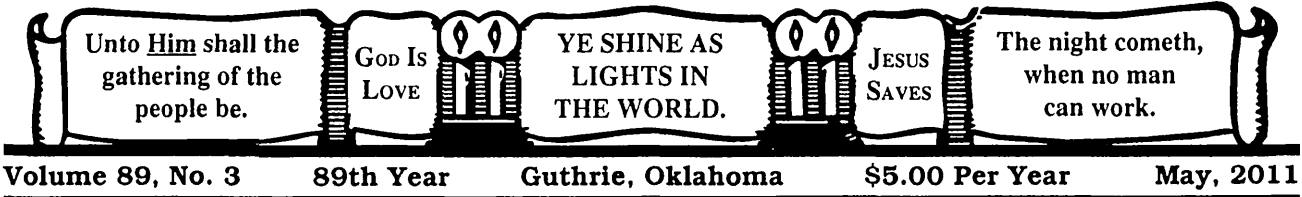


FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



The Subtraction Process

By J. W. Byers

The baptism with the Holy Ghost and fire, the entering into the heavenly inheritance of Canaan and the possession of the land, and all the blessings that follow are unmistakably a process of addition to the already blessed experience of the justified soul. This addition is scripturally termed "sanctification." No mortal language can ever express how much of an addition it is; but there must necessarily precede this marvelous grace a definite and absolute subtraction, a loss of all things for the excellency of Christ, a complete self-abnegation,...Until this absolute loss of all things has been truly experienced, there cannot be obtained the gain of this additional experience. We cannot lay hold of the promised inheritance until we completely let go of everything else that has been called our own.

There is, within our spiritual, moral and physical nature a depravity, "our old man," which must be extracted before we can possess the purity of heart so plainly taught in the Word

of God. This depravity is so deeply imbedded in, and interwoven into our affections and nature, that, like a closely fitting garment, it seems a part of us; and were it not for the plain teachings of the Word of God, and the power of the all-cleansing blood of Christ which can reach the inmost center of our nature, purging out all unnatural tendencies and unholy tempers, the justified believer might conclude that this in-born depravity must be permitted to exist and remain with us all through life. But thank God! there is a remedy in this great redemption plan. The heart can be purified and become a holy temple for the indwelling of the Holy Ghost. This depends upon the plainly specified conditions taught in the Word of God. He will prepare the temple for His abode if we but furnish Him an absolute consecration of the temple. This is our part in this preparatory stage of the work of sanctification. In order that He may purify our nature, we must yield up to Him everything that is to be purified. This process involves the loss of all things; for when the heart is thus yielded, everything that it clings to is also yielded, and then, and only then, can the blood of Christ be applied for a perfect cleansing. This is where the subtraction work is effected, where every vestige of depravity is removed from the heart; because it has for this purpose yielded to Jesus. The following scripture sets forth this experience.

"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be de-

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stroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." Romans 6:6. It cannot be improved upon nor cultivated. It is sinful in nature, and must be dealt with according to the redemption law of crucifixion. It is condemned and must die. It is utterly worthless to God, and harmful to man; therefore, it must die. It clings to life with remarkable tenacity, and it is not within the power of man alone to put it to death. It has so entwined itself into our affections that they and each of their objects must be absolutely yielded up to death, even the most sacred treasures of the heart; so that the true work of purity may be perfectly wrought within us. To simply yield up our old man for his destruction would be but a pleasant sacrifice; for every justified believer who has obtained the knowledge of this enemy within becomes anxious for his destruction. It is not the yielding up of our old man, therefore, that seems such a loss to us; but when we see that our whole being, spirit, soul and body, with every affection and its object, must be yielded up and truly laid upon the altar, we realize the subtraction process of sanctification—the loss of all things. Our old man cannot be crucified until everything is thus first yielded up. As long as any one object of our affection is withheld, the consecration is incomplete and the affections can not be purified from this depravity; hence the necessity of an absolute yielding up of everything, to obtain the excellency of this heavenly grace. In this condition we can assuredly experience the meaning of the words: "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed." Thank God! this is a present-tense experience for every one who is willing to be con-formed to the perfect will of God. In this condition, Jesus can have the perfect right of way within, and work in us that which is well-pleasing in His sight.

