



APOSTOLIC TRUTH

NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSOURI DISTRICT OF THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

January – March 2024



He'll Understand and Say, "Well Done."

Dr. Jason M. Hood, ACJC Missouri District Elder

Born in 1885, Lucie Eddie Campbell, or "Miss Lucie" as she was known, is one of the lesser-known heroes of the

civil rights movement. A decade before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus to a Caucasian man, Miss Lucie bravely stood against the Jim Crow laws of her time by refusing to give up her seat in a whites-only section of a streetcar.

She understood bravery and strength-through-struggle. The youngest of nine children, Miss Lucie's father was killed in a railroad accident shortly after her birth leading to her mother, who worked as a cook, being the sole provider for the large family. Miss Lucy was well educated, graduating as valedictorian of her high school class in 1899 and later receiving a baccalaureate from Rust College and a master's degree from Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State College.

She was an educator, an activist, an evangelist, and – that for which she was most widely known – a prolific songwriter. In her lifetime, Miss Lucie wrote over 100 songs. Of them, only two of which would be considered secular, being civil rights anthems. At the core of her life was the determination to not just sit back and allow life to happen. Her desire was to *fight* ignorance and injustice in a practical and powerful way.

Of all of Miss Lucie's songs, none has ever meant as much to me as her 1933 hymn, "He'll Understand and Say, 'Well Done.'" I fondly remember walking into the church building and hearing the familiar sound of Sis. Holley, my Pastor's wife, playing the piano in the sanctuary. I would quietly make my way to the sanctuary doors and listen to the dear saint of God sing unto

the Lord privately. There, with tears streaming down her face, she would sing the words of Miss Lucie's song:

*If when you give the best of your service,
Telling the world that the Savior is come;
Be not dismayed when men don't believe you;
He'll understand; and say, "Well done."*

She would usually only sing the first and fourth verses along with the chorus. Seldom did I hear her make it all the way through the fourth verse without her voice cracking as she was seized by the emotion of the words:

*But if you try and fail in your trying,
Hands sore and scarred from the work you've begun;
Take up your cross, run quickly to meet Him;
He'll understand; and say, "Well done."*

Sis. Holley had endured many difficulties. And while I will not here present a litany of her own trials and troubles, suffice it to say there was little distress she had not experienced in the process of being a wife, mother, and Pastor's wife. So many were the times that I would find her fighting boldly in prayer those battles which others would simply refuse to fight in the same manner. She fought on her knees for the children of saints who gossiped against her and for the souls of ministers who mistreated her husband.

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Apostolic Truth is the official quarterly newsletter of the Missouri District of the Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ International, Inc.

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OUR MOTTO

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.” – Psalm 133:1

“With Apostolic doctrine and Apostolic fellowship with an Apostolic aim, this body of Christian ministers and workers are determined and hope to obtain Apostolic results.”

REMINDER

The first Monday of every month has been set aside as a day of prayer and fasting for the Missouri District ACJC.

“Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ ...” Colossians 6:2

He Maketh No Mistake

By A.M. Overton (1932)

My Father's way may twist and turn,
 My heart may throb and ache,
 But in my soul, I'm glad to know,
 He maketh no mistake.

My cherished plans may go astray,
 My hopes may fade away,
 But still, I'll trust my Lord to lead,
 For He doth know the way.

Tho' night be dark and it may seem
 That day will never break,
 I'll pin my faith, my all, in Him,
 He maketh no mistake.

There's so much now I cannot see,
 My eyesight far too dim,
 But come what may,
 I'll simply trust and leave it all to Him.

For by and by the mist will lift,
 And plain it all He'll make,
 Through all the way, tho' dark to me,
 He made not one mistake.

Continued from Page 1, “He’ll Understand and Say ‘Well Done’”

She fought the good fight of faith when others would give up the fight as “too hard,” or “not worth it.” I cannot adequately express the degree to which Sis. Holley bore the brunt of sorrow. She was, in many ways, the rock on which the storm would beat. Nevertheless, she stood her ground.

She stood up as a mother in Israel – a teacher of children, even those not her own. She was blessed with a godly sort of stubbornness which, I believe, we would more rightly call determination coupled with zeal and extreme confidence in the power of God. I’m not sure there was an ounce of *backing down* in her, and if her spine were not made of steel, it must most certainly have been made of iron. Her heart, pure gold.

I honestly cannot remember if I ever heard her complain beyond the occasional fuss about her husband not taking his medicine to her liking. But of her own sorrows, never a word. Sis. Holley elected to take her burdens to the Lord. This is exactly what she was doing all alone in a sanctuary seated on a piano bench. Her tears spoke volumes, even when the words simply would not come.

She gave the best of her service, yet people didn’t believe her. It was often unappreciated – ignored. She tried and, in trying, failed. And, in those areas where she had not failed, she often believed herself a failure. This is the common frustration of anyone who tries to serve God out of a sincere heart and with the entirety of their being. The investment of carrying the cross always brings a degree of sorrow to the bearer.

