

# FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

## Church of God Servant

Unto Him shall the gathering of the people be.

GOD IS LOVE

YE SHINE AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD.

JESUS SAVES

The night cometh, when no man can work.

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### AN EVERLASTING LIGHT

By Bro. J. Grant Anderson

“And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit; and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.” Luke 23:44-46. This and the few days following, were the saddest and darkest hours in the history of the Christian church. The sun, which had been shining upon this earth for ages, hid its face as if ashamed to behold so cruel a sight. The great veil in the temple at Jerusalem was torn asunder, and Almighty God moved out of that structure, nevermore to dwell in a temple built by man. It seemed to the people of that time that the star that once hung over Bethlehem had but shined in vain. The wise men from the East, if living at that time, must have wondered why things had become so dark.

(Continued on page 13.)

### LITTLE THINGS

*We call him strong who stands unmoved—*

*Calm as some tempest-beaten rock—*

*When some great trouble hurls its shock;*

*We say of him, his strength is proved:*

*But when the spent storm folds its wings,*

*How bears he then life's little things?*

*We call him great that does some deed*

*That echo bears from shore to shore—*

*Does that, and then does nothing more;*

*Yet would his work earn richer meed,*

*When brought before the King of kings,*

*Were he but great in little things.*

*We closely guard our castle gates*

*When great temptations loudly knock;*

*Draw every bolt, clinch every lock,*

*And sternly fold our bars and gates;*

*Yet some small door wide open swings*

*At the sly touch of little things.*

*But what is life? Drops make the sea;*

*And petty cares and small events,*

*Small causes and small consequents,*

*Make up the sum for you and me;*

*Then, oh, for strength to meet the stings,*

*That arm the points of little things!*

—Selected

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# IT'S NOT TOO MUCH!

By Sis. Patsy Cain

While reading in a book of C. S. Spurgeon's sermons, I came across this lovely passage: "Believer, when you are on your knees, remember you are going to a king. Let your petitions be large. Imitate the example of Alexander's courtier, who, when he was told he might have whatever he chose to ask as a reward for his valor, asked a sum of money so large that Alexander's treasurer refused to pay it until he had first seen the monarch. But Alexander, when asked, smiled and said, "It is true it is much for him to ask, *but it is not much for Alexander to give.* I admire him for his faith in me; let him have all he asks for."

I was truly inspired by this passage, and joyfully began to ask more of God—more patience, more wisdom, more humility, more lovingkindness, more conviction upon the unsaved, telling God, "It's a lot for me to ask, but *it's not much for You to give!*" I basked and rejoiced in the great bounty of our God, who can give such large benefits and still count it small because of His wealth. Whatever we ask, in faith believing and in His will, we may have freely and fully, because He has so much more to give than we can ask or think! How often might we live below our privileges and do without spiritual blessings, because we fail to ask! One of my favorite scriptures is the passage in Malachi 3:10 that says, ". . . prove me

now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Then one day I was praying for a soul, seeking the Lord for ways to be more help to him, and I prayed, "Lord, let me wash his feet." Instantly the Lord turned this whole thought of His bounty around in my mind and showed me the place that *we* have as His representatives, those to whom He has committed the sacred trust of His gospel ("a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me." I Cor. 9:17). No matter what people ask of us, what demands they place upon our time, patience or longsuffering, *it's not much for us to give!* Maybe it is a lot for them to ask, maybe they *do* impose on us, maybe they *do* take up our "selfish time"; it's not too much! We are the representatives of the Great Almighty God of the Universe, who owns the cattle on a thousand hills! For the first time I see that as His great *spiritual* bounty rather than money in the bank! Oh, saints, let us work while 'tis day, reaching out to every soul around us, giving all we have to give; our time, prayers, love, money, whatever is asked, because *it's not much!* It's not much compared to what Christ did for us, and it's not much compared to all that's available to us through His grace. I thank the Lord for showing me this, and I pray it will be a blessing to you, too.



## The Family That Prays

By Bro. Toney and Sis. Jeanie Samons

### IV. God's Plan for Children

Psalm 127:3-5: "Lo, children are an heritage from the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them."

One of God's greatest gifts to man and to marriage, is the gift of children. God is a great Creator and for Him to share some of that creative power with man was evidence of His

love for man. The union between husband and wife has the potential to create a new soul that will live eternally. That represents a blessing, but also a responsibility.

The Psalmist writer referred to children as "an heritage from the Lord." This word heritage means a gift; it also means an assignment. Aptly, this portrays the dual purpose of children and the effect that they have upon a marriage.

Marriage is like a school that you enroll in. When you submit to God, and to this plan, two

people start the process of learning about each other, themselves and God. As in all learning processes assignments are given in order to teach valuable lessons.

Our greatest assignment as parents is to prepare our children for life as adults. They are likened to "arrows" that are first shaped and then sent out to hit a prescribed mark. Our number one goal for our children should be to do all that we can to see them make the eternal mark: Heaven. Everything else that we would project for our children is secondary.

If two people choose to marry and have children, they need to realize the awesomeness of this union. The first priority is to be there for your children. We live in a busy world and finding time to give to our children is a problem. Raising children requires a sacrifice of our own time. If you don't have time to devote to them, reconsider bringing them into this world. There's a popular saying that quality is more important than quantity when it comes to time, but time is measured in minutes, hours and days. We have to cut out other things in order to devote time to our offspring.

