
FAITH *AND* VICTORY

Church of God Servant

This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith

Volume 91. No. 3

91st Year Guthrie, Oklahoma

October 2013

JEHOVAH – JIREH

By Michael Smith



Abraham stretched forth his hand to slay his son Isaac, the angel of

the Lord stopped him. Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw a ram caught in the thicket. He offered the ram as a burnt offering in the stead of his son. "And Abraham called the name of that place *Jehovahjireh*: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen" (Genesis 22:14).

Jehovah is the personal name of the one true, living, eternal, self-existent God. "*Jireh*" translates into "provide," which has wonderful Latin roots. *Pro* means "before" and *vide* means "to see." So it means that God saw in advance. Jehovah-Jireh, the Lord who provides, is the God who sees the need of His people before they even know there is a need.

In the deepest trial and problem, the power of God will be revealed at the right time and He, Jehovah-Jireh, will provide. God sees the questions, financial difficulties, health problems, relationship stresses, personal struggles and failures, temptations, emotional needs, spiritual weaknesses, and the obstacles of life. He not only sees but has provided a "ram in the thicket."

God sent His son, Jesus Christ, to provide a way out of sin and despair and to minister to every need that we have in life. Through Christ,

He has provided us with peace in the time of trouble. He has made provision for physical, emotional, and spiritual healing. "With His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). God is the provider of temporal things. "Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things" (Matthew 6:32). God not only will but has already provided a way, an answer, rest and comfort. He is the provider of courage, strength, forgiveness and love. He dispenses sufficient grace that will help in the time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

Abraham was obedient to God even when he did not know the consequences and final outcomes of his decision. His faith in God transcended the personal questions and difficulty of God's call. His faith was evidenced by his instruction to the servants: "Abide ye here....I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you" (Genesis 22:5). Abraham further told Isaac that "God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering" (Genesis 22:8). Clearly, Abraham trusted that the Lord would provide, but he did not allow his hope to curtail his obedience. We will find the fullness of Jehovah-Jireh when we have a similar faith and obedience.

Jehovah-Jireh hath seen and hath made provision for you personally. Be not discouraged by the difficulties and problems of life, as insurmountable as they may seem. God knows not only what you face today, but He knows what is in your tomorrow. "But my God shall

supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). What a privilege to serve Jehovah-Jireh -- Our Provider!

God's Way is Best

By Patsy Smith

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." Isaiah 30:21



When traveling by car in an unknown area, we frequently enter our destination into a GPS and follow the directions given to us by the voice coming out of the device. It tells us when we are approaching a turn, which way to go and which highway we should be on. If we ignore the directions, we often hear the voice saying "recalculating" or "turn around as soon as it is safe to do so." It has saved us much frustration and time lost from aimless wandering.

For all of us, life is an unknown journey. We are faced with many perplexing decisions and choices, but God in His infinite mercy has provided a roadmap...*a heavenly GPS*... that will lead us to eternal life if we chose to listen to His voice. I wonder how much quicker the children of Israel would have crossed the wilderness if God had not had to "recalculate" because of their disobedience and hardened hearts. So many today are straying from the right path because they think they know a better way than what is laid out in God's Word. The error in their thinking often comes from the fact that they cannot see what is over the next hill or around the next curve. When the prodigal son left his father's house, he did not anticipate a famine coming to the land.

Let us make the decision to "enter" our destination in life as "heaven." Even though at times God's directions in His word may not make sense to our human thinking, remember

that God can see the road ahead, whereas we are only viewing the immediate situation. We need to give careful heed to His leadings, because he has already told us the road will be strait and narrow and few will find it. If we find ourselves on a broad way and going the same direction the world around us is headed, we need to stop and reconsider our path. God will be faithful to us as we look to him. Psalm 73:24 "Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory."



It is with rejoicing that we announce that the new and improved Evening Light Songs book will soon be available for purchase. This new edition will feature a maroon-colored hardbound cover with stitch binding and high-quality paper. It has gone through an extensive editing process, and errors in the older editions have been corrected and the words and notes line up better. Many, many hours were spent making this revision, and we thank the Lord for each one who had a part.

Price for individual books is \$20 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling. For orders of multiple copies, please contact us for shipping and handling costs or special arrangements for pick up. You may place your orders beginning October 10 by phone: (971) 312-6074, or email: <faithpublishinghouse@yahoo.com>, or by letter, addressed to Faith Publishing House, P.O.Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044.

FAITH AND VICTORY

This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed, and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men: the restoration and promulgation of 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.