Some one might wonder if we are never permitted in this truly consecrated condition to set our affections upon anything in this world or if we can possess anything as our own, if all must be yielded up and laid upon the altar. If our affections and every object of the same are yielded to Jesus, then we certainly cannot have them placed upon anything else. This is one of the grand provisions of His grace. Jesus now gets between us and every object of our affections. He not only has our affections, but He has the objects of our affections. In the conscious-

ness of this loss to us we also become conscious of the loss of our old, depraved nature, and the gain of a glorious, heavenly purity which we before did not possess. But above all things, we become conscious of the fact that Jesus has become enthroned within our hearts, and now has full control of our entire being. In Him we possess all things. He gives us back, with Himself, everything that is good for us: father, mother, brother, sister and every God-given blessing that we had yielded up to Him. But they do not seem to us now like they did before. There is something between us and them. What is it? It is Jesus! This makes every blessing so much more precious to us now. A sacredness exists between us and our loved ones which we never realized before. They now get our love only as they get it through Jesus, for He is between us and them. Praise God for this precious experience! We gave everything, our all, for Him. He purified our hearts and now gives everything, His all, to us. Without the subtraction of our all, first, we cannot obtain the addition, His all. Thus, after all, we lose nothing but the depravity of our nature, which loss, of course, involves the loss of all things for the time being, but means the gain of all things in the fullness of Christ.

The apostle Paul expresses this crucifixion in his testimony in Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." There was something of the apostle that was crucified. It was the same as he speaks of in Romans 6:6, "our old man." That depraved, carnal self, the proud, haughty Pharisee, the great Saul of Tarsus who considered himself of such importance among men. This was the I that was crucified; but there was an I who still lived. This was the humble, sanctified Paul, the servant of Jesus Christ, who now considered himself less than the least of all Saints, and not worthy to be called an apostle. What a contrast between the two I's, The one, the big I; the other, the little I. They are exactly of opposite natures. The one was Paul's "old man," the other his humble individual self. Jesus and the big I cannot rule together in the same heart.

How many there are today who have not reached the death experience. They have had their sins forgiven and realize that they are the

children of God; but they cannot say that they are crucified with Christ, in the sense of the actual death of their old man. How many there are who are conscious of this inward foe, and yet are taught that it can never become dislodged from their nature and crucified. Praise God! He has provided a remedy in the blood of Christ. By faith in this blood the consecrated believer can receive the cleansing. The depraved nature is crucified, and Christ now takes supreme control of the holy temple.

The language of the apostle in Galatians 6:14 also expresses the same experience: "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." The blood of the cross has destroyed that inward nature which was the point of contact with the world. As long as this exists within, the world has a strong claim upon us, which, so long as it exists within us, will assert its nature, and, if permitted, will communicate with the world, and cause defeat in our Christian life, so that we cannot conscientiously say we are dead to the world: for there is something within us yet that is actually alive in this respect. This is the point of inward contact with the world, which, when brought into crucifixion, changes our inward condition and enables us to truly say with the apostle, that the world is crucified unto us and we unto the world, by the blood of the cross of Christ, and the life we now live in this mortal body, which is the temple of the Holy Ghost, we live by the faith of the Son of God, Who has all power to keep us in the Divine law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, which makes and keeps us free from the law of sin and death.

In Matthew 15:13 we have this same doctrine of cleansing expressed in the words of Jesus: "Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." While it is true that Jesus was speaking of the doctrines of the Pharisees in this instance, we can see beyond the simple doctrines and traditions of men, which are but the outgrowth of this root of depravity which our heavenly Father never planted in the nature of man. The depraved heart is the fertile soil which spontaneously grows all these evil things which Jesus mentions in this parable. The root is there, and so long as it remains, there cannot be a satisfactory Christian life. But the heavenly decree

has been uttered by the Redeemer Himself, that this plant shall be rooted up, which rooting up can be testified to by thousands of blood-washed Saints today. Many plain scriptures teach us that this experience of heart purity was a recognized fact in the apostolic days. Jesus taught that it was attainable and told of its blessings when in Matthew 5:8 he speaks of the pure in heart. John writes: "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." Paul says that "the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart" (I Timothy 1:5), and in the same letter he writes: "Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience."—Chap. 3:9. Also in Chap. 4:12, he writes: "Let no man despise thy youth: but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." In Chap. 5:22, he says, "Keep thyself pure." In II Timothy 2:22 we are taught that many of the Saints had this experience of cleansing: "Flee also youthful lusts; but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

The prophet Malachi saw the glorious fullness of this Gospel salvation as he beheld and spake by the Spirit: "And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness." Malachi 3:3.

