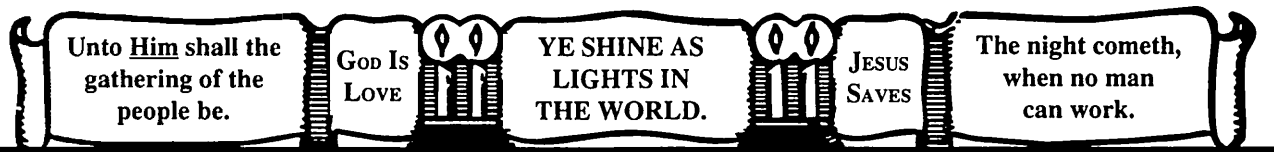


# FAITH AND VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



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"I have set the LORD always before me:... Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope." Psalms 16:8-9. "Look unto me, and be ye saved,..." Isaiah 45:22.

People today are trying to figure out what makes them "tick," what affected them negatively in their childhood years, and the issues of their life that can be blamed on someone else.

### Self-Introspection

By Sis. Tricia Bell

The questions are an endless heap of introspection, falling back into its pit of pride, that can never be satisfied because one's own depraved nature has need of a Redeemer. Each person must surrender to God and be transformed into the person ones Maker designed them to be. May we keep our eyes on what God is planning and doing with us, instead of focusing on our failures and shortcomings.

Self-introspection has caused much misery and doubt for conscientious men and women in

their pursuit of approval and acceptance. Many Christians have made it their duty to examine themselves by allowing their thoughts to continually turn inward on their feelings and insecurities until that is all they see. How much is our life filled with the words "I, me, or my," to the exclusion of who Christ is? We worry, "Do I hear the Lord's voice? Am I doing enough?" or we may take it the other way. "I'm better at this, I do more than, or I'm more efficient than another."

versus

### Looking to Jesus

We may even take it to be our duty to be aware of other people's faults and failures, in case they haven't detected them already. All these, and a 1000 more questions, plague one's mind and satan is taking full advantage of every one by pushing people further down into hopelessness and accusations that lead to despair, or leading them further into a state of self-righteous pride.

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves...." II Corinthians 13:5. This was addressed to the backsliding Corinthians, that they make a decision whether they are in the faith or not? It doesn't mean to examine your feelings, or what people think of you, but simply *are you in the faith or are you not?* Another passage is I Corinthians 11:28, 31-32, "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world." In neither of these

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scriptures does it mean for saved and dedicated people to minutely search for something God hasn't brought to their attention. God's way is a clear path. He doesn't play "hide and go seek" with us. Let us learn to live and not doubt His ability to teach us, chastise us, and point things out that we need to know.

Another scripture teaches in Matthew 25:13, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." Luke 21:36 says, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always...." And in I Peter 4:7 it tells us to, "...Be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer." These scriptures teach us to keep our eyes heavenward. To be watching and ready for His coming. Don't waste your time; live purposeful and pray while you are waiting on God. These verses encourage us to watch what God is doing, not what satan is doing to oppress and cause fear of things that are not there. God doesn't want us to waste time pouring over our past and being so absorbed with our self-introspection that we can't even hear His voice. "Look unto me, and be ye saved,..." Isaiah 45:22. "Mine eyes are ever toward the LORD; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net." Psalm 25:15. Sometimes the more we try to untangle our shortcomings, the worse things become because we don't have the solution; only Christ does.

The Lord wants our self-life to be put off. Just as a snake puts off his old skin we must put off self, instead of patching it up to be admired. We usually only see what we are focused on. Let us turn our back on self and behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. We cannot focus on ourselves and see Christ at the same time. We sing "Thou O Christ art all I want" and we go straight back to looking at ourselves. It is a miserable habit. The reason we fall back into examining ourselves is because self would rather be thought of badly than not to be thought of at all. Let us learn to ignore self and fix our eyes, our thoughts, and our expectations on the Lord and Him alone. One look at Christ is worth more than 100 looks at yourself. Practice looking at Christ, getting acquainted with Him, being intrigued by what He is doing, asking what it is He likes and what He has said?

God has a big picture in mind for our lives. One must let go and give God permission to do with us as He wills, by keeping our eyes on Him and not being down on ourselves. When a farmer plows, he keeps his eyes on the end of the row, and when driving one must look way ahead

to stay on the road. Paul said in Philippians 3:13-15, "...*This one thing I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, **God shall reveal even this unto you.**"

A cheerful, confident faith in Christ is the attitude we must have to grow in the Lord. To have your head down because of yours or other people's faults is not what God intends for His children. "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?" Isaiah 58:6.

"Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart." Psalm 26:2. When He examines us He gives us a cure and doesn't send us on our way to worry and fret about our symptoms. If we are sensitive to His Spirit, when there is sin, He will let us know about it.

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;..." Hebrews 12:2. Let's take our mind off of "me, my, I" and go to work with Jesus, partnering with Him to serve and lessen the miseries of others. Let us enjoy delighting only in the Lord and in His service. We are so blessed. We are loved, so let us show how grateful we are by serving others. A dead religion is focused on sin, but salvation makes one want to serve others because of God's love in our hearts. God's children are focused on benefiting others in selfless acts of love. God is glorified when we are happy and show active love toward others. *We can endure many things joyfully if our gaze is on Christ and what He is doing.*

Let your mind think upon God's goodness and His love. Take the time to drink of His living water and one will be changed more and more into His image. Self-reflective thoughts fill people with either self-praise and pride, or criticism and discouragement. Let's shut the door on self and make it a habit that every time we begin to think critical thoughts about ourselves or others, we will instead think about God's all-sufficiency, His majesty and omnipotence and His ability to care for our souls and make us all He wants us to be. Think about where He is taking you instead of where you are now. Turn your attention to doing whatsoever **He** has put in your hand to do. God desires mature people

who are following His lead to take the banner and go forward with purpose and direction, leading the way for others to follow.



## Growing Pains

There have been times through the years when I would see weaknesses in myself that I recognized were areas God wanted me to be strong in. Things I felt Him calling me to that I literally could not do with what I had on hand at that time. I have stumbled all around these types of places, trying to deal with the pain I felt over coming up short. Then one day, I felt it sweetly impressed on my heart that I wasn't supposed to run from those places or be crushed by them; that it was God allowing me to see weak areas in myself that He wanted to strengthen. If I would give these weaknesses to Him, and give Him permission, He could work in me and get me to where He wanted me.

I remember an occasion several years ago that showed me that I was a coward, and let me see that I would not have the backbone it took to stand up to certain peer pressures if I was faced with those situations. It was sobering. But, then, God allowed me to go through a situation where I had to grow a backbone and be strong in spite of myself, or it would have cost my soul. That instance and more through the years have made me less of a coward.

Now, I again find myself in a place of having to face an area of my life that I do not measure up in. But, even on the weak side of this one, I can rejoice, because I see what God did with my utter weaknesses before, and I trust Him to do it again! I believe that through trials and dealings and teachings and revelations He can again stretch me, enlarge me, increase me, strengthen me, and make me bigger than what I am at present. If I will continue to cast it all on Him and truly trust Him with it, He can accomplish His plan in me.

Give me my mountain! I see where You want me, I am not there. I don't even feel like it's possible for me to get there. But, here I am, Lord. Take charge of me and this situation and *get me there!* When I fall in the process, help me to get back up and try again.

Are you in a like situation? Don't let satan discourage you or accuse you. Cast it on God, and simply trust Him to work and move and *grow* you.

—Sis. Christy Robertson



OK— Please pray for Sis. Tricia Bell, she has a physical condition that is restricting her breathing passage causing her to have extreme shortness of breath. The condition has progressed over a period of time and is becoming very serious.



## Standing Prayer Requests

- Bro. Roger Anderson
- Sis. Tricia Bell
- Sis. Agnes Burleson
- Bro. Gary Burleson
- Sis. Gladys Cashio
- Sis. Helen Carson
- Sis. Genevieve Carver
- Sis. Elizabeth Corteway
- Sis. Waneta Creel
- Bro. Terry Dawson Sr.
- Sis. Guy Domin
- Blake Doolittle
- Sis. Dorall Forbes
- Bro. Dan Gellenbeck
- Jaden Howard
- Sis. Patsy Jordan
- Sis. Earnestine Jordan
- Sis. Karoline Kessler
- Bro. Mark and Sis. Darlene Knight
- Sis. Evodna Marler
- Sis. Virginia Myers
- Sis. Elsie M. Offerman
- Bro. Vernon Robinson
- Bro. David Runion
- Bro. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor
- The Mitch Taylor family
- Sis. Norma Tiller
- Bro. Delmar Wilkins
- Sis. Jan Wood

# FAITH AND VICTORY 12 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD bimonthly by Willie Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044.

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## 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.

