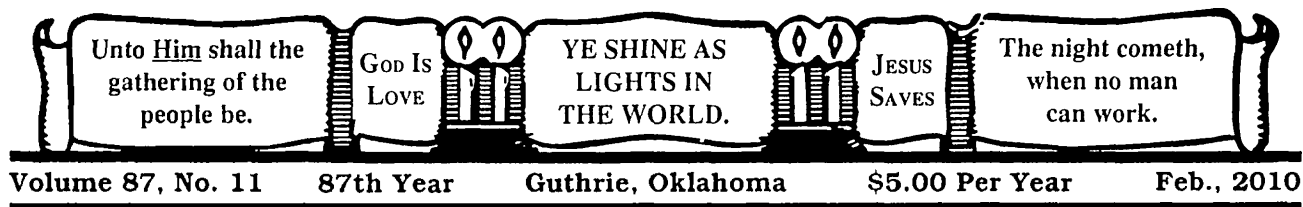


# FAITH AND VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



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## Do We Appreciate God's Word?

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psalms 119:10-11.

How important is the Word of God in your life? Can we say as Job did, "...I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." Job 23:12. Do we reverence it at the expense of our personal safety? From near the beginning of time, people have been hated, persecuted, burned, and tortured to death because of it. A newlywed couple of Mauritania hid the only Scriptures the church had. Maura watched while the Roman soldiers burned out her husband's eyes with hot irons. Shuddering she said, "Tell them where it is." He scolded her, "Don't let your love for me come between you

and Christ." Her faith revived and she stood by him and did not tell. Eventually they were crucified side by side.

During the "Dark Middle Ages", the Roman Catholic Church sought to kill Luther, John Wycliffe, Tyndale, Myles, Coverdale, and many others for their efforts in getting the Word of God to the masses. At the same time the common person risked death for having a portion of Scriptures in their possession.

Christians have worked by candle light, hidden away in caves and dungeons to spread the Word by copying or translating it. They have considered God and His Word more valuable than their lives. Hebrews 11:35-38 tells us they were. "...tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth."

To protect his English translations William Tyndale (1494-1536) carried them out of England, but later sent printed portions back into the country hidden in bales of cotton and sacks of flour. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, any person risked death by burning if caught possessing one of Tyndale's forbidden books.

### Contents

Do We Appreciate God's Word .....	1
Vessels of the Temple .....	3
Editorials .....	4
Prayer Requests .....	6
If .....	6
Meeting Reports and Notices .....	7
Letters from the Readers .....	8
Finding Relief .....	8
The Eternal Home of the Redeemed...	9
Beware Lest Satan Beguile You .....	11
Meet An Old Lady .....	12

The law also forbade teaching Scriptures to children. A widow, arrested for doing so, fearing her precious Scriptures would be taken away, carried them in her coat sleeve while being tried. She was released because of her children, and the four men tried with her for the same crime were executed. While escorting her home, the guard heard a rustling sound as they were walking and discovered the hidden Scriptures. She was executed.

"By 500 AD the Bible had been translated into 500 different languages. One century later, 600 AD it had been restricted to only one language, Latin." The Latin Vulgate, a corrupted version of the Bible, was available, but only the most educated could read Latin.

Martin Luther (1483-1546), risked his life to produce a Bible in the German language. One day while hidden in Wartburg castle, the devil seemed to appear in person before him as he sat translating the New Testament. Martin threw his bottle of ink at the devil. Through years of trials and tribulation, he produced both the New and Old Testament in a language the common German could read.

In countries where there are few Bibles, the people have sacrificed, and still do, greatly to obtain one. I read that during the communist's control in Russia, an underground church without a Bible sent an elderly peasant woman to a distant part of the country to get one. She rode the bus and walked by intervals to avoid detection. After many weeks, she returned safely with the Bible hidden in a basket of eggs.

Another story comes from Korea during the years when Bibles were restricted. Three Korean brethren who had moved into China decided to take a Bible back into their homeland. The first one hid his Bible among his clothing in his baggage, and then walked the three-day journey to the border. At the border, the guards took the Bible and shot the carrier. The other brother tore his Bible in sections and hid the sections among his clothing in different bags. The border guards inspected every piece of his luggage and took every section of the Bible, and he too was shot. The third one tore his Bible apart page by page and rolled them into strips. These he wove into a rope. He entered Korea safely, none suspecting the rope was a Bible. Years later, Seoul, Korea boasted having the largest evangelic church in the world.

