

# FAITH <sup>AND</sup> VICTORY

## *Church of God Servant*

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

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### Thy Soul Shall Be Required

By Michael Smith

A certain rich man considered the abundance of his harvest and made plans to build bigger and greater barns. He purposed that after this was accomplished he would sit back and enjoy the fruit of his years of labor. He would be at ease and enjoy the pleasures that life had to offer. As he set goals and dreamed of retirement, God spoke to him: "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" (Luke 12:20).

That night, the rich man died and his fate was sealed for eternity. In all of his ambition, planning, and worldly wisdom, he had neglected the most important aspect of life – preparing his soul for eternity. He had taken time to make money and to be successful, but he was indifferent to the need of his soul. All of the things for which he had labored were left behind, and he stood alone before God to give account of his spiritual condition. What a dreadful state in which to meet his maker.

"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Matthew 16:26). It would have been so much wiser to have first taken time for God and prepared for eternity. Alas, it was too late and that night he found himself in eternal torment with no hope of redemption, no

more opportunity to pray, and no place to find mercy. God spoke the truth when He said, "Thou fool." Life is busy and the world is vying for our time and affections. It is good and important to have dreams and goals; but they should always be in subjection to God, for our soul is also going to be required of us. Our days are numbered and we do not know when we will pass from this life into eternity. We will all die and face the judgment (Hebrews 9:27). "...Every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12).

Oh how foolish to put off salvation. Intentions and future plans to repent will have no weight when we die. The successes of this life will have no bearing on our eternal destiny, except they be by Jesus Christ. The things of this world will be as nothing when compared to eternal misery and woe. "...Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). We should live every day as if it were our last, for one day it shall be. The end is nigh. Time is short.

If you have neglected your soul, now is the time to pray and ask Jesus to forgive you. God loves you and He wants you to be ready to die that you might enjoy the bliss of Heaven. Don't put off for tomorrow what you should do today. Our life decisions will have eternal outcomes. Thy soul shall be required of thee. Are you ready?



*"What is a man profited,  
if he shall gain the whole world  
and lose his own soul?"*

## FAITH AND VICTORY

(Bi-Monthly Holiness Periodical)

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

**Its motto:** Have faith in God.

**Its object:** The glory of God and the salvation of mankind: 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.

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.

**Acting Editors:** Clifford and Patsy Smith

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

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## Editorials

*"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."* Psalm 103:2

Ninety years ago, in March of 1923, the first edition of the Faith and Victory was printed. Bro. Fred Pruitt, my grandfather, had been called of the Lord to minister and was led to sell his 320 acre homestead in New Mexico. He began helping with printing and publishing gospel literature. In his book, *God's Gracious Dealings*, he writes:

*It was a surprise to us that God led us to Guthrie in the beginning, and then to think that He kept us continually in the printing work. However, it was a greater surprise when we found ourselves with a printing outfit in our possession and leadings directly from God to print and send forth the gospel. When we started on with the work, the Lord was so well pleased that the work of setting the type and printing the first Faith and Victory was easily and quickly done, and the precious blessings and approval of God were so marked and definite that we often marveled and wondered at the greatness of our God.*



924 W. Mansur. Old Pruitt home

In the beginning, the printing work was housed in a small building "...which was in the river bottom where it sometimes overflowed, doing much damage to machinery and materials unless put up out of reach of the flood water." The Lord directed Bro. Pruitt to build a new office building on the vacant lots next to his dwelling house at 924 W. Mansur. In 1927, the building was ready

for use. Again, in his words, *“In this building the workers are busy printing, wrapping, and mailing thousands of papers and gospel tracts.”*



**Print Shop built in 1928**

The print shop was housed in this building for over 70 years until God again supplied funds for a new building to be built in 1998 at the current location. The old building has now been sold and passed on to another owner. Even though the building was deteriorating from age and sat in an area classified as a flood plain, it is with considerable nostalgia that we see it go; but it is with thanksgiving we remember the battles fought, the prayers prayed, and the victories won during the years of operation at the old location. There have been so many of God's people who have dedicated their time and energy in helping with the printing of gospel literature at that location. It was always a labor of love because of limited financial resources, but often the testimonies of the workers have been that those were some of the most valuable years of their lives as they became established in the truth.

