

The
**Apostolic
Faith
Report:**

APRIL 1977

VOL 24 NO. 4

*Promise
of
Life*



Editorial.....

Ode To Odie Serquin

The name "Odie Serquin" isn't a very beautiful name and neither was the wonderful lady who owned that name. But the inward beauty she possessed made her beautiful to me during my middle childhood years of 9 to 12. You see she was my Sunday School teacher and Junior church leader. Many times through the years I've thought of her and thanked God for her influence on my life. She wore very conservative plain modest clothes and her long hair was pulled straight back from her face and drawn into a bun on the back of her head. This was when it was unpopular to have long straight hair. But her inner-beauty outshone and made up for what nature had not endowed her with, or what fashion and cosmetics could have enhanced. She loved children and we instantly knew it. She also loved the Lord with all of her heart and her main purpose in life was to teach us to do the same. She was kind, patient, joyous and had a spontaneous laughter that was contagious. She brought out the best in all of us. Her Bible Stories and lessons were always presented in an interesting "down-to-our-level" way, even without the use of flannel-graph, filmstrips, puppets and visual aids that we have at our command today. Studying the Bible and learning how the Lord wanted us to live was fun. We could hardly wait to get to class.

We moved to Garden City, Kansas, when I was six years old and left there for California when I was thirteen. The latter move was to escape the dust storms of the late 30's. But for those most important formative years God provided for our spiritual needs through Odie Serquin. We didn't have a church of our faith there but that did not stop my parents from attending the house of God with their family of four. We always found a church home—a group of people with whom we could worship and have Christian fellowship. God has children everywhere and in every place and He will lead us to them and them to us if we trust Him to. God doesn't bother with these man-made tags we wear. We are either His kids or the Devils. Pretty simple, isn't it? These were difficult years for our family financially and in many other ways. But in spite of that, my memory is filled with happy recollections of my home-life and of a loving, caring church family mainly because of Odie Serquin. She and my family helped lay the good foundation without which I don't see how I could have survived those traumatic teen years. Especially since our move from the midwest to the faster-paced west coast came as I entered Junior High and all my high school days were spent there. God graciously gave me the Gift of The Baptism of the Holy Spirit in October of my thirteenth year. And I know that made the difference between victory and defeat in High School for me. However I would not have been spiritually prepared to accept that precious gift without the earlier training and spiritual guidance. Odie Serquin knew that those who pray and play together stay together so some of that foundation was laid in carefully planned fun times—birthday parties, Halloween, Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Children's Day programs and

special get-togethers. She not only taught us and prayed with us but she also taught us through fun times that being a child of God was happiness and joy. If we don't find and provide the proper atmosphere for our children to play and use up their excess energies in a constructive way, they'll find others to enjoy themselves with who will lead them in the wrong path.

Everyone should have an Odie Serquin in their life. A someone who was especially used of God to influence their life at a crucial time. Can you clearly remember yours? Better still why not be someone else's Odie Serquin? God wants to use us to help someone. He only blesses us so that we in turn might be a blessing to someone else. He needs Odie Serquins in every city, town, and hamlet and all of the "out-of-the-way" country sides in between. And we can be one by being willing to give of ourselves. He came, died and rose again that we might have new abundant life and use it to bring others to that new exciting life in Jesus. Because He Lives we can reach out to those around us and help lead them to the Risen Saviour. Easter time is a good time to make a new beginning and make our life count for Christ. Are you willing to lay your time, talents and things at His feet and let them be at His disposal? That's what it takes to be a Odie Serquin. I thank God she was willing.

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THE APOSTOLIC FAITH REPORT

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TESTIMONY

BY Mrs. Kenneth Peck
Edna, Texas

A year has passed since I first learned I had a malignancy and that surgery would be needed. The shock of being told this kind of news put me into days and nights of not being able to sleep, which was very unusual for me.

I want to give this testimony to the glory of God in hope that someone might be encouraged if they are facing a situation such as this or if their faith is not able to reach out to God. Believe me, friend, when faced with certain problems in life, reaching out to God is the only way to go.

Circumstances don't "just happen" in the lives of Christians—each thing that comes into our lives is either ordered by God or allowed by Him, in order for Him to mold us in His way for His use and glory. I was able to see God in each phase of the events that took place concerning this monumental hurdle I was about to face.

In Houston, Texas, there is a Breast Cancer Detection Center that is conducting a five year study of breast cancer in women in the forty-five to seventy age group. Breast cancer is the number one killer disease in women in this age group. (I am relating this part of my story, because I want to show how God works, His wonders to perform.) My doctor gave two cards to my sister-in-law, to fill out one and give one to me, if we were interested in taking part in this five year program, which would be a yearly examination and zerox mamography. However he did not know if we would be accepted, as the women being chosen were from the Houston area and we lived 100 miles away. However, we sent our cards in and were accepted and given appointments. This was the number one miracle that God worked in this. We were told that we really lived outside the area, but since our doctor was closer (only fifty miles from the city) they would accept us. I would like to explain here, that the zerox machines at that time were very new and only large clinics and medical schools had them. Since that time, many of them have been placed in hospitals around the country. This is the first machine available that can detect a malignancy in the breast before it can be found otherwise.

