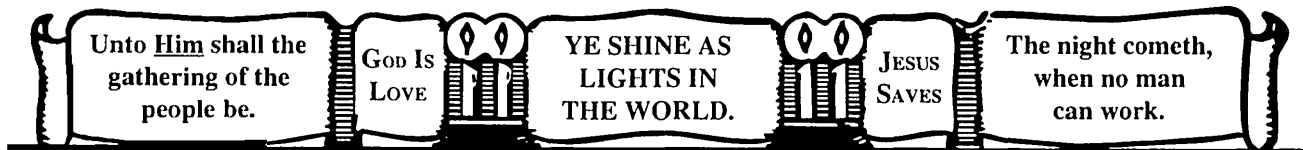


FAITH AND VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



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The Lord's Prayer

By Sis. Marsha Corteway

"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." Matthew 6:9-13.

Prayer is the language of dependence on God. Anyone who prays not is endeavoring to live independently of God. Prayer is not designed to inform God, but to give man insight of his need and dependence on God. Prayer humbles our hearts toward God, excites our desire for God and righteousness and God's Word. It is given to us to raise our soul from earth to heaven, to remind us that there is a

God and that we have an inheritance of heaven as our hope as we live and obey God.

"...Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." "Father" placed here at the beginning of this prayer includes two ideas which should serve as a foundation to all of our petitions. First, that tender and respectful love which we should feel for God, such as that which children feel for their fathers. Second, strong confidence in God's love for us such as fathers have for their children. The phrase, "*Our Father which art in heaven,*" was very common among the ancient Jews. This phrase in the Scriptures seems used to express His omnipresence. "...the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee;..." His majesty and dominion over His creation, His infinite purity and holiness, Thou art "...the High and lofty one that inhabiteth eternity; whose name is Holy...."

"Hallowed" comes from the word *Hagiazo*, a thing separated from the earth or from earthly purposes and employment. The word *sanctified* is frequently used for the consecration of a thing or person to a Holy use or office. *Holy* or *sacred*, honored as our Holy Father. *Reverence for God*, an attitude of deep respect, love and awe as for something sacred, bowing to God as an act of worship. God is to be worshiped and bowed down to with prayer to Him. God is an immortal Deity, having special powers over our lives and the course of nature. Our God is

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excessively honored and admired and loved. He is our Creator and Ruler of the universe.

"Thy name" that is, God Himself is to be hallowed—His power, wisdom, justice and mercy. We hallow God's name with our lips when all of our conversation is holy. In our thoughts when we suppress every rising evil. In our lives when we begin, continue and end our works to His glory. With our families when we endeavor to bring up our children in the discipline and admonition of the Lord.

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done." When the Kingdom of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit is established in the heart, there is then an ample provision made for the fulfillment of the Divine will.

"As it is in heaven." Salvation is two wills conjoined, the will of God and the will of man. II Peter 3:9 says that God is, "...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." If man will not accept the salvation of God that was prepared for him, he cannot be delivered from his sins. This points to a deliverance from sin. Nothing that is unholy can consist with the Divine will. If God and His holy will is fulfilled in man, sin is banished from his soul.

We should worship God as the angels do in heaven. "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:13-14. Our worship should be with all zeal, diligence, love, delight and perseverance. Does not this prayer plainly imply that we may live without sinning against God? Thy will be done "in earth," as it is in heaven. That is, in our flesh, we can live free from sin. Notice the verse says "in" earth not "on" earth. We may have the sweet Holy Spirit indwelling our mortal bodies, keeping us free from sin. Romans 6:12 says, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body,..."

"Our daily bread." "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." John 6:35. As God provides our natural daily bread, He has also provision for our daily spiritual needs. Bread is sufficient for our sustenance and support, that

quantity of food which is necessary to support our health and strength by being changed into the substance of our bodies.

"Forgive us our debts." Our sins which were many, they are called debts. God made man that he might live to His glory, and gave him a law to walk by. If or when man does anything that tends not to glorify God, man contracts a debt with Divine justice. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9.

"As we forgive our debtors." As "we" forgive our debtors, according to Matthew 6:14-15, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

"Lead us not into temptation." Bring us not into sore trial, sorely afflictive circumstances, none of which we have as yet grace or fortitude sufficient to bear. Bring us not in or lead us not into temptation. "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man." James 1:13. Although we may have various trials while living earthly lives and are tested in many ways our gracious God is always leading us on and not giving us more than we are able to bear.

"Deliver us from evil." "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." II Timothy 4:18. "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call." Joel 2:32.

"Amen." The Hebrew word signifies faithful or true. It also means "may it be so," or "so it is." Amen is used after a prayer to express approval.

The Lord's prayer is very short according to verses and yet so meaningful to our lives, covering all areas. Our God is a wise, caring and powerful heavenly Father. Matthew 6:8 says "Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him." Amen.

An Eternal Being In Our Hands

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

Let us consider some important Biblical reasons for training children. Every child is born with a soul that will live forever. (Genesis 1:26-27.) This soul must give account to God for the deeds done while living in the body. Jesus said in Matthew 12:36-37, "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

Do we realize how serious it is to train a child? We are not dealing only with today and this life. A quick fix for today's frustrations may help a parent but what does it do for the child's soul? Close your eyes and ask God to help you project your mind out into eternity. Then ask, "How will what I am doing today affect him or her in eternity?" Make a note of what God shows you and refer to it often. We have the responsibility of an eternal being in our hands. May God grant us wisdom above and beyond our own human wisdom to lead our children to God. Our job is to gently lead or draw—like a magnet—our children to the Savior. Then their names will be written in the Book of Life.