As a child I recall going into the print shop late in the evening and hearing the old manual typewriter clicking away as Grandpa Pruitt worked in his office. He typed using just two fingers, but the words would seem to fly onto the paper as he put the burden of his heart onto the printed page. Many times as he worked over the presses you could hear his deep bass voice ringing out with a "Praise God!" When a call would come in for urgent prayer, the workers at the print shop would stop their work and gather around in an agreement of prayer for whatever the need was.

So many wonderful bonds and lifelong friendships were formed by those who worked together in the printing of the gospel literature. From that place some heard the call of God to the mission field, others into the ministry or other areas of labor in the kingdom of God. Space would fail to tell of all the personal experiences that could be related of God's dealings and leadings. There were morning devotions, lively conversations around the noon dinner table, and relaxing on the big old front porch in the evening.

The blocks on the old building may be cracked, the roof leaking, and the paint faded and peeling, but the memories of God's blessings at this place will remain fresh in the minds of those who labored there. We earnestly pray for God to continue to bless His Word wherever the seed is sown and cause it to bring forth fruit unto eternal life.

—Patsy Smith



**Faith Publishing House 1998**

Time inevitably brings change. However, the one thing that is unchangeable is God's Word. This publication and the gospel outreach efforts of the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE will continue without compromise to fully embrace the principals and sound teaching of the Bible.

The FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE has operated as a work of faith, dependent on the prayers and financial support of God's people for over 90 years. It is with humble and grateful hearts that we sincerely thank each and every one for your continued support to make this work possible.

—Clifford Smith



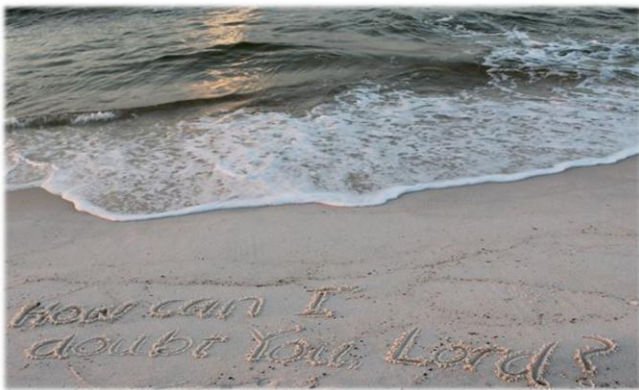
# *A Personal Narrative*

## **How Can I Doubt You, Lord?**

By Angela Gellenbeck

If there's anything I've learned the past three years of my husband's illness, it has been the rock-solid truth that we can take the need of every moment immediately to the Lord in prayer. We have learned, time after time, pain after pain, night after night, that He is there when you call on Him. Tonight I woke several hours after we had turned out the light. As I listened to my husband's even breathing, I realized that one more time God had heard our cry.

Three years ago when things began to go so downhill for him and he was diagnosed with advanced Hashimoto's disease, God gave me a Scripture: *"He will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee. And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: 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 30:19-21.



*How can I doubt you, Lord?*

I thought, as I heard my husband sleeping beside me, how many times has it been like this, when he said, "Honey, I just can't think of sleeping tonight. It hurts so bad there will be no way I can lay in this bed"? I would say, *hundreds* of times over these

three years I've heard him say that and remembered God's promise and took his hand and prayed a simple prayer, a plea from my heart, "God, one more time we need You to give Dan sleep. Please overrule this pain and quiet this storm, and let him rest. You said You would be very gracious to us at the sound of our cry, so we're crying to You again. We know You love us and You are mighty. Thank You, Jesus."

Oh, there have been a few times when the plea *seemed* to go unanswered, the testing was severe, and the pain unrelenting. But you know what? You can also learn from those times, how to quietly commit, endure and still trust. He has reasons and purposes. He doesn't need to prove anything to me. He is God. And you grow in your faith even in those times.

But the countless times I've realized that "Hey, God let him sleep! He's sleeping! Ahem, I'M awake and CAN'T sleep, but yay, Dan's sleeping! Thank You. . ." have taught me that His promise is *true* and I can totally trust in Him and come with ANY thing--any problem, any sorrow, any pain, any temptation, any fear, any silly thought--and *He is there!* He is right there! He is listening, He understands, He loves me, and HE IS ABLE to deliver me.

