

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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Evil Habits

Evil habits? at the start,
You felt yourself to be quite smart;
"Oh, I can quit this when I please,
And I can do it with all ease."

But as the time rolled along,
Evil desires became more strong;
You indulged a little more,
Drifting farther from the shore.

For lust, and drink, and other stuff,
You found you could not get enough,
For more and more your heart did crave,
At last you found yourself a slave.

Evil habits have a power
You can not break in just one hour;
For many struggling in the strife,
Have found themselves ensnared for life.

But evil habits can be squashed,
Your soul from sin and shame be washed
In Jesus' blood; it has the power
To make you whole this very hour.

Though your sins like crimson be,
Jesus' blood can make you free:
He will fill your heart with joy,
And make your tongue His praise employ.
—Ulysses Phillips

A Terrible Tragedy WILL IT HAPPEN TO YOU?

"Once I was an innocent, beautiful, virtuous, religious, ambitious girl. I went to school and had lofty ideals of doing big things in life. I hoped some day to have a good husband and a happy home. I loved the church; I believed my Bible; I went to Sunday school; and was inspired to help the needy. I was much loved and admired by my friends.

"Then from some whom I thought to be my friends too, I caught the 'repeal fever.' I bobbed my hair, rolled down my stockings, cut off my skirts,

penciled my fingernails. I was made to believe that my happiness depended on being smart; that only popularity, pleasure and a sport life were ideal; and was told that everybody was doing it.

"After hearing the cigarette advertisements over the radio, seeing them in the magazines and on the bill-boards, and watching my so-called friends indulging, I was influenced to smoke, and got a great kick out of sitting in public places, puffing smoke in others' faces.

"Having lost my desire to go to church, or to be with church folks, I went with the crowds to the dance halls, road houses, beer gardens, and to the cocktail rooms. I soon became brazen enough to call for a drink at the bar. I learned to gamble, played the races, and had many late-hour dates.

"Now I have had my fling—have been a modern girl, and have had my 'personal liberty.' My virtue is gone, my religion is gone, my old-time good friends are gone, my beauty is gone, my pride and holy ideals are gone. Here I am,—an ugly, bleary-eyed, blotch-faced, cigarette-smoking, half-crazed drunken sot! I have repealed everything that was good, noble, refined, beautiful, moral and spiritual in my life.

"The few friends I have, are as miserable as I. My body is diseased, my heart is broken, my noble ideals are crushed, my motherly instincts are dead, my good family name is disgraced, my character is ruined, my ambition is gone! My past is evil, my present is hell; and my future dark. Here I am nothing now but just A Lost Girl."

This Terrible Tragedy could have been prevented had this poor girl been born again by the precious blood of Jesus and put on the whole armour of God.

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Eph. 6:11.

"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom. 10:13.

"Come unto me, [Jesus said,] all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matt. 11:28-30.

"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." Eccl. 12:1.

Young soul, don't throw your life away. Make your life worth while. Commit it to the keeping of the Great Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gambling is dishonest from the ground up. So are its implements. Its cards are marked, its dice loaded, its roulette wheels, slot machines and other devices are rigged.

JESUS CHRIST

The anointed of God: "Unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows." Heb. 1:8, 9. JESUS CHRIST came to earth, being sent of the Father to redeem mankind from a fallen, sinful, lost condition. The angel announcing his birth said to Joseph, "Fear not to take unto thee Mary, thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." Matt. 1:20, 21. The Old Testament covenant was not the final for man's good as it did not contain the grace and truth needed. "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." John 1:17. In Jesus Christ and in him only is eternal life. "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." John 17:3. Peter demanded of the people to "repent, and be baptized . . . in the name of JESUS CHRIST for the remission of sins . . . and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:38. Peter again stressed the name of JESUS CHRIST to a lame man: "Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of JESUS CHRIST of Nazareth rise up and walk." Acts 3:6. Repentance must precede conversion and the blotting out of sins. "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out. . . And he shall send JESUS CHRIST, which before was preached unto you." Acts 3:19, 20.

Oh, the power and wisdom of CHRIST! "Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God." 1 Cor. 1:24. Paul said in 1 Cor. 2:2, 4, 5, "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." The apostles, following Pentecost, preached JESUS CHRIST and men and women were converted. He certainly should be preached in this sinful age. Jesus Christ is the sinner's only hope. Without him they are all lost. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is NONE other name

under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

It is impossible to be saved without faith. After Paul and Silas were loosed from prison bands the keeper of the prison "brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16:30, 31. Peter and the apostles, after a beating "departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." Acts 5:41, 42. What was good for them in the early New Testament time of the saints then, should be very good for the saints of God of today. In order to reap eternal life one must be a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." John 3:18. Also John 3:36: "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."

Every man is traveling on one or the other of two distinct ways. The one leads to everlasting destruction, and the other one to everlasting life. Satan leads on one, and the Lord Jesus Christ leads on the other. "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat. Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matt. 7:13, 14.

"Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 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. 2:13, 14. Man becomes a new man when he is changed from his natural way of thinking to knowing things by the teaching of Jesus Christ. Every man needs the Spirit of truth for his teacher. "When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth." John 16:13. This is a saying of JESUS CHRIST. "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me." John 15:26.

There is but one Lord, JESUS CHRIST. "One Lord, one faith, one baptism." Eph. 4:5. "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him." 1 Cor. 8:6.

"Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 1:3. "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. . . Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God." Phil. 1:6, 11.

Lord Jesus, my sweet Rose of Sharon,
 My Prophet, my Priest and my King;
 To thee I will sing all my praises,
 For blessings thy mercy doth bring.
 All glory and honor to Jesus,
 Who offered his life on the cross,
 To open a fountain for sinners,
 And purchase a world that was lost.

Come, sinner, thy heart like the desert,
 With sweet Rose of Sharon shall bloom;
 'Twill blossom as flowers of summer:
 His Spirit thy heart shall illumine.
 He paid all thy debt on Mount Calvary,
 He suffered that you might be free;
 Oh, look, guilty one, there is mercy,
 There's life and salvation for thee. —B. E. W.

—Thomas J. Bowers.

PERFECT PEACE

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Isa. 26:3.

We are living in a world of wickedness which causes stress and strain on your mind. Obstacles rise as mountains before you and as you think upon them the mountains grow with rapidity. At this point the devil says there is no use to go on living, but that you had better end it all. Thus the figure has mounted to 25,000 yearly who take their lives. Oh, my dear one, there is a way out for you. Let your mind and thoughts rise above the highest mountain of difficulty confronting you and see God who is bigger than any problem that has ever confronted mankind. Turn your thoughts away from this earth and all of its clamor and look unto Jesus who, the Bible says, "was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin." Heb. 4:15. He can help you. He died on the cross that His innocent blood could cover all your sins and they can be forgiven. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins." 1 John 1:9. Now you have Jesus as your helper, your burden bearer. He will work out your many problems if you will let Him. It is up to you to let Him.

It is often said that the mind is the doorway to the heart. The devil will present a thought to you, but you need not let that thought stay. The devil told Jesus to jump off the pinnacle of the temple and even quoted scripture that the angels would catch him. (Matt. 4:5, 6) Jesus told the devil that would be tempting God and he resisted that thought and it did not affect him. But it would have affected him if he had entertained that thought. The devil then would probably have presented another thought: that if Jesus would jump, it would be a good way for him to get started in his ministry here in this world and bring big publicity to him, but Jesus would not do such a thing. So if we entertain one evil thought the devil is right there with another. Thoughts that tend to bring honor to ourselves and not to God are from the

devil. They should be rebuked and dismissed from our mind. Perfect peace belongs to us when we keep our mind on God.

We are to gird up the loins of our mind. (1 Peter 1:13) We are not to let it run out to this or that. Imaginations will crowd in and take possession if we do not watch. Some people suffer over things that never happen. "Oh, what if this happens, or what if that happens? oh, what shall I do?" This is a torment from the devil that we do not have to endure. Gird up or bring in your mind to perfect trust and find peace in God. The Bible says, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Cor. 10:5. God holds all the tomorrows in His hand and we must rest and believe that. We can only live one day at a time.

Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13. You must not let God be a small God to you, but able to help in ALL the trying scenes of life. When imaginations and thoughts of fear, distrust, anxiety, doubt, poverty, and sickness come stalking in like giants to take your thoughts, you should look to God and see Jesus, the Lamb of God, who spilled His blood that you might have rest and peace. Tell all those thoughts they must go. You are covered with the blood of Jesus. It doesn't make any difference what might happen to you, God will take care of you. You have been bought with a price and you do not belong to yourself any longer, but belong to God. You are a purchased possession of the Lord's. You are sure God knows how to take care of His own. You have committed your body and soul into God's hands and you can say with the Apostle Paul, "... I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." 2 Tim. 1:12. Praise the Lord. The devil has to leave with all his tormenting thoughts and perfect peace is yours.

Yield your will, your self, your possessions, your mind, soul and body to God without one reserve. God is privileged to do as he pleases with what is his. Meet God in your "Gethsemane" and say with Jesus, "Not my will, but thine be done." You can't see God when your eyes are full of rebellious tears. Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. (Mark 12:30). From your heart say, "Have thine own way in my life. If your will is pain, hardship, self-denial, self-sacrifice, that will be my will." Obedience to the will of God will bring perfect peace.

In Phil. 4:8, it tells you what to think on. Think on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtue, and praise. If your peace has been disturbed check back to your thoughts. Maybe your mind has not been stayed on the Lord. Perfect peace of mind is for everyone who desires it enough to pay the price and receive it. Guard the door of your mind with diligent care.

—Sister A. Marie Miles.

If you cannot reason or persuade a man in the truth, never attempt to force him into it.

"FAITH AND VICTORY"**16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY**

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

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the promulgation and restoration of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning church of the first century: the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from the world and entire devotion to the service and the will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God; no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ; and separation from all human organizations—such are not authorized in the Word.

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Free-will offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. All personal checks and Post Office Money Orders should be made payable to Fred Pruitt, or to Faith Pub. House. All offerings and gifts given or sent to Fred Pruitt will be used in the general up-keep of the printing work unless you state that it is for personal needs. We make His work first.

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The Church of God Chapel at Guthrie, Oklahoma is located on the corner of Sixth and W. Mansur. The congregation welcomes you. —Bro. Ira D. Stover, Pastor
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EDITORIALS

We are now traveling rapidly into the New Year of 1960. How fast time does fly! The last year has been one of the most progressive years for the Faith Publishing House in getting the literature to all the world, and the many victories won over opposing powers and souls rescued from sin by the Lord Jesus Christ. We estimate that over 50,000 people will be reading the Faith and Victory paper during the winter months. God surely will reward those who have so nobly stood by the work and aided by prayers and means to get this gospel out to men by the printed page. We are very thankful to God to know that those who give of their substance to the "Lord's Print Shop" do not give to be seen or heard and praised of men; but they live like the Bible teaches us in Matthew the sixth chapter and the third verse. They do not give because some editor, or others urge them to do so; but they give of their own free will and give it as unto the Lord and their reward will come from Him and Him only. I do not believe, according to the Scriptures, that there will be any eternal reward for those who give when they are urged or enticed to do so; neither for those who give when the law of tithing is forced upon them as a New Testament doctrine. God only accepts a willing service. He told the apostles in Matt. 10:8, "Freely ye have received, freely give."

God makes it pleasant to be a servant of His and serve the Church of God which is the pillar and ground of the truth. The prospects for a greater work for the Lord in the present year are very good. We mean, by his grace, to just keep right at it until he says, "It is enough, come up higher." Brothers and sisters, pray for us during this year, for we have many burdens and responsibilities that we tell only to the Lord. We have put our full confidence and faith in God and look to our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus, to supply every need and work out all things so He will be glorified.

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The Assembly meeting here at Guthrie during the Christmas holidays was very well attended from the very first day until the last. The truth went forth "like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces." There was not much altar work done until the morning service of New Year's day, when there was a real breaking through. There must have been 35 or 40 at the altar for soul help in one way or another. From that day on, numbers were at the altar at different times. There must have been 25 ministers or more who attended the meeting. We were thankful for all who came. You are welcome here at Guthrie in the meetings at any time.

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The Lord has been giving us some meditations upon the GARDEN OF EDEN and how it typifies the

TRUE HOLINESS CHURCH OF GOD which is functioning in the world today. In Genesis 2:7, we read, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of LIFE; and MAN became a living SOUL." The next verse says, "And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed." Likewise we are placed in the spiritual Church of God today when we are born again and God adds us to the Church. When God made Adam out of the dust of the earth he had all the members of a body but he was just a dead lump of clay and was not in the Garden of Eden until God planted a garden and put him in it. Just so today, when we are in sin we are just as spiritually dead, and have no life from heaven in the soul; but when God begins to work and through godly sorrow and repentance we are born from above, then the new life from heaven enlightens our whole being and we are alive to the things of God and placed as a member in the Church of God by the Lord himself. In this the creation of man typifies the spiritually born-again soul who is in the true holiness Church of God.

The 9th verse reads thus, "And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the TREE OF LIFE also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil." We see that there were two trees in the midst of the garden, one was a Tree of Life which typifies Christ in the midst of his Church today. In Revelation the first chapter we read where it is speaking of the seven churches of Asia and it reads thus from the 13th to the 15th verses, "And in the midst of the seven candlesticks [which represented the seven churches] one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters." Such is the one who is in the midst of his true Church today.

The other tree gave knowledge of good and evil of which Adam and Eve were commanded not to eat. In the 22nd chapter of Rev. and the 2nd verse it speaks of the Tree of Life. In John the 6th chapter and the 53rd verse we read what Jesus said, "Verily, verily I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you." This is absolutely necessary if one remains in the true Church of God today. In the 63rd verse he makes this saying plain to his hearers and says, "It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." As in the Garden of Eden God had provided every thing they needed in a literal sense to live and be happy; so it is in the spiritual Church of the living God. He has provided all spiritual food for our souls to live and be happy having an assurance of eternal life with him after physical death.

In the 10th verse of the 2nd chapter of Genesis, we read that, "A river went out of Eden to water the

garden." They had plenty of literal water to use so that need was fully supplied. Listen what God's Word says about the water of life which is supplied to the members of His Church today. In Psalms 46:4, we read, "There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High." He told the woman at the well recorded in the 4th chapter of John that the water that he would give would be in one as a well of water, springing up into eternal life. In John 7:37 we read, "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." Thus we see the river of literal water that watered the Garden of Eden typifies the spiritual water of life that waters the souls of men in the Family of God, the Church of God, which is the pillar and ground of the truth.

In the 15th verse of the 2nd chapter of Genesis we read again, "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." God gave him one commandment with the penalty of death added if he disobeyed. We find later on in the next chapter that he broke that commandment and died a spiritual death and God drove the man and his wife out of the garden. So, also it is with us today who make up the Church of the Living God when we break his commandments. Our names are blotted out of his book of life and we are out of his true Church no matter what we may profess.

In the Garden of Eden God told the man to dress it and to keep it; but now in his spiritual Church he puts the garden in man and He dresses and keeps it, and our business is to keep surrendered up to his will. If we keep willing and obedient, we will eat the good of the land and be prepared to meet him in peace, but if we refuse and rebel we shall be destroyed by the sword. The Word of God is as a twoedged sword. If we believe it and yield to its teaching, it will mean life eternal for us; but if we rebel against the Word it will act as a sword to spiritually destroy us.

In the 21st verse it reads like this, "And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of man." In the 24th verse he says that the man "shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." What we have read typifies the Church which Jesus purchased by the blood of the wound in his side which the spear made. In John 19:33, 34, we read, "But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: but one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water."

As Adam got his wife from his wounded side so also Jesus got his spiritual wife from the flow of blood from his pierced side. In Acts the 20th chapter we

read in the 28th verse as follows, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." In the 5th chapter of Ephesians where the Apostle Paul is comparing the Church which Jesus has purchased with his blood to a man and a wife and family, he says, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." In the 30th verse he says, "For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones." This is close kin indeed.

It is recorded that God put Adam in a deep sleep and opened up his side and took a rib and made a wife for him. Christ was dead when they pierced his side so it could be said that he was in a deep sleep when the blood came out that has purchased for him a wife.