Revelation 20:12-15 gives a picture of the end of the world. "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.... And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Also verses 21:27 and 22:15 of Revelation gives a list of some sins that will keep people from entering into heaven.

Each of our children will be there on that final judgment day. Will God say to one of our children, "...Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:" or will He say "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you

from the foundation of the world?" (Matthew 25:34, 41.)

Parents must keep in mind they are training the heart. The heart is of the mind, will and emotions. It is those parts which makes the decisions to serve God's spirit or to gratify the desires of the flesh. The desire of the flesh for continual and immediate gratification begins at birth, therefore the need for cultivating self-control in your child also begins at birth. We train this heart by teaching God's character. One way to begin doing this is by singing or talking about God while you feed or dress your newborn. Don't think for a minute that your baby doesn't record your voice when you sing or talk. Babies, within the first year, understand most of our communication although they cannot verbalize an answer to us. Many mothers are teaching their babies simple sign language before they can talk. This decreases much frustration for both mother and baby. It also shows that babies do understand.

The primary focus in early training is the child's heart and not simply outward behavior, but we train the heart by insisting on correct outward behavior long before the child is capable of understanding the Biblical concepts. Children first learn how to act correctly and then they learn how to think Godly. Adults act on what they believe, but in childhood actions precede believing. External pressure is necessary to bring about acceptable behavior in small children. The first five years parents must concentrate on bringing the child into submission and obedience. If this is done, many children will begin to realize just how difficult it is to control themselves and will want to ask Jesus into their heart to make obeying easier.

Consistency is of uppermost importance throughout childhood training because children equate the parent (especially the father) to God. The child will believe that God rewards or disciplines inconsistently as parents do; if allowed to indulge in certain activities at one time and not at another. The child becomes frustrated about the eternal justice of God. He perceives that God shows love according to His whims and that God will also overlook sin

(Continued on page 12.)

FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

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Single copy, one year \$5.00
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Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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.

In order to comply with Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

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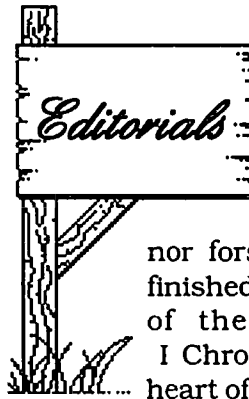
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"And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee,

nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD."

I Chronicles 28:20. It was in the heart of David to build a house for a sanctuary of the Lord but the Lord spoke through the prophet Nathan telling David that it would be his son who would build His house. It had been four hundred and eighty years since the children of Israel were brought out of Egyptian bondage and during this time the Lord had dwelt in a tent and a tabernacle and walked with the children of Israel. Prior to the death of David this instruction was given to Solomon along with the plans and vision for the temple God had revealed to David by His Spirit. David knew that his son would need this encouragement to properly finish this sanctuary for the Lord.

When Solomon began to reign, he realized the need he had of wisdom from God and when the opportunity was given him in a dream to ask anything of the Lord, an understanding heart to judge His people was the request. This request pleased the Lord. God granted this request and He also gave him both riches and honor. Later in his reign the queen of Sheba came to see if the things she had heard about Solomon were true and to prove him with hard questions. According to her own words she said, "...It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard." I Kings 10:6-7.

Through the strength, wisdom and blessing of the Lord I Kings 6: 14 says, "So Solomon built the house, and finished it." In the sixth chapter of II Chronicles Solomon offered a very soul-stirring prayer to the Lord in the dedication of the temple that had been built. II Chronicles 7:1-2 says, "Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house. And the priests could not enter into the house

of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD'S house." What a joyous occasion this was. All of the labor and sacrifice that had gone into this building was now crowned with the glory and presence of the God of heaven and earth. In Solomon's prayer it was stated, "But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!" II Chronicles 6:18. While this literal building was a beautiful work of art and thrilled the hearts of the people it could only contain a measure of God's glorious majesty, but what a wonderful blessing it was to those who lived in that day.

Today each of us needs the same comfort that comes from the counsel David gave Solomon for we too are given a plan and commission to build a temple for the Lord to dwell in. This temple is not a literal building but it is the temple of our heart that dwells in these literal, mortal bodies. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*" I Corinthians 6:19-20. It will take great courage, strength, wisdom and determination to go against the current trends of this world and allow God to create a holy temple that He will be pleased to fill with His precious glory. But it is God's plan for your life, and the glory of His Holy Spirit dwelling within us is worth every effort that we make to prepare our hearts. The sinful, lustful passions of the flesh must be cast out to make room for this heavenly structure. Room must be made for Christ, the King of Glory, to reign within our being and He will not come live in a pile of wicked rubbish. All that the world had to offer Him was a stable when He came to this earth but when He comes into the temple of our hearts we must provide something better than an inferior position. We must give Him our best, our all. How thankful we are that He has provided a way through repentance and the sacrifice He made for mankind to purge our hearts with His blood and wash our sins away. Even though our sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow. The application of this cleansing power to our hearts is what makes us fit for His presence and a total consecration and surrender of our will puts us in a state of readiness for the glory of His Holy Spirit to enter our

temple. Then we can become useful in His kingdom.

Let us, "...Be strong and of good courage and do it..." Too many people are procrastinating and God is not pleased. The promises of God are not for those who are weak-hearted and unfaithful. Well, yes there are some promises for those who are fearful and unbelieving, but they are not the kind of promises that we want to have a part of. (Revelation 21:8) God has a much better plan for us and we need to be busy with implementing it in our life. It accomplishes nothing to be strong and have good courage if we are still not "doing it." Let us be faithful servants of the Lord for when we are doing His will the promise is that "...God will be with thee, he will not fail thee nor forsake thee..."

