

FAITH AND VICTORY

Church of God Servant

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

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The Alabaster Box

By Ed Wilson

Luke 7:37-38 reads, "And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment."

In that day women were not included at banquets. Jewish rabbis did not speak to nor eat with women in public. This woman, though neither of his station nor religious claims, all uninvited, had the temerity to breach the privacy of a Pharisee's house, due solely to her passion to reach the Savior. She was a sinner, but she gave evidence that she was a repentant sinner.

That Jesus whom she sought out had given the gracious invitation, "Come unto me... and I will give you rest." We have no knowledge of how she came to be so powerfully attracted to the gentle Lamb of God. Perhaps she was present in the crowd when those gracious words were spoken and her woman's heart was moved to turn and trust the Savior. Her tears, her humble attitude, and her expensive gift all spoke of a changed heart.



The picture painted by the Apostle portrays a soul completely stripped of every lingering resistance to the Master's appeal. Stealing up behind the Lord, she looked down at him, but remembering her shameful past, suddenly commenced to weep. Her tears fell upon the feet of the Master, and as He turned, she became aware of what had happened. She knelt, untied her hair, and used her tresses as a towel. With tears falling faster than she could wipe them away, she placed her lips

against the Savior's feet and covered them with kisses. No Hebrew woman was ever seen in public with her hair down. This was an act of abasement, of deep humiliation. Any vestige of pride or self respect which she might have retained was completely destroyed by her action.

Jesus told her, "Thy sins are forgiven. Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace." This story does not deal with the amount of sin in a person's life but the awareness of that sin in his heart. How much sin must a person commit to be a sinner? There are two errors we must avoid here. We must not conclude that this woman was saved by her tears and gift. Jesus made it clear that it was her faith alone that saved her. Nor should we think lost sinners are saved by love, either God's for them or theirs for God. God loves the whole world, yet the whole world is not saved. Grace is love that pays a price, and that price was

Jesus' death on the cross.

Jesus accepted both the woman's tears and her gift of ointment because her works were the evidence of her faith. We are not saved by faith plus works; we are saved by a faith that leads to works. How did the woman know that her sins were forgiven? Jesus told her. How do we know today that we have been forgiven? God tells us so in His Word. His words of forgiveness were not cheap words; they cost Him dearly on the cross. How was she saved? She repented and put her faith in Jesus Christ. How did she know she was forgiven? She had His word. What was the proof of her salvation? Her love for Christ expressed in sacrificial devotion to Him. For perhaps the first time in her life she had peace with God. Literally the passage reads, "Go into peace," for she had moved out of the sphere of enmity toward God and into peace with God.

Luke 7 tells of Jesus' healing the centurion's servant and raising the widow's son, both great miracles. But the greatest miracle of all was His saving this woman from her sins and making her a new person. The miracle of salvation is the greatest miracle of all, for it meets the greatest need, brings the greatest eternal results, and cost the greatest price.

Just Forget It!

*If you've not been treated right
Just forget it.
Don't get ready for a fight
Just forget it.*

*Life's too short to hold a grudge,
'Twill your happiness besmudge,
Anyway you're not the judge,
So forget it.*

*If you've been misunderstood,
Just forget it,
Say, "I did the best I could."
Then forget it.*

*If you can't have your own way,
Don't be small enough to say,
"Well, I guess I just won't play,"
But forget it.*

*If somebody slanders you,
Just forget it.
Say, I'm glad it isn't true."
Then forget it.*

*Even if you lose a friend,
And the breach you cannot mend
It will pay you in the end,
To just forget it.*

Let Us Follow God's Law!

When we follow God's law, it will bring us peace. As certain and predictable as the time and seasons are, so is God's law. If we carefully follow it, we will have peace and joy in our lives. We as the children of God need to be very careful that we follow and obey his word. In order to follow his will, we must read and study the Word. Take time to get acquainted with the spirit of his word so you will understand it and be able to live it and reap its rich and blessed rewards. "Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart." Psalms 119:2

—James Bell

THE DAY IS DRAWING NEARER

Oh, the day is drawing nearer for the coming of the Lord:
For He promised it to happen on the pages of His Word.
For as sin and vile transgressions are abounding ev'rywhere,
And our government is crumbling 'neath the weight of sin and care.

