FAITH AND VICTORY

Church of God Servant

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

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The Church of God

By Bro. Fred Pruitt

The church of God is an institution in the world which God Himself has given or created for us, has given in the world to function for His glory. It seems that if people can have a clear vision of the church, they can be better established in the truth. Some people say, "Why don't you just preach Christ to the people?" Well, we can't preach Christ and not preach the church, for the church is the body of Christ that is functioning in the world today.

Now we want to read some out of the Word of God. Heb. 3:1 "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house." Christ has a house. He is over that house. We who are saved, we who have the spirit of God in our house are His house. We are the tabernacle that God pitched and not man.

Man doesn't have anything to do with this house. It is God that made it, and it is written in Isaiah the ninth chapter, that He is the Ruler, the government is on His shoulders, and He is the Governor. In another place it is written that He sets the members in the body as it pleases Him.

We are in the body of Christ and each one needs to be in touch with God for himself. Each of us needs to know that we are a member in the body and it is God's will for us to be individually in touch with Him and draw down food for our own souls from God above. That's the body working in the world today; and if you draw down food from the Lord and I draw food down from the Lord, I say it will be just the same. Now there could be a misunderstanding, and someone might misunderstand the Lord; but even when such is the case, each one should have enough of the love of God in his heart to wait on God until He clears it up--the whole thing. The body then would function right on. Now that is the working of God's body in the world today.

We are talking about the house of God, the house of God which is the pillar and ground of truth. All of the truth is in the house of God. In the 87th Psalm, it says, "All my springs are in thee." All of God's springs. You know, a good spring is something that gives a refreshing drink, and all those springs, the good things that God may have, come right through the members of God's body out to the peoplesomething refreshing, springs of water, the waters of salvation just flowing free, right out of the church of the living God.

In Revelation 22:1 it says, "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb." It is a river of life flowing right down from God from under His throne--right down to the people in the world today, feeding hungry souls on the good things of God.

Who are Members of the Church?

By Bro. Cecil C. Carver

- "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 2:47b.
- "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." John 10:9a.
- "And he is the head of the body, the church." Col. 1:18a.
- "Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ?" I Cor. 6:15a.
- "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body." I Cor. 12:13a.
- "But now hath God set the members everyone of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." I Cor. 12:18. "That there should be no schism [division] in the body" verse 25. "Now YE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversities of tongues," verses 27, 28.

"But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect." Heb. 12:22,23. "Except a man be born again [or from above], he cannot see the kingdom of God." "Ye must be born again." John 3:3,6. See Verse 7.

Note: Thus we see that a member of the church has the following qualifications:

- · He is a saved man.
- · He was added by the Lord, not some preacher. He came through the door, Christ Jesus.
- · He has become a part of the actual BODY OF CHRIST. The church is the body of Christ today.
- · His body is in this world and we can become a part of it. The church is that body and He is its head.
- · His body is now a part of the BODY OF CHRIST.

- · That body is ONE (not divided up).
- · His name is written in heaven.
- · He is a just man.
- · He is a perfect man.

Membership in the Church of God is a matter between the individual and Christ. One may become a member all alone, far removed from human contacts. If an individual is convicted by the Holy Spirit of his sins, and he calls on God for mercy, repenting and forsaking all sin, and believing in the atoning blood of Christ, placing his sins on Christ by faith, he is born into the family of God. The new birth is the only entrance into the church. You cannot join it, be baptized into it, or be accepted by vote of the other members. You may not join by letter, nor by any other means than the new birth.

All who experience the new birth are automatically members of the Church of God. You need to get acquainted with your brothers and sisters, but they have nothing to do with your becoming a member of the family. Do the children of ANY earthly family come together when a little brother or sister is born into their home and VOTE as to whether it shall be accepted into that family? Certainly not! The analogy is perfect concerning the child of God. Neither does that infant need to seek a "home," for it is God's own child. God is its Father. If this new child of God goes and joins some "church," it has moved that much out of God's will and will have to forsake that which it joined if it desires to remain in fellowship with God.

This born-again individual will remain in the Church of God as long as he remains free from sin. Sin brings death to the soul. Sin will cause God's child to die, and that child will be separated from God as truly as physical death causes a separation in the earthly family. We may not become "unborn" after being born again, but we may DIE.

"The wages of sin is DEATH."

By faith we believe all things work

together for good to them that love

God

sight!



Viewpoint

By Julie Elwell

God's perspective versus mine. It can be frustrating to

not be able to see. I am only 5 feet tall, so it is a very familiar feeling for me to strain to see, stand on my tiptoes, or move to one side or other in order to see something that is going on! I have looked at photographs captured by a tall person whose perspective is obviously different than mine and thought, "Something is wrong with this picture!" When I stand on a stool, even just a two-foot stool, I never cease to be amazed at what a difference it makes in what I am able to see!

When Job was laid low and everything in his life was contrary, his three friends thought they knew what the problem was—surely Job must have sinned! What they were unable to behold, however, was a meeting that had taken place between God and Satan relative to Job's circumstances—a meeting far above where they sat. The friends were in a very disadvantaged position to be able to accurately and

intelligently discern the reason for Job's misfortunes.

When Jacob thought his beloved son, Joseph, had

been killed by wild animals, when Joseph's brothers thought they had gotten rid of him for good, when Joseph himself wondered what in the world was going on in his life—God was working out the most beautiful and miraculous plan—the preservation of a whole nation! He reunited Jacob's family again, as well-in time.

Later on, after the Israelites' mass exodus from Egypt, all they could think about was the immediacy of their plight—how they USED to have fish, cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic to eat. They only saw the bleakness of the wilderness—the "sameness" of the manna—and somehow forgot the affliction and tears their Egyptian taskmasters had inflicted. They lacked the faith and/or vision to see the promised fertile land of Canaan ahead of them. All the while, God was sitting on His throne in heaven, moving people and ordering situations with an eternal perspective, with a MASTER PLAN for salvation!

About 1500 years later, when Jesus bore His cross into the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha, and they crucified Him, can't you feel the hopelessness of the disciples? They really didn't grasp Jesus' whole purpose on earth yet. Hindsight is always 20/20! We know Jesus rose on the third day, but at the time, the disciples were so lacking in understanding!

