

FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



Volume 88, No. 1 88th Year Guthrie, Oklahoma \$5.00 Per Year March, 2010

Agitator or Encourager?

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

These two methods of motivation are very different and the rippling effects drive persons into different thought patterns and attitudes. Let's take a closer look at the difference between these two spirits.

Difference in Confidence

A person who is ever confident in themselves wants to keep everything going *their way* in order to keep everyone confident that *they are the best*. They will pick at another's weak points and faults. Their attitude is, "You do everything wrong but I do everything right so you listen to me and do it my way and we will get along." This way of motivation causes the persons within that circle to find fault in another person and excuses for themselves. Production comes by intimidation and comparisons.

What does an encourager do? They understand that their strength comes in uniting with others in a circle of mutual respect. They give love, mercy and kindness to others no matter how different they may be from them. Their nature is not condemning, but because of their goodness they naturally inspire those in their circle to improve and do things for them and for others. There is mutual confidence and trust in one another because of honesty with each other.

Though God, our Creator, is omnipotent in confidence, He still respects the will of each individual. He calls and He draws each soul to Himself, but He does not force by intimidation. (John 6:44-45) Instead, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8. God had confidence that His extended love to mankind would bring about a return of love, honor and respect to Himself by those who chose to follow Him. His greatest commandment is for people to love Him with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. Mark 12:29-31. In return He gives confidence and peace that only comes from obeying and loving Him. God encourages, indeed *He gives the courage*, to do better each day.

Difference in Conduct

An agitator will use and manipulate someone so that the other person's good traits make the agitator look good, not giving the other person credit for his part. An agitator will offer

Contents

Agitator or Encourager?	1
Yield Not To Discouragement	3
Editorials	4
In Christ We Have.....	6
Prayer Requests	6
Meeting Reports and Notices	7
Letters from the Readers	8
Obituaries	9
Yield Not To Discouragement (Cont.)	11
A Soldier's Poem	12

help, but if he gives, he expects something in return, sometimes blind loyalty or obedience. An agitator holds himself to a proud height and feels that he does not need to come down to someone else's *lower level* to give an account of himself. He makes his own rules, breaks other's rules, and even breaks his own rules if he wants too. His arrogant conduct lets every one know that he is commanding, and he threatens and pushes down anyone who dares to question his authority. He gets production done by being a bully in disguise as a rewarding friend.

An encourager supports another's good points, helping them achieve their full potential at work, in the home, and with relationships. He is willing to give of himself or offer resources to help others, but he doesn't attach obligations to his help. He wants his friends to feel a personal self worth within so that they are inspired to do more. This creates a bond of fellowship and those within that circle desire to help one another achieve together. Great things are accomplished because each one submits, respects and helps the other.

Our Savior, Jesus Christ, conducted Himself as an encourager when He was on this earth. Different times when He healed the sick, He would say: "...See thou tell no man; but go thy way, show thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them." Matthew 8:4. (Mark 8:26, 30; Luke 8:56.) Jesus did not boast of Himself, but He pointed mankind to God. Remember what He said before the tomb of Lazarus? "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always; but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me....Lazarus, come forth." Jesus turned the people to His Father, Whom He thanked for answering prayer. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:...But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:5-8. By His example, Jesus encourages mankind to trust in God.

Difference in Conversation

An agitator talks about *himself*, and even when he hears another person talk, he does not really hear what that person says because his

mind is busy thinking only about what he wants to say next. The mind of an agitator is usually busy with ideas and schemes, but he does not want to do all the work to get things done. Therefore, he interrupts and inserts his opinions throughout a conversation with someone so that the other person gives up trying to make his voice heard. An agitator makes a person feel uneasy and worried so that they depend upon the agitator's advice and "better" knowledge. The second person will either become complacent, or become an assistant with the agitator who verbally plays on the other's emotions—promising and building up hope but blaming and accusing when a scheme fails.

How does an encourager differ? He will compliment and give helpful hints. An encourager will walk beside another person, really listen to the person and offer words of advice and hope. He will point out the strengths in his friend, and cheer him to do better. An encourager helps prepare someone else to move forward for his own good, cheering that friend to do better. His words spark hope in the heart of the faint, igniting patience in the battle—signalling victory up ahead.