Daily through our mail is sounding warnings dark of pain and care;
Gloomy pictures are abounding in a future of despair.
But we have a hope, a blessing, that our faith is taking in
Of our Saviour's sweet caressing, all our confidence to win.

For He said when He ascended He would surely come again,
And sweet hope with us is blended that He did not speak in vain.
And though centuries have passed on, yet of this we can be sure:
All our faith on Him is cast: to the end we must endure.

It will not get any better; no solution is in sight
Of our nation's woes and problems or to get things set aright,
But we're citizens of Heaven's golden bright eternal shore.
And its treasures are entwining in our hearts forevermore!

Let's look up! Press onward, trusting in our faithful God's decree,
Of His everlasting goodness and reward for you and me.
Let's be faithful, overcoming all this world's dark pain and woe:
Nor be charmed by sinful drumming as its leaders come and go.

Not the president nor rulers, democrat, republican,
But the King of kings in glory and His great salvation plan;
Gives us victory and comfort, hope and confidence so sure,
That will help us all the sorrows of this life to well endure.

Love divine, faith, meekness, holiness of heart and soul and mind
Are the qualities to strive for, are the treasures we can find
In the grace of God in Jesus, by His Holy Spirit's pow'r
That will give us satisfaction ev'ry day and ev'ry hour.

So let's press the battle onward in our Saviour's wondrous name,
Seeking for the way to heaven far above this world of shame.
'Twill be worth all toil and effort, and submission to His will,
Just to gain that Home eternal and its joy our hearts to fill!

FAITH AND VICTORY

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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.

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FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P.O. Box 518, 4318 S. Division,

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

email: faithpublishinghouse@yahoo.com

Editorial

The singing of the songs of Zion again filled the old tabernacle this year at the Monark Springs Camp meeting. We were humbled by God's presence in the services and anointing on His Word. It was a blessing to hear His ministers preaching with power and authority and exhorting us to stay true to the precepts of truth as given in God's Word. In His mercy, God let His convicting spirit deal with those who needed spiritual help and granted forgiveness to those who came with repentant hearts. As we come to the end of the camp meeting season, may we all hold fast to the lessons learned and spiritual ground we have gained.



In taking note of the article on "Spiritual Inventory" I was reminded of the day I was walking in the hallway of an elementary school. I met a teacher carrying a shovel and commented on what her activities may have included. She said she had all of her young students take a piece of paper and write on it the words "I can't." Then they took all those papers outside, dug a hole, and buried them. She never wanted to hear the words "I can't" from her students again.

There will be times in our lives we will meet trials or situations when we feel incapable within ourselves of rising to the level of holiness the scriptures are calling us to. We may feel that "we can't" be successful or have victory in certain areas of life. We will be correct that "we can't" live the Christian life by our own strength or willpower. The fruits of forgiveness, longsuffering, and love come from the power of God dwelling within us. By God's grace we can say with the apostle Paul " *I can* do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."



Viewpoint

By Julie Elwell

One of the greatest pleasures of my life is rolling down the car window on a summer day and feeling the warm wind blow hard against my face; I almost literally exhale all my worries and cares out in one single breath and all seems completely right with the world. I have also experienced the opposite. I remember a time in about October when, in the midst of a time of great darkness and not much hope, I could not even imagine the sun would rise on December 1, a date which for some reason had stuck in my head as the end of all things. Believe it or not, when that day came, the sun rose and it turned out to be a beautiful day.

Well, I share my experiences of the contrast between the warm, sunny days and the darker, bleak, more difficult days because I am the one writing this article; but, I

know you have experienced similar times in your life – it is the journey of human beings – struggle, joy, conflict, triumph, sorrow, and victory. I am thinking right now, not of the sunny days, but of the difficult days and how we so much need the COMFORT of the Lord. Some have just come out of the “warmth” of camp meeting season. I am guessing the enemy has already assaulted you since that time in one way or another. Or maybe life has presented you with difficulties and discouragements you didn’t want and didn’t ask for? Hold your ground!