All these plain texts set forth the doctrines of cleansing beyond question. Then when Peter takes the witness stand (Acts 15:9) and testifies that he and all the one hundred twenty at Pentecost, and afterward the household of Cornelius, received the cleansing at the time of the outpouring upon them of the Holy Spirit, we must acknowledge that God certainly is no respecter of persons, and has the same measure of grace for His people in this evening time of the Gospel day. Praise His holy name! Let us magnify and exalt the power of the all-cleansing blood, for it can reach beyond the inmost depths of our fallen nature and wash us whiter than snow. "For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

FAITH AND VICTORY 12 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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

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

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

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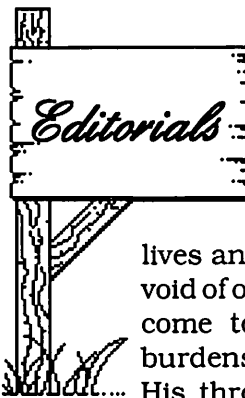
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As Christians we enjoy many blessings in our walk with God. We rejoice in the fellowship we treasure with Him and with our brethren in the Lord. We speak and teach about living pure

lives and having a clear conscience void of offence toward God. We freely come to Him in prayer with our burdens and our prayers ascend to

His throne for those who are sick and afflicted as well as those who are bound by the chains of sin and addictions. We sing and praise Him for His mercy and forgiveness and rejoice in the hope we have of some day living with Him in a glorious eternal home in Heaven. All of these blessings are ours today because of the precious blood of Jesus Christ that was shed to atone for the sins of mankind. A proper understanding of the merits of His precious blood is essential to having these blessings become a reality in our life. The value of the blood of Christ to the soul of mankind is the ultimate cardinal doctrine of the Church of God. Let us look at some scriptures to help us understand the value of this precious treasure.

Remission. Hebrews 9:22 says, "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission." How deplorable would be man's condition if there were no remission for sins. We occasionally hear references in our legal system about "three strikes and you are out." Meaning, if a person has three felony convictions they are required to serve extended prison time. However, if there were no remission for sins with God, when a person committed one sin they would be forever lost. That is how serious God considers sin. What about all of the animals that were sacrificed under the law? Did they take away people's sins? Notice what is written, "But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins." Hebrews 10:3-4. No, they were a symbol of the perfect sacrifice that would one day be made and accepted of God. The prophet Zechariah foretold of that perfect sacrifice when he wrote, "In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness." Zechariah 13:1. That prophecy

was fulfilled by the blessed Savior when He shed His own blood for the sins of the world. Notice what Jesus said to the people, "Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you." John 6:53. Unless we partake of the blood of Jesus and find remission for our sins then we are doomed for eternal destruction. When Jesus observed the passover supper with His disciples, "... He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Matthew 26:27-28.

Hebrews 10:18 goes on to say, "Now where remission of these *is, (sins and iniquities) there is no more offering for sin.*" Our good works, before or after we obtain remission of sin by Christ's blood, will not save us, for there is no other offering that will suffice to save us. While good works do follow remission, it is only the blood of Jesus that will effect this wonderful blessing. May we never become confused on this important point for there have been many souls who struggled and struggled to be good enough to be saved and could never reach the level of perfection that was necessary to effect this marvelous work. Have faith that the blood of Jesus is sufficient for your salvation, then love Him, praise Him and serve Him for His great sacrifice for your soul.

Redemption. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;" Ephesians 1:7. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even the forgiveness of sins:*" Colossians 1:14. "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." I Corinthians 6:20. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" I Peter 1:18-19. Oh, what a tremendous price Jesus paid for the souls of mankind. If we correctly understand the crown of thorns that was placed on His sacred head, there was likely blood trickling across His brow. Blood was running down His lacerated back, from the nails in His hands and His feet, and from the gash of the spear that was plunged into His side. All of His blood was streaming from

Heaven to earth to buy the souls of lost sinners. What an awful price to pay, but He willingly paid it because His blood was the only pure sacrifice that would be accepted for the price of sin, and He loved us and willingly subjected Himself to the Father's will.

