

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

## Church of God Servant



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### *I Met The Master Face to Face*

I had walked life's way with an easy tread,  
Had followed where comforts and pleasures led  
Until one day, in a quiet place,  
I met the Master face to face.

With station and rank and wealth for my goal,  
Much thought for my body, but none for my soul,  
I had entered to win in life's big race,  
When I met the Master, face to face.

I had built my castles and reared them high,  
With their towers had pierced the blue of the sky,  
I had sworn to rule with an iron mace,  
When I met the Master, face to face.

I met Him, and knew Him, and blushed to see  
That His eyes full of sorrow were fixed on me,  
And I faltered and fell at His feet that day,  
While my castles melted and vanished away.

Melted and vanished, and in their place,  
Naught else did I see but the Master's face.  
And I cried aloud: "Oh, make me meet  
To follow the steps of Thy wounded feet!"

My thought is now for the souls of men.  
I have lost my life to find it again,  
E'er since that day in a quiet place,  
When I met the Master, face to face.

—Selected

### *The Book of Life*

On the Isle of Patmos, John wrote the things that God revealed to him in visions. He said he was "in the Spirit on the Lord's day." God let him see the end of time, and he said, "I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found

no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the BOOK OF LIFE: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the BOOK OF LIFE was cast into the lake of fire." Rev. 20:11-15.

What a solemn scene to behold, yet a terrible reality for those whose names are not written in the BOOK OF LIFE! Surely, it behooves each one of us to be sure that our names are in the book of life. We can be sure, because God has made a way for us to come to Him and He will write our names in the book of life.

When we confess our sins with godly sorrow and repent, turning away from them, and accepting by faith the atoning blood of Christ, God looks down upon us and sees the precious, innocent blood of Jesus covering our sins. He then accepts us and writes our name in the BOOK OF LIFE. Praise the Lord for the knowledge of sins forgiven. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God." Rom. 8:16.

God keeps the record of those who are born again. In Psa. 87:5, 6 we read, "And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her. The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there." Jesus says that we must be born again. We are born into the family of God by a spiritual birth. God writes our name down and only God can erase it. No man can take our name off the record as some do here in this world in man-made organizations. God takes care of the books and no mistakes are made. We read in the 32nd chapter of Exodus how the children of Israel had sinned and

**Attend the National Campmeeting, July 21-30, at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo.**

God was very much displeased and wanted to destroy all of them, but Moses pleaded for them. He said, "Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin; and if not, blot me I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book." (Verses 32, 33). So we plainly see that only sin can blot our names out of the BOOK OF LIFE.

When Jesus sent out the disciples to preach the gospel and they returned rejoicing because the spirits were subject unto them, Jesus told them to rather "rejoice because your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:20. In the light of what will happen to those whose names are not written in the book of life, we have great reason to rejoice. Praise the Lord! In Phil. 4 we read where Paul asked the brethren to "help those women which labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellow laborers, whose names are in the book of life." It is very important to have our names on heaven's book.

If your name isn't written there, won't you come today to the Lord and plead for mercy and forgiveness of your sins? He is faithful and willing to forgive you and to write your name in the BOOK OF LIFE. When that roll is called up yonder, you can answer and hear those blessed words, "Enter ye into the joys of Thy Lord." —Sister Marie Miles

## FULL REDEMPTION

By Charles E. Orr

The authors of the dictionaries define the word "redemption" as "the act of deliverance, release, repurchase," etc. The redemption through Christ is the deliverance or repurchase of man. Man in his original, primeval state enjoyed unity and an affinity with God. Because of transgression on the part of man this natural agreement between God and man was destroyed. All creation—herb and tree, beast and fowl, and man—was pronounced very good by the Creator as he beheld it in review after creation. Gen. 1:29-31.

But because of Eden's sin the very nature of all things became changed. The ground became cursed, and thorns and thistles sprang up. Gen. 3:17, 18. The nature of the beast creation, no doubt, became affected by man's transgression. Gen. 6:7, 11-13. The transgression in Eden was the entrance of sin into this world. Rom. 5:12. Previous to this, all in the world was sinless and harmony, and the earth itself uncursed by thorns and thistles. By the entrance of sin man's nature became changed, and since the nature of man became depraved there has not been a single individual born of the flesh but has possessed a depraved nature, except the child conceived by the Holy Spirit. The Psalmist says: "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." Ps. 51:5.

