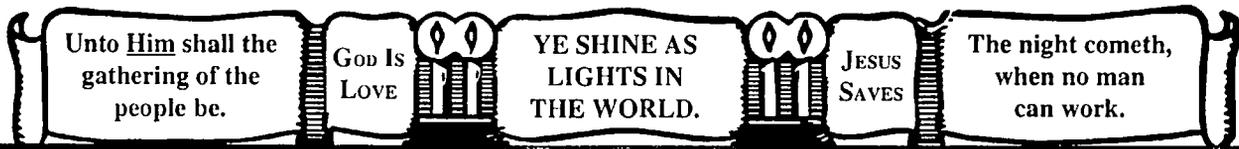


FAITH AND VICTORY

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The Beauties of Christian Character

By Charles E. Orr

From *The Gospel Day*

Not only does the Lord dwell in the midst of His people to perform deeds and signs of wonder, but He dwells in them in all the beauty of His holiness. In their hearts He rules a "King of Peace" and purity. Those in whom He dwells "walk even as He walked," and "as He is, so are they in this world."

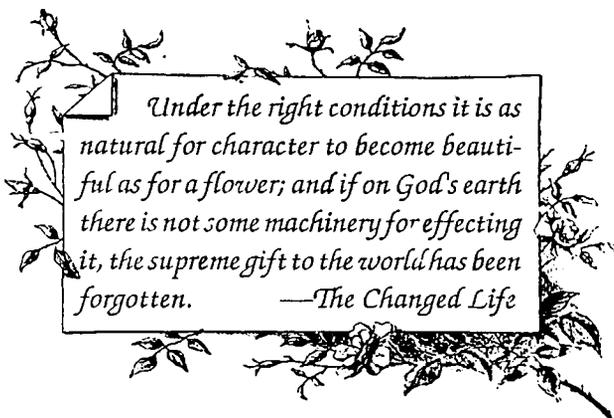
A certain writer speaks thus of the beauties of Christian character: "Live as we may, age dims the luster of the eye, and pales the flush of the cheek, while infirmity mars the human form divine. But while this is true, dim as the eye is, pallid and sunken as may be the face of beauty, frail and feeble that once strong, erect and symmetrical form, the immortal soul, just fledging its wings for Heaven, may look out through those faded windows, as beautiful as a dewdrop on a summer's morning, as melting as the tears

that glisten in affection's eye, by growing kindly, by cultivating sympathy with all mankind, by cherishing forbearance toward the follies and frubbles of our race, and feeding day by day on that love of God and man which lifts us from the brute and makes us akin to angels."

Christian character is the same whether it be in Christians or in Christ. The character of the Savior is also the character of those in whom He dwells. Their nature is the same, and their outward life is the same. This is what is meant when it is said: "We should walk even as He walked." For the clear proof of these few assertions we will arrange in parallel columns a few texts of Scripture describing the character of Jesus, and a few describing the character of Christians, and we will find that not anything more is said of the Savior with respect to a holy life than is said of His devoted followers.

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Under the right conditions it is as natural for character to become beautiful as for a flower; and if on God's earth there is not some machinery for effecting it, the supreme gift to the world has been forgotten.

—The Changed Life

CHARACTER OF CHRIST

CHARACTER OF CHRISTIANS

LOVELY

"His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely..." Song of Songs 5:16.

"Behold, thou *art* fair, my love; behold, thou *art* fair;...Thou *art* all fair, my love; *there is no spot in thee.*" Song of Songs 4:1, 7.

LOWLY

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:29.

"Better *it is to be* of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud." Proverbs 16:19.

OBEDIENT

"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." Romans 5:19.

"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance." I Peter 1:13-14.

COMPASSIONATE

"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd." Matthew 9:36.

"Finally, *be ye* all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, *be pitiful, be courteous:*" I Peter 3:8.

FAITHFULNESS

"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." I Thessalonians 5:24.

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." II Timothy 2:2.

FORBEARANCE

"Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." Romans 3:25.

"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." Colossians 3:13

MEEKNESS

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:29.

"But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." I Peter 3:4.

LONG-SUFFERING

"And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;" II Peter 3:15.

