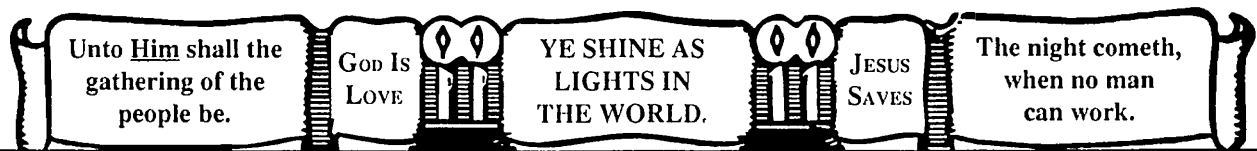


# FAITH AND VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



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### Father of Love

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

When God created the Heaven and the earth, He spoke and creation happened. It is that simple. Evolutionists never can explain where the first cell of life came into existence because their theory has dead ends. Defining and explaining a theory does not make it a fact. Scientists claim that theories are proven by facts, but they can define the "facts" to prove their theory. Like other atheistic views, Darwinism has run its course over a few decades and Biblical evidence trumps over all its explanations of how life began.

In the divinely preserved words from King David we read in English, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God...." Psalm 14:1; 53:1. Amazingly, these words were written thousands of years ago, but they still declare truth today. These written words were preserved with a price. William Tyndale and others like him gave their life so that we could read this truth in English. Accurate history will reveal that God

placed hundreds of similar candle carriers along the eras of time. Remember that the theory of coincidence and happenstance burn out, but the light of God's Word shines forth eternally.

We humans can not see God with our natural eyes, but we can see the earth that He has made. The mountains, valleys, plains, and plateaus were created when God said, "Let the..." (Genesis 1:1-25.) Books and experiments do not have to be made or studied in order to explain this evidence—we see it. The intellectual design of creation keeps astronomers, zoologists, horticulturists, oceanologists and all other divisions of science busy discovering hidden things they had not known before. Compared to the vastness of God's knowledge, modern science is still in a primitive state, ancient treasures that archeologists dig up and are excited to find, God saw when they were "new."

In his era, King Solomon wrote about vanities, preaching of truth, the endless making of books, the weariness of much study, and he concluded, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole *duty* of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil." Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. Solomon summed it up correctly because man will never understand all the mysteries of creation, life or death. Our duty is to believe God and obey His fundamental laws that He established in the beginning, so let us point our minds to the reason and destination of life.

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◆ God created man and woman to be motivated by love. Deep within the soul of every person created, there is the desire to love and be loved. Adam realized this when he wanted a help meet. Genesis 2:20. God did the first surgery and created Eve, who in turn loved Adam. Not only did they want love from each other, but they needed love and acceptance from God. These three human needs have passed through the DNA of every created person since Adam and Eve: the need to love; the need to be loved; and the craving to be accepted by God.

◆ These three longings were substituted when the enemy caused Eve to look upon the forbidden fruit. He told her:

1. "ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (substitutes acceptance from God)

2. and she saw "the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes (love of my flesh substitutes the need to love)

3. to make one wise" (love of my intellect substitutes the need to be loved) (Genesis 3:5-6.) Through her love of self, she was drawn away of her own lust, enticed and she sinned which brought forth death. (James 1:14-15.)

This strategy of detouring souls from their three basic needs has been successful ever since. Apostle John warned against this "love of the world" and put it into three categories, "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." I John 2:15-16. This list also parallels with the three points listed above. Every sin or disobedience to the law of God can be placed into one of these three categories.

◆ Sin separates man from God, Who is love. The deeper a person goes into sin, the less his three basic needs are met because of his distance from the source of love—God. Because in the beginning God created man and woman to love Him and serve Him willingly, He put into place a plan whereby they could be redeemed or bought back to His love. When He punished Adam and Eve for disobeying, He put a promise there. Speaking to the enemy of our souls, God said: "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Genesis 3:15. After He was finished speaking, God clothed Adam and Eve in coats of skins. (3:21) Scripture does not state what kind of skin, but we know an animal had to die in

order for the coats to be made. It could have been a lamb, as Abel knew to bring a lamb. (4:4)

◆ God kept His plan active through the seed of Seth, Adam and Eve's son. (4:25-26) The history of the Old Testament traces the lives of those who chose to keep the promise of redemption and seek the love of God. Only the Lord knows the hearts of humans, and He knows those who love Him. When the time was right for God to finish His promise, He found an humble virgin, Mary, to deliver His Son, fulfilling prophecy. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23) This can't be scientifically explained, because it is of the spiritual realm.

