

# FAITH AND VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



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## Learning To Obey

By Sis. Christy Robertson

Recently at church, as we stood up to dismiss the service, someone gave a touching testimony. Later, as I spoke to them, they commented that it had been difficult to speak up since it had already been announced to dismiss the service. Someone else standing with us said there were times when they, too, struggled with speaking up in church if they felt they had already spoken too much.

This got me to thinking of God's nudges, leadings, windows of opportunity and of different tricks satan uses to cause us to fail to follow through on them. How many times have I hesitated, or questioned and allowed a window of opportunity to close? How many times have I allowed my fear of disturbing the "form" of how our services normally flow to intimidate me? How many times have I reasoned myself out of

obeying immediately, thinking that an easier or less embarrassing time would do just as well?

Some time ago, the Lord gave me a Salvation lesson for my Sunday School class, complete with an object lesson that I spent time creating. The following Sunday, only a handful of my students were in attendance. Since I knew the lesson had been inspired, and since a particular child that I felt would benefit from it wasn't there, I opted to save the lesson for the next Sunday, when I would, hopefully, have a full house to hear from God. I never did give that lesson. I never again felt God call for it. Each time I saw the object lesson sitting on my closet shelf, I was reminded with a twinge that sometimes when God leads, later is no substitute.

I remember a Wednesday when thoughts, phrases of a song, etc., having to do with sin and its consequences, kept playing over and over in my mind. Before leaving for the prayer meeting service, I jotted these things down and slipped the paper into my Bible—just in case. Sure enough, the "theme" of the service seemed to call for these thoughts, and they began to burn in my soul and mind. Someone called a song number. I would have to wait my turn. Then, someone else spoke before the song was sung. I could have, also, but didn't want to hold the song off any longer. I'd just get up immediately after the song. Again, it never happened. During the song, some folks left to go home. Somehow, I had felt that what God had given me was for them. After they left, the burning in my heart

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began to cool off, and I realized that speaking up then would only be a shell of what God had intended.

Another time, I felt a heavy burden to reach out to a soul. It seemed God was telling me that what I did had to be done quickly. I knew of some circumstances in their future that would dictate how long my window of opportunity stayed open, and I felt I had enough time, but this time I obeyed, and moved faster than I normally would have. Later, I found out that I had been mistaken, and the window of opportunity had been much narrower than I had realized.

I have felt God's rod of correction, and do not enjoy it. But I need it. I am desperate for Him to

continue to teach me to recognize His leadings and how to obey them, for I do feel that even in my failures, He is a God of mercy and is wanting and able to teach me how to do better. I am desperate to be more consecrated to making a fool out of myself for God, if need be, in order to not quench the Holy Spirit. I know my weaknesses, and I tremble at my responsibility to be yielded to being instant, even in the hard times when to obey goes against everything in me. Oh, God, help me to be a willing vessel, totally empty of my own thoughts and opinions and fears. Help me to be soft and pliable in your hands. "Lead me, rule me, work within me, through my life Thy will express."

## THE BLESSING OF THE LORD

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

Proverbs 10:22 says, "The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it". To bless means to abundantly prosper with triumphant success. When God blesses a person, He causes them to overcome all obstacles and attain to true happiness and worthy value. God looked on the creatures He made to inhabit the waters and the fowl that He made to fly in the heaven and "...saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let the fowl multiply in the earth." Then when God created man in His own image, male and female, He "...blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it...." Genesis 1:21-22; 27-28. When Noah had obeyed God and built the ark as God had directed him and came forth from the ark after the flood, "God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." Genesis 9:1

God called Abram to leave his country and kindred and father's house and go to a land that afterward He would show him. God said, "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed". This blessing that He promised Abram extends on down through the ages of time and reaches to us today in the blessing of the Holy Spirit that Jesus made it possible for us to receive. Paul

brought this out in Galatians 3:13-14 when He said that Christ was made a curse for us "...that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." Of all the blessings that God ever poured out upon mankind, the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit is by far the greatest and most wonderful.