"With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love." Ephesians 4:2.

HUMILITY

"And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:8.

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." I Peter 5:5.

SPOTLESSNESS

"But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" I Peter 1:19.

"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.

MERCIFULNESS

"The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy." Psalms 103:8.

"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." Matthew 5:7.

HARMLESSNESS

"For such an high priest became us, *who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;*" Hebrews 7:26.

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;" Philippians 2:15.

GUILELESSNESS

"Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:" I Peter 2:22.

"Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" John 1:47.

SINLESSNESS

"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.*" Hebrews 4:15.

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." I John 3:9.

Thus we could go on to a much greater length showing by the Scriptures that the character of a Christian, or his nature or life is the same as the life or character of Christ. Christianity is Christ in us. The life of a true Christian is one of great beauty. It is a light in this world. It is far above the ways of sin and worldliness. It is the Christ-life in man. The self-life of man has ceased, is crucified; nevertheless he lives, yet not he, but it is Christ that liveth in him. The Christian life is inspiring, ennobling, clothed in humility. It points the way to Christ and Heaven. It is a brilliant ornament, which in the sight of God is of great price. God places great value upon a Christian life. It is worth more than ten thousand worlds. Is it not a shame that it is trifled with as it is? Thousands are taking the name of Christian, when it is impossible to distinguish them from the world; they emit not one ray of light.

Esthetics is the science of the beautiful, and treats of the feelings produced through the senses by objects of beauty. The most vile and dishonest admire honesty in others; thus gentleness, kindness, meekness, produce pleasant feelings and are called beautiful. God is the source of meekness, gentleness and love. He is the source of the beautiful. Christianity is God in man, exhibiting His beauty. "Lord, let Thy beauty be upon us." The dewdrop sparkles like a diamond as the sun's rays fall upon it. The life of man sparkles with an unsurpassed beauty as the rays of light and salvation fall upon it from the throne. As we behold the beauty of God assimilated into the life of man and thus revealed we think what a pity that all in the world are not Christians.

*Christian, oh, may thy tribe increase,
Thy light and glory ne'er decrease;
Shine on and magnify the Word,
And point the world to Christ and God.*

FAITH AND VICTORY 12 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES



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

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

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way as the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Ex. 25:2; I Chron. 29:9; II Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Freewill offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House. All donations are tax deductible.

A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

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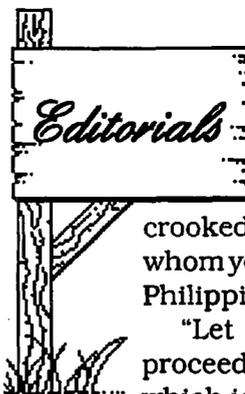
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"Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;" Philippians 2:14-15.

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." Ephesians 4:29.

We are living in a society that could be described in the same terms Paul used in his letter to the Saints in Philippi, "crooked and perverse." With God's people living in the midst of this kind of influence, it means each one will have to be very careful that they do not fall into the same pattern of behavior that is being exhibited around them. This verse says to do all things without "murmurings and disputings." One can hardly go a day without hearing an abundant overflow of the bitterness that is ruling in the hearts of people.

Some time ago while eating at a fast-food restaurant I observed a family that was unhappy at another table because something wasn't quite right with their order. They took the food item back to the counter and complained about it and the waiter graciously resubmitted the order. Well, I didn't think too much about it at the time because it can easily happen that a mistake is made in an order. However, that was not the end of it. When the second order was delivered to their table, it still was not to their satisfaction and they refused it again. Finally on the third or fourth time the manager delivered the order with some other things to make peace with them and they grudgingly accepted the food. While this is perhaps a minor example of the nature that is controlling the actions of people, it extends into other more serious aspects of life and, more often than we would like to think, it results in strife, hatred and even murder. In II Thessalonians 3:2 Paul asked for prayer that, "...we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men:..." God's people do need special grace to live in a Christ-like way and overcome evil with good.