Selfish pursuits that take us away from our family must be sacrificed. Time for hobbies, personal development, even careers for men and women, must be secondary to our first responsibility. You might say that you are pursuing your goals for the betterment of the family to provide them with financial security. A comfortable home and insured future are all worthy goals if the family is not sacrificed to gain them. Your choice to place them first in their formative years, with love and security will be remembered much more than how nice a home you lived in or what kind of car you drove. Family time together such as camping trips, picnics or vacations together builds an heritage and fond memories never to be forgotten. Things as simple as playing games together on the floor or having discussions at the supper table are bonding times for children. And above all, never underestimate the power of the family that prays together around the family altar. These times will go a long ways in shaping those "arrows" referred to as those that are placed in the hand of a "mighty man."

The challenge is to "train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6. One translator of this scripture said that there was a

phrase included in the original manuscript that said, "Train up a child in the way he should go, according to his individual bent, etc." Though we desire to see all of our children reach the same goal, and believe the way to accomplish that is the same for all, every one of our children is an individual. He has his own personality and make-up. To try to streamline all of our children into the same mold is a pattern doomed for failure. One of the first lessons that we, as parents, must learn about each one of our children is to recognize their personality. They each will have strengths that will need to be encouraged and weaknesses that need to be strengthened. They need to understand that God made them the way they are and learn to accept themselves in order to have a healthy outlook on life. As the quiver continues to be filled then this becomes more important. It is never healthy to compare your children with one another, neither to play favorites or make one feel inferior to the other. Every one of these children will have strengths that will allow them to make a contribution to their world. Our job is not to try to make them a replica of ourselves or to fulfill our own dreams and ambitions through them but to see them be the person that God created them to be.

This responsibility will require us to understand God's methods of training, controlling and correcting our children. The individual bent of a child can go both ways. There is a desire within every child to know God. There is also a bent in every child to do evil, so our job will be twofold. Bending them toward God's righteousness and correcting the tendencies they have towards sin are the duties of the parents. In some of the following articles we want to direct our attention to some specifics in training our children and providing a proper environment for this training to take place. We would also like to deal with the topic of correction and how God views this subject. We must all pray that God will give us wisdom to know how to apply God's plan to our individual families. There probably has never been a perfect family, and surely all of us have felt that there has been failure at times in our lives. God only expects us to do our best and we can trust Him to do the rest. You cannot raise saints, but you can give your children the tools that will enable them someday to be one.

## 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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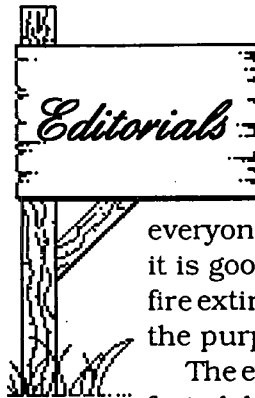
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Have you noticed the label that is printed on fire extinguishers? It says to "Aim at base of fire" and "squeeze lever." Now that sounds simple enough for everyone to be able to operate. While it is good to know how to operate a fire extinguisher, that training is not the purpose of this editorial.

The evils that are outwardly manifested by people originate first in their heart and then proceed to show their corrupt fruit in their lives and actions. As the fire extinguisher must be aimed at the source of the fire, so for the gospel to be effective it must be focused on the heart. God, in His wisdom, sent Jesus into the world to bring about that change that was needed in the heart of man.

Genesis 6:5-6 says, "And God saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart." People in the days of Noah had hearts that were blackened with evil and God's heart, that was pure and holy, was grieved to the extent that He destroyed man from the earth except Noah and his family. Jesus said, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." Matthew 15:19. Jesus was very concerned about the heart and the way that He dealt with the Pharisees and Saducees illustrated very clearly that the heart was the problem.

"...For *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart." I Samuel 16:7. Men often judge one another wrongly, because they do not perceive the heart. Very often one does not even judge their own self properly because their heart is deceived. When a problem arises people want to "aim" at the other person when in reality they may have a serious need in their own heart. "The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee,..." Obadiah 1:3. Pride is identified as the culprit that deceives the heart, and it is in abundant supply today.

The Lord wants to give people a new heart—one that is pure and clean. "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you:

and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh." Ezekial 36:26. He is very displeased with a hard heart and is looking for a contrite heart. "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also *that is* of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." Isaiah 57:15.

In the lesson on the sower Jesus said, "But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience." Luke 8:15. An honest heart is very precious in the sight of God, and by keeping the Word of God it will cause much good fruit to spring forth and be a blessing to many. We should heed the instruction given in Proverbs 4:23, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life." Our actions and our thoughts are greatly influenced by our heart. If we will tend to its needs by keeping it clean and pure the Lord will help us overcome the physical circumstances and temporal difficulties that we face and give us grace to please Him and help us bear the fruit of His Spirit in our lives.

Another thing about a fire extinguisher is that it is filled with something that will put out a fire. Wouldn't it be silly to attempt to put a fire out by throwing gasoline or some other highly combustible liquid on it? Before the technical minds begin to try to prove this statement wrong, I realize in some situations a flame might be extinguished by an over abundance of liquid that chokes off the oxygen supply. But in real life, putting a combustible liquid on a fire in an attempt to extinguish it is a "no, no." Yet, we can observe and hear about people doing this on a regular basis in their dealings and relationships with one another. A "fire" gets started and some "well-meaning" person whose heart is deceived by pride throws inflammatory words and actions on the problem and creates a much larger one. Then they wonder why their homes and families and relationships are breaking up. The "fire extinguisher" we use should be filled with Divine love and humility. When used properly it really works.

About 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 26, there was a scurry around the Lord's Print Shop as a

semi truck driven by Bro. Allen Moles from Neosho, MO pulled into the drive and proceeded to the loading dock at the back of the building. His truck was loaded with the hardback bindery equipment that had been purchased for the work of the Lord. Rain had been in the forecast for the day, and it was cloudy and looked like it could rain most of the day. We had been looking to the Lord to hold off the rain until we could get the truck to the dock. The driving area in the vicinity of the dock has never been surfaced and when it rains it becomes inaccessible. Thank the Lord for answering our prayers! Our heart is filled with thanksgiving for how good He is to His people.