◆ When Jesus Christ, God's only Son, began His ministry among men and women, He fulfilled the law and prophesies of the Old Testament. Jesus established the two greatest commandments which can cancel out the three categories of sin. To love the Lord thy God with all your heart, and to love your neighbor (others) as yourself will cause a person to obey the commandments of God. (Mark 12:29-31.) Notice the emphasis of love, because God is love. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Our Creator, Who is a God of Love, made man to love and be loved by God and others. If this circle of love is complete in a person's life, that person is at peace in his heart "...with joy unspeakable and full of glory." I Peter 1:8.

When Jesus was glorified by His Father, He told the people, "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:31-32. As Jesus was lifted up on the cross and shed His blood for the sins of the world, He crushed the power of satan. His blood can cleanse a person from all sins and bring that soul into the love of God. "...If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." I John 1:7. Those of us who have experienced this cleansing know that it is real.

This redemption plan was put into place by Intelligent Design, not by happenstance. Philosophers, scholars, politicians, professors or any one else can not change God's laws that He put in place from the beginning. They may explain it away by theories supported by their

defined facts, but they can not change or stop the reality of God's Word. He created the earth and all we see. He created man to love and serve Him willingly. He put a redemptive plan into place and fulfilled it through His Son. God is love, and it is a powerful love.

♦ Jesus gave a promise to us also. He said, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto my self, that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:2-3. In keeping with the promise that believers in God's only begotten Son would have everlasting life, Jesus promised that He would prepare an eternal home for us. Because God has been faithful through the generations to keep His promises, we can trust this promise, too. Redeemed believers can hope in an eternal home with our God of love.

The earth that we see with our eyes is beautiful. The variety of trees, flowers and grasses of the fields glorify the creativity of God's handiwork. For centuries writers and poets have attempted to describe the beauty of the earth, but words fail to convey it all. Artists can only portray a glimpse of one scene at a time. God created so much beauty for our temporary use, just imagine how gorgeous the eternal abiding place of the righteous will be! Apostle John saw a vision of eternal bliss and tried to describe it: "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of life, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits...And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever." Revelation 22:1-2, 5.

In God's paradise, no sin will separate us from His love, for sin does not enter that holy place. (I John 3:8-11; Revelation 21:27.) In God's Heavenly Kingdom purity, love, joy and peace reign supremely because they are part of our "...inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." I Peter 1:4-5.

What an awesome inheritance our Father of love has given to His children of faith and obedience!

## Evil Temper

"Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. And he was angry, and would not go in:..." Luke 15:25-28.

No form of vice, not worldliness, not greed of gold, not drunkenness itself, does more to un-Christianize society than evil temper. For embittering life, for breaking up communities, for destroying the most sacred relationships, for devastating homes, for withering up men and women, for taking the bloom of childhood, in short, for sheer gratuitous miser-producing power, this influence stands alone. Look at the elder brother, moral, hard-working, patient, dutiful—let him get all credit for his virtues—look at this man, this baby, sulking outside his own father's door. "He was angry," we read, "and would not go in." Look at the effect upon the father, upon the servants, upon the unhappiness of the guests. Judge of the effect upon the Prodigal—and how many prodigals are kept out of the Kingdom of God by the unlovely character of those who profess to be inside? Analyze, as a study in temper, the thundercloud itself as it gathers upon the elder brother's brow. What is it made of? Jealousy, anger, pride, uncharity, cruelty, self-righteousness, touchiness, doggedness, sullenness—these are the ingredients of this dark and loveless soul. In varying proportions, also, these are the ingredients of all ill temper. Judge if such sins of the disposition are not worse to live in, and for others to live with, than sins of the body. Did Christ indeed not answer the question Himself when He said, "I say unto you, that the publicans and the harlots go into the Kingdom of Heaven before you?" There is really no place in Heaven for a disposition like this. A man with such a mood could only make Heaven miserable for all the people in it. Except, therefore, such a man be born again, he cannot, he simply cannot, enter the Kingdom of Heaven....You see then why temper is significant. It is not in what it is alone, but in what it reveals....It is a test for love, a symptom, a revelation of an unloving nature at bottom....For a want of patience, a want of kindness, a want of generosity, a want of courtesy, a want of unselfishness, all are instantaneously symbolized in one flash of temper. —Henry Drummond

# 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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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.