Bro. Andrew, in "God's Smuggler," tells about meeting a man in Moscow who had traveled

2,000 miles to get a Bible for a Congregation of 150 in Siberia. God spoke to the man that if he would go 2,000 miles east he could obtain a Bible. Bro. Andrew and his helper were in Moscow with Bibles to give away. They had traveled 2,000 miles west.

Not only in the past have men sacrificed to obtain Bibles, also today many are hungry for His Word. Likewise, many are suffering persecution because of the Word. Only in recent years and in free countries have Bibles been reasonably easy to obtain. But Christians in many parts of the world are still struggling to obtain a copy of God's Word: China, Iran, Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Iraq and Pakistan are just a few.

Pastor Abam in Sudan had only one Bible for his congregation of 400 until this last year. A few days after he received a shipment of Bibles, Islamic soldiers gunned him down. In late October 2001, three gunmen (Muslim terrorists) entered a church in Bahawalpur, Pakistan and shot the pastor in the pulpit during worship service. Last year there were more than 70 attacks on Christians in 14 different states in India. Often when Christians in India receive a Bible, it is the first one they have ever seen. Only the southern part of the country has much access to God's precious Word. According to VOM reports, 2009 brought unprecedented persecution to Chinese believers. Raids on house churches increased. Arrests and imprisonment of pastors and evangelists skyrocketed. The law forbids youths (under 18) to believe in Christianity. Youths were taken to the police station, interrogated, threatened and beaten before being released.

Amos 8:11-12 tells about a famine. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it." Jesus said, "...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Some day Bibles may be restricted in our country. Are we studying and memorizing the Scriptures so we will have God's Words in our hearts if our Bibles are snatched away? Do we appreciate God's Word, as we should? We can tell how much we value it by the amount of time we invest in it. If we love God's Word we will spend time reading it.

# THE VESSELS OF THE TEMPLE

This beautiful point of analogy we must not pass by. There were in the temple a great many vessels; many of them were of gold and silver. Ezra gives us an inventory of those carried by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon, and returned again by order of Cyrus. "And this is the number of them: thirty chargers of gold, a thousand chargers of silver, nine and twenty knives, thirty basons of gold, silver basons of a second sort four hundred and ten, and other vessels a thousand. All the vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand and four hundred...." Ezra 1:9-11. There is no evidence, nor likelihood that this comprised all the vessels of the temple. Why this enormous number of vessels? It is scarcely possible to conceive how so many could be put into actual use. When we consider that the holiest object of that whole temple was to serve as a "figure for the time then present," "a shadow of good things to come," and when we understand what good things they are which were typically introduced by all these vessels, we cease to wonder at their prodigious number. Of what, then, were they a figure? Thank God! the Book of all wisdom unlocks the mystery. An open door is now before us. It is "the tabernacle which the Lord pitched, and not man;" "The church of the first-born." Let us enter and He will show us the beautiful vessels of His new covenant sanctuary. We come first to Paul, the holy and faithful apostle. "The Lord said unto him [Ananias], Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel." Acts. 9:15.

The apostle will now become our escort and show us other vessels. Hear ye him: "And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles." Romans 9:23-24. "Even us," saith he, are the vessels of mercy, prepared unto glory. Yea, all who have been saved by the mercy of God are the vessels of Christ's ministry in His present sanctuary. And extolling the great value, and preciousness of the contents of those vessels in contrast with the insignificant vessels themselves, He says: "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power

may be of God, and not of us." II Corinthians 4:7. "But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honor, and some to dishonor. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work." II Timothy 2:20-21. "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor." I Thessalonians 4:3-4.

All these vessels in God's house, to be real vessels of honor and suited to the Master's use, must be wholly sanctified. Here we see that all that sanctification of vessels, so extensive under the law, looked forward to, and taught the glorious lesson of the perfect sanctification of God's people, as they now enter into that within the holiest of His church. Into these sacred vessels God stores His grace, love, and power; His life, joy, and everlasting peace. And in them He bears the treasure of the Gospel to the nations of the earth. To hold some comparison with the spiritual seed of Abraham, who was said to be as the stars of heaven for multitude, and as the sand upon the seashore, it was necessary that they should be multiplied into thousands. And should their antitype only include the New Testament ministry, their great numbers would still be needed: for, "The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it." Psalm 68:11.

