

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

Church of God Servant

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

Volume 92. No. 1

92nd Year Guthrie, Oklahoma

March/April 2014

The Lord Hath Created a New Thing

By Bob Wilson

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters" (Genesis 1:1-2). As in creation, our lives are empty, without form, and void, a real mess of a mass of flesh. The Spirit of God is the answer for purpose, life, order, and beauty. He can turn the raw, broken elements of our life into a beautiful creation if we are willing to surrender all into his hands.

The Lord once told the prophet Jeremiah to go down to the potter's house. Jeremiah obeyed and I can see him standing to the side quietly watching as the potter worked on a vessel. All looked good and well for some time, then something happened that caused the vessel to mar in the potter's hands. Perhaps it was some piece of hardness in the clay that caused the marring. As Jeremiah watched, the potter took the marred vessel, perhaps adding a little moisture, and began working it in his hands once more. He then started forming another

vessel. As Jeremiah beheld this scene, the word of the Lord came to him saying, "O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel" (Jeremiah

18:6). Has our life been marred? Is it empty, without form, and void? Have we made a big mess of things? The message is one of hope for you and me. The people in Jeremiah's day felt there was no hope for them. Perhaps they had tried and failed again, so they decided not to try any more but to go on in their own ways. A teenage girl that we tried to help expressed this sentiment to me once after family worship: "I tried that before and it didn't work for me." Well, I knew she was wrong because I had seen what the Lord had done in my own life and in the lives of many others; and it occurred to me that for a recipe to work correctly, all the ingredients needed to be in the mix.

Isaiah 57:15 gives us one of the most necessary ingredients that is often lacking on the part of humanity: "For thus saith the high and lofty one that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the heart of the contrite ones." It is truly simple;



THE POTTER TOOK THE MARRED VESSEL IN HIS HANDS

Continued On Page 2

Continued From Page 1

when we truly humble our hearts, the spirit of God moves. However, the natural temptation for all of us is to put blame on our circumstances or other people. David, when confronted with his sin, cried out to the Lord, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10). David's eyes were once blinded to his real condition; but now he realized the old heart was defiled with adultery, murder, and deceit. The Lord told of an account of a sinner that came to the temple: smiting his breast, he cried unto the Lord, "...be merciful unto me a sinner." It was beyond his ability to get a new heart. There was no sacrifice that he could offer that would create something new or effect any change. The weight of his sins was weighing heavily upon him. David also came to this realization. "For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" (Psalm 51:17). The Lord is not interested in our purposes and resolutions to be better; they will soon fail.

As I behold the power, majesty, greatness, and beauty of the Lord in His Creation all around me each day, it reminds me that I can bring the broken fragments, failures, and sins to the foot of Calvary and find that He is able to create anew.

He Giveth More Grace

By Anita Adams

Have you ever been at the end of your rope? Has there ever been a time that you felt like you just didn't have much patience left, or perhaps love or forgiveness?

The Lord inspired me with a passage of scripture recently:

"And she said, As the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for

thy son. For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail..." (I Kings 17:12-14)



Perhaps you are just like this poor widow. You have nothing on hand to give. Your emotional energy is used up. Your patience is barely there. Your love is just a handful. You only have a little forgiveness left in the bottle. But God is saying to you today, "Go ahead and offer it to me as a sacrifice. Give it to your fellowman, and I the Lord your God will make sure it doesn't run out. I will have more patience there when you need it in the next trial. I will fill your heart with love just when you need it most." The forgiveness that only comes from above will be in the bottle ready to mix into life's situations when you reach for it. It will not fail nor waste. Oh, praise our God for his unfailing supply.

I think of the song, "He Giveth More Grace." For He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again. What was it He told Paul in II Corinthians 12:9? "...My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness..." "My grace is sufficient." That doesn't sound like an overabundance—just enough for the task at hand. Not so much that we fail to realize our dependence on God and become lifted up, but just enough for today; and then when the trials of tomorrow come we will find as we look into the barrel of meal, just enough grace for them. I want to be willing to give out the little bit I have on hand, and I also want the faith to realize that MY God will supply sufficient grace when I reach for it again.