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The mother stood back from the glass door she was cleaning to inspect her work. "Oh, there is another smudge" she said to herself as she energetically wiped the area until it disappeared.

Then she briefly admired the sparkling transparency of the clean glass and moved on to do other chores that she needed to complete.

Before long, her two young children came to look out the freshly cleaned window and, of course, placed their little hands on the clean glass leaving four distinct smudges to testify of their presence.

Variations of this scene happen quite often in homes where there are young children, and in places of business it becomes evident that the prints left on the glass doors are not always from the hands of children. In fact, all of us with fingers leave many prints every day on the objects we handle. Some objects like CDs, drinking glasses and eyeglasses show fingerprints very well while other items may not reveal the print so clearly even though it is there just the same. It is routine procedure for law enforcement agencies to check for fingerprints when called to investigate a burglary or crime scene. Due to the unique nature of each individual's fingerprint, many states are requiring people to give them as part of the application process for obtaining a driver's license.

It is not uncommon for children to place their hands on the surface of wet concrete and leave a print that will last for many years. In a similar fashion it could be said that a potter was leaving his hand print on the vessels he produces. As the soft clay is rotated through his hands and is formed into a special shape, it is conforming to the pressures applied by his fingers and hands. Artisans and craftsmen of all types are leaving prints that correspond to their various skills. They may use tools along with their hands and their prints may be more than the impressions left by the tips of their fingers. Their "prints" represent the embodiment of their talents, education, personality and care. Their very being is recorded in their workmanship for all to view. Some people's work exhibit the careless attitude they possess, while others are precisely executed and become lasting monuments that speak to the world of the nature and vision of the craftsman.

When we look around us at the natural world, it is easy to see the "prints" of God's fingers in His creation. Whether we view it with a microscope or a telescope, all speak of order and magnificent structure. His "prints" are evident throughout creation, you can see it in the grain of a leaf, in the layers of the earth and in the ripples of the sand. The psalmist saw God in the universe. Notice his expression of awe at God's greatness recorded in Psalm 8:3-4, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" While God is so great and powerful He has not forgotten man—the crowning jewel of His creation. Much of God's handiwork is for the support of man—providing Him with a suitable environment in which to live.

God also has interest in the dealings of man. While there are some who foolishly say God is not concerned with man's affairs, history indicates otherwise. His "prints" can be easily discerned in the course of events that have touched the lives of mankind and shaped history. In Psalm 75:6-7 the writer made this observation, "For promotion *cometh* neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another."

When God was working with Pharaoh to deliver the children of Israel from his tyrannical oppression, Pharaoh's magicians made this statement regarding the plague of lice that Moses and Aaron, through the direction of God, had brought upon the land. "Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God:..." Exodus 8:19. Even though the wise men in Egypt recognized the finger of God, Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he still refused to recognize God's dealings. The hearts of some people are so hardened that they continually refuse to submit to the will of God. By refusing to yield to His merciful dealings, they too, like Pharaoh, will eventually face destruction. However, we do not have to be like Pharaoh; instead of struggling against God, position yourself under His smile of approval. When you are in His will and order, things will be much better. You will be in a place that He can work mighty wonders for you, like He did for the children of Israel.

Jesus encouraged His followers to trust in God for their needs. In Matthew 6:25-26, He

explained how important they were to God and how He would provide for those who put Him first in their lives. "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" When God provides the things for us which are needful and enjoyable, we will be able to say with the writer of Ecclesiastes 2:24, "...This also I saw, that it *was* from the hand of God."

