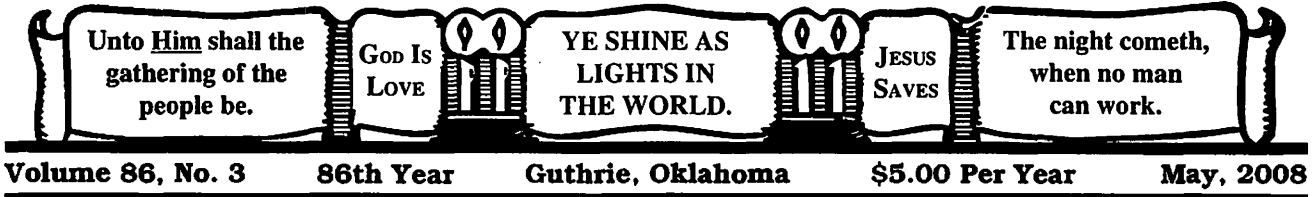


FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



BUYING OPPORTUNITIES

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

In I Chronicles 21 we have the account of David numbering Israel to God's displeasure, bringing pestilence upon Israel and costing the lives of seventy thousand men. When David humbled himself and repented of his error, he was instructed by the prophet, who by the angel of God was told to say to David that he was to set up an altar in the threshingfloor of Ornan, the Jebusite. In obedience to God's command, David approached Ornan and offered to buy the place from him. Ornan responded with an offer to just give it to David, but David answered him like this: "Nay, but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take that which is thine for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings without cost." Verse 24.

To obtain and get the possession of something there is a price that we have to pay. We find in Isaiah 55:1 the LORD God giving us an

invitation: "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money: come ye, buy and eat; yea, come buy wine and milk without money and without price." There are spiritual treasures and blessings that we need from God and His wonderful grace, and they are to be purchased, but not with earthly money. He goes on in verse 2, saying, "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread?" People are giving their affections after these vain earthly things that are not beneficial to their eternity bound souls. Then He says, "Hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness (rich spiritual blessings)." This is part of the price: Diligent attention and response to His Word, whole hearted application and obedience thereto, and devoted service to God. He goes on in verse 3 with some more buying factors: "Incline your ear," "come unto me," and "hear." This is not literal hearing and coming, but a giving of one's self to seek the Lord and His blessed counsel.

Proverbs 23:23 says, "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding." To possess the real knowledge of the real truth, we must buy it with faithful seeking and following after it. Jesus told some folks who had believed in Him as related in John 8:31-32, "...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free". We must not let up in our earnest seeking and feeling after God and what pleases Him. Paul, in

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II Thessalonians 2:10, spoke of how satan exercised "all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." Then he said further in verses 11 and 12, "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." The price we have to pay to buy the truth is to be willing to acknowledge our sinful condition and ways and give them up in true repentance and obedience to God.

In Matthew 13:44 Jesus said, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field." When any one really sees what a treasure the kingdom of God is and what it can do for a person, there is nothing that they will not be willing to give up in order to have it for one's self. That is the buying. We give up the world, we give up our ways and thoughts, our plans and wishes, our likes and dislikes, all in order to be able to receive the righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17.)

Paul, in I Timothy 3:13 stated that "they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus." When we can come down off of our pride, self esteem, and vain pursuits of the honor and praise of men, to be servants to God and to one another like Christ Jesus did, we purchase, or buy, a real "degree" of spiritual triumph and success far beyond what this fleeting earth could ever afford.

Paul, in Ephesians 5:16 and Colossians 4:5, instructs us to walk circumspectly and in wisdom, "redeeming the time." The Greek meaning here means "buying up the opportunity." Life

and time is our opportunity to purchase and procure for our eternal welfare and happiness. It is not a time to waste in vain and fleeting pleasure and treasure. We must take advantage of our mortal days to "buy up" treasures that are eternal and really valuable. Galatians 6:10 says, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." I Timothy 6:17-19 says, "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute (give), willing to communicate (share); laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

Jesus gave wise counsel and reproof to the church at Laodicea who were lukewarm, thinking they were rich, increased with goods, and had need of nothing, not knowing that they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked: "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". Revelation 3:14-18 and I Peter 1:7 tells us that the trial of our faith is much more precious than gold that perisheth. And in I Peter 4:13 he said concerning the fiery trials of life, "Rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." This is the gold tried in the fire that Christ counsels us to buy. Yes, we must be willing to go through the furnace of affliction and adversity, and let it help to mold and shape our spirit into the likeness of the humility and holiness of our Lord and Savior. May the Lord inspire and help us all to see and know of the things that are really worth buying and possessing for eternal good!



