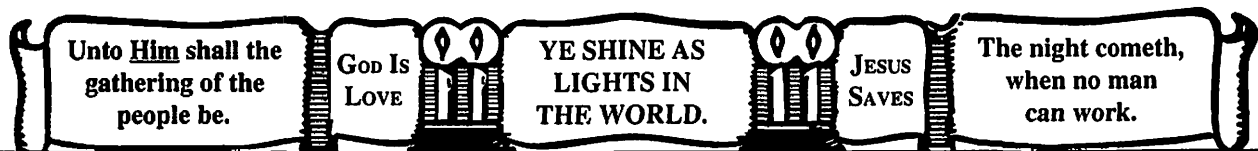


FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



Volume 88, No. 3 88th Year Guthrie, Oklahoma \$5.00 Per Year May, 2010

God's Plan for the Poor

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread." II Thessalonians 3:10-12.

God has always been concerned about the welfare of humans. Before He created Adam and Eve He provided an environment that would supply their needs. Then He made them with desires to be ingenious and productive, and gave them work to do. Sometimes we imagine that Adam and Eve had no responsibilities in the Garden of Eden. However, they did have duties, even before they were forced out into a world that grew thorns and thistles. Adams workload only increased because of sin. God

said, in the first chapter of Genesis, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing ...upon the earth." Adam was to replenish the earth, to subdue it (take control) and get authority over animals of all kinds. That must have been a tremendous job! God kept only one day a week for rest.

Even animals were created with instincts to prepare places to raise their young and with a desire to nurture and protect them. Usually the male and female animals work together to bring their young to a maturity where they can care for themselves. Humans, fashioned in the image of the Creator Himself and having a much higher level of intelligence than animals, should be able to do much more for themselves and their children, in relation to self-sufficiency.

Paul instructed the people in Thessalonica "If any would not work, neither should he eat." Also when giving instructions for taking care of the widows, Paul advised the younger women to marry, bear children, guide the house, lest they become a busybody wandering about from house to house speaking things they ought not. (I Timothy 5:11-14.) Paul knew they needed to be industrious. It is very evident in our society that idleness is detrimental to any human. Idle careless children grow up to be irresponsible parents. For the most part, these generate lethargic children. Those children pass the same traits on to their offspring. Christ told us to

Contents

God's Plan for the Poor	1
Whyenzia	3
Editorials	4
Prayer Requests	6
Meeting Reports and Notices	7
Letters from the Readers	8
Obituaries	10
Whyenzia (Continued)	10
Blessed Hope	12

redeem our time, to be productive. Ezekiel tells us "...the iniquity of...Sodom [was] pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness... neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy," (Ezekiel 16:49.) An old wise saying is "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." The Old Testament laws for taking care of the poor did not include free handouts. The unfortunate person had to work for his food.

God promised the Israelites that if they would carefully obey His commandments there would be no one poor among them. However, because they were a rebellious people, He had to establish laws to protect the poor. The laws for provisions for the poor stated that all fruit that ripened after the harvest was to be left for the poor to glean. The farmers were also to leave the corners of their fields for the poor to gather for themselves. Whatever fell to the ground; he must leave or if a sheaf was accidentally left in the field, he was not to go back and get it. When he shook the olives from the trees, whatever did not shake off was left for the poor to pick. (Deuteronomy 24:19-22. Leviticus 19:9-10.) In those years people lived off what the land produced. These laws allowed families who had lost their land to be able to gather food for themselves during the years between the Jubilees. "Jubilee" was in effect only every fifty years. (Leviticus 25.) This law protected a family from falling into poverty and being there forever. If a father sold his land, his children or grandchildren could get it back. Farming was the only dependable way of making a living so land was necessary to avoid starvation. There were certain laws for returning land and other properties. Only land, not houses in walled cities, were relinquished during the Jubilee.

Every seven years the farmers were not to till the earth. It was to rest. The land would naturally produce some crops from the seeds that had fallen the year before, or from the vines or fruit trees already growing. All that grew by itself was to be gathered by both the owner and the poor who had no fields.