The Footprints of Your Life

By James Bell

The 600 horsepower engine cranked slowly then burst into life as a squirt of starting fluid was sprayed into the intake manifold. The air boat was the only means to get out onto the ice to break it up then try to locate the boy who had been missing for 30 plus hours. Experienced divers would be put to the test as they experienced equipment failure and extreme cold.

There was no hope of rescue. Those chances were gone in just minutes after the contact with extremely cold water and one and a half to two inches of ice on top of the pond. Before the two-day ordeal was over, everyone would go through some kind of difficulty. Family members were beside themselves with their son missing, and the weather was brutal

with temperatures near 13 degrees above zero. At one point there were 22 police, fire, paramedics, sheriff's deputies, and dive team members, not counting all the news media, friends, and neighbors gathered; so it was a very intense time. The boy's tracks were obvious. They approached from a side street then moved along the edge of the frozen water and then out to the middle of the pond where a break occurred and then quickly refroze with only a glove left on top of the ice.

After walking around the retaining pond area, I noticed there were no footprints in the snow where he might have exited. It was very positive that he was there somewhere in the water

under the ice. Our life is much like this. We are leaving a set of footprints that are traceable. Some folks go missing for years. There are tracks where they once were when they took off into the world. Sadly enough most of them never come back. It made me wonder, did this boy scream for help and was there anyone close enough to hear his distress? Evidently not. The further people get away, the less likely they are to be heard if help is wanted.

Just imagine if this were your son who was

missing. Wouldn't you be glad for all the help you could get to find him? We should pray for God to send workers to help rescue our unsaved children and loved ones. Pray God will help those laborers to be skillful and able to reach them quickly because

time is of the essence. Pray that they will have resources, efficiency, and be persuasive and

influential to be able to bring them back. Remember this could have been your child.

My story has no good ending except that the family did have some sort of closure because their son was found not far away from the hole in the ice. This family's holidays were spent in grief, and now their life is forever changed. Now the question to you is, "Friend, where are your footprints? Have you wandered away. Have you told anyone where you are going?" Thank God he has people who care for you and He is interested in pulling you out before it is too late.

Where are *your* tracks?



*We are leaving a set of
footprints that are traceable.*

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.

Articles, meeting notices, testimonies, etc. must be submitted at least one month prior to date of publication.

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

Editorial

The first buds on the trees and the blossoms of the early flowers speak to us of new life and the beginning of spring. The glorious words of the angel so many springs ago, "He is not here, but is risen" still have the power to bring hope of eternal life to those who place their faith in Jesus Christ. Though the scripture is true, "It is appointed unto men once to die," the sting of death has been forever taken away because sin was conquered by the atoning blood and resurrection of our Lord and Savior. Remember the words of the song that say "There's a light in the valley of death now for me, Since Jesus came into my heart." Jesus walked through that valley of death and left the light on for us. The Psalmist expressed it, "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me." This year as we recall the resurrection of Jesus, let us rejoice anew in the wonderful plan of redemption.

God's standard of holiness

It was a blessing to see the Spirit giving inspiration to the importance of living to God's standard of holiness in the articles submitted to the Faith & Victory this past month. The moral and ethical standards once revered in our society are now being discarded on a regular basis. It is alarming to see the world's influence gaining a strong foothold even among professed Christians. Unless we are filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, the pressures of the world will cause us to conform to its own likeness. Romans 12:2 says, "Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." The Word of God is clear: "Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Following God's Word is not only liberating, but it will protect us from the evil of the world. Let us prayerfully consider the eternal consequence to our souls as we make decisions about what we allow in our lives.

May God richly bless and lead each and every one.



From My Viewpoint

By Julie Elwell

May I write from the heart for a moment? When someone says, “You must live a holy life,” it can elicit various responses from people. It can be easy to automatically associate the definition of the word ‘holiness’ with others’ perceptions of what the application of that word means, which may or may not be a completely accurate definition. The thing is, my definition can also be skewed because of the desires of my flesh and my humanity. For this reason, we were given the admonition: it is not wise to measure ourselves by ourselves nor compare ourselves among ourselves. The word of God, as lived before us through the example of Jesus Christ, is the standard of holiness by which we ought to measure our lives.