Psalms 133:1-3 brings this out so beautifully: "...Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; as the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore." This is speaking of the special anointing oil that God instructed Moses to be poured upon the Levitical priesthood, of whom Aaron was the first high priest. It was a rich and fragrant composition of olive oil and other fragrant ingredients. This is a type of the anointing of the Holy Spirit that God pours out upon those who consecrate and give all their heart, soul, mind, and life to Him, and are willing to obey and be led by this precious Holy Spirit. It is there that the Lord commands the blessing of life eternal!

God told Israel in Malachi 3:10 that if they would bring all the tithes into the storehouse He would "...open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there would not be room enough to receive it." Oh, how we need the blessing of the Lord God in our hearts and lives



## FAITH AND VICTORY 12 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend camp meetings), by Willie Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044.

Notice to subscribers: When you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your zip code number.

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

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES



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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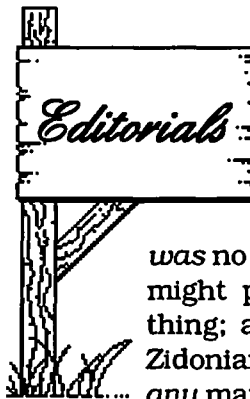
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"Then the five men departed, and came to Laish, and saw the people that were therein, how they dwelt careless, after the manner of the Zidonians, quiet and secure; and there was no magistrate in the land, that might put them to shame in any thing; and they were far from the Zidonians, and had no business with any man." Judges 18:7.

When the five men of the tribe of Dan went to Laish to spy out the city, they found the prevailing conditions were very favorable for their future conquest—they were careless, independent and far from help. Verses 27-28 tells of their fate. "And they...came unto Laish...and they smote them with the edge of the sword, and burnt the city with fire. And there was no deliverer, because it was far from Zidon..."

Many people have become an easy prey to the enemy because of carelessness. Indeed, the enemy must rejoice when he sees people living a careless life, for he knows those in such a condition are an easy target. Jesus warned His disciples to "watch and pray," for He knew there was a destroyer seeking to devour their souls, and He wanted to save them from the danger that was lurking.

Prosperity, peace and a false sense of security have a tendency to cause people to become careless. Perhaps one of the first things that happens when prosperity abounds is that people become unappreciative and fail to recognize God as the giver of every good gift. When one goes through a heavy trial, and God grants them deliverance, there is a close relationship that develops between that person and God. But as circumstances improve, unless that relationship with God is cultivated, it seems He becomes more distant and there is not the exuberant appreciation that was once experienced. When things seem to be going well, let us be more careful to give thanks for each blessing we enjoy and be willing to share with others what God has bountifully bestowed upon us. A willingness to share is one of the most acceptable ways of saying "thank you" to God, because it shows that our heart is set on Him and not on the material blessing.

People in an affluent society are prone to supplant spiritual needs with temporal desires.

Jesus compared this to seed falling among thorns and being choked. How sad that the cares, riches and pleasures of this life are allowed to choke the spirituality of so many people. In our busy schedule of life let us choose to make our spiritual well being a priority. Take time to read, pray and meditate on the things of God. Psalm 91:1 gives us this encouraging thought, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." When the battle begins to rage, it is certainly a comfort to know that we are under the protection of our heavenly Father. The time spent with Him in secret brings Him near to our hearts, and He will be our defense in the day of adversity.

The church at Laodicea enjoyed many temporal blessings, and the Lord cautioned them about the lukewarm condition they had fallen into. They were in danger of being cast away from the One they professed to love. Their spiritual eyesight was dimmed by the abundance of their possessions. They felt they had need of nothing, and yet they were in great need. Jesus said they were, "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Yet the Lord still loved them and this is the solution Jesus gave them, "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."