When it came to lending money the law read, "If thou lend money to any of my people that is poor...thou shalt not be to him as a usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury (interest)." (Exodus 22:25.) However, "Unto a stranger thou mayest lend upon usury; but unto thy brother thou shalt not lend upon usury..." (Deuteronomy 23:20.) Notice God did not say to

give to the poor, but they were to lend to the poor. The poor were to pay back what they borrowed. If a lender asked for collateral he was not to keep a coat, or blanket overnight for that would cause the poor man to sleep cold. Then the poor man would cry unto the Lord and the Lord would not bless the lender who had kept the coat. (Deuteronomy 24:10-13) Sometimes a person would become a servant or slave to the one to which he was indebted. Sometimes a child would become a servant in place of his parent. There were laws that kept people from being in slavery generation after generation. Every seven years the owner of a slave was to let the slave go free. If the slave had served several years, then his owner was to give cattle or something as a token of appreciation for his service.

Ruth and Naomi were beneficiaries of these laws protecting the poor. When Naomi returned to Israel after being gone for many years, she still had her land, but no one to work the land for her. All they had to eat was what Ruth could glean from the fields of others. Ruth worked hard in the heat and the cold to gather their food. After Ruth brought the food home, it had to be processed into an eatable form. The little grains of wheat, barley or other grains had to be cleaned and ground before bread could be made. Usually animals tread out the kernels on a threshing floor, but if a person had no animal, threshing was done by hand, a long tedious job. The grains were then ground by rubbing one stone against another. From olives came oil for cooking, to burn for light and for anointing. The small fruit about as big as our thumb had to be picked, then crushed and filtered, then pressed and filtered through cloth, a long hard job to get the oil. Other fruit was picked then crushed for juice or dried and then stored. Although the landowners shared with the poor, both Ruth and Naomi, along with other poor souls, worked hard to maintain themselves. They did not live off free handouts.

Our nation does not have laws like those that God gave. Instead of gleaning in the hot sun or the frosty fall mornings, to supply for their families, many spend hours on a couch in front of the TV. The government supplies them a place to live, and a reasonable amount of food. Some who claim to be poor are not poor at all. They abuse the national welfare system, collecting benefits; receive low-income housing, and

food stamps while earning money, (who knows how), buying expensive cars and reveling in immorality. Others sit on park benches or sidewalks all day and go to missions to eat and sleep. When the missions are overflowing, they are homeless and sleep under bridges, etc and we pity them. Many should be pitied because they had no childhood training in Christian work ethic, which was such a part of America in bygone years. "Ingrained deep within the American spirit is the willingness and the desire to give an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. This independent spirit has no desire to simply exist on handouts from government or to depend on the generosity of others. It is this same independent spirit that has allowed America to create the greatest and strongest economy in the history of the world....The powers of the world look at our nation and ask where that spirit of honest labor came from and where this work ethic originated. It came from the men and women who lived before us. Those generations were raised to believe in ... honest work, which is found throughout the Word of God." (The American Patriot's Bible.)

People who have not learned or do not practice these principles of honest work, have no mooring in which to stabilize themselves, so following the whims of their human nature have fallen into this miserable condition. We pity those who have missed such a great heritage.

However, neither God nor the government is responsible for their food or shelter. Each person is responsible for himself. God has promised the working person food and shelter and He has kept this promise throughout all generations.

God's system of taking care of the less fortunate forces that person to work for their food and other needs while also giving them a chance to get out of their poverty. God offers the same chance to the poor of today. God will greatly bless them if they will carefully hearken unto the voice of the Lord and obey his commandments. (Deuteronomy 15:4-11.) A person must discipline himself and his family to work. Start right at home, grow a few vegetables, or make things to sell, clean houses or yards for your neighbors. There are opportunities for those who wish to obey God and work as Apostle Paul did. He said about himself, "Neither did we eat any man's bread for naught; but wrought with labor and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you." (II Thessalonians 3:8.)

God will bless those who will follow Paul's example. They will feel better and enjoy life more when they take responsibility for their needs. God created man to be industrious and productive. With God's blessings, soon the poor who were receiving help will be giving to others.

Whyenzia

By Sis. Rosie Gellenbeck

"The LORD our God is righteous...". Daniel 9:14. "There is none holy as the LORD:... I Samuel 2:2. Our pursuit of the Lord is on the path of righteousness. "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day" Proverbs 4:18. To find God it is necessary that we travel in a way that is directly opposite of sin, evil, self and darkness. The prince of this world will disguise himself in many ways to try to divert us from the way of righteousness. The thoughts he presents will be part light and part darkness, but in God there is no darkness at all. "In God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." I John 1:5. If we accept the thoughts presented by satan, our spiritual life will be destroyed, much like a disease that destroys the body.