In the third chapter we have something else coming up. Here is a serpent which we know, according to the Scripture, represents Satan or the devil. He deceived Eve and she enticed her husband and they both broke the one and only commandment that God had given them. Some one may say, "How could the Garden of Eden typify the Holy Church of God and the devil or Satan be in it?" We have no Bible proof that the serpent was ever in the Garden of Eden. In this first verse of the third chapter he is mentioned as having been a beast of the field, and also again in the 14th verse. In Matt. 13:38, we read where Jesus, when explaining his parables, says, "The field is the world." So according to this he was a beast of the world and really not in the pure and clean Garden of Eden which typifies the Church. Eve, no doubt, was out close to the fence-line, so to speak, and the serpent talked to her through the fence. She got into trouble by being so close to the world. Just so today, in the Church of God: those who get close to the world soon become swallowed up by it and are deceived and are by the Lord driven out of the true Church of God. There is no sin in the Church of God. Sin automatically puts one out of the true Church of God. It is true that Satan brings great temptations against the children of God and will make them believe his lies if they give heed to his smooth talk, and it is also true that some who are of Satan's crowd will try to appear to be children of God, but Jude says that they are spots in our feasts of charity. You will find this in the 12th verse.

In the Song of Solomon many metaphors of the Church are used, and in several places a garden is used as a metaphor. In the 4th chapter it says in the 12th verse, "A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed." In 6: 2, we read, "My beloved has gone down into his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed in the gardens, and to gather lilies."

The Prophet Isaiah in the 51st chapter and the third verse says, "For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the gar-

den of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody."

Jeremiah, the prophet, in writing of Zion the Church of the living God, says in the 31st chapter and 12th verse, "Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the Lord, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all."

Ezekiel says in the 36th chapter and the 35th verse, "And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited."

Truly, the Garden of Eden typifies the true holiness Church of God which is functioning in the world today. Preacher Solomon says in symbolizing the Church, "Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee." In the 6th chapter and the 9th verse we read, "My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her." Then it goes on to describe her as one looking forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.

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As a service to our readers, we have a separate, special "Missionary Fund" here at the office to aid home and foreign missionary workers. As in past years, we will place your missionary offerings in the hands of active gospel workers who are laboring in God's great harvest field. "One sows and another reaps." Let us be "workers together" for the Master until the setting of the sun.

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The "Trumpet" paper served the Church through charismatic (divine gift) control about 37 years before it came under democratic church rule. The devil hates Holy Spirit control through callings and gifts of the Spirit. Therefore, he attempts, and often succeeds, in making man believe that man can, by majority rule, do a better piece of work than God.

Keep the good old way; go steadily in this path; there is none better.

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The Unity of The Church

Unity of the Spirit

The church is one in its basic structure, and the existence of unity of the Spirit is involved in the very nature of Christian experience. Christ is not divided, and neither is His body, the church. Unity cannot be created or voted into existence. It is a natural result of the work of the Spirit of God in the process of the new birth. Christian unity is a fundamental characteristic of the true church.

Divisions, denominational and personal, are condemned by the Word of God. Sectarianism, wherever it is found, is unscriptural. The Bible standard is "that there be no divisions among you," (1 Cor. 1: 10) and that there "should be no schism in the body." (1 Cor. 12:25).

Unity of the Faith

The Apostle Paul wrote: "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love; *endeavoring* to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace." (Eph. 4:1-3). This unity of the Spirit, if it is kept, will lead to a unity of faith or belief. It is to be kept "till we all come in the unity of the faith," (Eph. 4:13) and this in turn will produce a people who will "stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." (Phil. 1:27). Unity of the Spirit is instantaneous at the time of conversion, but coming to the unity of the faith is a continuing and continuous process. The *charismatic* gifts in the church are given to bring believers to the unity of the faith.

Unity of Functioning Co-operation

Oneness in Christ and oneness in doctrine is not enough. Something more is needed if the church is to fulfill its mission in the world. All Christians *must co-operate and work together* in the tasks which God has given His church to do.

In the early church there was not only a visible unity of the Spirit and unity of the faith, but also a *unity of purpose and action*. "The multitude of them that believed were of one heart and one soul." (Acts 4:32).

In that memorable prayer in St. John 17, Jesus prayed for His church today that it would likewise be able to exhibit a visible, convincing unity to the world. "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; *that they may be one*; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they may be one in us; *that the world may believe that thou hast sent me*." (Jno. 17:20-21). Everything that hinders an adequate expression of that unity for which Jesus prayed must be discarded.

A local congregation which is in unity with other congregations and with the church generally will naturally want to co-operate with the church in order to share in the blessings and work of the church everywhere. There are needs to be met and work to be done which no local congregation of itself can do. "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" and "Go make disciples of all nations, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you"—how are we to carry out such challenging orders except in unified co-operation with all who are like-minded?

—Lawrence D. Pruitt



Oklahoma.—Greetings to all the saints.—This leaves me saved, sanctified, and satisfied to live for the Lord. Truly I am thanking the Lord for his goodness through many tests and trials and how he did bless me through my mother's affliction. She was very patient through it all. I know the Lord heard and answered prayer. I take this opportunity to thank all the saints far and near for their prayers and donations in the time of need. May the Lord bless each and every one.

Your sister in the Lord,

—Ophelia Lefford.

Obituaries

Rose Etna Smith, 81, widow of Charles R. Smith, died Dec. 9, 1959 in the home of a son, Earl Bliss. She was born in Morgantown, W. Va., Sept. 10, 1878, a daughter of Samuel and Sarah Martin. She lived in Anderson, Ind. 33 years.

Sister Smith was a member of the Church of God. She was saved early in life and lived faithful to the Lord till death. She was a kind and loving wife, mother, sister, grandmother and neighbor, and a faithful sister in the Church, ever willing and ready to minister to others in deeds of kindness and love.

Survivors include three sons: Earl Bliss of Anderson, Ind., Narmon Bliss of Morgantown, W. Va., Martin Smith of Anderson, Ind.; one daughter, Mrs. Emma Miller of Anderson, Ind.; two brothers: George M. Martin of Anderson, Ind., and Benjamin Martin of Spring Brook, N. Dak.; 14 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Text used by Bro. D. A. Gibson was Psalm 116:15.

Gary Lynn Doolittle was born Dec. 24, 1955, and passed away Nov. 30, 1959, age three years, eleven months, and six days. He leaves behind both parents: Bro. and Sister Dale Doolittle; one sister, Erma Gayle; and two brothers: Mancil and Danny; besides his grandparents on both sides, uncles, aunts, and numerous other relatives, friends and saints to mourn our loss.

We are sure it is his eternal gain and his days of suffering are forever past and he is finding perfect comfort in heaven forever. Heaven seems more real to us since Jesus took him. He was so sweet and patient during his illness and enjoyed prayer very much. Oh, how we loved him, but the Lord loved him more and wanted him safe in the arms of Jesus. He will never know the bitterness of sin, thank God.

Services were conducted by Sister Katherine Key, assisted by Sister Lottie Joiner, and Bros. Ray Key and Max Williamson.

John Edward Clark, son of John H. and Willa J. Mc Niel Clark, was born Sept. 21, 1897 in Garfield County, Okla., where he grew to manhood. On Oct. 29, 1921 he was married to Miss Hazel A. Gordon, to which four children were born: Mrs. Willa Maxine Beck, John J. Clark, Dorothy Jeanne Brice, all of Los Angeles, Calif., and Gordon W. Clark of New York City. Besides these survivors there are nine grandchildren, three sisters, and a host of other relatives and friends.

We are sure our dear Lord received Bro. Clark as he did the thief on the cross, saying, "To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. E. M. Zinn and Bro. Calvin Hobbs. Texts used were Psalms 116:15, and Heb. 9:27. As the chrysalis in the cocoon stands the fierce wintry storms, then when spring comes with its warmth and sunshine, there comes forth a beautiful butterfly. And so it is with the soul as it comes forth from the tomb to meet God in the blessed resurrection with a new body into a home free from sin and death and suffering. There will be no more bidding good-byes to loved ones, but eternal life with our blessed Lord and Saviour.

Ethel Belle, daughter of Charles A. and Cora B. Bucklin, was born near Neosho, Mo., Jan. 27, 1898 and departed this life at her home Dec. 15, 1959 at the age of 61 years, 10 months, and 18 days. She was united in mar-

riage with Henry Decocq March 5, 1922. To this union five children were born. They established their home on a farm northeast of Wheaton, where they spent their entire married life.

Mrs. Decocq was converted in 1927, and lived a devoted Christian life. She was born into the Church of God.

She was a kind and loving companion and mother, and a good neighbor. Her loved ones feel that she was a mother who devoted her life to her family, one who worked with willing hands and a loving heart.

