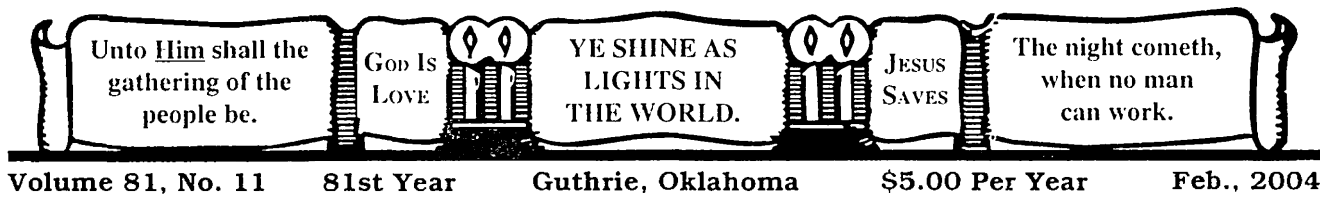


# FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

## Church of God Servant



### EARTHLY WELLS

By Bro. Bob Wilson

In the Gospel of John 4:5-15, "Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with *his* journey, sat thus on the well: *and* it was about the sixth hour. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is

deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water...."

Jesus told the woman that if she drank of that earthly well she would thirst again. That is something for all of us to take note of. Earthly wells can never satisfy the thirst in the soul of man. Yet many today continue their efforts to draw life out of earthly wells.

The **Career Well** is an earthly well where you will find many people trying to draw life—happiness, peace, fulfillment. Many people today are rushing after the perfect job, thinking if they can only get a job that they really enjoy, that matches their personal skills and that makes a good earning that surely they can be fulfilled in life. Sometimes they labor at it so intently at the sacrifice of family and health. Yet the truth is that thousands have been successful in careers and have made good earnings and yet still find that something is missing, in their lives. There is a thirst deep down in their bosom that this well did not satisfy.

The **Money Well** is another well where multitudes draw. Thinking that if they can make so many dollars a year, live comfortably with the

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fineries of life, have a stockpile in the savings and a great retirement plan that they will be satisfied. However, we can see that many wealthy people that have more than they will ever use are some of the most miserable people around. Do you think it will be different for you? Jesus mentioned, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?..." Would it quench and put out that thirst in your spirit or would you soon have to try to find another well?

The **Well of Possession** has also attracted many to its rope and bucket. Houses, lands, cars, the list goes on. America has plunged itself deeply into materialism—the love of things. Are we any happier? Do we have any more deep soul peace than we did when life was much simpler and not so weighted down with things? We as a country are so tied down with the cares of things that we don't have much time for people or God. "Labour not for the meat which perisheth,..." We will not be able to take a single material possession with us into the next life.

There have been a number found at the **Well of Popularity**. Very successful in their careers, Hollywood, etc., receiving great recognition from people. I recently read an article on Elvis Presley in the *Reader's Digest*. People still herald him as a king. He had fame, money and possessions but was he truly happy? Was his life fulfilled and complete? He died an unhappy, unfulfilled man. Why? He was drawing from the wrong well. Remember, Jesus said that earthly wells will not satisfy man's inner being.

Many think to find happiness at the **Marriage Well**. Finding a good companion that they love, admire and adore. I wonder how many happy homes there are in America where there is no strife, anger and bitterness? Thousands of marriages end in divorce. The woman that Jesus met at the well had had five husbands. Do you think she was completely satisfied? I don't believe she was. Some feel only if they had a more intelligent companion or one that had a greater personal beauty or personality that they would be satisfied. Yet there are those that have those characteristics and they are getting divorced. If we are expecting our companion to quench the thirst of our soul we are drawing from the wrong well.

One more well I would like to name and that is the **Well of Religion**. Many people try to drink at this well just enough to satisfy conscience. Going to church and living a good moral life and having a few "good" friends. Yet not opening the heart completely to God nor repenting of hidden sin. Many will say, "Oh, I tried religion and church and it didn't help or work." I will agree with them. This well doesn't satisfy either. It will leave a void and vacancy in your bosom just like all the other wells. I'm convinced that people walk away from this well disillusioned, thinking that if any well satisfies it should have been this one.

If you kneel to Him and humbly pray:

Fill my cup Lord, I lift it up Lord,

Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.

Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more.

Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

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## GOD'S IMAGE—OUR IMAGE

By Harlan Sorrell

In Genesis 1: 26-27, the Lord God Jehovah, speaking to the other two members of the Trinity (Jesus and the Holy Spirit), said, "...Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:... So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

Mankind was created after the likeness of a triune God, being threefold—body, soul and spirit. All of these three aspects of man's being were created to "image" God. Webster's dictionary defines *image* as "a representation of a person or thing, the visual impression of some-

thing produced, a copy; counterpart; likeness; a type; embodiment: as he is the *image* of likeness; the total impression created by a person; representation; portrait; reflection."

God, being perfectly holy, created mankind as a visual impression of Himself. In the beginning mankind was holy in body, soul and spirit. He was a copy and counterpart of God, a representation and reflection of his Creator. How wonderful! But as we read in Genesis chapter 3, through the cunning craftiness of the tempter, mankind sinned and lost that wonderful likeness of his Maker. In the fullness of time God

sent Jesus, the second person in the Trinity “who is the image of the invisible God,” and by whom He created all things. (Col. 1:15-16.) He sent him “without sin,” (Heb. 4:15, I Pet. 2:21-22) but “in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin,” that He might “condemn sin in the flesh” (Rom. 8:3) and reveal to us again the image of God. He was the second Adam. (I Cor. 15: 45-47.)

Heb. 1:1-3 says, “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.” After Jesus sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, God sent the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, to impart His image as it was expressed and exhibited by Jesus during His incarnation, to all who would open their hearts in faith to receive it. Paul says in II Cor. 3:18, “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.” This is what the salvation of Jesus Christ does for all who will receive it according to the teaching and pattern set forth in the New Testament. Those who truly receive Christ and His teachings are made “joint-heirs” with Him and are adopted as “sons of God” thus partakers of His divine image. (John 1:12-14, 16; Rom. 8:14-17.)