When Jesus talked about the Holy Spirit coming, He said, "But the Comforter, *which* is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14:26. The Holy Spirit is a comforter who teaches a soul how to be like Jesus Christ and please the Father. He will "...reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment...because the prince of this world is judged." John 16:8, 11. When the heart is heavy in prayer, "...the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." Romans 8:26. The Holy Spirit of God talks to those who have a sanctified ear to hear. He does not contradict the Son nor the Father because He is One with them. (I John 5:7.)

Are you an agitator or encourager?

Though we may not think of our self as a leader, each one of us does influence those we love, work among and come in contact with. Some persons have natural leadership abilities

and will take the lead within their circle. They will influence those about them by their method of leadership. Because the world goes the opposite way of Christ, we know that the world's way of motivation is by agitating.

The base word *agitate* means to excite or disturb the feelings of someone so as to produce changes. *Encourage* means to give courage.

hope or confidence to; hearten or to give support to; foster or help.

Those who are under the influence of the world will be an agitator. Take time to check by the Word and the Spirit to determine what way you are motivated, and by what method you influence others. By your attitude, actions, and words you will find yourself either an agitator or an encourager of those about you.



Yield Not To Discouragement

In II Chronicles 16:9, we read, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him...."

The voice of Scripture bears out the fact that anyone who retains a perfect heart toward God will never yield to discouragement although they may be called upon by the Lord to go through many severe and fiery trials in life.

Notice what God says about Job: "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright and one that feared God, and eschewed [turned from] evil."

God literally turned the devil loose on Job, and he took from him all his property and killed all of his children. Then Job said, "Naked came I out of mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: The LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be name of the LORD." Job did not yield to discouragement, but held his unwavering faith in God.

He "did not sin nor charge God foolishly." He proved true to God through this severe test. Then God allowed satan to touch his bone and flesh, and he smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. While in this extreme suffering, his wife said unto him, "Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God and die." Hear what the man said who had a perfect heart. He did not receive discouragement, but said, "Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?" Job did not sin in giving way to discouragement. Further along in the 23rd chapter, after he had suffered long in the affliction and his three friends vehemently accused him of doing evil and became miserable comforters to him, he looked to God and for the Lord and could not find Him, could get no notice nor word from Him, for he said in the 8th verse, "I go forward,

but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand where he doeth work, but I cannot behold him; he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: but he knoweth the way that I take; when he hath tried me I shall come forth as gold." He just would not give way to the sin of discouragement, but held his faith strong in God. He possessed a perfect heart toward God and would not be moved to discouragement which would have put him on the side with satan against God had he given way to it.

The three Hebrew children would not yield to discouragement when they were faced with the certainty of being thrown into the burning fiery furnace, but they held their faith in God and said to the king, "We are not careful to answer you in this matter. Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace; but if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." They absolutely refused to be discouraged about the matter. Through their faithfulness, the king saw the form of the fourth, even Jesus walking with them in the burning fiery furnace. The king spake and blessed the God of the Hebrew children. He was made a believer, which never would have been if the Hebrew children had become discouraged and failed to be true and firm.

Daniel also showed a perfect heart toward God when he was threatened to be put in the lions' den if he worshiped or asked a petition of any other but the king. It did not discourage him at all, but with his window open, he knelt down with his face toward Jerusalem and prayed three times a day as usual. When they threw him into the lions' den, the Lord sent His angel and shut the lions' mouth, and he was not hurt. Because Daniel would not yield to dis-

(Continued on page eleven.)

**FAITH AND VICTORY
12 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY**



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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 518, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044

Office phone numbers: 405-282-1479, 800-767-1479;

fax number: 405-282-6318.

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

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



- If you are holding on to something that doesn't belong to you and it was never intended for your life, then you need to ... LET IT GO!!!
- If you are holding on to past hurts and pains... LET

IT GO!!!

- If someone has angered you ... LET IT GO!!!

... thoughts of evil and revenge ... LET IT GO!!!

- If you are involved in a wrong relationship or addiction ... LET IT GO!!!

- If you are holding on to a job that no longer meets your needs or talents ... LET IT GO!!!

- If you have a bad attitude ... LET IT GO!!!

- If you keep judging others to make yourself feel better ... LET IT GO !!!

- If you're stuck in the past, and God is trying to take you to a new level in Him ... LET IT GO!!!

- If you keep trying to help someone who won't even try to help themselves ... LET IT GO!!!

- If you're feeling depressed and stressed ... LET IT GO!!!