This same condition is true of every child. The nature of the child in its formation in the womb is

depraved. The moral condition of the parents may modify to an extent, but never wholly change that nature. The child does not inherit a depraved nature from its parents. It is not because the parents are depraved that the child is conceived in sin, but because nature is depraved. It required a supernatural conception to beget a pure child, everything in nature being depraved. The child does not inherit either physical or moral image directly from its parents. It is true the child generally bears a marked resemblance to the parent, both physically and morally, but on the whole it is born in the image of Adam, morally and physically. It is generally the case that if a parent have three arms, or possess but one, his offspring will have two, receiving its physical image from the first created man. Should the parents be holy, the child will possess a carnal nature, because it is the nature of all the race.

How holy parents beget children depraved in nature is a puzzling problem to some minds, especially to those who are busying themselves about the intricate matters of God. This need be no more puzzling than a deformed parent begetting perfectly formed children. Nature, in embryo, begins its work of forming both the physical and moral image of the child, which is after the similitude of the original parents and not the immediate ones. While justification, which is the forgiveness of actual transgression, the inevitable result of a depraved nature, is a wonderful and glorious achievement of grace, it is but a very small part of the redemption of Christ. The supernatural overthrow of the depraved nature by the power of the Holy Spirit is the principal and real redemptive work. The pardon of committed sins is the clearing away of the rubbish, or preparation work, for the Third Person in the Holy Trinity to effect a revolution in the nature of man. Hallelujah to God! This change in nature is more wonderful than the revolting of nature at the command of Joshua. Man now, instead of being depraved in nature, is restored to his original holy nature.

This destruction of the carnal nature and the restoration of the original nature is accomplished by the Holy Spirit at the moment of His reception as an indwelling Comforter. Peter teaches this truth when he says: "God, which knoweth the hearts [or nature], bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us [at Pentecost]; and put no difference between us and them [Gentiles], purifying their hearts by faith." Acts 15:8, 9. Purifying the heart is the purification of man's affections, or nature. This is accomplished at the time of the giving of the Holy Ghost as declared in the last text: and this purifying of the hearts of the Gentiles at the giving of the Holy Ghost, is just what was done for the apostles at Pentecost. This is a plain, undeniable fact taught in this text. To turn to philosophizing upon how we can be conceived with a carnal nature, or how we can be converted and yet be depraved in nature, is to soon become spoiled through vain deceit after the rudiments of the world and not after Christ. Col. 2:8. In the very nature of things, and according

to the Word of God, pardon of sins necessarily precedes the destruction of the carnal, depraved nature by the Holy Spirit. In the fall of man there was the act of transgression and also a change in man's moral image. In his restoration there must be a pardon of transgression and subsequently a change in nature.

It is a law of God that the redemption of man be accomplished through faith by His grace. Our faith can not reach beyond our knowledge. By knowledge we mean a real soul-consciousness or conviction, and not an intellectual knowledge. At this point many a dear soul has erred from the truth. They have endeavored to bring their faith up to their intellectual knowledge, which ends in presumption. True Bible faith is grounded in the soul. It results from a soul-knowledge, or conviction. To accept pardon of sins or healing of the body with only an intellectual knowledge of these blessings and not a real heart-conviction is mere presumption, and ends in failure and disgrace. To follow the comprehensions of the intellect, and not the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit upon the soul concerning the mysteries of God's salvation, is to be led into error, because the intellect can not fathom the things of God. We do now emphatically say, according to God's established law, that no unregenerated heart can have a comprehension or conviction of a corrupt moral nature and its purification. Why? Because transgression stands between it and purity. The awakened guilty soul knows nothing but its guilt, and for forgiveness only does it plead. After being pardoned, the soul gains knowledge of carnality, and it is then convicted for the second cleansing.