I drove into Houston on my appointed day and went through the testing, etc. which lasted about two hours. Soon I was on my way home and thanking God for this good day.

The rest of the week I was busy in our business and completely put aside the thought of hearing from this place until next year when it would be time to go again.

The telephone rang in my antique shop one afternoon the following week. "Is this Mrs. Anne Peck?" the voice asked. "Yes it is," I answered. Then the voice went on, "This is the Breast Cancer Detection Center in Houston. Mrs. Peck, could you and your husband come in tomorrow morning to talk with Dr. Moore?" "What is wrong?" I blurted out. All she said was "the doctor would like to talk with you. Can you be here by nine-thirty?" I said I could and hung up.

Even though a year has passed, I still cannot sort out the feelings I had right then. Maybe it was a feeling of having received a death sentence—I don't really know except I felt numb. I could not utter one word of prayer. It

is at a time like this that God lifts you up gently and holds you close.

The next morning at nine-thirty we were in the doctor's office. He showed us the x-ray and pointed to the "spot," about seven tiny dots no larger than a pin point. "This is what we call a calcium malignancy," the doctor said. He made an appointment for me to see my own doctor the next day.

Sitting in his office that next afternoon, I felt like I was riding on a roller coaster with no way to get off. My doctor explained all he could to me about what would be done concerning the surgery, etc. The surgery was set for February sixteenth, since we had plans and reservations for a four day trip to California—(I decided not to cancel this trip—and this is just another place God was working.) I didn't know how I'd make it, since I could not sleep, but I was, by now, able to pray, "Oh, God, please help me," and help me He did. Praise His Name.

We arrived in Anaheim, California, on a Sunday night. Monday morning after breakfast we returned to our room and turned the television set on. Without turning the dial, there was the 700 Club broadcast and a man by the name of Merele Womack, giving his testimony of how God brought him through a terrible plane accident where he was horribly burned over eighty-five per cent of his body. His scared face was enough to make one want to turn away, but as he told his story, the love of God shone through those scars and the Holy Spirit sent out his words to my heart. In an instant all the fears that had filled my heart for five days melted and in that place, peace flooded my heart and soul. My husband and I knelt and thanked God for this wonderful peace. This is what God had waiting for me and He used this man's testimony to do it. That night I slept soundly and have never had a sleepless night since. Oh! how God cares for His children. I enjoyed the rest of our trip and did not worry. I felt God's assurance that whatever came, no matter how bad the cancer was, even if it meant my life would be shortened, He would see me through. I really was able to face the surgery, knowing I was in His hands. No more worry.

The surgery, a radical mastectomy, was performed and I had a fairly fast recovery and very little emotional breakdown; that is until I returned home. And then I cried everyday at least once and this went on for three weeks. I couldn't stop. Finally, the Spirit of God said to me—"I have done so much to help you, why do you cry? Your life has been saved, the cancer was confined to one small area and had not spread, you do not need future treatment and I saw to it that it was found early and now you are crying." I felt so ashamed of myself and I asked God to forgive me and to make me grateful and to stop the flow of tears. Again God came to help and there have been no more tears.

I told my doctor about this several weeks later and he told me that of all his patients that had had this surgery, I showed the least emotion over it. Only God can do this. We are all human and human emotions are natural feelings, but God can control this to an acceptable point. He loves His children and always does good things for us.

God has never meant more to me than He does today. The longer I live the more He blesses and that becomes a complete circle.

"Yet the Lord will command his loving kindness in the daytime, and in the night His song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life." Psalms 42:8.



Stockton, California

Our church hardly ever sends in a report to our paper, but we all enjoy reading about our many friends and brothers and sisters in the Lord. Last fall we had a very good revival with Bro. and Sis. Jake Pletcher, their daughter, Sissy Urick, and granddaughter, Demi Jo Urick. We had several draw closer to the Lord and two received the Holy Spirit. It was a beautiful revival. We thank God for Jimmy and Linda Long, our pastors. The Lord is blessing them and us as we work together. Jimmy is especially good with our young people and Linda carries a burden for our children. It is important to have these two groups in the service of the Lord preparing to take their rightful place in the future church. Our pastor also has a gift for visiting people in the hospitals, whether they are associated with our church or not.

We are looking for a suitable site to have a Western Youth Camp. Please pray that this will be possible. We here in the dry west would also appreciate your prayers for some much needed rain.

All ministers and gospel workers have a cordial invitation to come by and fellowship with us. We are praising the Lord in Stockton, California.

Jimmy and Linda Long, Pastors
Della Priest, Reporter

Pampa Chapel

Greetings, to all our loved ones in the Faith, from Pampa, Texas. We come with good reports and thankful hearts for what God hath done. Billy Joe and Sharron Daugherty were with us for a series of meetings Sunday morning through Thursday night and we saw many things done. We had several at the altar the Sunday morning service and all through the remainder of the services we had good response and on Thursday night we had a baptismal service in the basement of the Church and five were baptized, three men and two women. It was a glorious service. We have been having very good Wednesday night services and well attended too. May God bless all of you and pray for us as we move on in Jesus and His Love.

Keith Barker, Pastor
Anabel Simmons, Reporter

Hardesty, Oklahoma

Greetings in the name of our Lord.