This "eyesalve" is in great need today. I am afraid the prosperity many enjoy has caused their eyesight to become blurred or even totally blind. Their treasures are upon this earth and their bank account in Heaven is overdrawn. They confuse "gain" with "godliness," and as a result are seeking those things that shall one day perish.

"...Be zealous therefore, and repent." If the conditions identified here have had an influence in your life, then it is time to make some adjustments and changes. Don't carelessly continue down a path that will lead to destruction and separation from God. Your soul is far too precious to lose because of the trivial pleasures of this world.

It is not easy to give up the comforts and security of a plush environment to "buy...gold tried in the fire," and that clearly illustrates the

problem with affluence. However, the intensity of our love for God should motivate us to seek those things which are above. Moses was brought up with the comforts of an Egyptian noble, and there came a time in his life that he had to make some decisions. Hebrews 11:25-26 tells of his choice and gives us insight into the basis of Moses' thinking when it stated that he chose "...rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward."

May each reader be encouraged to possess the crown of life that Jesus has promised to those who will be faithful unto death. By fastening the gaze of our hearts on the blessed hope that is before us, then the present afflictions will be much easier to bear. Let us also be conscious of the presence of our Savior walking close by our side as we traverse the difficult passages of our pilgrimage. His loving hand is always ready to steady us and guide us safely to our eternal home

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We appreciated having Sis. Patrice Doolittle from Loranger, LA work for the Print Shop through the month of August. Sis. Patrice is the great granddaughter of Bro. Lawrence Pruitt, who managed this work from 1963-1984. She graciously came back with us from the Monark Springs National Camp Meeting and used her artistic talent in designing new covers for some of the books we are in the process of publishing. We trust the Lord will wonderfully reward her labors of love for His eternal Kingdom.

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

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The very pursuits of the sinner first fascinate him, and then seize him, and then enslave him, and then torture him, and then kill him. On the other hand, all the pursuits of holiness give increased freedom, peace and gladness, and scatter their rewards while pursuing them and retain the best rewards at the last.

—George D Watson

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What makes a pearl? Grit, agitation, friction. What makes a great big pearl? Time, a really long time. Don't be dismayed that your battle seems to continue on and on and on without end. God just wants to make a **great, big, beautiful pearl** out of your life. Are you willing?  
—Submitted by Sis. Vonda Cole



SC—A sister desires urgent prayer for her son who has recently left home and is becoming involved in deep sin. Her heart is very heavy and burdened for him. She desires wisdom to know how to handle some decisions she is facing concerning this. Her son has had a tender heart in the past toward the things of God, but the devil has caused him to become hurt, and she does not want to add more hurt.

—Sis. Cheryl Smith

KY—I have several requests for prayer; remember my cousin, Joyce, who has cancer both physically and spiritually. I have an unspoken request for my daughter, Cassondra (Cassie) Johnson. Remember a family member who needs to find work. Pray for a family who have had their children taken from their home and placed in the custody of the grandparents because of abuse. The parents need the Lord, and the grandparents need wisdom and strength to care for the children. Also remember my husband and I. We truly appreciate all of the ministers and saints who have come and supported the work here in Vanceburg, KY. May the Lord bless and keep you all.

—Sis. Kay Griffett

OK—Please pray for Susanna Penner who is suffering in body, as well as attacks from the enemy. Praise God Who loves and heals, as well as delivers, from all types of afflictions.

—Sis. Margaretha Mondragon

CA—Please remember my son, Wayne, in Oklahoma City and his family; also my son, John, (disabled) and his two sons, ages 11 and 12. They are in need of prayer both physically and spiritually. I also have congestive heart failure. Thank you for keeping me on your prayer list.