When the glory of the Lord fills these earthly temples there are wonderful changes that take place. It is easy for our fellowman to observe the difference and those who have never experienced the transformation for themselves can not really understand why there is so much change. The new creation of God is evident in every aspect of our lives. Where one had been living only for themselves, they now are living for God and are interested in doing what is right. Their actions begin to be governed by the wisdom they obtain from God and His Holy Word. While many of these changes take place in justification the fullness of His power and glory are realized in a sanctified experience when the Holy Spirit is freely reigning within a pure heart. Let His glory dwell and shine in your life today.

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The Lord has blessed us to reprint the book *Bible Readings for Bible Students and for the Home and Fireside* by S. L. Speck and H. M. Riggle. Every child of God should have this useful book as a companion resource for the Bible. It's 432 pages contain an excellent Scriptural reference outline of doctrines taught in the Word of God. It is a handy reference for teachers and ministers of the Gospel as well as those who are seeking to have a better understanding of the Bible. It is also useful for personal and family devotions and those who have a thirst for the sincere milk of the Word as well as those with an appetite for its strong meat. A copy of this heavy paper bound volume is available for \$8.00 plus \$1.70 shipping for mailed copies.

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A limited number of bound volumes of the 11 issues of the *Faith and Victory* for the year

2005 will soon be available for \$5.00 plus \$1.40 shipping on mailed copies. Bound volumes of the junior edition of *The Beautiful Way* paper for 2005 will also be available for the same price. This volume will contain the 52 weekly junior Sunday School papers. If you would like either of these heavy paper bound volumes, please let us know and reserve your copy early to assure delivery. You may call our offices at 1-800-767-1479 to place your order.

Our heart overflows with gratitude for the love that the saints have expressed toward this work for the Lord during the past year. The letters, articles and testimonies you have sent have truly been a blessing to us personally and many readers in distant places have also been blessed. The printed word has the unique ability to reach into places and be a positive influence on souls that otherwise may never have been touched and we are thrilled to be a part of advancing the Lord's kingdom with you. We are also grateful for those who have helped shoulder the great financial aspects of this work of faith. Without your dedication to the Lord and your heart being tuned to hear the still small voice of His Spirit this work could not have continued to spread the gospel to as many precious souls. May our heavenly Father warm the hearts of His people and allow the cords of love to draw us closer to Him and to each other as we labor for the Master. The joyful news of our Savior is worth proclaiming to all mankind. Two thousand years have not caused the soul-transforming power of the gospel message to be diminished in power or beauty. Let it forever ring in our hearts. "Salvation echoes sounding, From angel choirs above, Thro' all the world resounding, Their notes are full of love."

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

Kindness

*Do you wish the world were better?
Let me tell you what to do
Set a watch upon your actions
Keep them always straight and true
Rid your mind of selfish motives
Let your thoughts be clean and high
You can make a little Eden
Of the sphere you occupy.*

*Do you wish the world were happy?
Then remember day by day
Just to scatter seeds of kindness
As you pass along the way
For the pleasures of many
Are oft traced to one
As the hand that plants the acorn
Shelters armies from the sun"*

—Submitted by Sis. Betty Herron



OK—Remember my family in prayer.

—Sis. Mary O. Jones

LA—I have Parkinson's disease. Please pray for me.

—Sis. Gladys Harper

OH—Please pray for the problem I am having with my eyes.

—Sis. Betty Goldstein

KY—Remember my daughter, Lucinda, in prayer. She is suffering from heavy depression and needs the Lord.

—Sis. Kay Griffitt

Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Carlos Arriaga
Sis. Mamie Butcher
Sis. Helen Carson
Sis. Waneta Creel
Sis. Charlotte Dilliner
Sis. Evelyn Fredrickson
Bro. Troy Gentry
Bro. Robert Hetland
Bro. Doyle LaCroix
The Lounds Sisters
Sis. Marie Mitchell
Sis. Melba Powell
Sis. Anna Severs
Sis. Catherine Shaffer
The Mitch Taylor family
Sis. Velda Wisner

MEETING DATES

Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—Dec. 23-Jan. 1

California State (Pacoima)—Dec. 28-Jan. 1

MEETING NOTICES

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held at Guthrie, OK, from December 23 to January 1. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U.S. The first service will be held Friday evening, December 23, at 7:30 p.m. Daily worship services throughout the remainder of the meeting will start at 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. There will also be morning prayer services and youth services, the time of which will be announced at the meeting.

The campgrounds are 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. All who come will be cared for. The expenses of the meeting will be met by freewill offerings.

We especially urge the saints in Oklahoma and the surrounding states to attend this meeting. Come praying with a burden for the unsaved and for all those who need help in soul and body. Please send all contributions for the coming State Assembly Meeting directly to the State Treasurer, Sister Brenda Wilkins, 1023 E. Prairie Grove Rd., Guthrie, OK 73044.

To obtain further information about the meeting, contact the pastor, Bro. Stanley Dickson (405) 260-8822.

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

We would like to welcome everyone to the California State Assembly Meeting, which will convene on Wednesday, December 28, 2005 and go through Sunday, January 1, 2006 at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA 91331. There will be three services daily. Since Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, those of you in the area are invited to worship with the Pacoima congregation on Christmas Day. Monday and Tuesday, December 26-27, have been designated as statewide days of prayer for the Assembly Meeting. Prayer meetings and/or services may be held on those days if a sufficient number of people are present and interested. Please

come praying that the presence of God will meet us during this time. For more information, please contact the Sunset Guest Home at (818) 899-2022, Bro. Paul Phillips at (661) 251-6956 or Bro. Herbert Clay at (818) 897-1396.