She is survived by her husband of the home, one daughter, Mrs. Helen Leak of Oklahoma City, Okla.; four sons: Henry Warren of Independence, Mo., Cecil of Shoshoni, Wyo., Freddie of Hot Springs, Ark., and Norman of Springfield, Mo.; ten grandchildren; her mother, Mrs. Belle Martin of Tulsa, Okla.; two sisters, one brother, and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Murphy Allen and Charles Smith. Burial was in the Muncie Chapel Cemetery.

CARD OF APPRECIATION

We wish to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to all our friends and neighbors and the McQueen Funeral Home for their many kind deeds and help during the illness and loss of our dear wife and mother. May God bless each of you. —The Henry A. Decocq Family.

CARD OF SYMPATHY

We extend sincere sympathy to the family of Sister Edith Gibson (Parrill) Solid, who passed away Jan. 11. The obituary will appear in later issue.

—The editor and co-publishers.

PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for my uncle who is in the last stages of T. B. Pray that the Lord will show him and his wife the true way to heaven, and heal him if it is His will.

—A reader.

MEETING REPORTS

REPORT FROM JEFFERSON, OREGON

Ore.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I feel impressed to write a report of the November meeting here at Jefferson, Ore. We had a wonderful meeting. The Lord was here in power, and the saints were encouraged and received much help on every line. I can see a greater love one toward another and a melting together. God's Church is going forward, and they who will not go forward will be left behind.

We are much encouraged here. Pray that we will keep moving on. We can't stop in this race.

Your brother in Christ, —C. H. Olson.

REPORT OF PACOIMA, CALIF. ASSEMBLY MEETING

As the old year 1959 was closing our souls had been enjoying a wonderful assembly meeting for ten days, being fed richly by a number of able ministers. Among this group were Bro. and Sister Abbott of Thayer, Mo. and several of our California ministers. I do not recall of ever hearing God's Word being preached with any more power or clearness than this was. We should be further advanced in the doctrinal truths of the Bible than ever before. We, individually, had to move as God flashed on our hearts clear light in a deeper sense.

One particular thing was that on Saturday, the song service was on the Church of God and its beauties. Some four songs on the Church were sung. Then the minister preached a message on the Church which showed that God was leading the service. I think I can see God moving amongst us during the past year in a marvelous way, but the enemy of souls was present. But a perfect unity surely withstands all false moves. The time has come that God's saints must stand together regardless of friends, as God's teachings must come first.

We are exhorted by the Word of God to know them that labor among us, 1 Thess 5:12, 13. If this was carried out, we would have less confusion amongst us.

We had fair attendance despite the fact that the flu was also hindering, but God was also present to heal, for which we were so thankful to God.

A noticeable fact was the rich feeling of unity—not a jar or discord of any kind, and all seemed interested in each other.

There were several at the altar for salvation and seemed to get the desire of their hearts, and several there seeking light and were very happy to find a people that were living for God.

Let us do more for God this coming year, 1960, that this may be a banner year for advancement in our souls in the grace of God, and in seeking out the lost and dying who need Jesus so badly. We are engaged in meeting in Los Angeles, what we might call Cottage Meetings. We go into any home where there is an open door, teaching them salvation and healing for their bodies, and all doctrinal lines. —E. M. Zinn.

REPORT FROM OKMULGEE, OKLAHOMA

We, the saints of Okmulgee, feel thankful to God for burdening Bro. Ulysses Phillips to come and hold us a meeting beginning Nov. 9 through the 15th. The messages were sent down from heaven with Holy Ghost anointing, and made a lasting impression upon our hearts.

Dec. 13 was the beginning of another special blessing from God. Bro. O. C. Porter came and taught us four nights of Revelation study, which opened many precious truths and enlightened our hearts very much.

We desire your prayers that we will hearken diligently unto the voice of God and obtain the blessing Moses wrote about in the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy.

—Bro. Woodrow Warren.

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting held at Guthrie, Okla. has come and gone. The services were well attended. It was a precious meeting all the way through. The gospel was sent forth with power and anointing of the Holy Spirit. The messages were close and heart-searching. A number were at the altar for spiritual help. New Year's day was very precious, as the Lord sent a message in the morning service on the need of a Spirit-filled Church which will worship God "in Spirit and in truth." Examples of the operation and workings of the Church by the Spirit were given. It was precious. Many filled the altar seeking to be more filled with the Spirit.

Many expressed that this was the best meeting we have had for a long time. We trust all who had the privilege to attend will be blessed throughout the coming year with the good truth received at this meeting, and that it will be long remembered for the presence of God.

We appreciate all that helped in different ways from the kitchen to the pulpit to make this a profitable meeting.
—Ira D. Stover, Pastor

A few pointed truths from the Guthrie Assembly meeting: "The truth will keep us if we keep it."—H. P. "God is all-wise, and we need to trust His wisdom as well as His power in regard to all the things that touch our lives."—L. J. "Good works do not save you, but after you get saved you will have to work—go on to perfection."—A. S. "By my Spirit, saith the Lord." The word alone without the Spirit will not reach the souls of men. There is a reason why . . . —M. E. "The father told the servants to kill the fatted calf. A good confession will bring the best that the Father has."—K. W. "God's wine press—the fountain of blood—is open for you today."—U. P. "Christ started his church in oneness and he is coming to receive the church in one accord."—D.G.

NOTICES

We were in need of a larger building and the Lord blessed us to get one, but we are still in debt. If anyone has any of the Lord's money and feels led of the Lord to help us on this debt, we, the saints at Hoffman, Okla., would appreciate it very much. Send all donations to Sister Earnestine Jordan, P. O. Box 63, Hoffman, Okla.
Pray for us.

—Bro. W. W. Crawley (Pastor), Lorene Payne (Sec.).

ALL-DAY SERVICES AT MYRTLE, MO.

The Lord willing, all-day meetings, the first Sunday of each month, will continue on throughout this year of 1960 here at the Myrtle, Missouri saints' Chapel and Campgrounds.

GREEN PASTURE, OKLA. SPRING MEETING

The Green Pasture Spring meeting will start March 18 and continue through the 27th. We desire that all the ministers and saints join with us in prayer for the success of the meeting.

Also the Green Pasture Campmeeting will start July 8 through the 17th if it is the Lord's will. All feel free to come. Thank you very kindly.

T. M. Hinton (Sec.), E. W. Saunders (Pastor).

Testimonies

Calif.—Greetings to all the saints and friends abroad. May the dear Lord bless each one of you who so earnestly remembered us in your prayers and who sent well wishes all down through the long years of my husband's illness and then my bereavement.

As a young man Mr. Clark underwent surgery from which he never fully recovered and which left him incapacitated the remainder of his life. With this handicap he also developed a cardiac condition, and during the last four years of his life was almost a complete invalid. Mr. Clark, as a person, was unorthodox in his religious belief, which had a tendency to cause him to lean to traditional paradoxes or unbelief. Yet he abhorred any form of sham or hypocrisy in his loved ones or his friends, which quality attributed to his deep confidence and appreciation of the saints of God. It was in one of our several cottage prayer meetings held in the home that he was awakened to a spiritual need for his soul. But it was not only a battle for his sins, but also those negative ideas he had so long entertained which retarded his progress in

obtaining the blessing he so desired. But praise our dear Lord the Spirit led unerring. He asked that the saints lay hands on him and rebuke the spirit of unbelief, which was done in the name of the Lord, and thank the dear Lord a short time after that meeting during the family devotion he asked if he might lead in prayer. The night before he passed away in his prayer he asked the Lord to continue to give him light and help his condition (meaning his body) yet, let Thy will be done. He also asked the Lord to forgive his sins. His praying in our family devotion had continued for more than a month before his passing. Since he obeyed the scriptures in Matt. 18:19, Isa. 55:7, and 1 Sam. 16:7, we are sure our dear Lord received Bro. Clark as he did the thief on the cross, saying, "To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43.

I am grateful today to my heavenly Father for the mercy that he has ever shown us, and I feel that it was the united prayers of His dear people that opened the channel of mercy for us. Thank the dear Lord, that wonderful stream has continued to flow down through all these twenty-eight years of my husband's illness. Words are inadequate to express our appreciation. May my dear Lord help me to continue to live worthy of such blessings. I want to testify that that stream of mercy reached me. I am saved from sin and sanctified, willing to go all the way with my Saviour, wherever he may lead.

—Sister Hazel Clark.