Those who believe that purity of heart is attained in pardon take as a basis of such belief the language of Paul in 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 8:1-7 and similar texts. Now the apostle often speaks of full salvation, or complete redemption of the soul, in a general way. He says that "salvation is by the grace of God through faith." By this he does not mean justification only, but sanctification as well. He has not specified the two works, but has spoken of full salvation in a general way of being by grace through faith. Thus Eph. 2:8-10 includes full salvation. In 2 Cor. 5:17 he again speaks of full salvation in a general way. It is true we are in Christ when converted, but we are none the less in Him when sanctified. To say that Paul is referring to the justified only in this text is an error. By the two preceding verses we have reason to believe he is referring to those who are wholly sanctified. This then is no proof text that carnality is destroyed in justification, because you can not prove that he is referring to those who are only justified.

In conclusion we would say that Christ came to redeem man only. Beast and bird have no part in the redemption. They shall perish. The earth is not redeemable, but being under curse—spotted by sin—it shall be destroyed. —From "The Gospel Day," 1904

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## The Two Roads

There are only two roads—the road to heaven, and the road to hell. The road to heaven is narrow and strait. The road to hell is very broad. We are on one of these roads.

Many people think that if they join some church, they are automatically transferred from the road to hell to the road to heaven. According to God's Word this is not true. One may join any church, be baptized, and attend church services regularly, pay the pastor, tithe, pay all honest debts, live a good moral life, and still be on the road to hell. All this does not transfer anyone from the road to hell to the road to heaven.

Jesus said, "Ye must be born again." To be born again we must confess and repent of all our sins. We must come to the place where we can say, "Lord, be merciful to me a sinner," and really mean what we say. By a living faith we must accept the shed blood of Christ as an atonement for our sins. Then and only then will we be transferred from the road to hell to the road to heaven.

—Jesse Woods

## The Cause Is Removed

When the Lord forgave all my sins, it made me feel so light and even shouting happy. But I found out later that being a Christian meant more than being made shouting happy. I was told that I was just now ready to be sanctified and be cleansed from carnality, which was the thing that made people sin. So I soon began to ask God to cleanse me from all carnality, which is much more than speaking in an unknown tongue. I have met people who could speak in other tongues and they could still get mad and scold their neighbors when they displeased them. The Lord cleansed my heart and gave me the experience of holiness, and it was easy to keep from swearing, lying, stealing, getting mad and all other sinful tendencies to evil that are natural for sinners to commit. When God cleanses a person's heart, He then fills it with His perfect LOVE. The Bible tells us that "Love worketh NO ILL to his neighbor." (Rom. 13:10). So as long as my heart is full of God's love, it will be the governing force in my every day life.

—E. O. Jolley

## PRAYER REQUESTS

I have many ailments and can't get around very well. Please pray for me. —A Child of God.

Missouri—Dear Saints: Please remember me in your prayers. I have bleeding ulcers of the stomach, but I am expecting the good Lord to heal me. Also, I have a special unspoken request that the Lord will answer prayer according to His will at any cost.

I certainly enjoy reading the Faith and Victory. It is a wonderful little paper. May the good Lord bless and encourage all of you and supply all of your needs.

—Lottie Hilton

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

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

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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 sinful world and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God; 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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The Church of God Chapel at Guthrie, Oklahoma is located on the corner of Sixth and W. Warner. The congregation welcomes you. —Bro. Ira D. Stover, Pastor  
417 N. 13th, P. O. Box 210, Phone BUtler 2-3244

**Editorials**

A number of campmeetings are scheduled for this summer, and every soul should attend, if possible, one or more of these meetings to enjoy the fellowship of the saints and to receive soul food from Father's table. As usual, we will not publish a paper for the month of August. However, we will print and mail out the Bible Lessons to every one who gets rolls of papers for Sunday schools. Any one else who wants the August Bible Lessons may have them by letting us know that you desire to have them.

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We are now reprinting the book written by D. S. Warner entitled, "Salvation, Present, Perfect, Now or Never." This book containing approximately 64 pages is Biblically sound in the doctrine of full and complete salvation. It makes the truth Biblically plain both on justification and sanctification. Every one who loves the truth should have this book for themselves and for others who need this instruction. It will be postpaid to any address in the U. S. for 60c each or two books for \$1.00.

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In the 1961 March issue of the Faith and Victory paper appeared an article written by Lawrence D. Pruitt entitled, "Eighty Years in the Evening Light." This article, a brief history of the Reformation work, was appreciated and some have written us asking for it to be put in tract form. Therefore we have just recently printed it, making a 12-page tract. Anyone desiring a copy may have it free of charge by sending postage for mailing.