So, beloved reader, we might extend our investigations to every object of the temple, and find it all copied from, and illustrative of the sacred elements of the church. In fact, we have gone all through the old tabernacle and temple, with Jesus and His faithful apostle as our escorts, while they have highly entertained us by giving the Spiritual lessons that each object was designed to teach and show forth. Everything we have met with here they tell us is a shadow which meets its substance in the present living temple of God. Thanks be to God for the bright line of truth in the analogy which lies between the material sanctuary, and the house of God, over which Christ is high priest.

—Cleansing of the Sanctuary

# 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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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.

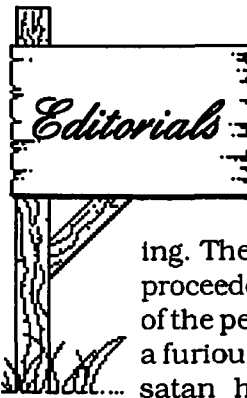
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"And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head...." John 19:2. The scene of humiliation that unfolded in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus' crucifixion was indeed appalling. The mockery and tortures that proceeded from the hearts and minds of the people that day were heated to a furious frenzy by the motivation of satan himself. The forces of hell were united against the King of kings and Lord of lords. The precious Son of God was suffering, not for His own sins, but for the sins of all mankind. He willingly allowed His body to bear the reproach that was heaped upon Him because He loved you and me, and millions of others who have lived before and after that time. While satan raged with all of his might, and perhaps His persecutors were claiming victory when Jesus hung His sacred head in death—yet their victory was short-lived for the power of God raised the body of Jesus and brought Him forth from the tomb—alive forever more! The Lamb of God made the perfect atonement for sin and all mankind has now been given the opportunity to partake of the Salvation of God.

Job said in the seventh chapter, "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle...." Surely most of us realize how quickly our days are passing. The days, weeks, months and years quickly slip away, yet when we reflect over the past there have been words, thoughts and actions that have shaped the character of those days. We are weaving something with our actions that will one day be given to our Lord. The soldiers "platted"—to twine or braid—a crown of thorns that they placed on the head of Jesus. They occupied their God-given time, energy and intellect in a way that brought shame to the Lord. Sadly this has not been a single, isolated incident in the history of mankind. It was for this reason that Jesus came to offer Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, and redeem the hearts of those who desired to be free from the evil, controlling influence of satan.

"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: **turn ye, turn ye** from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" Ezekiel 33:11. The message that God gave Ezekiel many

hundreds of years ago is still pertinent to us in this modern age of technology. The "raw materials" that evil men use to weave their "crown of thorns" to bring shame to the name of Christ and His children may have changed over the years but the motive of the heart is still the same, and the call from God is still the same—"...Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways!..." Christ is waiting with open arms for the penitent sinner to run to Him and find refuge from the horrible consequences of their evil past.

There is a much better way to occupy one's time, energy and intellect. When we yield ourselves to Christ and truly honor Him as our Lord, He will cause our sinful past to be completely forgiven and make us a new creation of God. Our heart will be made pure and holy, a fit place for Him to dwell and reign. Then all of our energies can be devoted to bringing about a work of praise to our precious Savior. Instead of a "crown of thorns" we can fashion through His graces a crown of glory and honor that will magnify His worthy name.

To fashion a noble crown for our Master we need within us an "excellent spirit" such as Daniel had. A spirit that those around us can testify for us like they did for Daniel, "There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods;..." Daniel 5:11. Daniel was a man of prayer, and the spirit he possessed was a result of his time spent communing with God and his willingness to follow God's revealed plan for his life. The soul who will seek God, like Daniel did, can also be blessed with an "excellent spirit." While there may be many with high professions who do not manifest this excellent spirit, we should strive to be like those precious Saints of God who we have known to live pure, holy lives that were beyond reproach and were true witnesses of this Spirit.