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S.C.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—Greetings in Jesus' name. I am sending in my testimony. I would be glad for all the saints to still pray for the saints here at Holly Hill, S. C. Bro. and Sister Abbott held a ten-day revival for us and God did greatly bless. We have always believed in the whole Bible, and know that we cannot be a saint except we do.

Bro. Pruitt, I have been taking and reading the Faith and Victory paper for several years and I do enjoy reading it. We use it in our Sunday school for our young people, and they have learned to love to read them. Bro. Pruitt, we do thank all of the saints for their testimonies. They are food for my soul. They make the tears fall from my eyes when I read them.

I want to announce that the saints here, with Bro. and Sister Abbott, had prayer for my wife. She had tumor, said the doctor, but God healed her in answer to prayer. She is one of the saints and God did answer. Thank and praise His dear name for faith in Divine healing.

—Bro. Utson Platt.

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Okla.—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am still saved and mean by God's grace and help to make heaven my home. I promised the dear Lord if He would take me through an affliction that I would tell it through the Faith and Victory paper. The Lord wonderfully undertook and brought me safely through. He also healed our baby girl of some kind of a wheezing she was born with, Nov. 14, 1959. At night she could hardly get her breath, so I began to call upon the dear Lord and he heard and now she is doing fine. I truly thank the Lord for His goodness to His children in answer to their prayers. I mean to go all the way with Him.

Sister Edwards is a sister who is very dear to me. She was very burdened about my condition before the baby was born and called upon the dear Lord until He gave her witness that He would carry me safely through, and truly God did. I mean to live and serve Him all of my life. I wish to thank this dear sister and the many others for their prayers in my behalf. Truly God is good to His

trusting children. He will never leave us nor forsake us.

I have some unspoken requests I would like very much for the saints to remember in their prayer services and at their homes.

One who loves the Lord, —Sister Clara Barnett.

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Kans.—Dear saints of God,—I am saved and encouraged to live for God. I thank and give God all the praise for healing my baby of some type of skin condition. I don't know whether it was an allergy or not, but it seemed like an allergy; any way, God wonderfully healed her.

I ask the prayers of all the saints that I stay true and faithful to God until the end of my life.

Your sister in Christ, —Lillie Mae Graves.

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Ohio—Greetings of love to all of God's children,—This leaves me saved with victory in my soul today. I feel led to send in my testimony. Surely the Lord has been good to me over the long years I've been serving him. I'm 94 years old and each day brings me closer to my home in heaven. Many are preaching that Christ is coming back to earth to set up a kingdom, but, praise the dear Lord, that kingdom is reigning in my heart today, that kingdom of righteousness, joy, and peace in the Holy Ghost. Many are joining the churches of this world, but you can't join the church Jesus built. You must be born into it. Many years back I sought the Lord for the right way. I had my Bible closed in my hands and said, "Lord, let me open to a scripture to show me the way. I opened my Bible to Jer. 50:5 which reads, "They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten." The Lord showed me the right way through His word. Oh, children, read your Bible, for it will be a lamp to your feet and a light to your pathway. In Rev. 21 John saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven which is His church. God is dwelling in His people today.

Pray for all my unsaved children and loved ones that they might be saved. Pray for me also.

Your saved sister in the one body, —Amanda Basye.

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Ohio—Dear Saints everywhere,—Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. Tonight finds me still saved, sanctified, and encouraged to follow Jesus all the way.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the saints for their expression of love in the form of sympathy cards, telegrams, and floral offerings. It made the burden somewhat easier to bear to know that the saints shared our sorrow. Mother died as she lived: beautifully. Her final words were, "I haven't a thing against anyone, and I am ready to go home." The Sunday before she passed, she began to fail rapidly and all ten children gathered around her bed and began to say the 23rd Psalm and the "Lord's Prayer." It was a scene never to be forgotten. Dying can be beautiful. It was as if we were in the very presence of God himself. It was very hard to give her up, but God helped immeasurably. The day she passed they called me at work around eleven o'clock and told me I should come as she was sinking fast. As I was driving home the Lord impressed me with the song, "My Heart Says Amen To Thy Will."

Sister Armilda Abbott was with her during most of her illness and several times it seemed that Mother was at death's door, but God who is rich in mercy and understanding knew we certainly couldn't give her up then so He allowed her to linger until we could give her up. What a mighty God we serve.

The saints came from Dayton, Ohio to be with us during our hour of sorrow and we certainly appreciated their exhibition of love.

In closing, I would like to say that Mother remained true to her convictions on Divine healing. When the doctor came to examine her and offered medication, she told him she would take her medicine in heaven. She left a beautiful example for us to follow. For over 51 years she didn't take medicine of any kind. She didn't dip, or smell, but wholly trusted the Lord.

I would like the prayers of all the saints for the unsaved members of my family, that Mother's passing will be an awakening and a realization to them about their soul's welfare. We all were very deeply devoted to Mother. I solicit your prayers.

Your blood-washed brother, —Robert L. Jones.

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Okla.—Dear saints everywhere,—How thankful I am to know the Lord. God has been good to me. I still love Him and want to serve Him to the best of my abilities.

I was sitting in meeting some while back and after the minister delivered his message and sat down Bro. Barton gave an exhortation. In his talking he said, "Sometimes a vessel doesn't have to be all broken and crushed to be of no good, but it could just have a crack in it, and it wouldn't hold water. Therefore it would be useless. How much we need vessels that have been molded and fashioned by the Master's hands that will hold water." Water is life! Rev. 22:17 says, "And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely." 2 Cor. 4:7-10, "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body." Bro. Barton's thoughts were inspiring to me so I wrote a poem as God gave it to me.

I want to be a useful vessel. I surely have suffered much reproach through publicity and false reports in the past several years, only for the cause of Christ. I want to be a vessel that will hold water (life eternal). Heaven is cheap at any cost. Pray for me.

Your sister in Christ, —Pauline Brown.

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Mich.—Dear friends in Christ,—I want you to know how wonderful the Lord has been to me. I was feeling bad and my intestines hurt for several days. Then today I felt like I was bleeding internally. (I had that experience once, eleven years ago.) I felt all weak and like I was going to black out. I prayed God to heal me. You see, I was at my neighbor's house and I didn't want her to know I was sick. I had to tell her because the spell left and came back again just a little worse. I picked up a New Testament and read John 14. It said, "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." I again asked God if it was His will, to heal me, and praise God, He did. I ate my supper and had no trouble with my stomach and intestines hurting either.

About 16 years ago I was healed, too. That time I had appendicitis and peronitis set in. I was unable to retain food. I asked God to heal me and I was healed instantly. I was able to eat so that I gained my strength.

Your friend in Christ, —Mrs. Lester Pennell.

Ohio—Dear saints of God,—Greetings in Jesus' precious name. I am glad to say I am still saved. The Lord means much to me. I thank Him for the many times He has answered prayer for me. This earth holds no pleasures that I would exchange for salvation. I have a friend in Jesus. He is everything to me.

I would like to hear from the saints. —Ethel Mohr.

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Miss.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt,—I received my Faith and Victory paper, which is so much encouragement to me as I read. I surely do thank you all, but most of all I thank and praise our dear Lord who is so wonderful to me. Oh, He has been very wonderful! I have been sick with the flu for the last three weeks and if it hadn't been for the dear Lord having mercy on me I don't think I would be here on earth today. He is very good to all who trust Him, but there are so many that won't give up and take the cross and follow Him all their days. Oh, there are so many in sin, and they never think that any minute may be their last one on earth.

I thank the dear Lord for saving me and showing me the right road. I am asking all the saints to pray for me that I will hold out faithful till he calls me home. I am sending an offering for the benefit of God's work. It isn't much, but I feel like a little will help when God knows that is all we have.

May God bless every one. Remember me in your prayers. Your sister in Christ, —Bessie Raynar.

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North Ireland—I hope this finds you all well. I look forward to receiving the Faith and Victory paper. Some of the articles and testimonies are so good and helpful. I like the advice about the T. V. I hate T. V. I just have my Bible and spend my time praying, reading, and visiting God's people. If I am spared to the 4th of February, I'll be seventy-eight years old.

I was brought to know the Lord at the age of sixteen. That was the greatest blessing that ever came my way in life.

I love to get letters from the Lord's people. I live alone here in a little house close to the sea. I used to be afraid of the sea when I came to live so near it. Then one day as I looked out at it the scripture came to me about the sea being the Lord's. He made it, so I knew it was good and now I am not afraid even when the waves beat up against my house. I know who controls the raging sea. I know that He who calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee is still the same and no harm can come to me.