SUBSCRIPTION: \$5.00 per year

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.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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

Office phone: 405-282-1479, or 971-312-6074

email: faithpublishinghouse@yahoo.com

....To Our Readers

Fall is already in the air and another summer has passed. Campmeeting season is over for this year, and God was faithful again to let His anointing rest on our services. We treasure the convicting Spirit that accompanies His word. God is still offering his mercy and grace that bring salvation. For those of us in small congregations, as ours is in Oregon, it was such a great blessing to have our chapel full during camp meeting and have the beautiful songs of Zion sung with devotion and fervor. It gives us a sense of "belonging" to the beautiful church of God before we again face the daily trials and issues of life.

The Sunday School Adult Bible Lessons have been mailed out for the last quarter of the year. The lessons are taken primarily from the book of Job and we pray God will bless these studies to each one who reads them. For hundreds of years Job has been a great source of courage and comfort to those who are facing difficult circumstances in life.

You will see the details announced in this paper of the printing of the Evening Light Songs book. There is a lot of enthusiasm among the congregations for these new books. Some updating has been done, but the song numbers are still the same. Page 154 is still "Jesus Is Good To Me" and page 470 is still "From Death to Life." Those of us who have grown up singing these beloved songs will be right at home with the new books. We trust these inspired songs will continue to be a blessing to the church for years to come.

This summer has been a time of change for the work at the Faith Publishing House. We are still looking to the Lord to give direction as to the best way for this work to move forward so it can be the greatest blessing possible to His people and in His kingdom. We covet your prayers as we wait on God to make known His will in filling the leadership at Faith Publishing House. In the meantime, we will continue carrying on this work on an interim basis. May the Lord bless each and every one.

--Cliff & Patsy Smith

....From my viewpoint

By Julie Elwell

Heavenly Places

This past summer marked the 75th year of the National Campmeeting at Monark Springs, Missouri--a place many people have found themselves drawn back to through the years. The nostalgic element is there: the wood benches, the open-air tabernacle, the ringing of the early morning bell, the background noise of the locusts during the quieter parts of the service, that "certain smell" after a good rain, the friends, the harmonious blending of voices in song, the word of God preached from the pulpit bringing encouragement or challenge. We are humbled and thankful for the presence and faithfulness of God each time He visits us in that place.

Maybe you haven't visited Monark Springs, but is there another place you visit--a

place that is very special to you--and you find yourself back in that same spot over and over again?

I am thinking of a place Jesus found himself resorting to often: the "garden over the brook of Cedron." Scripture tells us this was a place he went oftentimes with his disciples. I wonder... if we traveled to Jerusalem and to the Mount of Olives, would we be able to find the location of that garden and experience the same things Jesus experienced by virtue of the fact that we were in that location and could possibly even find our way to the place where he knelt in prayer? I would hazard to say the place looks very different now than it did in Jesus' day.

Familiarity with the good things of life many times brings with it a sense of stability and comfort. The truth that we know very well, however, is this: life brings change. Landscapes change due to the forces of nature and time; babies are born and people pass from this life; situations of life, whether they be financial, emotional, physical or spiritual are dynamic and variable. The places, people, and things of earth that hold meaning for us are just that: fleeting and transitory.

There IS a place, however--a blessed pavilion, a sacred inner court, the place of God's own dwelling with all the world shut out-- where we can go that is not subject to earthly variability. Ephesians 2:6 refers to "heavenly places." The landscape is not eroded by wind or rain. The face of God's truth is steadfast, constant, familiar, sure, and comforting. God is never asleep, on vacation, or in a meeting. The spirit which inhabits this place is far superior to any nostalgic feeling we may attach to an earthly location, person, or circumstance. We might not always have the resources, energy, time, or opportunity to visit the "special places or people" on earth or keep the situations that seem favorable to us from changing. Even if we are granted the favor of God to enjoy them for a time, oh! what a wonderful privilege to be in the absolute ultimate place--heavenly places with Christ Jesus, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end!

Hide Behind the Cross

By Clifford Smith

"He must increase, but I must decrease."

What a powerful and profound statement! Those were the words of John the Baptist, and they should give us all pause.

To me my father was a great man; and it would be hard to find anyone who ever knew him to argue against that statement. He was a minister, a missionary, a Sunday school teacher, and a personal worker extraordinaire. And he excelled in them all. But why was he great?

Here's the Answer:



His message to me was, "Son, stay hid behind the cross of Christ. Don't put yourself on display in any

way. This is about the Gospel, not us." And that is what he did. And that is how he lived. He put Christ in the forefront. He was not self-focused. He did not have an exaggerated sense of his importance or place in the body of Christ. He neither sought nor asked for recognition. He sought only to magnify the Lord in all that he did. He was a humble man who stayed hid behind the cross of Christ. Let us do that, too.

"He must increase, but I must decrease."