- If there is a particular situation that you are so used to handling yourself, and God is saying "take your hands off of it," then you need to ... LET IT GO!!!

Many people have a tendency to hold on to some things that are causing them to miss out on the blessings of the Lord. The above quotation presents some admonitions that would be wisdom for us to consider in the will of the Lord. When an individual tenaciously holds on to things that are not in God's plan for their lives then they find themselves in bondage—tethered by their own self-will. Hebrews 12:1 says, "...Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." God wants us to be free of those things that hinder and bring condemnation to our Christian experience so that we may have liberty to rejoice in His holiness.

Every year there are a number of people who attempt to hike the Appalachian trail that extends more than 2150 miles across the eastern United States from Maine to Georgia. It is not uncommon for hikers to begin their trek with backpacks full of nonessential items. It is re-

ported that one man started the hike with a cassette player, six tapes of bird calls, an air pistol, a camera, a radio, an alarm clock and according to his words, "if it ran on batteries, I had one in my pack." He had not gone far on the trail before he realized he needed to lighten his load. At one stop a seasoned hiker helped him go through his pack and separate the things that were most important. They began weighing the various items and making decisions about whether or not he wanted to carry that weight for the next 2000 miles. Many of the things he originally thought were so important for his hike, and perhaps only weighed a few ounces, were sent back home because they all added up and were too much of a burden to carry.

We will find that our journey through life will meet with difficult places that try the soul, and in these times the additional weight we are carrying will have a profound impact on our ability to succeed. Ephesians 4:31 lists some things that will cause one to fail if they are unwilling to separate them from their heart. It says, "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice."

Bitterness is an evil that will immediately steal the joy out of one's heart. While it may begin as a small thought pampered in a self-centered mind, it will not stay small. It will grow and grow like a cancer until it totally consumes the grace of God out of the heart. Bitterness distorts one's vision of reality, rendering them incapable of making fair and impartial judgments. It chains people to the past and causes their thoughts to circle in a closed loop. Spiritual progress comes to a standstill while bitterness is allowed to flourish in the heart. May all be aware of this poison that when allowed to complete its course will bring death to one's own soul.

When one begins feeling bitterness take hold of their mind they should immediately stop feeding the hurt and allow forgiveness to reign instead. Avail yourself of the bountiful grace of God and be willing to be the one to initiate reconciliation in the spirit of meekness and love. There may be occasions that require time to heal the injury that has been caused, but do your best to allow each day to be a new day in your life, free from the grudges of the past, and rejoice in the blood of Jesus Christ that cleanseth us from all sin.

Wrath and anger are passions that when allowed to rage out of control will bring much hurt to yourself and others. What shame and reproach it brings on the name of the Lord when those who claim to be His children act in such a distasteful way. What condemnation it brings upon one's heart and how it destroys one's testimony of Christ, often for years to come. These things definitely need to be "put away."

"When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things." 1 Corinthians 13:11. It is not the will of God that His people stay in a state of spiritual infancy. The Lord expects us to grow. We grow by feeding on the Word of God. Some people read or hear the Word of the Lord, but they do not take it to heart personally and when that happens their growth is stunted. Maybe you have heard the expression about people going to church with a "pitchfork" instead of a "rake." The one who attends with a "pitchfork" may really be vocal in saying amen to the preacher—in their mind they are thinking, "preach it straight Brother, so and so really needs that." Sadly, however, the truth is not benefiting them because they are casting it off on others and are not growing themselves. The Lord will deal with people who do this and unless they are willing to change they will find their experience with the Lord has dried up and died.

There is a difference in being childlike versus being childish. There are commendable aspects of a child that God's desires His people to possess; in matters of faith and confidence in God's love and care; to not carry grudges or have malice toward others; to be honest and straightforward in our relationships with others. To be ready to forgive and willingly receive instruction and to obey. These things are good and should remain in our lives even when we are old. But, we should put away childish things. The dictionary says that to be childish is the same as being childlike but in a derogatory way, suggesting childlike behavior that is inappropriate. To be childish would include pettiness and "I know" thinking. It would include things like whining and murmuring, wanting to play all of the time instead of doing things that are profitable, looking for things that bring instant gratification instead of investing in those things that have eternal value; selfish, weak, uncoordinated and naïve. These, as well as many other

childish characteristics, should be put away so that our spiritual life in Christ can be strengthened and come to maturity.

