

FAITH AND VICTORY

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MEEKNESS

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

"Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger." Zephaniah 2:3. Speaking to those of the earth who are meek, the prophet exhorts us to seek to have righteousness and more meekness. Having meekness will help us to escape when the LORD's wrath is poured out upon this rebellious world.

Webster defines the word *meek* as: "being mild of temper, not easily provoked or irritated; patient under injuries; not vain or haughty or resentful; patient, moderate, gentle, kind, pitiful, not wild, tame, long-suffering, yielding and peaceful." The Old Testament Hebrew word for *meek* means to be "depressed, lowly, gentle in mind, saintly, humble, poor and needy." The New Testament word means "gentle, humble and mild."

Meekness is an attribute, a quality of attitude and life that is quite evidently attractive to

the heart of the Creator. It is greatly to be coveted and cultivated in the heart of the person who desires and seeks God's favor and help. We find in Numbers 12:3 that "the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth." This was stated on the occasion when Miriam, sister of Moses, and Aaron, his brother, spoke against Moses. "And the LORD heard it." Verse 2. He called all three of them out and came down in the pillar of the cloud and reprimanded Aaron and Miriam, letting them know that He was favorable to Moses. We do not hear Moses saying a word in defense of himself. But this same Moses, on another occasion some time later, did not exhibit meekness as he should have. In Numbers 20 the people murmured against Moses and Aaron because there was no water. The LORD told Moses to take the rod and speak unto the rock and it would bring forth water. And Moses took the rod, but instead of speaking to the rock as he was commanded to do, he said to the people, "Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water from this rock?" "And he lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also." (Numbers 20:10-11.) But the LORD was displeased with Moses' action. He said that because they did not believe Him and did not sanctify Him before the people, He would not permit them to enter the promised land. Psalm 106:33 said that Moses, his spirit being pro-

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voked by the people, "spake unadvisedly with his lips." The Hebrew meaning for this is that he cried out angrily and loudly. He was not meek as he should have been. This is a warning to us. To be meek we must be on our guard. Just because you exercised meekness in one situation, do not relax and feel confident in yourself. The next trying circumstance may slip up on you.

The various places where being meek is mentioned is almost self-explanatory. Let us notice a few of them. "The meek will he (the LORD) guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way." Psalm 25:9. "For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." Psalm 37:10-11. Our Saviour quoted from this in Matthew 5:5 as one of His beatitudes in His sermon on the mount. "Thou didst cause judgment to be heard from heaven; the earth feared, and was still, When God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth." Psalm 76:8-9. "The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground." Psalm 147:6. "For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation." Psalm 149:4. Speaking of Christ, the prophet said in Isaiah 11:4, "With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth." In Isaiah 29 the prophet spoke of the vision being as a book that is sealed which neither the learned nor the unlearned could read. But he said in verses 18 and 19, "In that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness. The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel." In Isaiah 61:1 the Christ is foretold as being anointed to preach good tidings unto the meek. In Psalm 45:4 it says of Christ, "In thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness." In Amos 2:6-7 the LORD said that He would not turn away the punishment from Israel because of four transgressions, and one of them was that they "turned aside (or hindered) the way of the meek."

It is the same way in the New Testament. Jesus said; "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye

shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:29. Matthew 21, describing Christ's coming into Jerusalem, quoted from the prophet, saying, "Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass." Verse 5. The prophecy in Zechariah 9:9 uses the word *lowly*. I Peter 3:3-4 instructs us to let our adorning "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."

Paul stated in Galatians 5:23 that meekness is one of the fruits of the Spirit, "against such there is no law." He said in 6:1 for the spiritual ones to restore one who had been overtaken in a fault "in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." Paul said in Ephesians 4:1-3 to "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, With longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." In Colossians 3:12 he said for us to "put on (invest, array, clothe, endue) therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering." Paul said in I Timothy 6:11 to "flee these things (love of money and the woes it will bring); and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love patience, meekness." He said in Titus 3:2 for us "to speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers (peaceable), but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men." James 1:21 says we should "lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness (evil extravagance and surplus), and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls." James 3:13 says, "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom."

Can we not see from all of these scriptures what a serious matter this is for us to be meek and lowly like the Savior was? I Peter 2:23 spoke of Jesus, "Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committeth himself to him that judgeth righteously." Oh how satan will whisper many things in your mind for you to say when you are mistreated and wrongfully dealt with! But let us resist all of his suggestions and seek to take the

path of meekness. Meekness does not come altogether naturally. We will have to diligently work at it, disciplining ourselves, and above all, praying earnestly for the Lord to help us to be

meek as we should be. Keep in mind what God has promised to the meek and our first scripture exhorting us to seek meekness that we may be hid in the day of the Lord's anger.

GOD'S SILENCE

By Sis. Patricia Bell

How precious it is when God speaks to us. When God doesn't speak to His people they become confused, restless, afraid and dormant. When we hear from heaven, His people are blessed, and they have direction, joy, fulfillment etc. It is my burden that we cry out for the preached word of the Lord in every place. Let us have a heartfelt hunger and thirst for the messages from heaven.

What makes God silent unto us? "And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled. And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets." 1 Samuel 28:5-6. Heaven was silent when Saul tried to get an answer because he hadn't obeyed the Word of the Lord.

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it." Amos 8:11-12.

Notice two reasons God has been silent in the past: 1. The people weren't listening. 2. There was no one He could use to speak through.

"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none." Ezekiel 22:30.