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"And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, *that* she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that *was* in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre. Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom." Esther 5:2-3.

Esther was a Jew that had been chosen queen of the mighty King Ahasuerus. Her life and the lives of her fellow countrymen were in danger because Haman, an esteemed servant of the king, was angry at Mordicai, also a Jew. Haman devised a plan to get rid of the Jews and thereby rid himself forever of Mordicai. What Haman did not realize was that Queen Esther also was a Jew and when the evil scheme of Haman became known, the Jews asked Esther to entreat the king in their behalf. Queen Esther did not approach the king lightly, for she asked her countrymen to fast and pray to God for three days that she might obtain the favor of the king in this serious matter. The Queen wisely handled this matter and her approach prevailed before the throne of God as well as the throne of King Ahasuerus. As can be observed in the above passage of Scripture, the king extended his sceptre to her and offered to grant her request. As a result of her entreaty, she saved her people from the destruction planned by wicked Haman.

Even though Esther was the Queen, she did not come before the King with pride. No, this was a life and death matter she was dealing with and she came humbly. She was not trusting in her position, nor her own wisdom, she was trusting in God to bring deliverance and she likewise was humbly entreating His favor. God blessed her approach before His throne as well as the king's throne and her petitions were granted.

In the eighteenth chapter of Luke, Jesus told of two men who went up to the temple to pray. One was a spiritual leader who extolled his virtues before God, the other was considered by the people to be a sinner and he entreated the Lord for mercy in his behalf. Jesus said the publican went to his house justified rather than the Pharisee. He went on to say, "...for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he

that humbleth himself shall be exalted." This illustration was specifically given to people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and to those who despised others. God uses this rule in judging mankind and it causes many people to miss the blessings of the Lord.

In the first chapter of Luke it is recorded in Mary's prayer of gratitude for being chosen of the Holy Spirit to give birth to the Messiah, "He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from *their* seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of *his* mercy;" God chose Mary to fill a special place in His plan for mankind. Her testimony was that God had "...regarded the low estate of His handmaiden." God's regard for those who are of low estate, especially those who are placing their trust in Him, is not an isolated event. It is the rule of His righteous governance. Throughout the Old and New Testament, even from Adam and Eve, we can find this rule in action. When people exalt themselves, they fall into sin that causes them to be isolated from God's favor. What a better place this world would be if men and women would humble themselves to seek the favor and will of the Lord in their lives instead of rambling on in their selfish pride and folly. Their self-righteousness and self-exaltation will surely cause them to be brought low. Many examples could be cited, from Cain and Abel, the people at the time of Noah, the tower of Babel, Sodom and Gomorrah, Tyre and Sidon, Nebuchadnezzar, and Balaam. These are only a few of the examples that would illustrate this fundamental truth.

Why can man not learn this rule from history and walk humbly before his Maker? The answer lies in the fact that the evil prince of this world is reigning in the hearts of men and women blinding their eyes and hardening their hearts, causing them to exalt and trust in themselves instead of taking the humble way of God.

This sin is even evident in young children and is a seed that has passed on all mankind since the fall of Adam and Eve. It has broken man's fellowship with God and if followed throughout the course of their life will bring them to destruction. But God, through His Son, Jesus Christ, has brought about a plan to

deliver us from this deadly seed of pride that results in sin, and He has made the atonement for our transgressions. It is available to all and can be enacted in our lives through humility and true repentance!

Notice the text of Psalm 32:5-6, "I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah. For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him." This psalm of David should be an inspiration to all who have recognized that there was sin in their life. David was caught up in an evil sin and he earnestly sought the Lord for forgiveness. The Lord was merciful to David and forgave him. His mercy is likewise extended to everyone who will humbly seek Him for the need of their soul.

David said, "For this shall every one that is godly pray..." If there is one who claims to be godly, a similar prayer must have come from their lips and sincerely meant in their heart. If not, then their sins remain and they can have no fellowship with God. Repentance is a fundamental requirement for godliness! It is a matter of spiritual life and death! It is a prayer, when accompanied by true humility and faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, that God will hear from the lips of a vile sinner. Oh! And when he hears that prayer and forgives them, they will no longer be a vile sinner! God washes them, makes them a new creature, and translates them into the kingdom of His dear Son! What a wonderful change that makes in the heart of men and women. This is where peace and joy reign supreme!