Cleansing. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." I John 1:7. "And from Jesus Christ, *who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,*" Revelation 1:5.

Justification. "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." Romans 5:9. "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth *to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*" Romans 3:24-25.

Clear Conscience. "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" Hebrews 9:14. Great condemnation falls on the heart of the soul that sins and the resulting load of guilt can be so heavy that people live in misery. God can completely remove that load by His blood. When one has had their sins forgiven, God also restores them to a clear conscience. Often this is what gives a newborn Christian such a joyful, free feeling. The work of remission, redemption, cleansing and justification are works of faith which create a change in the heart, however the clear conscience is keenly felt and often triggers the emotional responses to those works being accomplished in the heart.

Peace. "And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.*" Colossians 1:20. Isaiah foretold the coming "Prince of Peace" and the angels announced it at Jesus birth. Through His blood, Jesus fulfilled the proclamations of peace between God and man. Jesus' sacrifice was pleasing and acceptable to God and it was a life saving event for mankind.

Sanctification. "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate." Hebrews 13:12.

Victory. "And they overcame him (satan) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." Revelation 12:11. "...The blood will work a perfect cure, Will cleanse the heart and keep it pure...." The blood of Jesus will completely transform the heart of man if only by faith they will allow it to work a perfect cure. Those who rejoice in Heaven today around the throne of God are still singing the merits of its wonder working power.

Divine Healing. "But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:5. "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." I Peter 2:24.

Eternal Glory. "...These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Revelation 7:14-17.

When Jesus was hanging on the cross and uttered the words, "It is finished," He truly had completed a marvelous plan of salvation. God accepted the sacrifice of His only begotten Son and He attested to that acceptance by raising Jesus from the dead. Jesus showed Himself to many believers who had personal, physical contact with their resurrected Savior, and we today can believe their report and know that it is true. Faith in the merits of the blood of Jesus is the real solution for defiled mankind. It has power to save to the uttermost those who come to God's precious Son and to preserve them unto His heavenly kingdom. "Come to this fountain so rich and sweet; Cast thy poor soul at the Saviour's feet; Plunge in today, and be made complete; Glory to His name!"

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



OK—Please pray for me, I am having problems with my colon and I have pain in my left shoulder and neck. Also please pray for my son, John Cole, Jr. He needs deliverance from a tobacco habit and is suffering from a state of depression. He also has problems with his feet and back.
—Bonnie Lou Cole

TN—Please pray for Bro. David Runion, he is suffering from depression and accusations of the enemy.

Standing Prayer Requests

Sis. Agnes Burleson
Bro. Gary Burleson
Sis. Gladys Cashio
Sis. Helen Carson
Sis. Genevieve Carver
Sis. Elizabeth Corteway
Sis. Waneta Creel
Bro. Terry Dawson Sr.
Bro. Mancil Doolittle
Sis. Guy Domin
Sis. Dorall Forbes
Bro. Dan Gellenbeck
Bro. Troy Gentry
Jaden Howard
Sis. Patsy Jordan
Sis. Earnestine Jordan
Sis. Karoline Kessler
Bro. Mark and Sis. Darlene Knight
Sis. Evodna Marler
Sis. Virginia Myers
Sis. Elsie M. Offerman
Bro. Vernon Robinson
Bro. David Runion
Sis. Cheryl Smith
Bro. Michael Smith
Bro. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor
Sis. Imogene Taylor
The Mitch Taylor family
Sis. Norma Tiller
Bro. Delnar Wilkins
Bro. Curtis Williams
Sis. Jan Wood

MEETING DATES

Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—May 27-June 5
Holly Hill, SC (Camp Meeting)—June 5-12
Green Bank, WV (Camp Meeting)—June 10-16
Tulsa, OK (Revival)—June 16-19
Jefferson, OR (Camp Meeting)—June 18-26
Sisters' Retreat (Guthrie, OK,)—June 24-25
Fresno, CA (Camp Meeting)—June 26-July 3
General Southern (Loranger, LA)—
 June 26-July 3
Sisters' Retreat (Bakersfield, CA)—July 8-9
National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 15-24
Myrtle, MO (Camp Meeting)—July 29-Aug. 2
Pacoima, CA (Camp Meeting)—August 19-28
Boley, OK (Camp Meeting)—Aug 20-21