—Margaret Dundas.

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S. C.—Dear saints,—Greetings to one and all. May God richly bless you and comfort your hearts. There is much need for courage in these last days. I find each step has been closer to him. I pray that some day, if God is willing, that I may have the opportunity to live somewhere that I may be close to others in the real church of God, for surely there is strength in them. Oh, the fellowship of the loving saints of God!

Dear saints, pray for me. I am very thankful for the Faith and Victory paper. I can't help but give my testimony of what God has done for me. He saved me and has healed me, my eyes are open, praise God! Matt. 13:15, "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them." I feel that

fellowship of the Spirit with the true saints of God.

I thank God for those who have labored so faithfully. 1 Thess. 1:2, 3, "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father."

I am doing a work with the Faith and Victory papers. I took them to the hospital and gave out to the patients. I would be very glad for a few more copies to supply them with Bible truth.

Pray for me that I will be doing whatever God would have me to do. A sister, —Georgia Davidson.

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Mo.—Dear Sister Marie and Bro. Pruitt,—I feel I must write you tonight. I wanted to before now, but it seemed always something would come up and hinder me. I do feel like giving my testimony to the Faith and Victory paper, how God wonderfully healed my two boys.

When I came home from work last winter my oldest boy said he had a great hurting in his side. My husband and his sister made me take him to the doctor. When the doctor checked him he said he had a ruptured appendix, and he didn't think there was a chance for him. His fever was 108 and he was nearly going into convulsions. My husband came home and called my two married daughters. I kept holding on to God for my boy. It was the first time he had ever been in a hospital and then they were talking of operating on him at once to save him. I called Sister Bowman at Warrensburg and asked for prayer, and thank God He wonderfully heard His dear children and the fever went down and down. When the other doctors arrived to operate, praise God they couldn't find anything wrong with my boy. All the nurses and doctors were amazed how my boy was, and couldn't believe their eyes. They came to me and said, "You're surely not taking him home as sick as he was?" (The reports were he wouldn't live through the night.) My sister was a nurse and at this time she came to me faint and scared and trembly. I told her I was taking him home, and she told me I was crazy. I told her how God had healed him and did the operation for him and he was well.

Then my little boy, Elmer, came home one evening at the beginning of school and told me he had a sore toe. I looked and to my surprise his toe was very bad and even blood poison had set in. It looked as though it were about to rot off. I again called for prayer and Bro. and Sister Richie and Sister Bowman and Sister Torrance came and saw how bad it was. They had prayer and while they were here God touched and the fever left his foot. We all gave God the praise. Oh, how wonderful it is to have people who fully trust in God. The old devil tried to hinder my faith. My boy told a lady in the city about his foot, and that it was much better. We went to see my girls. They called a doctor and he brought medicine and they put it on his foot over at their girl friends'. By the time we got home his foot was as bad as ever. So again I requested prayer and Wednesday night I took him to prayer meeting. It was not completely healed, but by Sunday God told me he was completely healed.

We have all had the flu but are healed. At night I could hardly sleep, but had to sit up. If I lay down I would seem to choke, though through the day I felt better. So Sunday Sister Bowman and Sister Torrance prayed for me and praise God, Sunday night I was completely healed and tonight I feel and still feel the love and blessing from God. I want to give God all the glory. I do

need your prayers much. I am back to work again and I want to be able to help send out God's Word and do my part by His help and grace. Pray for me and my family.

I do want to thank the one that sent me the Faith and Victory and the Beautiful Way papers. Truly they are a great help. I love them so much. Those little papers are such a help and blessing. I do love you Sister Marie, and all you put in them. You don't know how much help it is. May God bless you and all the dear ones there.

Yours in Christ, —Mrs. Floyd Elliott.

o-o-o-o-o

Ohio—To the dear saints everywhere,—“I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me. How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.” Dan. 4:2, 3.

God performed such a miracle for us that I promised I would write and tell about it. We lost our uncle a few days ago and wanted to go to his funeral in Kansas City, Mo. We had heard and read of the snow and blizzards in Kansas and in the cities, and even part of Route 66 was closed. We looked to the Lord Almighty to take us through. The saints here were praying earnestly for God to clear the weather. “He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes. He sendeth out his word, and melteth them: he causeth his wind to blow, and the waters flow.” Psa. 147:16, 18.

God gave us our heart's desire. The weather was beautiful. Oh, how our hearts rejoiced in God! The sun was shining so brightly and the sky so pretty. I didn't even unwrap my boots. Isn't God a good God? His promises are steadfast forever. Glory to his name now and forever. In different places we saw just very small areas of snow that hadn't melted. God had sent his Word and melted that snow. Praise the Lord.

“Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.”

Many thanks to the saints and other friends for their prayers and offerings. Pray for us.

Yours in Christ, —Sister Annie Stills.

o-o-o-o-o

Calif.—Dear saints, one and all,—Greetings to you in the name of Jesus. I am still pressing on amid trials and tests of this life because I have everything to gain and nothing to lose. I feel like writing my testimony, telling the goodness and the greatness of God. I am so thankful the Lord is helping me to see that as long as we abide in Him there is nothing impossible with our God. About a year ago our oldest girl was having her semi-annual dental check-up. After X-ray they found she had a tooth on each side of her jaw yet to come up. The teeth that were through had somehow come together on top, leaving no space for the ones yet to come. I was informed I would have to take her to a specialist and upon the specialist's examination found it would cost seven hundred dollars to have her teeth separated on both sides for the new ones that were coming. So the thought came to me: “This is the test of your faith.” I said, “I am willing to pay the \$700.00, but who will get the praise, man, or God?”

When I went home I earnestly sought the Lord and went into a fast. At the end of the day a voice spoke and said, “If you believe, the work will be done.” When at the cottage prayer meeting I told the saints about the case. I felt the Lord would work this out. Oh, the fervent prayers that went up! I knew then those prayers had reached the throne. I was resting on the Lord and His

Word. On Sunday a sister called the congregation to a fast, as there were several burdens, including my case. I had only two weeks to make my decision. The saints were so concerned that it was a comfort. Sister Greer called me every day and sometimes twice with encouraging thoughts and Scriptures. Sister Vena Sell came to me with tears in her eyes and said, “Oh, Sister Margaret, be encouraged. The Lord is with you and we are praying for you.” It was wonderful how the Lord undertook. Oh, bless the Lord, He is so good and truly all the praise goes to Him, to our Lord, and Him alone. Oh, I thank the Lord, for when I took her back the dentist was amazed and shocked and there was nothing he could say, because our God had separated those teeth and now her new ones are coming up. Oh, bless the Lord!

She was born a blue baby, with a nervous condition. The doctor gave her up to die. Two days after birth I noticed where her navel should have been there was a hole and all her little intestines were pushing through on the outside like white worms. There was nothing—milk, water, juice, or anything—that would stay on her stomach. As I think it over, I know it was a miracle that she survived, but I know it was God. This shows me every life is in His hand, and that it was God who gave her to me all these years. She is now twelve and one-half years. We lived in Oklahoma City at that time and we called for prayer many many times day and night.

When the child was over a year old I felt impressed to put her in God's hand and I have never taken her back. There were times that I had to make a reconsecration. The navel healed and the child looked normal, but she suffered from the inside down through the years. Food hurt her except soft food, and sometimes that hurt her.

One day last month the school called me and asked me if I realized the seriousness of the condition and asked if she was under a doctor's care. I told the school I would come and get her, and then I took her to Sister Hazel Clark's and she in turn called Sister Greer for an agreement of prayer. Before that prayer ended I felt that my child would be healed. I felt my spirit had witness to that. That night Sister Bettie Churchman called me and said, “Sister Margaret, be encouraged,” and later Sister Clark called and said, “My child, I was so burdened for you this morning till I couldn't eat or drink and I was praying even though I was on the job.” So I told her of my experience. That night there was cottage prayer-meeting and my husband knew how worn and weary I was physically, and he thought it would be good for me to get out. The Lord had touched Violet's body to the extent I felt she would be all right, so we had a woman to come in and help my husband with her and the other girls.