Your sister in Christ, —Helen Carson

CA—I have a prayer request for Al Thomas and Juan. Both of their wives are battling cancer. Also remember Mr. Dayton and his

mother. He just lost his sister and father six months ago. God bless, —Bro. Don Viser

CA—We need prayer for the Lord to work things out for us to obtain permanent custody of my sons two small children, ages 3 and 8. I am having problems dealing with this and am also having quite a struggle with my spiritual life. Pray for us as we are praying for your work there. Love and prayers, —Sis. Doris Pihaylic

MO—Remember a young lady nicknamed (Gigi) Johnson in earnest prayer. She has a rapidly spreading form of cancer. She is Sis. Goldie Knapps granddaughter. This family is in desperate need of heavenly assistance. Help us hold up the banner of faith for them. Nothing is too hard for Him. —Bro. Jim Broker

MO—Sis. Leta Inman has been in a severe battle with an affliction. Pray the Lord to give her a Divine touch of healing.

#### CARETAKER NEEDED FOR THE SUNSET GUEST HOME

CA—Dear Saints: Please pray that the Lord will send a new administrator and new manager to operate the Sunset Guest Home at the state campground in Pacoima, CA. For further information contact Sis. Alice Johnson. (760) 261-2564, [pastorx2@hotmail.com](mailto:pastorx2@hotmail.com)

—Sis. Alice Johnson

### Standing Prayer Requests

- Bro. Carlos Arriaga
- Sis. Mamie Butcher
- Sis. Gladys Cashio
- Sis. Helen Carson
- Sis. Waneta Creel
- Sis. Dorall Forbes
- Sis. Evelyn Fredrickson
- Bro. Troy Gentry
- Bro. Lee Hilton
- Sis. Leta Inman
- Bro. Mark and Sis. Darlene Knight
- Sis. Juliette Lounds
- Sis. Melba Powell
- Bro. Jerry Quave
- Sis. Olene Rector
- Sis. Anna Severs
- Sis. Cheryl Smith
- Bro. Michael Smith
- Bro. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor
- The Mitch Taylor family
- Sis. Anneta Williamson
- Sis. Lula Williamson

## SPECIAL NOTICES

### TAPES AND CD's

Those who desire recordings from the Monark Springs and Myrtle camp meetings of **messages on cassette tape** may order them from Harlan Sorrell, Rt. 1 Box 118A, Myrtle, MO 65778, email: hSORRELL@ortrackm.missouri.org

The tapes are priced at \$3.00 each. You may request a listing of the messages.

(If you desire recordings from the Monark Springs camp meeting of **messages on CD**, you may order them from Justin Sorrell.)

I also have one CD available of selected special singing from both the Monark and Myrtle camp meetings, priced at \$3.00.

Also available are two CDs titled, "The Last Reformation Truth in Song," one titled "Spirit Holy," and one titled "Above the Clouds." These CDs contain many old songs that I have recorded which were once published by the Gospel Trumpet Company in the late 1800's and early 1900's but which are no longer in print today. These CDs are priced at \$5.00 each due to the cost of printing special labels and inserts for the CD holders. —Bro. Harlan Sorrell

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**CD's of the messages** from the Monark Springs camp meeting are available from Bro. Justin Sorrell for \$3.00 each. He also has two CD's available of special singing and one CD of the congregational singing.

During the process of reproducing the CD's, it was discovered that one of the recorders was malfunctioning, and he fears that some faulty CD's may have been inadvertently sold. If you purchased a CD at the Monark Meeting that was faulty, Bro. Justin requests that you contact him for a replacement. You may contact Bro. Justin Sorrell at 447 Twilight Dr., Crane, MO 65633, (417) 748-1522, jusangela@yahoo.com

### MYRTLE, MO, MEETING REPORT

We thank the Lord for the precious and blessed camp meeting He gave us at Myrtle this year. The presence of the Lord came down from the very first service until the last. The singing was heavenly, and the messages were inspiring and challenging. Attendance was good all through the meeting and quite a few visitors attended from the area. We thank the Lord for His blessings upon the meeting and appreciate all the prayers that went up for it and all the saints who came and helped to make the meeting what it was. —Bro. Harlan Sorrell