The Word of God says that every man's work shall be made manifest, "...because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is." I Corinthians 3:13. Recently, while searching some Scriptures, I observed an interesting phrase that occurred many times in regard to the sacrifices and offerings the children of Israel made to God. This phrase was "made with fire." The fire consummated the sacrifice. Without the fire, the sacrifice would have been left for the birds to devour or the natural processes of decay to break down, but God's plan included fire, which

sent the sacrifice upward toward the heavens. Today the fire that is to try us and our works are likely going to come in the fashion of persecutions, trials, tribulations, temptations and afflictions. Peter said, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:" Why should we not think it strange? Our sacrifice for God is also going to be "made with fire." If our sacrifice is only of a carnal composition, the fire will completely devour it, but if it is composed of the precious fruits of the Holy Spirit, the air will be filled with a holy fragrance and elements that are of eternal origin will be refined to a high state of richness and purity. This holy sacrifice will bless man and glorify God.

Often people have great concern for the serious things that may beset them. While we must understand that these serious things will come, our work for God is more frequently hindered by the "little foxes." Seemingly minor annoyances have been the "fire" that caused the work of many folks to spoil and perish. These small things try our spirits on nearly a daily basis and they will prove whether we are professors or possessors of God's Spirit. Sometimes the fruit is spoiled by negligence. Important responsibilities may be left undone and the enemy takes advantage of the opportunity to cause major damage to our work, our relationship with God or our faith. Preoccupation with the cares of this life may be a factor that plays into our negligence.

Intemperance is a major cause of spiritual failure. The enemy would love to cause us to meet spiritual disaster while we are occupied with things that we consider harmless. When "harmless" things begin to control our lives we should be concerned, for they will divert our time and energies away from our godly priorities. When this happens it becomes necessary to immediately take the required steps to bring things back into balance. The Spirit of the Lord is faithful to warn those who enter this dangerous condition and by heeding His admonitions in a timely manner we often are spared much spiritual injury.

May God help each of us to take full advantage of His plenteous graces for our life and make each day another golden strand, diligently woven into a beautiful masterpiece for our blessed Savior. One that has had the fibers

proven by the fiery trials of life and has been polished and refined to eternal degrees of purity. In reality the masterpiece of our life is a creation of His righteousness that has been wrought in us that one bright day we will bow before His throne and present to the glory and majesty of our King. May it be a presentation worthy of His honor and praise. —Bro. Willie E. Murphey

—y@yahoo.com



IL—Please pray for my sister, Merline Allen, she has cancer that has begun to actively spread and is causing swelling in her abdomen.

—Sis. Norma Tiller

MT—I have a stomach infection and would like prayer for a healthy digestive system.

—Bro. Tom J. Arkinson

MO—Please pray for Bro. Michael Smith. It became necessary for him to return home early from a mission trip to Kenya and Tanzania because he became seriously ill. He is still very weak and needs a touch of healing from the Lord.

IF

*If we would take the tape-line  
That we use for other folk,  
To measure their short comings  
And their actions that provoke;  
And for a few short hours  
Check our acts the self-same way  
I feel quite sure that in the end  
We'd throw the line away.*

—Selected

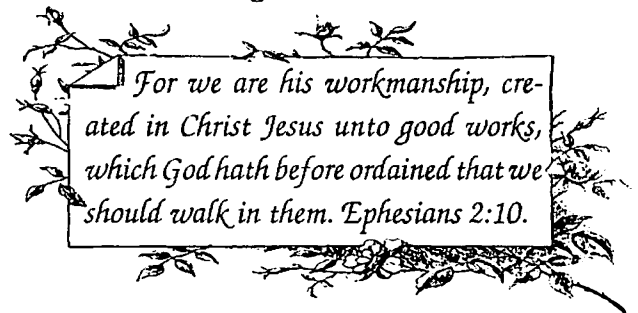
## Standing Prayer Requests

Sis. Merline Allen  
Sis. Gladys Cashio  
Sis. Helen Carson  
Sis. Genevieve Carver  
Sis. Elizabeth Corteway  
Sis. Waneta Creel  
Bro. Terry Dawson Sr.  
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

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

**Miami, FL (Spring Meeting)**—March 28-April 4  
**Alabama Spring Singing**  
 (Near Warrior, AL)—April 3  
**Wichita, KS (Spring Meeting)**—April 18-25  
**Oklahoma State (Guthrie, OK)**—May 28-June 6  
**Holly Hill, SC (Camp Meeting)**—May 30-June 6  
**Green Bank, WV (Camp Meeting)**—June 11-17  
**Spencer, OK (Sisters' Retreat)**—June 11-12  
**Fresno, CA (Revival Meeting)**—June 27-July 4  
**General Southern**  
 (Loranger, LA)—June 27-July 4  
**Pacoima, CA (Sisters' Retreat)**—July 9-10  
**National (Monark Springs, MO)**—July 16-25