I started a job a few years back typing reports. The lady who proofread them would send them back to me marked in red from top to bottom with changes and/or corrections. This went on for quite some time. I’ll be honest. At first I was disbelieving because I had perceived myself as being an “okay” typist. I felt I was doing my best and ‘my best’ just didn’t seem good enough. Finally, on lunch break one day, I had a “meeting with myself.” I was discouraged and felt this lady was unreasonable in her high standard of expectations. However, I made the decision that on my own time I would take precise notes of every single correction and change she made. Surprisingly (or not so surprisingly), patterns began to emerge of things I needed to do differently. Those “red marks” decreased drastically from that point forward! In the end, I was THANKFUL I had been held to a high standard. It was an ultimate benefit for me that someone took time to help me learn. (By the way, this lady and I are very good friends!)



The standard of God’s holiness is high.

Because we are surrounded by so many people who have such tolerance for worldliness it can be easy to begin to believe God is also tolerant and His expectations are “really not that high.” After all, He knows our frame and remembers we are dust, right? Because we ARE dust, how many times have we desperately needed to run into the arms of a loving and merciful God who understands us, knows our exact situation, and is not ignorant of the forces that shaped us and led us to the place in life we find ourselves? The wonderful and beautiful truth is, God IS loving. He IS merciful. Thankfully, His mercy is high above the earth. Neither does He “send our lives back to us every day marked in red from top to bottom!” He gently leads us and reveals truth to our hearts in a reasonable and gentle manner we are able to absorb.

Let us make no mistake, however. Holiness is a HIGH standard. God does not accept fleshly behaviors, and we will not inherit the kingdom of heaven if we willingly allow them in our lives (Galatians 5:13, 19-21). Just because the biblical standard of holiness is high, is it unattainable or will it be a “drag” on our lives? Should we be discouraged? No. The highway of holiness, although a straight and narrow way, is designed by the Master Architect to *enhance* our lives—not punish us!

What about the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us—people who have lived their lives as shining beacons that compel us to draw near to God? Oh, how grateful we are for them! They are

such a great source of encouragement in our Christian walk—proof of God’s keeping grace. God’s word remains the standard of holiness, but let us also learn from those who have taught us, by example, how to live a holy life. How we need the Holy Spirit to write His truth upon our hearts!

As we honestly seek the Lord, He will teach us and help us live above the pollution of sin and above the haze of nominal Christianity. The air is clear and pure on the heights of Mount Zion. Let’s not settle for living anywhere in the lower elevations of substandard-ness!

FROM THE PULPIT



Quick and Powerful!

*This is an excerpt of a message preached by Marty
Clevenger at the
Guthrie, OK Assembly Meeting
December 23, 2013*

We have a gift folks; a gift that is quick and powerful. It has the ability to preserve us as a people and as individuals. It is the precious gift of the Word of God. Can you imagine what things would be like if the Lord had not seen fit to bring the Word of God down to us in our time? Can you imagine not being able to draw on the words, "For God so loved the world?" Do you know how many times I have wondered what the Lord really thinks of me? Things don't always go well for me. I have some questions sometimes. Yet, there are these very powerful words that say, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son." I draw from that. Do you know how many times I felt less than I should have, thinking, Lord, how do I approach God? There is a scripture in Hebrews that says to "Come boldly to the throne of grace." Those are powerful words to me. I am glad I can draw from that. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

How many times have I been in a place where my needs are before me and yet there is the Word of God? Over and over again I think of being in His pavilion. I think of being in His high tower. I think about the things of God that have been in me. I hear a word—the word *care*. I heard it the other day and I said, "Yes! Casting all your care upon

Him for He careth for YOU." It was there. The Word of God meant something. It means something. When I need something there is something to draw on. Can you imagine if you didn't have that? No! I couldn't imagine it! To me it is strength. It is power.

Do you ever feel hopeless? Do you ever feel like you don't understand? There is a scripture that says, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for." Faith. I draw on the things of faith. I need the Word. I want to challenge us today on something, because I think if we are not very careful we do not take advantage, we really don't utilize the Word of God and its powerful effect in our lives. It is altering. It is changing. It is encouraging. It is inspiring. It is uplifting. But left to itself it accomplishes nothing. Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is quick..." I do not think that means little, fast motions. It is alive. Do you know what that means? It is not dead and unperforming. It is animated. It is animated in the soul. It is animated in the heart. It doesn't just go there and stop. The Word of God is not dead. Once it is put there it begins to animate. It works.