That night in prayer meeting we were singing, “Satisfied in Jesus” and I was comforted by the third verse, especially where it said, “since his arms are underneath me, soul and body are at rest.” Sister Churchman put her arm around me and said, “The Holy Spirit let me know you were battling this morning, and I earnestly remembered you, but you have the victory.” And I said, “Praise the Lord!” It really encouraged me to know when we live close to the Lord and are in trouble, the Holy Spirit burdens someone else to pray. It means living close to the Lord so the Holy Spirit can burden us to pray for those who are trusting. It encouraged me to know that I was not in the battle alone, but that others, unknown to me, were standing with me.

Saints, do you know the Lord touched that child's body so she was able to go to school the next morning? She

came home from school saying, "Mother, I ate anything I wanted, even beans, and nothing hurt me." I cautioned her in using wisdom, but the Lord had healed her through and through. She told me several times she felt so good, for before she hardly knew what it felt like to be without pain. When the school gave her an examination they did not find a thing wrong with her. Oh, praise the Lord. I cease never to praise our God for his goodness to me time and time again. Precious to me is the dear Saviour and His precious saints everywhere. I am glad that the dear Lord gave me another chance to return to Him and truly I thank the Lord for being saved. I need your prayers, as I am seeking the Lord more and more because I want to live so the Lord will be pleased with me, as I know he will judge us some day and I surely want to meet him in peace. Please pray for me and my family.

Yours in Christian love, —Sister Margaret Cable.

OUR PRECIOUS YOUNG PEOPLE

Mo.—Dear saints,—I surely am thankful for the many blessings the Lord has bestowed upon me the last few weeks while I was sick. I had had a bad cold for quite awhile, but went on to school. November 17, I came in sick and went to bed. The next day Mother's aunt came and said I had pneumonia. I was very sick for about four days. I began to get better so went back to school on Nov. 23, and went two days and then took a back set. But the Lord wonderfully helped me again and I went back to school Dec. 1, and have been going ever since. I want to thank all the saints for their prayers and get-well cards. Pray for me that I will do all the Lord would have me to do.

—Ruthie Robinson.

o-o-o-o-o

La.—Dear saints of God,—Today we are glad to know we are one of His children. We feel in debt to our dear Lord and His saints the rest of our lives, for being so precious to us in our trouble. On Nov. 2 our darling little boy, three year old Gary Lynn, backed up to the fireplace with a flannel gown on. He was seriously burned from his chin and ears to about three inches above his ankles. Two small places on the back of his fingers weren't burned. Otherwise it was a solid sore, mostly third degree. Oh, you can't imagine the awfulness unless you saw him. He suffered day and night. We had to turn him with a sheet every hour or two. He would relax between turns, but when turned he could hardly stand the pain. Oh, how it hurt us to see our darling suffer so intensely for so long, but we do not question God. We know He does all things well and all He permits to come our way is for our good though we can't see it now.

Dale and I talked it over and prayed that if God, in His great wisdom, saw that down in the future Gary Lynn would not be saved, and die a sinner, we would rather God would take him now. There is no doubt that our darling is sweetly resting in the arms of Jesus after four weeks of suffering. This is encouraging strength to us, and gives us a greater desire to be ALL the dear Lord wants us to be.

We still have three precious children for which we are thankful. They can't fill his vacant place, but we feel a greater need of teaching these children right so that we'll have an unbroken family in heaven.

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your prayers, letters, offerings, and everything. Many brought food to us. Different ones stayed with us as it took two with him nearly all the time to lift and turn him. Our words seem so little in thanks to everyone but

we pray God to richly reward everyone who helped us in our time of need. Gary Lynn received many get-well cards which he enjoyed looking at so much, and also little toys that helped him get his mind off his suffering a little while. All this is appreciated so much and it has helped make the load of trouble lighter to know people care so much.

We can better sympathize and pray for others in trouble now. Pray for us that we be all God wants us to be.
Christian love,
—Dale and Dora Doolittle.

Report From Baja, California

We greet you in the name of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Here is a brief account of the events of our mission work in Lower Calif., Old Mexico.

Dec. 26, 1959 Bro. and Sister Hite and daughter, and Bro. Harland Smith of the Pomona congregation left for our Baja Mission. They joined Bro. and Sister Wittenborn and their three children. Bro. Smith's pickup truck was loaded with beans, potatoes, two treadle sewing machines, a wood cook stove, fruit, clothing, and shoes; some donated dishes and miscellaneous supplies for the needy, and also some donated toys and gifts to bring a little cheer to those they ministered to. In the one ton panel truck that God has provided to be used in the mission work were more supplies, clothing, and bedding from the saints in Jefferson, Ore. and Orland, Calif, as well as 100 Christmas sacks with fruit candy, and nuts that the folks at Pacoima had packed. After arrival and unpacking we hurried to (El Rodeo) the Mexican Colony, about 15 miles south before dark to distribute the Christmas gifts and the other supplies. How delighted they were to get the gifts and Christmas treats. There had been much rain and the panel got stuck and had to be pulled out.

Little Walter had been car sick on the road so Bro. Harlan Smith stayed at the mission house with him while the others went to the colony. He had lain down and gone to sleep, so Bro. Smith, in the mealwhile, fed a hungry Indian boy who lives with his aunt and seems to be rather "left out." In a little while two more Indians, Ramundo, 20, and Juan, 16, came to the house and came in. Bro. Smith reached for his Spanish Testament and asked them if they would like to hear some of God's Word. "Si" (Yes), was their enthusiastic reply. He read a while then testified how the Lord had saved him from evil thoughts, evil words, and a wicked heart. As he read and testified to them conviction gripped their hearts. Tears came to their eyes and it was evident God was dealing with them. Bro. Smith asked, "Would you like to have Christ in your hearts?" They both said, "Si, Si" (Yes, Yes). "When?" asked Bro. Smith. "Whenever He (God) wants to come," was their reply and "whenever you want us to." "God wants to come NOW and save you and I want to see you saved NOW," Bro. Smith added. Soon the three were on their knees. Bro. Smith called on God to help him pray for them in Spanish, which he did. Praise the dear Lord! In a few minutes they arose with tears flowing freely and victory showing on their countenance. Ramundo, the older, recently was in a fight with a cowboy who lives at Rancho Viejo, five miles away. In the fight Ramundo slashed the Mexican man's hand very severely with a knife. He has been quite a wicked young man but bless the Lord, he really seemed to repent and seek God. Just as prayer was finished, the folks returned from El Rodeo, coming through the door just in time to see Ramundo brushing away the tears.

The church service was held in the school house. Gregorio Castro, brother of the chief, had gone to the Rincon Ranch in the panel truck and brought the folks from there. The building was filled to near capacity with enthusiastic Indians for the service. The singing was good. Many hands went up for prayer request. After prayer Bro. Smith talked briefly on the greatest gift of all time, God's own Son. It was brought out that the spirit of the world reaches out for material gifts at Christmas time but overlooks the great gift of eternal life. Following this Sister Wittenborn brought a message from the Word to an attentive audience. Before dismissal a show of hands was asked for those desiring special prayer for salvation or help in their souls. A good number raised their hands. After prayer Bro. Hite suggested we give opportunity for seekers. It was announced that any who desired prayer to remain after all others were gone. About nine or ten stayed for prayer for salvation. We trust God wrought a work in their hearts. As the people filed out of the building treats were passed out to each one.

After giving out supplies to a number of families we returned to the settlement of Valle de Trenidad. There we found an Indian family who were from Arroyo Leon. We gave them some food and clothing. As we were about to leave someone asked "Do you know Jesus Christ?" The father answered and said, "We've heard of Him but don't know much about Him." The Word was read. Exhortation followed, some hymns sung, then prayer was made. Suddenly a little Mexican boy ran up all out of breath holding out a Spanish song book. We talked a little to him and his mother who had followed him. They said, "We want a service." We got in the trucks and followed the children to their house where we met a very nice Mexican family. They invited us to stay all night and return home the next day. However, we did take our supper in and share it with them and they shared their beans and tortillas with us. Meanwhile they sent word for more people to come to El Servicio (the service). So after eating we read some more and had prayer with them before leaving. Those people in that Colony have no school and no church, and are eager for both. What an open door for the saints to take the pure gospel light.

There are places you'd never dream people existed. There they are off in the mountains and deserts, a hundred here, a hundred there, all open to the gospel. Dear ones, if we fail in Baja, Calif., we shall stand condemned before God at the judgment. We will not fail!! Keep praying for souls. Keep believing for souls. This last week in Santa Catarina proved that the seed which has been sown and watered is beginning to bring forth fruit. God is going to give the increase! Inner-existent barriers are being broken down, hearts are softening up, etc. Truly the fields are white unto the harvest. Some can go, some can give. ALL CAN PRAY. What will God have you do?