The information disseminated by the news media made people fear the influenza called the

H1N1 virus. People were fearful of contracting this new flu. During the time of this "scare" a friend of mine sneezed in a crowded restaurant, and she said that the whole crowd turned and looked at her. If she would have sneezed a few more times there may have been a stampede of people getting out of the restaurant.

I have a greater concern for a spiritual disease spreading among God's children. I'm going to call it whyenzia. It is an illness that progresses very slowly many times. It starts with the germ of contempt. Contempt enters the thoughts because of some personal injury, dislike, or disgust. At a time when the person is weak, the disease takes over. The mind will be bombarded with "whys." Why have I believed this? Why have I been taught this way?

(Continued on page 10.)

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

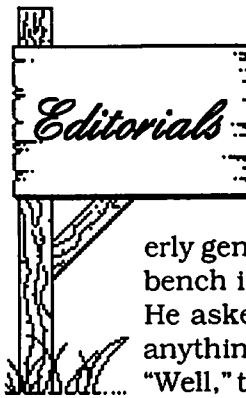
P. O. Box 518, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044

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.



There is a story told of a tourist who happened to stop and rest in a certain remote mountain village. Curious about the history of the small town the tourist walked over to an elderly gentleman who was sitting on a bench in front of the general store. He asked, "Friend, can you tell me anything this village is noted for?" "Well," the old timer responded while scratching his head, "Not that I rightly know of, 'cept that it is the starting point of the world." "Oh?" queried the traveler with a question sounding in his voice. "Yes," the old man continued, "You can start right here and go anywhere you want in the whole world."

This story illustrates an important concept that we should never lose sight of. Every other village, regardless of its size, also shares the noteworthy fact the elderly man stated. If we are a free person and we have a vision of a better place, then it becomes necessary that we start our journey from where we are right now. That means we must take the first step toward that sought for destination, otherwise we will never be any closer than we are today.

Often a journey of a greater magnitude requires some planning and preparation before it can be embarked upon. In this instance our resolve to make the trip and begin making the necessary preparations are important. However, sometimes people become stalled, for various reasons, in the planning stages and never take the first step. Unless the first step is taken, the second and succeeding steps can never be realized.

The first step toward a notable goal is often a giant step of faith. Let us notice in the Scriptures a few examples of men who made the first step to obey and follow the will of God.

"Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he." Genesis 6:22. The Lord told Noah of His plans to destroy the earth and gave him instructions to build a massive ark to save himself, his family and a representation of each of the animals that were upon the earth. This was a huge project and I cannot imagine beginning such a thing myself. However God gave him the commission, revealed to him the plans and Noah bravely started and completed the project. Many others saw what Noah was doing and when the time came for

them to go inside, the observers would not even take the first step to insure their safety. Today we respect Noah for his faith and determination to do God's will.

"So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came." Genesis 12:4-5. Abraham's example of faith has inspired many who have set their heart on the Lord and determined to follow Him. Abraham was willing to leave behind a society that had allowed him to accumulate a degree of earthly wealth to search for a spiritual city that was built on the foundation of God's Divine principles. Time after time he stepped forward to do God's will and He found God to be faithful each time. Our God is still faithful. When we answer to His beckoning call and step forward by faith, we will find the true giver of life is pleased to answer our call and respond to our needs also.

People displease the Lord when they are not willing to take the first step to do His will. Perhaps they are bound by affections and fleshly desires and will not follow the Lord even though He calls and calls. Lot's wife is a prime example. She was unwilling to follow the Lord's directions even after the angels took her by the hand and led her outside the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. "And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city. And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed." Genesis 19:16-17. We know the sad story of Lot's wife. After the hand of the angel released her, she turned back and was smitten of the Lord. It was not in her heart to leave the cities of destruction behind, and she lost her life also.

