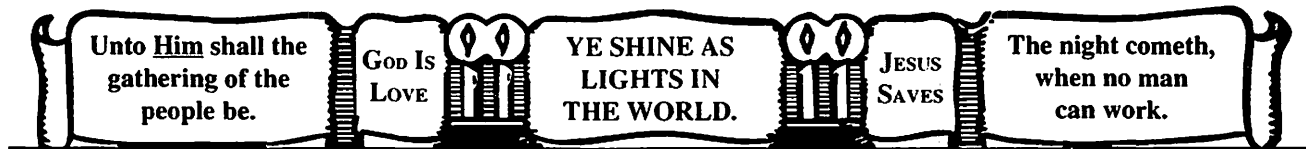


FAITH AND VICTORY

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I Am a Jealous God

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

Recently I was seeking the Lord for direction and my thoughts turned to the Ten Commandments recorded in Exodus 20. From verse one to six, the words "...for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God,..." follows the commandments "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" and "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image." In the context of the passage, *jealous* means: requiring exclusive loyalty. Jesus said we must love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. (Mark 12:29-31.) If we fully love the Lord, the consuming fire of His jealousy will purify our hearts. (Hebrews 12:29.) Any image that our hearts may be bowing to, God will expose to us and help us to destroy by his saving grace.

In Genesis 1:27 we read, "So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he

them." When satan tempted Eve, one half lie he told her was, "...ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:5. This temptation attracted Eve—she wanted to be as God. The Word of God took second place in her mind and heart when she disobeyed. She bowed to her own image of fleshly desires. After disobeying, God punished her and Adam and all following generations. Today the image of "self" is still the central idol worshiped universally.

False Idol or Image—My Intellectual Knowledge

Bowing to "my" intellectual reasoning causes self-righteousness and the inner thought, "I know better than God." "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs 1:7. We must empty our minds of our own reasoning in order to hear the voice of God. Jesus began the Sermon on the Mount with these words, "Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:3. Only those poor of "myself" will possess the kingdom of heaven. Human reasoning and intelligence must become subservient to God's great wisdom so that His voice of truth can be heard and understood.

What is God's wisdom? "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." James 3:17. Someone who is bowing to intellectual reasoning will not take instruction from God and as a result they will become confused. However, if the heart is pure

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and fully loves God, the jealous love of God will destroy the image of intellectual self-worship and clarify the mind. Even in our fast paced world of technology, God's foolishness is wiser than the minds of men. (I Corinthians 1:25-27.) This is why there is so much confusion in our world today—because "God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise." He is a jealous God and will not share His wisdom with anyone bowing to their own image of intelligence.

False Idol or Image—My Body

When God formed man from the dust of the earth, he gave man a body to be the dwelling for man's spirit and soul to abide within. (Genesis 2:7.) God wanted the spirit of man to be in unison with his Holy Spirit and the body to be His temple. (I Corinthians 3:16-17.) However, man sets the image of "myself" first when the body is worshiped. Paul exposed this idol worship when he said, "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen." Romans 1:25. The image of lust in the heart displeases God. Also, undressing and decorating the human body is a form of body worship. Marking and piercing the body are ancient signs of worship God denounced. (Leviticus 19:28.) If a person loves God with an honest heart, God's consuming fire will purify the heart and teach that soul how to dress the body.

When God gave Moses the details on how to build the tabernacle, He was very particular about the tent, the items within, and what the priests wore in service to God. (Exodus 35-40.) When the tabernacle was completed according to God's instructions, His glory went into that tabernacle and stayed with them.

When Solomon was given charge to build the temple, he obeyed the Lord. (II Chronicles 2-6.) Because He was faithful to listen and obey, God was pleased with the temple. After Solomon dedicated it to the Lord "...the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house." II Chronicles 7:1. These were types and shadows of something better to come.

Today, because the body of Jesus was broken for us on the cross, we can give our bodies to be a living sacrifice unto the Lord. (Romans

12:1.) How careful then that we dress and care for this temple of God so that His glory will be pleased to dwell therein! We must realize that this temple is not to be worshipped, but to be respected as the temple of God. When a heart truly loves the Lord supremely, the jealous fire of love will consume the worship of the body from the heart. It will teach a soul how to dress and how to care for God's holy temple.