"Thy Children Are Gathering Home"

My wife, Lisette Sanchez and I, Tony Sanchez, want to give testimony of how our faithful Father in Heaven revealed His true visible church on earth to us. Our desire is to give God, our Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, all of the glory, honor, praise and exaltation for leading us to His true remnant.

Please journey with us to the year 1974, when I was eight years of age. I was raised as a Catholic, and my father was in and out of prison during most of my childhood due to his alcoholism and illegal drug trafficking. It was during one of these times of my father's imprisonment that I desperately, in the agony of my soul, cried

out to God behind our home in Marfa, TX, and the scripture, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" became a reality for me. Nevertheless, I did not receive more light on how to follow Jesus Christ until 1977, when we moved across the street from a 90-year old man named Mr. Sam Hicks. I first met Mr. Hicks at age ten, after he caught me stealing the grapes growing on his chain link fence. Because of his kindness to me—he didn't call the police, curse at me or tell my parents, but instead, he said, "Whenever you'd like grapes just come and ask me and I'll give you some." This was the start of an eight-year relationship with this godly Christian man.

Mr. Sam Hicks was a true and faithful example to me. He was continually reading the Bible in my presence, singing spiritual hymns, doing good works and forgiving his enemies. The joy of the Lord was a constant in His life. He really lived a separated life from this world, for he did not own a television, radio or computer. Neither did he curse, smoke, drink alcohol or attend parties and dances.

At age 11, he gave me my very first Bible, which was his own, used and well worn, torn and pen marked, with scriptures underlined. The Holy Spirit quickly motivated me to spend hours every day, reading chapter by chapter and book by book, in the Bible. As I studied God's Holy Word in the spirit of true hunger and thirst, The Dayspring (sun rising) from on high visited us to give light to them that sat in darkness. (Luke 1:78-79.) The glorious light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior revealed what was hidden under the thick blanket of ignorance and darkness in my sinful heart. The blindness of my mind (II Corinthians 3:14) was taken away, and I began to see the darkness of my sin, which was manifested through my disobedience to my parents—my lying and cursing tongue, my quick temper, my selfishness, my spiritual ignorance of God's Word and will, etc., etc. The Holy Spirit soon led me to obey my parents and cut off relationships with friends that were stealing and worldly minded. I never learned to dance to worldly music, but my parents always took us to dances in my childhood and we would watch and play with other children. Consequently, God soon showed me the following verses: "For the time past of *our* life may suffice...when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, (Greek: a carousal, as if letting loose.)

banquetings, (Greek: a drinking bout or carousal,) and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with *them* to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of *you*:" I Peter 4:3-4. And also, "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness...." Romans 13:13. Riot means to live in a loose, wanton manner or indulge in unrestrained revelry. (R.H. College Dictionary.) After God gave me the light of these verses, at age 11, I refused to go with my parents to these dances and have not attended a dance, school prom, etc until this day of age 41. At age 14, my father offered me my first beer, and because of the verses in the precious Word of God, I said, "No" to his offer. Therefore, I have never voluntarily drank any type of wine, beer, or alcoholic beverage. I never joined any of the organized sports in school, because I saw how so many people worship and idolize the athletes involved in these sports and the spirit of riot that dominates their games. Although, I have enjoyed many friendly games with my neighborhood friends during my childhood days and in adulthood years.

As a result of seeing "Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred,...wrath,...murders, drunkenness, revellings,..." displayed and acted out on television, from age 10 to 17, God slowly weaned me from my parents television. Therefore, when I moved out of their home, I chose, by the saving grace of God, to not have a television set. From that age until today, I have never owned nor brought one into my home. Praise be to God for His deliverance from this wicked influence in my life!

After I became a member of Mr. Sam Hicks' non-denominational church fellowship at age 14, I soon surrendered to the call of God into the ministry. I was called by God at age 11, and for seven years I resisted, made excuses and refused to accept this call to preach. After my mobile home caught on fire, and I saw the vanity of life's fleeting possessions and pleasures, I surrendered my life in full sanctification to God, and to His call into the ministry as a preacher of the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ. After I sold all of my possessions and left my job as a second assistant manager of McDonalds restaurant, I launched out into the ministry as a preacher of this fellowship at age 20. This fellowship requires all of its preachers to sell all of their possessions, go out in faith (no job and no

(Continued on page 9.)