In Eph. 4:17-24, Paul says, “This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” This is parallel with Paul’s expression in

Col. 3:10, “...after the image of Him that created him.”

This is the image that satan hates—the image of holiness. Since the very beginning of time he has sought to mar and destroy it in its every aspect as it pertains to man’s existence. Not only does he seek to destroy the image of holiness as it pertains to man’s soul and spirit, but he also seeks to destroy it as it pertains to man’s body. God desired, from the beginning, that man be a visual expression of Him not only in the spiritual aspect of his existence but in that pertaining to the physical also. The purpose of Christ coming to earth and living in the flesh was to show us God’s image. Then after making the necessary sacrifice of His body to atone for our sins, He ascended back to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to dwell within our hearts that we might be restored to God’s image. In so doing he meant for our bodies to be temples showing forth the glory of God just as His body reflected the glory of God. “What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought (redeemed) with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

Contrary to some modern-day philosophies, God is concerned about the outward appearance of things. Outward appearances are reflections, that is, images. Rom. 1:20 says, “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead;...” This scripture teaches us that the invisible things of God (such as His glory) are clearly seen and understood by physical things we observe with our natural eyes. The physical creation reflects the Godhead and His eternal power. This makes us to know that our outward appearance is reflecting something also.

A young lady who joined the police force was asked one time, “Aren’t you afraid to do your job?” “Oh no,” she replied, “My uniform speaks!” That was a point well-made. She knew that when she was dressed in a police officer’s uniform she portrayed an “image” that demanded respect. She knew that when people saw her they automatically knew what she represented by the very apparel she wore.

Let this be a lesson to us as Christians. Our clothing and outward appearances speak also!  
(Continued on page 11.)

## FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21, and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ—the same gospel that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for the body. James 5:14-15.

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

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way as the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Ex. 25:2; I Chron. 29:9; II Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Freewill offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House. All donations are tax deductible.

A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

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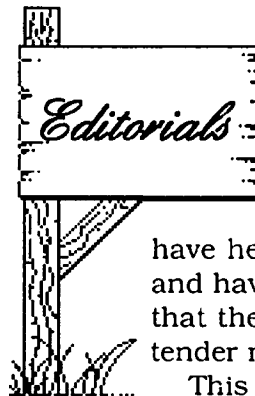
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"Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye

have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." James 5:10-11.

This scripture came to my mind recently while viewing some of the photographs of the saints who attended the meetings at Monark Springs, MO years ago. Many of them faced afflictions, battles and difficult situations that were similar to what we may be facing and they were faithful to serve the Lord and maintained their confidence in Him to the end. Consequently, we hold them in high regard and cherish the memory of their life. Their faithfulness has had a great influence on us, perhaps more than we may realize. We have seen how the Lord worked in their lives, answered prayer and gave the victory time after time. Many of them have now passed from their earthly toils and are enjoying the glory and splendor of paradise with the Lord.

It warms our heart to remember these dear loved ones and to consider the race that they so bravely ran. Our heart is filled with courage when we think about how faithful the Lord was to them. Let us also be faithful. Endure the hard things in life without being crushed and losing our trust in the Lord. Most of us have had experiences with lawn mowers that would start and run very well until they were pushed into the grass—then they would lose speed, bog down and die. Too many people are like that. They start out well for the Lord but something happens and they lose out with the Lord. The scripture in Galatians 5:7 asks a serious question. It says, "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?"

Jesus spoke of different types of people in His parable of the sower and identified some of the reasons that they failed to bear fruit. Notice the reasons He gave. "But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is

he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful." Matthew 13:20-22.

In one instance Jesus showed that a lack of root caused those individuals to become offended when tribulation or persecution came their way. There are going to be hard things that come to those who take their stand with the Lord Jesus Christ. A root of righteousness will be required that will give strength to stand the storms and tempests of life. While we find that strength in Jesus, we also have a responsibility to develop our relationship with Him so that His strength will become ours. Wickedness, sin and evil must be repented of and removed from our life. Bitter, unforgiving and hardhearted attitudes must likewise be put away from us. These "stones" will prevent our spiritual development. Our relationship with Jesus must grow by receiving with meekness the engrafted Word of God, by studying and learning more about Him, by prayer and communion with Him and by conforming our lives to His will.

The advantages of a strong root system can be observed in nature. Some trees have a very extensive root system that reaches deep into the soil. Some will even grow down into the water table below the surface of the ground. Think about how that would enhance its ability to survive hot, dry times.

Jeremiah 17:7-8 describes a person whose trust is in the Lord like this. "Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and *that* spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit."

Jesus also spoke of those who allowed the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches to choke the word. It didn't say they died immediately but that they became "unfruitful." However, if one continues in an unfruitful condition they will be hewn down and cast into the fire. (Matt. 7:19.) Sadly, this is the condition that many who claim to be Christians are finding themselves in. They may attend services and have a high profession and yet no real spiritual fruit is resulting from their life. The material things that they are enjoying are also causing them to be unfruitful because they are not consecrated and given to God. Selfishness, greed

and carnality will cause the fruits of the Spirit to wither on their branches. The world will consume their time and involve their talents in pursuits that do not bring glory to God leaving them bereft of spiritual fruit, weak from lack of prayer and burned out from work and yet not obtaining what their heart really yearns for.

Let those who have met the Savior be diligent, watchful and prayerful that the fruit of righteousness is allowed to mature and be a blessing to all of the inhabitants of the kingdom of God. By giving attention to these things we also will be able to endure the difficult battles of life and truly manifest the spirit of the Lord and obtain the crown of life that is awaiting the faithful saints of God. Our prayers will be answered, our faith will be increased and our victory will be sure.

— — — — —

The Lord has enabled us to replenish our stock on the books *Helps to Holy Living* by Bro. C. E. Orr, price \$1.50 and *The Ordinances of the New Testament* by Bro. William G. Schell, price \$2.00. These books have both been a blessing to the people of God as they have sought to live a holy life and to have a better understanding of the ordinances that Jesus taught His followers to observe. They are both bound in a heavy paper cover. If you would like one of these books or some of the others that are available please let us know. Regular shipping charges apply for mailed copies.