False Idol or Image—My Reputation

A spirit of honoring my reputation also is part of my image that hinders worship to God supremely. The pride of life slips in and the flesh desires honor from others for talents, knowledge, worldly gain, beauty, family lineage and any other recognition that lifts up one above another in the eyes of people. When Jesus came down to the water to hear John the Baptist, John said, "He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose." John 1:27. Though John was drawing crowds of people, both rich and poor, he did not honor himself. He gave worship to God and His Son. This pleased God.

Jesus also died to His reputation. Throughout his three year ministry He pointed the people to the Father Who had sent Him. (John 8:49-50.) Finally, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus loved not His body, life nor reputation but yielded all to the Father's will. "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 2:7-8 and read verse 9. Because Jesus pleased God, He is now highly exalted and sitting at the right hand of God. (I Peter 3:21-22.) Perfect love for God will consume the human desire to be well-known and honored by all men. The Lord will not share His glory with any one for He is a jealous God.

These three idols—Honoring personal intellect, decorating the body and promoting lusts, and seeking a reputation of greatness are images of the flesh that cause a person to disobey the first two commandments. If a person fails to obey these two commandments, he will fail to keep the other six commandments and lose favor with God. The Holy Spirit of God teaches us to worship God in spirit and in truth. It is the humble, easy to teach spirit that God looks upon with favor for of such are the kingdom of God.

True Holiness Destroys Division Between God's People

As I glanced through the book, *Birth of a Reformation*, which contains the diary of Bro. D. S. Warner, compiled by A. L. Byers, I noticed many good things. Here is a quotation, "Holiness is unifying. It makes Christians one, in accordance with our Savior's prayer: 'That they all may be one: as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.' John 17:21. True holiness is destructive of divisional elements." (page 131.) Then I turned over a few more leaves and read this account of a subject Bro. Warner used in a message which was just briefly mentioned: "I was very weak... I committed all to God and expected His aid. Text: They shall not hurt, nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.' (Isaiah 65.) The Lord helped me to show the dear people some of the Scripture and reasons for the second work of grace, and that as soon as we merged up into the holy mountain, love, union, and peace prevailed without alloy. May God bless the truth.... Oh, that God would lead dear people on to perfection." (page 138.)

Division is contrary to God's Word. Is Christ's body divided? The Apostle Paul says, "No!" "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." (Ephesians 4:4-6.) When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, having true holiness and are living in God's "holy mountain," peace, unity and love prevail.

But how can we have unity, some might ask, when some do not have as much knowledge on the Scriptures or understanding as to what the Lord requires of them to do as others? This is where love, bearing and forbearing, come in—with all humility in the hearts of those with more light and knowledge than others. This love of God and the Holy Spirit are the oil that causes these two persons to work together. The one is humble and teachable with submission, and the other with more knowledge has grace and humility to wait for the Lord to teach the teachable. They will do as Paul instructed, "speaking the truth in love" that all might "grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." Ephesians 4:15-16. God has planned it so that we are to receive instruction from others, as well as from the Holy Spirit. II Timothy 2:2.

Today I value the instructions of those who

have taught me during the past fifty years. They were those whom I saw God work through and are precious in God's sight. Oh, yes, I have seen some of them make mistakes, but they had a tenderness and willingness to correct those mistakes. I did not let that hinder my fellowship. Paul instructed us to "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:1-2.) Put forth an effort to keep unity. True holiness working in our hearts has all the elements that make for peace and unity. We need to seek for a fresh supply of lowliness, meekness, longsuffering and forbearance.

Now Paul also warns us that "grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch..." (Acts 20:29, 31.) True holiness gives a person a tender spirit which is a lamb-like spirit. It is very sensitive to wolves that want to crush and destroy. Their spirits just don't blend. They are different. When those "men arise, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them," the lambs huddle together. Their Shepherd, Jesus Christ, will give them boldness to speak with love, yet with firmness that they just can't go with anything contrary to God's Word and Spirit, which agree. Christ's body is not divided. It is held together with love, peace and the Holy Spirit. Those who are in the Body will stand for truth and right in the spirit of meekness and love, having the same desire which God expressed in His Word, "not willing that any perish, but that all should come to repentance."