Bro. Tim Huskey graciously allowed us to use his forklift to unload the machinery. It was rated at about 8000 pounds and the smyth rounding backer almost reached its capacity. The steering wheels were almost to come off the floor, but it was able to carry the machine to where we designated it to be placed.

Some of the machinery that was included in the purchase was two book sewing machines, a smyth rounding backer, a smyth casing-in machine and a smyth building-in machine. There are several other machines also including a Kensol foil stamper and various supplies and adhesives. One of the book sewing machines was specially customized to have an automatic feed. While there is much to do before they will be operational we thank the Lord for what He has provided so far, and we are continuing to serve a living God.

When we started using the forklift we noticed the propane gauge was on empty, and it was right at closing time for the place to have the tank refilled. We called Bro. Tim and asked him about the tank, and he said sometimes the gauge would fool you and there was more in the tank than what it showed. We continued using it and completely unloaded all of the machinery. When we were returning the forklift later that evening it ran out of propane on the way back. We thank the Lord for keeping it running while we needed it. God is so good! We pray that He will bless each one who has an investment in this work. It is our desire to produce durable books that contain godly truths that will be cherished and prove a blessing even to our great-grandchildren as long as the Lord spares His return.

The book, *A Sketch of My Life*, is now back in stock. In this 126 page, heavy paper bound book Bro. William B. Hall relates the wonderful way that God, in His great mercy, reached into the New Mexico prison cell he occupied and marvelously saved his soul. As he followed the Lord, and in answer to his prayers and the prayers of the saints, he was delivered from prison and went forth preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. His experiences are not only interesting reading, but they point the reader to the One who has the power to bring the soul from the captivity of satan and give them glorious liberty in the Church of God. We thank the Lord that we are able to have this book available again. This book, which sells for \$3.00, would certainly bring a ray of heavenly sunshine to someone who is in darkness.

The picture published last month, on page ten, of the saints gathered for service in the new chapel in India was flipped left to right in the printing process. Please accept our apologies for the oversight.

Lord willing, we plan to leave for the Philippines for a brief visit on April 5-13. My wife, Neta, and my daughter, Elizabeth, and I plan to accompany Bro. Michael Smith, Bro. Galen Kelly and two of his children. We desire the prayers of the saints that this trip would be a mutual blessing and encouragement to the saints in the Philippines as well as for ourselves. Our desire is to see His kingdom promoted throughout the world and for others to enjoy the rich blessing of salvation that He has so freely given to mankind.

As we consider the approaching month of April, we remember the great sacrifice that Jesus made for mankind at the time of the passover. By giving His life-blood to atone for the sins of the whole world we realize how much He really wants us, and our heart is melted in awe and wonder at His great love. Truly you are valuable in the eyes of God. He wants you to be a part of His glorious church, the body of Christ, and He wants us to have a part in the first resurrection from the dead state of sin and in the second resurrection to be given a glorified body and to live with Him eternally in Heaven with His holy angels. How blessed we are to be a part of the family of God! Thank You, Jesus!



I have a very special prayer request as only God can work. My two families are mad at each other. Pray earnestly for this confusion to stop at once, and we all can be a sweet Christian family again with God's love in our hearts for each other. Our God is not in confusion. Pray He will settle it for them all. I know the answer will come soon. I firmly believe this.

—A Sister in our dear Lord

MO—I live alone; I am 97 years old. It is lonely since my wife passed away several years ago. I have bone and heart trouble. Pray for me, please. Thank you,

—Bro. Wiley Bernett

CA—Pray for my son, John, who was in an auto accident last year and is now trying to come off of the addicting medications that he was given.

—Sis. Doris Pihaylic

## 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

Sis. Marie Mitchell

Sis. Melba Powell

Sis. Anna Severs

Sis. Catherine Shaffer

The Mitch Taylor family

## MEETING NOTICES

**Enid, OK (Revival)**—April 11-18  
**Boley, OK (Spring Meeting)**—April 16-18  
**Wichita, KS (Spring Meeting)**—April 18-25  
**Los Angeles, CA (Revival)**—April 23-25  
**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  
**Tulsa, OK**—June 13-20  
**Alcoa, TN (Sister's Retreat)**—June 18-20  
**General Southern**  
**(Loranger, LA)**—June 27-July 4  
**Fresno, CA**—July 2-11  
**National (Monark Springs, MO)**—July 16-25  
**California State (Pacoima)**—August 20-29  
**Myrtle, MO**—July 30-August 4  
**Spooner, WI (Tent Meeting)**—August 25-29

## MEETING NOTICES

### ENID, OK, REVIVAL MEETING

The saints of the Church of God at Enid, OK are looking forward to a time of refreshing and spiritual blessings during the week of April 11-18, 2004. Bro. Marty Clevenger feels led of the Lord to be with us for the meeting. We would invite saints in this area to feel welcome to come and be with us in this meeting as the Lord would bless and direct you. The chapel is at North Independence and West Hemlock here in Enid. Sunday services are scheduled for Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. with the preaching service to follow at 11:00 a.m. and the evening service at 6:00 p.m. During the week the evening services will be at 7:00 p.m. We are praying earnestly for the Holy Spirit to bless these services to the glory of God and the good of poor and needy souls. As you think of us, remember us in your prayers. —Bro. Leslie Busbee, Pastor  
 (580) 233-6011

### BOLEY, OK, SPRING MEETING

The Boley, OK Spring Meeting will be held April 16-18<sup>th</sup>. Lord willing, the services will be Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday: 11:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and Sunday School: 9:45 a.m., Worship 11:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m. (no night service). We appreciate all the ministers' and saints' support and prayers for our meeting.