## MEETING NOTICES

### MIAMI, FL, SPRING MEETING

The congregation in Miami, FL, welcomes you to attend their Spring Meeting. Lord willing, it will be held March 28-April 4. Services will be nightly at 7:30. Day services will be announced at the meeting. For more information contact Bro. Charles Clay (305) 804-8504 or Bro. Kenneth Baxter, (786) 554-8833.

### ALABAMA SPRING SINGING, NEAR WARRIOR (EASTER WEEKEND)

The Church of God congregation near Warrior, Alabama is planning a singing April 3rd (Easter Weekend) at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel. Activities will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning at the park in Hanceville, AL which is the same place we had been having it until last year when it was unavailable. On the following day, April 4<sup>th</sup>, there will be dinner on the grounds with services at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. The chapel is located approximately two miles west of Interstate 65 at exit number 289 on Acton Bend Circle. For further information please contact Bro. Roy Herron at (205) 647-7869 or Marshall Whitson at (205) 647-6325; Cell (205) 317-4151.

### WICHITA, KS, SPRING MEETING

April 18-25 has been set for the Spring Meeting in Wichita, KS. We are expecting God to rebuke the devil in every way that he would come against the meeting. We are also expecting God to direct and anoint the whole meeting. The two Sundays there will be three services: 10:30 a.m.,

2:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday there will be two services daily: 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Thursday will be fast day and healing service that morning. If you can't come, please help us by praying for the meeting.

The chapel address is 2509 N. Grove St. If you need directions or other information you may contact Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at (316) 461-1267 or Bro. Theodore McCray at (316) 641-4170. —Sis. Shirley Knight

### OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING

The annual Oklahoma State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held May 28-June 6, at the campground in Guthrie, OK. The first service will be on Friday evening May 28 at 7:30, with three services daily thereafter.

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

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

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

To obtain further information about the meeting, contact Bro. Phillip Gellenbeck (405) 282-2999

### HOLLY HILL, SC, CAMP MEETING

Lord willing, our Holly Hill, SC Camp Meeting will be held from Sunday, May 30 through Sunday, June 6, 2010. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all to attend. Services will be held at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. daily. There are limited accommodations on the church grounds available. Please call Sis. Beverly Pratt at (803) 496-3057 or Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Smith at (803) 492-7975 as early as possible, if

you plan to stay on the grounds. There are several motels in Santee, SC, which is about 16 miles from the chapel. We will be happy to provide details to any who are interested. Please come if you can, and if you are not able to attend, please pray that God's blessing will be upon all that is said and done in this meeting. We need the Lord's presence and direction, and we desire your prayers.

—The Holly Hill, SC Congregation

### FRESNO, CA, REVIVAL MEETING

The Fresno Revival Meeting will be June 27-July 4, 2010 at the Church of God located at 388 N. First Street, Fresno, CA 93722. For more information call Sis. Gwen Robinson at (559) 233-2492.

—Sis. Stephanie Pree



### LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, the One that loved us and gave His life for us that we might be washed from our sins in His precious blood that we might be able to live with Him in eternity. Truly this was the greatest kindness that He could show toward us. I am glad we can live for Him in this short time world, then when we see Him as He is, we will praise Him through eternity.

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not." I John 3:1.

"And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment." I John 3:23.

Your brother in Christ, —T. V. McMillian

OK—Dear Bro. Willie E. Murphey and workers: I received my letter and it found me still saved and encouraged. We had two big snows here in Okemah. I am trying to walk again, whenever the Lord gives me strength. I am doing pretty well so far. Continue to pray for me.

I am your sister in Christ, —Mary O. Jones

## Finding Relief

A careworn woman once asked a philosopher how she might obtain relief from and victory over the trials and sorrows of life. He said to her, "Fetch me a cup of salt from some home where sorrow and care has never entered, and I will then tell you the secret of victory." After a long and weary journey, she returned to him saying that she had given up the search in despair; for in all her travels she found no home entirely free from care and sorrow. Like this poor woman, I once longed and sought for some state or condition in life where I might be free from the cares and perplexities that distressed me, but my search too seemed fruitless. At last, after many disappointments, I found the more excellent way of victory over my trials through simple, trusting faith in Him who notes even the sparrow's fall.