The secret of unity is true holiness, which is destructive to division. God's children will bear the fruit of the Spirit "in all goodness and righteousness and truth." (Ephesians 5:9; Galatians 5:22-23.) "By their fruits ye shall know them." Jesus tells us. (Matthew 7:16.) Jesus died that He might have a clean, pure church, which is His people. They are separate from all uncleanness.

God's people cannot have unity with sectarian systems because they teach doctrines contrary to God's Word. The call to His people is: "Come out from among them, and be ye separate....and ye shall be my sons and daughters." (II Corinthians 6:17-18.) God has a clean church. "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he

(Continued on page six.)

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.

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

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

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

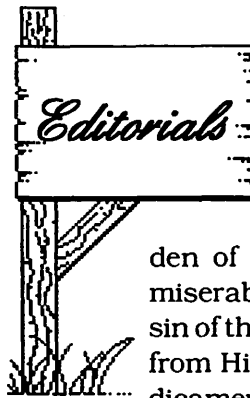
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"...God will surely visit you,..." Genesis 50:24.

There are many instances recorded in the Scriptures of God visiting mankind. When He visited Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, He found them in a miserable condition, defiled with the sin of their transgression and hiding from His presence. What a sad predicament they were in. It was at this

time that He gave them a promise of One Who would bruise satan's head. Through the course of time it became more clearly understood that the Messiah would come and bring salvation to the people.

God visited Abraham and promised to make a great nation of his seed. However, Abraham and Sarah were unable to have children until God visited them again and opened her womb, giving her the child of promise. It was through the lineage of this child, Isaac, that Jesus was born. God visited Jacob when he was fleeing from the wrath of his brother and reaffirmed the promise made to his grandfather, Abraham. The Lord made provision for Jacob and he worshipped the one true God of his father.

At the same time that God visited Abraham and announced that Sarah would have a son, He was on His way to visit the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. While Abraham was faithful to the Lord and was given promise of a wonderful blessing, these exceedingly wicked cities were completely destroyed for their evil behavior.

The prophetic words noted above were spoken by Joseph to his brothers shortly before his death. You may remember how Joseph, being sold into slavery by his brothers, was taken into Egypt. Eventually, after enduring much hardship, he was given a place of authority by Pharaoh. When a famine came on the land, Joseph was able to provide a sanctuary for his father, Jacob whose name God changed to Israel, and his brothers, along with their families, in the land of Egypt. They were given a place to live in the land of Goshen and there they lived for some 400 years, according to the word given to Abraham years earlier. (Genesis 15:13.) Joseph told his brothers that one day, God would visit them and when they went back to their

homeland, they were to take his bones with them. The children of Israel remembered this promise, and at a time when they were forced into heavy servitude and oppressed by their taskmasters, the Lord visited them and brought about a miraculous deliverance through His servant Moses.

Many years later God made a special visit to mankind through His only begotten Son, Jesus. The angels announced His birth to the shepherds and they went to visit the newborn son of God. Wise men from the East came and inquired of King Herod about His birth. While the wise men came and worshipped Him, King Herod was displeased with the news of His birth and sought to kill Him. This contrasting sentiment continued throughout Jesus' life here on earth. There were those who loved Him, worshipped Him, and accepted His teachings into their hearts, and there were those who hated Him, despised the truth He brought and succeeded in putting Him to death.

During Jesus' ministry here on earth He clearly defined in His teachings the principles of right and wrong. Those teachings have been preserved to this day in the Scriptures of the New Testament and continues to present to mankind the way He wants each of us to live. God has also given the Holy Spirit to visit the heart of each person, convict them of their need of a Savior and to direct them into the way that is right. A knowledge of these truths cause us to be responsible to God for what we do and how we respond to His dealings with us. Do we accept them, love them and allow them to govern all aspects of our life, or do we reject them and take our own way regardless of the consequences? This serious question will be presented to mankind numerous times during their life and the Holy Spirit visits each heart to reveal to them the need of responding to these serious life questions in the right way.