On a recent vacation to Gulf Shores, Alabama, our family enjoyed the beauties of God's ocean. I especially enjoyed moments alone at sunrise, just sitting there on the sand, watching the waves, the sun coming up, the shore birds and the busy little crabs, talking and praying and crying to the Lord. And listening. Because I knew that God would speak to my need through all these things. He had life lessons for me if I would open my heart to hear. And He did speak to me, morning after morning.

One day as I was walking back, I took my finger and wrote in the sand something that just kept singing itself to me as I watched those mighty waves. "How can I doubt You, Lord?" Is there anything too hard for You? Is there any sorrow or trouble that You cannot relieve? Any sin you cannot deliver from? Any place I can go that You're not there?

HOW can I doubt Your love, Your mercy, Your saving grace? Your existence? I KNOW YOU ARE! Never, never, never again can I, will I, doubt You, dear Jesus. You are my God.

## I Stand at the Door

By Ed Wilson

At the conclusion of the Biblical record of His earthly ministry, Jesus selected the last living of His original 12 apostles to be the vessel of delivery for special messages to the seven churches of Asia, one of which was located at Laodicea. He used some very strong language to reprove them for their slackness, and sternly warned them of the consequence of passing over His divine will. Yet, in the manner of the ever-loving Christ, He concluded His message to them with these words: *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. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.* Revelation 3:20-21

The Laodiceans had reached a very low point in their profession of being Christians by allowing themselves to become cool, lukewarm, and careless of the value of the sufferings and blood of He who purchased their eternal blessing at such a horrific price. Although this was originally spoken in reference to the unworthy members of a little church of early believers in Asia Minor, it passes far beyond the limits of the lukewarm Laodiceans to whom it was addressed. The "any man" which follows is wide enough to warrant us in stretching out the representation as far as the bounds of humanity extend, and in believing that wherever there is a closed heart there is a knocking Christ, and that all men are lightened by that Light which came into the world.

I desire to enforce the individual bearing of the general truth upon our own consciences and to come to each with this message: The saying is true about you, and at the door of your heart. Jesus Christ stands, and there His gentle, mighty hand is laid, and on it the flashes of His light shine, and round the edges of the unopened door of your heart comes the beseeching voice, "Open! Open unto Me." A strange reversal of the attitudes of the great and of the lowly, of the giver and of the

receiver, of the Divine and of the human! Christ once said, "Knock and it shall be opened unto you." He has taken the suppliant's place, and, standing by the side of each of us, He beseeches us that we let Him bless us and enter in for our rest.

So, then, there is here a revelation of a most tender and pathetic disclosure of Christ's yearning love to each of us. What do you call that emotion which more than anything else desires that a heart should open and let it enter? We call it love when we find it in one another. Surely it bears the same name when it is sublimed into all but infinitude, and yet it is as individualizing and specific as it is great and universal, as it is found in Jesus Christ. If it be true

that He wants me, if it be true that in that great heart of His there are a thought and a wish about His relation to me and mine to Him, then, then, each of us is grasped by a love that is like our human love, only perfected and purified from all its weaknesses.

We sometimes feel, I am afraid, as if all the talk about the love which Jesus has to each of us is scarcely a fact. We

need our eyes opened to perceive it, "*Behold! I stand at the door and knock.*" Perhaps the door has long been fastened; perhaps you have thought that if the knock was unanswered the Knocker would go away when He was weary. But that miscalculates the unfailingness of that patient Christ's love. Rejected, He abides; spurned, He returns. In this scripture lukewarm Christians are offered another opportunity for supper with the Master, once more to blaze with flames of holy zeal. That same longsuffering and gentle Friend is calling for you today, listener; He calls for each of us -- today, tomorrow, into eternity. We may live our lives with clear eyesight, clothed in white raiment of His righteousness, tasting many delicate things at a table prepared in the presence of our enemies. Won't you go with us to heaven?