MEETING REPORTS

HOLLY HILL, SC

The Lord blessed our October meeting with many wonderful messages, and it was so refreshing to see the different saints who came to attend. We had a sisters' meeting that was especially precious and beneficial to our souls. We want to thank all who came and also everyone who prayed for our meeting. God really met us and blessed us, and we give Him all the glory.

In Christ, —The Holly Hill, SC Congregation

"Are All the Children In?"

*I think ofttimes, as the night draws nigh,
Of an old house on the hill,
Of a yard all wide and blossom-starred,
Where the children played at will.
And when the night at last came down,
Hushing the merry din,
Mother would look all around and ask,
"Are all the children in?"*

*'Tis many and many a year since then,
And the old house on the hill
No longer echoes to childish feet,
And the yard is still, so still.
But I see it all as the shadows creep,
And though many the years have been
Since then, I can hear the mother ask,
"Are all the children in?"*

*I wonder if when the shadows fall,
On the last, short earthly day,
When we say good-bye to the world outside,
All tired with our childish play,
When we meet the Lover of boys and girls,
Whose own we have always been,
Will we hear Him ask as Mother did,
"Are all the children in?"*

—Author Unknown

—Submitted by Genevieve Carver



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings to you in the lovely name of Jesus our Lord who gave Himself for us that we might have everlasting life. This life begins when we receive Jesus into our hearts. Jesus tell us in John 10:10, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Another scripture says, "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ." Romans 5:17. Another blessed scripture says, "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." II Corinthians 4:7.

Thank God for His unspeakable gift. (II Corinthians 9:15.) That gift is the Holy Spirit or Christ in us, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:27.)

Your brother, washed in His blood,
—T. V. McMillian

Dear Saints: We are glad to be able to tell of the goodness of God. In August I was so sick and had serious physical problems, but our Physician heard your earnest prayers and came to my rescue with a healing touch and He has extended our stay here a while longer. I cannot thank God enough for what He is and has been to me. Neither am I able to tell it all. I highly recommend living for God and am fully persuaded that His way is not only best, but it is right.

One writer wrote that it was not so hard to get people interested in the plan of salvation, but that it was harder to keep them interested. I want to not only be interested but fully persuaded. Things come and go but we don't need to become discouraged. God allows "seasons" in our lives. His desire is that He can see us growing strong in these seasons of life. It seems most everyone you talk with have heartache in some form. The list seems endless, cancer, heart attack, strokes, alcohol, drugs, depression, divorce, spouse abuse, child abuse, ha-

tred, envy, disobedient children, conflicts in families, alternative lifestyles and atheism.

It seems the last two I mentioned are making inroads with force. Whatever comes in our "season" may the Lord help us to grow stronger. We appreciate those who are being faithful in their afflictions, trials and tests of life. We need each other so much. May the bond of love be stronger and stronger among God's people.

Again I want to express my appreciation for your prayers, love, cards and phone calls. They meant so much. These are so valuable to those in trouble, whatever the burden is.

We earnestly desire your prayers. I want to be faithful to God and do what little I can to be a friend to mankind.
—Sis. Leta Inman

Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings tonight, trusting all is well with you and your family.

Listen, have you had to smile to yourself when the Lord spoke softly and changed your plans? Let me tell you what happened to me, I received a statement from the bank the other day and was surprised to see the little interest increase on my account. So, I started planning on something for self when this voice gave me to know that you can send some of that to mission work. That is when I smiled and plans for self stopped.

Thanks always for prayers. Sincerely yours,
—Sis. Johnnye Lee Johnson

CA—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: I trust all are doing well at the Lord's Print Shop. I am happy to report that I am saved and sanctified and marveling at the mercy of our dear Lord Jesus. I was saved once before in my late thirties, but, not being sanctified, I lost my way. My soul is finally satisfied and I'm heaven bound! I'm so deeply thankful for my precious parents' prayers for me through the years that kept me alive and brought me to salvation. Their lives have been absolutely above reproach and I can truly rise up and call them blessed!

The anguish and sorrow I lived with through the years has at last been replaced with deep down joy and peace. Nothing or no one can take that away from me. Oh, praise His blessed name! I do so very much enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper. It just seems that a month is a long time to wait for the next one. They are so uplifting and informative. I have you all in my prayers and ask that you remember me in yours as I need complete healing in my body.

I thank you and all the saints for your prayers for my family and myself when my beloved mother was taken home. I marvel at how wonderfully our dear Lord has helped Daddy. He is ninety years old and he is like a man much younger. Yours in Christ,

—Sis. Dorthy J. Montoya (Harmon)

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From India...

November 25, 2005—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey and dear saints abroad. Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. Thank you for your letter dated November 12 and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude.

We had plenty of rain this year, and not many calamities in our area. Thank God for His provisions and protections. Church activities are going on fine. Saints in Meghalaya State are also doing fine. We are getting ready for our 41st General Convention during the second week of January 2006. Please continue to remember our needs in your prayers. Our prayers are for the growth of the kingdom of God in every nook and corner of the world. The night comes when no one can work. Let us lift up our hearts and pray; lift up our eyes and see the urgency of the harvest; lift up our hands to work and give. Let us exchange our prayers.

Yours in Him,

—Bro. John Varghese



Curtis Williams was born October 20, 1930 in Sandy Hook, KY to John Henry and Mary Elizabeth (Green) Williams. He was called to his eternal home at 2:20 a.m. on November 14, 2005 at his residence near Guthrie, OK at the age of 75, following an extended illness.

Curtis married Burnice Miller on March 15, 1949 in Sandy Hook, KY and to this union two

sons and six daughters were born. At the age of 27, Curtis was born into the Church of God and was later called into the ministry in the evangelistic field for several years.