When we turn loose of the things of the past that have hindered and bound us to failure, and begin reaching out for the eternal things that bring us closer to God then we will find new life and strength flowing to us from His throne of grace. Then there are times that we try so hard to accomplish things in our own strength and they simply do not turn out right. When this happens we must commit the situation into God's hands and allow our souls to rest in His care. In these times His comfort will warm our hearts and we can be assured that all will be well because He is God.

There are times, when God calls His people to some special duty of Christian service, that it becomes necessary to give up things that are dear to our hearts. When this occurs there is often the temptation to balk at His call or to look around at others like Peter did and ask, "...Lord, and what shall this man do?" The Lord, however, indicated to Peter the inappropriateness of that question. It was Peter's responsibility to respond to the personal call of the Lord and follow Him. When one yields to His individual call there are also personal and special blessings in store for them that will more than make up for the sacrifice they made. Those who will cheerfully give up all to follow the Lord will certainly find a dear place in His heart, for even though there are many called there are only a few who will willingly respond. Perhaps the Lord is giving you a special call, don't be afraid to say, "Yes, Lord, I will." —Bro. Willie E. Murphey
wemurphey@yahoo.com

In Christ We Have—

A **Love** that can never be fathomed;
 A **Life** that can never die;
 A **Righteousness** that can never be tarnished;
 A **Peace** that can never be understood;
 A **Rest** that can never be disturbed;
 A **Hope** that can never be disappointed;
 A **Joy** that can never be diminished;
 A **Glory** that can never be clouded;
 A **Light** that can never be darkened;
 A **Purity** that can never be defiled;
 A **Wisdom** that can never be baffled;
Resources that can never be exhausted.



OK—Remember Sis. Imogene Taylor in prayer, she has a cancer that is attacking the tender tissue around her left eye and it is causing her a great deal of discomfort.

OK—Bro. and Sis. T. V. McMillian are very weak in body. Please pray for them. Bro. McMillian has been suffering severely at times from cramps in his stomach.

MO—We are thankful that Bro. Michael Smith is improving. While he is still very weak, the Lord has spared his life and he seems to be recovering.

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

MEETING DATES

- Alabama Spring Singing**
(Near Warrior, AL)—April 3
- Wichita, KS (Spring Meeting)**—April 18-25
- Shawnee, OK (Revival)**—May 1-7
- 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
- Green Pastures, OK**
(Sisters' Retreat)—June 11-12
- Tulsa, OK (Revival)**—June 17-20
- Jefferson, OR (Camp Meeting)**—June 19-27
- Fresno, CA (Camp 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

**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 4th, 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. On 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

**SINGING, REVIVAL AND DEDICATION
SERVICES, SHAWNEE, OK**

The Church of God congregation at 1415 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK, is very grateful to the Lord for the new dining area addition to our little chapel here. It is now finished and being enjoyed by the congregation! We give a special "thank you" to each one of the Saints that gave of themselves so graciously with their labors and acts of love in helping to get this much needed addition finished. We ask the Lord to bless them richly, beyond what they can ask or think!

Lord willing, a Singing is planned for Saturday night, May 1st, at 6:30. All singers are welcomed and encouraged to seek the Lord; then come bless us with what the Lord gives you. Refreshments in the new dining area are being planned for after the singing.

Bro. Leslie Busbee has expressed a burden for a revival here. Lord willing, he will be with us in revival Sunday morning, May 2nd, through Friday night, May 7th. Dinner will be served after the Sunday morning service. We are also planning a dedication service of the new Dining Hall addition to begin at 2:00 Sunday afternoon, May 2nd. All are welcome; especially those that helped with the building. We plan to have an afternoon service following the dedication service; there will be no night service on Sunday. Monday through Friday services are to be at 7:30 nightly. We are looking to the Lord to richly bless these services; feed our souls, glorify and honor His Name. Pray with us and come if you can! We would love to have you.

For more information, you may call Bro. Carl Shaffer (405) 488-4513. The chapel phone number is (405) 273-2170.

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

SISTERS' RETREAT

GREEN PASTURES, OK/PACOIMA, CA

For further information concerning the Sisters' Retreat to be held in Green Pastures, OK on June 11-12 and in Pacoima, CA on July 9-10 you may contact Sis. McDonald at (318) 758-0222.

TULSA, OK, SUMMER REVIVAL

The Church of God, Tulsa Congregation, is planning a Summer Revival Meeting June 17-20. Bro. James Bell (Sapulpa, OK) and Bro. Charles Chandler (Green Pastures, OK) have a burden for this meeting.