I read this the other day: "People who look through keyholes are apt to get the idea that most things are keyhole shaped. ~Author Unknown." We don't look at life through a literal keyhole, but don't we view life from our perspective? We can't help it. We understand life and how things are interrelated through our frame of reference. As a people who were once blind and now see, we are incredibly blessed! We have God's word and the Holy Spirit to enable us to see and understand so much more than those who are willfully blind to God and His plan! By very nature of our humanity, however, we just flatout lack the capacity to always understand God's workings in our personal lives and His plan in general. We are short. We are worms. Even when God mercifully reveals His plan to us, which he many

> see through a glass darkly. viewpoint of life. He views the generations of time

from a far more distant shore than those of earth. He inhabits eternity.

Blessedly, we are granted eyes of faith! We believe

God has a plan even when we do not know what it is, and by faith we submit to it. By faith, we believe to everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven. We believe He hath made everything beautiful in His time. By faith, we believe all things work together for good to them that

love God—even if we are too short to see the whole

picture in this life. One day, our faith will be lost in

"God's way is best; if human wisdom, a fairer way may seem to show, 'Tis only that our earth-dimmed vision, The truth can never clearly know. God's way is best, I will not murmur, Although the end I may not see; Where'er He leads I'll meekly follow—God's way is best, is best for me."

times does, we still only We do not have God's our world, our lives, and

Editorial

Suspension of Faith & Victory Paper

Times of change never come easily when it involves those things that we love and hold dear to our hearts. Ecc. 3:1 tells us, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." It was unsettling to the children of Israel when Moses was gone, but the Lord had a Joshua ready to carry on the purpose He had planned. The brook dried up on Elijah, but the Lord told him to "Arise" and move to another place. In the New Testament church, I Corinthians 12:18 says, "Now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." We are now facing times of change for The Faith Publishing House. For the foreseeable future, printing operations will be indefinitely suspended, and this issue of the Faith and Victory will be the last one printed. This publication has served its purpose so well over the years. During some years, there were as many as 14,000 copies of the paper being printed monthly. Due to changing technology and the way we communicate, there is now only a very small fraction of that number being sent out each month. With prohibitive postage rates, the Faith and Victory and Sunday School literature have been sent to foreign missions through electronic means rather than through the mail for the last year or more.

As we remember past blessings we look to the future with faith and confidence that God is in control and the government is still on His shoulders. It is with thankful hearts that we see our younger brothers and sisters catching the vision of Jesus when he said, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest."

The Gospel Truth Magazine

The church is not left without a gospel paper that is continuing to publish the truth as the Faith & Victory has done over the last 92 years. Michael Smith, our son, and his wife René, began electronically

publishing a paper in July 2012. Its primary focus has been to teach the doctrines of the Bible to gospel workers in foreign lands, and it is being translated and distributed in several different languages. We would encourage you to read this paper, as it is an excellent resource for Bible studies and teachings of the doctrines of the Church of God that have been established since the time of Christ and his apostles. You may find more information on how to access this free on-line publication on page 12.

New Editor of Bible Lessons Announced

We are thankful to announce that Sis. Angela Gellenbeck, minister and pastor, has a burden from the Lord to edit the Adult Bible Lessons which are being written by her father, Bro. Leslie Busbee. These will be available online. See page 12 for more information. It is encouraging to see others in the church using their gifts to help further the work of the Lord through advanced technology and the ministries they have been given—from our local congregations to foreign mission efforts.

Children's Literature

The quarterly *Beautiful Way* and *The Compass* children's papers will be published for Jan/Feb/Mar 2015. After that, Faith Publishing House will cease publication of these papers. We are praying the Lord will somehow fill a children's literature ministry by calling someone to fill this need.

Book Orders Will Continue To Be Filled

We will continue to fill orders for books that are in stock for the next several months. If you would like to purchase any, a list of books available at a 50% discount is on page 14.

Call To the Publishing Ministry

Bro. Fred Pruitt, my grandfather, felt the call of God to the ministry while living on a homestead on the plains of New Mexico. As he continued to follow the leadings of God, he was directed to Guthrie, Oklahoma and 92 years ago published the first edition

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of the Faith and Victory in 1923. The following are excerpts from the editorial of the very first edition. "Several years ago we were troubled about parties wanting meetings and were praying much about going to hold them, during which time one night the Lord gave me a vision. In the vision, I was up preaching to the people and they became restless and one called out, 'We would rather read your literature;' Another said, 'Send us more literature,' and recently after God had given us a fresh revelation of the sufferings of Christ and of His blood as a covering for sin, a heavy burden settled down upon me for people that had not heard. As the burden got stronger it came to tears and groanings and about all we could say was, 'They have not heard!' Finally the Lord spoke and said. 'They shall hear;' and the heavy burden lifted and my soul was filled with joy and gladness.

We care not to speak or write as the Scribes and Pharisees, but as the oracles of God, as of the ability which God giveth, that spiritual food may be imparted to the needy souls, that sick souls or lame souls may be nursed, the lambs may be given milk-food, that those who are of age may be given meat in due season as the Holy Ghost works in and through the members of the body of Christ."

Until Grandpa Pruitt passed away in 1963, he was faithful to that calling. There were times of severe trial and seasons of great joy, but through steadfast perseverance thousands of books and tracts were circulated around the world. Contacts were made in foreign countries and missionaries went with the gospel and congregations were established. Only eternity will tell the lasting effects of the consecration that was made.

After his passing there were others ready to take up the gauntlet and continue the work of publishing the gospel. His son and daughter-in-law, Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Maybelle Pruitt, and his daughter, Sis. Marie Miles, were faithful as long as they were able. Then Grandpa's grandsons, Wayne and Willie Murphey, gave of themselves for many years as editors and publishers of this literature ministry.

It is a joy to thumb through the book "God's Gracious Dealings," and remember all those who have sacrificed their time and abilities to work for either a short time or even years in assisting with different aspects of the printing work. Many of those have moved on into other ministries and continue to be a force for good in the kingdom of God.