We were so blessed to have Laly and Valsom Abraham share with us in a Sunday morning service. Laly shared her testimony with us in her native language, and Valsom translated for us.

Bro. Lyndel Arnall just finished a series of very informative lessons on Israel. It helped us to realize how quickly prophecy is being fulfilled.

Amy Melissa Beckwith, daughter of Kirby and Kay Beckwith, and granddaughter of Dean and Doris Randles, was decated on February 13th.

Plans are being made for a revival to begin the 17th of April. We ask for your prayers for these services.

Our church is coming along good, and we are hoping the revival will help increase the attendance.

We have a great burden for moisture, and are trusting God to meet our needs.

Jack Cornell, Pastor
Mary Lorraine Jones, Reporter

"Hebron", India

We praise God for the manifold blessings during 1976 and the guidance of the Lord upon our lives. New opportunities have been offered and by trusting the Lord we have been able to venture forth during the past year.

Our Bible College has entered the third semester of 1976-77 course. The trainees are consecrated young men who would be entering the ministry after the term of studies. They go out to unevangelised areas with the Gospel trusting the Lord for all their needs. Of course, the Bible College itself is a faith school, teaching and practicing faith life.

At present there are about 50 new stations of work in North India. In 1976 Brother Abraham was able to visit several of these places and conduct special meetings. By God's grace the Annual Convention at Secunderabad was held in November 1976 and several souls were saved and 18 were baptized in water. Praise the Lord! The extension work around Secunderabad is progressing and souls are being added on to the church. Last year, we were able to construct a few more church buildings. We were able to purchase plots of ground in some places, buy bicycles for some evangelists and help some others.

In May 76 our son Valsom came home on vacation and got married. Valsom and Laly are now in Canyon, Texas with the Adair family. (Their address is: Valsom Abraham, Box 844, Canyon, Texas 79015). Our daughter Annie also got married to Shaji. Our daughters Starla and Shirley are in school and send their regards to all the dear ones. Mrs. Abraham is shouldering great responsibilities as the work expands.

We are thankful to all our friends who pray for us and who help us financially. May the good Lord bless and reward you all for everything you are doing for us and the work here. Please continue to remember us in your prayers.

Brother and Sister T. S. Abraham

Alvin, Texas

March 13 we had a major new film from underground Evangelism, titled "At Any Cost". It was filmed inside Russia, behind the iron curtain, and in Europe. It was a true story of the persecuted church. It was nice to have Kandy and her baby, Heather, with us for a visit. We enjoyed the good revival with the Daughtertys. Congratulations to Mike and Brenda Dotson on the arrival of Holly Janiece, who arrived February 16, 1977 and weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz. Many of us enjoyed attending the ICL teacher trainer March 10, 11, 12 at Braeswood Assembly of God in Houston.

James E. Wallis, Pastor

Taneyville, Missouri

I John 4:7 & 8 says, "love is of God;....God is love." The message of God's love has been our theme for some time. Bro. Barker has also been ministering to us about having compassion. The Lord is doing wonderful things for us here at Taneyville. Many have reported answers to prayer recently. We give God praise for meeting the material needs and the physical needs, but most of all, we praise Him for the work He is doing within our hearts.

We are thankful for the new heating and air-conditioning unit that has just been installed in the church. We now have adequate heat in the classrooms. We are grateful for all who have given of their time and finances to make this possible. We also appreciate Bro. Houston Cook, Bro. Edwin Waterbury, Bro. Onal Nunn, Bro. Jerry Patterson and Bro. Roger Ross from Granby for their help in obtaining the unit and helping with the installation.

Shari Cook is doing wonderful work in the church and with our youth and Grace Beeler is working with the juniors and they are enjoying her.

Bro. & Sis. Winston Barker, Pastors
Belva Pennington, Reporter

Modesto, California

We have just received word from Ross and Marie Briles that Ross's Dad, Bill Briles, was in Southeast Medical Center in Liberal, Kansas, February 22, 1977 till March 8, 1977—(2 weeks). They have since moved him to California. He is in Memorial Hospital, 1700 Coffee Rd. Modesto, California 95355, Room 220A, Phone 526-4500—AC 209. When he is dismissed from the hospital he can be reached at 603 Floyd Ave. Modesto. This is Ross and Marie's address. We quote from their letter—"We want to thank his friends for their visits, prayers, cards and concern. He would appreciate hearing from all of you. Your continued prayers are appreciated."

Ross, Marie, Cheryl and Jan Briles.

Katy, Texas

The Lord is blessing in our church. We've recently started a Men's Prayer Breakfast which is proving a blessing. The Lord is doing great things with our Adult I Class which recently met at the Raymond Dollins' home for a time of fellowship. Recent visitors in our services have been Bro. O. A. Busch, Adoph Blatch of Bolivia, Mrs. Jewel Hardy, Mrs. Mollie Lewis, and Bro. & Sis. Valson Abraham. They were all used of God to bless our souls.

Jim and Lamoyne Fox, Pastors

Praise Gathering

The Panhandle area "Praise Gathering" for the young people was held Saturday, March 12, 4:00 till 7:00 p.m. at the Apostolic Activity Center in Guymon. This was an opportunity to share in fun and worship and enjoy the taco supper.