There is a story of a man who did not understand about the plan of salvation and he did not know what to think about the religious professors of his day. He really didn't believe

there was anything to religion. However, one day as he was musing about these things, He said to himself, "I do believe there is a God, and I do believe there is right and wrong." That day he determined to act on what he knew was right and to always abstain from what he knew was wrong. The Lord honored that man's decision and through the course of time He led him to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Serving the Lord is more than a religion, it is an experience that requires one to take a first important step to possess it. It cannot be obtained by simply having godly parents, nor by some childhood christening ceremony. It requires a conscious decision on the order of the man above, who consciously determined to do what he knew was right. Yes, it is a wonderful advantage to have the benefit of greater knowledge than this man had, but His starting place received the attention of God.

"And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word." I Kings 18:21. I fear many people today are in a similar condition that these worshippers of Baal were in when Elijah spoke to them on Mt. Carmel. They are not really interested in following the call of God and when He speaks to them He is greeted with a stony silence. How foolish they are to not accept His blessed invitation to inherit eternal life. God answered by fire that day and consumed the water soaked sacrifice when Elijah prayed. Then there were those who believed and Elijah commanded them to slay the prophets of Baal.

Our journey for the future must begin where we are today. The knowledge God has given us of right and wrong will judge us, and unless we step in the direction of the light of truth we will find ourselves in greater darkness and in peril of the judgment.

To commence a journey, one must understand that they are leaving another place behind. For a ship to leave port it is necessary for the rope tying it to the dock, be released. The enemy of man's soul is opposed to people following the call of God, and consequently he is doing everything he can to bind them to the city of destruction. These cords are generally connected to the ungodly passions and lusts of the flesh. It is through this avenue that man finds himself bound and unable to take the first step

even if he wanted to. Souls in this condition need to cry out to God for deliverance from the bondage of sin. God does not turn a deaf ear to those who earnestly desire Him.

The children of Israel were likewise in great bondage and God heard their cry for deliverance. Moses, a "goodly child," was spared from death when he was an infant by being placed in a basket and set in the reeds by the bank of the river. He was discovered and adopted by pharaoh's daughter, who came to wash at the river. However, this adoption did not keep the heart of Moses from going out to his own people. He estranged himself from his "royal family" when he slew a servant who was beating one of his own people. This act caused him to have to flee for his life. Years later when Moses was in the backside of the desert, far removed from Egypt, God appeared to him and spoke from the burning bush. After Moses' previous experiences, he was reluctant to go back to lead his people from Pharaoh's bondage. However, notice these words, "And Moses took his wife and his sons, and set them upon an ass, and he returned to the land of Egypt: and Moses took the rod of God in his hand." Exodus 4:20.

The rod of God will bring deliverance to those who have a desire to be free from the encumbrances that sin places upon the soul. While the rod of God can cause pain and affliction, it can also part the Red Sea and cause life giving water to flow from the rock in a dry land. When one takes their first step, let them also take the rod of God with them. The Rod is embodied in His Word and is manifest in the pronouncements of destruction awaiting the wicked and in the comforting promises of eternal life for the righteous. It is a source of power that will break every spell of evil and bring glorious freedom when it is properly applied.

All of the men and women of the Holy Scriptures, and others since that time, who have found a place of greatness in the Kingdom of God, were required to take the first step of their journey. It may have been as a child, like Samuel, or it may have been as a thief dying on a cross next to Jesus, but today when the call of the Lord comes, it is time to act. For some it may be the next step that God is calling you to and that is likewise important to take. Never refuse the precious call of God. —Bro. Willie E. Murphey
wemurphey@yahoo.com



CA—Dear Saints in the Lord: We give our Lord and Savior high praises for all He has done for you all, for us, and for the lost world around us. At this time, we would like to put in a special prayer request for all of our mothers and fathers in the Church who are experiencing age-related conditions in their bodies. While we understand that many of these conditions are expected as we age, we also concur with the Apostle John that we "prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." The Lord has indeed promised to be with us in "old age" and His promises are sure and everlasting, however, many of our seniors now face greatly diminished abilities in terms of sight and hearing. These limitations hinder daily skills in getting around the house and in performing basic, self-care functions.

I'd like to, in particular, bring forth a request for a sister (Sis. C.B. Nelson), who is isolated and lives alone in North Carolina. This sister has managed quite well up until the last two years or so. This sister turned 90 last year and is losing most of her sight. While she has help from caring family members, it has become increasingly difficult for her to see to read her mail or even the Bible. This has become vexing to her in many respects. A number of other precious older Saints are going through the same things: Sis. Elizabeth Corteway, Sis. Iula Stevens, Sis. Janice Herring, Sis. Shirley Knight, and others. So, let us be faithful in praying for these dear ones. Let us also pray that they will continue to have access to healthful diets that maintain the best state of health in older age.