He was enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was honorably discharged in 1951. After leaving the Marines, he worked for General Motors and Master Electric in Dayton, OH. He enjoyed flying and was a flight instructor. He also enjoyed farming while raising his family in Morehead, KY.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Blanch Stephens; three brothers, Robert, Darrell and Junior; one daughter Marsha Lynn and one great-granddaughter, Tisha Sallee.

Curtis is survived by his wife, Burnice, of the home; two sons, Mark Williams and wife, Janell, of Fairview, OK and Curtis Ray Williams and wife, Karen, of Sapulpa, OK; Five daughters, Beverly Brown and husband, Randy, of Nicholasville, KY, Brenda Wilkins and husband, Delmar, of Guthrie, OK, Karen LaCroix and husband, Glenn, of Loranger, LA, Ruth Pruitt and husband, Tracy, of Guthrie, OK and Tonya Wagoner and husband, John, of Staunton, VA.

He is also survived by 18 wonderful grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren; one brother, Ersille Williams of Christiansburg, OH; and two sisters, Beulah Gray of Lebanon, OH and Ann Little of Flat Rock, NC.

Funeral services were held on November 17, 2005 at the Church of God chapel with Bro. Stanley Dickson, Bro. Toney Samons and Bro. Larry Abbott officiating. Honoree pallbearers were Bro. Dan Gellenbeck, Bro. Ted Bock and Bro. Glen Inman. Internment followed at Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie, OK.

Our Thanks

We, the Curtis Williams family, wish to express our deepest appreciation to everyone that stood by us through these many years of our Husband and Father's illness. Your support has been very uplifting and sustaining. We cannot say enough about all the love and support, calls, cards, food abundantly and flowers given to us at his passing. We humbly thank each of you.

How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. Psalm 36:7

Confirmation Of The Lord

Revised for print from a message delivered by Bro. Michael Williamson.

It is important to stow away things that the Lord shares with you. Sometimes the Lord pays you an ongoing visit where you sit and meditate and write down the thoughts as they come to you. It seems like one thing leads to another; a chain of events that happen. When it is over, you can look back and see how the Lord had a little message for you, some special Scripture, or some things He wanted you to know. He has spent some time with you. Then there are times when the Lord comes by with a rapid-fire visit and you can't write fast enough to put it all down so you can go back and meditate on it. Again, it was the Lord that visited.

We call on the Lord to be with us in circumstances of life or to bless our day. When He does come by, it's very important that we pay attention and take note that He has visited us and been there for us. There are probably times in your life when it seems like you go through a dry place. You ask, "Lord, where are You? I've heard Your voice before, but this is getting to be almost like a desert." You pray but still don't know just what the problem is. You begin to search your life—Is there something wrong with me? Have I allowed some things to come in to where the Lord doesn't feel welcome or comfortable?

But the Lord also has some other things in mind. He wants us to have faith in Him, believe in Him, have confidence in our experience with Him and trust His ability to hold us even when we aren't feeling like He is setting the world on fire around us, because it is not always that way.

In Luke 24:13-39 it tells about one of those times, when the disciples were on the road to Emmaus. They had already seen the world "set on fire" around them and they were walking through a pretty dry place.

At one time, Jesus sent the disciples out and they came back saying, "What things we've seen! We cast out devils, saw people healed and saw the devil on the run." That was a pretty good time. A powerful time. It was easy to feel upbeat and happy when those things were going on. But, Jesus said, "... rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."

When we are holding on to the Lord and putting our trust and confidence in Him, it's

important to realize that we can still have a relationship with Him that will carry us through those places where we are not seeing all the action around us. We are so prone to forget how wonderful it has been when things are not going so well at the moment.

In Luke 24:13-21, they were thinking about the things that the Lord had told them and the instructions He had given; it says, "And they talked together of all these things which had happened." About that time He said, "...Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." He had told them that He would be raised on that third day. They said, "we thought this might be the Christ." He said, "I am" *the Christ*.

There was some common information shared about who this person was—this man that they had seen, talked with, heard teach and saw hanging on the cross. They saw how dark the sky turned when the time came for Him to yield up the ghost. They felt the earthquake. They heard the Roman soldier confess, "...Truly this was the Son of God." No doubt they heard about the veil in the temple being rent in twain. What fear all the sights and sounds that happened that day must have placed on them.

(Luke 24:22-23.) Now isn't this something! The women went to the sepulchre and found His body was gone. And the angels said He was alive. He had said it would be that way. He had told them that this is what they could expect and to be looking for it. How did they respond? "But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel:..." We thought that He was the Christ; that He was going to be the One. This was the third day when all the things He said would come to pass should come to pass. What else did they need? Why is it that humanity has to have such positive affirmations and proofs of God? Maybe God wants to teach and instruct you about some needs or damages in your life. He works with you for awhile and then leaves you with the things He has given, allowing you an opportunity to think about them and to address them in your heart. Or, maybe you don't have any special need before Him. He pays you an unexpected, rapid-fire visit that you can hardly contain and you do not know how to put it to use. In both instances it

was the Lord who came by and paid you a visit. Why is it that we must have this so frequently? Why can't we have confidence that He is going to walk with us even when we don't feel those blessed, heavily anointed visits from the Lord?

What we need to do is to lock the Lord's visits away in our hearts and minds, and know that He did pay me a visit. He did come see me. He did come sit beside me and affirm some things to me. I know it had to be the Lord, because none other could reach me like He did that day.

That is exactly what the Lord Jesus did. None other could reach humanity like He did. No other man had been able to impact society like He had and the disciples knew it. But, He said rejoice not in that you saw the devils subject or in the things you see. Rejoice that your names are written in heaven! How much we need the confidence that our names are written in the Book of Life, and that even if we never again feel the Lord's presence in our lives, if we live true and faithful, that will take us to heaven.