MEETING NOTICES

OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING

The annual Oklahoma State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held May 27-June 5, at the campground in Guthrie, OK. The first service will be on Friday evening, May 27, 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 the pastor, Bro. Phillip Gellenbeck (405) 282-2999

HOLLY HILL, SC, CAMP MEETING

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all to attend the Holly Hill, SC Camp Meeting which will be held from Sunday, June 5- Sun-

day, June 12, 2011. On Sunday, June 5, there will be two services, at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. On Monday, June 6 through Saturday, June 11, 2011, there will be early morning prayer service at 8:00 a.m. each day followed by services at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. On Sunday, June 12, there will be one service at 10:00 a.m. Meals will be served, and there is a limited amount of accommodations available on the grounds on a first-come, first-served basis.

There are several motels located in Santee, which is about 10 miles from the chapel. If you would like to stay on the grounds or if you wish to obtain more information on local motels, please call Sis. Beverly Pratt at (803) 496-3057 or Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Smith at (803) 492-7975. If you cannot attend our meeting, please be in prayer for us that God will meet with us and pour out His Spirit on each service.

In Jesus' Love,

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

GREEN BANK, WV, CAMP MEETING

The Green Bank, West Virginia Camp Meeting will begin Friday evening, June 10, 2011, with morning and evening services through Thursday, June 16. The camp meeting will be held at the Church of God Chapel located on Rts. 28/92 in Green Bank. Meals will be provided. Accommodations will be provided in our homes.

For more information contact Bro. Keith Beverage at (304) 456-4410 or Bro. Mike Carpenter at (304) 456-3250. Everyone is welcome.

TULSA, OK, REVIVAL

The Church of God, Tulsa congregation is planning a Summer Revival on June 16-19. Evening services will be held nightly Thursday-Saturday at 7:00 p.m. Sunday services will include Sunday school at 9:45, Morning Service at 11:00, dinner, and Afternoon Service at approximately 2:00.

Bro. Jerry Melot (Missouri) and Sis. Mary McDonald (Wichita) will be ministering at this meeting. We solicit your prayers and extend a warm welcome to all. For further information, you may contact Bro. Charles Lowe (918) 584-6838 or Bro. Charles Rhodes (918) 272-9682.

JEFFERSON, OR, CAMP MEETING

Lord willing, the Jefferson, OR Camp Meeting will be held the third week of June. The

meeting will start Saturday night, June 18th, and run through Sunday morning, June 26th. with morning and night services during the week and an afternoon service on the last Saturday. We do have RV hookups and other sleeping accommodations.

For more information you can contact Bro. Cliff Smith at (503) 581-4575. We do thank each of you who has supported the Camp Meeting either in presence or prayer. Please, remember us in prayer.

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SISTERS' RETREAT 2011

The Sisters' Retreat 2011 will convene, Lord willing, June 24-25 at the Church of God chapel at Guthrie, Oklahoma. There will be two days of sessions starting at 9:00 a.m. All meals are provided. The theme for this year is: Part I, "Her Name Is?" Part II will be, "Lord, Prepare Me To Be A Sanctuary."

The retreat will be supported by freewill offering sent to this address: King's Daughter, P.O. Box 21488, Wichita, KS 67208. Make check payable to Church of God—King's Daughter.

Accommodations will be provided on the campground. For further information please contact Sis. Mary McDonald, cell (918) 752-4205. For directions and accommodations contact Sis. Dena Porter (405) 227-0937.

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FRESNO, CA, CAMP MEETING

The Saints at Fresno extend a cordial invitation for all to attend our Camp Meeting that will be held, Lord willing, June 26 - July 3, 2011.

6/26—Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Worship Services, 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

6/27 - 7/2—Mon. - Sat. Worship Services 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

7/3—Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Worship Services 10:30 a.m., & 2:00 p.m.

For more information you may contact: Sis. Gwendolyn Robinson at (559) 233-6492. Sis. Dorothy Gray at (559) 229-6395. Bro. Brian and Sis. Sheri Rich at (559) 246-0604.

Please continue to pray that the Lord will bless in these meetings. —Sis. Stephanie Pree

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GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMP MEETING

Lord willing, the General Southern Camp Meeting at Loranger, Louisiana will begin Sunday, June 26, with morning and evening ser-

vices daily through Sunday, July 3. If you can join us, come praying for a blessing.

There are separate dormitories available for the brothers and sisters. 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.

