

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

## The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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### THE OLD YEAR HAS GONE!

The old year is now gone  
With its sorrows and cares,  
The new one is here to begin.  
Let us live every hour  
As we'd like to be found,  
When we meet the Saviour of men.

Have we made a mistake?  
Have we lived as we should  
In the year that's just passed away?  
If we haven't, one thing  
Which we surely should do,  
Is start living better today!

Have we studied God's Word,  
Have we thought on His love,  
As we should in the year that's gone?  
Oh, God, I pray help us  
To steadfastly look up,  
And help us to never do wrong.

This old year that has passed  
Many failures has brought,  
Too late for us now to recall;  
But our Lord's precious blood  
That was shed on the cross  
Has power to banish them all.

We do not know the hour  
When our Savior shall come  
To gather the pure ones to Him.  
Let's resolve with His help  
We shall strive every day  
To keep free from Satan and sin.

Let's try to live better  
In the new year ahead,  
And to please the Giver of light.  
Then if He should return  
At the midnight or dawn,  
He'll find our lamps shining and bright.

—Alice Elizabeth Hall

### Give to God His Own

In the beginning God divided time and gave us days, months, and years. The sun was to shine by day and the moon and stars by night, and we find it so today. For nearly six thousand years time has measured itself out to created mortals, and according to the prophecies, we are living in the last days of time. Soon we look for our Lord, who will end time, man's probation, and the great judgment day will set. Then long, long eternity will begin.

While time lasts, man can do just as he pleases, so far as serving or rejecting God is concerned; but remember, God will bring every one into judgment.

Hear the words of the wise man recorded in Eccl. 12:13, 14: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments: For this is the whole duty of man." If you confess your sins and forsake them, God will save your soul, and as you look to Jesus He will sanctify your nature and fill you with his Spirit. Then the Spirit will lead and guide you into all truth; in other words, will let you know just what his commandments are. No man living can know and keep the commandments of God without possessing his Spirit in the soul. It is his Spirit that makes us know what God's commandments really are, and it is his Spirit and power in the soul that gives us wisdom and strength to keep them. Peter says of God's children, "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time."

Let us reason together with God for awhile. When God built Adam out of clay, he had no life, could not move or think. But God breathed life into that body of clay and he became a living soul. Since God made the man complete, is it not reasonable that man should yield himself wholly unto his creator? The only answer to that question is: most assuredly, YES. God took a rib from the man, and out of the rib he created woman. Was it not a reasonable thing for the woman to yield herself to the man and to God? There is only one answer to this question, that is: she surely should do that, for she could not be in existence unless God had created

her. Surely God, who created the man and the woman knows the best course for one to take in life, and will work out happiness and contentment for them as they yield to his will and give glory to his name. God created man for his own pleasure and his own glory. The reason there is so much sin and wickedness, sorrow, and suffering in the world today is, man became unruly and rebelled against his Creator. Adam and Eve sold out to Satan, the enemy of God their Creator, and brought trouble, misery, and death upon themselves and all of their posterity.

But God in his great pity, mercy, and compassion on his feeble, dust-framed people has given them another chance to repent, choose Christ the Savior, yield to him day by day and have happiness, peace, and eternal life. After God has done all this, we find many that will go on in rebellion, choosing death, damnation, and fire and brimstone through eternity. What an awful state this is for poor man!

In regard to Adam and Eve we all must acknowledge that the only reasonable and just thing for them to do was to yield to their Creator all the time, and let Him guide them and counsel them so they could walk with him and have happiness, peace, and everlasting life. But instead they disobeyed the command of God and were driven out of the beautiful garden where happiness, peace, and joy were supreme.

There is one command that they did keep and that was to bear children in sorrow. As Adam and Eve rightly belonged to God, even so all of their posterity belonged to him. When one owns a cow, her offspring belongs to him too. Even so, God owned our foreparents and we are his by rights. Now, since God has been so merciful to us as to give us a chance to return to Him through Christ his Son, do you not think that we are wicked rebels to refuse his proffered mercy and continue under bondage to the enemy of our souls, and reap eternal damnation with fire and brimstone torment?

Father Adam and Mother Eve were in fleshly bodies as we are, for when God breathed life into the body the clay became flesh, and was alive and had feeling and desire as we have today. The enemy appealed to them through their fleshly desires or fleshly lusts, and they yielded to him and disobeyed God, bringing his wrath upon them. And His wrath is upon all disobedient people today; but if they would believe in God's Son and the sacrifice made, the wrath of God would be lifted from their souls. In John 3:35, 36, we read, "The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Many today are lost in sin because they will not repent. But they yield to fleshly desires as Adam and Eve and disobey God, therefore the wrath of God remains upon them.

Man, being made out of the clay of the earth, is naturally subject to vain and earthly things. That is why Paul says in Romans 8:20, "For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who has subjected the same in

hope." God's hope is for man to believe in Christ and have victory in this life over all vain and earthly things and enter into his glory. We hear the apostle Paul say in this same chapter, beginning with the 17th verse, "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ: if so be that we suffer with him [Deny our fleshly desires.], that we might also be glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." The sufferings that we undergo by denying ourselves, keeping our fleshly desires, or lusts, under and bringing all into subjection to God is not to be compared with the glory that will follow such a life of self denial.

Again in the first verse of the 12th chapter of Romans, Paul brings us right back to the beginning of our existence and beseeches us by the mercy that God has had upon us, and exhorts us to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is, he says, OUR REASONABLE SERVICE.

Brethren, by right of creation we belong to God. Why not acknowledge it and please our Creator by giving these fleshly bodies to God and by his help and grace crucify the fleshly lusts and live by faith in the Son of God who has loved and gave himself for us.

—Fred Pruitt

## SANCTIFICATION

1. *Sanctification Is a Bible Doctrine.*—"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). "But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth" (2 Thess. 2:13). These Scriptures are conclusive proof that sanctification is a Bible doctrine.

2. *It Is an Experience for Christians.*—"The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it" (1 Thess. 5:23, 24). The Christian is assured of the experience if he will seek for it.

3. *It Cleanses the Christians' Heart.*—"God . . . bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost. . . and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith" (Acts 15:8). "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Eph. 5:25, 26).

4. *It Unifies Christians.*—"For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that the world may

believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:19-21). "The multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul" (Acts 4:32). "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren" (Hebrews 2:11). Sanctification destroys the element of division in the heart and makes Christians one.

5. *It Qualifies Christians for Service to God.*—"Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). "With great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all" (4:33). Christians of all times have been stirred to active service in the kingdom of God after receiving the Holy Ghost.

6. *It Is God's Will That Christians Be Sanctified.*—"This is the will of God, even your sanctification" (1 Thess. 4:3). "Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate" (Heb. 13:12). Christ sacrificed himself to sanctify his people, and it is quite certain that it is his will for Christians to be sanctified.

7. *Christians Are Sanctified by the Holy Ghost.*—"I have written the more boldly . . . as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God, that I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles . . . that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost" (Rom. 15:15-16).

8. *It Is Received as a Second Work of Grace.*—"I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever: even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (John 14:16-17).

9. *Christ Suffered and Shed His Blood to Sanctify His People.*—"Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate" (Heb. 13:12). "Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it, that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word." (Eph. 5:25-26).

10. *Consecration and Faith Are the Conditions for Receiving It.*—"God . . . put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith" (Acts 15:8). "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1). "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." (2 Cor. 7:1).

11. *The Evidence of Sanctification.*—"By one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us" (Heb. 10:14, 15). "Hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us" (1 John 3:24).

—Selected

## The Price We Pay For Breaking Commands

I dishonored my father, and I have paid dearly for it.

My father dishonored his father. The first time I remember ever seeing my grandfather was when I was about nine years of age, when they brought my grandfather home, a corpse. He had died in the Dayton Soldier's Home. My father (my grandfather's only child) didn't even want to bring him to our home to bury him. But my mother said, "He is your father. You can at least bury him." My father was very bitter toward him.