"But their eyes were holden that they should not know him." Why was it this way? Did the Lord have a lesson that He wanted to teach them? "...And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him;..." Very likely this was a scene they had seen before and it took something like this to jog their memories. Was it His words, His mannerisms?

How many times have you had your eyes opened when you have seen a certain little mannerism? Maybe you were going through what felt like the darkest place and hour of your life and all of a sudden something hit you and you realized, He is right here. All this time that I was walking this long road to Emmaus and thinking over my woes, disappointments, hurts and sorrows: He was right there and I didn't even know it.

Jesus had tried to give them confirmation of who He was before these events took place. He tried to explain and impart it to them, but they had difficulty comprehending it all. We do too, because we are human flesh. We know that the Lord is. God is. Jesus is. We know He is the Savior. We know the Holy Spirit is. But, sometimes we find ourselves in the same place as the one who came before the Lord and the Lord said, "...If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." And he said, "...With

tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." We find ourselves in the place where we say, "I do believe. I know the Word of God is true, but sometimes I don't understand and can't see clearly. Even the disciples' eyes were holden and they didn't know who You were. But Lord, I know You visited me in the past. Help me, Lord, to draw upon these experiences I've had with You and know that You were there and that You exist and that You are going to be here for me. My heart burned within me when You came and sat beside me and we spent time together and when You came with that rapid-fire visit that I couldn't fully contain. I know, Lord, that You were there and my heart burned within me then."

Confirmation of the Lord; how beautiful it is! We deal with questions and feelings like Job did when he said, "Behold, I go forward, but he is not *there*; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold *him*: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see *him*: But he knoweth the way that I take: *when* he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:8-10. We must have the attitude of heart, frame of mind and constitution that whenever we don't know, see or understand that we are still going to keep getting on our knees and calling on God. We will still keep looking to His Word, because we know that it might be that He is right here beside us and we do not even see Him.

We can say of the disciples, "This is so foolish. Shouldn't they have known this was the Lord? All the evidences, prophecies, teachings and all He said would happen..." It's so easy to question and doubt and to have a level of unbelief. How important it is to draw on those times when, like they said, "...Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way,..."

The Lord is special and precious to us. He wants to be everything He can possibly be to you. Don't be dismayed. Don't be discouraged. Maybe you are going through dry places—situations where you don't really understand all that is going on. These disciples were going through a dry place. Everything they had put their trust and confidence in and all that Jesus—their Teacher, Rabbi, Master, Deliverer, Messiah—had meant to them had been taken from them. After all they witnessed at His crucifixion,

it sure looked like it was over with from their vantage point. It's no wonder that they did not recognize Him; He is dead. It can't be Him. We saw Him in the tomb.

How much it will mean for us to take advantage of those special visits and to file them away for a later time. Draw on those experiences when you are going through dry places. He said He would be with us and He will be. "...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5. "...and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:20. Our responsibility is to stay in a place where the Lord is pleased to be there for us and with us.



An Eternal Being In Our Hands

(Continued from page 3.)

according to His mood. What an awful deception! That deception can be learned in a Christian home from inconsistent parenting.

The bottom line in early training is self-control. It influences kindness, sharing, gentleness, proper speech, anger, concentrating, focusing, the ability to sit quietly and many other behaviors. Humanists believe that the creativity of a child is hindered by self-control but the opposite is true. The child who learns early to control his emotions will be able to produce the creative ideas that come into his mind. Without self-control the idea often dies in the making when the going gets tough.

Every parent's goal should be to raise a morally responsible child who comes to salvation in Jesus Christ, whose life is governed by the precepts of God, and one who reflects the love of Christ. The absence of self-control and knowledge of Biblical values hinders this, while the presence of Biblical values and self-restraint aids the process. Knowledge of God's laws is not a substitute for regeneration. However, it will aid greatly in helping your regenerated child to conform to God's standards. Parents are to act as governors in the child's life until the child is capable of rightly governing himself. God holds parents responsible for their children's actions. At what age are parents no more responsible? I do not know. Eli was held accountable for the actions of his grown sons. (Read I Samuel 3:12-14, also Deuteronomy 21:18-20.)

God must always be number one in our personal life. Each child is different and must be dealt with according to the leadings of the Lord. We must stay close to God ourselves and be attentive to the impressions we feel in our soul. Sometimes God will show us how to handle a problem through His Word, sometimes in a dream, by counsel from another, most often by our knowledge of where the offensive action may lead or sometimes by an uneasy feeling. The only way to be able to deal with child rearing problems in God's way is by having God's presence.

Although the parents are in many ways responsible for their children's actions, every person "...shall give account of himself to God." Romans 14:12. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son:..." Ezekiel 18:20. Read all of Ezekiel 18. Then let us do all we can so that when "...the spirit shall return unto God who gave it" that God will say to our son or daughter, "...Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you...."

Time is Eternity Begun Mother's Love

Blest infant! Whom his mother taught
Early to seek the Lord,
And poured upon his dawning thought
This was the lesson to her son,
Time is Eternity begun.
Behold, that is a Mother's love.

Blest Mother! Who, in wisdom's path,
By her own parent trod,
Thus taught her son to flee the wrath,
And know the fear of God:
Ah, Youth! Like her enjoy your prime.
Begin eternity in time.
Taught by that Mother's love.

That Mother's love! How sweet the name!
What was that Mother's love?
The noblest, purest, kindest flame,
That kindles from above,
Within a heart of earthly mold,
As much of heaven as heart can hold,
Nor through eternity grows old.
That's the true Mother's love.