This narrative would not be complete without mentioning the myriad of saints who have been so faithful to help support the work with their prayers, financial help, and words of encouragement. When those who love the truth are just as dedicated as those who publish the gospel, it makes for a beautifully functioning unit.

As we move forward, may God help each of us to be faithful to His calling, courageous for the truth, and live with the knowledge that though sin abounds in our world, His grace is still sufficient to give overcoming victory. "We cherish the past and trust God for the future."

Bible Lessons

Dear Saints,

It has been a great privilege, for the past several years, to assist, along with others, with writing comments for the Bible Lessons written by my father, Bro. Leslie Busbee and published by Faith Publishing House. I have carried a burden for this publication, and all who may come under the influence of its teaching. As changes are taking place, my burden has deepened as we considered that the Bible Lessons might be discontinued. Now I feel, after praying earnestly about the matter for some time, that God would have me to take responsibility for continuing the Bible Lessons. This will involve putting them on-line so that the individual Bible teachers for each congregation receiving them will be responsible then for having them printed in whatever format they choose whether booklet form or other—for the members of their class. The slogan of the Faith and Victory paper has been for years, "Church of God Servant." In that same spirit, I will endeavor to keep the Bible Lessons coming to you for as long as God shall lead. He has so faithfully assured me that He is my helper in this task, and I will appreciate your prayers as we make these changes.

Sincerely, Angela Gellenbeck

Editors' Note: Please see *Church of God Today* website on page 12 for more details.

Now Is The Accepted Time



By Rodney Smith

I remember so clearly the day, after having struggled with feelings, doubts, and human reasoning, that the Lord spoke to me and said, "There is always a more convenient season. Now is the accepted time." I believe the Lord comes by at different stages of our lives with this gentle admonition and encouragement, prompting us to take a stand for Him and press forward without looking back. One of the most defining and critical times of our life is when we are in our teens and

twenties—a time when it is so easy to delay and defer action for the Lord by reasoning that there will be plenty of time for that later. The older I become the more I realize how much my life, the

lives of my children, and the future lives of my grandchildren are/ will be affected by the decisions I made

during my teens and twenties. And so it is that Solomon exhorted in 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."

I believe part of the judgment that is referred to by Solomon includes the short- and long-term consequences of our decisions in this natural life. Certainly we are given the opportunity to live like we want, regard or disregard teachings that are faithfully taught us, and live to satisfy what we believe are the desires of our heart. What we don't always recognize are the far-reaching effects of these decisions. We don't just live unto ourselves, and we cannot always easily redirect

our path (or the path of those that have been following us) with the dawn of a new day. We profoundly affect our family, friends, church associates, and the lives of many, many others; and the effects of the decisions we make cannot always be undone, nor is it always easy to personally change after a given path has become "our path."

Young, faithful disciples of the Lord are in short supply. Many young folks believe there will be ample time for that in later years and choose to live more for themselves than for God.

Unfortunately for most, that convenient season to settle down and become a true disciple (imitator and follower of Christ) never comes. I am burdened by the knowledge that the world is pulling hard on our young Christians and that the "Christian world" has a message of tolerance for so many un-Christ-like behaviors and activities. We live in a world where fewer and fewer people receive the advice and counsel of those who have already walked the road; and most believe they

understand best and that the older ones, while well-

The decisions you make today often set the course of your life

meaning, are just misguided and out-of-date. Unfortunately, it is usually only after it is too late that we realize the grave consequences associated with our decisions early on to not truly "leave our nets" and follow Jesus.

Young folks, it will quickly be your turn to provide leadership and spiritual guidance to those coming after you. The decisions you make today often set the course of your life and determine whether or not you will be able to positively influence others to choose a righteous, holy way of life that is unspotted from the world. If you allow yourself to become spotted by the world today in the places you go, things you watch and listen to, clothes you put on or leave off, attitudes and worldly ways you assume, all the while carrying a lack of spiritual urgency, what is your plan for change in the

future? How will your decisions today affect your life tomorrow? Do you know the future, and do you realize the profound effect you are having and will have on others? God has a high calling, a purpose and cause that is bigger than you; and He is calling your name to join the ranks of His dependable, young servants—and He is calling now! There always will seem to be a more convenient season, but there is not. Now is the accepted time!

Dare to be a Daniel, who purposed in his heart to not defile himself during the time of his youth. Dare to be like the Hebrew children who said they were not careful to answer the king in the matter of his idol; they said they would not bow, regardless. Dare to be like young David who, upon facing Goliath, said, "Is there not a cause?" (I Sam 17:29). Dare to be like Paul, who asked the Lord with sincerity and willingness of heart, "....what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6). Make a decision today to stand and be counted for the Lord. Separate yourself from the fads, fashions, and pull of the world and let the Lord know that you are willing to make a difference in His Kingdom—a difference unto life. You are needed. You are being counted on. You are the leaders of tomorrow. You can make a difference by the grace of God. "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 6:8)

Making Decisions

Picturing yourself in the presence of Almighty God as you make decisions can be a safeguard to keep you from making foolish and unwise choices. Start your decision making process with eternity in mind and with the goal of hearing "Well done, good and faithful servant" from your Lord and Master.

—Selected

Driftwood

Drifting down the surging river, Aimless, powerless, and cold, Without guidance, drifting ever By the current onward rolled,

Came the driftwood to my vision, Passing on and out of sight, Without purpose or decision, Void of worth, of hope, of light.

'Neath the bridge where I was standing Passed each fragment silently, Now and then were pieces landing lodged or tangled in a tree.



Thus I thought in meditation: Am I driftwood on life's stream Merely moved by tide or fashion Wand'ring aimless in dream?

Do I wait for chance or changes? Am I moved by men or pride? Do I seek wide open ranges While my soul is lost inside?

Solemn thought! my heart is praying: Help me driftwood not to be; May I not be always straying Far Away, O Lord, from Thee.

Make me useful, strong, and guide me Through the years that few remain. In thy loving temple hide me 'Til thy presence I will gain.