"That this is a rebellious people,....children that will not hear the law of the LORD: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things,...." Isaiah 30:9-10. I fear that we are so full of our own earthly goals and projects that God will become silent toward us. People are so full of their own ideas, worldly ease and pleasure that they don't feel the need to hear the voice of the Lord. We must desire with our whole heart to hear from heaven. Even our

prayers become prayers for the sick only instead of for our pitiful soul needs.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Matthew 5:6. We have a desperate need to hear the Word of the Lord. It is the thing that will provide life and understanding and it is important that we have a mind to receive it. "...The humble shall hear *thereof*, and be glad." Psalm 34:2. Let us appreciate the body of Christ. We cannot say to the hand, "...I have no need of thee:..." If we do, we will cut ourselves off from an answer to one of our prayers and God's Word is turned away. My prayer has been daily, "Lord give me what I need from You and help me to receive it."

God's Word has come through His prophets and teachers. We need to appreciate the people God uses to deliver His Word and provide our time and undivided attention. "Then came the word of the LORD to Isaiah, saying,...." Isaiah 38:4. "The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi." Malachi 1:1.

Holy Ghost, heaven-sent preaching should be prayed down by the congregation. It is more than using a few scriptures; it must be inspired to be the right message for the right time. It will show us how to live and how to respond to situations in our life. Preaching from heaven will be balanced and not on any one tangent or personal soapbox to express our burdens. Words from heaven will not put us to sleep spiritually nor will it cause confusion.

Let us cry out to God for messages from heaven. We need them. Let us not be picky but let us pray that we will be able to receive it and respond with attention and agreement to it. Saints, let God know by your attitude, prayers and actions that we cherish and desire His Word above everything else; that we are desperate for the pure Word from heaven. God's Word is the most precious and vital thing to help us live a joyful and successful Christian life.

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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.

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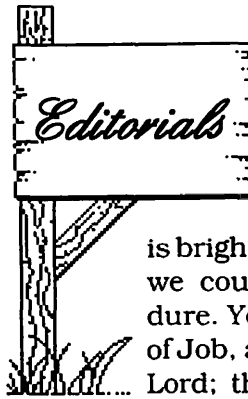
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God has promised many blessings to His children. While their life is not without difficulty and hard struggles they have caught a glimpse of the Lord and they know that the future

is bright. James 5:11 says, "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." People who look at the things a child of God is willing to endure for the sake of righteousness may sometimes say, "I wouldn't do that." But what they are really saying is that they have not "seen the end of the Lord."

When a person has obtained a view of the Lord there are some basic things that they begin to comprehend. They see the love that He has toward those who would live righteously and they also see the anger and destruction that awaits those who continue in sin. If the sinner could only see the fiery indignation that God has toward their sin it would cause a great fear to come over them and would stop their reckless pursuit of wickedness. When King Belshazzar caught a glimpse of the fingers of the Lord writing on the wall it brought an end to his jovial party. Daniel 5:6 says, "Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another."

It is the mercy of the Lord that a sinner is allowed to see His wrath and hatred toward sin before they are consumed. If they will take advantage of the plan of salvation they will see the other side of God—His love toward those who are righteous. The child of God has been given the assurance by the Word that the things that touch our lives are permitted and controlled by Him and what He allows to come our way will work for our good. (Romans 8:28, I Corinthians 10:13.)

There are many encouraging scriptures that convey His love and protection to the righteous man. In Zechariah 2:8 it says, "...for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye." The Lord considers His people as a very delicate and important part of His body and He is very careful what He allows to touch them. When satan was considering Job he told the Lord, "Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house,

and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land." Job 1:10. When the Lord gave satan permission to take the possessions of Job He placed this restriction upon him, "And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand...." Job 1:12. The Lord later allowed satan to afflict his body but he was given the restriction to "save his life." The Lord will only allow the enemy to go so far in afflicting the righteous man.

In historic times the walls of a city were built for their security. The great city of Nineveh was much larger than Babylon and references to the wall that surrounded Nineveh indicate that it was a massive structure. It is estimated to have been 100 feet high and so thick that three chariots could drive side by side on the top of them. The walls encompassed a city about 20 miles long and 12 miles wide with a total length of about 64 miles. It is reported that there were 1,500 towers along the wall that were 200 feet high to aid in the defense of the city. When the Lord sent Jonah to prophesy against this wicked city the inhabitants could have mistakenly looked at the huge wall that surrounded them and felt they were secure in not believing the Word of the Lord that said they would be destroyed. However they rightfully understood that their walls of stone would not protect them from the anger of the Lord and they repented.

Psalms 34:7 says, "The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." This verse has been a very precious promise to the people of God and helped them in dangerous and difficult times. There are other scriptures that speak of God's protection being around His children. Psalm 125:2 says, "As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even for ever." While mountains can be a very effective barrier to invading forces, when it is the Lord around us we can be at rest in our souls.

When Sennacherib, king of Assyria, laid siege against Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem they cried unto the Lord and He became their defense. In II Chronicles 31:20-21 it says, "And thus did Hezekiah throughout all Judah, and wrought that which was good and right and truth before the LORD his God. And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the

commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered." If we want the Lord to be around us we must first do that which is "good and right and truth" and put ourselves within His protective custody.

In the next chapter we see how the Lord defended His people. Hezekiah comforted the frightened inhabitants with these words, "Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: for *there be* more with us than with him: With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah." II Chronicles 32:7-8. The people trusted in the Lord even though the enemy was around them and tried to tell them there was no hope of deliverance. The men of Assyria said, "Now therefore let not Hezekiah deceive you, nor persuade you on this manner, neither yet believe him: for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people out of mine hand, and out of the hand of my fathers: how much less shall your God deliver you out of mine hand?... And they spake against the God of Jerusalem, as against the gods of the people of the earth, *which were* the work of the hands of man." II Chronicles 32:15, 19.

May we never be guilty of making the mistake that Sennacherib made—he equated the God of heaven with the gods of this world and it was a fatal mistake as the next two verses illustrate. "And for this *cause* Hezekiah the king, and the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz, prayed and cried to heaven. And the LORD sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into the house of his god, they that came forth of his own bowels slew him there with the sword." II Chronicles 32:20-21.