—Submitted by Sis. Savannah King (918) 667-3654 or (918) 667-3392, Sis. Anna Mae Thompson, Pastor.

## WICHITA, KS, SPRING MEETING

Lord willing, the meeting in Wichita will be held April 18-25.

On Sundays there will be three services held. Monday-Saturday, there will be two services each day (11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.). We are looking to God to direct and work in all phases of our meeting. He knows just what is needed and who to send to perform it. We want to see sinners saved and believers blessed and strengthened. The times are so evil, and we all need to have on the whole armor of God. May we arm ourselves for battle. The Church is located on the corner of 16th and Ash (1701 North Ash). The phone no. is: (316) 297-9582. If you need to contact someone, you may call Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at (316) 461-1267 or Bro. Theodore McCray at (316) 682-5132.—Sis. Shirley Knight

## LOS ANGELES, CA, SPRING MEETING

With expectation, the Los Angeles congregation invites you to our spring meeting. We would like you to join your prayers and your presence with ours for the benefit of souls. April 23-25, 2004. Services, Friday the 23rd, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday the 24th, 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday the 25th, Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Worship Services 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

For further information please contact our Pastors: Bro. Travis and Sis. Alice Johnson (760) 956-6330. Chapel (213) 742-0123, 1381 Walnut, Los Angeles, CA 90011.

## OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING

The annual Oklahoma State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held May 26-June 6, at the campground located east off of Sooner Road on Lake View Road, which is a little over four-tenths of a mile south of the intersection of South Division and Sooner Road.

As is customary, the first service will be held Friday evening, May 28, at 7:30, with three services daily thereafter. Early morning prayer services and youth meetings will be held as announced.

An invitation to attend is extended to everyone. Your presence will be appreciated. Provisions will be made for those attending.

The meeting will be operated by freewill offerings. If you would like to make a contribution, you may do so by sending it directly to the state treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, 1023 E. Prairie Grove Rd., Guthrie, OK 73044.

For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Stanley Dickson, (405) 260-8822.

**HOLLY HILL, SC, CAMP MEETING**

Our upcoming camp meeting is scheduled for May 30-June 6. We are praying for the Lord to bless and have His way, and we would like to invite all who can to come and attend. Lodging is available on the chapel grounds, and there are also several local motels, including Super 8—Phone (803) 854-3456, Days Inn—Phone (803) 854-2175, and Country Inn & Suites—Phone (803) 854-4104. All who come will be made most welcome and their needs will be accommodated. You may contact Bro. Floyd Crummie at (803) 496-5768 or Bro. Tommie Platt at (803) 496-5414 for further information.

**GREEN BANK, WV, CAMP MEETING**

The annual Green Bank Camp Meeting is scheduled to begin on Friday evening, June 11 and conclude Thursday evening, the 17th, Lord willing. Services will be held daily at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Two meals will be served daily: breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and the noon meal immediately following the morning service. Young people's meeting is at 6:00 p.m. There are no afternoon services scheduled. Special minister's meetings, as well as sister's and brother's meetings, are sometimes scheduled during the week.

All are welcome to attend this meeting. If young people attend without parents, please make sure they are accountable to an adult in attendance who will see that they are attending scheduled services and that they are behaving properly. Dorm space for girls and boys is provided as well as rooms and private homes for others. Please bring your own bedding and towels, and come prepared for cool weather with a jacket, and if you have room you may want to bring a heater and a fan! The weather is very unpredictable in June in West Virginia.

It would be nice if you could call with notification of your plans to come to help us be better organized with sleeping accommodations. However, if you decide to suddenly drop by, please do so. We welcome you.

We are praying for the Holy Spirit to meet us here in this meeting. In preparation for this, we are asking you to help us pray for special anointing in our services. We have isolated saints and new contacts that frequently attend our meeting seeking special guidance or bless-

ing. In addition to this, we feel that all those in attendance need a special blessing and souls need to be saved.

The campground is located just off Route 28 and 92 in Arbovale. Signs will be posted to direct you to the grounds. Camper hookups are also available. For information, please call Bro. Toney Samons at (304) 456-3017, or (456) 5421. E-mail at [toneysamons@yahoo.com](mailto:toneysamons@yahoo.com).

**ALCOA, TN, SISTER'S RETREA**

The 2nd Annual Weekend Sister's Retreat 2004 is being planned for June 18-20, 2004 for sisters beginning at the age of 21 years-old. We would appreciate it if you would send in topics and ideas that you would be interested in discussing either by postal mail (Evening Light Church of God, 322 Lindsay Street, Alcoa, TN 37701) or e-mail ([tnsistersretreat@yahoo.com](mailto:tnsistersretreat@yahoo.com)).

This retreat will be supported by freewill offerings. Please pray that the Lord will have His way and bless this retreat. Accommodations will be provided. However, if you would like to stay in a motel we can provide you with information regarding surrounding motels in the area.

If you would like additional information, please contact either Sis. Mary McDonald at (865) 977-6997 or Sis. Carrie Porter at (865) 984-2348. If you wish to send your comments by postal mail, you may write to Sis. Mary McDonald, 322 Lindsay St, Alcoa, TN 37701 or send an e-mail to [tnsistersretreat@yahoo.com](mailto:tnsistersretreat@yahoo.com).

**FRESNO, CA, CAMP MEETING**

The Church of God at Fresno, CA schedule of camp meeting is from July 2-11, 2004. We pray that the Lord will awaken and stir souls more than ever throughout this camp meeting season.