Evening services will be held nightly, Thursday-Saturday at 7:00 p.m. Sunday services will include Sunday School at 9:30, Morning service at 10:30, dinner, and afternoon service at approximately 2:30. We solicit your prayers and extend a warm welcome to all. For further information you may contact Bro. Charles Lowe at (918) 584-6838 or Bro. Charles Rhodes at (918) 272-9682.

JEFFERSON, OR, CAMP MEETING

The 2010 Jefferson, OR Camp Meeting will begin Saturday evening, June 19, and will end Sunday, June 27th. On weekdays, services start at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., with a 2:30 p.m. service the first Sunday and last Saturday. Sleeping accommodations are available and all are welcome. For more information contact Bro. Clifford Smith at (503) 581-4575 or Bro. Bob Wilson at (541) 327-3621.

FRESNO, CA, CAMP MEETING

The Fresno Camp 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**

KY—Dear Family in Christ: I want to thank you for your prayers during my recent affliction. I know they reached Heaven and Jesus was touched with my need. I'm so thankful He is our Savior and Healer for everything. I was suffering with a sharp pain in my left side. Every time it would occur, my stomach would tense up very hard as if something was going to push through and it was hard to breathe. This would last a few

seconds and then it would ease. I thank God for the relief between times and the worst pain only lasted for one to two days. During this time I could not lay in my bed for about a week. I was sore and could hardly turn to the left without discomfort. I thank God I was able to sleep in my recliner chair and by propping pillows I could also rest a little leaning toward the arm of the sofa. By this time I wanted to lie in my bed so much because my back and legs would hurt after being in the chair or on the sofa so long. I asked the Saints to pray and ask God that I could start lying in bed a little during the night. Praise His dear name, He did just that! I could spend a few hours in my bed turning from side to side. I think it was another week or two before I could stay all night in bed with just a little soreness left.

Toward the end of the first week I caught a very bad virus that was going around that affected my stomach and I was unable to retain my food. I asked God that my side wouldn't hurt any worse while straining with the virus. And it didn't! I can't really tell how the Lord blessed me with scriptures and songs that he gave me and from the encouragement of the saints during this trial. He gave grace for the suffering until the healing was completed. Praise His Holy Name!

This illness was a mystery to me, but not to our great God! Even though the enemy came in like a flood with his lies of fear and doubt, my Lord lifted up a standard against him. Thank God for victory for all our needs through our dear Lord Jesus! My desire is to trust Him and endure to the end. Pray for all of us here in the Lord's work and for our unsaved loved ones as we keep you in our prayers also. Yours in Christ,
—Sis. Kay Griffitt

WV—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey, faithful workers at the Lord's Print Shop and Saints abroad: I am thankful to report good news and would like to express sincere appreciation for all the cards and letters of encouragement, phone calls, financial support and intercessory prayers for us during our recent trying times. "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." Hebrews 12:11.

On January 19, 2010, I had a serious truck accident at Springdale, AR. While there were no injuries, I was temporarily terminated pending

the outcome of the investigation. Due to the stress of losing my job, worries about the accident and how it could have been avoided, and my heavy debt load, I had a mild nervous breakdown on January 28. I was not eligible for unemployment compensation, but the Lord was so faithful to carry us through those trying times.

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." I Peter 4:12-13.

My first hearing with the company and employee representatives was at St. Louis, MO on March 2. At this hearing I took full responsibility for the accident and apologized to the company for the property damage. It was kind of a surprise for the company and it looked like the end of the road for me. There had to be a unanimous vote for me to return to work and the vote was deadlocked with the company dissenting. My next hearing was on March 7 at Sarasota, FL, overlooking the beautiful white beaches of the Gulf of Mexico. In this meeting a unanimous vote was taken to allow me to return to work on March 15. Thank the Lord!

I thank the Lord for my loving, praying wife and family, and for the love of Christ and His dear Saints, the redeemed of the Lord. I desire your continued prayers as I desire to see the end of this life with victory in my soul and to fulfil His will in my life.

With sincere appreciation. In His service,
—Bro. Mancil Doolittle



Elizabeth Jarvis Davidson was born in Garrard County, KY on October 4, 1933. She was a daughter of Wilbur and Elsie Bates Jarvis. She was married in 1957 to Robert L. Davidson.

and they had two daughters, Sheila and Judy.