Before I fully learned this lesson, there were times in my life when it seemed I was on the verge of despair, so severe were my trials. As I now look back to those scenes and experiences, there come to my mind the pathetic lines of Longfellow's poem "The Bridge."

For my heart was hot and restless,  
And my life was full of care,  
And the burden laid upon me  
Seemed greater than I could bear.

But now it has fallen from me,  
It is buried in the sea;  
And only the sorrow of others  
Throws its shadow over me.

And I think how many thousands  
Of care-encumbered men,  
Each bearing his burden of sorrow,  
Have crossed the bridge since then.

For the sake of the many thousands who are still trying to bear their own burdens, I send forth the following account of some of my life's experiences. I trust the Lord may use it to help some on their way to the feet of Him who said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28.

There are doubtless thousands whose sins have been forgiven, but who have not yet learned by actual experience the precious privilege expressed in these words: "Casting all your care



upon him, for he careth for you." I Peter 5:7. An old lady was once trudging along a hot and dusty highway carrying a heavy basket. She was soon overtaken by a kind man, who invited her to take a seat in the rear of his carriage. After some time had passed, he looked back to see how his passenger was getting along, when he was astonished to see her holding that heavy basket on her lap. "Grandma," said he, "there is

plenty of room; why do you not set your basket down?" "Oh," she replied, "you are so kind to take me in that I thought I would make the load as light as possible for your horses, so I concluded to carry the basket myself." We may smile at her reply, yet many who have trusted the Lord to forgive their sins, are nevertheless trying still to carry their own burdens.

—E. E. Byrum  
*Riches of Grace*



## THE ETERNAL HOME OF THE REDEEMED

Yes, there is a place called Heaven, and it will be our eternal home. When time has run its course; when the sun and moon have ceased to shine; when all things pertaining to earth and the earth itself have passed away and have been forgotten and left in the dim past, then, clothed with an immortal and glorified body, we shall dwell in a building of God, a house not made with hands, "ETERNAL IN THE HEAVENS." O my soul, press forward! Pleasures forevermore await thee. O world to come, in exchange for the present! O ages, for a moment! A blessed, eternal communion in the holy, blessed, eternal life of God, in exchange for the sacrifices and sufferings of a few short years of earth. For the joy set before me, I willingly endure hardness as a good soldier for Christ Jesus. Yes, gladly will I forsake home and loved ones to preach the Gospel, and in exchange receive a home in that heavenly and better country.

Since the earth on which we now live will have an end, what a consoling thought to know in ourselves that we "...have in heaven a better and an enduring substance." Hebrews 10:34. This enduring substance is not a literal something upon this earth, as many imagine, but it is "an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you." Leap for joy; for, behold, "...great is your reward in heaven..." Matthew 5:12.

Jesus, speaking of that future state 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 myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:2-3. In the Scriptures, we have "Christ's

house" and "the Father's house"; Christ's kingdom of grace here, and the Father's kingdom of glory above. The one applies to the earth, the other to Heaven. In the passage quoted, Christ speaks of our future hope. By the "Father's house" He means Heaven, for that is the Father's dwelling-place. Christ's house is the church here upon earth. By entering the latter, we have access to the former, the Father's house. By "mansions," Christ desired to impart to the disciples that Heaven, the Father's domain, is large and spacious. He did not wish, as some people believe, to convey the idea that everybody would have a separate house up there; He simply resorted to language that His hearers could understand. He spoke from the standpoint of a literal building so they could comprehend His meaning. Since the Father's house is so spacious—contains many mansions—"I go to prepare a *place for you*." Christ went into Heaven. (Luke 24:51.) So in Heaven He is preparing our eternal home.

It may be objected that Heaven has been prepared from the foundation of the world. The Kingdom of Heaven, or Heaven itself, was prepared from the beginning of the world (Matthew 25:34), but in that kingdom, Christ went to prepare a place for us. Again, Christ was a "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Yet in reality, it was fulfilled when He came. So with the place prepared for us. In reality, Christ went to prepare it for us; and the promise is that He will come again, not to remain here upon earth with us, but to receive us to Himself, that where He is, there we may be also; that is, He will come back and take His church home to glory, to the world He went to prepare.