The word of God is quick and powerful. It is sharper than any two-edged sword.

It goes. It does something. It is quick. The word of God is quick and powerful. It is sharper than any two-edged sword. If we

have a situation we do not know how to handle, I am going to tell you, there is the Word of God for that thing. It will take care of that situation. I do not know about you, but when I listen to the news, a lot of times I am comparing the news with the Word of God. Somebody will say, "The answer to this problem is...." and I say, "No it's not! No it's not! I have a scripture for that!" The Lord already gave us the answer for that problem, and that is not it! The Word of God is not something that just takes care of symptoms. It isn't a "symptom" thing.

At home my Dad would cut down locust trees. When we cut down locust trees there would be 50 or 100 of them spring up in the yard—because we took the top out and the roots were still there. No, there is another solution! The ax is laid to the *root* of the tree. The Word of God is sharp and

powerful. It wants to get right down to the problem. It wants to fix it once and for all. It wants to do what is not possible for anything else to do. I read something where a woman was a worrier. Finally, she saw her doctor who said, "You just worry too much." He said, "You know they did a study and 80 percent of what you worry about doesn't come true." She said, "*See it works!*" That is proof! She worried about them and 80 percent of them didn't come true! The Lord does not want us thinking about those kinds of things. He said we should do His will and follow Him and do what we are supposed to do and quit worrying about what the country is going to do, what the nation is going to do, what this will do and what that will do. God already told us it was in His hands. He said, "Be servants of God!" Thank God for the Word of God today! But, it is meaningless if I don't apply it.



Do you know what the world needs to hear? They don't need to hear my opinion! They don't need to hear our opinions! They need to hear the Word of God. It is quick and powerful. It will bring conviction to hearts.

I want to look at another scripture in Jeremiah 23:29. "*Is not my word like as a fire?*" See, a fire has life, doesn't it? Fire quits burning when it quits consuming. As long as fire is burning it is consuming something. Burning it up. *Has not my word the ability to burn up everything unlike God? Isn't my word powerful enough to do it? Isn't my word – placed in the right place – profitable? Can it take out what needs to be taken out?* Sure it can. It is quick. It is alive. Fire burns. It is alive. It is powerful – to destroy. We need that destroying element. To destroy self, selfishness. To destroy the things the world is trying to bring into our midst. Purity. We need purity of heart and mind.

I know the world religions don't teach it, but it is still truth. You know, the Word of God says we should be holy because He is holy.

You want to live for God? It is a holy way. How are you going to get that way? Words of fire burn up all the other elements – if applied. Yes, Lord. Give me your Word. Help me to speak right, act right, and look right.

I hope the Lord helps me to say, "*Lord, let me know what it [your Word] is and help me to apply it deeply in my life. This is the rule of my faith that I will take this and accept it into my life and go by its suggestions and comments and will place it in my life for the betterment of my own life and for my eternal destiny. I believe it is right there in the Word of God, standing forever.*"

To hear the entire message and hundreds of other Church of God messages, go online to:

www.churchofgodpreaching.com

The Power of Influence

- *What role should internet use have in the life of a Christian?*
- *What is the Bible standard concerning movies and television?*
- *What role does music play in our lives?*

In the current issue of *The Gospel Truth*, a Bible study and related articles address these and other critical questions on the power of influence. Subscribe to this Church of God periodical at www.thegospeltruth.org.



***"You will never INFLUENCE the world
By trying to be like it."***

DOES THE OUTSIDE MATTER?



By Angela Busbee

Dear Young Friend,

I would like to speak to you about a matter very close to the heart: your outward appearance. I say it that way because there is a dangerous lie being perpetuated among professing Christians today: *"God doesn't care about the outside; it's the heart that counts."* But the Bible answers this assumption in

several ways:

What you look like on the outside, for the most part, makes a statement about what is on the inside

I believe lots of room can be given for people who have come to know Jesus but aren't yet familiar with the truths of the Bible. They really love Jesus, and He has saved them from sin, and their hearts are pure. They want to live as God wants, but they don't really know what that means yet. Their fear of God may have been taught to them, since they were small, by the commandments of men. "God doesn't care about this; this Scripture means this; this is what that is talking about." An example might be a no-nonsense type woman who just really likes to save time and eliminate non-essentials. Her idea of that is to give herself a "boy" haircut just for the efficiency of it. She may feel that she pleases God by saving that time. The truth in I Cor. 11 about God giving a woman long hair to be an essential covering for her, which has spiritual meaning as well, has not yet been revealed to her.