Consider Hagar. In a desperate time of her life, she took her son into the wilderness, sat a good way off from him so she wouldn’t have to watch him die, lifted up her voice and wept. What happened? God called to her out of heaven (He was obviously watching), told her to arise, opened her eyes to a well of water, and told her he would make her son a great nation. Hope revived.

Job expressed in one place where he sought

comfort on his bed and felt his “couch would ease his complaint,” and yet he was scared by his dreams and terrified with his visions. His soul chose strangling and death rather than his life, which he loathed. He wanted to be left alone and was a burden unto himself. Wow. And yet, when God finally finished speaking to him, Job realized he had uttered things which he understood not. God Almighty then poured out blessing upon blessing on this man who had just a short while before despaired even of life.

Remember David? He suffered greatly to the point he had no desire for food or drink because of his own sin. Ever been there? And yet, God, in His mercy and love, eventually gave David a son, Solomon (*meaning peace*), and also called his name Jedidiah (*Beloved of God*). Courage renewed.

One of the more descriptive passages of sorrow comes from Lamentations. Zion wept sore at night. Tears were on her cheeks. Her friends had dealt treacherously with her and there was none to

comfort her. Because of this, Jeremiah also wept and his eyes ran down with water because the comforter that should relieve his soul was far

The Lord promised to COMFORT the waste places of Zion.

from him; his children were desolate and the enemy had prevailed. A bleak picture! But wait. In beautiful prophecies of Isaiah, the Lord promised to COMFORT the waste places of Zion. He promised a Redeemer to bind up the broken hearts and to give praise for those whose spirits were heavy. Does this promise extend to you and me? Yes!

Breathe deeply, friend (The Hebrew definition for comfort is to sigh or breathe strongly). There is a season for all things and every circumstance is allowed by our Loving Lord. He consoled Simon Peter with the words that He would NOT leave him comfortless. These are not just “feel-good” stories of men and women who had everything “just right.” It is important to note these people suffered loss, experienced pain, and walked some pretty narrow roads. Yet, we find God always made a way of escape for them, just as He will for us. He may not answer our prayers just the way we think He should, but He did promise to always be our rock, our refuge, our shepherd....our COMFORT.

Taking Spiritual Inventory

A Key to Spiritual Improvement

By Clifford Smith

Bro. Isaac Chandler often said: *“Heaven is where we’ve started!”* That simple, critically important truth should dictate everything we do, every decision we make, every word we speak; every attitude we have; every thought we entertain; how we address *everything* that pertains to our lives. Bro. Ed Wilson says, *“I am desperate to get to heaven!”*

Do we feel the compelling urgency of these statements? The stakes are high. Eternity is forever. The consequences of our decisions are so profound. Are we willing to do whatever it takes to make heaven our eternal home? Is there anything so important to us that we are willing to jeopardize our soul to keep that thing? These should be rhetorical questions, the answers, obvious.

These lines of the song “Nothing Between” ring out!

*Nothing between my soul and the Savior
Naught of this world’s delusive dreams
I have renounced all sinful pleasure
Jesus is mine, there’s nothing between
Nothing preventing the least of His favor
Keep the way clear! Let nothing between.*

Let us be challenged to examine ourselves through prayerful and honest reflection as we take inventory of our spiritual condition. Consider these two scriptures:

- ◆ “Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith.” 2 Cor 13:5
- ◆ “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting .” Psalm 139:23-24

50 QUESTIONS TO HELP US TAKE SPIRITUAL INVENTORY

- Is there anyone against whom you hold a grudge?
- Anyone you haven’t forgiven?
- Anyone you refuse to love?
- Are there any misunderstandings that you are unwilling to forget?
- Is there any person against whom you are harboring bitterness, resentment, or jealousy?
- Anyone you dislike to hear praised?
- Do you allow anything to justify wrong attitudes toward others?
- Are there any relationships that need to be reconciled?
- Are you secretly pleased over the misfortune of another?
- Are you secretly annoyed over the accomplishments or advancement of another?
- Are you guilty of any unresolved contentions or strife?
- Do you quarrel, argue or engage in heated discussions?
- Do you complain or find fault?
- Do you have a critical spirit toward any person or thing?
- Are you irritable or cranky?
- Do you ever carry hidden anger?
- Do you have outbursts of anger?
- Do you become impatient with others?