Christians are also instructed to "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your

mouth..."The word translated *corrupt* is defined in the Greek dictionary as: rotten, i.e. worthless (literally or morally)—bad. Oh, how much evil spews from the mouths of the people who inhabit this sinful world. Those who proclaim Christ as their Savior must not speak in such a foolish manner for Jesus said, "...Those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man." Matthew 15:18. The Psalmist said, "Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips."

When Christ creates a clean heart in a man, it will cause his vocabulary to likewise be transformed. Instead of corrupt communication, God desires His people to have good, edifying conversation with one another and to be kind and gracious. To accomplish this noble goal will require careful vigilance on the part of each person, not only to watch their words, but to also guard their heart.

We are instructed in Philippians 4:8 to think on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous and praiseworthy. It would logically follow that if we are thinking on these things, then we will also be speaking of them to one another. This kind of conversation has the wonderful power to lift the dark clouds of discouragement and bring hope and cheer to the downhearted.

Is it possible that our happiness is determined by our own words? Notice this scripture in Proverbs 15:23, "A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word *spoken* in due season, how good *is it!*" When one will speak gently and kindly, it has the ability to turn away trouble and that certainly will have an affect on a person's happiness. However, one also derives a great measure of joy simply by speaking appropriately. A person who has an optimistic and cheerful word can not help but share that optimism and feel that cheer, it is simply a natural response. On a parallel thought, when one offers sincere praise to the Lord with their mouth, it also brings joy to their own heart. What a lovely secret for the child of God to learn.

"A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit." Proverbs 15:4. The meaning of the word *wholesome*, from the original text, has reference to a cure or remedy. Another verse from Proverbs 16:24 says, "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the

bones." Pleasant, wholesome words have the ability to assuage many ills and bring healing and comfort to the pain of the heart. Some people seem to have a special gift of saying the right things at the right time to heal the spirit of those who are suffering. However, I believe the Lord would be pleased to help all of us to be able to touch others with a healing balm of gracious words.

"There is gold, and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel." Proverbs 20:15. People take delight in the aesthetic value of gold and rubies, but those who are able to communicate a wealth of knowledge are adorned with a beautiful gift that surpasses the shimmer of these trimmings. What a blessing words are for instruction and counsel. It is through words that knowledge is transferred from one person to another. Our learning process utilizes words to a great extent. A typical schoolroom setting for students consists of a teacher, textbooks and words. Can you imagine what it must have been like when they were constructing the Tower of Babel and God confounded their language. The resulting confusion brought the work to a standstill, for the work could not continue when everyone misunderstood the other person. Now, it is true that knowledge can cause a person to be elevated with pride, but when it is used to edify one another it is a wonderful blessing. Notice how James 3:17 identifies how wisdom can be to our edification. "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." This wisdom is from God and will truly bless those who receive it.

"Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another." Romans 14:19. The next time we think of the Lord's Prayer and in particular the portion that says, "...Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven," then let us think about how we may edify one another with our words, for I believe that is an important part of His will for our lives. If we will put extra effort into improving our communication to make it more conformable to God's will, then the world will clearly behold the illumination of our candle, and our words will minister grace to those around us.

As is our usual policy we will omit the August issue of the Faith and Victory. We trust many of our readers will be able to attend the Monark Springs Camp Meeting at Neosho, MO. May the Lord send a special outpouring of His Spirit upon the Saints this year. —Bro. Willie E. Murphey
wemurphey@yahoo.com



MO—Remember my daughter, Cathy Younger in prayer. She is having a lot of pain associated with a back injury. —Bro. Jim Broker

WV—Bro. James White would like for the Saints to pray for Him. He is suffering from congestive heart failure. —Sis. Karen Lambert

PA—Please pray for Sis. Virginia Myers. She is still confined to bed most of the time and is not able to turn over by herself, so must have constant care. She also has some other physical problems with the MS by which she is afflicted.

We do thank the Lord for His protection of the chapel during the winter storms when several tree limbs fell on the roof. In light of what has happened in many other areas weather-wise, we surely were blessed.

—Sis. Barbara J. Campbell

LA—Remember Sis. Clarice Pruitt in prayer, she is very weak in body. Also remember those who are providing constant care for her.

OK—Sis. Annetta Williamson is still in need of prayer. She has recently been suffering discomfort in her abdomen, in addition to the many other afflictions of her body.