Someone has said, "Tell me how you treat your parents, and I will tell you how your children will treat you. If you scoff and sneer at your father and mother, you will have a bad harvest. You will reap in agony. It is only a matter of time."

I do not know that these statements are always true but they were true in our family.

My brother was very bitter toward my father. Father lay dying of cancer in the hospital. My brother left—never even said goodbye to my father. They said it hurt my father terribly. My brother never even came back to his funeral.

Someone said they didn't blame a child for not honoring the father, if the father was not good to the child. But the Bible does not have any if in the commandment. It says, "Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." (Ex. 20:12).

So many times when parents are divorced, mothers try to turn the children against the father. Don't do it, Mothers. You are helping to bring a curse on the children, if they dishonor the father.

Many times the verse comes to me "Oh, that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! Then had thy peace been as a river and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea." (Isa. 48:18).

David sowed adultery and reaped it in his own family. A man may reap much more than he sows. One glass of whiskey may lead to a drunkard's death.

The conditions in all our war plants, where men and women worked side by side, were always a breeding of immorality. So desperate were the conditions in some of our plants that the executives threw up their hands in despair. Is it any wonder we have juvenile delinquency? These immoral parents will reap in agony and shame if their daughters grow up to be harlots. If I sow adultery, I am very apt to reap adulterers. You sin against your own children when you do any iniquity. (Read Deut. 5:9).

We can forgive and forget unkind things people do to us but it isn't so easy to forget the sin we commit. The reaping we have to do keeps reminding us of it. God fully forgives sin for Christ's sake but He allows certain penalties to remain. —Sel.

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Gal. 6:7.

**"FAITH AND VICTORY"**

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This non-sectarian paper is edited and published each month (except August of each year, which is campmeeting month, and we omit this month to attend these meetings) by Fred Pruitt, assisted by Mary A. Pruitt, and other consecrated workers at FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Okla.

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o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Dear saints,—I wrote to you some time ago and requested prayer for my little baby and the Lord has wonderfully helped him. I thank Him for it. I want to do more for the Lord than ever before.

I have been reading the "Faith and Victory" paper for about a year and I think it is a fine little paper.

Remember me and my family in prayer.

A sister, Eathel Hill.

**OREGON ASSEMBLY MEETING**

The winter assembly meeting of the church of God at Jefferson, Ore. will be held, Lord willing, Jan. 17-26 at the saints' chapel on Hazel St., —Sam Wilson

**Editorials**

The old year is ending its appointed time. During the year of 1946 many conflicting powers have been at work in the secular and also in the ecclesiastical realm—Satan and his hosts of followers fighting against Christ and his holy remnant. In the secular world we find that hard hearted men filled with greed for gain have been causing multitudes of innocent men, women, and children to suffer in order that their selfish, lustful, and debased persons might for a time be gratified.

Paul, writing to the Ephesians, said, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." During the past year we have found many of these different powers that the apostle mentioned fighting against our spiritual life and against the work which he has called us to do. Many a battle has been fought and the victory won through the strength and wisdom of our commander, the Lord Jesus Christ. With these battles won we are going into the new year of 1947 with renewed courage, and by keeping on the whole armor of God, we are expecting to come out more than a conqueror, no matter what may confront us; for we know that He is faithful who has called us, and that He is abundantly able to keep that which we have committed to him. During the last year we have proved the devil to be a liar many times, but that does not seem to stop his zeal to continue to lie and go on with his evil works, deceiving and decaying precious souls. Jesus told him and his agents that Satan was a liar from the beginning and abode not in the truth, and he is still at his dirty lying, undermining work today.

The editors and workers here at the "Lord's Print Shop" are entering into the new year with peaceful assurance in our hearts that more will be accomplished in this new year than in the past year. The Lord has been favoring us so much in the past that our hearts are filled with love and gratitude toward Him. Faith and strength have been increased until we feel somewhat like David did when he said he had "Run through a troop and leaped over a wall." 2 Samuel 22:30. I am fully persuaded that there is no power that is able to stand against our own God nor to altar or change his purpose for us in this life if we voluntarily yield ourselves into his hands, letting go and letting God fight our battles.

It would be almost impossible for us to relate to you the unseen powers and forces that hide under a religious cloak and essay in undermining ways to hinder, crush, and, if possible, destroy the Lord's printing work here at Guthrie. Some will even belch out a lot of hard things that are in their hearts and cunningly ascribe it to us, gainsaying people whose mouths the Lord will stop, and they themselves will receive the reaction. We never have a battle with Satan and the powers of evil but what the Lord

teaches us more of his precious ways and shows us in a clearer way how great and powerful He is. Truly, he is the great "I AM" that rules the universe, letting and withholding at his pleasure. We have nothing to fear in the future, only to fear God and keep his commandments, for this is our whole duty. If we will fully do this, God will take care of the devil for us, for he conquered him over nineteen centuries ago, and he is a conquered devil today to all that yield fully into his hands.

o—o—o—o—o

Since sending out the offer of five subscriptions for a year for one dollar these subscriptions have been pouring in and have kept the office girls extra busy in keeping them listed. We are thankful to God and to our readers for this large list of new subscribers. We feel assured that many of these persons that are put on the list for the coming year will receive light, knowledge, and blessings from God; and no doubt, as it has been in the past, some will get saved before the year ends. It is consoling to our hearts to see the interest that many are taking in getting the truth to the souls of men by the printed page. We shall be much in prayer and fasting during the coming year, seeking God for truth and messages to print and send forth to the saving and preserving of precious souls.

Those who have been sending free-will offerings to the work are instruments in God's hands as unseen helpers in getting the gospel to men by the printed page and will not lose their reward. We believe that God works through them both to will and to do his pleasure, and we are praying that God will cause his face to shine upon them and all their interests. Paul compares the church to the human body with its many members, yet but one body, and we see this being carried out in the working of the body of Christ, the church, which is functioning in the world today but not of the world. Many unseen members in the human body are exceedingly great and important, yet are not seen with the natural eye; so also it is in the spiritual body of Christ. During this year we received at different times whole-hearted offerings from members that never gave us their name and address. One time we received a letter with fifty dollars enclosed. It was post marked in Missouri, but the sender gave no name or address. They merely said, "Use this in the Lord's work." We thought that they may have forgotten to put their name and address on it, but in two or three weeks we received another letter with fifty dollars enclosed. In the same handwriting it gave instructions to use it in the Lord's work, but no name and address. We felt sure that this party did not intend for us to know who sent it, but it was God working in and through them to the saving of souls.

Others of our readers are sending regular offerings every month to the work and receive no publicity about it. Neither are they looking for any. They are just quietly performing the work that God has them to do as members in his body, and will receive their reward in that great final day of reckoning.

I wish I had words to express to you how precious God is working and how precise, quietly, and powerfully God is working, or his body, which is the church, is functioning to perform God's will among men. It is marvelous in our eyes, and causes praises to flow out of our innermost being to Him who is so great and mighty and does exceedingly abundantly above all that we can think or ask. Glory be to his name! Yes, the good work of the Lord will go on in spite of devils and demons, and the church in the evening will be as the morning in splendor and beauty together with persecutions by spiritual wickedness in high places and evil imaginations by conscience-seared holiness professors.

o—o—o—o—o

The Lord has provided another helper in the office work. He knows the need and also the ones He can best use. Sister Loraine Modglin of Chaffee, Mo. has felt the call of the Lord and has just recently arrived here at the "Lord's Print Shop" to take her place in the Lord's publishing work. She has a precious experience of salvation and is fitting into the work here in the print shop nicely.