(50 QUESTIONS TO HELP US TAKE SPIRITUAL INVENTORY...Continued)

- Are you harsh, unkind, or sarcastic?
- Do you grumble or gossip?
- Do you speak unkindly concerning people when they are not present?
- Is there anything in which you have failed to put God first?
- Do you fail to care for your body as the temple of the Holy Spirit?
- Are you guilty of overindulgence in eating or drinking?
- Do you talk of what you have done rather than what Christ has done?
- Have you made a pretense of being something that you are not?
- Are you self-conscious rather than Christ-conscious?
- Do you allow feelings of inferiority to keep you from attempting things in serving God?
- Have you been careless in the payment of your debts?
- Do you listen to unedifying radio or music programs?
- Do you find it necessary to seek satisfaction from any questionable source?
- Have you neglected to thank Him for all things and in all circumstances?
- Do you doubt God's word?
- Is your spiritual temperature based on feelings instead of God's Word?
- Are you overly occupied with the cares of this life?
- Does anything mean more to you than living for and pleasing God?
- Do you allow impure thoughts about the opposite sex to stay in your mind?
- Do you read material which is impure or suggest unholy things?
- Do you indulge in entertainment that is unclean?
- Is your manner of dress pleasing to God?
- Have you failed to witness consistently?
- Have you failed to support mission work either in prayer or offerings?
- Are you undependable so you cannot be trusted with responsibilities in the Lord's work?
- Do you fail to attend prayer meetings?
- Have you neglected or slighted your daily private prayer time?
- Have you neglected God's Word?
- Have you neglected family devotions?
- Do you have a stubborn or unteachable spirit?
- Do you find it hard to be corrected?

Let us have an open and humble heart and seek God to help us grow closer to him and improve our lives.

The good news is Jesus would not ask us to do something we cannot do. He knows our weaknesses and knows that we are human and in the flesh.

Let this verse be an encouragement to us as we examine our lives against this inventory list:

2 Cor 9:8: "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."

God Is For You!



By Angela Gellenbeck

Dear Young Friend,

If you have indeed given yourself to the Lord and are seeking to serve Him with all of your heart, there is a word of comfort I would like to give you today: *God is for you!* As you return to school or start a new job, know without a shadow of a doubt that God is for you. His eyes are on you. He is working out things in your behalf. He is against all your soul's enemies. He is fighting your battles. He is on your side.

You see, since the beginning of time, war has been waged between God and the Adversary. This ancient contest—the prize of which is the human soul—is the entire theme of God's Word. You and I entered this contest quite late in the scheme of things, and we have a great advantage: to have God's word and history so that we can see how God was triumphant in the past. We can know just how much He loves us and all He has provided for us and what he can do for us.

I started this little message with an *if*—and what a big word it is. It's important that you and I *know* that we are on God's side of this conflict. Just as early as we can in life, we should decide to join the Lord's army and throw ourselves whole-heartedly into the fight for Truth and Right. And here's what God says to us who do that: "The Lord is with you, while ye be with Him; and if ye seek Him, He will be found of you; but if ye forsake Him, He will forsake you." (II Chronicles 15:2). And Jesus said it like this: "He that is not with me is against me. . ." (Matthew 12:30). He said it in the opposite way as well, "He that is not against us is for us." (Luke 9:50). So, there's no neutrality. When Joshua saw the Lord of glory with His sword outstretched, his reaction was, "Art thou for us or for our adversaries?" The Lord's answer

was, "Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come." The question was, really, not, "Are You for me or for them?" but, "Am I on the right side with You, Captain?" (Joshua 5:13-14). And what a Captain! Did you ever consider this truth about the Lord of hosts? The power, the might, the armies of millions that are His to command—for you? In your behalf! Against all your soul's enemies, against all that tempts you and allures you and assails you! In every conflict there are more that be with you than with the enemy. (II Chron. 32:7, 8; II Kings 6:16). "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." (I John 4:4). Psalm 18 is always awesome to me as I read and consider what happens on God's end when I call unto Him for help, what it means for Him to deliver me and rescue me. It is no light thing that God is on my side! Jonathan, while challenging the Philistines in I Samuel 14:6, revealed his confidence in God's power when he said, "There is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few." Why, one of God's host took down 185,000 enemies, for Hezekiah's sake! (Isaiah 37:36).