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That the spiritual Body of Christ, the Church of God, which is now functioning in this world, is a Christ-filled, spiritual institution, separate and distinct from all humanly-organized institutions called churches, is clearly taught in the Scriptures. There are many scriptures which testify to this fact. Let us here at the beginning of this writing insert one scripture which makes this truth an established fact. Let us read 1 Peter 2:2-4, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be that ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God and precious. Ye also as lively stones [born from above] are built up [by the Lord Himself] a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

That this heavenly-born people composing His Body, the Church, has an enemy to fight against while in this world is also taught in Ephesians 6:10-12, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the

wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood [our warfare is spiritual in the ecclesiastical heavens here in this world], but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Our warfare is not carnal, for our sword is the Word of God and our shield is faith in God.

John the Revelator writes of the war which the saints in the early morning Church waged against paganism. In Rev. 12:11 he says, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." In that war the saints won the victory over paganism which had exalted itself to a supreme position over the souls of men. In their fighting the pagans used carnal weapons along with their Satanic spiritual power, but the saints, like Christ, did not use carnal weapons. They held up the shield of faith and wielded the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. These spiritual weapons proved to be mighty in the pulling down of strongholds and uncovering their sandy foundations.

This spiritual battle of Armageddon, the conflict between good and evil, God and Satan, is raging in this "evening time" when we are living in the last of the last days. The battle will become more fierce as time moves on to the end and to Christ's coming. Let us notice what Isaiah the prophet says about this conflict. In Isaiah 9:5 we read, "For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood: But this [not literal war] shall be with burning and fuel of fire." This war in which we are engaged is not with literal weapons, but with the Holy Spirit fire and burning which just quietly burns the truth upon souls, causing them to lay down their carnal weapons and surrender to God.

In Malachi 4:1 we read what the prophet says of this day of the Lord, "For, behold, the day cometh that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch." Read the next two verses. The third verse reads, "And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts."

The saints of God are fighting in a war today whose Captain is the Lord Jesus Christ—the King of kings and Lord of lords—and He will be the one who will conquer all His foes in the end. Although at times it seems that we suffer defeat because we are so few compared to the hosts of the enemy, yet He gives us the victory again and again, and will finally destroy our enemies with fire from heaven. In Rev. 20:9 we read, "And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city [the Church of God]: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them."

Let us take a look with John the Revelator and see what is going on at this present time in the ec-

clesiastical heavens. Rev. 19:11-15 reads, "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True [the Lord Jesus Christ], and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses [the sign of a conqueror], clothed in fine linen, white and clean [denoting the purity and cleanness of the saints]. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword [the Word of God], that with it he should smite the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

Again the Church is portrayed in symbolic language in Rev. 12:1, "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman [the Church] clothed with the sun [Christ], and the moon [the Law age] under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars [the 12 apostles]."

In Rev. 19:17 we read, "And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he [minister of God] cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls [evil spirits] that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God." The angel standing in the sun would no doubt symbolize a messenger in the Church, a minister of God who was girded about with the truth. When souls die spiritually they become food or supper for fowl or evil spirits to possess and use to fight against the real saints. Satan is inventing ways and means in these days by which he is slaying thousands and thousands of souls who once had heavenly life. The latest and most efficient tool he is using in these days is the television. Since he has succeeded in getting it into nearly all the so-called Christian homes in America and the world, he has slain millions of souls and, symbolically speaking, the blood is running to the "horses' bridles." Rev. 19:18 continues: "That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast [Catholicism] and the kings of the earth [not of heaven], and their armies [all evil powers], gathered together to make war against him that sat upon the horse, and against his army." Read to the end of the chapter and you will see that the beast and the false prophet that worked miracles to deceive the people were taken and cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. In Rev. 20:10 you can read of the similar fate of the devil, the old dragon which is paganism now exhibiting itself in the form of Communism.

Let us turn to Rev. 14:14 and see what is taking place now in the spiritual realm in this world: "And I looked, and behold a white cloud [purity, cleanness],

and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle." A sharp sickle will cut tough grass and weeds. The sharp sickle would represent the Word of God used with sharpness to slay Satan's tough characters and tear down his strongholds. The 15th verse continues: "And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe." Nearly all the world of people are turned against God and His holy flock, and they are ready to be destroyed. 16th verse: "And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped." Verses 17 to 20: "And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven [ecclesiastical heaven], he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine [the false vines — humanly-organized churches] of the earth [not of heaven]; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth [false vines], and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city [outside of the true Church of God], and the blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs."