When the Lord sends helpers in the office work he makes no mistakes, which thing he has proven to us over and over again. A print shop is a heavenly place where all are saved and working with one object in view, and that is to help precious souls find the Lord and to glorify God in all they do and say. We have heaven in the shop and heaven in the home, as the love of God is shed abroad in each of our hearts by the Spirit which is given unto us; therefore we can count it all joy when we fall into divers temptations. Praise God for consecrated helpers in the Lord's Print Shop.

#### FAITH AND VICTORY PAPERS IN BOOK FORM

The *Faith and Victory* papers which were printed in 1946 can now be obtained, bound together in book form with paper cover, post paid to any address in the U. S. for 40 cents. We made only one hundred of these books, so if you want one order it soon.

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#### In Memory of Wayne Mitchell

The following poem was written in memory of little Wayne Mitchell, age 6 years, son of Hubert and Alice Mitchell. He was accidentally killed by a big truck in the little town of Midway near Good Pine, La.

We miss dear little Wayne from our Sunday School,  
And know they also miss him from his home and  
public school.  
There remains a place so vacant, no one else can fill.  
But in our hearts, sweet memories of him do linger still.  
We learned to love dear little Wayne by his loving,  
winning way.  
We are glad to know that now he's in that home of  
endless day.  
With the angels he is waiting over on the other shore,  
And one day we hope to meet him where we'll part  
with him no more.  
Father, mother, brother, sister, friends and loved ones  
left behind,

Won't you meet little Wayne in heaven, and eternal joys find?

We don't know why God took him, 'tis hard to understand.

But He does things for the best we know, so commit it in His hand.

—By his Sunday School teacher, Mellie Esters,

## Thanksgiving

"Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving." Psalm 95:2.

"Offer unto God thanksgiving." Psal. 50:14.

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Phil. 4:6

"Giving thanks always for all things." Eph. 5:20.

"Be ye thankful." Col. 3:17.

"By him therefore, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." Heb. 13:15.

God says much in his Word about thanksgiving, and exhorts us to mingle it with our prayers in generous quantities.

This is the evening of the national annual Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 1946, and my mind is running much on the line of thanksgiving to God and to his saints. This is a day set apart as a day of thanksgiving by the President, but every day and hour is a time of thanksgiving for a Christian. And today I am especially thankful because God made me able to attend service at the chapel, which is the first time I have been able to meet with the saints in service for more than four months.

We are, of course, especially and first of all thankful for "his unspeakable gift"—God's Son, and eternal life through him. Then we are thankful for his abundant grace that has enabled us to live for him and trust in him for both soul and body for more than fifty-five years. Especially do we appreciate his grace bestowed upon us during almost five months of sickness, eighteen weeks of which I have been confined to my bed.

During these months of illness I have been reduced from 190 lbs. to 118 lbs. in weight and am very weak in body.

Then we thank God for sending my brother and his wife, Sam and Beulah Wilson of Jefferson, Oreg., and Faith Embly of California, and my son, Ostis, jr. of Los Angeles, to spend weeks with us to help in prayers in time of severe suffering, and the sisters took over the house work duties so that my wife could have all her time to care for me and rest when possible. In this way God made my bed in sickness.

Then I thank God for his people who have helped so much in bearing our burden and have prayed so earnestly and faithfully to God for me.

And now I want to thank you dear saints, one and all for your every manifestation of love and interest in us. We have received many, many, greeting cards, "Get Well" cards, and "Cheer" cards from saints and friends from all parts of the country as

well as letters and phone calls from distant places expressing many words of cheer, comfort, and encouragement. Some have left their homes at different times and come here and stayed two or three days fasting and praying for my healing. Many have sent once and again of their means to provide for our comfort and needs.

No words that I could pen would begin to express the appreciation, thanksgiving, and gratitude of my heart for all this overflow of abundant charity from the saints to us. God alone can reward you as you should be rewarded, and we pray his richest blessings on every one.

And now I am thankful that by the grace of God I can report that your prayers are being answered and your faith and patience rewarded and God is bringing me out. I am improving and getting stronger, but am still very weak and having some tests along with my affliction and still need and solicit your prayers.

My son, Ostis, is writing this for me, and he and my wife join with me in expressing love, appreciation, thanksgiving, and best personal regards to all of you.

—O. B. Wilson.

## "Come Thou Into the Ark"

"And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation." Gen. 7:1. The ark is a type of the church. Jesus said, "I am the door: by me, if any man enter in, he shall be saved." John 10:9. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." Eph. 2:8.

Noah and his family entered into the door of the ark. They had to go through this door or perish. All that was of the earth died. "That which is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth." John 3:31. God told Noah to build the ark and gave instructions how to build it. His family (which is a type of the church of God, God's family) walked by faith, not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7). They believed what God had said would come to pass. Noah did all that God commanded him. The flood came, the waters increased, and bare up the ark. The flood is figurative of dangers or sorrows or temptations which come like a flood. These only bear us up heavenward, bring us closer to God and away from the earth. When David was old and grey headed he was made to cry unto God. "Thou which hast shewed me great and sore troubles, shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth." Psal. 71:20.

When the waters decreased and the tops of the mountains could be seen, Noah sent forth a raven (an unclean bird). Also, he sent forth a dove to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground. A dove is a symbol of divine presence. The raven feeds upon dead bodies. The devil is the prince of the power of the air and he loves darkness rather than light. He has many agents in the world today,

many professing to be children of light, many false prophets. They have gone out into the world and would deceive the very elect if possible. We are commanded to believe not every spirit, but to try them whether they be of God. Again he says, "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is ONE body and one spirit, . . . one Lord, one faith, one baptism. One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Eph. 4:36.

Then God set His bow in the cloud as a token of His covenant with man. How precious it is to see tokens of God's covenant, His promises unto us! Oft times our hearts are burdened, are heavy. Storm-clouds and floods have enveloped us, but when we can pray through and the clouds begin to disappear, the flood waters are abated, and by faith through our tears we can see the rainbow of God's rich and glorious promises.

There is a rainbow after the storm--  
Oh, ye soldiers of the cross, look up!  
This is a token of love from Him;  
His disciples must drink of His cup.  
He was wounded for our transgressions,  
This Jesus of Gethsemane.  
He freely gave His life a ransom,  
That all men might be free.  
Then by faith we will accept Him  
As our all on the altar we lay;  
The swift moving shadows of evening  
Is changing our night into day.

—Mrs. Charles Reese

## Power to Become Sons of God

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God." John 1:12.

It is evident from this statement that men are not sons of God by nature, as so many people tell us, but when they "receive" the Lord Jesus Christ, he gives them power to become sons of God.

The other day I was talking with a successful business man who said his friends all called him very lucky, but he believed his extraordinary good fortune was the result of a power greater than his own, that was with him to help him. He said he used some "cuss words" when things went wrong, but he thought that was a minor matter, since he endeavored to be kind to his family and honest with his neighbors. I suggested that it seemed to me it was necessary to study the Word of God in order to know how to be a Christian. He vigorously opposed such an idea, saying that he did not waste time studying a book that nobody understands.

This seems a strange attitude for intelligent human beings, but I meet it quite often. Men build up a picture of the world to come and declare they expect to be there, but their hopes are built upon nothing more real than imagination.

Any intelligent person who believes that there is a God who brought man into existence, must also recognize that such a God must reveal His purpose

to men. That revelation is the Holy Scriptures, and apart from them no human being has any assurance of a future life. The Scriptures tell us that man was created in the image of God, but through disobedience he lost that pure and holy nature which God gave him. Sin so changed his nature that it was impossible for him to do right and obey God.

But God did not leave the human race to perish. In His great love He sent His Son to earth to be our Saviour. So our text says, "As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God." A little serious thinking will enable us to understand clearly just what it means to receive him.

One evening a ruler of the Jews came to Jesus to enquire of His teaching. The first word Jesus said to him was, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3. Nicodemus did not understand this statement, and it is evident that many people today do not understand it. We mention the fact that when Adam and Eve sinned, the pure, holy nature God gave them was poisoned by disobedience, and it was no longer natural for them to be good and upright in every thought and action. As man went farther and farther away from God, the Scriptures say, "Every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Gen. 6:5.