--Leslie Busbee, 1972

"We Need Each Other, Brethren" How The Song Was Written

By Angela Gellenbeck

From time to time I am asked to tell the story behind the song, "We Need Each Other, Brethren". I am happy to share it, for it is a story of how God took a hurtful situation and turned it into a blessing for many people.

When Dan and I were first married, he was working hard and long hours. He was endeavoring to make a good business name, do quality work for everyone, and be a man of his word. It was during these trying times that a man who professed to be a child of God confronted my husband and began to rail on him, criticizing him and accusing him wrongfully of some poor business dealings. When my husband came home, he was crushed. I was crushed. I think it hurt more because it was an older man who should have been encouraging him and providing an example for him. We struggled to know how to deal with the situation. That's when the words to the song began to come to my mind, along with the tune. I got a piece of notebook paper and began to write:

"In a world filled with violence and hatred, everywhere wars and turmoil we see.

God's people face daily this struggle; Only love will keep us free."

An understanding— replacing resentment— flooded over me: this man, because he had let money and possessions become a priority in his life, had allowed his love for God and his brothers to wax cold. It gave me a love and burden for his soul, which stayed with me until his death.

"Oh, how sad to see some of our brethren, as they strive for earth's pleasure and gold, Become selfish and strive with each other. Love and kindness has quickly grown cold."

The tears fell as a determination gripped me, that no matter what happened, no matter what a brother or sister did, we would forgive and help them, not push them farther down.

"Lord, give us true warmth and affection! When one fails, help us rescue his soul.

'He's not heavy, for he is my brother,' let us cry as we carry his load.

"Dear saints, let us vow to each other: 'I will help, I will comfort—and pray.

I will stand by your side and defend you, in this battle you're facing today."

My burden crescendoed into a cry, with exclamation points:

"We need each other, brethren! For only love will carry us through!

Let us stand by each other, brethren! Take courage, be faithful and true."

I was finished. There were the entire lyrics, written almost without need of correction, complete with the melody and harmony, in my mind, to go with the words. I folded up the paper and put it into my Bible.

That year at the Monark Camp meeting, 1985, I asked my sister and her husband and another couple to help Dan and me sing the song as a special. We practiced several times, but before we could sing it, there was a very sad happening between two ministers, right during a service. It brought such a heaviness upon the saints. The next day, we were impressed to sing the song. The Lord blessed, and the tears flowed. I knew then that God had given the song, not just for me, but for the people of God.

Later on, Bro. Wayne Murphey, editor of the Faith and Victory at that time, asked me if he could include the song in the new Evening Light Songs songbooks that were being printed. With the help of the Lord and others gifted in writing music, I was able to finally put to music the song that the Lord had given me that first day.

As the years—almost thirty of them now—have

flown by, I have come to realize that the song is the theme of my whole life and ministry. I am burdened for the whole family of God, worldwide. That burden reaches far beyond my circle of acquaintances. We need every blood-washed saint of God, no matter where they may be found. May we never look disdainfully or scornfully at another child of God and say, with attitude or words, "I have no need of thee." (I Cor. 12:21). May we constantly pray and labor to this end: that we all may be ONE. That we all may worship God together. That we all may love one another "with a pure heart fervently" and cling to one another with solemn yows of "eternal trueness."

"Let divisions be forsaken, all the holy join in one, and the will of God in all be done."

Bro. Fred Pruitt's Call to the Ministry

"I was baptized by the Holy Ghost on Thursday, and the following Sunday night the Lord had weighted me down with a message for



neighboring friends and others. As I began to tell them that I wanted to testify, the Holy Ghost began to work to my own surprise and to all present. I spoke with great freedom and much power the words given me by the "Spirit of

truth." For thirty minutes the Spirit of God worked in and through me in giving out the truth while all looked on with wonder and amazement. Some were weeping, and a backslider gave her heart to God. Great joy filled our hearts.

The Lord began to put more messages upon me for the people, many of which I would preach to the corn stalks while in the field working. The corn stalks had ears but could not hear. I find many people that way in the world today. I realized that I had a definite call from God to preach His Word. I felt so weak and unable, for I knew very little about what the Bible did teach. When I would preach, the Holy Spirit would cause me to say things that I was puzzled about. I would search the Scriptures until I found the texts that taught what the Holy Spirit had spoken through these lips of clay."



The Good Samaritan

By MaKayla Ann Booher

A man on his mule traveled down the deserted path one day

As the evening light grew dim and shadows o'er cast the way

His brow was laden with dust, his body weary and sore His eyelids slowly drooped, his strength was no more The mangy beast beneath him slowly plodded on Weak with hunger and thirst, its lively step was gone.

Suddenly, four men sprang from the shadows!
They were greedy, and meanest of desperadoes
One to four, the conflict was sorely unfair
The man was defenseless, but they didn't care
They beat him, stripped him, and just left him to die
He lay there defeated, 'twas no one 'round to hear his
cry!

Alas, there came down a certain priest that way But his heart was of stone, for he did not delay He had more courtly things to do than dirty his hands Why, to take the man in meant mockery from friends! So he turned his head and passed by on the other side "Is it my fate, to lie here and die! The beaten man cried.

A Levite, too, happened down that much-deserted track Perhaps he would tend to those stripes on the man's back!

But nay...he lent nary a hand to the man in need, He went on his way and he did no good deed. Hope seemed surely lost for the dying man, Could it be his fate, was to die there in the sand?

He prepared to breathe his last, then felt a gentle hand And looked up into the eyes of a compassionate man. The merciful fellow poured out wine and oil, He bound up wounds and eased the turmoil... If in similar circumstances, tell me, Would you the priest or Good Samaritan be? Let us always show love to the fallen man Never cold hearted, but ever the friend.





Africa

Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord, the Father's gift of our salvation.

With joy in my heart, I am glad to report to the glory of God that the camp meeting which started as scheduled came to an end peacefully, successfully, and victoriously. The Lord sent the power of the Holy Spirit, anointed His word for us, and we were blessed soul and body. Initially, finance stood as a monster before us, but God mercifully responded to our prayers and supplied this need.