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The need for equipment to produce hardback books is still weighing heavily on our heart. We are continuing to hold it before the Lord in prayer. Our stock of the *Evening Light Songs* book as well as several other books that have been published in hardback bindings have been depleted. The Lord has moved on the hearts of some of His people and there has been significant progress made toward this need. While the Lord is working among us, He has also been working on others. A gentleman that has some of this equipment that has been mentioned in past issues of this paper, has called again and discussed what he has available. You may recall the equipment was originally offered to us for \$37,500. By keeping a paper cutter and a three-knife book trimmer he has offered the balance of the equipment that we need for \$20,000. He explained that the equipment is not being used now and that he needed the room in his shop for other things. The Lord has

provided more than half of the amount that he is asking, for which we are very grateful. We are still seeking for Divine guidance in this matter. Lord willing, we plan to visually inspect what is being offered us to determine its suitability in the near future. The equipment has been converted to operate on hydraulic motors and will need to be changed back to electric. This conversion, as well as other aspects of the equipment, should be carefully and prayerfully considered. We are completely open to the Lord for His leading in this need. If you are aware of hardback binding equipment that is available in your area, that might serve our needs, I would appreciate hearing about it. We ask you to unite your prayers and hearts with us that His will be done and that His work would move forward for the greatest benefit of His people.

—Bro. Willie E. Murphey  
wemurphey@yahoo.com



LA—I need special help from God concerning a major disorder. I'm also planning to move near family in the Baton Rouge area and I need strength. —Sis. Catherine Bhramayana

CA—Pray for my sister's friend, Ron, who has cancer of the lymph nodes, my brother, John, who has prostate cancer and my son, John, who is recovering from an auto accident.

—Sis. Doris Pihaylic

SC—I have a special unspoken request that we need prayer for on or before Feb. 18. Pray that the Lord will work out what is best for the souls that are involved and that His will be done.

—Sis. Marie Weatherford

MO—Sis. Brenda Allen was severely burned and is in need of prayer.

SC—Pray for me and my unsaved children. I sure want to make heaven. —Sis. Lillie Russell

LA—I need prayer for my eyes and my hearing. —Sis. Velma Mancil

OK—Remember Bro. Jim Lynch in prayer. He is suffering from a serious physical affliction.

OK—Sis. Barbara Thomas is in need of prayer for an affliction in her body.

BC—Pray for Sis. Karin Fehlauer. She has a painful inflammation of the eye.

OR—Bro. Bill Busch is in urgent need of a healing touch to his body.

## Standing Prayer Requests

Carlos Arriago  
Sis. Mamie Butcher  
Sis. Helen Carson  
Bro. Hubert Corteway  
Sis. Waneta Creel  
Sis. Elaine Dunn  
Sis. Evelyn Fredrickson  
Bro. Troy Gentry  
Bro. Jeff Gutwein  
Bro. Robert Hetland  
Bro. Lee Hilton  
Bro. Doyle LaCroix  
The Lounds Sisters  
Sis. Ruth McMakin  
Bro. Manuel & Sis. Marie Mitchell  
Sis. Melba Powell  
Sis. Anna Severs  
Sis. Catherine Shaffer  
The Mitch Taylor family

## HOW TO COME TO HIM FOR HEALING

We not only have the instructions of His power and will expressed through the many instances of healing in His ministry, but we can see very clearly how to come to Him and be made whole. Believing all that He has said in word and deed concerning His part, we can take the example of those who came to Him and do likewise. How then must we come? Answer: By faith. Out of nineteen of the most prominent individual cases of healing mentioned in the ministry of Christ and the apostles, there are twelve of these where their faith is spoken of. The rest are mentioned sufficiently plain to show us that faith brought the healing in every case. In His own town, where He had been brought up, Jesus could heal but few, because of their unbelief. "Without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. 11:6.

—Bro. J. W. Byers

## MEETING DATES

**Bakersfield, CA (Revival)**—Feb. 11-15  
**Ministers' Meeting (Guthrie)**—Mar. 4-6  
**Oklahoma City, OK (Revival)**—March 24-28  
**Enterprise, AL (Spring Singing)**—March 27  
**Miami, FL (Spring Meeting)**—March 28-April 4  
**Oklahoma State (Guthrie)**—May 28-June 6  
**Holly Hill, SC**—May 30-June 6  
**Green Bank, WV**—June 11-17  
**Jefferson, OR**—June 11-20  
**General Southern**  
**(Loranger, LA)**—June 27-July 4  
**National (Monark Springs, MO)**—July 16-25  
**Myrtle, MO**—July 30-August 4



## MEETING NOTICES

### BAKERSFIELD, CA, REVIVAL

Greetings of love from the congregation at Bakersfield, CA. We urge you to join with us in praying and anticipating a special visitation from God in our annual revival, which will be Feb. 11-15, 2004. There will be two services daily, 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. On Sunday, Sunday School will be at 9:30 a.m., Worship service at 10:30 a.m., afternoon service at 2:30 p.m. which will end our revival.

A cordial welcome is extended to all. This will be our first revival in our new sanctuary. Please join us in praying that many souls will be blessed. Notice our change of address: 100 Oswell St., Bakersfield, CA 93307. Our phone number is (661) 324-4945. For more information contact Bro. Haywood Cox, Pastor. His phone number is (661) 836-3877.

### MIAMI, FL MEETING NOTICE

Lord willing, the annual spring camp meeting in Miami, FL will be held March 28 through April 4, 2004. Services will be nightly at 7:30 p.m. with two services on Sunday. The daytime service schedule will be announced at the meeting. Come expecting a blessing and if you are unable to attend please pray that the Lord will bless the meeting. The chapel phone number is (305) 758-0160. It is located at 235 NW 47<sup>th</sup> St, Miami, FL. For further information please contact Bro. Robert McIntyre at (304) 233-2166 or Bro. Charles Clay at (305) 235-4271.