But I learned great lessons from Sis. Holley through the words of dear Miss Lucie’s wonderful hymn. I will suffer. I will be hurt. I will be misunderstood. I will not always be appreciated. I will be betrayed. I will carry a cross.

But was not this exactly what Christ said would happen in the lives of His disciples? Consider all that Jesus spoke

of regarding persecution, rejection, being betrayed by family and friends, and every other manner of *stuff* a Christian would endure. But I believe it is our Apostle Peter’s words in 1 Peter 4 that put it all into the best context:

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.” – 1 Peter 4:12-16

Everyone will suffer – in Christ or in the world. Being a Christian is not an exemption from suffering. We carry crosses, not for our own benefit, but for the benefit of others. Jesus’ cross did HIM no good; it was for others. Likewise, we must stop looking at our own crosses expecting to receive a blessing in ourselves for having carried it. The blessing is not for the carrier in the realm of time. One who carries a cross is blessed only in eternity. The fellowship of His suffering brings glory only in the power of His resurrection!

What shall we say then? If I faithfully carry a cross and willingly embrace suffering when it comes, responding to it in a goodly and biblically sound way – through prayer and seeking God – I will hear from the mouth of my friend and Savior Jesus Christ the words “Well done!” What greater gift? What more excellent reward for service and sacrifice? The soul’s exaltation at the hearing of those words shall outweigh every burden carried this side of the eternal veil.

So, take up your cross. Run quickly to meet Christ. It will be worth it all when we see Jesus. Just a few short days from now, all of the crosses in the world will be laid down for a final time, mine among them. I want it to be said that I carried it faithfully so that I may hear, “Jason, you did well. Well done! Enter into the joy of your Lord.” ●



Preaching Point: Hermitage, Missouri

Pastor Randy Sapp, Missouri District Home Missions Director & District Secretary/Treasurer

Tucked away in the hills of Hermitage, Mo, approximately 30 miles northwest of Buffalo, is a little out of the way place called “Hermitage Nursing and Rehab Center.” I became familiar with this place when one of my elderly saints went there to live. She couldn’t understand why God would want to put her there. You see, she was a prayer warrior, an intercessor for souls. Her heart’s desire was to be a witness for Jesus Christ and to win souls. But she never expected it to happen the way it did.

Sis Oma lived in the nursing home for a little over 2 ½ years. My wife and I would go visit her every week. We would sing and pray and preach right there in the room with her. We got to know the other residents there and we fell in love with them and they with us. All the staff began to know us by name and wanted us to come more often and minister to the residents. We agreed and started having church services there in April 2022.

We now have 20-25 residents regularly coming to services. Some of their family members will join them in service if they are visiting while we are there, and one family even arranges their visits to be sure they are there for church. Some of the staff members gather close by and cry and praise God along with us. In December, we were privileged to pray with a couple of residents as they repented of their sins and to baptize one of them in the wonderful name of Jesus! My wife, Sandi, taught Elder Hood’s Bible Study *Who Is God and What Does He Want?* to one of the ladies. Just last week, she excitedly told us that she came to the knowledge of the One God in Christ Jesus. Praise the Lord! She is wanting more Bible studies, is talking about baptism and has expressed a desire to receive the Holy Ghost. Two more ladies are ready to start Bible study and one gentleman is wanting to know more about repentance and baptism in Jesus’ name.

Our dear elderly sister told us over and over, “I don’t understand why God put me here!” She wanted so much to return to “the farm”, but she also wanted to be completely surrendered to God’s will, whatever it was. I reminded her often of all the people there who were hearing God’s Word and how she had started the revival in the nursing home. Though she was getting weaker, and her health was failing, she was so excited to see all that God was (and is) doing. Sis Oma passed away on December 29, 2023 at the age of 90. What a soul winner! What a church starter!

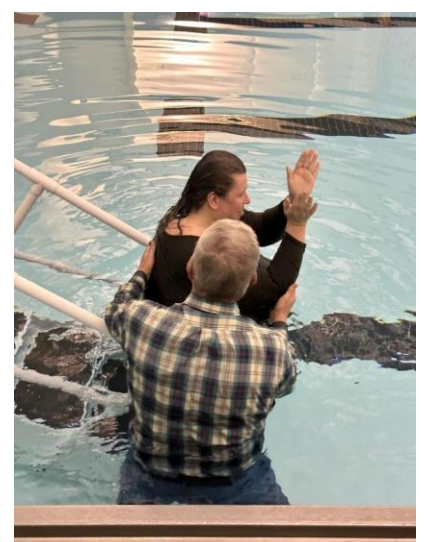
Thank You, Lord Jesus, for giving us all the opportunity to be a light to the church in the nursing home! And thank you, Sis Oma Wisdom, for obeying God’s will in bringing souls to Jesus Christ. We miss you terribly, but we know we will see you again soon. Thank you for your sacrifice! As you told us so often, “I’ll see you in the rapture!” ●