Messages and lessons came on different topics for the feeding of souls of hundreds of people who came from different parts and with different backgrounds. We felt satisfied in the ways the Lord dealt with us. At last, some souls who had submitted their ways to the Lord's will made an open declaration and were buried in the watery grave, giving added joy to our hearts.



Bro Alilibo (on right) baptizing a new convert

Hundreds of copies of Faith and Victory, The Gospel Truth, Bible Lessons, The church of God, The Heavenly Footman, Remember Now Thy Creator, The Problem of Sin, and The Instruction of Youth in the Christian Life were distributed. Also featured where children, youth and women sessions. They all proved to be a blessing to all of us.

Gladly, the Ghana brethren, in spite of certain challenges on their way, started the meeting with us. The vehicle in which they were making the trip from Accra to Lagos developed some technical faults, but with God's sustaining power, they joined the "arrival fellowship" with us.

We saw grace at work, coupled with their determination and faith they participated in all the programs with us to the end. They returned to the mission house and rested a day with us before embarking on their trip back to Lagos. The following day (3/9/14) they took off to Accra from Lagos.



The saints in the Port Harcourt, Nigeria camp meeting singing from the Evening Light Songs hymnals

Copies of the [Evening Light Songs] song book were used together with some selected numbers we printed out in the form of hand-outs. There was joy. Brethren were so excited seeing and singing with the new books. Distribution will be made to the congregations on total delivery of the books. There was much praises to God. They are still working on the completion of the rest and I hope we shall take delivery of them sooner or later. I gave 5 copies to the Ghana brethren for use over there. They were also thankful.

Kindly join us in prayer for the germination of seed sown in the hearts of men. May God bless you all

Yours in his love Bro. F. Naths-Igbanibo

Support for the Africa work may be sent to: Africa Mission & Beyond, 605 Bishops Ct., Nixa, MO 65714.

New Evening Light Songs Hymnals For Nigeria, Africa!



The first shipment of 500 Evening Light Songs hymnals printed in Nigeria arrived in time for the camp meeting in Port Harcourt. 1,000 new books are being printed. This gospel literature outreach was made possible by the generous offerings of the saints through Faith Publishing House. The project was spearheaded by Bro. Michael Smith of *Africa Mission & Beyond*.



From the Mailbox

Sister Marilyn Eck Bartlett, KS

My dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am rejoicing for the health the Lord is restoring to me and for all the prayers that have ascended to God for my needs. Finding the words I need in a conversation are quite difficult at times. I was told that one service at Monark was (interrupted?) for prayer for my need at that time. I don't feel worthy but *thank you* for your prayers. This is the first camp meeting I have missed since my husband died during Monark meeting time 17 years ago.

Durham, NC Building Fund Project Update

I am very grateful to report our current progress. The Lord is faithful in working miracles! We are at our last phase of the building fund project and are asking for your financial support. Our main concerns are heating and air, septic system installation, and flooring. We are also looking for laborers to help as well. Our desire is to be completed by the end of the year. You may send donations to the Church of God Building Fund at: 3203 NC Hwy 55 Durham, NC 27713. Thank you in advance for your prayers and support, and may God richly bless you.

Sincerely,

Jerry Lennon- Pastor, Phone: (919)740-3748



Mia Carmella Waite September 30, 1979 – July 30, 2014

Our darling Mia Carmella Waite was born at Lakeside Hospital in Metairie, LA to the delight of her parents, Satoshi "Danny" & Carmelina Joy DiDio Waite. She attended Destrehan High School and John Jay Beauty College, graduating in the study of Esthetics. Mia was a wonderful hairdresser, and she was an honored model for her college. Mia was a fabulous cook and a connoisseur of fine dining with great presentation. She had a mothering instinct as a young girl, which was developed more as she took care of the neighborhood children. She loved our Lord, studied her Bible, and loved prayer.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Satoshi Dan Waite, grandmother Satoko Okada Waite Jones, grandmother Wanita Pearl Stice DiDio and grandfather Salvatore George DiDio. She is survived by her children, daughter, Justice Aleya Waite, son, Trezure Michael Bourgeois and her parents, Satoshi and Carmelina Waite. Mia was laid to rest at Oak Grove Church of God Cemetery, Loranger, Louisiana, alongside her brother, Satoshi Dan Waite on August 9, 2014. Cousins Bobby Forbes and Cheryl Forbes Flynn officiated in Mia's graveside memorial. The songs were: Amazing Grace, These Chains Are Gone, I've Been Set Free, Amazing Love, You Are My King, Jesus You Are My King, I've Got More To Go To Heaven For Than I Had Yesterday, and Safe In The Arms Of Jesus.

Thanks to everyone for their teamwork, prayers, and expressions of sympathy.

—The family of Mia Carmella Waite

Myrtle, MO Camp Meeting Report

It is with joy and thankfulness of heart that we report a wonderful, blessed, and Holy Spirit-anointed camp meeting at Myrtle, MO, Aug. 29 - Sept. 1, 2014. The singing was glorious and the preaching was inspiring and challenging. Attendance was the best we had seen in 20 to 25 years. Around 200 or more attended this year's meeting. It was a great encouragement to us local folk to keep on keeping on! It was decided to set the meeting date for Labor Day weekend again next year.

CD recordings are available of this year's meeting. Anyone interested may contact me by email at hsorrell@windstream.net or by USPS mail at Rt. 91 Box 118A, Myrtle, MO 65778.

-Harlan Sorrell



CHURCH OF GOD WEBSITES

With the suspension of publication of the Faith & Victory paper effective January 2015, we want to again point our readers to the following excellent on-line Church of God websites:

The Gospel Truth

The Gospel Truth is an electronic publication that



is published quarterly as the Lord leads. It is published in the name of the Lord for all people of all lands in the interest of establishing and encouraging them in the truth of God's Word. It is printed in various countries for local distribution. This publication teaches and

promotes the truths of the Bible that have been established since the time of Christ and the apostles.

To subscribe to the email notification list and receive current publications, go online to:

www.thegospeltruth.us

Editors: Michael & René Smith 605 Bishops Ct., Nixa, MO 65714.