## MEETING DATES

**Bakersfield, CA (Gospel Meeting)**—Sept. 19-23

**Politilly Bight, Honduras**

**(Fall Meeting)**—Sept. 29-Oct. 7

**Holly Hill, SC (Fall Revival)**—Sept. 30-Oct. 7

**Myrtle, MO (Fall Singing)**—October 7

**Dallas, TX (Annual Meeting)**—October 10-14

**Baldy Mesa, CA (Fall Revival)**—October 12-14

**Fresno, CA (Fall Meeting)**—Oct. 28-Nov. 4

## MEETING NOTICES

### BAKERSFIELD, CA, GOSPEL MEETING

We would like to welcome you to a Gospel Meeting in Bakersfield, CA. Lord willing, the meeting will be held September 19-23. Services will be 12 p.m. and 7 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. On Saturday at 9 a.m. we will have our annual "Victory Brunch," which is an opportunity to share God's blessings through songs and testimonies as we enjoy breakfast together. Sunday services will be: Sunday school at 9:45 a.m., worship at 11 a.m. and afternoon service at 3 p.m. The chapel is located at 100 Oswell St. We solicit your prayers. For additional information you may contact Bro. Hayward or Sis. Tina Cox at (661) 836-3877.

### POLITILLY BIGHT, ROATAN, HONDURAS, FALL MEETING AND REPORT

Everyone is welcome to attend the fall meeting in Politilly Bight, Roatan, Honduras. It is scheduled for September 29-October 7. Please let Bro. Doug and Sis. Lenita Wall know if you are planning to attend so they can make sure you have accommodations while there. They may be contacted at dw@churchofgodmission.com  
 If you cannot attend, pray for them. This meeting is important to the people and they really look forward to it.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Lenita Wall and family have gone back to Honduras, as well as Sis. Judy Trepaigner. School is now in session for the next semester of the 2007 school year in Politilly Bight. Please pray that those working there will be strengthened and that the enemy will be rebuked in every way that he might try to work. We are so grateful for the dedication of the Walls and Sis. Judy; they have done so much for the work in Honduras.

A van has been given for the use of the work in Politilly and the process of taking it to

Honduras is underway. There will be quite a lot of customs charged to admit the vehicle into the country.

We thank you for your support of the Honduras Mission in the past. Your support has enabled this work to continue. Please send all further correspondence and contributions to our new address noted below.

We are now officially relocated and are so thankful to have that job behind us. We like it here and look forward to whatever the Lord has in store for us. Please pray that our days will be filled with His work and be profitable.

God Bless you. Sincerely,

—Bro. Toney & Sis. Jeanie Samons  
515 S. Lucas St.  
Junction City, Ky 40440  
(859) 854-6932

#### HOLLY HILL, SC, FALL REVIVAL

We would like to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to ALL to come to our Holly Hill, SC Fall revival to be held Sunday, September 30 through Sunday, October 7, 2007. We are praying that the Lord will send the ministers of His choosing, and that He will bless in each service. Lord willing, services will be held nightly at 7:00 p.m. Accommodations will be made for all who can come, and we look forward to seeing the dear Saints come in to be with us. If you need further information about the meeting, please contact Bro. Floyd Crummie at (803) 496-5768 or Bro. Tommie Platt at (803) 496-5414. If you are planning to stay on the grounds and need accommodations, please call Sis. Beverly Pratt at (803) 496-3057 or Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Smith at (803) 492-7975, so a place can be reserved especially for you. Please come if you can, and if you can't be here, please pray for the Lord to bless the meeting. We long to see souls saved and sanctified, bodies healed and much good to be accomplished in this meeting.

In the love of Christ,

—The Holly Hill, SC congregation

#### MYRTLE, MO, FALL SINGING

Lord willing, our annual Fall singing will be held at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, October 6th, at the Church of God chapel, Myrtle, MO. There will also be a regular service at 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning, October 7th, with dinner following in the dining hall. Everyone is invited to come be with us on this special weekend.