Bro. Clarence Shepherd of Perryton, Texas is in Amarillo, Texas recuperating from surgery. For those who would like to send cards to him his address is 3020 Oak, Amarillo, Texas 79106.



Wed 50 Years

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Williams of Granby, Missouri, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary February 20 at the Granby Gospel Tabernacle Annex with a covered dish dinner and open house. The couple were married February 20, 1927 on King's Hollow, northeast of Powell. Mrs. Williams was the former Bea Poe. They have one daughter, Mrs. Louise Goade, and one grandson, Rob Goade, Bolivar, Missouri.



Danny and Diann Poffenberger, 306 E. Lohn, Belleville, Texas 77418, announce the birth of a son, Jerrod Daniel, on February 8, 1977. He was born at 1:47 p.m. and weighed 6 lbs. 14 ozs. Maternal grandparents are Larry and Betty Welsh, pastors of the Apostolic Church in Bellville, Texas. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Poffenberger of Bellville. The family, including big sis, Shalena, is very proud of their first boy.



They are beautiful
because it is their nature
to be beautiful.

consider the lilies

By RUTH A. PINSON

EASTER LILIES! Why is it that lilies, among all flowers, are especially connected with Easter? One reason is that they illustrate so clearly the truth of the resurrection.

Have you ever noticed lily bulbs in a florist's shop? There is nothing attractive about those ugly bulbs.

But a transformation will take place under certain conditions. Plant them properly in fertile soil, water them regularly, and in due time green shoots will appear. At length you will have beautiful plants with exquisite lilies, so white and lovely, filling the air with their fragrance.

There will be no resemblance to the bulbs you planted. You will marvel that such a creation could grow out of something so unlovely—but it is one of God's miracles of nature.

We enjoy a lily's beauty and fragrance, even though we cannot understand the miraculous transformation it represents. Why not do the same in regard to God's miracles in the spiritual realm?

God speaks to us through His wondrous works in the natural realm. He is saying: "See what I can do with you if you will go the way I have planned for you. I desire to plant you too if you are willing. I will take you just as you are—ugly, marred by sin, polluted by this world, and held captive by Satan. As you accept My remedy for sin, and as the blood of Jesus Christ

cleanses you, I will put My life within you. I will plant you with My Son in His death, and change you into the image of His resurrection glory."

Believe His Word. Trust Him to make your life as beautiful as a lily. He will make it glorious and fragrant as the life of Christ Himself.

The death sentence must fall upon all the works of the flesh. The old life, like the lily bulb's wrappings, must die in order that the new life might find release and manifestation.

A lily bulb must be buried. It must be buried deep. A florist says that the reason many people do not grow better lilies is because they do not plant them deep enough to form good roots.

In Romans 6:5 we read, "If we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection."

What a blessed hope. We shall all be changed; in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the last trumpet.

But there is a resurrection life here and now. In Colossians 3:1-3 we read: "If, however, you have risen with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, enthroned at God's right hand. Give your minds to the things that are above, not to the things that are on the earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." (Weymouth).

When did you die? When were you buried? You died and were buried when Christ, your Substitute, died in your stead on the cross of Calvary and was buried in the tomb. But He rose again! So you too may rise to walk in newness of life. The Bible says that if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, and all things have become new. That old sinful life with its deeds and selfish desires is dead in God's sight. It is for you likewise to reckon it dead and to leave it buried.

"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow," said Jesus. Do they struggle to obtain life? No, they receive life as a gift from the Creator. Do they strive to grow? No, they simply yield to nature's laws governing growth. Neither do they get their beauty as a result of their self-efforts. They are beautiful because it is their nature to be beautiful.

How well they illustrate spiritual life and growth! Divine life is a gift, given by God to each person who repents of his sin and accepts Christ as his personal Saviour. Spiritual growth will come to each child of God who yields to spiritual laws. Keep yourselves in the soil of the love of God. Drink of the rain of the Spirit. Draw nourishment from the "exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

There may come stormy days and sunny days, dark nights and rainy nights, times of heat and times of cold; but if you are planted deeply in Him, resting contentedly in His love, yielding to His Spirit in every way, you will grow in strength and beauty far surpassing that of Solomon. The purity and fragrance of Christ you will shed forth until others will be attracted

my love; there is no spot in thee" (Song of Solomon 2:2; 4:7).

Each lily is a miracle of God's power and grace. Why think it any harder for the Lord to do this for you than to transform the lily bulb into a thing of beauty and glory? God made this very real to me when He gave me the following poem:

*Only an ugly lily bulb,
Buried in dark, cold earth!
It sighs; it cries;
It yields; it dies;
And lo! new life is given birth.*

*Transformed in wondrous beauty rare,
A new creation, oh, so fair!
No mortal knows just how or why.
The secret is, it HAD TO DIE.
Then God His marvels could show forth.*

*Oh, be His lily pure and white,
Whose beauty is His fond delight.
The way? Thou now must surely see—
Heed His command, "Come, follow Me."*

What hope does

A man can endure almost anything as long as he has hope, as long as he can believe there may come a change for the better. He can put up with privation; he can stand severe hardship; he can accept harsh confinement; he can live with discomfort; he can be patient through long illness.

Hope works in these ways:

Hope looks for the good in people instead of harping on the worst.