That being said, the inner, spiritual qualities of meekness, modesty, quietness of spirit, shamefacedness, and humility are very important to God (think *Beatitudes!*) and of "great price" in His sight. If they are being cultivated diligently inside a person's heart, they will begin to produce changes

in the statements a person makes with his/her clothing. You know how it works. If a person likes "western/cowboy" stuff, he makes a statement about that with the type of jeans, shirts, belts, boots, or hats he wears. If you're into hunting, you would probably choose a camo jacket rather than a wool dress coat. What you're "into" really comes out in your choice of apparel. If you were an employee of Baskin Robbins but insisted on wearing a Dairy Queen uniform to work, just how would your boss react to that? My point is that we really represent who we work for! If you're really interested in what is pleasing in God's sight, you're totally "into" that, and you start seeking to portray that and represent Him, not only inwardly, but by what comes out of your life in conversation and appearance.

God deeply cares about both the inside and outside and addresses both in His Word

Seeking after God's will in dress will have you searching His Word. It will have you saying to Him, "God, I'm willing to do WHATEVER You show me." Does His Word address this issue? Yes, from beginning to end, and here are a few examples:

Genesis 3:7, 21. Because of the shame that sin brought, Adam and Eve attempted to fix the problem by making aprons out of leaves. Aprons were not sufficient, as you can see when God took an animal and sacrificed its life to make coats to clothe them instead. So God proves here that He does care what you look like on the outside.

Exodus 28:42. God was very specific that His priests should have sufficient covering of their bodies. (Are we not "priests" of God today? I Peter 2:9).

Deuteronomy 22:5. Gender distinction is important to God.

I Corinthians 11:1-15. A person's hair does matter to God, and demonstrates one's honor and respect to his or her God-given roles.

I Timothy 2:9-10 and **I Peter 3:3-6**. Both Paul and Peter instructed the saints to dress with modesty and simplicity. True, God doesn't want us to appear righteous on the outside while neglecting the inside, as Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for doing (Matthew 23:25-28). The outside has its place of importance because of the influence on people around us, who, as God told Samuel, do look "on the outward appearance."

What you look like on the outside directly influences what happens on the inside of the hearts of those around you

Please consider prayerfully what happened on one of King David's darkest days. II Samuel 11 has to be one of the saddest stories, but we can read it and learn from it. A woman's indiscreet display of her body had such awful repercussions. A man--because of negligence, lust, and deceitfulness--paid an awful price for the rest of his life.

Jesus said that adultery is committed in the heart when someone looks lustfully on another person. (Matthew 5:28). Does a whole lot more need to be spelled out? Can we not humbly accept this as a fact, that what we wear or not wear can affect someone else? Can we not, in love for another's soul, help our brother, be our brother's keeper, and regard his human weakness with carefulness and concern? What is legalistic about that? That is loving one another as Christ also loved us!

Clothing styles are originated by and/or strongly influenced by some type of spirit, either the spirit of this world or a Christ-like spirit

I would like to tell a true story. When I was a teenager, a group of we girls went to the mall to do some shopping. Along the way, a couple girls began sharing some discouraging ideas about this whole issue of modesty. Quite honestly, before long, a pretty rebellious attitude took shape in this conversation. Some of us did not agree with what

they were saying, but we pretty much kept quiet and prayed silently about it. When we entered the mall, we discovered that a cheerleading competition was going on in the center area. The music, with its sensual dance beat, reverberated throughout the entire building. The young women were in embarrassingly brief uniforms, and their dance routines were sickening in their vulgarity. There was a heavy influence of an evil spirit. You could feel its opposition to God, or anything godly. We didn't stay long, and when we were all back in the car, quietness settled down on us for a while. Then one of the girls who had been complaining about modesty teachings said, soberly, "I guess I was totally wrong about my attitude. There really is a

spirit controlling the worldly people. It was so strong, and I was scared!"