Sister Oma



Prayer at Hermitage



Recent Baptism



The Helpmeet

Sis. Sandi Sapp, Missouri District Ladies' Auxiliary Leader

When God created the animals, He created both genders together. However, He did something different when He created mankind. He first created man, then later created a woman from one of Adam's ribs. I was thinking of this recently and questioning why God did it this way. I think I have the answer: God wanted Adam to have a true connection and a unity with Eve. He wanted Adam to understand the importance of the helpmeet that God created specifically for him. She was a special gift from God but was also a part of the man. If God had simply formed her from the same ground as He formed Adam from, I think some of their unity would have been lost. Eve was created to be a helpmeet, an equal partner with Adam. They completed each other. They were two separate individuals, yet they were one.

Unfortunately, as time passed it became normal for women to be looked at as property rather than partners in many cultures. They had very few rights of their own. In modern times, women have rebelled against this mistreatment and have regained many rights as an equal. But they have, in many cases, gone too far and pushed against God's original plan for a woman.

We all understand that women have always been the nurturers in the family; caring for husband and children, creating a HOME in the house where they live. But society today mocks women who are happy in their role as a homemaker. Women are told that they must have a career to be satisfied and that they don't need a husband in their life. They are told that if they must have a man then be sure to never marry him and become bound to him. Women are told that children are a burden and being a mother is a thankless, horrid job. If she decides to have children, then she is told to send them off to daycare and to preschool as early as possible. After all, there is much more important work that the woman needs to be doing besides taking care of her children and her home. Women are told that they need to DO SOMETHING with their life; don't waste it by being a homemaker. Don't let your husband or your children tie you down. Do you! Women are told all these things will make them free, but this could not be farther from the truth!

God created woman to be a helpmeet, and we must understand that anything less than that will never satisfy. Am I saying that if a woman doesn't marry and have children, she cannot be happy? Or that she cannot work outside of the home and be in God's will. No, and no. Please don't misunderstand or misquote me. What I am saying is that women have a powerful role to play....a role that has been down-played as unimportant and unnecessary. Regardless of a woman's situation in life: single or married, childless or a mother of many, young or old, employed outside the home or not, it really doesn't change the fact that she was created to be a helpmeet, to make a home for herself and those God has placed in her care. Regardless of society's views (which are always changing anyway), a woman's job as a helpmeet is vital and should be honored and respected.

It can be easy to feel unrecognized and unappreciated when you are a helpmeet. It is not glamorous or showy. It often consists of effort done in the background, in areas that may not be noticed by most people. But it is highly important! While our minds may go to the work that women do as a helpmeet: the housework, the office work for the home, the planning of schedules, the paying of bills, and all the other "stuff", there is much more to it than that alone. It is also the times of prayer and fasting for family & friends, it is the hugs given with love and compassion, it is the phone calls and texts to those who are struggling and needing a friend, it is "having the back" of those you love.

Ladies, let us be careful to not let all the roles we play in life stop us from fulfilling God's purpose for us. Let's not be persuaded and led by the current culture! Let's live the life God has called us to live! ●




Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ International, Inc.
2024 Missouri District Conference

Friday, April 5, 2024
 Christ Fellowship Apostolic Pentecostal Church
 380 South Washington Avenue
 Lebanon, Missouri

10AM Split Session
 Men's Speaker: Bro. Dennis Light
 Women's Speaker: Sis. Nancy Smith

11AM & 7PM Services
 Speaker: Bishop Lonnie Smith



2024 ACJC National Ladies' Conference

DON'T BURY THAT BABY
NUTURING YOUNG CHRISTIANS

APRIL 25 AT 7 PM

APRIL 26 AT 10 AM & 6 PM

Camp Mulberry
1206 Millcreek Rd, Hot Springs, AR 71901

Speakers:
Sis. Linda Cox, Sis. Elaine Butler, Sis Elaine Hood, Sis Abby White



**2024 ACJC MISSOURI
 FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS
 AND EVENTS**

All fellowship meetings shall be held on a Saturday at 5PM unless otherwise noted.

Fellowship Meeting
 February 24 at Louisburg

State Conference
 Friday, April 5 at Lebanon


Fellowship Meeting
 June 1 at Louisburg

Fellowship Meeting
 August 3 at Lebanon

Fall Family Fun Day
 October 12
 Bennet Springs State Park
 Time TBA

Fellowship Meeting
 November 2 at Louisburg

Ministers Banquet
 December 7 at Lebanon
 Time TBA



APOSTOLIC CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST
 International Incorporated

110th General Conference
First Apostolic Church - Smackover, AR
July 22-25, 2024

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Contact Pastor Jason Hood – 573-201-5700

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