## From My Viewpoint

By Julie Elwell

Have you ever felt like your best efforts to serve the Lord in life were seemingly insignificant, of no consequence, or perhaps even in vain? It is true that our best efforts, indeed, are nothing. The enemy of our souls is a great one for using the TRUTH of our frailties and inadequacies to discourage us. He can beat us up, criticize our efforts, and accuse us in an attempt to cause us to become spiritual defectors and pull us away from the place of service to which God has called us.

I distinctly remember a period of time as a saved Christian when my own inadequacies screamed for attention in my mind. The truth of my imperfectness loomed as a huge giant I just couldn't squeeze past. I sat in the congregation of the saints as singing and rejoicing were going on around me and felt unworthy to even join in. The enemy was using the truth of my nothingness and unworthiness to steal my joy and paralyze me into sitting rigid in the corner.

Where is the hope then? Psalms 103:14 so comfortingly reminds us: "He KNOWS our frame and remembers that we are dust" (and STILL loves us and STILL wants a relationship with us and STILL wants to use us!). What a huge burden can be lifted off our shoulders as we realize all we have to do is give ourselves a living and holy sacrifice to a loving God, give him the little that is in our hand with all our humanness, and then leave the results with him!

Ruth, in the Old Testament, forsook the land of her heritage to follow her mother-in-law. She was probably no different than you or I. The work she had to do in her new home of Bethlehem-Judah was seemingly insignificant by the standards of many; she gleaned barley in the fields. No doubt she returned home tired, dusty, and dirty. However,

God saw her faithfulness and in the words of Boaz, "The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust." (Ruth 2:12). Truly the Lord did just that; she bore a son who was in the direct lineage of Jesus. Ruth never even lived long enough to see the far-reaching effects of her faithfulness.

Consider these questions: What if Moses would not have obeyed the Lord because of his stuttering tongue? What if David had completely given in to discouragement because of his sins? What if Isaiah, after he had seen the Lord high and lifted up, would have refused to offer himself for service because he was a "man of unclean lips"? What if Peter had shrunk back from serving the Lord because he had once betrayed Him? What if Paul had become so discouraged by his "former life" that he decided he

couldn't be effective in spreading the gospel? What if the boy had not offered his five loaves and two fishes? What if the widow would not

have thrown in her mite? The list goes on and on. Oh, the world would have kept going, but how sad it would have been for us to not have the inspiration of their stories.

Lord, please give me the courage and willingness to offer the little that is in my hand to you. Alone I am truly worthless and empty – just an earthen vessel – but ready for service I stand.

*"He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust"*

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## Trust in God's Wisdom

By Clifford Smith

It is often the simplest of illustrations that stick indelibly in our minds. Such is the case with the shovel and the worm. Old Brother Trimble was a plasterer by trade for many, many years and one of the best in the business. He shared the following story one night in a prayer meeting. He was sitting down eating his lunch one day, taking a break from his work, when he happened to look over at a shovel leaning against the wall. He watched as a tiny worm worked its way up the handle of that

shovel. He thought to himself, what if that little worm would stop, look over at me and say, "Trimble, I know you think you've got this all figured out, but you really don't know what you're doing. Why don't you just let me tell you how this plaster job should be done, because I know more about this plastering trade than you do." Bro. Trimble burst out laughing to himself with the thought of something so absolutely preposterous. "Just imagine," he said, "that little 'ole insignificant worm trying to tell me, J.W. Trimble, how to run my plaster business! What a ridiculous thought. That's about as ridiculous as us trying to tell God how to run His business. "



Well, the story is admittedly a bit humorous, but is it sometimes not so far from the truth? Do we always trust in God's wisdom as well as His power, as we so often quote? Do we believe it enough that we, indeed, let it make a difference in our lives? Does God really know what is best? That is a rhetorical question to be sure. Of course, the obvious answer is a resounding, Yes!

We become overwhelmed with the problems and difficulties and distresses and afflictions and tangles of life, and it seems so clear to us what is needed to "fix" them and what should happen to make everything like it should be. It's so obvious. It's so logical. It's so apparent. We think we see the picture clearly, don't we? And then we pray God to answer prayer as we think He should. We see the issues of life like the pieces of a picture puzzle and we just know *how* and *when* and *where* things should come together.