Some religious people claim that there will be a literal battle of Armageddon where the slaughter will be so great that human blood will run to the horse bridles for miles around the fighting. Such a theory is preposterous and unbelievable. This is definitely symbolic language, and has reference to the great slaughter of souls which is taking place in the ecclesiastical heavens where the battle is raging—righteousness against wickedness. Souls who once had light and truth are being slain by the Word of God, and the slaughter is so great in these last days that it is symbolized as blood running to the horse bridles.

The true ministers of God are doing a great work in the earth today, although it is not discerned by many it seems. But the work of God is going on just the same. They are not only gathering His people together unto the Lord for His coming, but also they are, at the same time, "gathering" many, yes, thousands upon thousands, into sectarian pens to be burned in the end. In our ministry we have seen people come to our meetings and hear the Word of God preached in its fullness and, instead of measuring up to the truth and taking the crucified way with the saints in light, they would go off and join some false, man-made sect. The false preachers would preach smooth things to them, wrest the scriptures and make them feel good in their sins—thereby easing their consciences. These humanly-organized institutions called churches are the gates of hell. When people with light and knowledge join up with them, they are bound there to be burned in the end.

The light and truth which is set forth and taught

in this paper is causing many, because they do not love the truth, to join up with sects in order to ease their conscience. The false preachers make them feel secure, but the end will be disappointment and misery in eternity.

Yes, my dear readers, the ministers in the evening light are doing a great work for God in the preparation of His coming, and no one can stay the Lord's hand of gathering the clusters of grapes for the winepress of His wrath in these closing days.

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 Bakersfield, Calif.—August 4-13  
 Boley, Oklahoma—August 18-27  
 Myrtle, Mo. Campmeeting—August 18-27.  
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 Pacoima, Calif. (California State)—August 25-Sept. 3rd.  
 Dover, Okla.—September 1-10.

### Campmeeting Notices

#### GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMPMEETING

The annual campmeeting of the Church of God on the General Southern Campground at Hammond, La. will convene on Friday, June 30, 1961 and continue ten days. Meals will be served in the dining hall on the grounds and a place to sleep will be provided for all who come. The expenses of the meeting are met through free-will donations. A hearty welcome is extended to all to come and enjoy these services with us.

Hammond is 45 miles east of Baton Rouge, La. on Highways 190 and 51. Transportation to Hammond is available by the Greyhound Bus Lines and the Illinois Central Railroad. The campgrounds are about three-fourths of a mile from the I. C. Depot in the southwest part of town on White Street. If more information is desired concerning the meeting, address your inquiry to Bro. Max Williamson, 203 White Street, Hammond, La. or Phone 3007.

**JEFFERSON, OREGON STATE CAMPMEETING**

The Oregon State Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at the Church of God Chapel located on the campground on Hazel Street in Jefferson, Oregon, beginning June 30 and continuing through July 9, 1961. We are looking to the Lord to stir the saints and also sinners to come to this meeting. We extend a welcome to all. Come if you need salvation from sin, sanctification for complete cleansing, or divine physical healing. Come expecting a blessing to your soul. We are praying the Lord to send His Spirit-filled ministers to preach the truth of His precious Word.

Meals and cabins furnished on the campground. This meeting will be run on the free-will offering plan as usual. For further information, write N. C. White, R. 1, Jefferson, Oreg., or Emma Busch, Scio, Oreg., or Beatrice Spaur, Box 254, Jefferson, Oreg. Phone FA 7-2855.

**CHURCH OF GOD NATIONAL CAMPMEETING**

The National Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held, the Lord willing, July 21 to 30, 1961, on the camp grounds at Monark Springs, Mo. which is five miles east of Neosho, Mo. on Highway 86.