With sincerest praises to our Lord and Savior,
—Sis. Ivy Lennon

PA—There are so many needs to be prayed about, and we, here in the Duncannon congregation, sure appreciate all the prayers for our needs.
—Sis. Barbara Campbell

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. Patsy Jordon
 Sis. Earnestine Jordon
 Sis. Karoline Kessler
 Bro. Mark and Sis. Darlene Knight
 Sis. Virginia Myers
 Sis. Elsie M. Offerman
 Sis. Melba Powell
 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 REPORTS

AL—We do really thank the Lord for all the encouragement we receive through His Word and from others, and for “the peace of God which passeth all understanding.”

Our singing and special services Easter weekend were such a blessing to our congregation. We are so thankful for all who came from far away and from the neighborhood. The Lord’s anointing and presence was so precious.

—Bro. Marshall and Sis. Melonie Whitson



“And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, *it is* nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou *art* our God; let not man prevail against thee.” II Chronicles 14:11.

MEETING DATES

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 (Summer 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
 Myrtle, MO (Camp Meeting)—July 30 - Aug. 3
 California State (Pacoima, CA)—Aug. 6-15
 Boley, OK (Camp Meeting)—August 13-15
 Spooner, WI (Tent Meeting)—August 18-22
 Wichita, KS (Fall Revival)—September 19-26
 Okmulgee, OK (Fall Revival)—October 15-17



MEETING NOTICES

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. Mary McDonald at (918) 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

GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMPMEETING

Lord willing, the General Southern Camp meeting at Loranger, Louisiana will begin Sunday, June 27, with morning and evening services daily through Sunday, July 4. If you can join us, come praying for a blessing.

There are separate dormitories available for the sisters and brothers. Electrical and water hook ups are available for those with campers. Meals are provided and expenses met by freewill offerings. From Loranger, go two miles south and about three and one-half miles east on Hwy. 40.

For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about 10 miles east of the Tickfaw exit. (At the exit, take Hwy. 442 which runs into Hwy. 40.)

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

CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The annual California State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will begin, Lord willing, on August 6, ending August 15, 2010. The first service will be on Friday evening, August 6 at 7:30 p.m. with three services daily throughout the remainder of the meeting.

The campground is located at 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, CA 91331. A hearty invitation is extended to all. Your presence and prayers will add much to the success of the meeting. Three meals are provided daily and accommodations for those needing them. Expenses are met by freewill offerings.

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.

BOLEY, OK, CAMP MEETING

The Boley, OK congregation is planning to have a mini camp meeting, August 13-15.

Service times will be Friday evening 7:00 p.m., Saturday 3:00 p.m., Dinner will be served. On Sunday, Sunday School will begin at 10:00 a.m., Morning service 11:00 a.m., no afternoon service. Dinner will be served. Notice that there will only be an evening service on Friday.

Please be in agreement of prayer with us for a very inspirational meeting. Let us not selfishly enjoy the truth—Come and bring a friend.

For further information contact Bro. Cleo Jordan (918) 814-4045.

SPOONER, WI, TENT MEETING

Lord willing, this meeting will begin Wednesday, August 18, at 7:00 p.m., with services daily at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. through Sunday, August 22.

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

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

WICHITA, KS, FALL REVIVAL

The Wichita congregation welcomes you to our Fall Revival. The meeting will run Sunday, September 19 through Sunday, September 26. Monday through Saturday, services will be held at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. On Sunday, services will begin with Sunday School at 9:30 followed by Morning Worship at 10:45 and afternoon and evening services.

Please join us and pray for the revival. For more information contact Bro. Emanuel Gracey at (316) 461-1267 or Bro. Theodore McCray at (316) 641-4170

**LETTERS FROM OUR READERS**

MO—Dear ones, Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings in Jesus name. The name above all names who is worthy to be praised. Bless His precious name!

I have so much to thank Him for. As most of you know on January 5, I suddenly was attacked with what seemed to be a heart attack and double pneumonia. I had difficulty breathing and went unconscious for about half an hour. My face and hands turned gray blue. I thought it was my time to go be with the Lord and my family thought so too.