But remember, God sees the great mosaic of life, a greater picture that is hidden from our vision, greater than the pieces of the little puzzle that are just a part of that mosaic. And in His great plan the things he lets happen are for a greater good in a broader way—oftentimes beyond our understanding and vision. Certainly, let us pray with faith and hope and expectation, but always with the caveat, "...*nevertheless*, not my will, but thy will be done." God knows what is best.



## ...From the Mailbox

*Springfield, MO*

We give God praise and thanksgiving for His mercies unto our family. On September 24, our 18-year-old son, Devon, was in a drowning accident. While duck hunting with friends, he waded into a lake to retrieve his bird. Something went terribly wrong and our son, who was normally a strong swimmer, went under and did not come back up.

It took 5 minutes for his friends to reach him lying on the bottom of the lake and another space of time to drag him to shore. Devon was not breathing and had turned purple. After a total of about 15 minutes and an attempt at CPR, God helped him to start breathing again. He remained unconscious for 60-90 minutes until emergency personnel arrived. They reported that he was in complete cardiac arrest.

By all accounts, Devon should have died. Survival, which was statistically impossible, should have left him brain dead or severely impaired—but God stepped on the scene. Devon was conscious by the following day and discharged from the hospital four days after the accident. We praise God for His mercy and we are still marveling at the miracle He has done. He is worthy of all praise.

We thank the saints who rallied to our side and supported us through the days at the hospital. So many testified that God had given them a burden to pray before and during the time of the accident. We count it a privilege to place our lives in the hands of such a wonderful God. Please keep our son in your prayers.

—René Smith

***PRAISE ye the Lord, O give thanks  
unto the Lord, for he is good; for his  
mercy endureth forever.  
— Psalms 106:1***





## FOREIGN MISSIONS

### INDIA



The Church of God congregations in the US have a relationship with some 20 congregations located in Kerala province of South India dating to

the 1960s. The Church in India publishes a *Faith and Victory*-style monthly paper in Malayalam language and conducts local and annual revival and general meetings. The congregations there also maintain an orphanage and are continually active in outreach efforts in every community where congregations exist.

We in the US are laboring to support the pastors of the respective congregations there at \$75/month each and also try to maintain the chapels at the various congregations, which were built with funds from the US and which also serve as pastoral housing.

Prior to the 9/11/2001 terrorist attacks Pastor John Varghese, who is a mainstay of the Kerala effort, was a frequent visitor to our meetings. Since that time we have been unable to get visas for any visitors from India.

We are also affiliated with 3 congregations in Shillong, Northern India, and one congregation in the northern province of Manipur. The general meeting of the Church of God congregations in both north and south India is held in early January annually, and saints from the US are invited.

Support for the India effort can be sent to:

**Ed Wilson, c/o Neosho Church of God,  
11649 Ozark View Lane, Neosho, MO 64850.**



### AFRICA

The gospel work continues to expand in six countries in Africa with many congregations identifying themselves with the

Church of God. It is a special blessing to see the saints in Malawi working together in unity for the furtherance of the Kingdom. There are people breaking with custom to stand on the Word of God rather than traditional practices.

It was with much thanksgiving that Huruma Dolor Orphanage in Kenya celebrated the grand opening of the new facility on October 12, 2013. The ceremony was attended by approximately 1,200 people. Many government officials were in attendance and pledged their support to the work of the orphanage. Since Bro. Michael Smith had to cancel his travel plans due to a family crisis, Bro. Phillip Bell traveled to Kenya in his place. He challenged the community to give sacrificially on behalf of the orphans.

The orphanage has had a difficult month due to power outages and drought. The well has struggled to keep up with the demand for water this year. The children are excited and happy to be living in a clean facility which they say is "like America." We are looking to the Lord to provide sponsors for the children and to give us direction in future plans to build a secondary school. The government is in the process of granting permission to open a ninth grade class.

## *Change a life through* **SPONSORSHIP**



Visit [africamission.com](http://africamission.com) or write **Africa Mission & Beyond** to learn how you can sponsor the care and education of a young boy or girl at **Huruma Dolor Orphanage** in Kenya.