Editors note: The *Gospel Truth* will now be publishing and selling the *Evening Light Songs* hymnal for \$20 each. Write to the above address to order your copy today.



AFRICA MISSION

Church of God missionary

gospel work in various African countries. Facts, church history, photos, culture, etc.

The missionary efforts described and depicted in this website are made in the interest of the Church of God for the furtherance of God's Kingdom.

Go to:

www.africamission.com
Michael Smith: Website editor

Church of God Today

New Website, Beginning January 2015!



Featuring:

Bible Lessons On Line

Quarterly Bible Lessons for Adults and Young People. With cessation of this publication in print form by Faith Publishing House effective April 2015, it will now be available free of charge on-line. Written by Brother

Leslie Busbee with contributing comments by others, these inspiring lessons carry the Church of God message and can be used for both Sunday School and/or personal devotions. They will be formatted for easy downloading and printing in booklet or page format. Current and Immediate-past editions.

Articles by Sister Angela

Sister Angela Gellenbeck, editor, will also be including from time to time articles she feels inspired to write.

Go to:

www.churchofgodtoday.com Editor: Sister Angela Gellenbeck 2900 KY Hwy 1273, Stanford, KY 40484 Phone: 859. 319. 9721 angela@heritagedesignsinc.com

Church of God Meetings

Lists in progress and upcoming revivals and camp meetings. The site includes contact information, meeting details, and links to maps of the meeting sites. It has downloadable calendar files for importing into your smart phone or computer so the meetings will show up in your calendar.

Congregations may announce their own meetings on the site.

Go to:

www.churchofgodmeetings.com
Doug Wall: Website Editor



Church of God Preaching

• Over 2,500 audio messages by Church of God ministers. Can be searched by category, preacher, location, and date.

Downloadable.

- Over 100 songs: congregational, individual, and special singing. Downloadable
- Meeting Notices: Up-to-date notices of Church of God camp meetings, revivals, and special meetings throughout the U.S.

Go to: www.churchofgodpreaching.com Doug Wall: Website Editor

Church of God

"At the evening time it shall be light." Zech. 14.7

- Promotes the importance of a personal relationship with the Lord.
- Addresses current questions and challenges in the context of modern society.
- Teaches and advocates uncompromising, Biblical principles of truth and holiness.
- Advocates the unity of all true believers—a unity that comes not by a human creed or organization but by love through the Word and Spirit.
- Includes songs, messages, articles, books...and more.
- ♦ 500 messages by Ostis B. Wilson.

Go to

www.churchofgodeveninglight.com
Michael Smith: Website Editor

Evening Light Songs Index



A complete index/concordance of the newest edition of this Church of God hymnal, searchable by song title, phrase, or page number.

Every song page is shown.

Go to:

www.eveninglightsongs.com
Joseph Gellenbeck: Website Editor

Church of God Congregations



The following congregations record their weekly messages on-line along with other information about their churches.

Neosho, Missouri
 http://www.churchofgodneosho.org

Dallas, Texas

http://www.churchofgoddallas.org

Supulpa, Oklahoma
 http://sapulpachurchofgod.com/

Monark Springs Campmeeting Recordings



Well-organized and user-friendly. Recording of the messages and singing—congregational and special—at the 2013 and 2014 National Camp meeting.

Go to:

www.monarkspringscampmeeting.com
Brent Cole: Website Editor



Radio Station

God's Five Minutes

Radio station KNEO (91.7 FM)

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

Go to: www.KNEO.org

Order Now!

The following books are now availale at 50% off the listed prices below, plus postage. Order several today while stock lasts. Order through June 2015 from Faith Publishing House, P.O. Box 518, 73044. Phone: 405-282-1479

A Great Sacrifice by Fred Pruitt. A 32-page book, bound in a heavy paper cover. \$1.00.

A Hive of Busy Bees by Effie M. Williams. An excellent book for children. 118 pages, bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$3.00.

A Missionary's Experiences in Mexico by Carrie L. Sheppard. 60 pages, bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50.

A Religious Controversy by C. E. Orr. An 80-page, paperbound book presenting Bible truths in an interesting manner. \$2.00.

A Saloonkeeper's Daughter Saved by Bertha Mackey, 15-page booklet of a young girl's shocking experiences in a convent. 50¢.

A Sketch of My Life by H. B. Hall, relates his experiences as a young man, his act of murder, his prison life, conversion, release, gift of healing, and much more. It is an interesting story that all will enjoy. It contains 126 pages bound in a heavy paper cover and sells for \$3.00.

A True Story in Allegory by Lottie Jarvis, missionary to India. 30 pages in paper cover. \$1.00.

Adventures in the Land of Canaan by R. L. Berry. Instructive allegory of true-to-life experiences in sanctification. 128 pages. Paper . Price, \$3.00. Around Old Bethany by R. L. Berry . A true-to-life narrative setting forth salvation and other Bible doctrines. 83 pages Paper. Price, \$2.00.

Beautiful Way Yearbooks. 52 Junior Lessons in a heavy paper cover. \$5.00

Bible Chain of Truth by A. Marie Miles. Bible doctrines made clear for youth. Paperbound, 168 pages. Price, \$4.00.

Bible Humility by J. W. Byers . 33 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00.

Bible Readings for Bible Students and for the Home and Fireside compiled by S.L. Speck and H.M. Riggle. Contains 432 pages of Scripture references and comments on many Bible subjects. Price, \$8.00.

Biblical Nuggets for Godly Women Edited by Brenda Wilkins and Nelda Sorrell. Essays on how to be Godly wives and mothers in a modern world. 351 pages. Paperback. Price, \$10.00

Christian Conduct by C. E. Orr. 45 pages, paperbound. Price, \$1.00. Christ's Triumphal Reign by H. M. Riggle. 28 pages. Price, \$1.00.

Considering Marriage? by Margaretta Kennedy. 12 pages. Price \$1.00.

Courtship and Marriage by Ostis B. Wilson. 12 pages. 50¢.

Echoes From Heaven . Song book of 195 songs in shaped notes with heavy paper cover. Price, \$4.00.

Emma Bailey Seeks Truth by Mabel Hale. True experiences in "Pentecostalism." Paper- bound, 24 pages. Price, \$1.00.