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**NATIONAL CAMP MEETING
 MONARK SPRINGS, MO**

The National Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO, July 15-24. All are cordially invited to come and bring others to enjoy the blessings we are expecting from the Lord.

The Monark Springs campground is located approximately five miles east of Neosho, MO. It is one mile east and 3/4 mile south of the intersection of Highways 86 and 59.

If you travel to Neosho by bus, you may telephone the campground, (417) 472-6427, or Bro. Mike Hightower, (417) 451-3636, for transportation.

The camp meeting is conducted on a freewill offering basis. There is no charge for meals or lodging on the campgrounds. You are welcome to come and enjoy the meeting. We are confident God will supply every need. Meals will be served in the dining hall. Dormitory space and trailer spots are available on a first-come basis. Family units are also available.

For lodging contact Bro. Randel and Sis. DeLoris Bradley (620) 226-3390 or e-mail rdbradley@ckt.net.

The business managers are Bro. Mike Hightower, 13974 Newt Dr., Neosho, MO 64850. Phone, (417) 451-3636, and Bro. Paul Cole (417) 455-2378.

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PACOIMA, CA, CAMP MEETING NOTICE

The annual California State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will begin, Lord willing, on August 19, ending August 28, 2011. The first

service will be on Friday evening, August 19 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 as well as 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 church of God congregation is planning to hold a two day meeting August 20-21.

Due to deaths, marriages and relocations, our numbers have dwindled to a dedicated few. We would love to encourage all who can to come and support the faithful congregation here in Boley, OK. Your presence would be appreciated.

Services are planned for Saturday, August 20, at 4:00 p.m. No night service—snacks will be served. Sunday, August 21, Sunday School will begin at 10:00 a.m. followed by Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m. Dinner will be served. No evening service is planned.

Please be in an agreement of prayer with us for a very inspirational meeting. Come, bring a friend. Expect a blessing and receive a blessing from the Lord as we expound on the Word of God.

For further information you may contact Bro. Cleo Jordan (918) 814-4045 or Bro. Larry Brown (405) 329-1010.

The Friend

*Do you need a friend that is faithful and true?
One that will help you all your life through?*

*There is One I can recommend.
Jesus will help you all the way to the end.*

*In all of your weaknesses, He is made strong.
With His Spirit guiding, no one can go wrong.*

*The way of true happiness is trusting in Him.
He is the Light when life's pathway grows dim.*

*So give Him all of your burdens today.
Just trust Him and He will show you the way.*

—*Sis. Lana Johnson*



Thomas Vada McMillian—On May 17, 1923, in Fayette, Alabama, a frail baby boy was born in the farm home of Robert and Cora (Mixon) McMillian. He was given the name of Thomas Vada McMillian, and was the youngest of 11 children. He was only eight years old when his father died, at which time his mother “broke up housekeeping;” gave up the farm, and moved to town. With this life-altering event, Bro. Vada was shifted from sibling to sibling. But, it was his oldest sister, Leora, who became a mother figure in his life. This sister expressed she could not have loved him more had he been her own son, which always made Bro. Vada smile, even when he told it in later years. His love for his siblings, and their love for him, kept heart ties strong, with frequent trips to Alabama down through the years.

Life was very difficult for the family for it was during the Depression years. At the young age of 12, Bro. Vada went to work at the sawmill, limiting his education to the equivalency of the 6th grade. Several years later, he went to work at a CC Camp in Oregon, a relief program for unmarried and unemployed men, for a salary of \$30 a month of which all but \$5 was sent home to help support the family. Here, he was the camp cook, but Bro. Vada also worked planting trees and flowers as well as doing other landscaping. It was no doubt through this experience he developed a gift and love for gardening. Later he was employed as the city gardener with the City of Neosho, Missouri, which was a community known as the “Flowerbox City.” Other places of employment were with Cudahy Cheese, Missouri Farmers Association, and as a custodian for Granby Public Schools.

Bro. Vada’s mother was a godly woman and

an avid Bible student, always searching and seeking for Truth. As Providence would have it, she found a "Faith and Victory" paper, and thus she took her stand with the Church of God. Consequently, Bro. Vada went to Guthrie, Oklahoma, and worked at the print shop three different times, laboring as unto the Lord. During those times he would share a room with Bro. Clifford Wilson. Bro. Clifford cleaned the Guthrie chapel each week for 50 cents to add to the allowance received at the print shop. After Bro. Vada came, they both shared in the work and shared the pay as well, each getting only 25 cents.