### MINISTERS' MEETING NOTICE

Plans are being made for a national ministers' meeting to be held in Guthrie, OK, March 4-6, 2004. This meeting will be for the purpose of prayer, teaching and edification.

Bro. Keith Fuller has agreed to coordinate the preparations for the meeting and requests each minister and spouse to bring to the ministers' meeting a book, or at least passage of a book, which has been valuable to you in your personal ministry. This book or copy of a passage of a book will be for display. Tables will be set aside for this. The purpose of this will be for sharing resources which might enrich the lives of others. General topics might be Devotional books, Doctrinal Books, Christian Education books, Church history, Family life, the roles of men and women, etc. Your name should be typed or printed on the front of the book or passage. A two to three sentence description of the book contents would be appreciated. For further information contact Bro. Keith Fuller at (330) 864-1128 or (330) 762-2286.

The expenses for this meeting will be met on a freewill basis. Financial support can be directed to Sis. Brenda Wilkins, the Oklahoma State Treasurer. Her address is: 1023 E. Prairie Grove, Guthrie, OK 73044.

*(It has come to our attention that the date for the ministers' meeting was published wrong in the last two issues of the "Faith and Victory." The correct date for the meeting is from Wednesday, March 4, through Saturday, March 6. Please share this correction with those who may be planning to attend. —Editor)*

### MYRTLE, MO CAMP MEETING

Although this is a little late, we would like to report that the Myrtle, MO camp meeting held in August 2003 was richly blessed of the Lord. The fellowship of the saints was precious and many inspiring and challenging messages went forth. Our brethren from Germany, who attended the first part of the meeting and ministered in several services, added a special dimension. We would also like to report that the new date was a success. Instead of running from Wednesday through Sunday as it had for many years, last year the camp meeting was started on Friday and continued through Wednesday of the following week. This date seemed to work out very well, therefore it was decided to continue with this date. The date for 2004 is July 30 - August 4.

We would like to invite everyone to attend the Myrtle camp meeting this year. We especially want to urge those of you who used to attend in years past but haven't been here for

several years to come back again. We are planning several improvements on the campground between now and camp meeting time. We are looking to the Lord to bless us with another wonderful meeting in 2004, and we want **you** to be a part and share the blessings. Please come if at all possible!

— Bro. Harlan Sorrell and the  
Myrtle Congregation



LETTERS  
FROM  
OUR  
READERS

LA—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: I hope and pray that you are doing okay. The Lord is blessing us here. He is teaching us, almost every day, how much of a mission field there is right here in the U. S. One song says “And how the fields turn white, with souls in need of light.” God help us, there are souls everywhere who are hungry! Please pray that we will be patient but move as God would have us. Another line of that song says, “Daylight is fading. Why are we waiting?” Souls everywhere are in need of light.

The Word of God says, “...For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required:...” Luke 12:48. What am I doing with the talent Christ has given to me, that is, the knowledge of Him and the knowledge that He has set me free? God bless all those striving to let their light, or rather the light of God, be seen everywhere they are. There is no time for sitting on the pews of our heart when Christ Himself has given us the call to go into all the world and preach the gospel—the good news. We need time alone with Him. We must know Him and love Him, else we have nothing to give this world. But if we really have it, if we really know Him, we need to be telling some people about Him!

I have to fight through my comfort zone many times to share what God wants me to. There have been times I have stayed in my comfort zone and withheld what He has given me to share, but God has inspired me to share the joy in my heart. While words are only a small part—living a pure, holy, happy life by the power of God is a powerful witness in our world today. But sometimes God does want us to mention to

others why we are so happy. Pray that I will be willing to speak when He wants me to. Yours in Christ.

—Bro. Brandon Martens

OK—Dear Bro. Willie: I have been blessed by reading in the book of Psalms. The 145<sup>th</sup> chapter was very encouraging and inspiring.

We also want to thank the Lord for His goodness to us in the battles that we have been in the last three months. Psalm 66:12 says, “...but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.” We are not all of the way out, but we have reached a wealthy place. He has brightened our hope of heaven. Wife and I are both weak in body. We are trusting the Lord to help us finish our race with victory. The Lord keeps us encouraged in our souls. We know the reward will be much greater than our suffering.

We appreciate the nice cards, letters and phone calls, also the prayers and visits. We thank each one for them. We have been mostly shut in for three months or more but the Lord has helped us to be able to remember other dear ones that are and were afflicted. We appreciate God’s faithfulness to all of His children.

Yours in Christian love, —Bro. T. V. McMillian

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: The Lord has given me a couple of challenges as I have read Bible stories to the children lately. We read about Moses being on Mount Sinai and the people decided that he must have died up there. Exodus 32:1 says, “...the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods,....” So Aaron had them bring him their gold and he made a golden calf. Verse 4 says, “...and they said: These *be* thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.”

How foolish for them to think that this image that they had fashioned with their own hands was the same God that brought them through the Red Sea and smote the Egyptians. When one looks at them they wonder, “How could they believe such an outright lie?” But they did. Then I started thinking about us today. “What god am I saying has brought me to the land I hold today?” Maybe the Lord has helped us stay ahead of the bills and I feel that money has been our deliverance. Perhaps it is my intelligence that I look to as my deliverer and we think, “We just had the wisdom to handle things wisely.” Is my relationship good with my spouse? Maybe I feel, “My personality is what made our relation-



ship good." If you really consider what brought the peace in the home or the wisdom to manage things right, it all came from the true God of heaven. For without Him we are nothing. Whatever god I am willing to trust in is just as helpless and foolish as the golden calf was to the Israelites. It is only by God's mercy that we are able to flee the life of sin and shame. I certainly don't want to have any other gods before the one true God.

Keep pressing on, —Sis. Anita Adams  
 — — — — —

LA—Dear Saints: God has been so good to me in innumerable ways. Some of them are as follows: He has allowed my four children to be raised and on their own; I have been given strength to work day and night; Jesus has carried me and when I've fallen He has picked me up again and again; the Lord has given me family and friends who love me and try to understand and work with me; the Lord spared my sister, Carmelina Joy's life when she had cancer and has enabled her to help and encourage those around her.