FAITH AND VICTORY 12 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from sin and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

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

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

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

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

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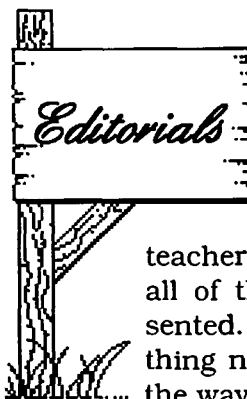
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There is a story of a bright student who, nearing the completion of his education, was dining with his instructor. After a period of friendly conversation the young man spoke to his

teacher, "I have excelled in learning all of the material you have presented. I want to learn one more thing now. Please teach me about

the ways of God." Without saying a word, the teacher picked up the pitcher on the table and began pouring its contents into the student's glass. The cup, though nearly full already, quickly began to spill over onto the table. However, to the student's surprise, the teacher continued to pour. The student exclaimed, as he scooted back from the table to avoid the overflowing liquid, "Stop, stop, the cup can't take any more!" The master raised his eyes to meet the questioning look on his student's face and stated, "You are so full of yourself that there is no room in your life for God. It is not possible for you to learn the ways of God until you learn to empty yourself."

What a sad reality this illustration identifies about the condition of many hearts of those around us. Satan has succeeded in causing our society to be filled to overflowing with all manner of earthly pursuits that are drowning their souls. These things have people so full they cannot understand the ways of the Lord. Their minds are blinded by the god of this world.

Jesus gave this precious promise in Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." God is looking for those who have more than a mere curiosity about spiritual things. Sometimes merchants pass out samples of their food products to shoppers with the hope that they will purchase their product. God also will often reward those who only have a curiosity with a sample taste of His goodness, but to obtain a genuine experience of salvation requires an intense hunger for righteousness.

This intense hunger will manifest itself in several ways. Often an awareness begins to stir in one's soul about how unfulfilled their life has become. Disappointment, heartache, disease, broken marriages, defiling habits, bereavement, various types of trouble and sometimes even a simple coincidence may trigger this restless

sense of unfulfillment. This condition is experienced by most people many times throughout their life and the enemy quickly offers some diversion—a new hobby, a different occupation, a new “look,” and the list is endless—literally anything to mask the yearning need the soul has for God. When an individual with knowledge of this great need catches a glimpse of the great eternal hope that is offered by Jesus Christ and cries out to Him for help, then the work of transformation can begin in the soul. The convicting power of the Holy Spirit will reveal the awfulness of the sin that is separating them from God. When these evils of the heart are brought under the searchlight of Heaven the person will experience feelings of shame, guilt and worthlessness. While the Lord is revealing the sin in one’s life, it is then time to humble themselves and repent, for the Scripture says, “...But to this *man* will I look, *even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.*”

Pride is one of the major obstacles to finding God. Pride attaches itself to people in many ways and is an attitude that is often linked to education, wealth, personal appearance, race and oh, so many other things. It often governs where a person lives, the car they drive and the friends with whom they associate. Those who hang on to this evil will find that true salvation continues to elude them. They may weep a few tears and build a big profession, but their life will not manifest the sweet fruit of a genuine Saint of God. Psalm 73:6 says, “...pride compasseth them about as a chain;...” This verse illustrates how oppressive pride is. While there are many other habits and evils that take hold on people, this form of bondage is probably one of the hardest things to break free of. Yet, the one who would be truly blessed of the Lord will have to pour it out at the foot of the cross.

Notice a few of the things the Scriptures identify that people are filled with, “Their own devices,” “his own ways,” “wrath,” “madness,” “indignation,” “envy.” It is not surprising that some of these things were focused directly at our Savior. (Proverbs 1:31, Proverbs 14:14, Luke 4:28, Luke 6:11, Acts 5:17, Acts 13:45, also see Romans 1:28-30.)

The prayer Paul prayed for the Ephesians was that they might be filled with all the fullness of God. God’s way is far superior to man’s way. If we will empty ourselves of the sinful elements

of this world and allow Him to purge us from all evil, then He can fill us with those things that are pure, honest, just, virtuous and lovely. It is His pleasure to fill our heart and lips with a joyful song of praise.