—Sis. Gladys Foster


**Special Notices**
**MYRTLE, MO, WORKDAY**

A workday has been scheduled on the Myrtle, MO campground for Saturday, April 17th. Projects include exterior painting of the chapel, exterior and interior painting of the women's dormitory, shingling the roof of the men's dormitory, general cleanup of the tabernacle, cab-



ins and campground, etc. Anyone willing and available to help with these projects would be greatly appreciated. Please pray that the Lord will grant favorable weather for their accomplishment. For further information contact Bro. Harlan Sorrell at (417) 938-4336 or Sis. Carol Sorrell at (417) 938-4493.

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**REQUEST FOR A PASTOR**

Due to the recent resignation and subsequent move of our former pastor, the Holly Hill, SC Church of God congregation is in need of a pastor. We would like to request earnest prayer that God will send us a pastor of His choosing. If anyone reading this feels a burden in this capacity for our congregation and would like to make contact with us, please call Bro. Floyd Crummie at (803) 496-5768 or Bro. Tommie Platt at (803) 496-5414. We would appreciate your continued prayers.

—Sis. Cheryl Smith



**LETTERS  
 FROM  
 OUR  
 READERS**

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Recently, Acts 2:40 came to my mind. Peter was preaching on the day of Pentecost and said; "...Save yourselves from this untoward generation." I could not think what *untoward* meant, so I began looking words up in the dictionary. Here are some of the definitions of *untoward* and its synonyms, *intractable*, *unpropitious* and *indecorous*: difficult to guide, manage, or work with; unruly, not easily governed, managed, or directed; obstinate, not favorably disposed; not benevolent, conflicting with accepted standards of good conduct or good taste.

Does this not describe our generation today? "Don't tell me what to do!" "I can live life by myself." Teachers have trouble governing students in the classroom, young people and adults alike are obstinate one to another, and anything that was accepted as standards of good conduct or taste are being questioned and attacked.

Peter gave these people a command and it transcends the ages to us today. That command

is to "save yourselves from this untoward generation." How are we going to save ourselves from this obstinate, unruly, difficult generation? First, we must do as Peter was instructing these people to do—accept Jesus as the Savior of the world. We must be able to say as the Samaritans did by the well, "...for we have heard *him* ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world." John 4:42. Then the wisdom from above will reveal the true identity of the wisdom from the earth. "This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

Once our souls have been saved from sin, we must preserve or guard our soul from injury, destruction or loss. That is our responsibility and the only way we can do this is to "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:5. We must allow God to turn our thinking away from the world and its ideas and put His mind within us. As long as we desire the world and its ways we will never save ourselves from this untoward generation.

This sounds very plausible, but when we start putting it into practice in our everyday life we find we must have the grace of God. Is it natural for us to be peaceable? No! We must put down our own selfishness to live peaceable. Are we naturally good people? If so, why do we have so many mean things done in our society? We must learn through God how to be good. What about gentleness? We see even little children being rude to one another, hitting and pushing each other down. All these qualities must come from God, for we don't have them of ourselves.

Let us yield our lives unto God and thereby save ourselves from this untoward generation.

—Sis. Anita Adams

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 LA—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings to you again in our Lord's name! I appreciate your labor in the work there and pray for you. I have just read most of the March *Faith and Victory* paper. Thankfully I could read with pretty good success. The print is a little larger than the *Bible Lessons*. My eyes only allow me to read some of it. The Lord has given me many blessings concerning my eyes. He has renewed

my vision several times. Recently I quilted a large quilt and was able to thread my needle, sometimes without the little threader. I keep saying, "Lord, I know You will help" and always thank Him when He does.

Praise our Lord for the precious Bible and the Holy Spirit which has taught us and brought us this far. Seeing the forces of evil increase, let us be increased in Him who makes it possible for "whosoever will" to live for Him. With Christian love to all. —Sis. Gladys S. Cashio

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AL—Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Thank you for the tracts you recently sent. You made a good selection. I thought *Letter From a Friend* was absolutely beautiful. Reading it brought tears to my eyes. We pray for you and the work there every day.

Remember us in your prayers. Christian love, —Sis. Betty Herron

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WV—Dear Friends and Loved Ones: I'm doing what I can for God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit. They are all I have and they help me to meet each day. I'm now 84 and live alone. I am not able to go out and work as I once did.

It was in 1971 that I met the *Faith and Victory*... Thanks so much for everything. Please pray for me. Love and prayers,

—Sis. Melba Powell

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Ontario, Canada—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey: Greetings to all of the dear saints abroad in the marvelous name of Jesus Christ. The Lord our God is good to us, and we can trust Him fully with all our hearts. We are thankful that we can get our help always from the Lord. Wife and I are both weak in body sometimes, but the Lord is giving us new strength again and again. We are asking the Lord Jesus to help us finish our race with victory. We are thankful to the saints for all the cards, letters and phone calls we got over the Christmas season. They have been a blessing to us. We are mostly unable in the winter to go anywhere, but the Lord is blessing us at home.

Lord willing, we will drive to the camp meeting at Green Bank in June. We don't know how it will come out, but by God all things are possible. We always pray for all the saints everywhere and also for a lost people. There is much work to be done yet. May the Lord help us to do what we can. The joy in the Lord is our strength. —Bro. and Sis. George Schroeder

LA—Dear Bro. Willie: Hope this finds all well and encouraged to press the battle on. It is a pressing way, and if we stay true it will be worth it all in the end. With love,

—Bro. Harold and Sis. Norma Purvis

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OK—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings in Jesus' name. I trust all is going well with you there at the Lord's Print Shop. Just recently as I was reading the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans I was impressed with what Paul said when he was saluting and making mention of the faithful saints at Rome. He often made mention of those that labored in the Lord and did other good deeds. I am glad that the Bible says that our labor is not in vain when we do it as unto the Lord Jesus. "...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40. Even a cup of cold water is not forgotten when it is given in Jesus' name. (Matthew 10:42.) "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." I Cor. 15:58.