When one has a heart of faith, they will see the mighty workings of God in their life and have much to be thankful for. When Philip told Nathanael that they had found Jesus, the One Whom the prophets had written of, Nathanael expressed some reservations to which Philip responded, "Come and see." Nathanael came looking and found that Jesus had already been watching him and noticed that he was an honest man. This surprised Nathanael and caused his belief in Jesus to be established. Then Jesus told him, "...Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these." John 1:50. When we come looking and expecting to find God in an honest, humble way, we will not be disappointed for He will reveal many great and marvelous things to us.

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." III John 1:4. As the fatherly heart of John rejoiced that his spiritual children walked in truth, so our heavenly Father is pleased when we follow a path that His finger will trace for us. As we seek truth and wisdom from above, "prints" of His Divine finger; He will be delighted to reveal precious things to us. "Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore." Psalm 16:11. God's law for man was given to Moses on two tables of stone, "...written with the finger of God." Exodus 31:18. By following His law—which was made complete in Jesus Christ—our life will be transformed into His image and we will be in a position to discover and appreciate the beauty of His design for our lives. "Both riches and honour *come* of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand *it is* to make great, and

to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name." I Chronicles 29:12-13.

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



IL—Please pray for my sister, Merline Allen, she has cancer that had been in remission for a couple of years and now it has become active again.

— Sis. Norma Tiller

OH—Remember Sis. Della Gutwein, she has been suffering from severe pain in her hip and leg.

OK—Please pray for Sis. Burnice Williams who has been very ill for several days with an intestinal disorder. She is very weak and unable to retain nourishment or liquids.

OK—Pray for Bro. Curtis Williams who has suffered a heart attack, resulting in much pain and weakness in his body. We are looking to the Lord for complete restoration of his health and strength.

Canada—Please pray for my two-year-old grand daughter, she has had a brain tumor and is now undergoing chemo treatments. Also remember 14-year-old Meagan, she has a tumor on the brain stem in an area that is too delicate to remove. I have some special unspoken requests.

—Bro. W. R. Froese

## 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

## BUILDING PROJECTS

Two congregations are requesting financial help from the Saints to aid in their building projects.

The Church of God congregation in **Durham, NC** have been in the process of building a chapel for several years now. Bro. Lennon reports that it is about 70% completed. They are needing to install doors and windows and complete the inside work. They are meeting some time constraints since their building permit expires at the end of this year. Unless the building is nearly completed at that time, it will cost them a considerable amount of money to take out a new permit. Remember them in prayer as they work on this project. To help them or for further information you may contact Bro. Jerry Lennon at (919) 740-3748. Their mailing address is: Church of God, 3203 Hwy. 55, Durham, NC 27713.

The **Vanceburg, KY** congregation is needing to add Sunday School rooms to their chapel. Bro. Dallas Cooper reports that their classes have grown tremendously and they are currently using the confined space in their kitchen area for teaching both classes together. Those who feel a burden to help with this need may contact Bro. Dallas Cooper, 2012 West KY 8, Vanceburg, KY 41179.

Most of all, pray that God will bless these efforts for His Kingdom.

## MEETING DATES

**Guthrie, OK (Fall Revival)**—Oct. 28-Nov. 1  
**Baldy Mesa, CA (Sisters' Retreat)**—Nov. 6-7  
**Loranger, LA (Assembly Meeting)**—Nov. 25-29  
**California State (Pacoima, CA)**—Dec 25-Jan 3  
**Oklahoma State (Guthrie, OK)**—Dec 25-Jan 3

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## MEETING NOTICES

### FRESNO, CA, REVIVAL

You are invited to attend the Church of God Revival Meeting to be held October 25 to November 1, 2009. Services will be as follows:

Sunday, Oct. 25: 9:30 Sunday School, 10:30 Morning Worship, 2:30 Afternoon Service and 7:00 Night Service.

Monday-Friday, Oct 26-30: 7:00 Nightly.

Saturday, Oct. 31: 11:00 Morning Worship and 7:00 Night Service

Sunday, Nov. 1: 9:30 Sunday School, 10:30 Morning Worship and 2:30 Afternoon Service.

The chapel address is: Church of God. 388 N. First St, Fresno, CA 93722

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.