Your fellow servants in the Lord, —Workers for the Lower Mission. (Written by Bro. Harland Smith.)

"I AM THE LORD THAT HEALETH THEE"

Mr. L. "Good morning. How are you today?"

Bro. J. "A cold has caught up with me."

Mr. L. "I see that it has."

Bro. J. "You haven't caught one since it has been going around?"

Mr. L. "No, not now; but I have had two bad ones this winter. I try to take cold pills, but when

they wear off I get a cold."

After taking care of some business Mr. L. said on leaving, "Well, Mr. J., I hope you get to feeling better. What are you doing for your cold, taking some aspirin?"

Bro. J. "No, I'm just praying for it. I find that prayer works better than medicine."

Mr. L. "I guess it will help."

Bro. J. "I haven't taken any medicine for years and we reared our family without medicine. I have had the Lord to heal me instantly of an affliction."

Mr. L. "Well, that is a good testimony. I hope you will be getting better. Good-bye."

"The prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up." James 5:15.

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BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll, \$1.50: Lesson cards, 10¢

February 7, 1960

PERSEVERANCE IN CHRISTIAN WORK

Printed Portion Acts 18:1-11; 1 Cor. 2:1-5

Acts 18:1. After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;

2. And found a certain Jew named Aquilla, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them.

3. And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.

4. And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

5. And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.

6. And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

7. And he departed thence, and entered into a certain man's house, named Justus, one that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue.

8. And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.

9. Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:

10. For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.

11. And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

1 Cor. 2:1. And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

2. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

3. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

4. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

5. That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

Memory Verse: Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Cor. 15:58.

Practical Truth: A field of labor regarded as especially difficult may, with the help of God, produce significant results.

COMMENTS AND APPRECIATION

We do not find Paul quitting or his zeal weakening, but we today in our lesson read of him going to another place. There he was strengthened by Aquilla and his wife, Priscilla, to continue to work for God. They were tentmakers and since that was his occupation they had something in common. (Tents at that time were made from goat's hair, a good rain resister.)

Paul reasoned and persuaded souls to accept Jesus as the Christ. When he was opposed he went next door and taught the Gentiles the way of salvation. Although his own people rejected him he would not give up his faith. Jesus knew that this great preacher of righteousness needed some encouragement. In a vision the Lord spoke to him those precious words, (verses 9 and 10). Those words, no doubt, were a source of help to Paul as he settled down in that place teaching the Truth in demonstration of the Spirit. In the unprinted portion of our chapter we read where those words were put to a test. The Jews stirred up trouble and brought Paul before the proconsul, but before Paul could open his mouth in self-defense, the proconsul dismissed the case. As a result, the Jews and not the Christians received persecutions. God will take care of His own.

Personal evangelism is vital to the advancing of the kingdom of God in the earth. In a shop or school where two can witness and live the life, much good can be accomplished through the Holy Spirit.

February 14, 1960

MEETING ORGANIZED EVIL

Printed Portion Acts 19:8-10, 23-28; 20:1-3

19:8. And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

9. But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.

10. And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

23. And the same time there arose no small stir about that way.

24. For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen;

25. Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth.

26. Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:

27. So that not only this our craft is in danger to be

set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.

28. And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

20:1. And after the uproar was ceased, Paul called unto him the disciples, and embraced them, and departed for to go into Macedonia.

2. And when he had gone over those parts, and had given them much exhortation, he came into Greece,

3. And there abode three months. And when the Jews laid wait for him, as he was about to sail into Syria, he purposed to return through Macedonia.

Memory Verse: 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. Eph. 6:12.

Practical Truth: If evil becomes too great at one place, missionaries can flee to another.

COMMENTS AND APPRECIATION

Our lesson last week ended with the completion of Paul's second missionary tour, and the lesson today includes all of the story of the third tour except for part of the return trip.

Paul preached a positive gospel. He taught the people they could not mix idol worship with true worship of God. The statement of Demetrius to his fellow craftsmen makes us know of the thoroughness and success of Paul's work for God. He stood firm against that wicked, evil practice in the temple of the idol, called Diana. He was willing to die rather than close his mouth against it. Oh, that more today would have that same zeal and abhorrence of sin and cry out against it. Sin, in many forms, is ruining our neighborhood, our schools, our communities, and our nation. Strong drinks are allowed by the law to be sold, but those who are thus intoxicated and commit crimes are punished by the same law. This world is coming to a sad end. The cup of iniquity is filling up fast. Jesus said, "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." In that day wickedness abounded and only eight souls were saved. People will continue to grow more wicked but we want to cry out and help a few to be saved before destruction comes upon this earth with fire and all be rushed into judgment.

February 21, 1960

SELF-GIVING IN CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Printed Portion Acts 20:18b-21, 28-35

18b. Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,

19. Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

20. And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,

21. Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

28. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

29. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

30. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

31. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

32. And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

33. I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel.

34. Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me.

35. I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Memory Verse: The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world. Titus 2:11,12.

Practical Truth: Those who are entrusted with the care of souls should set before them a worthy example of sacrificial service.

COMMENTS AND APPRECIATION

Paul wanted to be in Jerusalem for the day of Pentecost, so did not take time to visit the church at Ephesus, but called for the elders of the church. Our lesson gives us an insight of his faithfulness as a pastor. He was conscious of his apostleship and authority given him yet did not try to force others to accept the truth; but gently, with tears and humility of mind, led them to it. He did not publicly teach that which should be taught in private or in the home to bring a soul to their need. He was faithful to every soul, teaching them in private and publicly, using much wisdom. We appreciate faithful ministers who keep the spiritual standards high with a firmness that is oiled with plenty of love.

He wrote to the Thessalonians, "But we were gentle among you even as a nurse cherisheth her children: So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us." 1 Thess. 2:7, 8. Oh, the love he had for others! He did not think of himself, but denied self and lived for others. He did not help others for money, but took care of his own needs, yet he taught that those who preach the gospel should live of the gospel. (1 Cor. 9:14).

Paul warned them that men among them would not always be true but would rise right up amongst them, teaching perverse things. Oh, how we need to look to God and not to man. Then when they fail we will not fail. Stay close to the shepherd and the wolf will not hurt nor scare you.

February 28, 1960

A PRISONER FOR CHRIST

Printed Portion Acts 21:27-39

27. And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him,

28. Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man,

that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place.

29. (For they had seen before with him in the city Trophimus an Ephesian, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.)

30. And all the city was moved, and the people ran together: and they took Paul, and drew him out of the temple: and forthwith the doors were shut.

31. And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the chief captain of the band, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.

32. Who immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down unto them: and when they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, they left beating of Paul.

33. Then the chief captain came near, and took him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains; and demanded who he was, and what he had done.

34. And some cried one thing, some another, among the multitude: and when he could not know the certainty for the tumult, he commanded him to be carried into the castle.

35. And when he came upon the stairs, so it was, that he was borne of the soldiers for the violence of the people.

36. For the multitude of the people followed after, crying, Away with him.

37. And as Paul was to be led into the castle, he said unto the chief captain, May I speak unto thee? Who said, Canst thou speak Greek?

38. Art not thou that Egyptain, which before these days madest an uproar, and leddest out into the wilderness four thousand men that were murderers?

39. But Paul said, I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city: and, I beseech thee, suffer me to speak unto the people.

Memory Verse: Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 2 Tim. 2:3.

Practical Truth: We should stand for the truth, and follow what is right, even in places where this is unpopular.

COMMENTS AND APPRECIATION

In Acts 20:22-25 we read that God had forewarned Paul of what would happen to him in Jerusalem. But he said, "None of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself." God had fortified him so that the things that happened did not affect his spirits. He did not go down into the valley of depression over it, but with all humility followed the instructions of James and committed the results to God. God spared his life which would have been taken by the mob. He was so calm that he preached a message to the same mob, who would have killed him, from the stairs of the castle. This message is recorded in Acts 22.

Courage lives when self-perseverance has died. You have courage when you have an assurance deep in your very being that when God allows suffering for His sake he is fulfilling an eternal purpose. You know without a shadow of a doubt that in your life, "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Rom. 8:28. You are not ready to witness for Christ until self is crucified with Christ. Then it is not you living, but Christ living in you, being the master of your body and soul completely.

"If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you." 1 Peter 4:14.

—Sister Marie Miles.