With a healthy understanding of the good things He has to offer, it is not hard to lay down the carnal affections and lusts that would hinder us from obtaining those precious blessings. Paul said, “Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,” Philippians 3:8. When one has a vision and thirst for Christ, like Paul had, then you can be assured that our Father, who, without respect of persons, judgeth according to every man’s work, will fill that person with an abundance of His marvelous graces.

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



GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

Germany—Dear Saints: I greet you all in Jesus’ name. I praise the Lord for all He has done for me and especially for answering our prayers for my healing from Malaria. Today I am well by the grace of God. One week and a half before the date of my flight back to Germany from Ghana, Africa I began to feel ill, but I tried to oppress my feelings. However, one week later my strength started to leave me, and my wife booked my return flight three days earlier than the original date. I was sure I had Malaria and my first thoughts were about the heavenly Home and my heart was filled with joy. Song number 365, My Life Work, in *Evening Light Songs* and the scripture II Timothy 4: 6-8 came to my mind. “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” So I was ready to go, but my prayers were always: “Thy Will Be Done.”

I am thankful God gave me strength to travel a whole night by bus and to wait a whole day at the airport. On the airplane the fever started to return and it was a very hard trip, but praise God, I was able to reach home. At home each day I became worse and worse so that I was not able to eat, drink or to speak any more. But one

evening we were praying the prayer of faith and the sickness left. Thank the Lord. After this evening I began to recover, so I am thankful God has given me more time to pass with my family and to live and work for Him. I am thankful for all your prayers and for all that suffered with me. I felt the prayers of the Saints. I am so sorry that my family has brought you so much trouble with our sickness last time. We appreciate all you have done for us and we love you all.

Your brother in Christ, —Alen Laukert



LA—We thank the Lord for sparing Bro. Melvin and Sis. Elaine Doolittle from personal injury in the recent tornado that caused three large trees to fall across their home. Fortunately, neither of them were at home when the vicious storm ripped across their place. Pray that the Lord will give them strength and courage to meet the trying days ahead as they attempt to recover from this loss.

Bro. Melvin and Sis. Elaine have faithfully ministered to the Saints in Baton Rouge for a number of years. May God continue to bless their ministry and encourage the precious Saints in their congregation. 30769 Arlington Dr., Denham Springs, LA 70726

NC—I have a special prayer request for a need that only God can help me in. Please pray for me. I thank God for people like you.

—Sis. Faye Minton

India—April 27, 2008, Dear Bro. Willie and the dear Saints in the USA: We had a wonderful VBS this year in the first week of April. Spiritual activities in the congregations and our children's home are going on fine. We face very urgent needs, especially the funds to support our ministers. May God work out to open some unknown ways as this is an emergency case. With prayers. Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Carlos Arriaga
 Sis. Gladys Cashio
 Sis. Helen Carson
 Sis. Waneta Creel
 Sis. Patsy Doolittle
 Sis. Dorall Forbes
 Bro. Troy Gentry
 Bro. John Gutwein
 Bro. Lee Hilton
 Bro. Jaden Howard
 Sis. Leta Inman
 Sis. Karoline Kessler
 Bro. Mark and Sis. Darlene Knight
 Sis. Melba Powell
 Bro. Jerry Quave
 Sis. Olene Rector
 Sis. Marilyn Rendall
 Sis. Ruth Shehee
 Sis. Cheryl Smith
 Bro. Michael Smith
 Bro. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor
 The Mitch Taylor family
 Sis. Norma Tiller
 Sis. Anneta Williamson

MEETING REPORTS

WICHITA SPRING MEETING REPORT

Our God is a wonder and so faithful, the only real God and has ALL power. He was faithful to again bless us with a good meeting. The messages were plain and clear with power in them to stir the souls of men and women. We were blessed to have the Holy Spirit and sanctification preached on more than one occasion. Saints everywhere need to know that it is necessary to be filled with the Holy Spirit and let it burn out the seed of sin from our hearts that Adam passed down to us. The journey from earth to Glory is too great for man to make without the power of the Holy Spirit.

There was altar work in some services where people were seeking God for spiritual needs and even ones re-consecrating their lives for a revived experience.

We thank the Lord for each one of the ministers that came and expounded the Word to us. God is so good and we thank and praise Him.