Hope opens doors where despair closes them.

Hope discovers what can be done instead of grumbling about what cannot.

Hope draws its power from a deep trust in God and the innate goodness of mankind.

Hope regards problems, small or large, as opportunities.

Hope cherishes no illusions, nor does it yield to cynicism.

Hope sets big goals and is not frustrated by repeated difficulties or setbacks.

Hope pushes ahead when it would be easy to quit.

Hope puts up with modest gains, realizing that "the longest journey starts with one step."

Hope accepts misunderstandings as the price for serving the greater good of others.

Hope "lights a candle" instead of "cursing the darkness."

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

MOVING?

'A quarter a time' is what the Post Office charges us whenever a copy of the Report is returned with a reader's new address. If you are moving, won't you tell us at once, allowing at least 4 weeks for the change? Send the mailing label from the back page so we will know your old address. We have taken the address correction requested off our return address because of this and your address changes are not reaching us. We would so appreciate your help in getting the Report to you on time.

The unanswerable argument

Several years ago a husband and wife were involved in arguments almost daily. Harsh criticism had become a way of life.

When things were close to the breaking point, the husband said, "Let's set up two boxes with slots in them—one box for me, another for you. When either of us feels like criticizing the other, he will write out his feelings and drop them in the box. At the end of three months we will open the boxes and read all the notes at one sitting."

The wife agreed. Time after time she wrote out her anger against her husband and dropped what she had written in the box.

Then the big day came! The husband said, "Ladies first!" So they took out her notes and read them. There they were, criticism stacked on criticism—three months of criticism!

Then they opened the husband's box. On every single slip of paper he had written the same three words: "I love you!"

That was the beginning of the end of many of the wife's criticisms. "I had found," she said later, "the one unanswerable argument in the world in three words: *I love you!*"

That was also God's unanswerable argument against a world that had sinned against Him! Above our hatred, prejudice, greed, and selfishness, God's Son hung on a cross, His arms outflung as if to take to His heart the very world that had killed Him!

Small wonder the cross still stands while kings and kingdoms come and go. It stands there a silent, thundering reply to all our high-sounding skepticism. It is God's unanswerable argument in the age-old debate between man and his Maker. It is God saying through His Son on the gallows-wood: *I love you!*

—LON WOODRUM

FAITH

A traveler crossed a frozen stream,
in trembling fear one day;
Later a teamster drove across
and whistled all the way.

Great Faith and little faith alike
Were granted safe convoy;
But one had pangs of needless fear,
the other had all the joy.

Obituary of Cora Mable James

Cora Mable Grove was born on August 8, 1902, at Miami, Oklahoma to Wesley and Florida Grove. She passed away December 27, 1976. She came with her parents to the Panhandle in 1904, settling south of Hardesty in the Hackberry Community.

On April 4, 1919, at Guymon, Oklahoma, Mable was united in marriage to Frank James. They made their home in Hansford County, Texas, where a son and a daughter were born to this union. In 1946 they moved to Spearman, Texas, where they made their home. Frank preceded Mable in death on September 7, 1960. In 1965 she moved back to the Hardesty Community.

Her parents, two sisters, and two brothers preceded her in death.

To mourn her passing are: a son, Herman James, and wife, Ethel, of Hardesty, Oklahoma; a daughter, Viola Janzen and husband, Ed, of Liberal, Kansas; six grandchildren, J. E. James and wife, Vickee, of Amarillo, Texas, (little Heather Lane was born in February after her great-grandmother's death), Wesley James and Sherlene James of Hardesty, Oklahoma, Charles Janzen and wife, Jan, of Wichita, Kansas, Darrell Janzen and wife, Sherri, of Liberal, Kansas, and Kenneth Janzen and wife, Jeanne, also of Liberal, Kansas; another great-granddaughter, Dyan Janzen of Wichita, Kansas; one brother, Carl Grove and wife, Bea; one sister, Edna Riggan and husband, Hayes, all of Guymon, Oklahoma.

Many nieces, nephews, uncles, aunts, cousins, and a host of friends also mourn her passing.

The life of Mable James will not soon be forgotten. Her expressions of kindness through kind deeds, willingness to share her means with others, and the sending of cards to those she loved will always be remembered.

Her Christian life began in 1939 at a brush arbor meeting conducted by Elmer Stump. She continued to serve her Lord until her death.

Memorial services were conducted in the Hardesty High School Auditorium on Wednesday, December 29 at 2:00 p.m. with Rev. Calvin Springer and Rev. Lealand Grimmer officiating. Burial was in Hansford Cemetery near Spearman, Texas.

One or Two Questions Please

Mrs. Ella Graig, 81, has not missed attending Sunday School in 1,040 Sundays. A perfect record for so many years.

1. What's the matter with Mrs. Graig?
2. Doesn't she ever have company to keep her away from church?
3. Doesn't she ever have headaches, colds, nervous spells, tired feelings, sudden trips out of town, business trips, Sunday picnics or trouble of any kind?
4. Doesn't she have any friends at all...who invite her to a week-end trip to the beach or lake-house?
5. Doesn't she ever sleep late on Sunday mornings?
6. Doesn't it ever rain or snow, or get too hot or cold on Sunday?
7. Doesn't she ever get mad at the preacher or the Sunday School teacher or some member?
8. Doesn't she ever just have to get away from it all?
9. Doesn't she have a radio or television so she can listen to "some mighty good sermons" from out of town?
10. What's the matter with Mrs. Graig?