Bro. Michael Smith was called and he prayed twice for me, and my family was also praying. The dear Lord came and gave me a healing touch and brought me back to consciousness. All praise is to our Heavenly Father. I was under hospice care for 90 days and they said I had improved so much they took me off. At first they only gave me one to two weeks to live.

My daughters and some granddaughters came to care for me, (taking turns). So after 90 days they decided for me to go to my daughter Carol's to stay awhile. Later, if I continue to improve, I hope to go back home. Praise the Lord! The Lord blessed me with my 90th birthday the 15th of April. He is so good to me and I'm so thankful.

I trust this finds you doing well and God blessing the work there. I think of the dear Saints and pray for them. Much Christian love,
—Sis. Natalie Allen

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings of Christian love. I trust all is going well with you as you abound in the work of the Lord. God assures us that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. (I Corinthians 15:58.) He mentions about us gathering fruit unto life eternal. (John 4:36.) Truly that is the most profitable way one can labor. (I Timothy 4:8-16.) He also says God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love. (Hebrews 6:10.) He gives us some more encouragement in Malachi 3:16-18, "Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not." When He comes to make up His jewels, I sure want to be in that number.

Your saved brother washed in His blood,

—T. V. McMillian



LaVerna Probst, 71 year old Joplin, Missouri resident, formerly of Bluejacket, OK died Sunday, May 9, 2010, in Seneca, MO at her daughter's home. She was born December 15, 1938 in Meno, OK to Albert D. and Margaret (Johnson) Eck. LaVerna graduated from Labette County High School in Altamont, KS. She was the owner operator of Probst Sales at Bluejacket (Four Corners) for 30 plus years, selling wood stoves, fireplace inserts, stove parts and plumbing supplies. LaVerna was a member of the Church of God; she attended the Church at Four Corners, until she moved to the Joplin area, and she then attended at the Webb City Church of God.

People have always played a vital part in LaVerna's life. She loved her children and adored her grandchildren. She was one of those grandmas that got down on the floor and played with them, or took them to the pond and taught them to fish, but most importantly she often counseled them to always love and serve God with a true heart. When she operated Probst Sales, her customers and surrounding neighbors were her life. Their stories and visits high-lighted those hard working days. She often worried about what her customers would do when she sold the business. Upon retiring and moving to Joplin to be closer to her daughter's families, her new neighbors and their children, along with the children in the Webb City congregation, added a third dimension to her life. She also found more time to strengthen the bonds with her close friends and looked forward to their frequent calls and e-mails. Thank you for expressions of love to her, while she was living.

The family includes: her daughters, Anita Adams and husband, Dan, of Carthage, MO,

Vonda Cole and husband, Cliff, of Seneca, MO; foster daughter, Janet Bradley; a sister, DeLoris Bradley and husband, Randal, of Bartlett, KS; sister-in-law, Marilyn Eck of Bartlett, KS; special friends, Sis. Gertrude Lounds of Kansas City, KS, Sis. Trudy Stapleton of CA, Sis. Karen Dickson of Guthrie, OK, Sis. Frances Perkins of Sand Springs, OK, Sis. Esther Hightower of Neosho, MO; grandchildren, Ranelle Cole, Trenton Adams and wife Irene, Alyssa Cole, Darren Adams, Rodney Adams, Marleah Cole, Andrew Adams; two foreign exchange students who were included as her grandchildren, Pintip Teeratanabordee of Thailand and Julia An of South Korea.

Preceding her in death were her parents, a granddaughter, Darla Adams, brother, Donald Eck, and sister, LaVera Ruth Eck.

Memorial services were held Wednesday, May 12, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. at the Four Corners Church of God, 4 miles west of Bluejacket. Officiating ministers were, Bro. Dan Adams, Bro. Cliff Cole, Bro. Ivan Eck and Sis. Maxine Busbee. Interment followed at the Lake Creek Cemetery at Bartlett, KS.

Note of Thanks

We offer our heartfelt thanks to the Saints for the outpouring of love and kindness shown to us during the time of LaVerna's illness and passing. The prayers, cards, flowers, phone calls, and expressions of sympathy only bind our hearts closer to you and to God. Thank you, and may God bless you for your love and continued prayers.