After the crucifixion of Jesus, the power of God raised Him back to life and He tarried with His disciples and followers for a number of days. During this time He more fully explained His plan and calling for their lives. Then the day came that He ascended from their midst to His Father in Heaven. "And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:10-11.

The words spoken by Joseph more than 3700 years ago still ring true today, "...God will surely visit you,..." His visit may be to bring salvation, peace, healing or deliverance, or it may be to bring judgment on an unrepentant sinner. However, we know that He will visit every person, and how He deals with each one depends on how they have responded to the knowledge of truth that has been committed into their hands.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20. Let us open our hearts for the visit of the Lord, allow the Holy Spirit to dwell within us and be an honored, special guest each day of our lives.

Jesus gave this example "Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. *For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.*" Mark 13:33-37.

If Jesus Came to Your House

By Lois Blanchard

If Jesus came to your house
To spend a day or two—
If He came unexpectedly,
I wonder what you'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room
To such an honored Guest
And all the food you'd serve to Him
Would be the very best,

And you would keep assuring Him
You're glad to have Him there—
That serving Him in your own home
Is joy beyond compare.

But—when you saw Him coming
Would you meet Him at the door
With arms outstretched in welcome
To your heav'nly Visitor?

Or would you have to change your clothes
Before you let Him in,
Or hide some magazines and put
The Bible where they'd been?

Would you turn off the radio
And hope He hadn't heard,
And wish you hadn't uttered
That last, loud, hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music
And put some hymn books out?
Could you let Jesus walk right in,
Or would you rush about?

And I wonder—if the Savior spent
A day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing
The things you always do?

Would you keep right on saying
The things you always say?
Would life for you continue
As it does from day to day?

Would your family conversation
Keep up its usual pace,
And would you find it hard each meal
To say a table grace?

Would you sing the songs you always sing
And read the books you read
And let Him know the things on which
Your mind and spirit feed?

Would you take Jesus with you
Everywhere you'd planned to go,
Or would you maybe change your plans
For just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet
Your very closest friends,
Or would you hope they'd stay away
Until His visit ends?

Would you be glad to have Him stay
Forever on and on
Or would you sigh with great relief
When He at last was gone?

It might be interesting to know
The things that you would do
If Jesus Christ in person came
To spend some time with you.

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

True Holiness Destroys Division

(Continued from page three.)

might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." (Ephesians 5 :25-27.) If you are without spot, you are in God's family—the church—which is spotless, without sin. —Sister A. Marie Miles
From *Faith and Victory*, July, 1970



MI—We were saddened to hear of the recent passing of Bro. Milford Parsons of Freeland, MI. Through the years he has been a faithful supporter of this work. Pray that the Lord will comfort the family in their loss.

OK—Remember Sis. Genevieve Carver, she has been having dizzy spells and has other physical needs that at times cause her to suffer intensely. She has recently moved to live with her children, Bro. Galen and Sis. Lisa Kelly, pray that the adjustments will be easy for her.



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. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor
Sis. Imogene Taylor
The Mitch Taylor family
Sis. Norma Tiller
Bro. Delnar Wilkins
Sis. Jan Wood

MEETING DATES

Baldy Mesa, CA (Fall Meeting)—October 7-9
Dallas, TX (Fall Meeting)—October 12-16
Springfield, MO (Fall Revival)—October 12-16
Okmulgee, OK (Fall Revival)—October 22-24
Fresno, CA (Fall Meeting)—Oct. 30-Nov. 6
Loranger, LA (Assembly Meeting)—Nov. 23-27
Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—Dec.23-Jan. 1

MEETING NOTICES

BALDY MESA, CA, FALL MEETING

It is with anticipation of the blessing of the Lord that we look forward to our fall meeting at the Church of God, Baldy Mesa, CA on October 7-9, 2011. Please pray with us for our community and for God's will to be accomplished. Minister's Fellowship Breakfast will be Saturday morning, October 8th.

In His Service, —Pastor A. P. Johnson
 (760) 868-9492

DALLAS, TEXAS, FALL MEETING

The Church of God, Dallas, Texas congregation, located at 11501 Ryliecrest Drive, Balch Springs, Texas welcomes you to their Fall meeting on October 12-16.