There are many other instances of deliverance that God has given His people that should cause the heart of every child of God to take courage when circumstances cause the way to seem dark and defeat seems inevitable. When we hear the roar of the enemy let us look to our Savior for deliverance.

"And said unto him, Run, speak to this young man, saying, Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls for the multitude of men and cattle therein: For I, saith the LORD,

will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her." Zechariah 2:4-5. This prophecy of the church of God helps us understand that it is not surrounded by man-made walls which keep her secure, but it is the fire of His Holy Spirit that provides protection from the evil one. If you find yourself surrounded by walls that are built by man, you are only in bondage and captivity and you are not secure from the destructive violence of the enemy. You need to flee to the Jerusalem that is from above, that is surrounded by the fire of His Holy Spirit. In Her you will find that the glory of God is shining in the hearts and lives of His true children.

In considering the protective walls that God has around His people we should notice these scriptures in Isaiah 26:1-4. "In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks. Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength."

We know that if the Lord is around us our protection is secure and we can be at perfect peace. It is our responsibility to see that we have left the ways of the world and of sin and entered into this holy city of God. Satan has offered many man-made substitutes that keep men bound in their sins, but God is offering freedom, deliverance and protection from sin to those honest souls who will seek Him with all of their heart and worship Him in spirit and in truth.

On March 17 the *Beautiful Way* and *Bible Lessons* for the second quarter were mailed out. The topic for this quarter is the faith of Abraham. The Lesson titles are: The Faith of Abraham; Pilgrims and Strangers In This Life; A Brotherly, Self-Sacrificing Spirit; Refusing the Offer of Earthly Wealth; Abram Believes God; God's Covenant With Abraham; Sara's Faith Triumphs At Last; Abraham Intercedes for Lot; Lot's Escape From the Destruction Of Sodom; Casting Out The Bondwoman; The Bondwoman Versus The Freewoman; The Supreme Trial Of Abraham's Faith and Scriptural Reference To Abraham.

If you would like a copy of this lesson quarterly it is available for \$1.50 or a year's subscription is available for \$5.00.

The Lord blessed us to be able to print three books. They are: *Personal Experiences of S. O. Susag* by S. O. Susag; *The Kingdom of God and the One Thousand Years' Reign* by H. M. Riggle and *Unraveling Revelation* by A. Q. Bridwell.

In the 191 page book, *Personal Experience of S. O. Susag*, Bro. Susag relates many instances where God worked in miraculous ways. He told how, in answer to prayer, the Lord held the rain off their hay field and the road they had to drive on while they hauled and stacked hay all day long. As far as they could see it was pouring rain all around their field. He gives many instances of divine-healing, of salvation, even finding a five dollar bill that a woman lost in a handkerchief that had blown away in the wind all in answer to prayer. This inspiring book should give your faith a much needed lift. It is available in a heavy paper cover for \$4.00 plus shipping.

The Kingdom of God and the One Thousand Years' Reign is a 166-page book giving much information on this important subject. Some of the chapter titles are: The Nature of God's Kingdom, History of the Millennium, The Time of the Establishment of Christ's Kingdom, Christ on David's Throne, The Second Coming of the Lord and What Will Follow, The First Resurrection, The Abrahamic Covenant, The New Jerusalem, The Ancient of Days, The Binding and Loosing of the Dragon, False Theories Refuted, Our Future Home and The Signs of the Times. There are so many false teachings on these doctrinal issues that it is vital to have the light of the Word of God to reveal what the truth really is. This book, bound in a heavy paper cover, may be obtained for only \$3.50 plus shipping.

Unraveling Revelation by A. Q. Bridwell is a 36-page book bound in heavy paper cover that reveals some of the hidden mysteries in a few chapters of Revelation and brings clarity to many of the symbols used. May it be a help to those who are seeking for a better understanding of the book of Revelation. It is available for \$1.00 plus shipping.

On the evening of March 22 the young adult Sunday School class from our local congregation came to the Print Shop and helped us with these three books. They assembled *The Kingdom of God and the One Thousand Years' Reign* and helped us bind and trim the edges of the book. *Unraveling Revelation* was also assembled, stapled and trimmed. The book, *Personal Experience of S. O. Susag*, which had been completed earlier, was wrapped for storage. The many

willing hands that took part in the evening's activities quickly completed these chores, which would normally have taken many hours to accomplish. We appreciate the burden they share for this work of the Lord and trust He will richly bless them for the assistance they provided.

On the weekend of April 2-3 the Lord blessed us to attend the singing at Enterprise, AL. It was a wonderful experience as the saints from many states crowded into the country chapel and lifted their voices in songs of praise to God. Surely every heart was warmed by the heavenly spirit that was felt in that place. Even those from the neighborhood in attendance remarked about the blessing they received by being there. On Sunday morning Bro. Michael Williamson from Loranger, LA ministered to the saints. He used the fourth chapter of John and the example of Jesus offering living water to the woman of Samaria. All too quickly the time came to begin the 12-hour trip back home, but we are thankful for the happy memories and the blessing of the Lord's presence that we carried with us.

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

If We Only Knew

There are gems of wondrous brightness
Overtime lying at our feet,
And we pass them walking thoughtless
Down the busy, crowded street.
If we knew, our pace would slacken
We would step more oft with care,
Lest our careless feet be treading
To the earth some jewel rare.

If we knew what hearts are aching
For the comfort we might bring,
If we knew what souls are yearning
For the sunshine we might fling;
If we knew what feet are weary
Walking pathways roughly laid,
We would quickly hasten forward
Stretching forth our hands to aid.

If we knew what friend around us
Feels a want they never tell,
That some word that we have spoken
Pained or wounded where it fell,
We would speak in accents tender
To each friend we chanced to meet;
We would give to each one freely
Smiles of sympathy so sweet.

