord willing, on Friday morning, July 31 and continue through Wednesday morning, August 5. There will be morning services at 10:30 and evening services at 7:00 each day, with the 10:30 service on Wednesday being the last service. We plan to have afternoon services, as announced, on Saturday and Sunday. We extend a hearty invitation to everyone to come. Accommodations will be made to care for all. Sleeping quarters are available in the men's and women's dormitories as well as cabins on a limited basis. We ask that cabin owners please contact Sis. Carol Sorrell at (417) 938-4493 and let her know whether or not you plan to attend the meeting this year. If you do not plan to attend, but have a relative who plans to attend and would like to stay in your cabin, please inform Sis. Carol. This will help her with arrangements for everyone. Electrical hookups are also available on a limited basis for those who bring campers or motor homes.

Please pray with us for a special visitation of the Holy Spirit and that this meeting will bear fruit for eternity. The campground phone number is (417) 938-4682. For further information contact Bro. Harlan Sorrell at (417) 938-4336.

CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The California State Camp Meeting will be held, Lord willing, from August 7-16, 2009. The campground is located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA 91331.

The first service will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday, August 7, 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. The chapel phone number is (818) 899-9021.



Gustavia Alberta Bobbie Jo Ligons Anderson was the eleventh child of Andrew Jackson Ligons and Eliza Mae Murdock. Her earthly journey began on March 17, 1930. Her brothers and sisters affectionately called her 'baby'.

Gussie, as she was known to family and friends, met and had a forty-six year love affair with her husband, Chester Anderson, Sr. They united in holy matrimony on November 16, 1948, in Sayre, OK. They made their home in Hoffman, OK where they raised their twelve children, the 12 G's.

Gussie received her education at Hoffman and in Grayson. She attended Okmulgee Technology School to complete her high school education. Although her first priority was always her husband and children, she occasionally worked outside of the home in various capacities. During the early years of her marriage she and her husband worked side by side in the fields during harvest season.

Gustavia's parents instilled in her a love for Christ and at an early age she accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Savior. She was baptized in the muddy waters of Deep Fork Bottom and began her lifelong work with the Evening Light Saints of God. Gussie loved teaching Bible School and had a real passion for teaching Sunday School and being an effective witness to all she met. She trusted fully in the Lord and kept the faith until she was called to her eternal rest.

Gustavia loved her family and every chance she got would tell them about their rich ancestry. She encouraged her children, her nieces and nephews, and her cousins to "go out and enjoy your family." At family gatherings and reunions she would tell the family to know their history. To know that we are descendents of African Kings and Queens, that we have the blood of Chiefs (Native Americans) and even

some Caucasian. Gussie believed in sharing family history and encouraging others to live up to their heritage. She often stated that with our family education there was no need to go outside the family for anything! She stressed the importance of education and made great sacrifices to ensure that her children attended college.

Gussie loved all kinds of flowers and enjoyed getting her hands dirty in the soil. Regardless of where she lived she would plant flowers, shrubs, and/or trees. You would often find her outside on her hands and knees tending to her plants. Gussie had a gift for growing things and making them flourish. This included the strength, guidance and love she showered on her family.

Gustavia lived her life as she has often stated "Read the Bible and Pray Every Day, Read the Bible and Pray Every day, Read the Bible and Pray Every Day and GROW, GROW, GROW."

Gustavia was preceded in death by her husband, Chester Anderson Sr., one daughter, Portia Tompkins, her 10 siblings and her parents. Those who remain to carryout and pass on her legacy include: her children: Georgia (Howard) Berry, Kansas City, KS; Chester (Gwen), Bartlesville, OK; Leslie (Vassar), Diane, Vincent, Ponca City, OK; Phillip, Henryetta, OK; Deborah, Dallas, TX; Darryl, Moore, OK; Karen, Oklahoma City, OK; Felisha, Piedmont, OK; and Deanna (Brad) Chambers, Keller, TX; Son-in-law, Hollis Tompkins; 21 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren; two brothers; Willie and Everet Celestine; two sisters: Elizabeth Moore and Nettie Celestine, two brothers-in-law, Theodore Payne (Rita) and Murl Anderson (Faye); two sisters-in-law, Ruthie Ligons and Marcelene Lockhart; and a plethora of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends in Christ.