The song *Healing in Jesus* says, "Is it true when we've fallen into pitfalls of sin, we must always be crippled, never soar high again? No, there's healing in Jesus, there's a balm for each pain, and the wing that's been broken, can soar high again."

I'm so thankful for the hope Jesus gives us. God bless you all and Happy New Year!

—Sis. Catherine Bhramayana  
 — — — — —

MO—Dear Bro. Willie and saints: This January Bro. Artur Herter of Rotgesbuttel, Germany and I were blessed to attend the national convention of the Church of God congregations in India. The meeting was special because it included a dedication of the new tabernacle at Kottarakara. It has been under construction for months. It replaces the former practice of the congregation sitting on the ground under coconut fronds, which provided shade but no shelter from rain. The new building is an excellent concrete structure, well planned and very superior to anything I had expected—larger, expandable and including dormitory and dining facilities. One result is to move those services—and much work—away from Bro. John Varghese's private home.

We also visited an orphanage approximately three hours from Kottarakara that is supported by offerings from the congregation at

Rotgesbuttel and operated by the saints in India. There two dedicated families keep 20 orphans. Their happy faces were in stark contrast to the signs of malnutrition suffered before they came to us. And there is a waiting list, if more resource were available.

Since returning I have had a bout with a stomachache, but can report today that God has blessed me and I am able to keep food down. I apologize for allowing this to prevent my making a fuller report but expect to submit more information and pictures for next month. Roberta and I appreciate your prayers and support for the work in India and for us.

Christian Love, —Bro. Ed Wilson  
 — — — — —

**From India...**

January 23, 2004—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey: Greetings to all the dear saints abroad in the marvellous name of Jesus Christ. By the grace of God our 39th General Convention ended with many blessings and victories.

Bro. Ed Wilson from America and Bro. Artur Herter from Germany attended the convention as guests. The attendance was good and the messages were challenging. The new tabernacle is a blessing for us. We remember the Church of God activities all around the world. Our desire is to expand the kingdom of God to some new areas this year.

Let us cooperate to pray and labour for this commission.

Yours in Him. —Bro. John Varghese



**Otis Clark Porter** was born January 2, 1902, the sixth of twelve children to John Franklin and Lillie Mae Porter. He was born in a sod house in Oklahoma Territory two miles north of Covington, OK.

He graduated from Central High School in Oklahoma City and Central State College in

Edmond, OK. After graduation he formed a partnership with his father, owning a grocery store on South Robinson in Oklahoma City. There he met his wife, Bonnie Jennings. On July 4, 1922, a justice of the peace joined them in a marriage lasting until her death, October 8, 1959. Together they were born into the Church of God where he spent almost eighty years studying, teaching, preaching and living a life devoted to God. He took great joy in teaching the book of Revelation and the charts which he cherished.

In early years, Clark delivered oil field equipment with horses, telegrams by bicycle and baked cookies at Itens Biscuit Company. He had a lifetime teaching certificate from the State of Oklahoma. He taught in several one room school houses.

He enjoyed many years farming and raising sheep and registered Hereford cattle. He appreciated music and poetry, often singing his favor-

ite songs and reciting many well-known poems. He had an exceptional memory which he kept right up to the end of his life.

They had four children: sons, Clark "Junior," Gene, Carrol and daughter, Anecia.

In November 1960, Clark married Lottie Joiner. Together they worked for the Lord until her death.

Clark was preceded in death by all of his brothers and sisters; two wives, Bonnie Jennings Porter and Lottie Joiner Porter; two sons, Clark and Gene; two daughters-in-law, Frances Deforth and Dorothy Porter; and one grandson, Lyndon Porter. He leaves behind one son, Carrol Porter and his wife Carol; one daughter, Anecia Wall and husband Jim; one stepson, Howell Joiner and wife Bea; eleven grandchildren; twenty-five great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren.

He was buried at the Summit View Cemetery in Guthrie with Bro. Stanley Dickson officiating.



## THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS

By Bro. Toney and Sis. Jeanie Samons

### God's Order for the Family

I Corinthians 11:3: "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." God is a God of order in all of His Creation. The family is an institution of His and therefore it should be orderly. The above stated scripture establishes God's order for man and his family. The purpose of order is for things to run smoothly, consistently and dependably.

God is the head of all, and under Him is His Son, Jesus Christ. Man is then under Christ and the woman under the man. For a family to fulfill God's will and be blessed they must follow this pattern set out in the Word. Ephesians 5 states that wives submit to their husbands, but the husband must love his wife as the church. If this is done, with a husband loving his wife as Christ loved the church, the wife will be glad to submit to his headship, because it will be a loving and caring relationship, one that cannot be resisted. But this will only happen if both are submissive to God. If either are resistant to God, they will naturally not be ready to fill their part

in the home, for only the Holy Spirit can make us love in such a manner. If a husband loves his wife as his own body, there is no way he would abuse that love.

Matthew 20:27 sets the true guidelines to be a leader. "And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant." The Biblical pattern for the father is to be a servant to the family by his willingness to sacrifice, to work for, to plan for and to give all for. His headship really implies that he is carrying the greatest responsibility. The natural state of a man, by his physical characteristics, his emotional make-up, gives him the ability to fill this role. He was designed to be the provider, the strength and the buffer between the world and his family. The man will truly find his place in God by filling this role.

Probably the greatest blow that has been struck to the family is the undermining of this place in the home. There is an attack on men today to make them appear a weakling, incompetent and unable to handle responsibility. Sad to say, many men have bought into this and they fill their time pursuing frivolous hobbies, spending useless time following sports and

keeping themselves entertained with costly and vain pursuits at the expense of their family. The media has belittled his place and attacked his character until society doesn't know that there is such a thing as a true man as God intended. They are hard to find.