A child receives its nature from its parents. All living things, both animal and vegetable, receive their nature from that from which they spring. When a child is born into the physical world, he begins life as a human being. He is born with the fallen, sinful, impure nature of his parents, and he cannot go contrary to that nature. Nor can he change that nature by any human effort or by a lifetime of earnest endeavor. His only hope is to get a different nature, and that is exactly what God has provided in Jesus Christ, through the new birth. Just as man receives a sinful nature or tendency to do evil, from his natural birth, so he receives a divine nature, or power to live a pure, upright life, from his new birth from above.

God is a spiritual being, and His kingdom is spiritual, and the natural man cannot enter into it. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Cor. 2:14.

We are children of our human parents because we are born of them physically. We become children of God when we are born of God spiritually. "Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:13. When we are born of God, we inherit the divine nature, just as we inherit our fallen, human nature from our human parents. So the Word of God says He has "given unto us 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." 2 Pet. 1:4.

The contrast between the old, fallen, sinful na-

ture which we inherit from our human parents, and the new, divine nature which we receive when we are born of God, is made very plain in the Scriptures. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." John 3:6. The apostle Paul declares, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing." Romans 7:18.

This nature which we inherit from our human parents is also called the "carnal mind," and so the apostle says further, "They that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit mind the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." Romans 8:5-8.

A little child may exhibit a violent temper, and may develop selfish, evil traits before it is old enough to discern between right and wrong. It is the development of the flesh, or carnal mind. But the spiritual is above the natural, and one who is born of God is elevated into that spiritual realm, the kingdom of God.

This "new birth," or regeneration, is the act of God "in which He communicates to us in the center of our soul a new spiritual life, which, acting from within, involves the whole nature and communicates a new principle of activity and a new mode of action to all the faculties in their functions and in all their relations."

Let us look once more at our text—"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God." Just how we are to enter into this wonderful experience is also made very plain and simple in the Word of God.

First we need to recognize the awful devastation in human lives and character that sin has wrought all about us. We see the degradation, the slavery to vice and corruption, the violence and crime, and realize that all this is the result of man's fallen sinful nature. We look at our own failure to live up to that which we know to be right, and to overcome our evil tempers, our selfishness, our lack of moral power. Perhaps we resolve and promise and strive earnestly to overcome these things, but it ends only in failure and disappointment.

This very hatred for evil things and the longing to rise to a higher level of character is the working of the Spirit of God to bring us to the place where we shall recognize that we can never save ourselves, and so turn to Jesus as our only hope of salvation. "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. God loves poor fallen men and women who have lost the way and are slaves to sin, and He is constantly seeking to surround us with influences that will turn our hearts to Him.

One of the problems we face at this point is that receiving Him—which results in making us children of God, and works a complete transformation

of nature—seems such an amazing experience that the human mind almost automatically looks for something strange and mysterious and difficult to understand. But Jesus came to save not only the wise and the educated and cultured, but also the poor and ignorant and the little children. Therefore, the way is made very plain and simple.

Jesus said, "I am the way." John 14:6. The fact is that we can get acquainted with Jesus just as we do with anyone else. If we long for deliverance from evil habits, from the power of sin, or for comfort in sorrow and discouragement, we need only to come humbly to Him and tell Him our longing. In His Word He talks to us, and in prayer we talk to Him.

When we read His Word, we are to take it just as if He were speaking the words to us audibly. He says, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Rev. 3:20. He longs to have me bow humbly and say, "Jesus, I hear thee knocking at the door of my heart. I know that I need thee above everything else for I have tried in my own strength to overcome my sins and evil nature, but I cannot. I open the door, Lord, and pray thee to come in and dwell in me. Wash and cleanse me from sin, and deliver me from its dominion. I yield my heart and will and all to thee."

When we take Him at His word, and rejoice that the Lord Jesus has come into our hearts, the awful burden of sin and condemnation is rolled away, and our hearts thrill with the consciousness that we are now children of God, for we have "received Him," and are born of God.

In response to genuine repentance and faith on our part, which involves turning from the old life of sin entirely and entering the new life, God works a miracle of grace within, implanting a supernatural element in our human nature. This is the mystery which can only be understood by taking God at His word, meeting the simple conditions, and by faith appropriating the promise. Then we have a genuine experience of an indwelling and ever-present Savior.

—Meade MacGuire

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Pa.—Dear Bro. Pruitt.—I send greetings in the name of Jesus, my dear Lord and Savior. He saves me just now. Praise His dear name for all the good blessings I enjoy. I will be 87 years old the 16th of December. The Lord keeps me well. When I was three years old I took lung fever and the doctor gave me up and said I could not get well. My mother was not saved, but she prayed for me and promised the Lord she would get saved and asked the Lord to spare my life. He did, and she kept her covenant. I had some very bad colds since then, but never anything wrong with my lungs.

My mother kept her covenant until the truth came. I got saved and told her about it and she accepted it and lived a good life until God took her home.

Pray for me. No one needs Him more than I do.

—A. J. Stokes.



# Young People's Section

## Let's Be Prepared

You should be prepared! we hear folks say,  
For soon there's coming a judgment day.  
That stirs our heart—a sinner lost—  
And soon we begin to count the cost.  
We bid the world and sin adieu,  
And forsake our evil companions, too.  
When we repent the Lord comes in  
And freely forgives our every sin.  
Then, oh, what joy and peace we feel  
As there before our God we kneel!  
Just there to be His very own  
Is the most wonderful thing we've ever known.

Then for boldness we feel our need,  
And we go to God upon our knees.  
Then within our very own heart  
His Holy Spirit doth impart.  
Then that helps us more able to be  
To continuously keep the victory.

You should be prepared! we hear folks say—  
Well, we are prepared for the judgment day,  
But is that all? I dare say, No!  
There is work to do and places to go,  
There are others yet I fear are lost,  
And aren't ready to count the cost.  
So let's be willing and lend a hand  
To help poor souls wherever we can.  
When God says, "Go," then we must go;  
For to us it's dangerous if we say, "No!"  
Our souls will grow lean and souls may be lost.  
Oh, how awful! Just think of the cost!  
So let's be prepared for His service each day,  
Then souls will be blest as we travel this way.

—Ozell Wyatt

## Editorials

We stand upon the verge of another new year, and as we step across its threshold and think of how swiftly time is carrying us onward, we are made to realize anew that we are fast passengers from time to eternity.

A retrospective view of the events of the world in general during the past year serves to show the fulfillment of the prophecy of the apostle Paul that "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse deceiving, and being deceived." 2 Tim. 3:13. They tell us that the world is at peace, but there is no peace. In the political world the nations talk peace at the conference table while at the same time each one seeks by every means to extend its power position and sphere of influence. Reports of revolts, riots, and bloodshed come from all quarters of the globe. The world is economically dislocated. Millions of people are suffering from a lack of food, clothing, and shelter. The age-old war between capital and labor has very nearly stopped production of badly-

needed consumer goods. Prices are in a dangerous spiral which will ultimately result in many more economic ills.

The darkest spot in the picture is the chaotic condition of the religious world. Never was there a time when more religious cults existed, and the most of them claim to come under the heading of Christian religion. Yet in the face of all these religious theories there stands and shall forever stand the truth that there is only one "pure and undefiled" religion. Modern Christianity is not Christianity in any sense of the word, therefore it has utterly failed to meet the challenge of a heart-sick political and spiritual world. The scientists and educators in this atomic age see no solution to the problems at hand, and in this time of crisis, as a last resort, they are turning with questioning voices to so-called Christianity for a solution. It will continue to fail, for there is no power in mere outward forms. The real principles of truth have long since been lost and forgotten by the professed Christian world. Real Christianity is essentially a religion of divine love in the heart, and this cannot be obtained by merely taking the name Christian, joining a human organization called a church, or conforming to certain creeds, rituals, and ceremonies. However, this is the modern conception of Christianity.