Service times will be: Wednesday-Sunday evening service at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday Morning service at 11:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 10:00 a.m., Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m. and Sunday Afternoon Service at 2:30 p.m.

For lodging arrangements contact Sis. Linda Montgomery (214) 536-4559. For other information contact Bro. Calvin Frentrup (972) 754-5770 or Bro. Glifford Grimes Jr. (972) 740-5373. The chapel phone number is (972) 557-1591.

SPRINGFIELD, MO FALL REVIVAL

Lord willing, Bro. Ivan Eck will be with us for a Fall Revival beginning Wednesday, October 12, through Sunday morning, October 16. Services will begin at 7:00 p.m. each evening. Saturday, October 15 at 1:00 in the afternoon there will be a Hayride at the Sorrell's (Spring Creek Dairy, 3912 West State Hwy 248, Galena, MO) Service will be held in the tent that evening at 7:00. Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m. and morning Worship Service at 10:45. with dinner following service. All are welcome and encouraged to join us and bring a friend along with you.

Pray with us for the meeting, and the messenger, that souls will be saved and every need met.

OKMULGEE, OK, FALL REVIVAL

The Church of God in Okmulgee cordially invites you to attend our fall revival, October 22-24. Services Friday and Saturday will begin at 7:30 p.m. Sunday morning Worship will be at 11:00. Bro. Hayward Cox will be ministering at these services.

The chapel is located at 1515 East First St, Okmulgee, OK.

For further information contact Bro. Robert Warren (918) 733-1306

FRESNO, CA, FALL REVIVAL

The Fresno Fall Meeting (Revival) will be October 30 - November 6, 2011 at the Church of God located at 388 N. First Street, Fresno, CA 93722.

For more information you may call Sis. Gwen Robinson at (559) 233-2492.

LORANGER, LA, ASSEMBLY MEETING

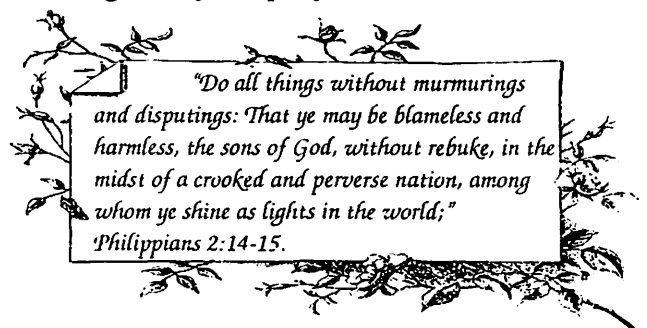
Lord willing, the Loranger, Louisiana Assembly Meeting will begin Wednesday evening November 23, with morning and evening services daily through Sunday, November 27. If you can join us, come praying for a blessing.

There are separate dormitories 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 joins 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.





LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

MO—In the July issue of the *Faith and Victory*, my mother (Sis. Lana Johnson) had put in a prayer request for me. I want to thank everyone for their prayers, and give God the praise for hearing and answering prayer. He has blessed me the past three weeks with strength and health, and we are so very thankful! I am still looking to Him for complete healing. He is so good to me!

Keep me in your prayers that I will continue to gain strength and that I will be faithful to Him!

—Sis. Lori Cole

MO—Dear Saints: I am rejoicing in God's love and mercy today. My heart's desire is to grow closer to Him everyday.

During the Monark meeting the Lord protected the children and me from a serious accident, for which I am very thankful. An oncoming semi truck, so that he would not have to slow down for a car in front of him, swerved into the turning lane that I had entered to make a left turn from. The Lord helped me to swerve back into the main lane of traffic to avoid hitting the truck and having a serious accident. After the truck passed, I was able to pull back into the turn lane to allow a car behind me to get by. I thank the Lord for His merciful protection to us.

I related this incident during a service at Monark and I gave thanksgiving for how the Lord protected us. At that time I said the car behind me had to go around me on the shoulder, but after I sat down the Lord told me, "No, you were able to get back into the turn lane before the car went by."