We extend a hearty welcome to all who can attend this meeting, to come and enjoy this gathering of God's children where we will be able to feast upon the precious Word of God and lift our voices in thanksgiving and praise unto Him. In this meeting you can receive salvation from sin, sanctification for complete cleansing, and divine physical healing for the sick and afflicted. Come expecting to receive a real blessing to your soul and to be a blessing to those about you. We are expecting God to send His Spirit-filled and Holy Ghost-led ministers to preach the truth of His precious Word. Then if we walk in the light as He is in the light we will have fellowship one with another.

Those coming by bus or train will find it necessary after arriving in Neosho to either take a taxi-cab to the camp grounds or phone for some of the saints to come and get you.

Meals will be served in the dining hall, financed by free-will offerings and donations of meat, fruit and vegetables as the Lord supplies.

The tents will rent for \$5.00 each, steel cot including mattress, \$1.00, and space in dormitories, \$2.50, which includes steel cot and mattress. Let none stay away who are unable to pay. Come and you will be cared for to the full extent of our ability. Those who can, should bring bedding, for the nights will be cool, especially if we have rain. Those desiring tents, cots or spaces in dormitories should send their orders NOW to the undersigned.

For further information, please write to Ralph M. Beisly, 407 Eldridge, Coffeyville, Kansas. Contributions, tent orders, etc. should also be sent to this address.

**BAKERSFIELD, CALIF. CAMPMEETING**

The campmeeting at Bakersfield, Calif. will be held, Lord willing, from August 4 to August 13, 1961, at the Church of God chapel, located at 501 South Brown St.

We extend a hearty welcome to all who can attend this meeting to come expecting to receive a blessing and to be a blessing to others. The expenses of the meeting will be met through free-will offerings and contributions. Meals will be served in the dining hall on the grounds and sleeping quarters will be provided for all who come.

Those coming from the north on Highway 99, turn left on 4th street, which is about ½ mile south of California Ave. Go two blocks past Lakeview Ave. Those

coming from the south on Highway 99, turn right on 4th Street, which is about ½ mile north of Brundage Lane. Go two blocks past Lakeview Ave. (4th Street changes to Virginia Ave.) The chapel is located on Virginia Ave. and Brown Street. Those coming in on No. 466 (Edison Highway), turn off just before entering town at left angle onto California Ave. Go about one mile, then turn left on Brown Street to Virginia Ave.

For further information, contact Francis Blackwell, 501 Monticello Ave., phone FA 3-2731, or I. C. Chandler, phone TE 1-5028.

**GUTHRIE, OKLA. STATE CAMPMEETING**

The Oklahoma State Campmeeting at Guthrie, Okla. will convene, Lord willing, Aug. 4 to 13, 1961 at Sixth and W. Warner Sts. We are looking forward to another gathering together of the children of God in these parts. We extend a hearty welcome to all who can attend this meeting. Provisions will be made to care for all. Expenses will be met by free-will offerings. Send contributions or donations of food to Bro. M. A. Davis, Rt. 2, Guthrie, Okla. Come praying for a soul-saving meeting.

—Bro. Ira D. Stover, Pastor

**BOLEY, OKLA. CAMPMEETING**

Lord willing, the annual campmeeting at Boley, Okla. will convene August 18th to 27th, 1961. We desire the prayers of the saints that the meeting will be a success. We are also looking to the Lord to send ministers of His own choosing.

—Sister Ora Spears, Rt. 1, Box 109, Boley, Okla.

**MYRTLE, MO. CAMPMEETING NOTICE**

The Myrtle, Mo. Campmeeting this year will be held August 18 to 27, inclusive, Lord willing.

Those coming to camp on the ground, if possible, please bring your pillow, sheet and covering. The meeting will be supported, as usual, on the free-will offering plan.

Come to this meeting with a burden to do something for the Lord. For any further information, address the Church of God or Saints at Myrtle, Mo.

**STANLEY, WISCONSIN CAMPMEETING**

The campmeeting at Stanley, Wisconsin, located on Church and Helgersen Streets, will begin, the Lord willing, on Wednesday evening, August 23rd and continue through Sunday, Aug. 27th, 1961. Lodging furnished and meals served on the free-will offering plan. Please bring bedding if possible. For information or lodging reservation, please write to Mrs. Frank Dietrich, Rt. 1, Stanley, Wisconsin. Let us pray much for this meeting.