—Selected



PA—Dear saints: I thank the Lord for all His goodness to me and for sparing my life so long. I was taken out of the very jaws of death when I was fourteen, now I am still living in the seventies. I can still work some yet—go out with the power saw and cut trees down. I am writing to request prayer for some that are laid up on beds of affliction. One man fell off the roof of a house and is in bad shape. I gave him a *Faith and Victory* paper and he seemed glad for it. Another man was injured when a drunken driver ran into him and broke his shoulder and his chest was real red. I believe the Lord helped him but lately things don't look so good. Pray for Bro. Warren Myers, he is just barely living. Pray for my uncle, he is barely living and is in his nineties. He needs the Lord. —Bro. Parker Slifer

WV—I fell some weeks ago and hurt my right leg and side. I'm still suffering and need your prayers. Love and prayers, —Sis. Melba Powell

Standing Prayer Requests

Carlos Arriago
Sis. Mamie Butcher
Sis. Helen Carson
Sis. Waneta Creel
Sis. Charlotte Dilliner
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. Marie Mitchell
Sis. Melba Powell
Sis. Anna Severs
Sis. Catherine Shaffer
The Mitch Taylor family

MEETING DATES

Spencer, OK (Revival Meeting)—April 7-10
Guthrie, OK (Revival Meeting)—April 13-17
Boley, OK (Spring Meeting)—April 15-17
Wichita, KS (Spring Meeting)—April 24-May 1
Oklahoma State (Guthrie, OK)—May 27-June 5
Holly Hill, SC—May 29-June 5
Green Bank, WV—June 10-16
Tulsa, OK—June 12-19
Jefferson, OR—June 17-26
Okmulgee, OK (Sisters' Retreat)—June 24-25
General Southern
(Loranger, LA)—June 26-July 3
Fresno, CA—July 3-10
National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 15-24
Myrtle, MO—July 29-August 3
Spooner, WI (Tent Meeting)—August 24-28

MEETING NOTICES

SPENCER, OK, REVIVAL

The Green Pastures and Crutchco congregations are having a joint revival meeting beginning on April 7th and continuing through April 10th, 2005. The location will be at the Green Pastures chapel at 5721 N. Denver, Spencer, OK 73084. Bro. Darrell Johnson of Dallas, TX will be the minister. Please pray God's blessings upon the meeting. If you are unable to attend, please pray for us. For further information contact Bro. Charles Chandler at (405) 769-7413, Sis. Maxine Busbee at (405) 478-3860 or Sis. Frances Chandler at (405) 769-6628. The chapel number is (405) 771-3710.

BOLEY, OK, SPRING MEETING

The Boley, OK Church of God Spring Meeting will be held April 15-17, 2005. Lord willing, the services will be Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday services at 11:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday school will be at 9:45 a.m. with worship services at 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. (no Sunday night services). We appreciate all the ministers' and saints' support and prayers for our meeting. The Boley Church of God is located on Oak Street just north of Boley High School.

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

WICHITA, KS,

SPRING MEETING AND OPEN HOUSE

April 24 through May 1, 2005 has been set for the Wichita Spring Meeting. This will be our

first revival in the new chapel and we want to invite all who would like to see the new facility to join us on Sunday, April 24, for our open house and dedication service. The special service will be held starting at 11:00 a.m. Dinner will be served after the service and tours of the building will be given. All who can are invited to please come and be with us.

Monday through Saturday we will have morning services at 11:00 a.m. and evening services at 7:30 p.m. Please pray that the Lord will bless in every phase of the meeting. There are some souls in serious need of salvation and some in need of sanctification. We have a number of sick and infirm who need to be healed. We desire the power of God to come down and overshadow us.

If you need further information you may contact Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at (316) 778-1848 or Bro. Theodore McCray (316) 682-3152. The church phone is (316) 267-9582. The new chapel is located at 2509 North Grove. Directions for arriving from the south: Exit I-35 turnpike at first Wichita exit #42, I-135, continue north on I-135 to the 13th Street exit. Turn right (east) on 13th Street and go to Grove Street. Turn left (north) on Grove and go past 24th Street. The chapel is the second building on the left at 2509 North Grove.

HOLLY HILL, SC, CAMP MEETING

We would like to cordially invite all to attend the Holly Hill, SC annual Camp Meeting. Lord willing, it will be held from Sunday morning, May 29th through Sunday morning, June 5th. Sunday morning services will be held at 10:00 a.m. and services will be held Monday through Saturday at 11:00 a.m. daily. All evening services will begin at 7:30 p.m. Meals will be provided daily and lodging is available on the church grounds for as many as we can possibly accommodate. There are also several motels in the Santee area. Please let us know as soon as possible if you plan to attend and need lodging. If you would like information on motels, if you need directions, if you are planning to attend and need accommodations please call Bro. Floyd Crummie at (803) 496-5768 or Bro. Tommie Platt at (803) 496-5414. We welcome everyone! Please pray for us that God will bless everything that is said and done and that He will send the ministers of His choosing.

OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING

The annual Oklahoma State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held May 27-June 5, 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.

Due to road construction the south Guthrie exit on I-35 is closed. Use the Seward Road exit #151 and go west to Sooner Road and then go North on Sooner Road to Lake View Road.

As is customary, the first service will be held Friday evening, May 27, 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.

OKMULGEE, OK, SISTERS' RETREAT

The dates for the Sisters' Retreat are set for June 24-25, Friday and Saturday, at Okmulgee, OK.

For further information please contact Sis. Mary McDonald at (865) 977-6997 or Sis. Carrie Porter at (865) 982-2348. More information will be forthcoming.