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. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor
Sis. Imogene Taylor
The Mitch Taylor family
Sis. Norma Tiller
Bro. Delmar Wilkins
Sis. Annetta Williamson

MEETING REPORTS

Dear Saints: We wanted to thank the Lord for allowing Holly Hill, SC to see another campmeeting, and we are praising God for each blessing He bestowed throughout the meeting. We received many spiritual benefits, and we are challenged and encouraged to press forward for Christ. It was so nice to see the Saints who came to the meeting. We appreciate all who made the sacrifice to come; your efforts blessed us more than you know. May the Lord continue to keep us all faithful to Him until we hear Him say, "Well done."

In Jesus' love,

—Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Smith
and the Holly Hill Congregation

Words of Cheer

*How little it costs, if we give it a thought
To make happy some heart each day!
Just one kind word, or a tender smile,
As we go on our daily way.
Perchance a look will suffice to clear
The cloud from a neighbor's face,
And the press of the hand in sympathy
A sorrowful tear efface.*

—Selected

MEETING DATES

National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 17-26
Myrtle, MO (Camp Meeting)—July 31-August 5
California State (Pacoima, CA)—August 7-16
Boley, OK (Summer Meeting)—August 15-16
Spooner, WI (Tent Meeting)—August 19-23
Baldy Mesa, CA (Fall Revival)—October 9-11
Dallas, TX (Fall Meeting)—October 14-18
Okmulgee, OK (Fall Revival)—October 16-18

MEETING NOTICES

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.

SPOONER, WI, TENT MEETING

Lord willing, this meeting will begin Wednesday, August 19, at 7:00 p.m., with services daily at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. through Sunday, August 23.

Come for a blessing and to be a blessing, and please support the tent meeting with your prayers.

There will be some accommodations but please call for arrangements. Bring your own bedding and linens if possible. Be prepared for cold nights. We give everyone a special invitation to come and be with us to enjoy God's many blessings of love. For more information contact Bro. Ron and Sis. Martha Zacharias at (715) 635-2994.

BALDY MESA, CA, FALL REVIVAL

We are seeking the blessings of God for our community, our congregation, and fellow saints

as we anticipate our Fall Revival 2009. Lord willing our weekend meeting will be held October 9- 11.

Friday—Worship 7:30 p.m., Saturday—Worship & Youth Focus Activities 1:00 p.m., Worship 7:30 p.m. Sunday —Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Morning Worship 11:00 a.m., Afternoon Worship 2:30 p.m.

In His Service,

—Pastor Travis Johnson

—Pastor Alice Johnson
(760) 780-6707

DALLAS, TX, FALL MEETING

The Church of God congregation in Dallas, TX cordially invite you to join them in their Fall Meeting October 14-18. The service times will be at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. On Sunday, Sunday School will begin at 10:00 a.m., Morning Worship service at 11:00 a.m. and Afternoon Service at 2:30 p.m.

The chapel is located at 11501 Ryliecrest Drive, Balch Springs, TX. The chapel phone number is: (972) 557-1591.

For further information contact Bro. Calvin Frentrup (972) 237-1538, Bro. Henry Grimes (972) 222-7249. For lodging contact Sis. Linda Montgomery (972) 286-6239.

OKMULGEE, OK, FALL REVIVAL

You are invited to attend our Fall Revival at the Church of God congregation in Okmulgee, OK on October 16-18. Service times will be 7:30 p.m. On October 18 we plan to have our regular Sunday services with a Singspiration in the afternoon.

The chapel is located at 1515 E. First St., Okmulgee, OK. For further information contact Bro. Robert Warren (918) 733-1306



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus, our Lord. I have been encouraged much by thinking of this great salvation that the Lord has provided for us through His Son. God saw that we

were all lost sheep, going astray, that we had turned every one to his own way, (Isaiah 53:6) And that we need a Savior. So He lovingly sent His Son to be our Savior. So Jesus came to be our Good Shepherd and to seek and save the lost. I am glad that "Jesus came looking for me," and I am glad that I heard His voice and yielded to Him. I find His ways are so much higher than our way. He points us to heavenly things instead of earthly things, although He gives us all that we need to successfully serve Him. "I love to serve my Jesus, and lean upon His arm, in health or in affliction, in calm or in the storm, in darkness clouds or sunshine, in heat or in the cold, in poverty or riches I have peace and joy untold." The chorus: "He helps me bear each burden, He is my victory." Jesus also said, "...if any man serve me, him will my Father honour." John 12:26. When God honors us, that is the highest honor we can have, eternal life with Him and with the beloved of all ages.