—The family of LaVerna Probst

Whyenzia

(Continued from page 3.)

Discontentment and restlessness sets in. When the infected persons go to read the Bible, they read to try to answer the superficial questions that come into their mind, and their soul is not fed. Worship time becomes a time to seek answers for these questions instead of a time of feeding the soul. When God's Word is preached, instead of eating they pick at spiritual food and go away hungry. The spiritual body becomes weak. The infected person is actually starving to death.

In this weakened condition the family of God seems to be a burden instead of a blessing. The

victim will find himself pulling away to be alone. The only relief he gets is when he finds others that are also suffering from whyenzia. They talk about their "whys". "Why have we been taught this? Why do we do this, this way? Why, there is nothing wrong with this!" As they talk round and round, they are so uplifted by their kindred spirit, their emotions rise, but the spirit inside is still starving to death.

Some that suffer from whyenzia begin to lose their vision. Even the Christian's vision can be marred by the gods of this world. As it says in Corinthians 4:4 "...The gods of this world have blinded the minds..." When our mind is blinded it is no time to reason with the devil, or our own personal reasoning or what we think does not amount to a "hill of beans." What matters is what God's Word says. We are not our own judge. He is the judge. We are to be "doers of the word." Our vision should be to follow God and His Word

I speak from experience. I once contracted the disease whyenzia. I was tired and weak spiritually. I had lost my joy. It started with some contempt that I had let brew in my heart for years. I felt relief when I talked to others about my suffering. We jawed away and discussed what's wrong with this and that. And went round and round in circles and came up with nothing. One day as I looked at myself in the mirror I said. "I'm tired of worrying about all this stuff. I'm going to just forget all the so called 'saint's standards.'" In my desperation, the Lord spoke to me so plainly. "I never asked you to figure out what was wrong with everything. I only ask you to find out what is right, and that is what you should follow." I accepted what the Lord said and I have been finding what is right and pursuing it ever since. Praise the Lord, my joy has returned. God is so righteous, and He is so good. It will take a lifetime to discover all His goodness. His ways are past finding out.

If you are suffering from whyenzia, beware, for this is a deadly spiritual disease. It is a spirit that the devil is using to hinder many Christians. I have seen its affect on others and some of my Christian friends. There is a time of questioning that is normal in our Christian pursuit, but God will help us to stay grounded on the solid rock. If our questioning has continued, with no spiritual growth and we see that we are drifting from what God had revealed to us—

for "The path of the just...shineth more and more into the perfect day" Proverbs 4:18—If we are leaving a love for righteousness, then we need to run for our lives. The devil wants to talk us out of everything that is righteous. We are in the age when tolerance is portrayed as the right thing to do. I read an article of a Christian man arguing that abortion was right. We serve a God whose commandments do not change.

I would encourage everyone to take the advice given in Psalms 37:27-40 "Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore. For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; ..." Ecclesiastes 12:13, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter; Fear God and keep his commandments: For this is the whole duty of man." I Timothy 6:11, "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness." Colossians 2:8, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

FAITH AND **Order Blank** 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

5/10

FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY

Blessed Hope

By Sis. Melonie Whitson

"Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God:" Psalm 146:5.

"The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish." Proverbs 10:28.

The word **hope** means trust or reliance, desire accompanied by expectation of or belief in fulfillment, someone or something on which hopes are centered. Opposite of hope is **despair**, which is utter loss of hope or confidence. In so many lives, we see despair which plays itself out in suicide, depression, dependence on drugs or alcohol, atheism and self-destructing behaviors. The Bible speaks of those who are "strangers from the covenant of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world." I think those in despair want to hear a message of hope. Satan only preaches despair because he has nothing else to offer. The message of hope is centered in "our Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope," "Christ in you, the hope of glory." I think the Lord has been challenging me

to make sure my hope is "an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast," and is a "lively" or living hope, and that I "continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the Gospel." The Lord wants our lives to reflect this deep, abiding "hope which is laid up for you in heaven." He left us instructions to "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you." That answer is **Jesus**, his death, resurrection, and salvation, the good news of the Gospel message! I John 3:3 tells us that "every man that hath this hope in him purifies himself, even as he is pure." May all of us possess "a hope that looks away from present woes and tears," a hope that we can share with others.

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