In the late 1960's, Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons began to come to Junction City, KY to hold tent meetings. Among the local people who attended the meetings were Bro. and Sis. Jarvis and Sis. Elizabeth and her husband Robert. Later, when a chapel was purchased and the saints began having regular services there, the Davidson's were faithful to come. Sis. Elizabeth also enjoyed bringing her girls to camp meetings at Green Bank, West Virginia, and Monark Springs, Missouri, through the years. She may be remembered by many, in recent years, as the sweet lady who sold hand-made crocheted Bible markers.

By the mid-1970's, the Samons family and other Saints had moved away from the Junction City area, but Sis. Elizabeth and another sister, Nancy Miller, would meet at the chapel, many times, just the two of them, for prayer and support of each other.

In 1992, services were again started in Junction City, as first Bro Curtis and Sis. Burnice Williams, and then Bro. Dan and Sis. Angela Gellenbeck moved into the area. Coming to sing, pray and hear the preaching was a supreme joy to Sis. Elizabeth, as she participated in her humble, quiet way. She portrayed a meek spirit in all of her heavy trials and disappointments in life, and always had a cheerful smile and word of encouragement for everyone. Some of the young people testified that it was because of her positive influence in their lives that they were turned to the Lord.

In the summer of 2009, it was evident that Sis. Elizabeth was suffering from a serious affliction. She never complained, but as she grew worse, she began to ask for prayer. Her last days were full of much pain from the cancer, but she sought the Lord earnestly for a heart full of forgiveness, peace and purity. God was faithful to her requests, and she died in peace January 1, 2010.

Survivors include her husband, Robert L. Davidson, of the home; a daughter, Judy D. Wright, of Stanford, KY; a granddaughter, Carla (Robert) Perry, of Salvisa, KY; a brother, Melvin L. (Mary) Jarvis, of Lapel, IN; two sisters, Mrs. Armetta Louise (James) Pickens of Anderson, IN; and Mrs. Elsie Warmoth of Winner, SD. She was preceded in death by her parents; a daughter, Sheila; a brother, and two sisters.

Services were held in Stanford, KY, by Bro. Toney Samons and Sis. Angela Gellenbeck. She was buried in Danville Memorial Gardens.

Robert Lee Sherman was born June 5, 1926, in Deep Fork, OK. He was the oldest child to his parents, Annie Lee Wilcox Sherman and Archibald W. Sherman. As a young child he attended Sunny Slope School. In 1936 Robert and his brother Luther migrated to California to join their father in Bakersfield who was seeking to make a better way of life for his family. Robert continued his education at General Shafter and Kern Union High School.

Robert was a strong, industrious and gifted young man. He earned the Golden Glove award for amateur Boxing in 1945. He served his country in the armed forces. He was employed in various fields as a truck and bus driver, a chemical lab and childcare worker, and an administrator of The Sunset Guest Home. Robert's motto was "I am not afraid to work." Robert also worked as a professional singer. This however was not just work to Robert for he loved singing. It was his passion.

In 1964 Robert gave his heart to God, and working for God became his top priority. He began singing a new song. With Bro. Willie Ray Weldon, he organized a singing group called the *Bakersfield Evening Light Singers*. They traveled far and near proclaiming the Gospel through songs. God used him to teach and encourage others to use their voices to sing unto the Lord. He was instrumental in helping others to produce albums and CD's. Along with the *Evening Light Singers* he produced four albums and a CD entitled *Praying Time*. Robert and his wife, Mildred, became actively involved in missionary efforts led by Bro. Isaac Chandler, Bro. Lewis Williams, Bro. Kenneth Probst, Sis. Katherine Williams and Sis. Gladys Williams. They labored together faithfully until Mildred's death. Robert was a man of great faith and strongly believed in Divine healing. In times of sickness he refused medical aid, trusting in the power of God. God stood by him, never failed him, and worked many miracles in his life.

On December 21, of 1998, Robert married Sylvia Ann. She served him faithfully for eleven years in sickness and in health. Robert was a strong, valiant soldier for God and His truth. His life and singing affected many. On December 24, 2009, Robert went to join the angel choir, singing on the heavenly shore.