We live in such a narcissistic society. How easy it is for us to be self-focused. It's so very human. "Helloooo! this is ME"! I remember taking a business course in college. The professor assigned us to write a business letter to be turned in at the next class. I was pretty satisfied with my letter and pumped up to get it turned in, thinking, "Smith, you've done a pretty good piece of work here...you're bound to get a good grade" (youthful pride). But instead, he told us to pull out our letters and

circle every "I", "me", and "my." As we looked over our letters, I kind of hunkered down in the seat and cast a furtive look around the room (*hope he doesn't have us read our letters*). I was ashamed and did not want to turn that letter in....too many I's, me's, and my's! We all saw the point of the assignment. He then asked us to rewrite our letters, de-emphasizing the "I" and emphasizing the "message" and the "you." Whether he knew it or not, that professor was teaching a basic tenant of the Christian faith! Let us die to ourselves and focus on others and on presenting only the message of Christ to a lost world.

Africa Mission & Beyond

605 Bishops Ct., Nixa, MO 65714

Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. ~John 4:35

On their knees, children prayed, some covering their faces and others raising their hands in petition to the Lord. This was the scene before us last month in Kenya as many of the orphans responded to the call of the gospel and prayed for Jesus to forgive them. Jesus is still today opening His arms to the children and to all who in humility turn from their sins. It is with thanksgiving that these precious orphans have not only received of the gospel of Jesus Christ but have also been provided with new, clean living facilities.

After many months of dreaming, praying, and planning, a new orphanage has been built in Kenya to help house over one hundred children. A team from the United States (Matthew, LouCinda, and Victor Gellenbeck, Phillip Bell, Miklo and Maria Padillo, Kaylene Zacharias, Steve Rempel, Jason Miller, Nicole Elwell, Ranelle Cole, Darren Adams, and Zachary Smith) and a team from Germany (Roman,

Peter, and Valdemar) have been in Kenya at various times the last three months



Huruma Dolor Orphanage, Kenya, Africa

working faithfully to see this project come to fruition. We have spent all designated funds and are looking to the Lord to provide the remaining funds for the completion of the orphanage, as other areas of the mission work will be eventually impacted. We are grateful for each one who has contributed labor, funds and material goods for this project and for the ongoing monthly support of the orphanage. We appreciate all of the time and sacrifice that has been expended in behalf of the orphans. For more information, visit www.africamission.com.

Before traveling to Kenya, my son Zachary and I were in Malawi meeting with ministers and gospel workers from over 45 congregations. I am thankful for their willingness and desire to be led of the Holy Spirit. We pray for the spiritual increase of honest souls. We continue to support native missionary efforts and humanitarian causes in countries around the world, including: Pakistan, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Ghana, and Nigeria. The work of the Lord is big and there is no end to the good that can be accomplished as resources are made available.

My wife and I are continuing to publish 'The Gospel Truth.' This paper is a doctrinal-based publication that gives instruction and encouragement for the mission field worldwide. It is being translated into five other languages and printed and distributed in many countries.

We are funding the printing of the paper in each respective country to help minimize postage costs. This publication is available free of charge online and has proved to be an effective tool for congregational Bible studies etc. at home and abroad. This is an expanding effort and we trust it will be a blessing in the furtherance of the Kingdom of God. To subscribe, visit <www.thegospeltruth.us>.

We are thankful for your continued prayer and support of the missionary efforts. Without you, this work could not go forward. It is truly a privilege to share this life-changing gospel of hope around the world.

In Christ,

Michael & René Smith

[Contact Africa Mission & Beyond to learn how you can change a life by sponsoring the care and education of an orphan. --cds]



...From the Mailbox

Honduras

Dear Saints,

We send greetings of love in the precious name of Jesus. Trusting all is well with you and that you are continuing steadfast in the faith. We are very thankful to the Lord for His gracious dealings with us. His mercy endures continually toward us. He is bringing us through fire and through water, but we believe He will bring us out into a wealthy place, because we're "on the winning side with Jesus." Please pray for us.

We were very saddened over the loss of my brother Paul in recent months, but we are thankful for the sustaining grace of God that enables us to accept it and go on. We believe that God knows what's best for us and that He will work all things together for good. Want to

thank all of you for your prayers and support during our time of sorrow. May the Lord bless each of you.

We're thankful for the way the Lord has worked in the congregation in recent months, for the ones who are endeavoring to live for the Lord and please Him with their lives. Thankful for how he removed some misunderstandings from our midst. Appreciate the prayers of the saints and also the ones who visited recently from the US, Bros. Jim Wall and Ted Bock. One of the brothers in the congregation, Bro. Elon, who is a minister, had a burden recently to have a 3-day outreach meeting. The attendance was good and the Lord was faithful to bless.

Bro. Odlen Bodden and family, who in recent months suffered the loss of a brother, want the saints to know that they are very thankful for all you did for them during the sickness and passing away of his brother. May the Lord bless and reward each of you.