Errors of Russellism by J. E. Forrest is a 252-page book bound in a heavy paper cover which gives an explanation of the misconceptions on which the modern day Jehovah's Witness religion is founded. Price, \$4.50.

Evening Light Church of God Mission Work in South India by Dorothy Keiser. 56 pages. Bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50.

Evening Light Song Concordance, A complete word index to the hymns in the Evening Light Songs book. 431 pages. Paper. Price, \$18.00

Faith and Victory books, 11 issues in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$5.00.

Food for Lambs by C. E. Orr in English. Excellent for all ages, especially for young Christians. 168 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$4.00.

Foxe's Book of Martyrs by John Foxe. Paper binding, 413 pages. Price, \$12.99. From Darkness to Light, 20-page booklet by Bro. Mart Samons. 50¢.

From Rags to Riches Personal testimony of Sid Souvey, depicting the power of God to deliver from sin. 21 pages. Paper. Price, \$1.00.

God's Gracious Dealings by Fred Pruitt and Lawrence Pruitt. History of this gospel publishing ministry in the past sixty years. 496 pages, including many pictures, in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$7.00.

Guided by the Unseen Hand is an autobiography by Murphy Allen. 84 pages, bound in a heavy paper cover, \$2.00.

Harry the Newsboy, by Isabel Byrum, a 32-page book for children, consisting of three separate stories. \$1.00.

Heart Talks, by C. W. Naylor, a book designed to comfort, strengthen, and instruct in the Christian life. 279 pages. Paper cover. Price \$8.00

Heavenly Life for Earthly Living by C. E. Orr. 60 pages of good soul food. Price, \$1.50.

Helps to Holy Living by C. E. Orr. Paper-bound, 64 pages, \$1.50.

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Holy Spirit Baptism and the Second Cleansing by R. R. Byrum. 108 pages in a heavy paper binding. \$2.75.

How Do I Look? (The Great Abomination) 32 pages, paper cover. \$1.00.

How John Became a Man by Isabel Byrum. Life story of a motherless boy, especially for children and young people. Paper, 64 pages. Price, \$1.50. **How to Resist the Devil** by F. J. Perryman. Biblical instruction in heavy paper cover, 48 pages. \$1.50.

How We Got Our Bible by E. E. Byrum. 46 pages. \$1.50.

Jesus Is Coming Again by H. M. Riggle. Paperbound, 111 pages. Price, \$2.75.

Just Mary by Effie Williams. A true story for young people and older folks as well. 96 pages in paper binding. Price, \$2.50.

La Iglesia de Dios by D.S. Warner, Price, \$1.00.

Lest We Forget by Sis. Margaret Eck. 72 pages of many encouraging experiences with the Lord. Bound in heavy paper, \$2.00.

Life's Golden Gleanings by Ruby Stover. Experiences of her childhood, and her years in the gospel work. 94 pages. Paper. Price, \$2.50. **Life Sketches of Sarah Smith** . 36 pages, \$1.00.

Life's Story and Healings by Sis. Nellie Poulos. 160 pages, bound in heavy paper. \$3.50.

Little People Sing Unto The Lord is a songbook composed of 115 songs compiled by Patricia Bell. Although the songs are especially for children, they are favorites that any age would enjoy. Bound in a heavy paper cover, the price is \$5.00 each.

Man, His Present and Future by H. M. Riggle. It deals with man in his present state, between death and the judgment and beyond the resurrection in the eternal world. It would be invaluable as a research book or for use in group studies. It contains 206 pages with a heavy paper cover and sells

Memoirs of George E. Harmon . 56 pages. Price, \$1.50.

Moral Law by Clifford Wilson. 317 pages. Hard cover. Documents man's fall into sin and the journey that leads back to holiness. Price, \$6.00.

Odors From Golden Vials by C. E. Orr. 78 pages in paper cover. \$2.00.

Our Darlings' Bible ABC Book by Isabel Byrum. Any child who is just learning the letters of the alphabet will enjoy this book. There is a Bible story to go with each letter. It is bound in a heavy paper cover and contains 64 pages. The price is \$1.50 each.

Parent and Child by J. W. Byers. 60-page book in a heavy paper cover, recommended for young parents. \$1.50.

Pasha (Greasy) Tichomirow, the Converted Robber is translated from German by Charles Lukesh. 32 pages, paperbound, \$1.00.

Past, Present, and Future of the Church by Fred Pruitt, 72 pages. \$2.00.

Personal Experiences of S. O. Susag by S. O. Susag, early-day minister of Church of God. 191 pages in paper cover. \$4.00.

Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan. 254 pages, paperback. Price, \$5.99.

Pioneer Evangelists of the Church of God in the Pacific Northwest by John L. Green. 164 pages, paperbound. \$3.50.

Remember Now thy Creator is a 16-page booklet of a sermon by Ostis B. Wilson directed especially to young people. Price, 50¢.

Remove Not the Ancient Landmarks 28-page book by Ostis B. Wilson. \$1.00.

Salvation, Present, Perfect, Now or Never, by D. S. Warner. 63 pages, paperbound. Price, \$1.50.

Samuel Morris by Lindley Baldwin. This is a moving story of a boy who was miraculously rescued from death in the wilds of Africa and made his way to the United States where his Christian experience was an inspiration to many. It consists of 94 pages bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$4.99. Sanctification by J. W. Byers. 96-page book of clear, sound teaching on this subject. Every Christian should read it. Price, \$2.50.

Shadows of Good Things, or The Gospel in Type, by R. R. Byrum. 144-page book with diagrams dealing with types and shadows of the Old Testament. Paperbound, \$3.50

St. Paul and His Gospel, by G. P. Tasker, 87 pages, in paper cover. A study for Bible students of Paul and his writings. Price, \$2.50. **Steps Heavenward** by R. L. Berry. Clear biblical instruction to the new convert. Paper binding, 123 pages. Price, \$2.50.

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The Bible, The Inspired Word of God by Earl B. Bliss is a 16-page treatise on the verity of the Bible and why we should live by it. Price, 50¢.