The salvation that Christ purchased for man is a definite, heart-felt experience. God is love, and when the penitent sinner comes to God through Christ, confessing and forsaking his sin, a new heart of divine love is implanted within him which causes him to practice Christian principles, and those rules of conduct are clearly set forth in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Moses' law condemned murder, but Christ's teaching goes farther and condemns the feelings and attitudes in the heart which produce murder.

The real child of God, whether young or old, has peace in his heart in a strife-torn world, has contentment in a world of discontent, has a bright hope in a world of despair, and that hope will grow brighter and brighter until the perfect eternal day.—L. D. P.

## A PRECIOUS TREASURE

I am only a little girl  
Eleven years old,  
But I've found a treasure  
More precious than gold.

I have found Jesus,  
He saved me from sin;  
I mean to be faithful  
And true to the end.

I mean to walk ever  
Real close by his side,  
And in the great ocean  
Of His love to abide.

—Wilma Ruth Metcalf

## CORRESPONDENCE

Georgetown, Grand Cayman, B. W. I.—To all my precious brothers and sisters, greetings in the name of our loving Lord and Savior who is so loving and kind to all of his dear trusting, believing children. Oh, I am so glad that I am one of them. Amen.

Praise the Lord, here I am in Georgetown. We left Tampa, Fla. last Saturday the 16th of November, 1946 and arrived here this Thursday morning, Nov. 21st, making about 114 hours on the way. We came on a little sail ship less than sixty feet long. 39 ton is its load limit. We had a crew of 14, and 5 passengers—19 in all. There were no accommodations on the little ship—no beds. However there were some board bunks in the cabin that about a dozen could squeeze into, and the rest had to make the best of it on the deck. The good captain had a little upper berth with a pretty comfortable bed and he let me sleep in it while he was at the helm. It would take a good sized booklet to tell all in detail, so will just give a few of the high lights.

First, I want to tell you this was the strongest physical endurance test I have ever gone through—almost five days and nights without a bed. I was bothered some with sea sickness and ate very little on the trip. We had no ice on the ship and the water became very warm.

When we got out into the Gulf of Mexico after we left Tampa Bay, the water was rough and after we crossed the Yucatan Straits and on into the Caribbean Sea the water was real rough, or it seemed that way to me. When the waves were rolling high our little sail boat was rocking continually, pitching forward and back, also sideways. Sometimes when we went over big waves the front end would drop ten or fifteen feet and then as it climbed the next wave the front end would go up and the back end away down. It surely was a wonderful experience. But I learned more clearly than ever that perfect love casts out fear. I can truthfully say I was not afraid. We had about eight hours of pretty turbulent sea, but I rested so sweet in Jesus, for His precious Word says, "And who is he that will harm you if ye be followers of that which is good?"

I had planned to have services on the boat last Sunday but the wind was blowing pretty hard and the swishing of the waves and the rocking of the boat made it next to impossible. However I did get my big red song book and sang about ten songs in my full strong voice. Those on board joined in with me where they could. They asked me to sing something that they knew, so I did, and we all sang together and all seemed to enjoy it.

I fell in love with the little island at first sight. It is a lovely place right on the beautiful sea shore. The water is so sparkling and clear. Here next to the shore it has a pale green cast. The water out in the Caribbean Sea is such a pretty dark blue and the water is just rolling in big waves all the time.

This is Friday morning. I was at the Young People's meeting last night. It was conducted different from what the Young People's meetings are in Guthrie. I am sure the Lord will make me a blessing to these dear people. But I want to say right here that any one coming here to work for the Lord had better have the same kind of strong determination in them that Daniel and the three Hebrew children had in them. Last night was my first night here and I find the mosquitoes very bad. In the summer time they say they are much worse. But I am here, and I have a fixed purpose in my heart to be true to my loving Lord. I am willing to suffer for Him and His cause.

Anyone coming here to work for the Lord must not have the least amount of race prejudice for there seems to be no discrimination here. The people vary in complexion from real light to dark. I noticed that when I was coming across everyone on the boat except myself was a native of this island. There were five or six good colored men on the boat as crew men or passengers, but all had the same rights. They were all nice to me and respected me. The common people here all seem very nice. I met what we call the chief of police yesterday and had a nice talk with him. I was at the barber shop and the barber called him in and made me acquainted with him. He told me quite a lot about the island. He seemed nice. The gist of his talk was that they treat everybody nice and right and each one respects the rights of others.

It is all so new to me now and I will need lots of wisdom. I am expecting the dear saints in the States to hold me up with your prayers. So please don't fail me. He that winneth souls must have wisdom. Yes, we must have wisdom if we gather precious sheaves for the Master. God has surely richly rewarded me for my faithfulness. It took God thirteen years to prepare Joseph for the throne in Egypt; and He has been preparing me for a long time for the place in which He has so wonderfully placed me.

Thank God, I don't get homesick any more. Heaven is my home now, and I am living in heaven now while I am still here in this old world. All the shore lines are cut and I have raised the sails of my soul to the heavenly breezes, and I am carried by the love of God away out on the ocean of His love where there is nothing to lean on but Jesus. And I find that it is perfectly safe at all times to lean on Jesus. Bless His holy name! He is so good to me.

It costs 5c an ounce for first class mail to the island and ten cents a half ounce for air mail. I will be glad to hear from any of you. Your happy blood-washed brother in the one body, George Stephenson, Georgetown, Grand Cayman, B. W. I.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Mo.—To the readers of Faith and Victory,—I would like to tell what the Lord has done for me. Some time ago He healed my husband of fistula when the doctor said only an operation would keep it from being a cancer.

One evening Ovie (my husband) came into the kitchen and asked if I believed in warning. I said I did. Why he asked that question, I do not know. A few days later we were at Mother's. As we started to leave Ovie made his way to my sister, Lorraine Modglin, and asked her when she was coming out. She answered that she would before she left. He said, "Yes, you are going to wait until you have to."

A few nights later he took sick with a pain in his side. He was working for the Railroad Co. He went to the Co. Dr. to be released from his job. The Dr. gave him a shot. I do not know why he took it. Some said he was unconscious when he got to the office. Anyway the shot put him out. He knew nothing. But by the power of God he drove the car home safely.

He came into the house and fell across the bed, not able to pull off his clothes. I found in his possession a paper where the company was going to send him to the hospital. After awhile he told me he did not want to go.

During the night we had prayer for him several times. The next morning his father came and others of the family were notified. A doctor was called in. Ovie was then unconscious, and one tablet was given him.

His father stayed with him all day and night. But

before time for the next tablet he came to enough to say, "Pray, I want you to pray." I knew he was trusting the Lord. When it was time for the second dose of medicine our fathers tried to give it to him, but he spit it out. He then wanted a drink. They decided to put the tablet in his water. He drank a few sips until he came to the powder in the bottom of the glass. He would drink no more, but said he wanted water. When they failed to force the medicine down him, they wanted to take him to the hospital. 'This they could not do without my permission, which I would not give.

The next morning Ovie's sister came bursting into the room, shaking her fists at me, and said she had come to take him to the hospital, "My doctor said so, and I'm going to take him or I'll have you arrested. You had just as well shoot him as do the way you are doing." (Praying for him.)

She was ready to go in about forty minutes. His father left too, and his parting statement was, "Well, you divine healers, heal him."

The next morning his father came again to get him into the hospital, but with no success. When he left he said he was going to get a warrant for me. I was expecting him to come back with an officer; but the Lord said, "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matt. 20:28. He also tells us He will not leave us nor forsake us. So I was not afraid.