ILL TELL YOU. She has the old-time religion deep in her heart and she loves to attend God's house. She also knows the meaning of Hebrews 10:25. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together....."

LIFE'S RECIPE

- 1 cup of Good Thoughts
- 1 cup of Kind Deeds
- 1 cup of Consideration for Others
- 2 cups of Sacrifice for Others
- 3 cups of Forgiveness
- 2 cups of Well-Beaten Faults

Mix these thoroughly and add tears of joy and sorrow and sympathy for others. Flavor with little gifts of love. Fold in 4 cups of prayer and faith to lighten other ingredients and raise the texture of great height of Christian Living. After pouring all this into your daily life, bake well with the heat of human kindness.

Serve with a smile.

RECIPE FOR MAKING A HOME

Take 1/2 cup of Friendship, add one cup of thoughtfulness. Cream together with a pinch of powdered Tenderness. Lightly beat in a bowl of Loyalty with 1 cup Hope and 1 cup Charity. Be sure to add a teaspoon each of Gaiety that sings and the ability to Laugh at little things. Moisten with sudden tears of Heartfelt Sympathy and bake in a Good Natured pan.

Serve repeatedly.

Investment

*Time with God
Is time not spent
But giving back
What He has lent.*

*In dividend
A thousandfold;
Like worthless pebbles
Changed to gold.*

—RUTH GIBBS ZWALL
in *Bethel Booster*

Which disturbs you the most?

1. A soul lost in hell or a scratch on that new car?
2. A sermon ten minutes too long or lunch a half-hour late?
3. Your missing the worship or missing a day's work?
4. The church not growing or the garden not growing?
5. Your Bible being unopened or your newspaper being un-read?
6. Contribution decreasing or your income decreasing?
7. Your children late to Bible classes or late to school?
8. Church work neglected or house work neglected?
9. Miss a good Bible class or miss your favorite TV program?
10. Low attendance at worship or low attendance at a party?

If Christ and the Church are not first in our
lives we are but fooling ourselves.

D. L. Johnson

OLD FOLK ARE PEOPLE!

It seems as folks grow older.
The time then soon will come,
When they seem to be "old fogies"
To those who are still young.
Their ideas are all outdated,
Their advice, the young ignore.
Their company becomes dull and tiresome;
To the young, they're just a bore.
Though years may bring them wrinkles,
And their appearance may also change
Yet in their hearts, there is no difference;
Their feelings are the same.
They still like to be included;
The family fun they like to share,
And not to be just overlooked,
As though they were not there.
But old folks are soon forgotten
When they lose their usefulness,
And the hurt this realization brings,
No words can quite express.
Yet, just as night follows day,
And sunshine follows rain;
If you're causing your old folks grief this way,
Someday YOU will feel the pain!

—Greenville Bulletin

JUST WOOD

By Bob Benson

Isn't it strange that we should glorify the cross,
Put it on our churches
Wear it on our lapels
And around our necks?
That we should sing about it,
And that it should become a symbol of faith and inspiration?

The cross — a dark, dirty, excruciating way of legalized
killing
—in the name of justice
Had the Romans chosen to hang or behead—
or mutilate or shoot,
Would we sing of the precious old rope—
Or would our steeples lift rifles to the sky?

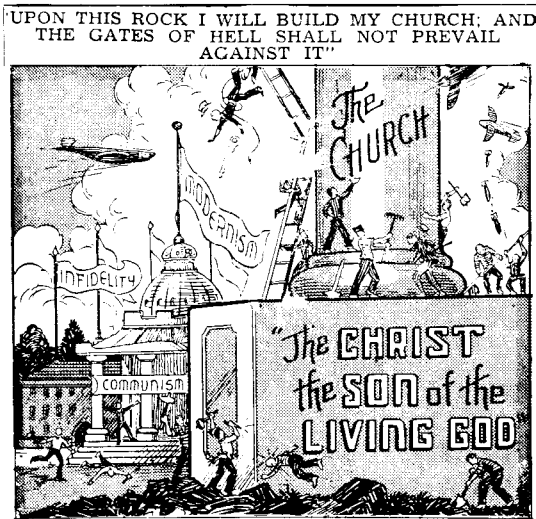
Isn't it moving that His love could transform,
the long ago counterpart of electric chairs,
and gas chambers into a symbol of faith and devotion?

But then love changes everything it touches:
It makes heavy burdens light,
long hours short,
ordinary faces beautiful,
houses into homes,
picnics into banquets,
wilted daises into bouquets
God into sacrifice and sinners into saints.

And if He could take a cross and fashion it,
like He fashioned wood in His earthly father's Carpenter shop,
into a depiction of deepest love,
Doesn't it make you wonder
What He might be able to do with you
If you yielded to His love?