—Submitted by Sis. Shirley Knight

MEETING DATES

Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—May 23-June 1
Holly Hill, SC (Camp Meeting)—June 1-8
Tulsa, OK (Camp Meeting)—June 8-15
Green Bank, WV (Camp Meeting)—June 13-19
Sisters' Retreat (Okmulgee, OK)—June 20-21
Jefferson, OR (Camp Meeting)—June 20-29
Fresno, CA (Camp Meeting)—June 29-July 6
General Southern (Loranger, LA)—
 June 29-July 6
National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 18-27
Myrtle, MO (Camp Meeting)—August 1-6
California State (Pacoima)—August 15-24
Spooner, WI (Tent Meeting)—August 20-24



MEETING NOTICES

OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING

The annual Oklahoma State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held May 23-June 1, at the campground located east off of Sooner Road on Lakeview Road. This is a little over four-tenths of a mile south of the intersection of South Division and Sooner Road.

As is customary, the first service will be held Friday evening, May 23, at 7:30, with three services daily thereafter. Early morning prayer services and youth meetings will be held as announced.

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

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

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

HOLLY HILL, SC, CAMP MEETING

We would like to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to all to attend our Holly Hill, SC camp meeting to be held from Sunday, June 1 through Sunday, June 8, 2008. Lord willing, we will have two services daily, and meals will be provided for all. If you would like to come and need accommodations, please call Sis. Beverly Pratt at (803) 496-3057 or Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Smith at (803) 492-7975 to make ar-

rangements. Please come if you can, and if you aren't able to come, please pray for the precious Holy Spirit to lead, guide and bless in this meeting. We are looking forward to what the Lord has in store for us, and we welcome all who can come and be with us.

In Christ's love,

—The Holly Hill, SC Congregation

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GREEN BANK, WV, CAMP MEETING

The annual Green Bank Camp Meeting is scheduled to begin on Friday evening, June 13 and continue through Thursday evening, June 19, Lord willing.

Services will be held daily at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Three meals will be served daily. There are no afternoon services scheduled.

All are welcome to attend this meeting. Dorm spaces are available for the young people, as well as rooms and private homes for others. Please bring your own bedding and towels. Come prepared for cool weather. You may want to bring a heater or fan as we have unpredictable weather in June. It would be good if you could call ahead so we can better arrange accommodations. Please provide as much of the following information as possible: name and phone number, date of arrival and departure, and number of adults and children in party. However, if you decide to suddenly drop by, you will be welcome. Accommodations will be provided.

The campground is located off Route 28 and 92 in Arbovale. Signs will be posted to direct you to the grounds. Camper hook-ups are also available.

For further information, call Bro. Mike Carpenter at (304) 456-3250 or Bro. Jim White at (304) 456-4192.

Come praying that the Holy Spirit will have full reign in this meeting.

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SISTERS' RETREAT 2008

The 2008 Sisters' Retreat will convene, Lord willing, June 20-21 at the Church of God chapel located at 1515 East First Street, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

There will be two full days starting at 8:00 a.m. The theme for this year is "A Rare and Beautiful Treasure." The retreat will be supported by freewill offerings. Donations should be made payable to: Church of God-King's Daughter c/o 117 Dawnybrook Drive, Maryville, Tennessee 37804.

Reservations for accommodations can be made at Days Inn in Okmulgee at (918) 758-0660. Make your reservation in the name of *Church of God-Sisters' Retreat* so you can get the tax exemption.

Pray that the Lord will bless in this setting. For further information you may contact Sis. Mary McDonald (865) 977-6997. For directions, call Sis. Sherry Warren (918) 733-1306.

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JEFFERSON, OR, CAMP MEETING

Everyone is invited to attend the annual camp meeting in Jefferson, OR. The meeting will start the Friday evening of June 20 and end on Sunday morning, June 29. Service times will be at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., and a 2:00 p.m. service on the first weekend and last Saturday. For accommodations or directions, you can reach Bro. Bob Wilson at (541) 327-3621 or Bro. Clifford Smith at (503) 581-4575. Your presence would be a great encouragement to the saints here in Oregon.

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GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMP MEETING

Lord willing, the General Southern Camp Meeting at Loranger, LA will begin Sunday, June 29, with morning and evening services daily through Sunday, July 6. If you can join us, come praying for a blessing.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Electrical and water hookups are available for those with campers. Meals are provided and expenses met by freewill offerings.

From Loranger, go two miles south and about three and one-half miles east on Hwy. 40.