David also said this prayer should be prayed, "...unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found:..." Too many people miss out because they do not pray this prayer when the Lord can be found of them. It can only be truly prayed when the spirit of the Lord is convicting the soul of sin and their conscience is pricked by their evil deeds. This often occurs in the ministration of the Word of God and the preaching of the Gospel. Sadly the devil is also present to harden their hearts and keep them from yielding to the gentle voice of the Lord. The Lord often visits people in their youth, while their conscience is not hardened by the searing ways of sin. This is the best time to yield to the Lord and live a godly

life that is a blessing to humanity. However, the Lord is faithful to visit people in their middle years and sometimes in their senior years when the body begins to fail. If the Lord is not visiting a person, it would be good for them to begin fasting and praying that He would speak to them again and open the door of salvation to them. With the humility and spirit of Esther and David, God will likewise extend His golden scepter of salvation to us like He has done for many others.

Jesus called the people's attention to an incident where the tower of Siloam fell on eighteen people and killed them. He asked them if they thought they were sinners above everybody else? He told them "...Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:5. The prayer of repentance must be a sacred turning point in every person's life or they will face the wrath of God's destruction.

There is a story of a fireman who was going about the routines of a quiet evening at the firehouse. He was about ready to put a piece of meat on the grill when the alarm sounded for his call to the scene of a shooting. As he traveled to the scene he donned his latex gloves in preparation, because there is usually blood at shootings. As he arrived on the scene, he was relieved to see that the police were already there and things seemed to be under control. The incident was apparently drug related and the victim was shot twice in the shoulder, but still alive. As the fireman picked him up and put him on the gurney to carry him into the emergency van, a lady came running out and spoke to the injured man, telling him to "Make sure you pray the prayer that I told you to!" As the doors of the van closed she stood there sobbing, unsure if the man heard her. The fireman heard her though and thought, "what right does this wicked guy have—to pray to God for a bailout at the last moment when something like this happens?" "Who would try to cut a deal with God in the last few minutes of life?" "Certainly not me." Right? Wrong!

Some time later there was another call. This time the fireman was called to a warehouse fire and there was imminent danger of an explosion caused by a back draft. The fireman and his lieutenant donned their breathing apparatus and crawled into the thick smoke in search of the fire. As he clung tenaciously to the hose line,

he felt parts of the roof fall on his air-pack and helmet. He thought, "Oh no, this roof is going to collapse and trap us!" "I am going to die in here! I really am!" And his mind began to whirl. He remembered the words of the lady at the shooting, "Make sure you pray the prayer that I told you to!" And then He, a strong, atheletic firefighter began to pray!

The Lord had mercy on him and he was able to make his way back out of the fire before more of the roof collapsed, but it was an awakening to him. The Lord does not want us to despise others, neither does he want us to wait until the time of calamity and then try to make deals with Him. For we have no promise of our life and there may not be an opportunity to get right with Him at the last minute.

May the Lord help every reader to make their calling and election sure in a time when the Lord can be found of them. Then when the day of trouble comes, our soul can rest in the peaceful knowledge of God's salvation.

— — — — —

While I was writing this editorial, my daughter, Elizabeth Murphey, called to talk to me and we began discussing some of our thoughts about Queen Esther. She called back a short time after that conversation and wanted to read the following poem that she had written.

Elizabeth came to work for Faith Publishing in August 2004. Through the passing years her sacrifice for the Lord has been a wonderful blessing to many and her labors were an integral part of this work. She managed the order fulfillment, kept the mailing lists updated, printed the mailing labels for our publications, did proof reading, entered the books for the business, ordered stock for resale, as well as many other tasks needed to help the Lord's Print Shop run smoothly.

After working part time for the Guthrie Walmart store in the evenings for a little over a year, she accepted a full-time position with them as assistant manager of the Cushing, OK store. She finished her training in the latter part of February and started in her new position February 25. She rented a home in Perkins, OK to be closer to her work and we helped her move in the first weekend of March. While we sorely miss her, we trust God will richly reward her for her labor here and pray for His blessings to be with her each day of the future.