When will all this be fulfilled? "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." I Thessalonians 4:16-17. Oh, the beauty of heavenly truth! The church came out of Heaven and at last it will all be caught up to Heaven and be ever with the Lord.

"But," says one, "did not Jesus teach that the meek '...shall inherit the earth?' (Matthew 5:5.) The Psalmist said, 'But the meek shall inherit the earth...' Psalm 37:11. How harmonize I Thessalonians 4:16-17 with these scriptures?"

Peter fully explains them. He first shows that in the day of judgment this terrestrial globe, this earth, will pass away by being burned up. He foretells its utter destruction: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." II Peter 3:10. What then about the promise of Jesus that 'the meek shall inherit the earth'? The apostle Peter answers, "...We, according to his promise, *look for new heavens and a new earth...*" II Peter 3:13, which shall appear after the heavens and the earth composing this globe are "burned up" and "pass away." II Peter 3:7-13. Peter is speaking of that land of light and bliss which Jesus went to prepare.

Also, the revelator, after describing the judgment-scene, when this earth and its heavens fled away, "...and there was found no place for them." (Revelation 20:11-15,) "I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." Revelation 21:1. He saw the new Heaven and the new earth after "the first heaven and the first earth were passed away." The new earth is the "heavenly country," the "better country." (Hebrews 11:16.)

The new heavens and the new earth will be so much grander than this that the present heavens and earth "...shall not be remembered, nor come into mind." Isaiah 65:17. And unlike the present heavens and earth which shall pass

away, the new Heavens and new earth "...shall remain..." (Isaiah 66:22.)

"...God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:3-4. "And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads." Revelation 22:4.

What a beautiful description of the glories of that eternal state. Surely the sufferings of the present time are not to compare with the glory that shall be revealed. "...I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely." Revelation 21:6. There the overcomers "...shall inherit all things..." Revelation 21:7. "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb." Revelation 22:1. John saw this city as "having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal." Revelation 21:11. "And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it...for there shall be no night there." Revelation 21:22-25. "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 forever and ever." Revelation 22:5. "And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones...And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl; and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass." "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new." This is the new heavens and the new earth.

In this golden city of the new earth, the King of Heaven will have His throne and reign forever and ever. Here the righteous shall "shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father," yes, "as the stars forever and ever."

—H. M. Riggle  
*Beyond The Tomb*



## MEET AN OLD LADY

You are going to meet an old lady someday. Down the road ahead, ten, twenty, thirty years; she's waiting for you. You will be catching up with her. What kind of old lady are you going to meet? That is a rather significant question.

She may be a seasoned, soft, and gracious lady. A lady who has grown old gracefully, surrounded by a host of friends—friends who call her blessed because of what her life has meant to them.

She may be a bitter, disillusioned, dried-up, cynical old buzzard, without a good word for anyone or anything—soured, friendless, alone.

The kind of old lady you will meet will depend entirely upon you. She will be exactly what you make of her, nothing more, nothing less. It is up to you. You will have no one else to credit or blame.

Every day, in every way, you are becoming more and more like that old lady. Amazing, but true. You are getting to look more like her, think more like her, and talk more like her. **YOU ARE BECOMING HER.**

If you live only in terms of what you are getting out of life, the old lady gets smaller, drier, harder, crabbier, more self-centered.

Open your life to others, think in terms of what you can give, your contribution to life, and the old lady grows larger, softer, kinder, greater.

The point to remember is that these things don't always show up immediately. But they will—sooner than you think. These little things, seemingly so unimportant now—**ATTITUDES, GOALS, AMBITIONS, DESIRES**—are adding up inside, where you cannot see them, crystallizing in your heart and mind. Some day they will harden into that old lady; nothing will be able to soften or change them then.

Time to take care of that old lady is right now, today. Examine your motives, attitudes, goals. Check up on her. Work her over now while she is still pliable, still in a formative condition. Day comes swiftly soon when it is too late. The hardness sets in, worse than paralysis. Character crystallizes, sets, gels. That's the finish.

Any wise business person takes an inventory regularly. Merchandise is not half as important as the person. You had better take a bit of a personal inventory, too. Then you will be much more likely to meet a lovely, gracious old lady at the proper time.  
—Author unknown

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