SAVED, BUT STILL BOUND





H E A L I N G D I V I N E

TESTIMONY

By Bro. James Hosler
Laverne, Oklahoma

The Report has been such a blessing to me. Bro. Wallis' Bible Lesson in the February issue on "That I May Know Him?" meant so much to me. I read it several times. A few weeks ago I was very discouraged and I was desperately seeking God for some personal victory and help. I was so low that I couldn't touch bottom by reaching up. I went to the promise box and asked God to help me draw a promise that I could stand upon and would meet my desperate need. And He did! I drew Hebrews 13:6 "That I may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." That was so good that I went to my Bible and read and studied the whole chapter. It is full of many more wonderful verses. The 5th verse stood out to me then. "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Suddenly it dawned on me that it took obedience to verse 5 to obtain the promise of verse 6. I found such comfort in these verses.

Bro. Ted Barker recently held a good revival in Shattuck, Oklahoma and I was privileged to go with him and enjoyed the old time preaching so very much. His sermon on not being deceived was the climax of the revival to me. He said many of the oldtime preachers are now partakers in things they used to preach as wrong, such as TV and Sports. He also mentioned how easy it is to go to the hospital now instead of trusting the Lord. And the scripture that came to me was II Peter 3:17 "Ye therefore beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness."

I confess that I have made many blunders and mistakes. I sometimes wish that I could go back and live some of my life over again. I feel that I could use some of my failures as stepping stones, but I know that is impossible. So I just humbly say "Please Jesus, cover it all with your precious blood." I hope this will be a reminder for all of you to pray for me.

Not long ago Bro. Jack Barker took me to our area Preacher's Meeting and I gave my testimony there. I thank God for Ministers and friends like this.

Mrs. W. W. Chapman

DIVINE HEALING is called "DIVINE" because it is an act of God, and not of man. The sick, the afflicted, and the demon possessed can be brought back to health in answer to the prayer of faith. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much, whether it be for healing or for other needs. James 5:15-16. The prayer of faith is never turned away from the throne of God.

Below are a few of God's words that will inspire faith in our hearts; faith is the gift of God, and cometh by hearing, reading, and believing. "Without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him," Heb. 11:6. Malachi 3:6, "I am the Lord; I change not." Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday today and forever." Jer. 33:3; "Call unto me and I will answer thee." Math. 21:21-22: "If thou hath faith and doubt not, it shall be done. All things whatsoever you ask in prayer, believing you shall receive." Mark 10:27; "With men it is impossible." Mark 9:23; "If thou canst believe all things are possible, to him that believeth." Math 7:7; "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you." Math. 15:7; "If ye abide in me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 16:24; "Ask and ye shall receive that your joy might be full." Math. 18:19; "If two agree on earth touching anything they ask, it shall be done. (Get someone to pray with you.)" Mark 16:18; "Believers shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover." James 5:14-15; "Is any sick among you: Let him call the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord, and THE PRAYER OF FAITH SHALL SAVE THE SICK, and the Lord shall raise

him up: and if he has committed any sins, they SHALL BE FORGIVEN." Math 9:25; "According to your faith, be it unto you."

The Bible records many wonderful healings that came through FAITH IN GOD. A woman that was sick 12 years had suffered many things from many physicians, and had spent all she had, and was nothing bettered but rather grew worse. No doubt she had come to her wits end, discouraged, and given up to die; but JESUS THE GREATEST OF ALL PHYSICIANS was passing through her community, and someone told her about Him; a new HOPE and FAITH immediately sprang up in her heart, and she said, "IF I COULD ONLY TOUCH THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT I WOULD BE MADE EVERY WHIT WHOLE." So she at once began to press her way through the crowd to Him. At last she touched the hem of His garment and was made every whit whole, Mark 5: Isn't it good to know that JESUS HAS NOT CHANGED? NEITHER HIS FATHER? He still has compassion on the sick and heals them. Jesus said, "He that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out," John 6:37. But we have to do as the above: believe that we too can be healed, for Jesus said unto her, "THY FAITH HATH MADE THEE WHOLE;" thus proving that she too had to have faith to receive this healing.

Another record: Ten men had leprosy; they too heard the good news about Jesus healing. They had faith, and immediately they made their way to Jesus and said, "MASTER HAVE MERCY ON US," and Jesus healed them all, Luke 12:17.

Another record: Jesus and His disciples and a great crowd of people were going down the road to Jericho, and a poor blind beggar sat by the wayside begging. When the beggar asked what all the noise was about, someone told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by, and he straightway began to cry out saying, "THOU SON OF DAVID HAVE MERCY ON ME." Jesus heard his pitiful cry, and immediately called unto him, saying, "THY FAITH HATH MADE THEE WHOLE," Mark 10:6. Many tried to discourage and hinder the woman mentioned above, also the poor blind man, but they had the faith to press on regardless of oppositions. Since the days of John the Baptist people have pressed their way into the blessings of God, regardless of those that oppose them.

Another record: a certain lame man, who had been lame all his life, was taken daily to the gate of the temple, which was called Beautiful, to ask alms. Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have I give unto you. IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OF NAZERETH ARISE AND WALK," and immediately strength came into his ankle bones, and he arose, and leaped and praised God for this great healing miracle, Acts 3:2. Peter and John had THE FAITH for this man; all he had to do was to obey and "look up".