A man's leadership role requires him to be capable of making decisions. The final decision should be the man's responsibility, but good decisions can only be reached from good information and good advice. If a man will lead his family right, he must be informed. The best source of information for making these kind of decisions is God and the Word of God. To lead the home, his first priority must be to cultivate a personal relationship with God. This requires a man to take time daily with God in his private closet. It also requires him to be a student of the Word, because the Bible is the greatest source of information about what God expects of us. Not only does the man need the guidance of God, but God also gave him a helper, a wife, and her input is very valuable to his decisions. God gave a woman an intuition that man doesn't have. Her sensitivities to certain areas should not be disregarded if a man would make wise decisions. A husband loving his wife will value her input.

Another source of information that will enable you to make wise decisions is from your children. When they are young they have little input. But as they begin to mature a wise father will solicit input from his children. Sometimes their perspective will enlighten adults.

A man of God will also be open to counsel from other brethren. It is valuable to have those whom you respect and honor to give advice for you to consider. Experiences of others benefit us greatly. The story of the Roman centurion that came to Jesus seeking help for his servant gives us insight into where true authority lies. He was able to command one hundred men because he had been under authority. A wise father will consider all these sources of information before making a decision. The scripture says that "in the multitude of counsel there is safety." A decision should not be made solely on your ability to make one but because you have weighed your options and considered God's direction and the welfare of your family. Impulsiveness in leadership is a formula for shipwreck. Right timing in decision making is of ultimate importance.

What an awesome responsibility lies upon the shoulders of every man who has chosen to

take on a wife and children. Because you have chosen to do so you will stand before God for what you have done with it. May God give each of us true humility to lead as God intended.



## God's Image—Our Image

(Continued from page 3.)

God knew this, therefore, He gave us plain instructions in His Word. "I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." I Tim. 2:8-10. "Whose adorning let it not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." I Pet. 3:3-4.

God is here expressing through His Word the "image" He desires Christian women to portray by the things they wear—an image of modesty, shamefacedness, sobriety, meekness, quietness of spirit, etc. These are all inward qualities of the heart, yet God wants them displayed in an outward manner. Do clothes speak of inward things? Of course they do! The clothes you wear (including the colors) reflect your mood or inward sentiments. This is an obvious fact. A dark color speaks the appropriate mood for a mournful occasion. Light or bright colors speak of joyful occasions and sentiments. In view of these facts, if the clothes that we wear as Christians do not speak of "holiness" then they are relatively inappropriate to our profession. To wear any type of clothing that betrays the image of Him who created us is to step outside His will. "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (conduct)." I Pet. 1:15. This definitely includes the image we portray by the way we clothe our bodies.

A brother was in a Wal-Mart store with his wife and family when he was approached by a total stranger who said, "You must be holiness people!" How did the stranger ever guess such a thing? Was it because he could see down into the hearts of this brother and his family? No, it

was because he could see an image portrayed. What he saw on the outside suggested to him very strongly what was probably in their hearts.

Satan is a very subtle foe. He seeks to turn the Christian aside from God's holy will many times by subtly reasoning with the mind concerning the Scriptures. Remember, his purpose is to mar God's image. Satan even tried this with Jesus. "Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." Matt. 4:5-7.

Think of what the devil was doing here. He was using Scripture to motivate the Son of God to act outside of the will of God. Think of what this could have done to Christ's image. Had He jumped off the pinnacle of the temple and the angels indeed had caught Him and brought Him safely down without physical injury, He would have greatly glorified His own fleshly image in the eyes of the people. But Jesus remembered that there was more written in God's Word than what satan quoted. Jesus' purpose was to do God's will; not to glorify His flesh or gratify His own self-interest. God wants us to always be likeminded.

The devil still reasons with Christ's people today about what "is written." But his purpose is always to bring a wrong slant or wrong perspective concerning what is written. For example, he will suggest to our minds a portion of I Sam. 16:7 where God said, "man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart," so as to lead us to believe that God pays no attention to outward things, just simply what's in the heart; therefore outward things don't really matter to God. But what satan doesn't tell us is that outward things are, in fact, a reflection (image) of what is in the heart. Nor does he tell us that God was speaking in this scripture of man's natural "countenance" and "height of stature;" not apparel or adornment. By reasoning in this way, satan is subtly leading us toward disobedience of other things that are written. This is His whole purpose. He knows that if he can get us to disobey in only one point he has successfully marred God's beautiful image of holiness in our lives.

God has always been concerned about the image men and women portray in regard to their gender. In Deut. 22:5, He gave this rule to Moses, "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so *are* abomination unto the LORD thy God." We know that this commandment was given under the old law system, the ceremonial aspects of which were nailed to the cross and done away. However, this was not a ceremonial, but a moral command, just as "honor thy father and thy mother," (Exo 20:12) which was quoted and reemphasized by the apostle Paul in Eph. 6:2. The relationship between children and their parents was not nailed to the cross or done away. Neither was the relationship between men and women. God still wants a definite and distinctly different "image" portrayed by men and women in regard to their gender. Although there can be some variation of cultural patterns regarding this, the distinction is definitely required in any cultural setting by Him who created male and female. In Western culture, trousers or pants have long been recognized as pertaining to the male image. Dresses and skirts are recognized as pertaining to the female image. Webster's dictionary gives us very clear-toned definitions regarding this. I quote: "*Dress*: the usual outer garment of women, generally of one piece with a skirt." "*Skirt*: a woman's separate garment that hangs from the waist." "*Trousers*: an outer garment, especially for men and boys, reaching from the waist to the ankles and divided into separate coverings for the legs: also called *pants*." When searching for restroom facilities in a place of public gathering, we depend very much on those images to guide us to the appropriate room relative to our gender. What man would dare enter the door exhibiting the image of a "dress?" Or what woman would dare enter the door exhibiting the "trouser" image? Obviously we do know what kind of garments pertain to men and what kind pertain to women, don't we? Our clothes do speak!

And what about the hair of our heads? Jesus told us that our heavenly Father has them all numbered (Matt. 10:30). So surely He is taking notice. Does it make any difference to God what kind of image we portray by the hair of our heads? Does hair speak? Yes.