On Monday evening Ovie's fever went down and it looked as if the Lord would leave him with us. He talked with us and ate supper. Tuesday morning several of his brothers were here trying to get him to go to the hospital. His fever had come back up. He said he would go. I thought all I could do was to go with him. I asked him when he wanted to go and he said, "Day after tomorrow." I fully believe he said it to get them to let him alone who were continually quarreling about his going. He only lived a few hours, and I believe he wanted his last hours on earth peaceful, which he never had. Awhile before he passed away he said he was ready to go. He also said, "We won't let this mess separate us, will we?"

As he was dying his father came back. When he entered the room he saw Ovie was dying. He started cursing me, taking God's name in vain and said he would put me in the pen. He did try, but again the Lord did not leave me, although Ovie's death certificate was held up four weeks and the prosecuting attorney was ordered to make an investigation.

It was then told around that I had let him jump off into hell, but the Lord soon cleared my mind of this. I had a dream in which I saw Ovie and his sister who passed away 5½ years before, traveling along a very narrow hall way. I did not understand this dream for awhile, but it was always on my mind. Then one morning as I awoke, my mind was rather blank from sleep, I saw them again just as I had in my dream. They passed from my sight as if on a screen, and these words followed, "Strait is the way and narrow is the gate, and few there be that find it." In another dream Ovie told me he knew the Lord answered prayer. Then I had still another dream which encouraged me to know that all is well.

My husband passed away Aug. 20, 1946. Some have said if he had been healed they would have believed, but they did not believe when he was healed about five years ago when he had fistula. His fever was just as high, and he was suffering worse then than when he died.

The many persecutions from my folks and his only

made me cling closer to the Lord. We had telegraphed Bro. Fred Pruitt, and as another prayer was offered for him he came to and remained conscious until death.

I do hope this will help someone to grow closer to the Lord. For if the Lord is with us, who can be against us? He did not forsake us nor leave us because he called Ovie from this world; for it is appointed unto man once to die, and after this the judgment. Let us be careful how we meet the judgment. Mrs. Ovie Campbell.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Mich.—Dear ones in Christ,—I am still able to get about and am still trusting God for soul and body. My eyes are quite dim. Please pray for my sight, for I surely love to read the "Faith and Victory" paper and hear from my dear brothers and sisters in Christ. It cheers me up some. I pray God to keep all his saints that are true to him on the strait and narrow way. There are three groups here that call themselves churches of God, but they don't agree. They need love in their hearts. May God's Spirit help to give dear souls light.

Your sister in Christ, Emaline VanZandt.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Mich.—Dear Brother,—I am writing to let you know that the Lord certainly has blessed me since I last wrote to the paper. The prayers of the saints certainly touched God on His throne and I am trying with all my volition to please him. I can truthfully say the Lord will answer prayer. In trying hours I put my trust in Him. In my work for the Lord I needed someone that would help me, so He gave me a real wife to help, and I must confess she is a real help. When the Lord delivers, no man can hinder. I find that every word of the Lord is true. At present I am saved and filled with God's Spirit. I just closed a meeting which lasted thirty days. Ten souls were saved and the saints were helped. I want the saints to pray for us. Yours in Christ, Elder H. W. Ewing

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

La.—Dear saints everywhere,—Greetings in the name of Jesus. I am glad indeed to add my testimony that I am still a child of God, and I'm glad I learned to trust in One that sticketh closer than a brother, One that is a very present help in every time of need. I have found it so. The Lord is very good to me, and words cannot express my love for Him.

He heals us when we get sick although I have been afflicted much of late. I have it settled to trust Him to the end. When we trust the Lord He heals us and there are no after effects—no shots to take that leaves us nervous.

I desire to place a request for prayer before the saints. I have some kind of hurting in my right side, probably gall stones or some other bad trouble, but we know God knows, and we know there is nothing too hard for Him to handle, so pray for me. Also pray that I live true to Him what time He permits me to stay here.

I would like to be the means of someone coming to the Lord. If I could only know I could win one soul to him! I want to live very close to Him.

Yours in Christ, Mellie Esters.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Dear saints and friends everywhere.—I am writing this by the help of the dear Lord, and hope these few lines will be a help to you who are on this precious way, and to those who have never started, and to those who have once started and have fallen by the wayside.

May I say to you that there is nothing gained in a sinful life. I once lived in sin and enjoyed the dangerous pleasures of the world for a short time. Then the Lord began to reason with me about my soul and my lost

condition. I would often say I meant to get saved and live as a true Christian should, but I kept putting it off because I was ignorant of the cost. It is written in Eccl. 12:1, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."

When I lived in sin, I was as most young people seem to be. I wanted to reach a certain goal in life before I chose to have Jesus Christ as my Savior. It was a very sad mistake, but I did not realize just how sad it was at the time. I continued my sinful life. Often I would go to church services and take others, but was not ready to be saved myself.

Then one day I began to feel sick. My cousin asked me if I wanted prayer, and I told her I did not. But my sickness grew worse and worse and I began to want prayer. So I said within myself, "I will go and be prayed for as soon as I have put the cattle in safe keeping." (At that time I was herding cattle.)

But the Lord's way was different than my way. I never had the chance to carry out my plans as I had planned them. I noticed one of the cows going to the potato patch and I made a quick move to stop her. Then something strange happened to me. I began to feel queer, and a very strange feeling ran down my back, beginning at the top of my head. Then my knees began to feel weak. I said aloud, "What a strange feeling!" I realized I was dying. I began to run and call on the dear Lord, but it seemed as if my prayers were too late. As soon as my aunt and cousin saw what was wrong they began to pray. I had confidence in my aunt and cousin and believed in their prayers, but even though they prayed earnestly it seemed as if my time was almost gone. Oh, I felt miserable, and yet nothing really pained me physically. After that strange feeling had struck me all of the pains left my body then this queer numb feeling seemed to just cling to me.

After we had cried and begged the Lord to save me—even if He didn't heal me—that miserable feeling began to leave. My aunt sent for some of the near saints to come. They all agreed in prayer for me and the Lord heard their cries and saved me.

Then I was a happy man, but after a little while I began to feel sick in my body. I suffered much pain, but I was happy because I knew my suffering was not in vain. I was rejoicing because my Savior was with me.

But I made another sad mistake. After I was healed and able to go about my work as before, I grew careless. I didn't stay watchful and prayerful, and I fell by the way. I felt wretched and miserable and undone before the Lord. I knew the dear Lord was displeased with me, and I began to feel insecure. Then the Lord allowed that awful feeling to come back on me. This time I could not run to where my aunt and cousin were, for I was staying alone. I ran out the door of the house and it looked as if I would fall almost any time. I was running and praying to the Lord all I knew. I told Him this time that I honestly meant my vows to him and I begged him for another chance. Now do not misunderstand me. I meant the first vows I made, but I was just too careless.

The Lord was so merciful he gave me another chance after my heart was broken up enough. It seemed as if I was more happy to be saved this time than at first. But please allow me to say one thing to you who know the way of the Lord. It is a dangerous thing to start with the dear Lord and then stop. In St. John 5:14 the Lord warned a man that if he went back in sin a worse thing would come upon him. And I have found the Word

of the Lord to be true even in my life. I could tell of many afflictions that have come upon me that I am sure never would have come if I had been faithful to our blessed Savior.

If I never meet some of you face to face in this world, I hope to meet you in glory. Pray for me as I shall pray for you.

Your Brother in Christ,

Lester L. Gordon.

O—O—O—O—O—O—O

Texas—Dear saints, Greetings in Jesus' name. I am happy to say that I am saved and sanctified through all the trials and temptations of this life. I am encouraged to toil on, since joy is at the end of our journey. There is a crown laid up for me, and not for me only but for all that love him. If we love him, we will keep his commandments. We are living in the last days, in a time of sin and distress. Many so-called saints are falling away and beginning to walk after the flesh rather than after the Spirit. We are told in the fifth chapter of Galatians to stand fast, but not many are doing it. Unless each saint daily obtains grace from God to stand, the condition will grow worse and worse. The grace of God will enable one to stand fast in the face of any temptation. When someone invites one to have a drink of beer, etc., the grace of God in their souls will enable a Christian to refuse. Or when urged by some of the devil's angels to paint the face, curl or dye the hair, the grace of God in one's heart will enable that one to stand fast in the way of purity and holiness and give a godly answer. It is dangerous to yield to anything that the devil calls "no harm things." Preachers are causing many to travel the downward road to destruction. They teach that there is no harm in fixing the body up to look good, and that God has some good children and some bad ones. Lying wonders!! Jesus doesn't accept anything that is wrong.