**LETTERS
FROM
OUR
READERS**

KS—Dear Bro. Willie: Thank you for your prayers and thanks to God for healing my broken bones. Thanks to Bro. Leslie and Sis. Sylvia Busbee for coming to see me and anointing me. I began to feel a lot better after they left. I am now able to drive my car. Thank the Lord for all His many blessing that He has bestowed on me these many years. May God bless you in your work. Yours in Christ,

—Sis. Dorothy Huston

KS—Dear Bro. and Sis. Murphey: I received the *Faith and Victory*. Thanks. I can still read a little at a time. I'm 86, will be 87 this month. My left eye is blind and my right eye has macular degeneration but I thank God for His goodness to me all these years. I am still able to do the housework and don't have home-care as some do.

Pray for my family that we may all please God in every way. Pray for me that I may stay true. It seems the enemy is trying us so much these days. May God be near each of you,

—Sis. Margaret Angle

OK—Greeting to you all at the Print Shop: I am doing pretty well so far. I am still saved and very much encouraged. I am looking to see the Savior who suffered and died for us. Remember my sister in prayer as well as myself. The Scripture says, "For every house is builded by some *man*; but he that built all things is God." Hebrews 3:4. Christian love,

—Sis. Mary O. Jones

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings in Christian love. Hope all is going well with you there at the Lord's Print Shop as you labor to print and get the gospel out to a lost world and to edify the church by the good books and tracts and the good articles that are always in the *Faith and Victory* paper.

Just recently I was reading in the book, *God's Gracious Dealings*, about the account of the fortieth anniversary and it was very encouraging to read the testimonies of those who had worked there and those who had been blessed by reading it. Now we have already passed the 80th anniversary. As I think of the good books, including the songbooks, tracts and papers that flow out continually to the readers I am reminded of the scripture found in Revelation 22: 1-2 "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of life, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations." The leaves of the tree, I believe, represents all His saints as they bare the fruit of the Spirit flowing out of a pure heart and a holy life then they minister healing unto the nations. Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the

earth:..." Matthew 5:13. He also said in the next verse, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."

The Lord recently blessed the Shawnee congregation with a very good and profitable meeting. Bro. Marty Clevenger and most of his family was with us March 6th - 13th. We were all blessed and challenged for a closer walk with God. While they were here they came to our house, along with Bro. Carl and Sis. Rebecca, and had one service here. This was very encouraging as my dear wife hasn't been able to attend services for several years. His message was about the loving-kindness of the Lord. It was very encouraging.

We trust the Lord will bless all of His ministers. Bro. Carl preaches over in the Home here once a week. They appreciate it. The Bible says, "Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters..."

I trust God will richly bless you in your service to God. —Bro. T. V. McMillian

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OK—Dear friends in the Lord: I am encouraged in the strait and narrow way. It isn't always the easiest on the flesh but when you think of the end results, it is always best.

In the last issue of the *Faith and Victory* it was mentioned that the paper is in the 83rd year of circulation and I can testify of it being a great blessing to me. It still is. Thank you for holding up the "Old Paths." I love the truth. God Bless,

—Sis. Evodna Marler

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LA—Dear Bro. Willie: I feel the Lord inspired me with some thoughts and I think He wanted me to share them. The chorus of song number 49 came to my mind the other morning and I stopped to think about what it means. "Praise the Lord for grace and glory, Praise Him for His mercy, Praise Him evermore." "Praise the Lord for grace." I looked up the definition of *grace*: (a) a special virtue given to a person by God (b) beauty or charm of form, composition, movement, or expression. Oh, how each morning and often throughout the day I need these attributes! I sometimes think I need more grace than He gives, but He said to us, "My grace is sufficient for thee:..." II Corinthians 12:9. Jeremiah spoke of the Lord's mercies and said, "*They are new every morning:...*" Lamentations 3:23.

I often tell the Lord the last three verses of song number 141, "Guide Me." Guide my thoughts, words, actions and my soul. I never

realized until now that for Him to do those things depends on the grace that I must get every morning before I meet the pressures of the day. If I go without talking to my Lord every morning and getting my portion for the day, I find it is easier for hurtful, unthought-through words to come out of my mouth. "Guide my words, that they be spoken In such kind and loving way, They may heal a heart that's broken, Some one's darkness turn to day."

Without God's "beauty of movement or expression," I find that I am more impulsive in my actions toward others and in the expressions I show on my face. "Guide my actions, O my Father..."

I try at the end of each day to go to my Instructor and let Him give me a grade for the day. I find He so lovingly shows me my mistakes and teaches me how to better my ways before Him and others. "With Thine eye, O Savior, guide me Through my pilgrimage below; In Thy secret presence hide me, On my heart Thy grace bestow." I need the Lord every day. Without Him I would fail. Pray for me as I endeavor to stay in the circle of His will. In love, —Sis. Krista Meek

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WV—Dear saints: On one Wednesday evening's Bible Study the Lord brought out something through Bro. Marty Clevenger that helped me gain the victory in a battle I was in against satan. I feel impressed of the Lord to relate the main points that blessed me.

The texts he used are in John 10:1-14. In these scriptures Jesus was talking about the "Good Shepherd." Bro. Marty told us that a hired person in any store-like environment might be like a "hireling." He told about going to a store about two minutes before closing time. Upon seeing that he still had time to run in and purchase what he needed he started in only to be stopped by a worker who stated that it was too late and that they were closing it up. Bro. Marty replied, "But I still have two minutes," but to no avail. He had to turn around and leave the store empty-handed. From this incident he informed us that if the worker had been the owner/boss of the business, upon seeing he could make another sale, he would have willingly allowed him to come in and make his purchase.

Verses 12-13 make a statement about what a hireling would do upon seeing a wolf coming. He would flee because the sheep are not impor-

tant enough to protect with his life. But if the Good Shepherd, "Jesus," had been watching over the sheep, He would have gotten between the sheep and the wolf.