For more information please contact Bro. Eric Carter or Bro. Charles Parrish at 559-486-9977 or Gwen Robinson at 559-233-2492.

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### GUTHRIE, OK, FALL REVIVAL

The Guthrie, Church of God congregation invites you to our Fall Revival beginning, Lord willing, Wednesday, October 28 through Sunday, November 1. Bro. Larry Abbott has expressed a burden to be with us in these services. Services will be held nightly at 7:30 p.m. A special singing is planned for Saturday evening, October 31. On Sunday, Sunday School will begin at 9:30 a.m. and Morning Worship at 10:30. Dinner will be served after the morning service.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join with us in worship and revival. Pray much for this meeting.  
 —The Saints at Guthrie

### SISTERS' RETREAT, BALDY MESA, CA

The 2009 Sisters' Retreat will be held, Lord willing, November 6-7 at Baldy Mesa, CA Church of God located at 11515 Baldy Mesa Road, Victorville, CA 92392. Note: The location was changed from Los Angeles to Baldy Mesa. For hotel accommodation (Motel 6) information contact Sis. Alicia Johnson at (760) 912-2904. For further information contact Sis. Mary McDonald at (918) 598-0222.

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### CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The California State Camp Meeting will be held, Lord willing, from December 25 to January 3, 2010. The campground is located at 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, CA 91331.

The first service will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 25, with three services daily thereafter. For more information you may contact: Sunset Guest Home (818) 899-2022, Bro Paul Phillips (661) 251-6956 or Bro. Herbert Clay (818) 897-1396. The chapel phone number is: (818) 899-9021.



LETTERS  
 FROM  
 OUR  
 READERS

OK—Dear Bro. Willie & Sis. Neta: Greetings in the name of Jesus, the One that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and brought us into fellowship with Him and with all His people.

The Word says, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."

The poet has said in our *Evening Light Songs* page 192, "How sweet is my walk with Jesus! What blessings He breaths on me! We walk in the golden morning—And oh! how my soul is free!"

This whole song expresses the blessedness of walking in fellowship with Jesus. The chorus says, "Oh, sweet is my walk with Jesus! How

gently He smiles on me! Yet, nearer, my Lord so precious, Oh, help me to walk with Thee."

I have been encouraged here of late with the thought of the Lord being our helper. There are many scriptures that mention this: Isaiah 41:17-20, Psalm 46:1, Hebrews 13:5-6, Hebrews 4:16.

If we walk in His light, He will be there to help us. Thank the Lord.

Your brother in Christ,

—The T. V. McMillians

SC—Dear Ones: I feel inspired to write and tell what God has done for me. I have been having health problems for several years, and I know many of you have been praying for me. Each month when I see my name on the standing prayer request list in the *Faith and Victory* paper, I am so thankful to know that there are prayers going up on my behalf and I feel very humbled by that. I want to thank each person who has ever breathed my name in prayer. There is no one on earth like the family of God. They are more precious and dear to my heart than I could ever express.

Over the past few years, I have developed a cough that has worsened to the point of affecting my nerves. It keeps me awake at night, and it is a very tormenting, sometimes violent cough that will not be soothed. Since February, I have been sick off and on several times with something that appears to be either severe bronchitis or pneumonia. It seems that I will develop this sickness, then the Lord will heal it, then I am left with this same dry cough that is so hard to tolerate. Of course, the enemy paints black pictures, but I know he is a liar and the truth is not in him, and I remind him out loud of that fact. Praise God, if we resist him, he has no choice but to flee.

Recently, I had another bout with this pneumonia-like sickness, and it was the worst attack I have had yet. The cough that followed got to the point one night that I went to the living room and got on the floor before God crying and begging for Him to help me. I felt like my nerves were giving way and I was at my wit's end. The devil was tormenting my mind, and I felt like I was wrestling him face to face that night. I sought God earnestly as to what I should do. He spoke to me and asked, "Child, am I not worthy of your trust?" He began to bring so much to my mind, and He let me know that whatever the condition was in my body, He already knew what it was,