For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about 10 miles east of the Tickfaw exit. (At the exit, take Hwy. 442 which runs into Hwy. 40.)

For more information, contact Carlos Doolittle at (985) 878-8122. The chapel phone is (985) 878-2788. Please do support this meeting with your prayers.

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FRESNO, CA, CAMP MEETING

The Fresno Camp Meeting will be held June 29-July 6. On Sunday, Sunday School will begin at 9:30 a.m., with services following at 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday services will be at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The last Sunday, Sunday School will be at 9:30 a.m., morning service 10:30 a.m., and we will end the meeting with the 2:00 p.m. 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. Go to Grant then turn right. The chapel sits on First and Grant.

If there are any questions, call Sis. Gwen Robinson at (559) 233-2492

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NATIONAL CAMP MEETING MONARK SPRINGS, MO

The National Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO, July 18-27. All are cordially invited to come and bring others to enjoy the blessings we are expecting from the Lord.

The Monark Springs campground is located approximately five miles east of Neosho, MO. It is one mile east and 3/4 mile south of the intersection of Highways 86 and 59.

If you travel to Neosho by bus, you may telephone the campground, (417) 472-6427, or Bro. Mike Hightower, (417) 451-3636, for transportation.

The camp meeting is conducted on a freewill offering basis. There is no charge for meals or lodging on the campgrounds. You are welcome to come and enjoy the meeting. We are confident God will supply every need. Meals will be served in the dining hall. Dormitory space and trailer spots are available on a first-come basis. Family units are also available.

The business managers are Randel Bradley (see address and telephone number below), and Mike Hightower, 13974 Newt Dr., Neosho, MO 64850. Phone, (417) 451-3636.

Instructions For Making Dormitory Reservations

Call DeLoris Bradley (620-226-3390). If not at home, please leave a message on the answering machine, or e-mail <rdbradley@ckt.net>. I will call or e-mail to confirm.

Please provide the following information so I can accommodate each one better:

Name and phone number

Date of arrival

Date of departure

Number of adults and children in party

Things to keep in mind:

Bring your own bedding, if possible.

If you leave after the weekend be sure to let me know, even if you are returning the next weekend.

No young people or children are to stay alone in cabins or family units.

After Wednesday the rooms start clearing out, so you might want to keep that in mind.

We have a boys' and a girls' dorm—if your child is staying in one of these, we ask that you feel the responsibility of staying also for at least one night.

There is a mens' dorm, ladies' dorm, and a ladies' dorm for the handicapped.

We want everyone to come and enjoy the fellowship of kindred hearts while we worship the Lord together.

Come praying that the Holy Spirit will have full reign in all that we, as a group, do, from the dorms to the kitchen, and in cleaning and keeping our grounds orderly. Parents or guardians, please keep your children in services with you. I believe God would be pleased if we observe these things and will meet with us under the tabernacle in a greater way.

Love and prayers,

—DeLoris and Randel Bradley
1540 2000 Rd.
Bartlett, KS 67332

MYRTLE, MO, CAMP MEETING

The Myrtle Camp Meeting will begin, Lord willing, on Friday morning, August 1 and continue through Wednesday morning, August 6. We would like to invite everyone to come and stay for the whole meeting. There will be two services daily, 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., and afternoon services during the weekend, as announced. The last service will be the Wednesday morning service. We are praying for a Holy Spirit led and anointed meeting and ask the prayers of all the Saints for this meeting. All who can are urged to come and be a part. We have electrical hook-ups for campers and motor homes, a dormitory for the brothers and one for the sisters, and a limited number of cabins. Please bring your own bedding, if convenient. Provisions will be made to care for all who come. The meeting expenses will be met by free-will offerings.

For more information contact Bro. Harlan Sorrell, (417) 938-4336, or Sis. Carol Sorrell, (417) 938-4493. The campground phone number is (417) 938-4682.

CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The California State Camp Meeting will be held this year from August 15-24 at the camp-

grounds located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA 91331.

The first service will begin 7:30 p.m. Friday, August 15, with three services daily thereafter. For more information, contact either the Sunset Guest Home at (818) 899-2022, Bro. Paul Phillips at (661) 251-6956, or Bro. Herbert Clay at (818) 897-1396.

SPOONER, WI, TENT MEETING

Lord willing, this meeting will begin Wednesday, August 20, at 7:00 p.m., with services daily at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. through Sunday, August 24.