I received a lot of good from the next point he brought out. He told about a white shirt that was given to him with the word *Polo* on the pocket. As the man was giving it to him he said something like, "I hope this doesn't offend you. I don't know if your church allows it or not." (Meaning the word *Polo* on the pocket.) Bro. Marty told us he would like to believe that he does what he does because it is his desire to do so, not because of some man-made rules to follow. While telling this illustration he mentioned about our "vision." Here is where I really started to ask myself, "Where is my vision?" Am I looking at others' faults and saying "why go on? They are not doing what they should be doing." Or am I looking to God and God only? You can be assured that people will let you down but, praise God, there's a higher power! Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where *there* is no vision, the people perish:..."

Another point he brought out made my heart and soul want to shout for joy! "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." John 10:9. I was amazed at how he brought this verse out. When we are in a building there are walls all around us besides the door. Those walls stop us from going any further. In order for us to go anywhere else, we must go back through that door. But when we get saved we go through the Door, "Jesus." If someone were to go out that same door again, to me it makes sense that they have "backslid." So when it says "and out," it does not mean to go out of a "door." Bro. Marty brought out that once we are saved, with Jesus there are no walls, no limitations for what He can do for us. Therefore, when reading the verse, John 10:9, open your arms wide when it says "and out."

I thank the Lord for sending this Bible Study at a time I needed it most. Please pray for me I want to be faithful to the ever faithful and loving God.

Your sister in Him, —Christy Wattenbarger

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LA—Dear saints: The last part of the verse in I Corinthians 10:31 says, "...whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." I want to give God the praise and honor due to His Holy name. The

Lord has been so real and precious to me. He has been my greatest and best Friend. No one else could do the things the Lord has done for me. He has done miraculous things that I wish to share. I trust this will be a blessing and an encouragement. Please bear with me as some are long overdue.

A few days before Randall passed away, he expressed his concern for the need of a reliable car for me. I never had any experience in purchasing a vehicle. My children assisted me in locating a vehicle that would fit my needs. We asked the Lord for guidance and the Lord blessed far above what I could ask for. Philippians 4:19 says, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

In the fall of 2001 my youngest sister called to share her news—she had gotten saved. She couldn't express enough the wonderful peace she had found. Thank the Lord for His mercy and love. Then the following March she called me to come be with her in her last days. My oldest daughter and grandson traveled with me. I thank the Lord for the privilege I had to be with her. It was a blessing to me to see the power of God manifested in her changed life. Coming home I traveled alone and asked the Lord to help me. I had never driven in large cities and it was a concern. The Lord manifested Himself strong to me and blessed as I traveled home. I give Him all the praise.

During the summer of 2002 a visiting child had alarmed the dog while he was sleeping and acting on impulse the dog reacted. The child was not badly injured but the sight of blood alarmed us all. We called for prayer at Monark and locally. Here again, the Lord showed His power. What a wonderful privilege it is to trust our Lord! "O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man *that* trusteth in him." Psalm 34:8.

In October 2001, Randall and I made our last visit together to one of our daughters' home. During our drive he commented "That from now on, I would be coming alone." Oh, the deep pain I felt, but he was looking at reality. Every time after that his comment would play over and over in my mind. It would overwhelm me. Then one Friday evening as I was going to her home I asked the Lord for a special blessing while I traveled. The Lord never fails. He filled my cup full and running over. It was a drive I'll never forget. The extraordinary sunset seemed to be

my personal gift from God. The thoughts He filled me with I feasted on the entire drive.

One evening as I was listening to a message my right arm was hurting me intensely. I just spoke out loud "Lord, would You please touch my arm?" It happened so quickly; it was instant. I got on my knees and thanked the Lord right then. Although I could not physically see the Lord, I could feel His presence. What a mighty God we serve!

During the year 2004, a spot came on my nose and was there several months. One day in, January 2005, as I was meditating, I asked the Lord would He see fit to remove it. The next day it was gone. The Lord had removed it overnight! Our Lord is so faithful.

I had been having some physical problems. I brought this to the Lord one day and He gave me the song, "The Savior Can Solve Every Problem." As I was praying about this condition I brought the promise to God, "...he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." He spoke to me and said, "I can do exceeding abundantly above what you can ask or think for." Praise the Lord; He took away my problem. The Lord brings to my mind often the scripture in Matthew 10:29-31 about the sparrows and how we are of more value. How wonderful the Lord is.

In February of this year I fell and broke my ankle. A week before this accident the Lord gave me the promise, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Jeremiah 33:3. When the x-rays were taken, I was told I needed to have it set by an orthopedist. The following day another x-ray was taken and the Lord had already set my ankle bone. All I needed was a cast put on. I do praise the Lord for His mercy and love. We can stand on the precious promises of God and never fear. (Psalm 33:21, 34:1-3, 35:9.) Christian love, —Sis. June Flynn

CA—I would like to share the Lord's goodness and mercy to my wife and me. Above all I am thankful that the Lord has kept me saved and encouraged. I am thankful I can say from experience the Lord is faithful and plenteous in mercy to His children—to those who will trust Him. The Lord is continually doing great things for us. He has kept us saved and with a heart full of praise and thankfulness no matter what the circumstances of life are—whether good or bad.

I know of no greater thing than this that God can do for a soul. Surely I can say He has done this for me. I do not say the devil will not tempt us in the bad times to murmur and be unthankful in the trying times. However, by God's grace, we do not have to yield to the feeling to murmur or be unthankful.

Friday night, while attending to my wife, I began to have some serious problems in my body. It became worse and worse to the point I became unable to finish what I was doing for her. So I had to leave her sitting in the big recliner chair. The suffering and distress was so great in my body. I was calling on the Lord earnestly but was not getting any relief. So I called the saints for prayer but I still was not getting any relief and the sufferings were so very great. So I called one of the saints again for prayer and asked that she would call around for prayer. I was in great suffering and distress of body. All the while the devil was working on me, trying to cause me to despair. He was bringing dark thoughts because pain was so intense and I had done all I knew to do! I was earnestly praying myself and I had called the saints and the minister twice and still there was no relief. He was saying, "What are you going to do?" He was working to break me down, cause discouragement and bring me to despair. He works to break the saints' faith and trust in God. Praise God, my faith was not wavering but steadfast in the Great I Am, the Almighty God by whom all things consist, in the God that rules the world and to whom all things belong.