The poet said, "Only one life 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last."

Your brother in Christ, —T.V. McMillian

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LA—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: I wonder if you have been inundated with talk of this movie that is out now, "The Passion of the Christ?" It seems it is not often that I go through a day without hearing someone speak about it, whether at work, on the radio or wherever. People are affected in different ways by this movie. Some to tears, some in awe or wonder by what it portrays Christ going through. I have not seen the movie and I do not plan to, but I have found that it has opened doors already for me to be able to share what God has put in my heart. I hope and pray these opportunities will only grow.

May God give us wisdom and utterance to be able to point souls past just emotional surges and to real relationships with Christ. It is not God's desire for us to come to see the passion that Christ had for God and souls and just sit back and think, "Wow, that's really something." His call is for us to fellowship His passion, to "...arm yourselves likewise with the same mind:...", "...and come, take up the cross, and follow me." It will be worth it whatever the cost. Please pray for me that I will do this. May God bless! Love in Christ, —Bro. Brandon Martens

OK—Special greetings to one and all, I received my letter, and it found me still saved and encouraged to live for my God. We are all trying to stay saved. Remember us all in prayer. I am your sister in Christ Jesus, —Mary O. Jones

**From India...**

March 19, 2004—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey and dear saints in America and in other nations: Greetings to all of you dear ones in the precious name of Jesus, our Redeemer.

Our convention at Trichur during the last week of February was a real blessed one. The convention at Chaypankuzhy will be held during the last week of March. Our five day VBS will be conducted at Karickom during the second week of April. The church at Athani arranged two days of special meetings during the second week of March. We need your prayers for the blessings of all the efforts that we do here for the expansion of the kingdom of God. May God bless the hands of each one who contributes to the work in India. Our prayers are for you every day.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese



**“Lizola” Elizabeth N. Freeman**, was the firstborn to the union of Fletcher Newton and Elnora Abercrombia. She was born November 8, 1915 in Hillsboro, TX.

A few years later, Elizabeth and her family moved to Boley, OK. Her sister, Geneva Kizzie, was born shortly after this move. Lizola and her sister then moved with their grandparents to Tulsa, OK. There she attended Dunbar Elementary School and Carver Jr. High. Early in life she realized the importance of education, but due to the depression she was not able to complete her formal education.

As a young woman in the early 1930's, she married Winston Freeman. He preceded her in death.

In 1952 she became focused on serving God and others by becoming very active in the Church of God. This conscientious woman of God, faithfully and willingly became a Sunday school teacher, music director of VBS and the California State dining hall supervisor. Her gifts of hospitality and love motivated her to give, visit, care and pray for the sick. She was also a dedicated foster parent.

In the 1970's she moved to Wichita, Kansas and continued to serve God and others. Due to her declining health she proceeded to move to Shawnee, OK.

On October 9, 2003, while living at the Shawnee Golden Rule Nursing Home, Lizola Elizabeth N. Freeman went to meet her blessed Lord. She leaves to cherish her memories: one sister: Geneva Kizzie Norling of Bakersfield, CA; four nieces and two nephews: Jewell Legon of Oakland, CA; Althea Genice of Vallejo, CA; Mariann Learnice of Santa Barbara, CA; Sandraleen and Tommie Wofford of Bakersfield, CA; Lowell and Addie Norling of Oakland, CA; Navin and Donna Norling of San Francisco, CA; several foster children: Gene Williams, Michael Williams, Bryan Heade, Willie Graham, David Hedgemon, and others, great nieces and nephews, cousins and many dear friends.

Funeral services were officiated by Bro. Paul Phillips and Bro. Hayward Cox. Interment was at Union Cemetery, Bakersfield, CA.



**GOOD FURNITURE**

After a nice meeting-house was built in one place, Billy was called on with others to speak at the dedication. “I told the people,” says he, “that the dear Lord had given them a pretty chapel to worship in, and now He wanted good furniture, for bad furniture looks disgraceful in a good house. I told them that the good furniture for the house of the Lord was *sanctified* souls. We must be pardoned, sanctified and sealed, and then we shall not only be fit for the Lord's house on earth, but we shall be *good furniture in heaven.*”

—Billy Bray

“But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” James 1:4.

# How Do We Picture Jesus to Others?

By Sis. Elaine Dunn

For some time I have carried a burden for lost souls. My heart cannot understand how any heart and mind would always, over and over, reject their best Friend. I know God's Word says no one can come to the Father except the Spirit draws him. I know of late I have been in places where the lost are—and yes, you could feel the Spirit there doing its work of calling out to the souls. And yet these precious souls stand in bitter rejection of the best Friend they will ever have. I know the power of conviction is not as strong at times. The Spirit has suffered many rejections, but it is still at work.

Souls seem to think the worst thing they could ever do would be to accept the hand of the very best Friend they could have and walk daily with Him. They act like it would be as bad as a crime to accept Jesus. I have wondered, what really turns these lost souls away from Jesus, a real Friend full of love and moved with compassion? The One who will keep all of His promises and will go with us always even unto the end. No other can keep that promise, yet needy souls stand and look in His tender tear-filled eyes and say, "No!"