The Lord has also added a young family to our congregation in recent weeks. They are related to a sister in the congregation, Sis. Lizeth, and they are endeavoring to serve the Lord.

We also appreciate the Lord's blessings on the mission school. Thank the Lord it continues to be a means to plant the seed of the Gospel in the hearts of many of the children of these communities, a seed that we hope will one day yield the desired fruit.

We are now looking forward to our camp-meeting in September. Trusting it will be a time of revival for the saints and perhaps that some soul will be rescued for eternity. Praying that the Lord will bless and send what's needed to make it a success to the glory of His worthy name.

We want to say an heartfelt, THANK YOU for your prayers for us and your continued support and contributions to this mission effort. May the Lord bless and reward each of you. Please continue to hold us up in prayer.

Christian love,

-- Sis. Judy Trepagnier

IN MEMORIAM

Donald W. Sharp Sr.

Donald W. Sharp Sr., 84, of Arbovale, WV passed away Thursday, July 18, 2013 at his son's home in Arbovale, WV. Born August 24, 1928 at Dayton, OH, he was a son of the late Howard Russell and Maudie Goldie Knapp Sharp. He was preceded in death by his wife Lois Sharp, sister, Edna Neff, brothers, James, Earl, Howard, Paul, and Melvin. Donald loved children, singing and playing his harmonica, and writing songs and poetry. Survivors include three daughters, LaVonda Wattenbarger of Santa Clarita, CA, Wanda Wattenbarger of Neosho, MO, and Ramona Wood of Dunmore, WV; one son, Donald W. Sharp Jr. of Arbovale; nine grandchildren: Heidi LaDue, Christy Howard, Brigita, Katrina, Trenton, and Darren Wattenbarger, Bradley Sharp, Brandon Sharp, Shanda Sharp, and 10 great grandchildren. Memorial services were held on August 3, 2013 at the Church of God Chapel in Shawnee, Ok, with Brother Carl Shaffer officiating.

Bro. Donald served as pastor of the Jefferson, Oregon congregation in the early 90's. He always came to service with a cheerful countenance, and his messages reflected the time and study he had put into their preparation. We appreciate his consistent life of service to God.

Meeting Notices

Oct 9-13 Dallas, TX Fall Revival

Contact Linda Montgomery (972) 286-6239

Oct 25-30 Shawnee, OK, Fall Revival

Contact Bro. Carl Shaffer (405) 488-4513

October 26-27 Myrtle, MO, Annual Fall Singing

Contact Harlan Sorrell (417) 938-4336

Oct 27- Nov 3 Fresno, CA, Revival

Contact Stephanie Pree (559) 291-2726 or

Maryetta Robinson (559) 233-2492

Nov 6-10 Sapulpa, OK, Revival

Contact Bro James Bell (918) 724-3673

Dec 20-29 Guthrie, OK Assembly Meeting

Contact Bro. Phillip Gellenbeck (405) 282-2999



CHURCH OF GOD Websites

< www.churchofgodpreaching.com >

- Over 2,500 audio messages by Church of God Ministers. downloadable
- Over 100 songs: congregational, individual, and special singing

< www.churchofgodeveninglight.com >

- Church of God doctrines
- Songs
- Messages, including 500 by O.B. Wilson
- Articles, books...and more

< www.thegospeltruth.us >

- A focus on serving the mission field worldwide. Special emphasis on biblical doctrines. English • German • Spanish • Swahili editions

< www.africamission.com >

- Church of God missionary gospel work in various African countries.
- Facts, church history, photos, culture, etc.

< www.monarkcampmeeting.org >

- 2013 Monark National Campmeeting messages, congregational & special singing.

Church of God Congregations

Neosho, MO

<http://www.churchofgodneosho.org>

Dallas, TX

<http://www.churchofgoddallas.org/>

Sapulpa, OK <http://sapulpachurchofgod.com/>

Radio

God's Five Minutes

Radio station KNEO (91.7 FM) at www.KNEO.org

- Five minutes daily, M-F, 6:35 a.m. (CST)
- Bro. Ed Wilson, Pastor of Neosho, MO Church of God shares devotional thoughts, inspiration, and challenges.

Thanks to the Lamb

By Kristen Wilson

Everyday is a gift, every moment a blessing. Every life holds its own beautiful blossom. But like every flower which quickly fades, so does our life. We all will close our eyes never to reopen them in this life again. The how and the whys are all unknown, but some day death will come to each and every one if the Lord doesn't return first.

But thanks to Him the Lamb of God,
Who shed his blood that we might be free,
Freed from the darkest of deaths,
That hold from us, the dearest and best.

If we only here will do our part,
To be washed away from this wicked heart,
We then may go to a bright summer stay,
There we may rest in our home far away.

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