We also appreciate and trust the Lord will richly bless Sis. Dee Ann Busbee who is working diligently to help fill the vacancy that has been left by this change. —Bro. Willie E. Murphey wemurphey@yahoo.com

## Esther's Great Challenge

*When faced with a problem so great,  
That it could end her very own life.  
Esther understood what was at stake,  
And went to Him Who could cease the strife.*

*She did not barge in upon the king,  
Thinking that as she was the queen.  
He certainly would do her bidding,  
And what she desired would glean.*

*She prayed for three days and nights.  
Asking God for the wisdom she lacked.  
God gave her courage where she had fright.  
And the way that she needed to act.*

*She went with humility, before the throne.  
Putting herself in risk of death.  
The king, with love asked that her request be known,  
Showing not even a hint of wrath.*

*In life may you like Esther be,  
Humble in all that you do.  
Asking God His will for thee,  
And His strength to do it too.*

*I wonder what the end would've been.  
If Esther had went demanding her way.  
Would the king his scepter have lent,  
Or would he'd demanded, "take her away"?*

*Oh must we always careful be,  
To not in our own pride rely.  
But through God's grace we see,  
The path before us and walk with humility.  
—Sis. Elizabeth Murphey*

## MEETING DATES

**Alabama Spring Singing**—April 13  
**Wichita, KS (Spring Revival)**—April 14-21  
**Los Angeles, CA (Spring Revival)**—May 3-5  
**Dallas, TX (Singspiration)**—May 4-5  
**Vanceburg, KY (Spring Meeting)**—May 17-19  
**Boley, OK (Singspiration)**—May 18  
**Oklahoma State (Guthrie, OK)**—May 24-June 2  
**Holly Hill, SC (Camp Meeting)**—June 5-9  
**Green Bank, WV (Camp Meeting)**—June 14-20  
**Jefferson, OR (Camp Meeting)**—June 16-23  
**Sisters' Retreat (Okmulgee, OK)**—June 28-29  
**Fresno, CA (Camp Meeting)**—June 30-July 7  
**General Southern (Loranger, LA)**—  
 June 30-July 7  
**National (Monark Springs, MO)**—July 19-28  
**Myrtle, MO (Camp Meeting)**—August 2-6  
**Pacoima, CA (Camp Meeting)**—August 16-25  
**Raymore, MO (Fall Meeting)**—Sept. 14-15  
**Baldy Mesa, CA (Centennial Services)**—  
 October 11-13

## MEETING NOTICES

### WICHITA, KS, SPRING REVIVAL

The Wichita congregation welcomes you to our spring revival. The meeting will run Sunday, April 14 through Sunday, April 21. Monday through Saturday, services will be held at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. On Sunday, services will begin with Sunday School at 9:30 followed by Morning Worship at 10:45 and afternoon and evening services.

All are welcome! Chapel address: 2509 N Grove. For more information contact Bro. Emanuel Gracey at (316) 461-1267 or Bro. Theodore McCray at (316) 641-4170.

### LOS ANGELES, CA, SPRING REVIVAL

You are invited to our Spring Revival. Lord willing, our meeting will be held May 3-5. Please participate with your prayers and your presence.

Friday, 7:30 p.m. Worship Service  
 Saturday, 12:00 p.m. Ordinance Service  
 4:00-6:30 p.m. Youth Focus "Ice Cream Social"  
 7:00 p.m. Singing and Worship Service  
 Sunday, 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service  
 2:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship Service  
 Church of God, 1381 Walnut St., Los Angeles, CA 90011. In His Service,  
 —Pastor A. P. Johnson, pastorx2@gmail.com  
 (760) 780-6707, (213) 742-0123 chapel  
 Minister James Kelly,

**VANCEBURG, KY, SPRING MEETING**

Lord willing, the Vanceburg, Kentucky congregation will be holding a spring weekend meeting May 17-19th. There will be services on the grounds at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, with Sunday morning service beginning at 10:00. There are rooms and RV/camper hook-ups on a first-come, first-served basis. There are also dorms available for those who wish to stay on the grounds and hotels within 15-20 miles. The weather is unpredictable, so come prepared for warm or cold weather. We also ask that you bring your own linens. The meeting is run on a free will offering. We trust that the Lord blesses and sends the ministers of His choosing. For more information you may call Bro. Dallas Cooper at (606) 796-3645 or (606) 202-1366, or Bro. Matt Howard at (606) 796-6729 or (606) 202-1766. God Bless. Christian love and prayers, the Vanceburg, KY congregation.

**BOLEY, OK, SINGSPARATION**

We invite all to come and be a part of a singspiration in the Boley, OK congregation on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. Come praying with your God given talents and share them with us that we may edify each other in the Lord that we all may get a blessing. For more information contact Bro Cleophas Jordan at (918) 814-4045.

**OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING**

The annual Oklahoma State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held May 24-June 2, at the campground in Guthrie, OK. The first service will be on Friday evening, May 25, at 7:30, with three services daily thereafter.