Your saved brother, —T. V. McMillian

From India...

June 26, 2009—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey: Greetings to you and the dear Saints in America in the marvelous name of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your letter, and the enclosed offering was noted with much gratitude. May God bless each donor to this fund for us as it is a great relief for our work here, especially for our ministers.

Monsoon rain has started here. No outdoor meetings are held during monsoon rains, but indoor meetings are going on without much hindrance.

We pray for the blessings of the camp meetings going on in different places, which results in the edification of the church. Please continue to remember our needs in your prayers. With prayers and thanks.

Yours in Him.

—Bro. John Varghese

Africa Mission Report

Bro. Michael Smith and Bro. Doug Wall traveled to Kenya in late April for ministers' meetings and Gospel outreach meetings. We spent the first night in Nairobi, then traveled to Stelah in southwest Kenya, which is not far from the border of Tanzania. The trip from Nairobi to Stelah covers some beautiful terrain. Descending the mountain road from the high elevation of Nairobi into the flat lands of the Masai tribe provides spectacular views into the distance.

The Masai are tall, nomadic people. Many still wear traditional clothing—brilliantly colored wraps, an abundance of ornaments, and have ears that are slit and stretched into long loops. The men carry sticks and manage herds of goats and cattle. The flat lands were especially dry. Dust twisters spun across the open expanses, drawing light tan colors up into the air like small tornadoes. Umbrella Thorn trees served as a reminder that we were back in the beautiful land of the zebras, gazelles, and wildebeests.

We left the main highway and were approaching the chapel and church school. The church school children, many of which are orphans, were waiting for us beside the road. They began singing "Welcome, welcome, our visitors. Happy to see you, happy to see you..." Many of the children piled into the van with us, continuing to sing as we proceeded to the church property. We felt very welcome!

We set up camp in Bro. Peter's home, which is a traditional home of mud and stick construction, but modernized in that it has a corrugated sheet metal roof rather than grass thatch. We set up our mosquito tents inside the hut.

We had an outdoor meeting at Stelah since the chapel had been divided into schoolrooms. Each day of the meeting was divided into several sessions, covering topics such as the Church of God, salvation, holiness, baptism, sanctification, dealing with temptation, the end of time and Revelation. Time was given for questions and answers, and there were plenty of questions!

Invitations were given for people needing spiritual help or healing. Those that came forward would kneel on a cane mat. There was no altar for prayer, but the seekers would remain upright while kneeling. It was especially touching to see a woman praying for forgiveness of sins with tears streaming down her cheeks. A number of people sought salvation or healing at the various meetings.

Many of the questions concerning Bible doctrines arise from traditions and beliefs in Africa. Some believe that no one dies unless they are bewitched by someone else. So when someone dies, they become suspicious of who did the bewitching, and the suspicions have resulted in many cases of families separating or neighbors becoming enemies. The work of the Lord has suffered much damage in Kenya from

false teachings and false prophets. Some religious figures are charging for baptism—if you don't pay they won't baptize you!

After service one day, a violent storm struck. There was lightning, thunder, driving rain and marble-sized hail. Water ran in a rapidly flowing stream down the main path that leads to Bro. Peter's house. The wind was so violent, it appeared to be of hurricane force, bending the corn stalks over and driving rain into the open windows of the school building. We gathered in a room of the building for protection until the storm eased. Now we understand how the rains take down the mud construction homes and chapel.

On Sunday morning, Bro. Michael left to return to Nairobi so he could fly to Malawi for a ministers' meeting there.