He leaves behind many precious memories for his beloved wife, Sylvia Ann; two daughters Sandra Lee Sherman and Danette Earls; a son Charles Earls (LaToya); his sisters, Jessie Tatum, Rada Grimes (Clifford), Ethel Dixon (Clem), Iola

Guerra, and Lee Rae Sherman; brothers Archible Sherman Jr. (Norma), Arvie Richard Sherman (Laura), Charles Sherman (Michelle), Willie Sherman (Teresa), and Donald Sherman; brother-in law, William Cowan (Shirley); thirteen grandchildren, ten great grandchildren, many nieces, nephews, relatives, Saints and friends. Robert's parents, Annie Lee, Archibald and Edith Sherman, one brother, Luther, (infant) sister, wife, Mildred Andrews Sherman preceded him in death.

A homegoing service was officiated by Bro. Hayward Cox on January 2, 2010. Interment followed at Bakersfield National Cemetery, Arvin, CA.

Yield Not To Discouragement

(Continued from page three.)

couragement, but held his faith in God. King Darius was made a believer in the God of Daniel and proclaimed it so to all the people.

When Paul and Silas were beaten and with bleeding backs thrown into the Philipian jail and their feet fastened in the stocks, did they become discouraged? No; but their hearts were perfect toward God, and they prayed and sang songs in that awful condition. God honored their faith in Him and sent an earthquake. They were loosened and freed, and the jailer and all his house believed and got saved. If they had become discouraged and down-hearted, there would have been no earthquake, and the jailer and his family would not have been saved.

With all the persecutions, revilings, beatings and being put to death on the cross, Jesus did not get discouraged, but when dying he still loved God and the souls of men, and said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Jesus is our example, and we should follow in His steps.

Jonah became discouraged at the thought of going to the great city of Nineveh and preaching to them the Gospel that God had given to him. He tried to run away from the Lord, but God knew just where he was. God chastised him by letting a big fish swallow him. He was in much affliction in the fish's belly, the waters compassed him about and the weeds of discouragement were wrapped around his head, and when his soul fainted within him he remembered the Lord. He came to himself and prayed unto the Lord, saying, "They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy." When you

listen to the lies of satan and become discouraged, you put yourself on the side of satan against God, and He cannot have mercy and help you out in that condition. God says, "...All things work together for good to them that love God." Romans 8:28. When you yield to discouragement, by that act you are saying that you do not believe God's Word, and you have listened to satan's lying vanities and put yourself out of the reach of God's mercy until you confess and repent from the heart. When Jonah confessed that he had yielded to lying vanities and repented, the fish got sick and God had it to throw Jonah out on to the dry land.

A discouraged, downhearted man is no witness for God in this world, but is witnessing for satan, and by his actions is saying that it is a hard way, who can travel with the Lord and be happy and contented? Since God has revealed to me the great wrong of being discouraged, I resist it as from satan; and as sin that would ruin my soul as other sins would

—Fred Pruitt

F&V, September 1955

FAITH AND VICTORY **Order Blank** VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY

\$5.00 PER YEAR (11 Issues)

Mail this form to start or renew your own subscription — give a friend a gift — or do both! It only takes a minute.

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____

Start or renew my Faith and Victory subscription.

Send a 1-year gift subscription to the person named below:

Gift to _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Mail Order Blank and remittance to:

Faith Publishing House
P. O. Box 518
Guthrie, OK 73044

3/10

FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY

A Soldier's Poem

*This poem was found on the body of a Russian soldier,
killed in battle during World War II...*

God hear me! Never in my life before
Have I spoken with You, but today
I want to greet You.
From childhood I was always told
That You do not exist...
And so stupidly, I believed it.

I never gazed at your creations, but tonight
As I looked out over a crater dug by a grenade
At the starry sky above me;
I understood, quite suddenly,
While marveling at the lights,
How cruel a lie can be.

God, will you stretch out Your hand to me?
I will tell You this and You'll understand—
Is it not marvelous that amid this fiery hell
I've suddenly seen the light of knowing You?
That's all I have to say.
I'm glad that I have come to know You.

At midnight we are set for an attack,
Yet I'm not scared
You're looking down upon us.

The signal! I must be off.
How wonderful to talk to You,
The battle will be fierce,
And so perhaps this very night
I will come knocking on Your door.
And though I have not been Your friend
before,
Will you please allow me to come in?

I am crying!
O dear God!
You see,
My eyes have opened to the light.
Farewell, and hardly will I return.
How strange—
But death now
Holds no fear for me, at all.

Faith Publishing House
P.O. Box 518
Guthrie, OK 73044