Then I began to consider—"what is it these souls see as they look at our lives that could cause them to turn aside?" I recall working for an artist once that had her paintings where I could see them. One morning I said to her, "Oh, that picture is so pretty." She said, "I am not through with that one." I could see nothing more she could do to it. I said, "And why not? It is pretty as it is." She said, "Well, just wait until next week and tell me what you think." All week I kept that picture in my mind so I could be sure to find whatever she planned to add. When I returned I went straight to the painting. I could not really see what she had done, but it just jumped out at me like it was alive. I stood and looked at it in awe. She said, "Well, now what do you think?" I said, "What did you do to make it come alive?" She said, "It was only my final touches."

I have thought, "God, how does the world see the picture of Christ we are painting?" Do we make Him alive and desirable to those who look on the picture we share of Jesus with them? Have the final touches been applied, or do we lack the real life that causes others to desire

what we have? As the Spirit works with souls can they see enough in us to want Jesus in their life too? God forbid a soul would see more in the world than in Jesus because of the picture our lives leave on their souls.

Dealing with souls is a serious thing. It's either life or death! All of us will stand and give account some day before too long. I have heard it said, "I'd rather see a sermon than hear one." What is seen in our life?

Recently I was in a grocery store and saw a little child with its parents. The child was so dirty—almost to the point you would not want to even pick it up. I thought to myself, "If that were a child of mine I would be so ashamed to take it in public looking that way. How can those parents not feel and see their neglect?" Like a thunderbolt the question hit me, "Would Jesus be ashamed to call you His child in public? Are you clean enough to show the heavenly Father in your life?" Could this be what the lost see and and cause them to turn Jesus away?

Saints, please pray for me that others will see a pure, true picture of Jesus. One that is alive and will cause others to hunger and thirst for Him. We may be the only Bible some will ever read. I want to see the lost found before that great and final day of judgment. Again may I ask in closing, "What kind of picture do we portray in our daily lives when we say, I am a Christian?"



## The Five Fingers of Prayer

Your thumb is nearest to you. Begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. Our loved ones are the easiest to remember to pray for.

The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach and instruct. This includes teachers and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Bring them before the Lord in prayer.

The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders—pray for our president and leaders in business. These people guide public and nation. They need God's guidance.

The fourth finger, surprising to many, is our weakest finger. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak and in trouble or in pain.

They need our prayers day and night. We can't pray too much for them.

Our little finger is the smallest finger of all. This is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. By the time we have prayed for the other four groups our own needs will be put into proper perspective and we will be able to pray for ourselves more effectively.

—Sis. Marie Christian



## AN EVERLASTING LIGHT

(Continued from page 1.)

He who had power to raise the dead had fallen victim also to death: He upon whom they had looked as a King had died between two thieves, a spectacle to the world as any common man. They still had a little hope, but as the days passed by their hearts became fainter and one of his followers cried out in despair. "But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to-day is the third day since these things were done." Luke 24:21.

But it was only the darkness which precedes the day, for while the earthly sun was still covered the Dayspring from on high had been loosed and perpetual light had begun to glimmer out into a sin-cursed world, although unseen to them. The people who for ages had sat in darkness saw great light and peace; joy and continual happiness drove sorrow from the hearts and homes of men. "...Yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted, But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:4-5.

To many Christ is simply a root out of a dry ground, without form or comeliness; but to us who are saved, He is the Lily of the Valley and the brightest of morning stars. Jesus once said, "I am come a light into the world;" Yet many comprehend it not. The true light exists, but they have eyes that see not. I was told by an agnostic that he did not believe in God or Christ, that the subject of immortality was simply a myth, etc. I told him I did not believe he believed what he said, but since thinking the subject over, I now believe he believed what he said. There are fishes in the Mammoth Cave in Kentucky whose eyes seem to be perfectly developed

yet having lived for ages in utter darkness; nature has removed the sense of sight. It matters not whether they chose darkness or fortune placed them there, the effect is that they have eyes that see not. If people refuse to walk while they have the light, Jesus says, "darkness will come upon them," and by continuing to abide in the dark their capacity to know God, in time, will become so dwarfed that truly, although light exists, they see it not. "If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness."

The enfeebled world was tottering beneath its heavy load of sin when Jesus appeared among men, but every day He lived and every word He spake dispersed darkness and made life's burdens easier to bear. His presence gives peace and gladness during life's darkest hours and changes the midnight of a sin-sick soul into a restful eternal day. On earth He was a man of sorrow and acquainted with grief and sought not honor from men, but today He has a name above every name. Someday the natural sun will hide its face again to be seen no more by men, but the spiritual Sun which arose in distant Galilee will never set but continue to shine forevermore.

The mighty influence which He exerted while on earth, still lives and grows more sacred with the lapse of time. His Word has withstood every effort to prove it false and will continue a mighty, living, active power through time and all eternity. I love the Church of God and Christ her everlasting light. I rest content when the billows of life roll high, for I know that the foundation of God standeth sure. His Word is a sure light before me and I press forward, forgetful of the things that are behind. He has promised to lead me safely through life, not forsake me in death and give me a home when this old world has passed away. What more could I ask? Awake, thou that sleepest, and Christ will become thine everlasting light. Unfortunate backslider, remember from whence thou art fallen, and return unto thy first love. "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." James 5:7-8.

—*Gospel Trumpet*, April 28, 1904.

# THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA



## Patmos

John the Beloved received these messages while exiled on the Isle of Patmos. Tradition fixes Ephesus as the center of John's latter ministry, and he probably had the oversight of the Seven Churches.