The Church of God by D. S. Warner. 24 pages in heavy paper binding. Price \$1.00. The Corrupt Tree by A. Marie Miles. Written especially for young people. 40 pages. \$1.00.

The Dangers of Ben-onies by Richard Newton. Taken from a sermon preached to boys and girls. 24 pages. Price \$1.00.

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The Double Cure, or Redemption Twofold by D. O. Teasley. Should enlighten reader on the two works of grace, and correct thinking of those who deny cleansing in sanctification. 160 pages, large print, heavy paper cover. Price, \$3.50.

The Gift of Tongues-What It Is and What It Is Not by G. E. Harmon. 20-page booklet. Price, 50¢.

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The Hero of Hill House by Mabel Hale. Interesting true story, contains 224 pages, bound in heavy paper. \$4.00.

The Hidden Life by C. E. Orr. 112 pages of soul food in paper binding. \$3.00.

The Holy Spirit and Other Spirits by D. O. Teasley. 192 pages, paperbound. \$4.00.

The Infidel Doctor of Salem by Effie M. Williams. Paperbound, 52 pages. Price, \$1.50.

The Key to Peace by A. Marie Miles. 32 pages, paperbound. \$1.00.

The Kingdom of God and the One Thousand Year's Reign by H. M. Riggle. 160 pages, paperbound. \$3.50.

The Man of His Counsel by Effie Williams. 112 pages, paperbound. \$3.00.

The More Abundant Life by C. E. Orr. 32 pages, paperbound. Price, \$1.00.

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The Ordinances of the New Testament by Wm. G. Schell. Paperbound, 67 pages, \$2.00.

The Plan of Salvation by Ostis Wilson. 64 pages, paperbound. \$1.50.

The Poorhouse Waif and His Divine Teacher by Isabel Byrum. Touching true story in paper cover. 223 pages. \$4.00.

The Redemption of Howard Gray by C. W. Naylor. Experience of a young man seeking and finding the truth of God's Word. Paper. 72 pages. \$2.00. The Revelation Explained by F. G. Smith. Includes two large charts. 464 pages, clothbound. \$12.00.

The Revival in Tin Town by Effie M. Williams. Paperbound, 84 pages. \$2.00.

The Sabbath and the Lord's Day by H. M. Riggle. 160 pages, paperbound, \$3.50. The Second Coming of Christ by Willie C. Murphey. 24 pages. \$1.00.

The Secret of the Singing Heart by C.W. Naylor. 181 pages, heavy color paper cover. \$8.00

The Sin of Trifling by Mrs. Sam Barton. A 32-page book for those who are thinking of marriage. \$1.00. The Story of Joseph, paperbound, 79 pages. Price, \$2.00.

The Ten Virgins by Ostis B. Wilson. 24 pages of heart-searching reading. \$1.00.

The Two Works of Grace by H. M. Riggle in 1900. Paperbound, 56 pages. Price, \$1.50.

The Watchman on the Wall by Wayne Murphey. An illustrated, 32-page book which is an allegorical story relating problems which Redeemed experienced in fulfilling his job as a watchman. It is bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00.

Tim and His Lamp re-written by Sis. Fern Stubblefield. 52 pages, excellent for children and young people. Paper cover, \$1.50.

Touching Incidents and Remarkable Answers to Prayer. Children's edition, many pictures, paper cover, 135 pages. Price, \$3.00.

Touching Incidents and Remarkable Answers to Prayer. Adult's edition - this is a 338 page volume containing many of the stories in the children's edition of Touching Incidents, plus many more. It is bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$5.00

Trials and Triumphs of Eva Grant by Effie M. Williams. First published in 1920's. Paper-bound, 94 pages. \$2.50. Unraveling Revelation by A. Q. Bridwell. 34 pages in a heavy paper cover. \$1.00. Was the Devil Ever in Heaven? by O. B. Wilson. Clear Bible answer in paper cover, 32 pages. Price, \$1.00.

What About Man? by Harlan Sorrell. A 16-page poem addressing materialistic views. Price, \$.50.

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Spanish Tracts Available

The Church of God Spanish Publishing Mission now has eight tracts in Spanish ready for distribution:

La Sangre Del Cordero (The Blood of the Lamb)

You Soy La Puerta (I Am the Door)

Una Vez Salvo Siempre Salvo (Once Saved Always Saved)

El Plan de Dios Para Ti (The Plan of God for You)

Yo Fui Católico Romano (I waw a Roman Catholic)

He Encontrado a la Iglesia Verdadera (I found the True Church)

¿Cual es el Costo? (What is the Cost?)

We hope to add to this list in the coming months, as the Lord wills. If you need any of these tracts, please write to the address below. These are distributed on a free-will-offering basis.

> **Church of God Spanish Publishing Mission** P.Ô. Box 1073 Guthrie, OK 73044-1073

Revival Meeting Notice Sapulpa, Oklahoma Wed Nov 5 - Sunday Nov 9.

Bro. Michael Smith will be ministering.

Services: 7:00 pm nightly through Saturday night.

Sunday School at 9:45 am, Sunday morning service at 10:45 am, and lunch will be served . An afternoon service will follow (as the Lord leads) at 2 p.m.

Location: 8500 Frankoma Rd, Sapulpa, OK 74066

Contact: Bro. James Bell, 918-247-4579

California State Assembly Meeting December 26, 2014-January 4, 2015

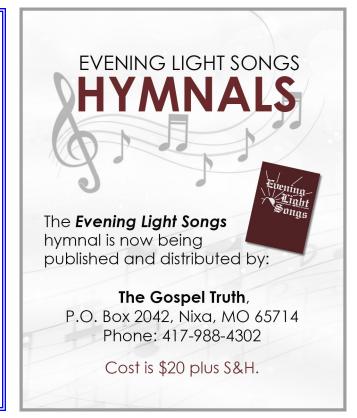
Services: 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

(First Friday, 7:30 p.m. only). Meals provided plus

accommodations for those needing them.

Location: 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, CA 91331 **Contact:** Bro. Paul Phillips, 661-251-6956 or Bro.

Herbert Clay 818-897-1396.



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