## PAKISTAN

With great sadness of heart, we report that on September 22, Muslim suicide bombers exploded bombs in the city of Peshawar among Christian worshippers. There were over 100 casualties and over 200 people sustained injuries. Many were burned beyond recognition. Blood literally ran in the courtyard. A large number of Sunday School children were slaughtered in this atrocity. Many of the pictures we received were too gruesome for publication. One of the brethren with whom we labor in Pakistan is ministering to these suffering families. Our thoughts and prayers go to the persecuted Christians of other lands.

—Michael Smith

Support for *Africa Mission & Beyond* ministries:  
(*Africa, Pakistan, The Gospel Truth, & HDO*)

**Africa Mission & Beyond**  
**P.O. Box 2042, Nixa, MO 65714**  
**[www.africamission.com](http://www.africamission.com)**



## HONDURAS

(*Excerpts from the fall meeting report*)

In September, nine saints from the US traveled to Honduras for a week-long meeting: Bro. Ivan and Sis. Eileen Eck, Brothers Jeremy Booher, Larry Abbot, Jim Wall, Bro Ted Bock, Bro. Doug and Sis. Lenita Wall and daughters.

The ones there were so excited to be having a camp meeting again! Sunday morning service was full of anticipation. Song after song was called and testimony after testimony was given. The Lord did not disappoint them and sent His word with anointing.

Every service was blessed. Morning services had a much lower attendance because of work. Night service brought more than the little mission pickup could haul in a single trip, and a number of times people arrived late waiting for their turn to pack into the back of the pickup. Sis. Reinita freely let her pickup be used but we had to stop using it because

it developed mechanical problems. A bus was hired a few times to bring different ones from Coxen Hole. We also had many attend from other church groups.

There was altar work nearly every night. Some were measuring up to what had just been preached and others were giving their hearts to the Lord. Still others wanted prayer that God would continue to deal with them. The main group of saints from the States left the last Saturday of the meeting, but Doug stayed behind for the last weekend of services. A young woman repented with bitter tears for her sins Saturday night and rejoiced and rejoiced afterward. She gave testimonies in each service after her salvation. We have heard since returning home that she is still so happy to be saved!

A young man and his fiancée came forward and gave their hearts to the Lord after the last service of the meeting had closed. They had their minds made up and set out to get things cleared up in their lives. He was a young student in the school and a frequent visitor to our home when we lived there. We rejoice to see how the Lord had been dealing with him!

A need was brought to the attention of the brethren from the States. Laws are changing in the country and it is no longer legal to use the back of the pickup to carry more than three or four at a time. Better transportation is truly a need the congregation has. It is one they are unable to take care of on their own. They asked us to help them pray that the Lord would provide. We pass the request on to you. A small bus, minivan, able to carry 15 that is typically used in the country would cost around \$13,000. Fuel cost is over \$5 per gallon on the island, so fuel economy is an important consideration.

Because Doug stayed for the last service, he had to fly to San Pedro. He was a little apprehensive because San Pedro has recently been named the most dangerous city in the world, but the Lord gave him a peace about it. He started talking to the taxi driver. The driver kept asking when he was returning to San Pedro, and before it was over, invited him to come preach at his congregation! We are thankful for a wonderful meeting, and traveling safely there and back. — Lenita Wall



## Whom Shall I Send?

By Angela Gellenbeck

*"I ... saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up...Then said I, 'Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips... for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.' Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it on my mouth, and said, 'Lo, this hath touched thy lips;*

*and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.' Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then said I, 'Here am I; send me.' " (Isaiah 6:1-8).*

*"Then saith he unto his disciples, 'The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.' " (Matt. 10:37-38).*

Dear young friend, today, even more than when Jesus initiated this important prayer request, there is a great need for consecrated workers. When we read this along with Isaiah's account we can quite accurately tell you what the problem is and what can be done about it. Even more than a lack of workers, there is a great lack of people, young people like Isaiah, Jeremiah, or Daniel—all young men—who have truly had a vision of the Lord, been convicted of their personal sins, and have had the fire of God touch them and purge them. There is a huge gap that should be filled with eager young men and women who are hearing the call of God, "Whom shall I send? Who will go?" and are responding passionately, "Here am I! Send me! Send me!"

You tell me. What would be keeping you from really, really *seeing* the Lord? Really *hearing* His call? Really *responding* to that call? With passion? With zeal? With intense enthusiasm?