If God is for me, WHO can be against me?

So I think of these things when I read Psalm 124. "If it had not been the Lord who was on our side..." and he repeats it,

with the emphasis being on "THE LORD." This is THE LORD on our side; and if it had not been for HIM, look what would have happened to us! We would have been swallowed up, overwhelmed, and covered by the proud waters—BUT FOR GOD! The snare is broken, and we are escaped!

Do you have a battle today? Do you feel your enemy is just going to get you no matter how hard you try? Do you feel totally alone and outnumbered? I want you to ask yourself this question: "If God is for me, WHO can be against me?" And think about the WHO. Compare anything or anyone you can think of to God and to His might and to His love and care for you. He is for you and against pride. He is for you and against anger. He is for you and against lust. He is for you and against self-pity. He is for you and against fear. He—and all the Heavenly Host—are engaged right now in your soul's defense. And you may boldly say, "The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?" (Psalm 118:6).

Hold Your Ground!

By Darrell Johnson

2 Samuel 23:11-12

...And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines. [12] But he [Shammah] stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the Lord wrought a great victory.

What I like to look at when I read this scripture:

I see there was a ground of lentils. What are lentils? They're beans. They're food. I think this is important for us to understand. This man was standing in the midst of a field of lentils, and the rest of the people that were apparently defending this field, they fled. The Philistines were going to take it. And he said, "...no, this is my food! This is something that is important to me. This is something that I have to have in order to live." So he defended it. He was going to fight it with everything he had!

One of the things that the Lord brought to my mind as I was meditating on this is the fact that when you're fighting battles, there are a lot of ways to fight them. One way to fight a battle is with a sword. Right? One way to fight a battle is with weapons, but another way to fight a battle is to take and control the enemy's food source. You can defeat an army, I don't care how big and great it is, if you can control that army's food source and their water source. You can bring them down without any weapon. And so, one of the things that the enemy wants to do to us is control our intake of food—spiritual food. What we have to understand is that this is why we must defend what God has given us when we come to these kinds of places [camp meeting].

When we come where we hear the word of God preached and taught, what do we do? We eat it.

We hunger and thirst after righteousness; and if we're not hungering and thirsting after righteousness, there's something that is wrong. What we have to understand is what the enemy is going to do. He's going to try to take our food source. And if he can take our food source, how does he do that? He'll take our food source by somehow contaminating what we believe. Alright? It is not necessary that he just takes the food altogether; but if he just puts a question mark behind what you have once believed and what you once stood for, you're not going to partake of it, thinking in your mind that there is something wrong with it. I see this happening right now. It is not just among the saints, but it is all over the world, where it seems like the Word of God is not nearly as

important as it once was, that there is something wrong with the Word of God.

This is something that's being said—and that we are being conditioned to believe—and that is

that the Word is not so absolute, that there is something a little bit wrong with the way we have taught down through the years. If you can find something wrong with the way we've taught down through the years, you're not going to take all of it in are you? You're going to pick and choose. So when we get to places like this, we tend to pick and choose what we eat. "Well, I believe what this brother is saying, but I believe he went just a little bit too far," so therefore, what is coming into our spiritual life and giving us strength, we are not benefiting from the full essence and the full nutrition, you might say, of our spiritual food. We are not allowing that to take place. May the Lord help us because this is a very serious thing.

(This is an excerpt of a message preached on July 27 at the 2014 Monark National Camp Meeting To hear the entire message, go online to: <churchofgodpreaching.com>)

"...if [the devil] just puts a question mark behind what you have once believed and what you once stood for, you're not going to partake of it, thinking ...there is something wrong with it..."