and that it was best to let HIM handle it. I had been closely searching my life and pleading with God to help me to see if there was anything I needed to change or do in order to be healed. As I lay there on my face before God that night, tears streaming and heart broken, I said "Lord, I don't know what else to do. I've done everything you've asked." He clearly spoke back to me and said, "No, you haven't." Immediately, He brought to my mind that He had been dealing with me for several months on a sacrifice that involved fasting for a certain period of time. I had studied Isaiah 58 about "the fast the Lord has chosen," and in my studies God revealed to me what He wanted me to do...in other words, it was the fast He had chosen for me. My flesh had recoiled when He showed me, because I did not want to make that great of a sacrifice, so I just put it off. My heart has been so burdened for the work of the Lord, and I have a deep longing for more power with God and to have a deeper infilling of His Spirit. He had shown me that in order to get that, I would need to make this sacrifice before Him through fasting.

When God reminded me of what I needed to do that night on my face before Him, I made the commitment right there that, with His help and strength I would do it. I went to church the next day, and God gave me supernatural strength to stand and preach the message He had given me. That evening, I was feeling very weak and ill, but I was willing to try to bring forth the evening message. God had other plans. He allowed me to sit and listen as Bro. Clinton Crummie brought forth a message on exactly what I needed to hear.

The message was on walking perfectly before God. He told of how God had healed him when he was very seriously ill, and while he spoke, my faith became inspired. While he was speaking, the Lord was really dealing with me concerning the fact that I am private and suffer silently and don't make it known a lot of times to others. Therefore, the congregation doesn't even know what I am going through, so it is not even known that I am trusting God fully. The Lord let me know that I needed to share my current state with them that night and ask them to come up front and have an agreement in prayer for me. How could they carry a burden for me, and how could they share in the victory and giving God the glory, if they didn't know what I was going through or that I was trusting God through it?



After the message, I stood up and opened my heart to the congregation. I asked to be anointed and for anyone who had faith for my healing to come up front and agree in prayer for me. Several of the dear ones came up and earnestly prayed for me. God heard those prayers, and the following day I began the fast He was requiring of me. By God's grace and strength, I didn't end the fast until the time span He had shown me had passed. God had brought me to a place of full surrender and a willingness to do anything He asked. I want to praise God and say that He has done something wonderful for me. There just aren't words to express how much improved the cough is since that night. I know we shouldn't be surprised when God comes on the scene and answers prayer, but I am finding it hard to not marvel at the power of God in this. I am so much better...praise God over and over for what He has done for me.

I know many of you have shared in this burden, now I want you to share in the praise and glory to God for healing my body! He is a mighty God, and He still heals. He still has all power, and He still triumphs over all manner of sickness and disease.

I want to encourage the body of Christ to pay the price and make the sacrifices God is asking for. Seek the Lord earnestly, and see what sacrifice He has chosen for you. Oh, if only each one of us would do this and follow it through and meet God's demands, what glory He would bestow on us in these last days! This is where the victory is. We sometimes give God time-limits and think, "well, if God hasn't healed me by such and such a time, then I will take matters into my own hands." Hebrews 5:8 says, "Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered." Our dear Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, learned obedience through His suffering. How do we expect to learn obedience? Will it be by any less extreme measure? Do you know that there are lessons that can be learned only through suffering? Yet, we sometimes will not stay in a battle long enough to learn obedience, because we want out of it. Jesus didn't accept an escape route to avoid His suffering. When we accept the enemy's deliverance from a trial, we miss out on all of the obedience God is trying to teach us.

I am often thinking of the verse where Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 17:21 that "This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." This kind of what? The Lord showed me that He meant this kind of power doesn't come about in

our lives without the combination of prayer and fasting. Right before Jesus began His earthly ministry, He underwent a time of fasting and intense trial by the enemy. He endured and overcame, and He wants us to do likewise.

I praise God for what He has done for my body, but most of all, I glorify His name to the highest for the lessons He has given my hungry, searching soul! Sometimes, God has to bring us to a point of desperation to get us to realize that when He tells us to do something, He means for us to do it. If we want great things from Him, we must be willing to sacrifice. May the Lord help us to see this. On down in the 58th chapter of Isaiah in verse 8, it says, "Then (after the sacrifice has been made) shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily." Praise God! He has more for us, but we must pay the price to get it.