Pray for me that I'll have more power to tell the great news, because I am on the battlefield for my Lord.

Your sister in Christ,

Elnora Washington

Mo.—We are glad to report victory in our souls and bodies over the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16). These things do not please our dear heavenly Father. Our Saviour instructs us to purify ourselves as he is pure, with the love of God shed abroad in our hearts and the mind of Christ, and be risen with Christ. We seek those things which are above. We are glad to report that Jesus is more than this world to us. When we are sick or have any ailments we go to him in prayer and he heals us. This is in the atoning blood. Several times I have awakened in the night choking on phlegm in my throat, seemingly it would choke me to death. I couldn't speak aloud. I breathed a prayer in the name of Jesus and my wife agreed with me until the power of the devil was broken and the phlegm would rise or disappear and I could lie down and go to sleep, rest well, arise in the morning and go about my daily duty feeling fine. Praise the dear Lord who is speaking to us in our light afflictions and giving us understanding what the will of the Lord is. Be filled with the Spirit and speak to yourselves in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. With these spiritual songs and giving of thanks in our hearts, we have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. We are proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. Read Eph. chapter 5. We solicit your prayers that our fellowship be not broken.

Your blood-washed brother and sister, J. E. Morris.

## I Was A Prisoner of War

I was a prisoner of Japan for forty long months, thirty-four of them in solitary confinement.

When I flew as a member of General Doolittle's squadron on the first raid over Japan on April 18th, 1942, my heart was filled with bitter hatred for the people of that nation. When our plane ran out of gas the members of the crew or my plane had to parachute down into Japanese-held territory in China and we were captured by the enemy. The bitterness of my heart against my captors seemed more than I could bear.

Taken to Tokyo with the survivors of another of our planes, we were imprisoned and beaten, half-starved, and denied, by solitary confinement, even the comfort of association with one another. These terrible tortures took place at Tokyo, Shanghai, Nanking and Peiping. Three of my buddies, Dean Hallmark, Bill Farrow, and Harold Spatz, were executed by a firing squad about six months after our capture, and fourteen months later another of them, Bob Meder, died of slow starvation. My hatred for the Japanese people nearly drove me crazy.

It was soon after Meder's death that I began to ponder the cause of such hatred between members of the human race. I wondered what it was that made the Japanese hate the Americans, and what made me hate the Japanese. My thoughts turned toward what I had heard about Christianity changing hatred between human beings into real brotherly love, and I was gripped with a strange longing to examine the Christian's Bible to see if I could find the secret. I begged my captors to get a Bible for me. At last, in the month of May, 1944, a guard brought the Book, but told me I could have it for only three weeks.

I eagerly began to read its pages. Chapter after chapter gripped my heart. In due time I came to the books of the prophets, and found that their every writing seemed to be focused on a divine Redeemer from sin, one who was to be sent from Heaven to be born in the form of a human babe. Their writings so fascinated me that I read them again and again until I had earnestly studied them through six times. Then I went on into the New Testament, and there read of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, the One who actually fulfilled the very prophecies of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah and other Old Testament writers. My heart rejoiced as I read in Acts 10:43: "To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His Name, whosoever believeth on Him shall receive remission of sins." After I had carefully read this book of the Acts I continued on into the study of the epistle Paul wrote to the Corinthians at Rome.

On June 8th, 1944, the words in Romans 10:9 stood out boldly before my eyes: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." In that very moment God gave me grace to confess my sins to Him, and He forgave me of all my sins and saved me for Jesus' sake, even as I later found what His Word again

promises so clearly in 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

How my heart rejoiced in my newness of spiritual life, even though my body was suffering so terribly from the physical beatings and lack of food! But suddenly I discovered that God had given to me new spiritual eyes, and that when I looked at the Japanese officers and guards who had starved and beaten me and my companions so cruelly, I found my bitter hatred for them had changed to loving pity. I realized that these Japanese did not know anything about my Saviour, and that if Christ is not in a heart, it is natural to be cruel. I read in my Bible that while those who crucified Jesus on the cross had beaten Him and had spit upon Him before He was nailed to the cross, He tenderly prayed in His moment of excruciating suffering, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And now from the depths of my heart, I too prayed for God to forgive my torturers, and I determined by the aid of Christ to do my best to acquaint the Japanese people with the message of salvation that they might become as other believing Christians. With His love controlling my heart, the 13th chapter of First Corinthians took on a living meaning: "Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Love never faileth."

A year passed by, and during that year the memories of the weeks I had been permitted to spend with my Bible grew sweeter and sweeter day by day. Then one day as I was sitting in my solitary confinement cell in Peiping, I became very sick. My heart pained me, even as Meder told me his had pained him just before he died of starvation. I slid down onto my knees and began to pray. The guards rushed in and began to punish me, but I kept right on praying. Finally they let me alone. God in that hour revealed unto me how to endure suffering.

At last freedom came. On August 20th, 1945, American parachutists dropped onto the prison grounds and released us from our cells. We were flown back to the United States and placed in hospitals where we slowly regained our physical strength.

God has clearly commanded me, "Go, teach the Japanese the way of salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ. I will go to Japan as a missionary, with one single purpose to lead me: *to make Christ known.*"

I am sending this testimony to people everywhere, but particularly to the people in Japan and China, and my earnest prayer is that a great host of Japanese and Chinese may confess Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour.

—Jacob DeShazer, Doolittle Flier

Jesus said, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Matt. 5:44

"Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him."

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## BIBLE STUDY

Beginning with the first Quarter of the new year the Primary Lesson Cards will be 5c per set. Please keep this in mind when ordering your next Sunday School literature. The Primary Picture Roll price is still \$1.15. Order at least two weeks before beginning of new Quarter. The cards are sold in sets which contain one card for each Sunday in the Quarter, at 5 cents per set. Sets cannot be broken. Order from Faith Publishing House, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla.

### THE WORD MADE FLESH

Sunday, January 5, 1947

Printed Portion ..... John 1:1-18.

John 1:1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2. The same was in the beginning with God.

3. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

4. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

5. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

6. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

8. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

9. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

10. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

11. He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

12. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13. Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

15. John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

16. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

17. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

18. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

**Golden Text:** No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him. John 1:18.

**Practical Truth:** The eternal Son of God took upon himself all things essential to true humanity.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We are glad to begin the new year with a study of the gospel of St. John, and yet a sadness and a burden comes over us when we realize that many will attend Sunday School and study the deep spiritual truths contained in the book and perhaps memorize some of them; yet return home to continue in the same old pursuits of life, dead in trespasses and sins, not realizing that there is any more to it than a mere Sunday School lesson to be learned by the mind in much the same manner as a history lesson at school. If these lessons do not enrich your soul and give it special thrills of joy, something is wrong! You likely have ears that do not hear and eyes that do not see. Start seeking God in earnestness with an honest, open heart until He floods your darkened soul with light. "Hear and your soul shall live."

Since we have commented on this first chapter of John at different times in the last few years, we shall change the order somewhat this time and give you some questions to consider. Be sure to prove your answers by the Scriptures.