In Memoriam

Eula Lee Adams Shirrell

May 22, 1935—July 1, 2014



May 22, 1935 was the day that Arthur and Dollie Gentry welcomed Eula into this world. Eula was born in rural Wayne county Missouri in what was known to the family as the hills. Eula was the third child and the third girl born into the family.

The three girls were followed by three boys to complete the family.

Eula's early childhood was spent growing up near Shook, Mo. She finished the 8th grade. When she was a young girl, her family was introduced to the Church of God and became acquainted with the Miller family, which was also part of the Church of God. At the age of 19 she married Howard Miller. He passed away four months later leaving Eula a widow before she turned 20. The next seven years she spent working and would attend the camp meetings of the Church of God. In December of 1961 while attending the Guthrie assembly meeting she met and married Leslie Adams from Wisconsin. Eula was a homemaker and enjoyed "staying put," as she would say, in the same house for 30 years. A son Daniel was born in 1965 and another son Michael joined him in 1968. Many happy memories were made over the years. When Leslie retired in 1993, they chose to move to the Monark Springs campgrounds and become the caretakers there. Eula and Leslie enjoyed being in the Neosho congregation. Leslie became ill and passed from this life in 1996.

After being single for approximately seven years, John Shirrell came into her life. Eula and John were married in 2003. She and John spent almost 11 happy years together enjoying each other's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. They also enjoyed visiting their extended family and being with their church family in various parts of the country.

Eula's health began to decline a little over a year ago, and she passed from this life July 1, 2014.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Arthur and Dollie Gentry, two sisters, Cassie and Hassie, two brothers, Loy and Troy, two husbands Howard and

Leslie, one granddaughter Darla, a stepson Don Shirrell, and a stepdaughter Patricia Shirrell.

She is survived by her husband John Shirrell; children Daniel and wife Anita of Carthage Mo. and Michael and wife LaDawna of Hayden Alabama; stepchildren, John Shirrell and wife Sherri, Ron Shirrell, and Teresa Sorensen and husband Eric; a brother, Ed Gentry and wife Donna; and numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and a host of friends.

The family appreciates the family of God and sends a big thank you for prayers and outpouring of love given to them during Eula's illness and death.

Janyce Eudora Porter

March 16, 1934—June 20, 2014

Janyce Eudora Porter, 80, Shawnee, Okla., formerly of Newton and Jasper counties, MO, died June 20, 2014, at her home in Shawnee following a sudden illness.

Janyce was born March 16, 1934, in Granby, the eldest daughter of Amos Leon and Nina Opal (Brown) Porter. She found the Lord at an early age. She lived many years in Newton and Jasper counties before moving to



Shawnee in August 1976 to work at the Golden Rule Home. Janyce was a member of the Church of God. She loved camp meeting and songs from the "Evening Light" Hymnal. She was also an avid reader and loved making quilts. She loved history, both Church and American. She took many photographs to capture

moments in her life and the lives of others. She had a special closeness with her much loved pets.

She is survived by two sisters, Kathryn Faye Baltzell and husband, Wayne, and Vera Maxine Roaseau and husband, Dale; stepsister, Coquette Miles and husband Vernon; five nephews and one niece, Scott Baltzell, Bradon Baltzell and wife Martha, Lynette Baltzell Lundquist and husband Mark, Warner Dale Roaseau and wife, Romy, William Dane Roaseau and wife Lynn and Derek Roaseau; and 14 great-nieces and nephews.

Services were held on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 at the Clark Funeral Home Chapel of Memories, Neosho,

Missouri. Pastor Carl Shaffer officiating, Eugene Cole assisting, and Cole family members singing. Interment in the Neosho IOOF Cemetery. Serving as pallbearers were Scott Baltzell, Brad Baltzell, Warner Roaseau, Derek Roaseau, Briggs Baltzell and David Cole. Honorary pallbearers, Dane Roaseau and Mark Lundquist.

The family of Janyce Porter would like to extend a thank you to all of those who have been praying for our family and to those who have called, sent flowers and sent notes of sympathy. Also, a thank you for the meal provided by the Neosho Church of God and contributions made to the Monark Springs Church of God Campground. We appreciate everyone that has helped during this difficult time. Janyce will be greatly missed!