—Bro. Harlan Sorrell

#### DALLAS, TX, ANNUAL MEETING

You are invited to attend our annual Church of God meeting in Dallas, TX. Services are scheduled for October 10-14. Wednesday through Saturday, services will begin at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday services will begin with Sunday School at 10 a.m., morning worship at 11 a.m. and an afternoon service at 2:30 p.m.

For further information you may contact Bro. Calvin Frentrup at (972) 237-1538 or Bro. Christopher Anderson at (972) 557-8819.

#### BALDY MESA, CA, FALL REVIVAL

We are praying and looking forward to what God has for us this fall. Lord willing, our meeting will be held October 12-14. Friday night service will begin at 7:30 p.m., Saturday morning service at 10:30 a.m. and Saturday evening service will begin at 7:00 p.m. to allow extended time for singing before preaching. Sunday services will be at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held in the chapel located at 11515 Baldy Mesa Rd. For further information you may call (760) 261-2564 or email us at [pastorx2@hotmail.com](mailto:pastorx2@hotmail.com)

Our congregation joins with us in inviting you. —Pastors Travis and Alice Johnson

#### FRESNO, CA, FALL MEETING

The Fresno, CA, fall meeting will be held, Lord willing, October 28 through November 4. Services will begin Sunday with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and services following at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. On Monday through Friday, services will be nightly at 7:00 p.m. Saturday services will be at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Sunday, November 4 will include Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., morning service at 10:30 a.m. and we will end the meeting with the 2:30 service.

**DIRECTIONS:** From 99 North, exit Belmont and turn left. Then go to First St. and turn right. Go to the second block and turn left on Grant. From 99 South, exit Ventura east. Then go to First St. and make a left, then go to Grant. Then turn right. The chapel sits on First and Grant. If there are any questions you may call Bro. Eric Carter at (559) 593-8776.

—Give unto the LORD the glory *due* unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness." I Chronicles 16:29.





## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

LA—Dear readers of the *Faith and Victory*: The devil has tried so very hard to keep me from writing one more testimony in the little paper, but I know it will be a real defeat to him. I want to resist him and tell of the goodness of my dear Father to me.

I am in a nursing home and this morning the lady who mops the floor in my room said, "I have an appointment with my doctor today." The fire began to burn in my heart as I thought of my Great Physician. Oh, it is so wonderful to know that Great Physician and be able to trust Him. He doesn't have to experiment with medicines, run tests or take x-rays. He just looks right down into these old bodies and sees every flaw and defect to soul and body.

My next birthday is getting near, and if I live until then I will be 96 years old. Oh, the Lord has been so very good to me during my long life and I feel so very unworthy of His great and many blessings. I know my time is soon to run out. I don't look forward to leaving loved ones behind; not being able to pray for them and all the lost ones anymore. But I do look forward to meeting all the Saints gone on before, and especially my dear companion who left us 46 years ago last February. Then, oh my precious son, Randall. Many of you knew him. He left us five years ago. Only the Lord knows how hard it has been to give him up. Knowing that he was prepared to meet the Lord has been a greater comfort than I could ever tell. He told me to try not grieve but look at the victory. So looking at the victory he left this world with has been my comfort.

Now I want to tell of my thanksgiving for being taught about the one Church. The "Church of God." Folks here have asked me what church I belong to. I tell them the only one I read of in the Bible—the "Church of God" the one Paul said he persecuted. He told the elders from Ephesus to "feed the church of God." (Acts 20:28.) Paul used the term "church of God" quite often in his writings.

I tell folks, "The Bible is our map showing us the way to Heaven and it doesn't even hint at us joining a church." I tell them "We could join every church in the world and still lose our soul." But the Bible does tell us what to join. In Jeremiah 50:5 we read, "They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, *saying*, Come, and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant *that* shall not be forgotten." Jesus said, "Ye must be born again." The covenant we make is to be able to pray a prayer from the heart such as this, "Oh Lord, I beg of Thee through faith in Jesus' blood shed for all my sins, will Thou please forgive me of all of them and make me Thy child. I, by Thy help, will serve Thee as long as I live." That is the covenant we make with the Lord. He longs for every lost soul to make a covenant such as that with Him, and He stands ready to forgive every sin. It is then we are born again—born into Zion, His church.