SPIRITUAL BALLAST

The large ocean steamers have a large roomy place in the lower part of the vessel, under the water, that before every voyage is supposed to be well laden with heavy cargo. The cargo in this part of the vessel is called "ballast." This ballast adds nothing to the beauty of the vessel as the foundation adds nothing to the beauty of the house. But as the foundation steadies the house in the storms, so the ballast of the ocean liner steadies the vessel in the rough seas. Two of our ocean voyages very clearly illustrate this thought. One was on a vessel without ballast, and when we entered the strong winds and rough seas the boat would lie first on one side and then on the other making the passengers seasick, uncomfortable and unsafe. On the other voyage a heavy cargo was placed in the bottom of the ship giving it a good ballast, and though the ballast was shut away from the view of the passengers, it caused the ship to sail smoothly throughout the entire voyage.

Now we are on a long voyage on the ocean of life, and must sail through many rough seas, false doctrines, discouraging and confusing elements. For our vessel to plow safely through these rough seas without being tossed "to and fro" causing us much suffering from soul confusion and endangering our spiritual life, our vessel must be well ballasted with all the attributes of God. Jesus declares that the hearer of His Word who keeps it, obeys it in his everyday life, is like the man who digs deep and lays the foundation of his house on a rock. He says that the floods and storms though they beat vehemently against it will not be able to shake it "for it is founded upon a rock." Likewise the soul who carefully and diligently walks in all the light of God's Word, becomes a well ballasted soul and will sail smoothly among the strong waves and rough billows and through the severest storms on the ocean of life. "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, ... That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." Through these workers that He gives and through the blessed Word and Spirit we get light, encouragement and a clearer knowledge of God's will. Then if we diligently seek the grace of God to faithfully do all the will of God, at home or abroad, in work or in worship, in conversation, (I Peter 1:15) and in

dress, (I Peter 3:3), and as the Word says, whether therefore we eat, or drink, or what so ever ye do, do all to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10: 31), we thus add ballast to our spiritual life and are made so steady that even the powers of hell can not shake us nor prevail against us. Good words and fair speeches, long prayers, loud testimonies and high professions will not add ballast to the life of one who is unfaithful in his daily life. We have read of "loaded words" and they are such as proceed from the lips of one who daily, hourly and moment by moment lives the Christ life. Whenever these "loaded words" go forth they weigh heavy upon sinful hearts and cause satan and evil spirits to fear and quake. It was such loaded words, from a life well ballasted by obedience to God, that came from Peter's lips and caused Ananias and Sapphira to fall dead for lying to the Holy Ghost. It is the loaded words from a ballasted soul or a ballasted congregation that causes hypocrites to be afraid in Zion. (Isaiah 33:14.)

Satan hates ballasted vessels because he knows he cannot overthrow them. Therefore he comes as a "roaring lion" to try to intimidate, frighten and get souls to overthrow the ballast. He will cry out, "narrow," "fanatical," "strait jacket" and say that the ballasted soul has a "hold down" spirit. While these terms are used to intimidate God's little ones, the latter one is very appropriate, for there are many false spirits and strange powers that are direct from the bottomless pit and must be held down, overcome and triumphed over or the heaven-bound soul will never make a safe voyage to that heavenly city. The ballasted soul is like the ratchet wheel on a machine; it can, by the hand of a child, be easily turned forward but faithfully resists all forces that would turn it backward. A little child can lead them (Isaiah 11:6) forward but all the powers of hell cannot draw them backward. Then because they are thus steadied and established in the grace of God, and like a rock in the billows unmovable, though they continually crucify self and live lives of self-denial, satan will be dishonest enough to call them stubborn, self-willed, etc. though he knows well enough they are not self-willed but faithfully seeking to do the will of God in all things.

Satan, out of his deep-seated plans to make them yield to sin, to the dictates of the flesh and to the councils of faithless men will declare they are not humble. When they refuse to take part in foolish conversations, jesting and joking

(Ephesians 5:4) and "have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather reprove them," satan rages and declares, "They think themselves above my people." A certain sister was once accused of "setting herself upon a pinnacle" above others, when the fact was that poverty had driven her to formerly unoccupied upstairs rooms and her decision to take no part in backbiting almost wholly excluded her from the conversation of certain gossips.

Brethren, it is true that they that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. (II Timothy 3:12.) Let us then arm ourselves with the same mind that possessed Christ, and faithfully live for Him day by day for it is only thus that our lives can be sufficiently ballasted for the rough voyages before us on the great sea of life. God brought this thought home to my heart when just starting into the ministry. Something brought forth from the lips of a sister the following expression, "I would hate to be a minister and be accused as much as they are." Though this was a simple expression, God made it weighty upon my heart by asking me if I was willing to faithfully and patiently bear all kinds

of false accusations for His sake and for the sake of truth and right. I said yes, and to this answer God often refers me now. Oh, brother, sister, how well are you ballasted for the voyage before? Does the word of God dwell in your heart richly, and manifest the same by coming forth in every act, word and deed of your life? Does your life have a weight in your community and in your home, with your neighbors, your companion and your children? I do not mean, "Are you a jolly good fellow" with those in sin, but do you so live that they cannot but have an inner consciousness that you sincerely obey God's Word? In times of sickness or threatened danger of one kind or another do you have the inner assurance that you are living just as you would desire to as you appear before God in judgment? Are you living only and fully for God each day and hour seeking never your own will, but always His who has redeemed you, living much in prayer and adding diligently all of heaven's graces to your soul? If so you have the promise, "He that doeth these things shall never be moved." —Selected

The Church Is the Force Not the Field

By R. L. Berry

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will." I Corinthians 12:7-11.