I allowed my nerves and pride to keep me from standing back up and clearing it up. Well, the Lord has been working and dealing with me on the importance of being very careful. Careful in the way I say things and also how people might perceive what I said.

God is showing me that carefulness in word and deed is so important. I want to make it to Heaven.

Please pray for me.

—Sis. Janette Booher

AL—Dear ones: We would like to thank each one who has prayed, sent cards, and inquired about Mother (Evodna Marler) during the past few months since her stroke and broken hip. She is improving but is not able to live independently any more.

The Lord is so Faithful and merciful to prepare us for our future. We could see ways that Mother was seeking the Lord and learning to obey the scripture, "Lord, teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom," even before this all happened. On our end, Marshall had recently retired so was free to spend time helping during our stay in Oklahoma and with the move to bring Mother home with us.

Our hearts are overwhelmed with thanksgiving for all of God's goodness and His unfailing grace in time of need.

He worked out an excellent place for us to stay at the Shawnee chapel for three weeks and the Saints there were so loving and gracious. He has kept Mother from further harm in numerous falls since her first incident. He provided a place for her to stay during the Monark meeting so we were able to attend.

We are thankful for the family of God.

Our love,

—Bro. Marshall, Sis. Melonie and Sis. Evodna

Pakistan Mission Report

Without a question or a word, the Pakistani official stamped my passport and sent me on my way. Thank God! I stepped into the arrival hall at the Lahore, Pakistan airport into what for me was a new frontier—sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in a Muslim country. In spite of warnings and advice to stay away, the Spirit had led me through a series of obstacles and consecrations to this land of danger and persecution to believers in Jesus Christ.

I was greeted at the airport by Bro. S and a number of other ministers with whom we have had contact for a few years. After a three hour journey to a town in the province of Punjab, I was warmly welcomed at the home of Bro. S by rose petals being thrown over me and my feet being washed after the example of our Lord.

For the next ten days, I had opportunity to share the message of the love of Jesus Christ and a call to repentance to hundreds of people. In spite of trials and frustrations, we experi-

enced the power and glory of God as many men and women sought the Lord for forgiveness of their sins. As in days of old, God gave power through the blood of His Son for instant healings of the sick and for devils to be cast out of those possessed by evil spirits. Praise be to our Almighty God.

Less than three percent of the population in Pakistan professes Christianity. Half of those are Roman Catholic. As minorities in a Muslim country, the Christians face persecution. The ministers with whom I worked have suffered in various ways over the years for their faith in Christ. One was beaten severely and his brother imprisoned for five years. Another was kidnapped and held for ransom. Last year, two Christian ministers were shot and a Christian community was burned by Muslims and people died in the fire. While I was there, a nine-year-old girl from a Christian family was kidnapped. It means something to accept and profess Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Due to security issues, I was unable to walk freely in the community. I had to stay away from windows during the day for my own personal protection as well as my host's. There were usually one or two armed men with us at all times as we traveled to various villages to conduct services. There were usually more armed men present for the Christian worship and there was a police presence on the last Sunday when we had a much larger public gathering. I thank God that we did not encounter any problems from radicals during my stay.

We usually had one or two services a day at different villages. We were always greeted with roses being showered on our heads and garlands being placed around our necks. This is a cultural show of welcome, love and respect. We had contact and ministered to Christian groups of different denominations and fellowships. While they were professing Christians, many had sin in their lives and hence, many sought the Lord for deliverance from the power of sin. It was a privilege to know there were at times Muslims present who heard the Word of God.

Before service in one location, I conducted a Bible Study with a group of young adults. We studied the subject of "Forgiveness." It was a wonderful time of "connection" with these young men and women. One young man testified afterward that his heart had been full of anger and bitterness. During the lesson he repented

and he was made free. Praise God! I told them that it was worth my trip just to have spent that short time with them.