Come for a blessing and to be a blessing, and please support the tent meeting with your prayers.

There will be some accommodations but please call for arrangements. Bring your own bedding and linens if possible. Be prepared for cold nights. We give everyone a special invitation to come and be with us to enjoy God's many blessings of love. For more information contact Bro. Ron and Sis. Martha Zacharias at (715) 635-2994.

"Thy Children Are Gathering Home"

(Continued from page 3.)

salary), and to remain unmarried and celibate for a lifetime or until one leaves the ministry.

From age 11 to 35, I was under what seemed to be an unmistakable impression and conviction that this fellowship was the one and only true visible church of God on earth. Nevertheless, as a result of many trying and painful events, God showed me that this was not the True Church of God, and that I had been deceived and brainwashed. The last straw or "the straw that broke the camel's back," was when we heard at a convention from one of their preachers that the blood of Jesus Christ does not save. Six years before this occasion, (1996) I had chosen to step aside from this church's ministry. In 2001 I married my wife, Lisette. She was also raised in this church from the time that she was eight years of age.

After one year of marriage, Lisette and I chose to leave this church's fellowship. Consequently, we no longer attended their meetings. This was a very painful choice, and it felt as if a part of us was being put to death. From this time

on, 2001, Lisette and I visited and researched over 150 church denominations. Over and over again we left these denominations grieved, frustrated and with fresh pain and tears of disappointment. We were constantly praying, "Lord, please lead us to your True Church here on earth or bring them to us." Praise be to God for His precious answer to our prayers. In 2003, we were driving to IHOP (breakfast restaurant), and it seemed as if the car was being led by an unseen power, causing us to drive into the JB's restaurant parking lot. We were totally oblivious to the fact that this incidence was occurring. After parking the car, I said to Lisette, "How did we end up here?" Anyway, since it was also a breakfast restaurant, we decided to go ahead and have breakfast at this location. It was in this restaurant, that we met a group of modest appearing people, a family, who were audibly giving thanks for their food. Lisette and I continually kept our eyes open for women with long, un-cut hair, (I Corinthians 11:1-15) and modest dress. (I Timothy 2:9-10.) We knew that the women members of the True Church would have these outward and visible marks to identify them as "women professing godliness." This family had contact with another family who has their roots in the Church of God from California and who meet at Monark Springs, MO. After meeting with these two families in Rio Rancho, NM for a span of two and one half years, on and off, God finally and graciously revealed to us beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Church of God who meets at Guthrie, OK under the ministry of Bro. Stanley Dickson, which includes the members of God's church that meet at Monark Springs are God's true, spotless, redeemed and sanctified church. Praise and glory be to God!

Although we had been baptized as teenagers, we chose to have God's true servant, Bro. Stanley Dickson, baptize us at the Guthrie, OK chapel over seven months ago. We've enjoyed visiting the Saints that meet at Guthrie for over a year and a half now. We've also been reading the materials from the Faith Publishing House, books, tracts, etc., for over four and a half years. Some of the precious books have been, *What the Bible Teaches* and *The Revelation Explained* by F. G. Smith, *The New Testament Church and its Symbols*, *The Kingdom of God and The Thousand Year Reign*, *The Sabbath and the Lord's*

Day, Helps for Holy Living, Sanctification, The Ordinances of the New Testament, Lest We Forget, and many, many others.

The Lord has convicted Lisette and I on many doctrines and teachings of the Church of God. For example, we no longer believe in a literal thousand-year reign on earth and we've stopped wearing ties, short sleeved clothing and we have left off caffeinated drinks. We have also accepted the Biblical teachings on healing, feet washing, no musical instruments in worship, the second work of grace (entire sanctification,) and the fact that we can live a sin free life. Glory to God for showing us that D. S. Warner was used as an instrument of God to bring in the Evening Light Reformation. We praise God for the cross of Calvary, the precious blood of Jesus, and the living and resurrected Savior, Jesus Christ, now lives in our hearts by faith, through the cleansing of His precious blood, and indwelling of God's Holy Spirit. We do not boast or trust in our own fruit of good works for salvation, for we are saved by grace, through faith in Christ. "Even so faith, if it hath not works is dead, being alone." James 2:17.

—Bro. Tony and Sis. Lisette Sanchez



Estalene Cramer was born January 2, 1936, in Fort Cobb, Oklahoma, to David and Bessie Maddox. She was united in marriage to Edward Joe Cramer, and to this union were two sons and four daughters born. They lived in Guthrie most of their married life except for a short time they lived in Arkansas.