According to the divinely inspired apostle Paul it can speak of shame or it can speak of glory. "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto

him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for *her* hair is given her for a covering." The Greek Diaglott says "instead of a veil." I Cor. 11:14-15. Verse 6 of the same chapter suggests that it is a "shame" for a woman to be shorn or shaven and that she should be "covered" (that is, veiled with long hair). Verse 10 also says that this is "because of the angels." Even the angels in heaven are beholding the images that men and women are portraying before God, their Creator. They are desiring to see God's divine order carried out and the holiness of God portrayed in all that men and women do. They are interested in seeing God's will done "on earth as it is in heaven."

In Jeremiah 10, verses 2 and 3, God said, "Learn not the way of the heathen,...For the customs of the people are vain." It is important that we be aware that the will of God, as revealed in His Word and inspired by His Spirit, will contravene many cultural trends and customs of the people. The gospel of Jesus Christ is a culture-transforming gospel. Every time in history that it has been received and embraced by the heathen it has transformed their culture—changed their concepts, customs and traditions. Apostle Peter, writing to the Gentile converts "scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia" (I Pet. 1: 1, 18-19) said, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

One of the major causes of persecution for the early Gentile Christians was this cultural transition—their redemption from the vain traditions of their fathers. This put them directly at odds with the society all around them. It was the "offense of the cross." The Christians were despised and looked down on and, in many cases lost their homes, property and even their lives. They were made "gazingstocks" both by reproaches and bonds and took joyfully the spoiling of their goods, knowing in themselves that they had in heaven a better and enduring substance. (Heb. 10:33-34.) They were willing to endure the loss of all their earthly possessions that they might undergo a cultural transition that would reflect the Savior of the world. As these "gazingstocks" for Jesus bore their reproach, their image began to have its effect on

the world. In spite of the cultural antagonism, Christianity prevailed. So powerful was the effect of the holy image being portrayed by the early morning church that by about 300 A.D. the Roman Empire had undergone a cultural revolution. The "dragon" (the prevailing pagan system and its heathenish culture promoted by the devil) was "cast out." (See Revelation chapter 12.) It was bound for a thousand years (symbolizing a long period of time). Rev. 20:2-3. The power of Christ and His gospel conquered the dragon, bound his heathen influence and established cultural standards based on righteous principles. This righteous influence of "Michael and His angels" (Christ and His ministers) prevailed throughout Europe and the civilized world at that time. It was later carried to America by the Pilgrims and early settlers who brought civilization to this continent.

But the Scripture prophesied that after the thousand years were finished the dragon must be loosed again for a little season. We have reached that time in the unfolding and fulfillment of Bible prophecy. The dragon influence is loose today all over the world. This is why the prevailing cultural trends of our time are reverting back to heathenism. This is the reason people can walk the streets today in clothing (or lack of clothing) for which they would have been arrested a hundred years ago. Also, many false prophets are helping the "dragon" accomplish his purpose by diluting the Word of God or refusing to preach or teach certain portions of it. The evil forces of Gog and Magog (Rev. 20: 7-9) have compassed the holy city, the heavenly Jerusalem, the general assembly and church of the firstborn (Heb. 12: 22-23) around about on every side with intent to overwhelm the city and every cultural establishment within its walls. We are surrounded by heathenism—heathen lifestyles as well as heathen customs of dress. Heathen music is permeating the radio airwaves. Heathen images are everywhere—on television, billboards, the internet and videos, in magazines and newspapers. Our constant exposure to these images has a desensitizing effect on our souls. It is easy to become so numbed to the evil that is behind them that what they represent begins to seem like a normal way of life to us. It is human nature to conform to what we constantly see. We as twenty-first century Christians are now facing a crisis like we have never faced before. We have

a choice to make. Which culture will we follow—Christianity or heathenism? Many today are endeavoring to gain converts to Christianity by mixing the two cultures together, thus removing the “offense of the cross.” However, the end result of this is that heathenism, not Christianity, always wins. If we follow true Christianity we put ourselves in direct antagonism to the cultural trends of the unregenerate society all around us. Can we do it? The Christians of the first century did. Also, Daniel and the three Hebrew children did. The three Hebrew children were cast into a fiery furnace because they would not bow to a certain image. We too may be required to go through some fiery furnaces for rejecting the images that the world is going after today. But remember, after the three Hebrew children went into the fiery furnace, king Nebuchadnezzar looked in and he got to view another image. And he said it looked like “the Son of God.” (Dan. 3: 25.) That’s the image we want the world to see!

Let us pray for heavenly vision, that we may see things in God’s perspective. (Psa. 36:9.) Jesus said, “That which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.” Luke 16:15. The great heart of God is deeply grieved today by the heathenish images He sees displayed by the masses of this present evil world. It is abomination in His eyes. The baring of the body and midriff, the earrings, the eyebrow rings, the nose rings, the finger rings, the makeup on the faces, the bobbing of the hair, the wearing of men’s apparel and other heathen customs are all a sad betrayal of the holy, pure image God desires women to portray. All these images, so esteemed by the world as glamorous, are the direct products of “the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life,” which “is not of the Father, but is of the world.” (I John 2: 16.) The men of today’s society are also

displaying very ungodly, God-dishonoring images—long hair, tattoos, earrings, necklaces, hairy chests, etc.—it is all pride and fleshly lust. “But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: and others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.”

There are many dear souls who have never known any way of life other than the heathen practices of modern society. Truly our hearts go out to them in deep compassion. Jesus is still offering to them freedom from the bondage and entanglements of the flesh and this sinful world. He still can, and wants to, transform them into His divine image. And moreover, He wants us, as His people, to show them that image in our daily lives. “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which* is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Rom. 12:1-2.

Brethren, “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” Col. 2:8. “Rudiments,” according to Webster’s dictionary, are “the first slight beginnings of something.” We should beware of the first slight beginnings of any cultural transitions that do not reflect “holiness.” They will ultimately “spoil” us and mar the image of Christ. Beware of any philosophical reasoning in favor of the “rudiments of the world.” Rather, let us earnestly contend for that culture-transforming faith which was delivered to the saints of the first century. Amen.



## HOW I LEARNED TO PRAY FOR THE LOST

We present here a remarkable testimony which we feel will prove to be of real help to many readers.