To our dear local congregation in Holly Hill, SC (you are precious to me), and to each one who has called me through these battles, prayed for and with me over the phone, or prayed for me otherwise, I just thank you so very much. Please continue to keep my family and me in your prayers. Kevin and I both still have some physical needs for which we are seeking God for healing. We appreciate your prayers so much.

With much love and gratitude to God and His dear people,  
—Sis. Cheryl Smith



**Clarice Nichols Pruitt**, 76 years old, of Loranger, LA, passed away peacefully at home Wednesday, August 19, 2009, surrounded by her family.

She was born on Friday, September 16, 1932, in Louin, Mississippi, daughter of the late G. A. and Susan Malvina McNeil Nichols. She was a beloved mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend and will be sadly missed by all that knew her.

Clarice had a heart of love and concern for those in need and would try to help with food or actual physical help when she could. She spent some time giving personal care to her extended family when they were sick. She also was touched deeply when she was aware of anyone who had trouble, was drawn to anyone or anything that was hurting and volunteered for hospice and a crisis hotline. Clarice and her husband Byron had ten foster children in their home over the years, with as many as four in the home at one time. She even had a desire to have an orphan-age.

Clarice was a very conscientious homemaker. She believed in serving hot meals for her family, even breakfast, and was very proficient at sewing.

Clarice was always tender and had a desire to live right before God. She went to work at Faith Publishing House in Guthrie, OK, where she met her husband, Byron. They were married on November 6, 1955 and remained married for 28 1/2 years, until his tragic death in 1984.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Byron Pruitt, and sister and brother-in-law, Nyda and Douglas Hall; nieces, Alice and JoBeth Hall; nephew, James Hall.

Surviving are her daughter & son-in-law, Genece and Nelson Doolittle; grandchildren and their spouses, Carlos and Rachel Doolittle, Christy and Stanley Robertson, Patrice Doolittle, Dion and Jenee Doolittle, Daniel Doolittle; great-grandchildren, Dakota, Kasey, Brayden and Blake Doolittle, Megan Robertson; sister and brother-in-law, Joan and Charles DePhillips; niece, Brenda Hall and her family; nephew, Lynn and Natalie DePhillips and their family.

Friends were received Saturday, August 22, 2009, from 11:00 a.m. until the service began at 1:00 p.m. at the Oak Grove Church of God in Loranger with interment in the Oak Grove Church of God Cemetery.

Bro. Steve Elston and Bro. Michael Williamson of Loranger, LA conducted the services.

#### **Clarice Family Thank You**

The family would like to thank each one for the cards, visits and prayers for our mother and grandmother while she was sick. We are thankful for the love and support shown after her passing. The cards, food, flowers, gifts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

—Clarice Pruitt family

**Anneta Rae Williamson** was born June 21, 1947, in Lebanon, Oregon, the third of eleven children born to Ernest and Virginia Luehring. At the age of 62, Anneta passed from this earthly life to eternal life on October 13, 2009, in Guthrie, OK, after a lengthy illness. She was lovingly and patiently cared for in the home by her daughter, Cynthia, for the duration of her illness.

As a teenager, Anneta understood God's plan of salvation for her soul. She repented of her sin and gave her heart and life to God. As a witness of her new life in Christ, Anneta was baptized in the Santiam river in Jefferson, OR. This life-changing decision set the entire course of Anneta's future.

Anneta attended local schools in Lebanon, OR, graduating as salutatorian from Lebanon Union High School in 1965. After graduation, she moved to the Los Angeles, CA, area where she held various jobs eventually going to work for Padway Aircraft where she was much appreciated and continued employment until her marriage. Anneta also assisted at the Sunset Guest Home in Pacoima during her years in California.

Anneta married widower Murray Don Williamson on March 1, 1975. Upon her marriage, Anneta was immediately blessed with a six-year-old stepson, Keith. Later, Anneta and Don were blessed with the birth of four children: Cynthia, stillborn infant Don Jr., Todd, and Loren. After marriage, Anneta and Don made their home in Jena, LA, for over three years. From Jena, LA, they moved to Oregon, where they lived over 8 years. They returned to Louisiana in 1987, making their home in Loranger. After the death of her husband and youngest son, Anneta and two of her surviving children moved to Guthrie, OK, in 1991, where she resided until her death.