It doesn't take long for something that seems so innocent--just earthly, just human--to deteriorate into something sensual, and then devilish, because that

is the root of it all. Satan is the prince of this world, and his spirit rules in the fashion world--the world of drama, theatre, glamour, entertainment. It is at war with the Spirit of Christ, and if we would be true to Jesus, we must abstain from these fleshly lusts which war against our souls. Remember this also: God may not have spelled out every detail in His written Word, but He has promised the Holy Spirit to be our guide and teacher. The New Testament also instructs us that the older men and women were to teach the younger ones about godliness (II Timothy 2:2 and Titus 2:4-5). Diligently consider the teachings the older, godly saints give you. "To be discreet, chaste. . ." Teachings on this will most definitely contain instructions about your appearance. Don't despise them. They are not your salvation--only Jesus is--but they are things that ACCOMPANY salvation. (Hebrews 6:9).

God bless you, my friend, to find a safe, contented place in God's will.

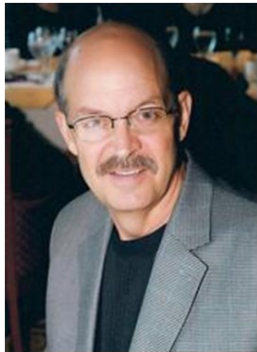




In Memoriam

Delmar Lee Wilkins

July 30, 1952—January 19, 2014



Delmar Lee Wilkins, age 61, of Guthrie, Oklahoma passed away January 19, 2014 at his home. He was born July 30, 1952 to Ralph O. and Dorothy (Delmar) Wilkins in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Delmar married Brenda Williams on June 2, 1973.

They came to Guthrie in 1976. He was a member of the Church of God and was a Trustee and a member of the Mission Board of the Church of God. He owned and operated Wilkins Auto Body since 1985. Delmar loved his work and enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren. One of his greatest joys in life was serving God and helping others.

He is survived by his wife Brenda of the home in Guthrie, his three children Brent Wilkins and wife Tabitha, Melodie Booher and Kriscinda Sallee and husband Travis all of Guthrie; his siblings, Ruth Dollins and husband Bill of Shawnee, OK, Chris Rogers and Ken Payne of Kahoka, MO, Dale Wilkins and wife Edie of Portage, MI, Nancy Allen and husband Terry of Fair Grove, MO, Judy Morgan and husband Gary of Rogersville, MO and Steve Wilkins of Pagosa Springs, CO. He is also survived by ten grandchildren, Makayla, Kaytra and Jayden Booher; Trevor, Dawson, Lance and Irelynn Sallee; Ariynna, Avery and Alexandra Wilkins. He was preceded in death by his parents and one grandchild, Tisha.

Services were held at the Church of God in Guthrie, OK with Brother Phillip Gellenbeck officiating and assisted by Brother Curtis Williams. Memorials may be made to Africa Mission, c/o Church of God, 605 Bishops Court, Nixa, MO 65714.

Karen Sue LaCroix

March 19, 1959—February 1, 2014



Karen Sue Lacroix, age 54, of Loranger, LA went home to be with her Lord on Saturday, February 1, 2014. She was born on March 19, 1959 in Dayton, OH to Curtis & Burnice Williams.

She moved to Loranger, LA in 1980

upon her marriage to Doyle Glenn LaCroix, where she lived for 32 years. During this time the Lord called her into the ministry, and she faithfully ministered to the Loranger and Jena congregations for over 18 years. She spent the last two years of her life with her daughter and family in Dayton, OH as she fought a faithful fight with cancer, from which the Lord delivered her with an eternal reward.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Curtis & Burnice Williams; sister, Marsha Williams; and brother-in-law, Delmar Wilkins. Karen is survived by her daughter, Katrina (Clint) Doolittle of Dayton, OH; son, Kendrick LaCroix of Baton Rouge; 6 grandchildren, 2 brothers; 4 sisters; and many other relatives and friends. She found a great consolation and abiding peace in the love of her Savior Jesus Christ and the many prayers and encouraging words of his people.

Services were held at the Church of God in Loranger, LA with Brothers Ed Wilson and Michael Williamson officiating, assisted by Brothers Curtis Williams and Larry Abbot.