Another record: Hezekiah, the captain over God's people, was sick unto death, and God sent his prophet Isaiah to tell him to set his house in order for he was going to die. Immediately Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and began to pray, saying, "I beseech thee O Lord, remember how I walked before Thee in truth and a perfect heart, and done that which is good in Thy sight," and Hezekiah wept sore. The Lord had compassion on him and said, "I have heard thy prayers, I have seen thy tears, behold I will heal thee;" his life was lengthened 15 years because he

wept and prayed unto the Lord in faith BELIEVING. II Kings 20:

Another record: Job of old trusted God for healing for his body, which was smote from the crown of his head to the sole of his feet with boils. He was a man of great wealth and could have had all kinds of medicines and physicians at his command, but he preferred trusting the GREAT PHYSICIAN. It was a severe test of his faith, but he stood steadfast and unmoveable. Many came against him—even his wife, who should have encouraged him, told him to curse God and die; but this did not discourage him. His heart condemned him not and he had faith and confidence in God. He purposed in his heart that he was going to trust God even unto death, but God sent His power and HEALED HIM.

Another record: David the Psalmist said, "Bless the Lord O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, WHO FORGIVETH ALL OUR INIQUITIES, WHO HEALETH ALL OUR DESEASES," Psalms 103:2-3.

Paul sent out handkerchiefs and aprons to the sick that he could not reach in person, and diseases departed from them when they received them, Acts 19:14. Paul spoke of Luke as the beloved physician; no doubt he had the GIFT OF HEALING, (I Cor. 12:9) for we note in his writings God healed so many people through his faith, therefore they called him the beloved physician.

Philip went to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to the people. He told them about God's power to SAVE AND HEAL, and God confirmed His word, and saved and healed those that believed. This brought great joy to the people, Acts 8:5-8.

The forgiveness of our sins and the healing for our bodies are our rightful inheritance, bought and paid for through the suffering of the Son of God. When He died on the cross, the last words He said were, "IT IS FINISHED." The plan of God was completed for the SALVATION OF THE SOUL, and HEALING FOR OUR BODY.

Isaiah records the marvelous atonement to be wrought through JESUS CHRIST for sin; and he also prophesies of the atonement for HEALING, atonement for GRIEF and SORROW. He died on the cross for our sins, and His back was beaten with many cruel stripes from the hands of Pilate and others for our healing, John 19: Peter also witnesses to us that by those stripes we can be healed, I Peter 3:4.

Now you may say, "He only did those things when he was here in person;" but let us remember that He is God and He changes not. He calls His ministers to preach HIS gospel, and heal the sick. He has never withdrawn that commission. It still stands today and cannot be denied because it is the words of our Lord, Math 10: Mark:

Let us bear in mind FIRST THE SOUL. It too can be diseased by sin of all kinds, which is far worse than a diseased body; however, Jesus suffered that both soul and body may be healed. There is no comparison between the value of the SOUL and the value of the body. Our body is just a temple for the soul to dwell in. After death it decays and goes back to dust from whence it came, and no special value is put on it; but the soul is so precious to God that it returns back to God who gave it, and will have the joy of living throughout ceaseless ages of eternity if it is saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. If not, it shall die and not live. Ezekiel 18:4.

Jesus said, "HAVE FAITH IN GOD" Mark 11:22.

LOST PINES

Singing School and Youth Camp

Warda, Texas

June 2-10, 1977

Teenage Enrollment—Thursday, June 2

Classes Start Monday Morning

8

Full days

with

Videt Polk, Instructor

of

Pass Christian, Mississippi

Junior age enrollment Sunday June 5

Both groups closing service

June 10, 1977

CHAIRMAN: Jim Fox

Box 713

Katy, Texas 77450

Phone 713-371-3426

PANHANDLE YOUTH CAMP

Laverne, Oklahoma

Teenage: May 29-June 3

Junior age: June 5-10

Comitee Chairman:

Jack Cornell

Box 133

Hardesty, Oklahoma 73944

Phone 405-888-4555

Comitteemen:

Delvin Wiles, Laverne, Oklahoma

David Lively, Laverne, Oklahoma

Ted Barker, Laverne, Oklahoma

Keith Barker, Pampa, Texas

4-STATE

Youth Camp

Baxter Springs, Kansas

June 19-24, 1977

Enrollment Sunday June 19 after 2 p.m.

Classes start Monday and close after
lunch Friday. **THERE WILL BE NO FRIDAY**

NIGHT SERVICE

Chairman

Edwin Waterbury

Box 205, Granby, Missouri 64844

Phone 417-472-6203

Committeemen:

Wapel Ferguson, Cave Springs, Arkansas

Neil Ragan, Joplin, Missouri

Ollie Kinser, Baxter Springs, Kansas

4-STATE CAMPMEETING

Baxter Springs, Kansas

July 21-29, 1977

This camp will start on Thursday night
and close the following Friday night.

There will be only one week end involved

We hope this will enable more people
to come spend the entire camp time with us.

Chairman:

Doyle, Wiles

Route 1 Box 226 Decatur, Arkansas 72722

Our printing costs have been raised another \$50.00 per issue beginning with the March 1977 Report. We wish to thank you for the way God has supplied the needs of the paper through you His children and our readers. I'm sure we are all very aware of the ever spiraling costs of everything today and I know that God will take care of the needs of the paper through His faithful ones.

Your Editor

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