The letter accompanying this testimony says in part: “This is the result of my search for the right way of praying for the unsaved. I have found it to produce amazing results in a very short time. It seemed that there was no possible

chance for one’s loved one to ever return to their faith, and after over twenty years of fruitless praying and after only a few short weeks of this type of praying we see them studying the Bible by the hour and attending every church service possible. Also their whole attitude towards Christianity has changed and all resistance seems gone. I have taken my place of authority in

Christ and am using it against the enemy. Oh, it is real! I have not looked at myself to see if I were fit or not; I've just taken my place and have prayed for a quickening of the Holy Spirit."

We know that believers everywhere are burdened for unsaved or backsliding loved ones. However many are praying in a spirit of fear and worry instead of in faith.

This has caused the writer to seek for definite light on how to pray, feeling the need of praying the right prayer, also the need for a definite promise or word upon which to base our faith when praying for the unsaved. Praise God, He never fails to give such needed help.

Perhaps because the salvation of some looked to us to be an impossibility, the first Scripture that was given us was Mark 10:27, "With God all things are possible."

The next Scripture had occupied our attention sometime before but with new emphasis now: "(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) Casting down imaginations (margin—"reasonings") and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." (II Cor. 10:4-5.) This shows the mighty power of our spiritual weapons. We must pray that all this be accomplished in the ones for whom we pray; that is, that the works of the enemy be torn down.

Finally we were given the solid basis for our prayer—the ground of redemption. In reality redemption purchased all mankind, so that we may say that each one is actually God's purchased possession although still held by the enemy. We must through the prayer of faith, claim and take for God, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that which is rightfully His. This can be done only on the ground of redemption. We do not mean to imply that because all persons have been purchased by God through redemption they are thus automatically saved. They must believe and accept the gospel for themselves; this our intercession enables them to do.

To pray in the name of the Lord Jesus is to ask for or claim the things which the blood of Christ has secured. Each individual for whom prayer is made should be claimed by name, as God's purchased possession, in the name of the Lord Jesus on the ground of His shed blood.

We should claim the tearing down of all the works of satan, such as false doctrine, unbelief, hatred, etc., which the enemy may have built up in their thinking, and that their very thoughts shall be brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

In the authority of the name of the Lord Jesus claim their deliverance from the power and persuasion of the evil one and from the love of the world and the lust of the flesh. We should pray also for the quickening of their conscience and that God might grant them repentance and hearing ears and believing hearts as they hear or read the Word of God. Pray that God's will and purpose be accomplished in and through them.

Intercession must be persistent, not to persuade God, for redemption is of God, but because of the enemy. Our prayer and resistance are against the enemy, the awful powers and rulers of darkness. It is our duty before God to fight for the souls for whom Christ died. Just as some preach to them the good news of their redemption, just so others must fight back the powers of darkness on their behalf.

Satan yields only what and when he must, and he renews his attacks in subtle ways; therefore, prayer must be persisted in, even long after definite results are seen. We must hold what is taken for God against the enemy until such time as that soul is firmly established in the faith.

Satan has succeeded in keeping God's people in the dark about Christ's finished work on Calvary and his defeat there. He has succeeded, by deception, in convincing the Church that he is almost, if not quite, as powerful as God, when actually he has no power at all, that is, he has no legal standing, no rights, no authority. The devil knows that when the Church fully realizes the utterness of his defeat and how to use the authority which has been delegated to her, his evil reign is over.

Therefore, he seeks by every means possible to keep God's people in the dark, to prevent their knowing about and using the authority which is theirs.

"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ." "Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world." "...Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

—Selected



# HUMILITY

There is a grace few mortals find,  
 A star all heaven loves to see:  
 It is a meek and lowly mind,  
 The gem of pure humility.

No ornament on earth so rare,  
 No jewel in all Heaven's mart,  
 Can beautify a soul so fair,  
 As deep humility of heart.

O God, hath e'er thy balance weighed,  
 A jewel so sublimely sweet  
 As that pure life that's ever laid  
 All humbly down at Jesus' feet?

All earthly crowns shall turn to mold,  
 All glittering pride and vanity,  
 But meekness decks the soul with gold,  
 That shines through all eternity.

Within my hidden man, dear Lord,  
 That priceless ornament bestow:  
 The sweetest gift in all the world,  
 O Jesus, keep me meek and low.

—Bro. D. S. Warner

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# Sixty-Five Years Ago

Taken from February 1939

*Faith and Victory*

It seems that many people do not have a clear, distinct knowledge of what the "Church of God" really is. Most people seem to think that they must belong to some humanly organized so-called church, and in so doing they yoke themselves up with unbelievers and with foul spirits and are caged up with unclean and hateful birds. (See Rev. 18:2.) There is a vast difference between man's union and the unity and oneness of God's little ones.

Recently I heard a minister showing up the difference between the union of humanly organized churches and the unity which the divine organized Church possesses. He had seen a picture of a group of different animals. There was a mule, a lion, a bear, a wolf and a hog. They all had their tails tied together. They were kicking, scratching and growling. The mule had kicked at a lamb, barely missing his head. The other picture represented Jesus and His divinely organized and governed Church, which showed Jesus with some lambs in His arms and the sheep all following along, peaceful, happy and contented.

Unless the carnal animal nature is destroyed out of man, he will cause much trouble trying to follow along with the true saints, the sheep of His pasture which is the Church. Sheep will not thrive on goat food, no matter how much it may seem like the genuine; for goats will want weeds, old dirty rags and paper to chew on. We have a beautiful picture of the Church of God, showing those who inhabit it and those who do not in the 35th chapter of Isaiah. He speaks of it as a Highway of Holiness, and he says that the unclean shall not pass over it. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon. They shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there. He goes on to tell that the Ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion (a metaphor for the Church) with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. What a beautiful picture of the redeemed and divinely organized and governed Church of the living God, which is the pillar and ground of the truth. (1 Tim. 3:15.)

It will be easy for redeemed souls to flow into this divinely organized Church if they would separate from this old world, from man-made so-called churches and the false doctrines of blind leaders.

—Bro. Fred Pruitt