It's because young men and women are full with seeing other things. There is so much to distract your mind, so many voices that call and beckon, so many other things to steal your time, that there isn't much attraction to the Royal Majesty of the Heavens sitting upon His throne. The years of your life will speed by, and then you are forty, then fifty, then seventy-five, and then gone. How will YOUR life count for God? Who will you bring to the Savior? What part of His Kingdom did you help extend? What ministry did you fulfill?

I challenge you to begin an intense personal *search* for God. To see Him. To know Him. To discover Him in *all* your ways. To experience His fire and hear His call. Lay down your small ambitions. Have done with lesser things. Give up your petty time-wasters and whatever takes your eyes and mind, and get to doing the Father's business! You are only young once!



Think of the great needs in Father's harvest—the harvest of souls. There is a great need for anointed, experienced, Spirit-filled and wisdom-filled pastors. There are so many little congregations, little empty chapels, that would grow and fill and prosper if they had someone to feed them — someone to wrestle in prayer for their souls, someone to listen, care for the old and

lonely, young and confused, lost and forgotten souls!

How does a person come to be anointed, wisdom- and Spirit-filled, and experienced? Do they all of a sudden get in gear when they turn 35 and say, "Hey, it's time I work for the Lord"? No. To gain experience and wisdom it takes years of preparation and hard work, study, prayer, and being faithful in many small things. It takes starting when you are *young*, offering yourself, giving up yourself wholeheartedly to *whatever* and *wherever* the Lord will lead you. It's going through the many processes of life—tribulations and hardships and disappointments—that give you experience where you can say positively to others, "God can do this for you!"

Oh, there are needs. So many needs! God needs

teachers—teachers of sound Bible doctrine—and writers: those who can expound the Word of God and explain it in today's language to today's people. God needs writers of children's books and artists to illustrate them. Who will combat the onslaught of evil books and websites directed to children or the barrage of false doctrine coming through the various media outlets? God needs singers and writers of *spiritual songs*.

There is a great need for evangelists who will carry a burden for the lost, who are able to go where they are called and are anointed to preach salvation to the unsaved and a deeper spiritual walk to the believers. It is Satan's design to get a young person so tied up while yet so young that a life like that of an evangelist seems totally impossible and out of the question. But the Lord still asks, "WHOM shall I send? and WHO will go for us?"

God needs publishers and printers who have a *divine* call and God-given burden and zeal for a pure publishing work. He is calling for care-givers who will nurse the old or give a home to the orphan baby, or disabled person, or international student. There is a need for counselors and prayer warriors and for those who will work with alcoholics and addicts. How a person needs to be filled with God's Spirit and Wisdom for this special work! And yes, there is always a need for international missionaries and those who will give of their means to keep the missionaries going.

There is a place just for you. How shall they hear without a preacher? But how can they preach except they be sent? And how can they be sent unless they first say, "Here am I"? When I was a young person, an older minister brother told us several times, "God will never call those *who haven't first volunteered*." Will you seek God's face today? Will you earnestly answer the call, "Whom shall I send?" Will you be a volunteer for Jesus?

## Meeting Notices

### CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The annual California State Assembly Meeting will be held from December 27, 2013 through January 5, 2014. The first service will be Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. There will be three services daily throughout the remainder of the meeting at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The campground is located at 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, CA 91331. Three meals are provided daily as well as accommodations for those needing them. 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.

### OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

This Church of God meeting will be held Friday, December 20, 2013 through Sunday, December 29, 2013 at the campground at 304 E. Lakeview Ave., Guthrie, OK 73044. The first service will be Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. with three services daily thereafter at 10:15 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.; Young People, 6:00 p.m. An invitation is extended to everyone. There will be three meals per day and every effort made to provide lodging for those from out-of-town or country. Various accommodations are available. Please let us know as soon as possible to arrange for your housing. For more information, contact Bro. Phillip Gellenbeck, (405) 282-2999.

### LORANGER, LOUISIANA ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Loranger, Louisiana Assembly Meeting will be held November 27, 2013 through December 1, 2013 at the campground, located at 2317 Hwy 40, Loranger, LA. For more information, contact Bro. Carlos Doolittle, (985) 878-8122 or call the Chapel at (985) 878-2788.



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