While Bro. Michael was in Malawi, Bro. Doug went to town with some of the brethren to conduct church business—purchasing orphan and school supplies. The supplies that were purchased included school text books, notebooks, pens, pencils, mattresses, household items, blankets, sheets, cookware and construction materials such as metal roofing, sand, cement, wire mesh and window glass. The ladies were given money to buy clothing for the orphans, and they went across the Tanzanian border to find much cheaper prices.

One afternoon the teachers were giving stickers to students who had excelled in their studies. A child in the United States had sent the stickers for the children in Kenya. While we were giving the sticker awards, the children began yelling and running. The pickup with 40 orphan mattresses was arriving. The foam mattresses were covered with brightly colored fabric. The orphans were so excited, they were jumping up and down and yelling with delight. It was very touching to see how something so small meant so much to them. They were asking if they could sleep at the church facility instead of the homes where people had taken them in. They are very eager to see the orphanage taking shape. We would like to help the Saints build another addition to the orphanage as funds are made available for that endeavor.

One morning Bro. Peter and Bro. Doug did a water well survey for the area. There are four water sources in the valley that serve an estimated 3000 people. There are three wells that range from 9-20 ft. deep. The fourth location is

a small concrete dam, with water flowing from a pipe at the base of the dam. Some walk as far as 3 kilometers for water. During the drought a few months ago, people had to walk as far as 8 miles for water.

A couple of young men liked to spend time around us where we stayed. If there was something in the work of the Lord to be done, they were eager to do it. One was William, who is 15 years old. William's testimony is that he has not sinned since the time he was baptized in 2007. He had been going to school, but they turned him away due to a lack of money for tuition.

Bro. Peter said they went to pray for a demon-possessed man. When they started praying, bees entered the house, and all but three that were there for prayer ran out of the house. In the past, Bro. Peter held a street meeting in the nearest city—Migori. Of the 21 that were saved, four joined Bro. Peter's congregation. The cost of the P.A. system was 6000 KES per day (almost \$80), which is exorbitant, and hinders them from having more street meetings.

At Bro. Peter's there are 13 orphan girls, 27 orphan boys, and 60 others from single parent homes that are being fed by the church. The school attendance is 290. Bro. Peter could easily have 250 orphans, but is limited based on facilities and funds.

At Bro. Bartholomew's, there are 10 orphans. The congregation size is 42. There was some confusion in translation of "orphan." Those with one living parent were also being called orphans.

At Bro. Wilson's, they are feeding and schooling 45 orphans and 15 single parent children. These children stay in sponsors' homes. In addition to providing lunch, the church also provides uniforms and books. At Bro. Joseph's, they are feeding and schooling 24 orphans and 4 single parent children. They have four teachers, including Bro. Joseph.

On Thursday, we walked to Bro. Bartholomew's chapel. The congregation was small, but it was touching to see the entire congregation with the exception of the pastor come forward for prayer and forgiveness from sin. In a later session, more people had arrived, and many of them came forward for prayer as well.

On Friday, Bro. Doug and a group of Saints went in a hired car to Bro. Wilson's congregation. The police stops along the road were frequent, and the driver left small payments

behind to avoid further hassles. Services began in the morning, and after lunch, Bro. Doug demonstrated a "Proclaimer," which is an audio Bible that is solar powered. The idea is that a listening group meets each week to listen to the Bible with a follow up question and answer session. Proclaimers were left at three different congregations in Kenya and three in Malawi and Mozambique.

On Saturday, we went to Bro. Joseph's for services. Bro. Joseph lost access to the chapel after the property donor joined a religious denomination. The meeting was held outside the mud building he now rents. It has several rooms and is used as a school as well as a chapel. Before services started, we went to see another congregation location on the Tanzanian border. Someone who was saved in a previous revival that Bro. Peter held donated about an acre of land on the border, and the chapel at that site is simply a brush arbor. This congregation size is about 40. About 60 people were saved in the week-long revival Bro. Peter held.

After the last service, we stopped at Bro. Joseph's home and saw the room in a private school where he worships. That room was made available by another person saved in the previous revival. Bro. Joseph has 6 orphans in his home, and would like to build a chapel and orphanage.