Estalene gave her heart to the Lord as a young woman and held on to her faith in Him faithfully to the end. She loved the service of God and meeting with His people, and faithfully attended as long as she was able.

Her husband, Edward Joe Cramer, passed away August 20, 1993. Her son, Joseph, passed away June 10, 1982.

Estalene Cramer passed from this life on April 8, 2008 at the age of 72 years, 3 months, and 6 days.

She is survived by one son, Jonathan and Karen Cramer, and four daughters: Iva and Billy Heath, Dorcas and Wesley McNamer, Naomi and Bill Reupert, and Dana and Eric Bonner, 22 grand-children, 19 great-grand children, 2 brothers, and other relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were held on Monday, April 14, 2008, in the Church of God Chapel, Guthrie, OK. Bro. Leslie Busbee, officiating. Her mortal remains were laid to rest beside her husband, Edward Joe Cramer, in the Memory Gardens Memorial Park Cemetery near Guthrie to await the coming of the Lord and the final resurrection.

The following is a song that she was inspired to write:

Dear Friend, Oh, Look Up

Dear Friend, oh, look up! For our Savior is near:
Yes, Jesus is here just to help us!
So look up, look up when you're troubled with fear
And going through long and hard trials.
Just look up to Jesus, He knows what we need;
In sickness and pain don't look down;
Oh, look up to Jesus, He'll be by your side,
And be not discouraged, or frown.

The devil will try so to make you look down,
But look up to Jesus, He's near you!
He holds out for you a bright beautiful crown,
And hope that will comfort and cheer you.
As Moses held up in the sad wilderness
The serpent for people to see,
So Jesus is lifted to Heaven above,
Our Savior and Keeper to be.

Paul D. Eck was born to Dan A. and Ida (Becker) Eck on February 16, 1921, in Meno, and passed away Friday, April 25, 2008, at Greenbrier Nursing Center in Enid at the age of 87.

He grew up in the Meno area and attended Cozy Palace School. Paul served in England & France while in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during World War II. On March 12, 1950 he married Christine Bock in Guthrie and they made their home in the Meno area where he farmed and raised cattle as long as his health permitted. He also sharpened tillage disks for area farmers for many years.

Bro. Paul was a member of the Church of God and regularly attended worship services in their chapel at Hemlock and Independence in Enid. He especially enjoyed singing, playing the autoharp and listening to gospel music.

He is survived by two sons, Gary Eck of San Antonio, TX and Terry Eck of Enid, OK; two grandsons, Tony Eck and wife, Cristina, of Yuma, AZ and Jonathan Eck of Las Vegas, NV; three sisters, Clara Wahl of Enid, OK, Ruey Tucker of Henrietta, OK, and Ella Mae Jarvis of El Dorado, KS, plus many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife Christine, his parents, seven brothers and six sisters.

Bro. Paul will be greatly missed by his family and church congregation. His family appreciates the prayers of the Saints and the loving care provided to him by the staffs of The Arbors, Greenbrier Nursing Center and Hospice during the final years of his earthly journey.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Leslie Busbee. Burial followed at Pleasant Hill Cemetery west of Meno, OK.

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Thy Sea is Great, Our Boats Are Small

*O Maker of the Mighty Deep,
Whereon our vessels fare,
Above our life's adventure keep
Thy faithful watch and care.
In Thee we trust, whate'er befall;
Thy sea is great, our boats are small.*

*We know not where the secret tides
Will help us or delay,
Nor where the lurking tempest hides
Nor where the fogs are gray.
We trust in Thee, whate'er befall;
Thy sea is great, our boats are small.*

*When outward bound we boldy sail
And leave the friendly shore,
Let not our hearts of courage fail
Until the voyage is o'er*

*We trust in Thee, whate'er befall
Thy sea is great, our boats are small.*

*When homeward bound, we gladly turn,
Oh! bring us safely there,
Where harbor-lights of friendship burn
And peace is in the air.*

*We trust in Thee, whate'er befall;
Thy sea is great, our boats are small.*

*Beyond the circle of the sea,
When voyaging is past,
We seek our final port in Thee;
Oh! bring us home at last.*

*In Thee we trust, whate'er befall;
Thy sea is great, our boats are small.*

—Henry Van Dyke