Crowds of people would come with the expectation of being healed from physical problems. After praying for all manner of sickness and disease at the conclusion of every service, many people would testify to instant healings in their body. One person had a tumor in his stomach, and after prayer we received word the next day that the tumor was gone. Praise be to God! We were literally pressed by the multitude, sometimes unable to move, with people seeking healing. God answered so many prayers instantly. We visited a man who had been very sick for three months. He was almost unable to sit up on his bed he was so ill. His feet were swollen and his liver was not functioning properly. I was very burdened and we anointed and prayed for him. I received word in a couple of days that the man testified that he had felt the Spirit move through His body when we laid hands on him and prayed. When we left, he claimed his healing and was able to get up and walk with a stick. The swelling began to go down. Glory be to Jesus!

Throughout the trip, people were brought to us who were possessed by evil spirits. We experienced instant deliverances as we cast out satan by the power of the blood of Jesus. It was heart warming and special to me to be able to share in one place the story of the adulterous woman. In a country where that woman would be stoned, I was able to tell them of the compassion and love of Jesus Christ. "Neither do I condemn thee, go and sin no more..."

I had the privilege to visit a number of Sunday School classes and listen to their songs and recitation of scripture and Bible stories. What an inspiration to see these precious children learning about Jesus. I appreciate the efforts and zeal of some of the ministers who are giving of themselves for the sake of the Gospel. We visited on a number of occasions slavery Christians who live and work at the brick kilns. They live in abject poverty. It was a blessing to share with them the compassion of our Lord. Bro. S, as he has funds, buys food to help these Christians who are enslaved by debt and poverty to the Muslims for whom they work. The German Saints had donated some money to help with the work in Pakistan, and so while I was there, we purchased food for 55 families.

Each family received 20 kg of flour with a box of sugar, salt, soaps, etc. This will help them for about two weeks. Jesus taught us to feed the hungry and minister to the poor. May we, as God's people, show our faith by our works of love.

We held a short ministers' meeting on two days. There were about 100 ministers and Gospel workers present from different Christian groups. The lesson one day was on having the mind of Christ—love, forgiveness, humility, etc. The next day I shared with them scriptural teaching on the power we can have in the Holy Spirit and the call to holy living. I pray that the truth will take root in honest hearts and spread in this country of spiritual darkness.

The last Sunday was a miraculous day in the Lord. People came from different villages and over 500 were in attendance. Where translation had been somewhat strenuous at times, the glory of God fell and we were all blessed in the preaching of the Word. Hundreds of people repented and many received not only spiritual but physical healing. After the service, people did not want to leave. We prayed and prayed and prayed for the sick and devil possessed. God worked many instant miracles and gave many deliverances that day. Jesus is just the same today, Hallelujah. Twenty people were baptized in the canal beside the main road. While it drew the attention of Muslims passing by, we had no problems.

God proved himself and His mighty power on this trip. While the danger is real, the power of God is greater than every force and intent of the enemy. We serve a risen Savior and we can with assurance and boldness declare His name to the world. "Neither is their salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

Let us pray for the Gospel work in Pakistan. Our desire is to see the Lord establish His people there in Spirit and in Truth. Remember the ministers spiritually and financially that they prosper in the Lord and are able to continue to carry the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. There are many financial needs there and they are worthy of our prayers and support.

My heart is full of thanks and gratitude for each one that carried such a burden for my family and me while I was gone. Those that sowed in tears can reap in the joy of the harvest with us. God's work is accomplished as we each

fill our place, working together for the advancement of the Kingdom. May God bless you.

—Bro. Michael Smith



God Protected His People

"Are you sure this is his tent?" whispered one member of the mob to the other.

"Yes, I saw him sitting in the door of the tent reading this afternoon," whispered the third.

"We must get the rope on him and make away with him before the camp is aroused," someone said.

"What shall I do?" thought Bro. D. S. Warner [who was called Evangelist Blank in the book]. "Does it mean that I must suffer death at the hands of this mob, simply because I preached the truth? Will they hang me? Will they choke me? Will they stone me? Will they drag me over these awful rocks until life is dashed out? What meant the gleam in the sect preacher Bond's eyes last night in the service? What will become of my dear wife and boy in Ohio? Will I recant? Will I deny my Lord? Will I shun to declare the whole counsel of God?" All these questions and many others flashed across Bro. Warner's mind like angry streaks of lightning across a black cloud.

Through the thin canvas he saw in the moonlight half a dozen husky men seize hold of one end of a rope, the other end of which was arranged in a slip-loop.