## Ephesus Rev. 2:1-7

The church of Ephesus was one of the earliest Christian centers which was probably founded at the time of Paul's second missionary trip. Ephesus was commended for their good works, however, they were reprovved because they had lost their first love. They hated the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which God also hates. The word "Nicolaitanes" is a combination of two words: Nikao which means to conquer and Laos which means the people. The Nicolaitanes were trying to conquer the people with their false doctrines.

Resolution: We must not allow others to control us and steer us away from God but to serve Him first with all of our heart, soul and mind.

## Smyrna Rev. 2:8-11

The town of Smyrna derived its name from myrrh, which was a main source of its income. Myrrh is symbolic of suffering and death. Smyrna was also a center for emperor worship. The church of Smyrna suffered great persecution,

particularly from the Jews in the area. The Christians were promised a "crown of life" if they remained faithful—a reference to the crown of Smyrna which was minted on its coins. They were promised that God would be with them through the sufferings that they were going through.

Resolution: No matter the size of our gathering or the fierceness of our troubles, God will be with us to give us the victory if we are faithful to him.

## Pergamos Rev. 2:12-17

Pergamos was an educational center of the area. Homer, the poet, and Herodotus, the father of history, both studied and wrote here. Galen (129-199 A.D.), the most famous physician of antiquity after Hippocrates, was born at Pergamum and received his early training at its Aesklepion (hospital). They also had a large library second to the one in Alexandria, Egypt. Because of the jealousy between the two libraries Pergamum was forced to invent parchment. Therefore the people who lived here were highly influenced by cultural things. The church was commended for holding fast in the midst of these influences, however, they were reprovved for tolerating some corrupt doctrines.

Resolution: Do not allow the things of our society to influence us against the true worship of God.

## Thyatira Rev. 2:18-29

Thyatira lay in a long north-south valley and was a trading stop between Pergamum and Smyrna. The city was occupied with all manner of trade and craftsmanship. The church in Thyatira is sharply reprovved for allowing "Jezebel," a woman there, to subvert their doctrine by advocating the eating of meat sacrificed to idols. Eating such meat was a very common thing and led to social ostracism if you tried to avoid it. Jezebel counseled that such abstinence was not necessary. Unlike Ephesus, which kept correct doctrine and lost its love, Thyatira was long on love, caring and works but was failing to keep correct doctrine.

Resolution: To never let love and good works substitute for following the truth and to be



# The Culprit of the Egg Mix-Up

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

The other evening I decided to make muffins to compliment my roast supper. I put the dry ingredients into the bowl then went to the refrigerator for the milk and eggs. Daily our chickens have been laying seven to eight eggs of all different sizes, so I picked out two of the bigger eggs.

With one egg in hand, I whacked it against the cabinet top, but the shell barely broke. I hit it two more times before I realized that it was a hard boiled egg. The second egg was boiled also. I knew the chickens did not play such a prank — one of my children had mixed boiled eggs with the fresh! Who did such a trick?

Right away my mind knew which two of my six children had done such a thing. These two often boiled eggs for a salad but they usually marked the boiled eggs before placing them in the refrigerator. Well, I would find out who did this and have the culprit mark the eggs properly.

As the family sat around the supper table I asked the question, "Who boiled eggs and put them in with my fresh eggs?" Like normal no one wanted to confess, so I proceeded to question the two I suspected. No confession.

Then another one spoke up and said he had boiled eight eggs the day before and had laid them out to cool while he went outside to do something. When he came back to eat a couple of the eggs, they were gone. After a little more discussion I came to realize that I had put those eggs in with the fresh ones thinking that someone had brought in fresh eggs and hadn't put them in the refrigerator. I was the culprit who had mixed the eggs!

From this egg-perience I learned a few lessons.

**ONE:** Don't jump to conclusions about who the culprit(s) may be. Right away I just *knew* who had mixed the eggs, but I really did not have any proof. I was judging from past remembrances though certain details were irregular. Jesus said, "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged:..." Matt. 7:1-2.

How we judge others is how we will be judged. Certainly, this time, the judgment came back on me egg-actly as I had given it. (Rom. 2:1, John 7:24.)

**TWO:** It is better to ask than to assume. I should have asked about the eggs laying on the cabinet top that I assumed were fresh. If in doubt, ask someone who has more knowledge about the matter. It is worth the time to ask and can make a big difference in the results.

Especially in spiritual matters we should ask the Lord for wisdom. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 1:5. Assumed *wisdom* will get us into trouble every time.

**THREE:** Approach the accused culprits with kindness. I was thankful I hadn't scolded the two assumed culprits before listening to them. As Apostle Paul told Bro. Timothy, "Lay hands suddenly on no man,..." I Tim. 5:22. It is always good to have mercy and bear in mind that *I could be wrong* about some things. Don't expect a guilty confession before asking the person(s) involved.

When approaching someone about a *fault*, consider "thyself, lest thou also be tempted....For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself." Gal. 6:1-3. Humble mercy is honorable before the Lord. (Matt. 18:23-35.)

**FOUR:** I had caused my own problem. I took the blame for putting the boiled eggs among the fresh ones. It is human nature to have the *Adam blame Eve, blame serpent* attitude about situations, but often if we will be honest with ourselves we will see our part in the problem.

Our thoughts seem right in our own eyes, but when we consult the Lord and let Him examine our heart, we will find things change about our own self. (Prov. 28:6.) "Examine me, O Lord." Psa. 26:2.

**FIVE:** Find the humor in the matter and laugh about it. After we realized how the egg mix-up had happened, the family had a good laugh—at me, too. Proverbs 17:22 says: "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." If we can laugh at the right time and right thing, it eases the tension in our lives. (Eccl. 3:4.)

Even after the family laughter had echoed away, I later had to smile six more times—every time I found another boiled egg. Thank the Lord for laughter and egg-citement!