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord...and their works do follow them. Rev. 14:13



... *From the Mailbox*

Ruthe (Byers) Taylor
Kingsburg, CA

Dear Ones,

Thanks be to God for all those who worked to get the Evening Light Song Books available again. My mind goes back to the first edition in 1948!! The Saints worked together to make it possible by buying "plates" necessary for printing @ \$5.00 per song.

The testimonies of faith that each song expresses continue to ring through the ages!! The labors of Brother Fred Pruitt and all the many helpers of the Print Shop continue to bear fruit! Let us all continue to fill whatever place in the Body of Christ that He has called us to.

I am so thankful for those who sacrificed to bring the gospel to my neighborhood when I was a teenager. The God I found then has led and guided me and abundantly blessed me through the past seventy years. His service grows sweeter each day as I get one step nearer to that great rejoicing day of the faithful.

[Sister Ruthe and Brother Lawrence D. Pruitt compiled and arranged the songs in the First Edition of the Evening Light Songs book—Editors]

Jeanne Eck
Bartlet, KS

I never cease to be amazed at how the LORD will often reaffirm what He says. The first day of January, the Lord gave me a gift that will last the whole year! I discovered two more verses to the song "How Firm a Foundation," which I have dearly loved because of the MESSAGE it always brings to me. Then, in a few days, we received our new Faith and Victory paper in the mail, and there, in the center, was the reaffirmation from the Lord! These verses are especially comforting to me as I

anticipate with fear and trembling the huge responsibility of caring for someone very dear to me in their old age. I feel an intense inadequacy, but I know that "as thy days may demand, shall thy strength ever be" and "like lambs they shall still in My bosom be borne." I just thank the Lord for the assurance of His love and care. I know I am not alone on this journey!

I also want to give the Lord all the praise for bringing me through what appeared to be three gall bladder attacks last fall. My desire was that through this affliction my dross would be consumed and my gold refined! The Lord was faithful and healed my body.

Gladys Cashio
Loranger, LA

"If I could tell of Jesus as I know Him, if you could with Him through the garden go, if I could tell you how He died to save you, you would worship at His precious feet, I know. I would tell it as I should. I would tell it if I could. How the sunshine of His presence lights my way! I would tell it, yes, I would. I would tell it if I could, and I'm sure that you would make Him yours today."

The above is a song that Sister May Carver used to sing, especially at campmeeting. She also sang, "I'd rather have Jesus than to own all earth's treasures." Sister Carver was an inspiration to me. The Carvers helped me get settled in the truth, and their blessing still lingers with me today. There was always something deep within that caused me to desire to serve the Lord, but I had much to learn.

Young people, take care of your youth and your young body. Virtue is needed from childhood until death. Our good book teaches, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world...For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

I John 2:15-17

Search the scriptures. Seek to know God's will. He is not willing that any should perish. His words are life, and His word shall judge each one in the last day.

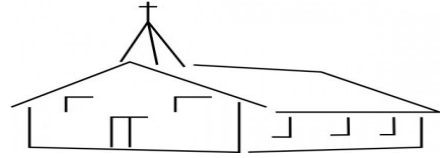
GO FORWARD!

"Speak unto the children of Israel,
that they go forward" (Exodus 14:15b)

Take courage when faced with the mountains and valleys along the journey of life. There will be trials, afflictions, disappointments and temptations. It is not time to turn around in discouragement.

Look unto Jesus and 'Go Forward.'
God's grace will be sufficient and He will give strength and victory!

Church of God Meeting Dates



Oklahoma State (Guthrie OK) May 24-June 1
Green Bank, WV (Camp Meeting) June 13-19
Tulsa, OK (Sisters' Retreat) June 20-21
Jefferson, OR (Camp Meeting) June 22-29
Oregon Youth Camp June 30-July 2
Fresno, CA (Camp Meeting) June 29-July 6
General Southern (Loranger, LA) June 29-July 6
National (Monark Springs, MO) July 18-27
Spooner, WI (Tent Meeting) Aug 6-1
California State (Pacoima, CA) August 15-24
Myrtle, MO (Camp Meeting) Aug 29-Sep 1

For more detailed information, go online to:
churchofgodpreaching.com

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