There is a passage to which we wish to call your attention in Ephesians 4:11-16. We quote verse 12, "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Moffat gives it, "For the equipment of the saints." That is, the ministry is given for the purpose of teaching, perfecting and equipping the saints so they too can do effective work for God.

In Acts 8:1-4 we learn that a great persecution arose in Jerusalem against the infant church and "they were all scattered abroad" "except the apostles," who remained in Jerusalem. The apostles were preachers. "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word." Here we see the church at work.

While the persecution drove the saints abroad they went everywhere preaching, while the main ministers remained in Jerusalem.

Too many persons regard the church as the minister's proper field of operation. Upon the congregation he is to expend all his labor. He is to visit and work to keep them spiritual and coming to services. His work begins and ends in the congregation.

This is a fatal and false theory. Such a practice is common, however. And some congregations live on that principle. If the minister is not sociable and does not spend much time on his people they fail to see why they should support him. In short, they are babies and must be petted, whereas the church ought to be the pastor's force of workers. Part of his work is to train this force to do effective witnessing, to be soul-winners, to carry the message to each of their little worlds. When a church is a force, the pastor has little trouble with them; when the church becomes his field then trouble begins.

Let us resolve to be a force for God. Let us get a new vision of the church's work, and also of the work of the ministry. Let us ask our pastors to teach and train and equip us so that we can be obedient to the divine program and fulfil the last Great Commission!

The Bottom of the Barrel

How often have you heard the expression: "The bottom of the barrel?" Well, let me tell you a true story which will illustrate this expression in a graphic way.

Many years ago, in the mountains of Kentucky, lived a poor widow. After her husband died, she bit her lip to keep the tears back, and lovingly tried to provide for her young children.

These were depression years, and securing even the necessities of life was an uphill pull. Disease killed many of her chickens. Cholera got into the livestock. In every way, she was tried to the very limit. But like Job of old, she kept her faith in God. "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him."

Then came a day when all her hard-earned savings were gone. She went to the meal barrel and took out enough meal to make the pancakes for the children who were going to school and for little Tommy who was not old enough for studies. As she looked into the barrel, her heart sank. She saw only enough meal for the following day. She knew that tomorrow she would have to literally scrape the bottom of the barrel.

Bravely she tried to smile as the children were kissed and sent off to school. She told little Tommy to play in the other room. "Mama wants to pray to Jesus," she explained.

Putting her head in her hands, she sobbed out her need to the Lord. Soon little Tommy heard his mother's cry, opened the door quietly, and tiptoed to her side.

"What's wrong, Mommy?" he asked, concern in his childish voice.

She replied between sobs: "Mama is worried, Tommy. I have no money and tomorrow we reach the bottom of the barrel."

He was silent for a minute or so. Then he raised his index finger like a little preacher and said in a loud, clear voice: "Mommy, don't you know that God always hears it when we scrape the bottom of the barrel?"

His childlike faith stopped her tears and a flood of heavenly glory burst over her soul. She knew her little son had told her the truth. God always hears it when we scrape the bottom of the barrel.

Her worry fled away like mists before the morning sun.

The next morning, she scraped the last grains of flour and made it into cakes on the old-fashioned kitchen stove.

Just as the children were ready to take their little cakes to school, a neighbor man by the name of Johnson drove in with his team of horses. He greeted the widow and children with these words: "Ma and I were in prayer last night and we were asking the Lord how you were getting along. Soon we felt in our hearts that your barrel might be getting pretty low, so Ma suggested that I drive here this morning and bring you some food which we had stored in our pantry."


"Oh, thank you, thank you," the widow replied, tears of joy streaming down her smiling face.

She looked at Tommy, and he was smiling, too, with a smile that seemed to say: "God always hears it when we scrape the bottom of the barrel."

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19.

God always hears it when you scrape the bottom of the barrel! —Selected

Bible Lessons



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

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12/05

The Glad Tidings

By Clara McAlister

*The sun's brilliant rays had all faded;
The beautiful light in the west
Had settled behind the green hilltops;
The earth in night's mantle was dressed.*

*The shepherds in fields were abiding,
Keeping watch o'er their flocks thro' the night,
When presently, shone all around them,
A brilliant and radiant light.*

*The angel of God came upon them
In halos of glory arrayed;
They fell to the ground in amazement,
Their hearts were made sorely afraid.*

*"Fear not." From the lips of the angel
Fell those words of good comfort and cheer;
'For behold, I come bringing good tidings
Of joy to all those who will hear.*

*"For lo, unto you a great Savior,
To save guilty sinners from sin,
Is born in the city of David
Christ Jesus, our Master and King.*

*"You'll find Him outside in a manger,
No room in the inn could be found:
Then lo, a great host joined the angel,
From their lips swelled a musical sound.*

*"All glory to God in the highest,
On earth peace for all who will hear,
Good will toward all who receive it,
Glad tidings we bring; never fear."*

*Their song floated out on the stillness;
Sweet zephyrs took up the glad strain,
And wafted it on thro' the darkness,
To the village of calm Bethlehem.*

*The angels soared upward to heaven,
And started the anthem anew;
The shepherds made haste o'er the hilltops,
To prove if their message were true.*

*And there in a manger so humble,
Upon a small bed made of straw,
The Savior, so meek and so lowly,
With Mary, His mother, they saw.*

*Ye angels in heaven, still sing it;
Ye ransomed from sin, waft it on;
Let mountains and hills catch the echo,
Salvation thro' Jesus the Son.*

*Glad tidings of joy to all people,
There's life and salvation from sin,
Then come, weary one, to the Savior;
He's waiting to welcome you in.*

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