"When I get the rope on him, make for the hills," said one man as he began to untie the strings that held the door of the tent. Just at this instant Bro. Warner slipped under the edge of the tent on the opposite side from where the men were planning their awful deed, and under the edge of Jake Benton's tent, which stood just about two feet from his own. With a quickness of mind that was almost miraculous, he donned a dress and shawl and bonnet belonging to Sister Benton, and stole out of the tent and across the ground toward the arbor in full view of the en-raged men as they came out of the tent that he had just vacated.

The men were as much astonished as en-raged at not finding their prey. They ransacked Jake Benton's tent and demanded that he reveal the whereabouts of the preacher. Jake flatly refused. Except for his trembling, he stood like a stone wall and faced that score of masked

men, thirsty for righteous blood. Really they appeared as so many thoroughbred devils right from the pit. They were masked in a way, not only to conceal their identity, but in a way to make them appear as hideous as possible. The leader of the mob shouted, "Jake Benton, you sanctified hypocrite, if you don't tell us where that preacher is we'll hang your carcass up for the crows to pick."

"Maybe you will, but I'll hang there before I'll tell," poor Jake said in a trembling voice.

"Who was that 'ole lady who left your tent and went across the ground a while ago with a bonnet on?" shouted one of the mob.

"I never saw an 'ole lady going across the ground," replied Jake. (In this he was telling the truth, you know.)

"Hang him up to a tree, boys, hang him up, if he won't tell," shouted one of the gang.

"Bring the rope," shouted another as he took hold of Benton's arms.

Just at this juncture the leader of the mob suggested to Jake that if he and his comrades would break up camp and leave the ground immediately, they would not hang him, but would continue their search for the evangelist. To this Jake and the whole party of campers readily agreed. In the light of the moon, the whole group of campers, consisting of more than a dozen families, hitched their teams to their wagons and made their way over the hills homeward. Before any wagon was allowed to leave the ground it was carefully searched by the mob to ascertain whether or not the evangelist was there. He could not be found.

When old Bro. Bunk and his wife and children arrived home they were alarmed when they saw someone sitting under the poplar tree in their yard. Imagine their surprise when the person shouted, "Praise God, Bro. Bunk, many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth them out of them all!" It was Bro. Warner. He explained to them that he had walked the two miles from the camp through the woods.

The mob supposed that Bro. Warner had made his way from the campground to Jake Benton's house. Bro. Benton and his family arrived home about three o'clock in the morning and about a half hour later the mob arrived. They would not be satisfied until they searched his house and then they withdrew into the woods and built a fire to warm themselves and

discuss further plans. Jake Benton waited for a time and then he crept out close to the place where the men were gathered, Indian fashion, around the fire. They had taken off their masks and he recognized them. Most of them were prominent members of Mt. Olivet church. One of them was the pastor and one a deacon. Benton crawled back down the old rail fence and went home.

Shortly after sunrise Bro. Bunk came over and told Bro. Benton that Bro. Warner was safe, and happy in the Lord. They agreed to have meeting that Sunday at Bro. Bunk's house. The Saints gathered and they had a happy time together in the Lord. The Lord blessed them and they prayed for more boldness "Great grace was upon them all." That night the meeting was resumed at the arbor and continued for two weeks longer. Many were saved and they didn't have any more trouble.

—Adapted from *Deacon of Dobbinsville*
From *Faith and Victory*, October 1966.

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If We Didn't Have You, Lord

By Sis. Lana Johnson

*I know if we didn't have You, Lord,
Our lives would be empty and vain.
There would be so much more sorrow,
And there would be so much more pain.*

*I'd hate to think what our lives would be
As we live in this world of sin.
There would be no joy or happiness,
And we wouldn't have peace within.*

*Tell me, what in this life would we do
If we didn't have hope in God?*

*We'd live in fear and misery
As on life's pathway we trod.*

*So, I'm thankful we do have You, Lord,
To trust in, love, and obey.
It gives us a life worth living
To follow You and Your way.*

*Then, when we come to the end of our life,
And we come to eternity,
We'll be so glad that we had You,
And Your face we'll be happy to see!*

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