We take the Father's name, "Church of God," just as our children who are born into our family take their father's name. Our family name is Flynn. So that is what their name is. Not Smith, Jones or any other name. Oh, it is so plain. Do we have Bible for these things I am writing? Yes, read Psalm 87:5-6, "And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her. The LORD shall count, when he writeth up the people, *that* this man was born there. Selah."

Oh, it is plain. We are joined to the Lord, and not to an organization of man. It is He, the Lord, who writes the people's name on His record, "the Lamb's book of life." Now read Revelation 20:15. "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Oh dear ones, what I have given you is from the Bible, the Word of God, our map. It would be a serious thing to rebel against God. We would never make it to Heaven, but be cast into the lake of fire.

From one who loves the Lord and all the souls He has created. —Sis. Alta Flynn

WV—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I want to thank all of the Saints that have prayed for me and for the beautiful cards that were sent to me from the Monark camp meeting.

On July 17 I went to my daughter's house, and after I got out of my car she told me to turn off the engine. I opened the door, reached in and

turned it off. Instead of being in "park," the car was in "neutral" and started rolling down the hill with me still behind the door. As the car was rolling, the door I opened began pushing me with the car. I was knocked down, and in the course of the fall I bloodied my nose and hurt my back.

I thank the Lord that I am doing much better now, and I am thankful the accident was no worse—there is always something to be thankful for. I want to draw closer to the Lord. Please pray for me. Love and prayers,

—Bro. Donald Sharp, Sr.



**David W. Skaggs**, of Rolla, MO passed away Tuesday, July 17, 2007, at the age of 68 years, 6 months and 28 days. He was born December 20, 1938 in Vichy, MO to William E. Skaggs and Elaine (Holman) Skaggs.

David was preceded in death by his father and one daughter, Tina Skaggs.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann Skaggs, of Rolla, MO; mother, Elaine Skaggs, of St. James, MO; daughter, Gina Woods and husband, Jon, of Rolla, MO; son, William Skaggs and wife, April, of Hurley, MS; daughter, Mariana Buti and husband, Don, of Highlands Ranch, CO; brother, Ed Skaggs and wife, Brenda, of St. James, MO; sister, Alice Hart and husband, Gene, of St. James, MO; eight grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. David Wymon Skaggs will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Visitation was held Thursday, July 19, 2007 at the James and Gahr Chapel, Rolla, MO. Funeral service for David Skaggs was held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, July 20, 2007 at the Vichy Campground Church of God, with Bro. Clarence Campbell and Bro. Harold Taylor officiating. Interment was in the Hickory Grove Cemetery.

## God Hears Our Cries

(Continued from page 3.)

sensual heathen idol worshippers who did not love and respect God.

David was an honest and intelligent person, so he was trusted and promoted into an honorable position by the king. After many other satisfying experiences among these wicked people, he even joined ranks with their army. In his younger years he risked his life to protect his people against the Philistines and would never have considered such a coalition. His attachment to the Philistines may have started from sheer respect for their protection of him, but it grew into a patriotic allegiance. Surely, David had not bowed his knees to their god, Dagon, or other idols. However, living among them had changed him so greatly that instead of risking his life for God's people, he now took his 600 men to fight against them.

Perhaps when we see our training going up in smoke it would be helpful to look within and see if maybe we, like David, have changed. Are our priorities the same, or has the spirit of this world changed our values? Is our own conscience as keen to the Holy Spirit as it once was? Do the cares of life crowd out God's Word? Is the tenderness and respect for our spouse the same as in years past? Have peers left their mark on us? Has promotions of the world dampened our fervency for God? Am I unconsciously helping the enemy? Another question to ask ourselves is, Am I away from my home helping others when I should be at home watching out and caring for my family? Have I robbed my children by working too much? Answering these questions honestly and then repenting of mistakes may help us turn these conditions around.