An invitation to attend is extended to everyone. Your presence and your prayers will be appreciated. Three meals per day will be provided and every effort will be made to provide lodging for those who come from out of town or country.

We have a ladies dormitory, and sleeping accommodations are also available in the Sunday school rooms. The Lord has provided us with a separate family unit with twelve private motel style rooms. To the extent possible, these rooms will be reserved for families. Please let us know ASAP if you desire one of the family units and the number of nights you plan to stay. We also request you bring the necessary linens and bath items.

Expenses for the meeting will be met by freewill offering. If you would like to make a contribution, you may do so by sending it directly to the state treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, 807 W. Lake Rd., Guthrie, OK 73044.

To obtain further information about the meeting, contact the pastor, Bro. Phillip Gellenbeck (405) 282-2999

**HOLLY HILL SC, CAMP MEETING**

We would like to announce the meeting dates for the Holly Hill Camp Meeting. They are, June 5-9. Everyone is welcome. We have some rooms on the campground. Food will be served. Everything is run by free-will offering.

For further information call Sis. Beverly Pratt at (803) 496-3057 for arranging a place to stay. You may also call Bro. Clinton Crummie at (803) 759-0302 or Bro. Floyd Crummie at (803) 490-5768.

**GREEN BANK, WV, CAMP MEETING**

The Green Bank, West Virginia Camp Meeting will begin Friday evening, June 14, with morning and evening services through Thursday, June 20. The camp meeting will be held at the Church of God Chapel located on Rts. 28/92 in Green Bank. Meals will be provided. Accommodations will be provided in our homes.

For more information contact Bro. Keith Beverage at (304) 456-4410 or Bro. Mike Carpenter at (304) 456-3250. Everyone is welcome.

**JEFFERSON, OR, CAMP MEETING**

The Lord has blessed the Jefferson, Oregon Camp meeting with good attendance, ministerial help, and great inspiration in years past. Once again we look forward with anticipation of gathering in His name Sunday, June 16 - Sunday morning, June 23. We give a hearty invitation to all and a solicitation for your prayers for its success. For more info. contact Bro. Clifford Smith at (503) 581-4575.

**2013 SISTERS' RETREAT  
(Note Date Change)**

Lord willing, the 2013 Sisters' Retreat will be hosted in the Okmulgee, OK congregation on **June 28-29, 2013.**

All meals will be provided starting at 8 a.m. which will be breakfast. Sessions will begin at 9 a.m. The expense will be met by freewill offering. Checks or money orders may be made out to "King's Daughter."



For accommodations please contact the following hotels:

**Holiday Inn Express**, 2780 N. Wood Dr., Okmulgee, OK 74447 (918) 756-0100.

**Days Inn**, 4554 S. Wood Dr., Okmulgee, OK 74447 (918) 758-0660

**Best Western Motel**, 3499 N Wood Dr., Okmulgee, OK 74447 (918) 756-9200

Please come praying that the Lord will bless in each session. For further information please contact Sis. Mary McDonald. Home: (316) 686-1996, Cell: (316) 573-1242.

**FRESNO, CA, CAMP MEETING**

Come worship with us at the Church of God, Fresno, California for a Camp Meeting that will give hope for today that will last through tomorrow. The schedule of services are planned to begin, Lord willing, Sunday morning, June 30: Sunday School 9:30, Morning Worship 10:30, Afternoon Worship 2:00, Night Worship 7:00. Monday-Friday, July 1-5: Morning Worship 11:00, Night Worship 7:00. Saturday, July 6: Morning Worship 10:30, Afternoon Worship 2:00, Night Worship 7:00. Sunday, July 7: Sunday School 9:30, Morning Worship 10:30, Afternoon Worship 2:00.

Pray with us that each day the Holy Spirit will open our minds and reveal His truth to us; that we apply the truth to our lives and that He will guide us to a profound spiritual growth and a greater understanding of God and His Word.

“...Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20.

The chapel is located at 388 N. First St, Fresno, CA 93702. For further information you may contact Bro. Brian & Sis. Sheri Rich at (559) 486-9977, or Sis. Stephanie Pree at (559) 291-2726.

**GENERAL SOUTHERN, CAMP MEETING**

The General Southern Camp Meeting at Loranger, Louisiana is scheduled to begin Sunday, June 30, with morning and evening services daily through Sunday, July 7. If you can join us, come praying for a blessing.