The Lord was faithful in His mercy and heard the saints' and my cry and delivered me from my great suffering. He is still in the miracle working business. Although He tarries He will come! He is greatly interested in increasing our faith and love. One way He does this is by tarrying but we can be sure He will come. He has been faithful to my wife and me down through the years and has proven Himself to us many times.

It is a mistake to expect God to always answer immediately when we call, when He sees our real need is to have greater trust and faith in Him. As we prove faithful in the times of testing, these graces increase. He wants us to have such love and trust in Him that we will not question or challenge His love and wisdom for us in our most difficult testing. He does not want the devil to shake us by injecting thoughts in our minds against God. When things get

really bad the devil can work with our minds if we have not allowed God to prepare us for these times. He worked with Job's wife and caused her to try to cause Job to speak against God. If he worked with her mind in that way, he will try the same on us.

I want to thank the dear saints for their love and prayers for us. Surely the Lord has done great things for me. It is amazing how He gives strength to care for my wife. She is completely helpless, but the Lord is good to us and I appreciate the privilege to trust the Lord.

—Bro. Charles and Sis. Wilma Parrish Sr.

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OK—Dear Bro. Willie: For some time I have intended to send in my testimony. The Lord has been so good to me in answering our prayers and the prayers of the saints in the time of afflictions and problems I have met with along life's way. I thank the Lord for His love and mercy that He has shown to me. I feel so unworthy of such love but I am one of His children and I have my faith and trust in Him. I want to live to glorify Him. All praise is due Him!

Two years ago I had a blood clot about the size of my thumb come up the inside of my left leg and lodged near my pelvic bone. At 11:00 p.m. I called Bro. Stanley and he and Sis. Karen came right over to pray for me and stayed until 2:00 a.m. and when they left they said, "Call if you need us." Through the night I could feel clots forming in the bottom of my left foot. By morning three more moved a little above my left knee, in the same vein the other one was in.

I called Bro. Stanley early in the morning and they came right over and prayed for me. I had a high fever and could not turn myself. Sis. Karen said, "Sis. Taylor, this is life threatening." They wanted me to call the children but my son, Ronnie, was in Kansas at the time and my daughter, Joyce, in Saskwa, two hours away, and they called my niece, Sis. Linda Probst, and she came toward evening and stayed a couple of nights and days until Joyce could make arrangements to come.

They applied hot towels to my leg for a few days and the Lord dissolved the clots. I had a rash under the skin break out from my knee down and also had an ulcer break open just above the ankle on my left leg. I could hardly move my left foot. It looked and felt like I had an iron band around the middle of my foot. I soaked it in hot disinfectant water and the ulcer healed

up in about three weeks. My foot was so painful I couldn't walk on it. I used a walker trying to walk after the ulcer healed.

I kept praying and trying to walk and the Lord gave me two dreams showing me I was walking. That was real encouraging. In a few days He let the tightness release and I could walk. Oh how happy and thankful I was! I went around thanking and praising the Lord for His love and goodness to me.

During this time, after my daughter went home, my granddaughter, Mary, came and stayed with me until I could get around again. The saints were so good to minister to my needs at this time. They brought in food and helped otherwise when needed.

Recently I had another trial. February 3rd I sat down in my recliner and my back went out on me. I called Bro. Stanley for prayer and they came over and prayed for me often. I had such severe pain off and on and couldn't find a place in bed to rest and could hardly turn over. This lasted for about three weeks before I got much relief. Then I started to be able to find relief enough to rest at night. It was about a month before I could drive my van to church or to town. Bro. Dan and Sis. Cheryl Doolittle took me to church a couple of days until I could get in and out of my van. The first three weeks about all I could do was go from my bed to my recliner.

The saints were so good to come in and help me. The young couples came over one evening and sang for me and Bro. Dan and Sis. Cheryl came different times and sang. One Wednesday night they came over and had prayer meeting with me. I surely thank all those that came and brought food and ministered to my needs in different ways and for their encouragement. It all meant so much to me. I pray the Lord will bless each one of them.

Your sister in Christ, —Imogene Taylor

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MO—Bro. James Huskey and I visited the jungles of Belize, Central America in an effort to spread the good news of this evening light reformation. The day had been hot and the jungle heat was oppressive. Some of the village children were going out in the waters of the Belize River to splash around and cool off and they invited me to join them. This sounded like a good idea so I went with them. Upon reaching the river I took off my shoes and socks and followed them out into the river. We all enjoyed splashing around in the coolness of the water.

Then I stepped on something sharp. I never knew if it was just a sharp rock or a piece of glass or something but it caused the bottom of my foot to bleed a bit. Not wanting to spoil the fun I just washed off the blood and kept playing with the children until they decided it was time to go back.

That night my foot began to swell and throb. After services, when we were going back to our living quarters, I met the resident missionary on the boardwalk. I said, "I wish you would pray for me tonight." He replied, "What is wrong?" and I told him about my foot. He then asked to see the foot so I took off my shoe and sock and the place around the wound had become red and swollen. He put his finger on the wound and said, "It's hot; you have infection already." He proceeded to pray the prayer of faith right there. Then I thanked him and went to my room. But my foot felt none better.

That night the devil really roared at me. He seemed to say, "You thought you were smart bringing the Gospel down here but now I've got you. You are going to die, or at the very least you will lose that leg!" After a bit of this I got out of my bed and knelt and had some very serious prayer of my own asking our Father to give me the faith for this. I believe I also reminded Him that I didn't just come down here for enjoyment. I sincerely believed He had sent me to carry the truth of the Gospel to these people. After a good season of prayer I felt He had heard me so I got back into my bed and finally went to sleep although the foot was still throbbing, hot and hurting. Finally I drifted off to sleep.