We may be like David, a man or woman after God's own heart. And just as David failed, we may have failed in some areas. If you feel you have made mistakes then do as David did. Repent and cry out to the Lord until there is no more strength to cry. Our desperate and repentant prayers move God.

In Luke 18:1-8, Jesus told about a hard-driving, inconsiderate judge who helped a poor widow, not because she could pay him, but because she worried him by her continual coming and persistent begging. Jesus added to this story in, "And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will

avenge them speedily....” So we have our promise straight from the Word of God. And not only do we have that promise, but a multitude of others.

Here are a few: “Therefore thus saith the LORD,...Jacob shall not now be ashamed,...But...they shall sanctify my name,...and shall fear the God of Israel. They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured (rebelled) shall learn doctrine.” Isaiah 29:22-24.

“...He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;...to comfort all that mourn;...to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; ...And they shall build the old wastes,...the desolations of many generations.” Isaiah 61:1-4. “Thus saith the LORD; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the LORD; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy. And there is hope in thine end, saith the LORD, that thy children shall come again to their own border.” Jeremiah 31:16-17.

In the tenth chapter of Ezra we have the account of the Israelites who repented of their transgressions and found God’s favor again. Although it was a grievous sin and many had committed it, yet, in verse two, we read, “...We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing.”

Jesus said, in Matthew 18:18-20, “Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Dear parents take courage. God is on His throne, and Jesus is there interceding for us and our children. He has given us power to bind spirits that have our children bound. He has also promised to be wherever there are two or three gathered in His name. Where He is, there is power for deliverance. Let us meet together by twos or threes and pray for our children. There is victory in Jesus’ name.

# He Fell Upon The Street

It had been raining and freezing all day, and the street was a sheet of ice. People were hurrying along to their several places of work. Suddenly a man in front of me slipped and went sprawling, and his suitcases, hat, etc., were scattered in every direction. Some laughed at him. He arose and said, “Others passed over that place safely, and I thought I could do the same.” That circumstance taught me a lesson I shall never forget. That man did not aim to fall down. It was not his purpose or motive to lose his balance; but the reason he fell was because he walked on a slippery place; he neglected to look out for himself. People do not form character in posse; people do not get saved by the regiment; men and women do not rise and fall by the hundred; but *individually*, each for himself. Sometimes we forget that life is a personal matter. You can not hold a good man down; nor can you hold a bad man up. It all depends upon the man himself. To neglect this fundamental law of self-effort is to suffer loss.

—J. Grant Anderson

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## Meditation

*Softly now the sunlight's fading,  
Evening breezes gently blow,  
Shadows 'round me fast are gath'ring,  
For the evening sun is low.*

*Comes a thought of meditation,  
Scanning now the day just past;  
What have I for God accomplished,  
Were this day to be my last?*

*Were my actions kind and tender  
To my friends and loved ones dear?  
Have I heartache caused another?  
Have I caused a sigh or tear?*

*Silently I sit and ponder,  
I the day in thought retrace:  
Were there any deeds of kindness?  
Have I filled a Christian's place?*

*Now my tho'ts are turning heavenward,  
To the God who rules the day.*

*May I scatter deeds of kindness  
All along my pilgrim way.*

*May I keep God's fear before me  
Every moment that I live;  
May I seek alone to please Him,  
All my days unto Him give.*

*If I live in true devotion—  
Low and humble at His feet,  
When my day of life is ended,  
I my blessed Lord shall meet.*

*Then shall I in peace behold Him;  
Knowing I have done my best:  
Sweet shall be my life day's ending,  
As I enter into rest.*

—Lucena C. Beardslee

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