There are separate dormitories available for the sisters and brothers. Electrical and water hook ups 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 or to request family accommodations, contact Bro. Carlos Doolittle at (985) 878-8122. Email correspondence may be sent to [cdoolittle@selu.edu](mailto:cdoolittle@selu.edu) (Please label all messages as Re: Camp Meeting). The chapel phone is (985) 878-2788. Please do support this meeting with your prayers.

**PACOIMA, CA, CAMP MEETING**

The annual California State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, August 16-25. The first service will be on Friday evening, August 16 at 7:30 with three services daily throughout the remainder of the meeting.

The campground is located at 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, CA 91331. A hearty invitation is extended to all. Your presence and prayers will add much to the success of the meeting. Three meals are provided daily and accommodations for those needing them. Expenses are met by freewill offerings.

For more information you may contact: Sunset Guest Home (818) 899-2022; Bro. Paul Phillips (661) 251-6956 or Bro. Herbert Clay (818) 897-1396. The chapel phone number is: (818) 899-9021.

**LETTERS FROM OUR READERS**

OK—Last May 23 (2012), I stopped at Wal-Mart on my way home from noon prayer service. Our camp meeting here in Guthrie was only two days away so I needed extra groceries. I have a power wheelchair and a van with a ramp that extends at the push of a button which enables me to do my own shopping.

When I got home I pulled into the garage and loaded the groceries onto my lap. I had a big load but I wanted to bring them all in at once. I didn't realize that a heavy package had wedged against the joystick that controls the wheelchair. As I came down the ramp I released the joystick to stop—but instead it picked up speed! I crashed into a walker. My right leg hit a heavy metal bar striking half way between my knee and ankle. The left foot was twisted severely.

The gardener was just getting ready to leave and was near the garage door when he heard the crash. He rushed to see what had happened and thought I must have had a heart attack. It was a few seconds before I could explain what hap-

pened because of the pain. The packages I had in my lap were scattered around me. The Lord had someone right there when I needed them! The gardener cleared a path so I could come into the house.

My right leg was bleeding badly. Immediately Sis. Karen Dickson came to my mind; I knew she would be able to help me and give advice. While she dressed the gash on my right shin I could tell that the bones were bending inward with even slight pressure. An x-ray showed that both bones were broken on the right leg as well as the ankle bone on the left. I would need casts on both legs!

As soon as my family heard I was in trouble they came quickly to help me. When one had to leave another would take over. Leland, my oldest son, came from California as soon as he could get away. His job allowed for a family medical leave for up to six months and he was willing to stay that long!

Since I am not able to maintain bone strength in my legs through exercise and due to my age (75) the doctor predicted a long healing time, if the bones healed. But God intervened wonderfully in answer to prayer. Within three months both casts were off! The doctor expressed his surprise at how quickly the bones healed. I told him I had lots of prayerful support. He said, "That helps!"

For some time prior to all this Colossians 3:3 kept coming to my mind, "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." It assured me that nothing could touch my life without going through Him! When the accident happened I felt a deep calmness knowing He had allowed it and He would bring me through. And He did that, adding more blessings than I could have imagined!

First of all, the Lord controlled the pain. I was able to sleep well, even the first night! I attended a few services of our meeting. Then, because I had my son's help, we were able to attend the meetings at Monark, Myrtle, Wichita, Dallas, a service at Boley, and the tent meeting in Prague, OK!!

I want to thank everyone who held me up in prayer. God surely answered in a wonderful way! I heard Sis. Ruth Shehee say many times, "He'll do to trust!" He has done abundantly above all I could have asked or thought.

And the Lord added another great blessing just this month (February 2013) by healing a sore in the middle of my back that had been there about 4 years! I could not see it but it seemed to be about the size of a nickel or quarter.

It would form a thick scab then get very tender and painful when part of the scab would come off.

Around Thanksgiving I shared my concern about it with someone and asked them for prayer. Sometime later that person asked about the sore. I realized it hadn't bothered me for some time and when I checked I could tell that it was smaller! From that time it just kept shrinking and now it is just smooth skin where it had been a rough angry sore for so long!

The Lord is teaching me to just trust quietly when "disaster" suddenly strikes and wait to see God's purpose in it. It is wonderful to know He is in control! He has proven this to me many times. I have learned that when God chooses to take something from us it is done in love. His purpose is to fill that void with His own presence. I face each day confident that He is able to guide my life which I have fully surrendered to Him.