Evodna Mae (Thurman) Marler

September 30, 1925 - June 8, 2014

Evodna Mae (Thurman) Marler was born to Edith Ann (Smyth) Thurman and Dr. Joseph Charles Thurman in Webster Groves, Missouri. She peacefully departed this life at the age of 88 years and 8 months.

Evodna's mother married J. P. Wall adding a stepsister, Evelyn Gunnels, and later a brother, Jim Wall, to her family. She attended grade schools in St. Louis, Kansas City, and Dallas, graduating from Woodrow Wilson High School in Dallas, Texas, in 1944.

Evodna was in her late teens when she got saved and along with her mother and brother began attending the Church of God. She felt called to work at the Faith Publishing House soon after high school. Between high school and marriage, she attended business college and worked at Barbara Grey's Dress Shop, Pollock Paper Company, and Sears.



In 1951, she met and married Louie Marler. They had a wonderful marriage of almost 44 years. Evodna had a gift of making new people feel welcome on their first visit to

church services. The verse, "He who hath friends must show himself friendly" epitomized Evodna and she had many friends.

After living on the farm for many years, Louie and Evodna moved to the senior citizen apartments near

the Golden Rule Home. Shawnee, OK became her home for the next 20 years.

Evodna's health was good until her first stroke in the spring of 2011, which was quickly followed by a broken hip. She lost her independence at that time and went to live with her daughter and her son-in-law in Alabama. Although her sparkle and zest for life was greatly diminished, she still loved to laugh and brought many smiles to those around her.

Her daughter-in-law, Dinah, lovingly cared for Meme at times, providing respite for her full-time caregivers. During the last 6 weeks of her life, many things happened that were very difficult, with a massive stroke being the last affliction that took her life.

She was preceded in death by her father, J.C. Thurman, mother, Edith Wall, stepfather, J.P. Wall, and her husband, Louie. Surviving her are her brother, Jim Wall and his wife Anecia; stepsister Evelyn Gunnels; sister-in-law, Mary Marler; her children, David and Pam Marler of Sapulpa, OK, Marshall and Melonie Whitson of Hayden, AL, and Louis Marler of South Pittsburg, TN; six grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren. She will be greatly missed by her family and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Services were conducted by Bro. Carl Shaffer, assisted by Bro. Doug Wall in Shawnee, OK, on June 14, 2014. Interment was in Memory Gardens Memorial Park in Guthrie, OK.

Fall Revival

Church of God, Wichita, KS

The Wichita congregation welcomes you to our Fall revival. The meeting will run Sunday, September 14 through Sunday, September 21. Monday through Saturday, services will be held at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. On Sunday, services will begin with Sunday School at 9:30, followed by Morning Worship at 10:45 and afternoon and evening services.

All Are Welcome!

Chapel address: 2509 N. Grove. Chapel phone: 316-267-9582. For more information contact Brother Emanuel Gracey at 316-461-1267 or Brother Theodore McCray at 316-641-4170.

For a list of other Church of God meeting notices, go online to <churchofgodpreaching.com>

Ecclesiastes 11:9

Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.

*“Yesterday, when I was young, The taste of life was sweet upon my tongue.
I teased at life as if it were a foolish game, The way the evening breeze may tease a candle flame.
The thousand dreams I dreamed, the splendid things I planned.
I always built alas on weak and shifting sand.
I lived by night and shunned the naked light of day, and only now I see how the years ran away.
So many wayward pleasures lay in store for me and so much pain my dazzled eyes refused to see.
I ran so fast that time and youth at last ran out
I never stopped to think what life was all about
Every conversation I can now recall, concerned itself with me and nothing else at all.
Yesterday the moon was blue and every crazy day brought something new to do.
I used my magic age as if it were a word and never saw the waste and emptiness beyond.
The game of love I played with arrogance and pride and every flame I lit too quickly died.
The friends I made all seemed somehow to drift away and only I am left on stage to end the play.
There are so many songs in me that won't be sung.
I feel the bitter taste of tears upon my tongue.*

—By Herbert Kritzmer

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