It was during this period several workers from the "Faith and Victory" made a trip to Langdon, Missouri, for a camp meeting. Little did Bro. Vada realize that God was preparing another phase of his life through this trip! Here, he was to meet the love of his life, Carrie Wyatt, who was one of the ministers at the Langdon meeting. That was in August, 1943, and not long after he proposed to her in a letter. She accepted, and they were married, February 6, 1944, at the Freeman Road Church of God chapel in Neosho, Missouri. It was in this community they made their home for a major part of their lives. Their daughter, Carol was the first addition to the McMillian family, with their son, Tom arriving about a year later. The family was complete with the birth of Jim about three and a half years later in the old home place.

The McMillian home was a place filled with music, and when Sis. Carrie's father came to live with them, his musical talents accompanied the talents of the children as well. Many pleasant memories were recorded during those years Bro. Wyatt was a part of the family, and Bro. Vada counted it a privilege to care for his father-in-law until his passing. Bro. Vada also had much of the care of the family because of the poor health of his dear wife. Oftentimes, he would be awakened in the night to pray for her or for a sick child. Yet, he would be up early to go to his job and support his family. When evening came, he often would prepare the meal and do the necessary housework before retiring for the night. This was done without complaint, but with joy for the love he had for his wife and children.

Though some might say Bro. Vada was just an "average" man, to many others he was a towering giant of a man, magnificent in character, with a depth of compassion for humanity.

Often his profound understandings of life and the human condition seemed to exceed his expected capability. His calling to the ministry was defined by his absolute integrity and humility as a result of praying through all life's battles. It was with the respect and confidence of fellow ministers that Bro. Vada was ordained on July 27, 1958, at the Monark Camp Meeting. His ministry reached to many congregations across the United States with messages of hope and love, overshadowed with a divine love for the Truth.

Bro. Vada and Sis. Carrie worked side by side in the work of God for the Neosho Church of God congregation for a number of years, ministering to the needs of the Saints, along with Bro. Austin McMillian and Bro. Bob Huskey. They were both faithful to their callings, and their ministries always complemented each other. But, much could be said of a simple, under-educated man, who through the wisdom from above, contributed to the stability of the congregation for more than 40 years.

In 1986, Bro. Vada, along with several others, was involved in a tragic accident which killed two in the group. It took the "jaws of life" to extricate Bro. Vada from the wreckage. He had a fractured pelvis, broken ribs, and many other injuries, but it was his choice to go home and trust God to take care of him. Bro. Clifford Wilson was one of several who helped care for Bro. Vada. As Bro. Clifford worked with him one day, Bro. Vada said, "I wonder what the Lord is trying to say to me?" This was Bro. Vada. His life was an open book to all, and he always desired any chastisement necessary for a life pleasing unto the Lord. His recovery was remarkable! In eight weeks he was up and about, and within a short time, doing his normal work.

In 1999, Bro. Vada and Sis. Carrie felt the need to move to an apartment near the Golden Rule Nursing Home in Shawnee, Oklahoma. While Sis. Carrie was never able to attend any services at the Shawnee chapel during their time there, Bro. Vada seldom missed until the last year of his life. His contribution to the worship services through the preached word, through exhortation, through teaching and testifying, was a great blessing to the congregation. He was not only a great support to Bro. Carl's pastorate, but he was a friend and like a father to him. Bro. Vada will be greatly missed in the congregation.

Jesus Our King

By Sis. Lynne Millis

*Let us sing a song for Jesus
He's our Master and our King.
Let us sing and praise and worship
He's the Lord of everything!*

*Let us worship God almighty
He's our Lord forevermore.
Let us bow our heads in worship
And His royal name adore.*

*Let us raise our hands to Heaven
Praise our Savior and our King.
He has made our life worth living
He's the King of everything!*

*Let us praise the name of Jesus,
The precious Lamb of God.
He shed His blood on Calvary
To redeem us unto God.*

*Let us walk this way in gladness,
Shout His praises every day.
He will make us in His image,
If we only kneel and pray.*

*Praise the mighty name of Jesus
He's our Rock and Tower high.
Bless the royal name of Jesus,
He will keep us 'til we die.*

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