I thank each one who prayed for me. I depend heavily on the prayers of the saints; they have been my support and strength!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

— — — — —

OK—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings to God's dear people. Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift. II Corinthians 9:15. I can boldly say, as the Hebrew writer, "The Lord is my helper." I was placed in sort of a state of shock when the Lord took my husband, Gail, last October. He did improve after a short illness, and we both expected healing. He had always been healthy throughout our 53 years of a happy marriage and always worked faithfully at whatever his hands found to do. God's plans were different than ours, although I say "amen" to His will. He is a God of all comfort. God has promised to carry me and that He is doing. Taking much time in prayer and reading in His Word of many promises over and over has brought much comfort and has brought sustaining grace.

I want to thank all of the dear ones that had a burden to pray for God to comfort in this difficult time. I could feel your prayers and concern through the Holy Spirit and His presence was so real to my soul.

I have been faced with many challenges since Gail passed to be with His Savior, but I have been leaning upon His promise, "...My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness..." II Corinthians 12:9.

May we all be busy making preparations for our eternal life.

Your sister in Christ,

—Nina Kelly



**Troy Leon Gentry** entered this world on March 19, 1942. His parents, Arthur Levi Gentry and Dollie Mary Elder Gentry, lived near Shook, Missouri in the old Gentry farm house at the time. Troy was the second son born to his parents. Troy had three older sisters, Cassie, Hassie, Eula, one older brother, Loy, and later on a younger brother, Eddie, joined the family. Many happy memories were made growing up in the "Hills" as the family put it.

The family made a practice of attending church services at the local community church when the family was young. Arthur and Dollie came in contact with the church of God through the ministries of Bro. Pat Huskey, Bro. Darius Gibson, and Bro. Murphy Allen in the late 40's and early 50's. Troy enjoyed the company of the young people that he met at the camp meetings of the Saints. One of those that he met was Sharlot Christine Masters; Christine Masters became his wife June 5, 1960. Troy and Christine Gentry made their home in Louisiana, they were part of the Shreveport congregation for several years before moving to Loranger, LA in the early 70's. They continued to raise their family and live in that community until Troy passed from this life February 12, 2013. While living in Loranger they attended services at the Oak Grove church of God.

Troy was a machinist by trade, a country hillbilly at heart, and most of all a faithful Godly father and husband for his family. Their home was blessed with two daughters Tammy and Amy, and three sons Darren, Brent, and Clifton. He is survived by his wife of nearly 52 years, Christine, and daughter, Amy, of the home, Tammy and her husband, Michael Williamson, Darren and his wife, Cindy Gentry, Brent and his wife, Marita Gentry. He is also survived by six grandchildren, Jenee' Doolittle and her husband, Dion, Jana Whitson and her husband,

Warren, Jared Williamson and his wife, Andrea, Patrick Gentry, Krista Gentry, and April Gentry, and five great grandchildren, Brayden, Blake, and Alex Doolittle, and Landon, and Blaine Whitson. Troy is also survived by a sister and brother-in-law, Eula and John Sherrill, as well as a brother and sister-in-law, Ed and Donna Gentry. Troy was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Dollie Gentry, two sisters, Cassie Gentry, and Hassie Palmer, his older brother, Loy, and an infant son, Clifton Gentry.

Services for Bro. Troy were held in the McKneely Funeral Home chapel in Hammond, LA and interment is at Oak Grove church of God cemetery.

**Note of Thanks**

We would like to thank each one for their prayers through the last few years, especially during our time of loss. Each call, card, and email have meant much to our family. The love of the Saints has been overwhelming. May you feel the blessing of the Lord for your prayers and concern.

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## PEACE

BY Edgar A. Guest

*Some have found it in a garden,  
some have found it on a stream,  
For the peace of true contentment  
is the depth of every dream;  
Some have found it on the hill tops,  
and the search is ages old,  
But no man has ever found it  
in a selfish strife for gold.*

*Oh, 'tis plain what men are after  
as they scramble with the throng.  
'Tis the hope of every toiler  
through the weary days and long,  
'Tis the hope of every sailor  
standing duty far at sea;  
The peace which follows labor  
in the days that are to be.*

*There are countless ways to win it,  
some have found it in a child,  
Some have come to it through sorrow,  
when their hearts were reconciled,  
But whichever way you wander  
and whichever choice you make  
You must leave a touch of beauty  
for the happiness you take.*

*You will never rest contented  
if you serve yourself alone  
From your comrades, from your neighbors,  
comes the peace that you would own,  
It is born of love and friendship,  
in a thousand ways 'tis told.  
But no man has ever found it  
in a selfish strife for gold.*

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