When I awoke, around sunrise the next morning, I greeted our Lord as usual and I felt He asked me how my foot was now. Suddenly I realized there was no pain or heat to be felt in that foot and I picked it up and looked at the wound. Praise His holy name there was nothing to be seen but a little black puncture mark. The infection was completely gone and so was the pain! The foot was completely healed during the night.

Saints take courage! Our Father has lost none of His almighty power. He is still very able to part waters for us to go through or make pure water flow from the rock and He can easily overcome all the dark powers that satan would throw upon us. Didn't our Lord say, "... If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth..." Mark 9:23. Let us pray then for more faith that we may obtain all the promises He has given. Please pray for me also that I might be everything He desires me to be.

—Bro. Jim Broker



Charles E. Harris, 90, was released from this life Wednesday, March 2, 2005, by the Creator of all things. Charlie was born to Charles M. and M. Marie Zahrend Harris on September 27, 1914, southeast of Grinnell, KS. The summer before his fifteenth birthday, he carried a great-great aunt out of her still burning house. The next summer he and Harold worked together to get a friend of Charlie's out of the swimming hole alive. He married Alta Wilma Marken near Oakley, KS, Nov. 28, 1937, at her parent's home. She became his wife for 55 years. Charlie started in the hog business while in high school, added the cattle business shortly after graduating and then soon started farming. He went through the depression of 1929 and the drought and dust storms of the 1920's. The 1937 wheat crop failed to pay the harvest bill. They went to Fort Collins, CO to work in an orchard through 1939 when they came through Twin Falls, ID and saw three big hay stacks on little patches and decided this was the place. He returned to the farming and cattle business until he retired.

Charlie was saved after coming to Idaho and served the Lord as a Sunday School teacher, song leader and in many other ways. He was also active in local affairs and was instrumental in getting work crews together to help neighbors who had been injured or were sick and could not work.

Wilma and Charles were blessed with one son, Alvin, and the friendship of many young people full of the zip of life. Two of them, Clifford York of Australia and Eddie Wilson of Oregon were almost like sons. He also had a blood kin by transfusion, son Leroy Scantlin of Jerome, ID. Alvin and his wife Patricia gave them one grandson, Tracy, and two granddaughters, Jeannie and Teresa. Tracy and Shelly produced a great-grandson and great-granddaughter;

Jeannie and Mike, two great-grandsons, and Teresa and John, a great-granddaughter. All of them gave us many fond memories.

Wilma preceded Charlie in death in 1992. In 1993, Ruby Mae Marken became Charlie's God-given wife as a helpmate in both of their older years. He is survived by his wife, Ruby; son Alvin (Pat) Harris of Twin Falls, ID; his grandchildren and their spouses, his great-grandchildren and sisters, Helen of Ohio and Ruth of California. He was preceded in death by brothers, Harold and Eugene, brother-in-law, Donald, sisters-in-law Velma and Zelda, both parents and all aunts and uncles.

Funeral services for Charles Harris were conducted March 8, 2005, at White Mortuary, "Chapel by the Park" with Pastors Jerry Kester and John Sander officiating. Interment followed at Sunset Memorial Park.

ID—Dear Bro. Willie and co-workers: Greetings! The Lord has been so good to us and how we do rejoice in His love. We want to thank you for your prayers for they have surely given strength and help in the time of need.
Love and prayers,

—Sis. Ruby M. (Marken) Harris

Ruth Evelyn McMakin was born April 18, 1926 in Webb City, MO to John Perry Strech and Ella Mae Burrows-Strech. She passed from this life on February 14, 2005 at the age of 78 years at her home in Shawnee, OK. She attended school in Neosho, MO. Ruth married Bill McMakin on April 12, 1942 in Neosho. She and Bill later moved to Shawnee where they reared four children.

Ruth was a member of the Church of God and attended services at the chapel on South Gordon Cooper Drive in Shawnee. She loved God and enjoyed teaching Sunday school and writing poetry.

She is survived by her husband, Bill McMakin of the home; two daughters: Linda and David Souder of Keller, TX and Edee Jane and Steve Elwell of Vancouver, WA; two sons: Matthew McMakin of Overland Park, KS and Mark and Rhonda McMakin; 14 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents. Sis. Ruth was the last of nine children.

Services were held Saturday, February 19, 2005 at Gaskill Funeral Chapel. Officiating were Bros. Michael Smith, Wayne Murphey, Steve Elwell and Carl Shaffer.

Note of Thanks

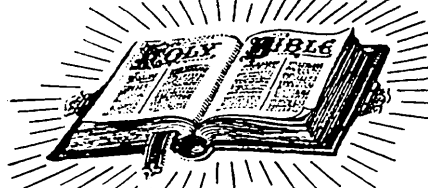
While our family personally grieves for our Mom, and Dad, his wife of nearly 64 years, we are comforted in knowing she is with Jesus and the angels. Our family was all with Mom the last few days of her life and will forever be grateful for that time together. Thanks to all who prayed for us, sent flowers and condolences. Please continue to remember us in your prayers. Thanks to God for His mercy and love.

—Bill McMakin, Linda Souder, Jane Elwell, Matt McMakin and Mark McMakin

Just as the mighty ocean sends forth its waters into the clouds which are poured upon the dry, thirsty land and causes springs of water to flow forth and form themselves into streams and rivers which concentrate and make one great river flowing onward to the ocean, so God, who is represented by an ocean, pours out His Spirit upon mankind, causing streams of joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance and these all flow together and form one mighty river, called perfect peace, which empties itself into God from whence it came.

—John C. Blaney

Bible Lessons



"Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, we are CHANGED" II Cor. 3:18

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