1. What is meant by the "Word" in verse one?
2. Did Christ exist before his incarnation?
3. Some use the statement, "the Word was God" to support their "Jesus only" theory (That is: Jesus alone is God and there is no trinity.) What one little word in verse two explodes this theory? To guard against erroneous doctrine, it might be good to search the Scriptures to see what they teach concerning the triune God.
4. Does verse three help you to understand more perfectly where Jesus got the authority and power to command the tempest to cease? also to perform other miracles? Isn't it encouraging to faith to know that He said, "Behold, I give you power?"
5. What is the difference between the life that was in Jesus and that which fallen humanity has which they call life?
6. What is meant by "light"? by "darkness?"
7. Why didn't the darkness comprehend the Light? (Read John 3:19).
8. How much darkness can exist in one's soul if he possesses the light and life which Jesus gives?
9. When light dispels the darkness in one's soul, does it mean that he is then perfect in knowledge as God and has no need of growing and learning more about truth and holiness?
10. What was the mission of John the Baptist?
11. How may we become sons and daughters of God? (Read 1 John 3 in connection with this.)
12. In what ways did Christ show his divine glory?

### THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS

Sunday, January 12, 1947

Printed Portion ..... John 2:1-16.

John 2:1. And the third day there was a marriage; and the mother of Jesus was there:

2. And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

3. And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

4. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

5. His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

6. And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

7. Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

8. And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

9. When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

10. And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

11. This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

12. After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days.

13. And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

14. And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

15. And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple; and the sheep, and the oxen: and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

16. And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.

**Golden Text:** Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. John 2:5.

**Practical Truth:** Jesus had authority when he was on earth, and he has authority still.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In our lesson today Jesus begins the work for which he came into the world. It would seem to be good if we could know more about the boyhood and early manhood days of the Lord. Not only is information limited in regard to this part of his life, but His own near relatives didn't fully realize His divine call.

We notice at this time he had disciples.

Verse 3—The mother of Jesus brings the issue. It is supposed that she had never seen her son work a miracle before, yet there is evidence that she expected something out of the ordinary.

A more correct rendering of verse four would be: "O, woman, what is this to thee, and to me." This same expression is found many times in the New Testament and is far from a disrespectful address to his mother.

We notice by verse eleven that the performing of this miracle manifested His glory or supreme divinity and his disciples believed in him the more. According to verse twelve He seemed to establish his abode at Capernaum, only tarrying there a few days, then going on to Jerusalem.

The beginning of the Lord's ministry had to do with the cleaning of the House of God. One of the last acts which the Lord did was likewise that of cleansing the temple. We believe these were two separate occasions.

In verse 16 we find these words. "Take these things hence." The Lord is still concerned with his temples today. He will not dwell in an unclean temple. What is the result if we defile the temple of God? Is there not too much merchandising in God's earthen temples today? When we are willing and ready for a house cleaning, the Lord will come into the temple and take up His abode. How many things can you name that might grieve the Holy Spirit and cause Him to move out? Do you remember what happened to the great temple at Jerusalem

when the Lord moved out? Where were the people carried away to? Why did the Lord move out?

—O. C. Porter.

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#### JESUS INTERVIEWED BY NICODEMUS

Sunday, January 19, 1947

Printed Portion ..... John 3:1-11, 16, 17.

John 3:1. There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

2. The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

3. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5. Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

8. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

9. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

10. Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

11. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

16. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

**Golden Text:** Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. John 3:3.

**Practical Truth:** True faith in the Son of God will result in a new birth and in everlasting life.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Emphasis should be placed on the truth which Jesus taught in the interview, which is as important and essential to us as to Nicodemus if we desire to enter the kingdom of God here and dwell with him eternally.

Jesus said, "Ye must be born again," and except ye are, ye cannot see or enter the kingdom of God. The humble gladly give themselves into the hands of God that he may work in them this wonderful soul transformation; but those who trust in worldly wisdom to be their guide hold a very unfavorable attitude toward it. One of old told of the popular attitude concerning this way of being born again and walking in newness of life. "We know that every where it is spoken against." (Acts 28:22). Men have not changed. It has become common and somewhat popular among most people to claim Jesus as their Savior, but they still regard the new birth in a contemptuous manner, considering those who have ex-



perienced the change deluded—almost mad. When one comes to the knowledge of this teaching, he has come to the point of junction of two roads—one, the way of the cross, leading through valleys of humiliation and over hills of difficulty, yet made blessed by grace and assurance from God, and ending in everlasting glory; the other, beginning in self-will, gratification of earthly desires, and ending in destruction. Many who refuse God's way of following Christ in the regeneration (See Titus 3:5.) even try to preach, teach and superintend Sunday School—some through ignorance and some in unbelief. In either case it is dangerously wrong. They are blind to spiritual truths and cannot help but teach their own opinions rather than the Word of God. "If the blind lead the blind both shall fall into the ditch." Surely Jesus would say to such leaders, "Art thou a teacher of precious, eternity-bound souls, and knowest not these things?"

Sunday School pupils, you have a right to require your teacher to know by a present experience in his (or her) own soul what it is to be born again.

The new birth is called being "born from above," or "born of God," because God and not man effects it. To obtain it you must become awakened to the fact that your unregenerate nature is pulling you earthward and is contrary to the nature of God, and that you are lost and doomed to be eternally separated from God unless a change takes place. When you realize you are a lost sinner—and you will if you get a glimpse of God's holiness—you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and by faith accept the innocent blood of His Son as an atonement for your sins. Then God, for Christ's sake will forgive your sins, send the new life into your soul and you will know that you are "born again," of the water and the Spirit. Water is the symbol of spiritual cleansing. Jesus often spoke of the water which He would give—living water.

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### JESUS CROSSES RACIAL BOUNDARIES

Sunday, January 16, 1947

Printed Portion ..... John 4:4-10, 27-30, 39-42.

4. And he must needs go through Samaria.
5. Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.
6. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.
7. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.
8. (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)
9. Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.
10. Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.
27. And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?
28. The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,
29. Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

30. Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

39. And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.

40. So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days.

41. And many more believed because of his own word;

42. And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.

Golden Text: Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst. John 4:14.

Practical Truth: People of every race may partake of the water of life.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In traveling from Judea to Galilee, strict Jews avoided Samaria and chose to go the longer route through Peraea unless their journey required haste. Necessity for speed did not seem to be Jesus' reason for choosing that route, for he spent two days at Sychar. It was a necessity of redeeming love. Perhaps you will remember that some time ago we learned from a lesson taken from the Old Testament that when the Jews returned to their own land after the Babylonish captivity, they were required to separate from their strange wives (Gentile women) in order to be recognized as true Jews; for marriages to strange women were forbidden by the law. A few would not do that so they left Jerusalem and went to Samaria to dwell among a people of mixed races who had settled there some time before that. The Samaritans had wanted to help rebuild the temple and had caused the Jews much trouble because they were not permitted to. They established their place of worship in a mountain and adhered to the Jewish religion to some extent. They had departed from the teachings of the law in different respects and the Jews had no dealings with them, yet some of them were looking for the promised Messiah.

It matters not how far one drifts from the paths of righteousness, when he looks for Jesus, Jesus will be looking for him. He came to seek and to save that which was lost, and would not shun to accomplish his divine purpose because of human prejudice.

The Lord's disciples must be partakers of His nature if they expect to share His glory. Race prejudice should not move one one iota from doing all in his power to seek to win every lost soul to Jesus. If the Lord should inspire you with a message or a few words to deliver to one of a despised race, would you be ashamed to have your friends catch you talking with such an one? Jesus was not ashamed, and he even went among them and stayed awhile.

Notice the difference in the way Jesus approached this woman and Nicodemus, though it was the same truth He wanted to teach them. Truly, "He that winneth souls is wise." It takes more wisdom than human mind possesses to awaken a dead soul to its need of God. Some who desire to win souls spend much money on courses and study books to learn how. The time spent is worse than lost. What they need is more of Jesus in them, for only the convicting Spirit of God can draw a soul out of its dead state of sin to a realization of its need.

We learn also from this that if we are to persuade people to leave their vain pursuits of life, their sinful ways, and false modes of worship, we must have something better to offer them than they have already.