Anneta loved being a wife, mother and homemaker. She called the years when she had her husband and young children the "good years." She missed her children when they went off to school, and she was always sorry when summer vacation was over. Even when her children were adults Anneta would sacrifice her own time and comfort to do something helpful for them. Anneta made her home and family her focus and priority; only working outside of her home after her husband died and her children were older.

During the time Anneta lived in Guthrie, she worked full-time at 89er Mini Storage for about 15 years. She also had various part-time jobs through the years as a cashier and typist. Anneta volunteered as secretary for the Path of Life School for many years, where she labored faithfully and was loved and appreciated by many. She was a life long member of the Church of God, and served the Lord with all her heart, living a sacrificial and selfless life. For several years, Anneta served the Lord by copying and distributing cassette tapes of the worship services to those who requested them.

Anneta had a "gift for giving," and loved to shop the sales, looking for items she knew others could use. Family members who were searching for an item to purchase often called Anneta, requesting her assistance in finding the particular item. Anneta was always ready and glad to help, and usually had success in her search. Christmas and birthdays were lots of fun for her children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, as Anneta always seemed to give just the right gift. She always listened for hints of items others might be wishing for.

Anneta was a good listener. Many times Cynthia would pour her heart out to her mother and just by listening Anneta would give comfort and guidance. While working at 89er Mini Storage, customers would often open their hearts to Anneta, telling of their burdens and cares. Anneta was skillful in asking the right questions to demonstrate her care and compassion.

Anneta was preceded in death by: her husband and best friend, M. Don Williamson; infant son M. Don Williamson Jr., and son Loren Williamson; parents Ernest and Virginia Luehring; and brothers Harvey and Steven Luehring. Anneta is survived by: her daughter, Cynthia Williamson, and son, Todd Williamson, of Guthrie, OK; son, Keith Williamson and wife, Allyson, grandson, Bowen, and granddaughter, Avery, of Loranger, LA; siblings, Patricia McAndrews of Jonesboro, AR; Geraldine and husband, Jim Linch, of Guthrie, OK; David Luehring of Lebanon, OR; Wanda and husband, John Gibson, of Guthrie, OK; LaVeta and husband, Darrell Wilkins, of Lyons, OR; Karen Dickson of Guthrie, OK; Mike Luehring and wife, Cindy, of Lebanon, OR; and Loretta and husband, Richard Wallace, of Shawnee, OK. Anneta is also survived by 20 nieces and nephews, 35 great nieces and nephews, and many

friends. Anneta's presence is greatly missed by her family and friends.

The funeral service for Anneta was held at the Church of God chapel, 304 E. Lakeview Ave., Guthrie, OK on Saturday, October 17, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. with interment at Summit View Cemetery in Guthrie, OK, under the direction of Baggerley Funeral Home in Edmond, OK. The services were officiated by Bro. Michael Smith, Sis. Maxine Busbee and Bro. Phillip Gellenbeck.

**Note of Thanks**

Dear Family of God,

Thank you very much for your prayers, love and financial support during Mother's illness. You held our hands up and helped us through a very difficult time in our lives. Thank you also for all your expressions of sympathy after Mother's death. Please continue to remember us in prayer as you think of us.

—The children of Anneta Williamson

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## *Along the Golden Streets*

*Along the Golden Streets  
A stranger walks tonight  
With wonder in her heart-  
Faith blossomed into sight.*

*She walks and stops and stares  
And walks and stares again,  
Visions of loveliness  
Beyond the dreams of men.*

*She who was feeble, weak,  
And shackled to a bed,  
Now climbs eternal hills  
With light and easy tread.*

*She has escaped at last  
The cruel clutch of pain;  
Her lips shall never taste  
Her bitter cup again.*

*She bows in speechless joy  
Before the feet of Him  
Whom, seeing not, she loved  
While yet her sight was dim.*

*Along the Golden Streets  
No stranger walks today  
But one who longed for heaven's home  
Is home at last to stay.*