Upon leaving Kenya, Bro. Michael had a full day of flying and waiting in airports to reach Malawi. The following day, he purchased 100 Bibles in the native language of Chichewa to take to the village for the ministers' meeting. He rented a vehicle in Blantyre to drive himself to the village. The battery of the rented vehicle ran down one hour from Blantyre. The Lord allowed two young men to be close by to help push-start the vehicle. Bro. Michael drove back to the city and traded for a Toyota 4x4 truck. This truck was a blessing on the rough, difficult terrain. He had to use the four-wheel drive on two different occasions.

Upon arriving in the village, Bro. Michael was met by a group of singing women and children. Many ministers had already gathered at the chapel from different congregations in Malawi and Mozambique. Their love and excitement touches our hearts every time we come to share the Gospel with them. The next few days were full of teaching on a myriad of Biblical subjects. The Lord blessed that there was a relaxed atmosphere and the ministers were very

free to ask questions. Many of the primary Bible doctrines were discussed. In addition, Bro. Michael taught on many practical subjects as questions arose concerning home life and holy living. As HIV is a major issue in Malawi, it was requested that a lesson be given on this subject. It cleared up confusion that some had on how God views the children who are born with this condition as a result of the sin of their parents.

We are unable to communicate with any of the ministers directly, as our translator is one of the few people in the villages to speak English. The Lord richly blessed this meeting. It was a follow-up to the meeting we held last year. Our purpose and prayer is for the Lord to establish the ministers in the truth. As time goes on, more ministers and congregations are coming to hear the Bible truths that are so scarce in a land full of religion and movements of man.

After a lesson on unrighteousness, a man stood up and confessed that he was addicted to tobacco and needed prayer. Bro. Michael told the ministers that it took courage to reveal this sin and that God had deliverance for any others that had addictions or sin in their life. A number of men came forward and repented and sought deliverance. Praise the Lord!

Many of the ministers came very long distances to hear the Gospel and to find fellowship. Many of them traveled rough trails by bicycles—as evidenced by over 100 bicycles lined up in the back of the chapel. The work in Malawi continues to grow and there is a hunger for the things of God. Bro. Michael stayed with Bro. Failos. He noted that the walls of the house are beginning to crack and separate due to the storms and flooding of a few months ago. Bro. Failos is concerned that the house may collapse. Many of the chapels are without roofs and in a state of disrepair, as most of them are constructed with brick, mud, and sticks.

Blankets had been purchased and Bro. Michael distributed them to some orphans living nearby. Many of the children and elderly have nothing to cover them at nights and many sleep on the hard ground. There are many orphans who live with relatives; as it is difficult to have enough food to feed the family, many of these orphans get the least amount of food. It is a burden and desire of Bro. Michael and the Saints in Malawi to build a 'Feeding Center' where the orphans could come and eat a balanced meal every day and be provided with

school clothes. In addition, there would be a time of Bible worship and teaching after the meal. There are similar centers sponsored by private organizations and churches in other parts of Malawi.

Bro. Michael flew back to Kenya and met Bro. Doug. The following evening, they began their journey back to the United States.

God blessed the time spent in Malawi and Kenya and we thank God for the spiritual growth and understanding that we have witnessed. The work is great in Africa and there is no end to the call for teaching and ministry. In addition to the ministering of the Word, we are both very interested in seeing a growth in the humanitarian aid to the orphans and needy on the African continent.

The trip was profitable, and we deeply appreciate God's blessings, inspiration and protection. We thank each of you for your prayers and financial support.

—Bro. Michael Smith

—Bro. Doug Wall

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I Would Love Thee

By Jeanne Marie Guyon

*I would love Thee, God and Father!
My Redeemer, and my King!*

*I would love Thee; for without Thee
Life is but a bitter thing.*

*I would love Thee; ev'ry blessing
Flows to me from out Thy throne;
I would love Thee—he who loves Thee
Never feels himself alone.*

*I would love Thee; look upon me,
Ever guide me with Thine eye:*

*I would love Thee; if not nourished
By Thy love, my soul would die.*

*I would love Thee; I have vowed it;
On Thy love my heart is set;
While I love Thee, I will never
My Redeemer's blood forget.*

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