Gustavia (also loving called... Mother, Memaw, Mutha Dear, Grandma, Sister Anderson, Aunt Gussie, Doll, G and Baby) began her eternal journey after 78 years, 11 months and 19 days, on Friday March 6, 2009 at 8:04 p.m.

Memorial services were held March 14, 2009, at Trinity Baptist Church, Morris, OK. The services were officiated by Bro. Charles Lowe, Bro. Lucas Warren and Bro. Charles Chandler. Interment followed at Hawkins Cemetery, Hoffman, OK.

Note of Thanks

The family extends special thanks to those who shared their love with our Mother. For the kind words, phone calls, visits, food and most especially the prayers. From our hearts we say thanks. —The family of Gustavia A. Anderson

Clayton Omar Gaines, age 74 of Thayer, MO, was born June 29, 1934, in Limon, CO, and passed away April 5, 2009, at the Shady Oaks Healthcare Center in Thayer, MO.

After living in different places in Colorado and western Kansas, his parents moved to Thayer, Missouri in about 1946. He finished his schooling at the Rose Hill Country School. He told stories of some of the pranks he, his brothers, and other boys pulled when they were young. Mischievous by nature, "Uncle Corky," as he was lovingly called by many, enjoyed teasing his nieces, nephews and other children with riddles and brainteasers. He also loved horses and riding with his son, David. Clayton loved to teach their young colt to do tricks. In his later years he rigged up a cart for his horse to pull. He would often take it out to Myrtle during the School Assembly for the children to enjoy rides. Motorcycles were also an enjoyment. When he and Eva Lou were living in Kansas City, he owned a Harley Davidson as their only means of transportation. They even made a few trips home on their bike. When David got old enough they both had Hondas to enjoy. In his later years he found pleasure puttering and making things such as leather works, quilting and various other creations. Also gardening was a great pleasure to Clayton, trying different vegetables and often sharing it with neighbors and friends.

Clayton was talented as a mechanic. He referred to himself as a "shade tree mechanic." For many years he was the farm's mechanic. Due to his dedication to family he never was able to pursue that vocation full time. He learned to enjoy farming. He also helped in the family egg business. He often laughed about the time on the egg route when he had a broken arm and how Rebecca still felt safer with his driving on the ice.

At a young age Clayton gave his heart to the Lord by asking the Lord to forgive him of his sins. The Lord was faithful to grant Clayton that "Amazing Grace." From that time forward Clayton was faithful to His Savior for the rest of his life. Even when farm duties delayed the family, it was not an option to miss meeting; they just knew without question they would still go.

In the early 50's, when the Gaines family began attending the Church of God at Myrtle, MO, they met the Sorrell Family. The parents were glad to find their "church home" but two of their children found a bit more! It wasn't long until "wedding bells" were ringing for Clayton and Eva Lou Sorrell. On Christmas Day, 1955,

A SONG OF TRUST

Gertrude Benedict Curtis

*I cannot always see the way that leads
To heights above;
I sometimes quite forget He leads me on
With hand of love;
But yet I know the path must lead me to
Immanuel's Land,
And when I reach life's summit I shall know
And understand.*

*I cannot always trace the onward course
My ship must take;
But, looking backward, I behold afar
Its shining wake,
Illumined with God's light of love; and so
I onward go,
In perfect trust that He Who holds the helm
The course must know.*

*I cannot always see the plan on which
He builds my life;
For oft the sound of hammers, blow on blow,
The noise of strife,
Confuse me till I quite forget He knows
And oversees
And that in all details with His good plan
My life agrees.*

*I cannot always know and understand
The Master's rule;
I cannot always do the tasks He gives
In life's hard school;
But I am learning with His help to solve
Them one by one;
And when I cannot understand to say,
"Thy will be done!"*

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