Yours in Christ,

—Mrs. Frank Dietrich

**DOVER, OKLA. CAMPMEETING**

The Lord willing, the Dover, Oklahoma Campmeeting will be held on the chapel grounds, one mile north and two and one-half miles east of Dover, beginning September 1st and continuing through the 10th. Any one desiring to be met at the Bus station, please notify us in time, stating when your bus is due to arrive at Dover. This is important.

We stand for and teach the truth: justification, sanctification, divine healing, unity of believers. For information write to Ulysses Phillips or Henry Caldwell, Dover, Oklahoma. Pray for the meeting.



## Obituaries

Ellen (Donahue) Gadlin was born to Bishop and Sarah Donahue on Feb. 29, 1891 in Nashville, Tennessee, and departed this life May 20, 1961 at Cushing, Okla. She was united in holy matrimony to Charles Gadlin on February 14, 1907 at Shawnee, Okla. To this union ten children were born—six sons and four daughters. Her husband and seven children preceded her in death. She leaves to mourn her passing one son, Uriah Gadlin, and two daughters, Arinine Thompson and Carrie Price, all of Wichita, Kansas, ten grandchildren and three great grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends.

She gave her heart to God at an early age and lived faithful until death. Her life was filled with good deeds of charity. Sister Ellen Gadlin will be greatly missed, but God knows best.

A precious one from us has gone, a lovely voice is still, and though our hearts are filled with grief we bow unto His will. Her deeds of love and kindness spread sunshine everywhere, proving Christ her Saviour did all her burdens bear. Oh, dear sister, we will miss you, but we know that some bright day we shall never more be parted where all tears are wiped away.

Funeral service was conducted by Bro. Lewis Williams assisted by Bros. A. J. Bowman and Herman Kelly.

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Robert Lee May was born February 4, 1886 and departed this life on June 4, 1961.

He was united in holy matrimony to Miss Mary James on June 5, 1915. To this union were born three children: Robert L. May, Jr., Ezsetta and Geraldine.

He lived in Boley, Okla. a number of years, moving later to Tulsa, Okla. where he made his home until death.

In 1954 he professed a hope in Christ with the saints of the Church of God.

To mourn his death he leaves a wife, two daughters, one son, one sister, Ophelia Corral, two grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

The funeral was conducted by Bro. Woodrow Warren, Bro. Sam Barton and others. Text: Job 16:22; Heb. 9:27. Burial was in the Crown Hill Cemetery.

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Jimmie Gondean, Jr., son of Jimmie and Mary Ann Gondean, was born May 9, 1928 and departed this life on June 9, 1961.

He was married to Dorothy Bell on July 17, 1954. To this union four children were born.

He is survived by Dorothy Gondean, his wife; four daughters, Donnell Francine, Marion, Sharlotte and Mary Ann, his father, Jimmie Gondean Sr. and step-mother, four brothers, two sisters, other relatives and friends.

The funeral was conducted by Bro. Woodrow Warren, assisted by others. Text: Amos 5:8.

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David Abraham La Faver was born to Bro. and Sister D. J. La Faver on September 11, 1931 in Okla. City, Okla. and departed this life May 29, 1961 at the age of 29 years, 8 months and 18 days.

He was united in marriage to Letha Mae Williams on Jan. 7, 1952. To this union four children were born.

David was blessed to have been reared under the influence of the truth. He maintained a respect for it, although he was not able to hold a steady victory, yet he was tender. During the hours following his fatal accident he called mightily on the Lord and was wonderfully saved, spending the last four days of his life in singing and praising God. He left a great hope and comfort that

all was well with his soul. He was loved dearly by all who knew him.

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, Letha Mae, one son, David Lee, three daughters, Malinda, Donna and Karon, all of the home; his parents, Bro. and Sister Dan J. La Faver, four brothers, Danny, Gerald, Ronald and Leo; six sisters, Emma La Faver, Bernice Sturgen, Wilma Holeman, Alta Wagoner, Ruth Collett and Esther Tharp; a number of neices, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The funeral services and interment were at Oklahoma City, Okla. with Charles R. Smith officiating.

## Reports From The Field

Dear Bro. Pruitt and workers at the Lord's Print Shop: Greetings of Divine love in Jesus' dear name. May He continue to bless and prosper your efforts in getting the gospel to this lost world by the printed page is our earnest prayer.

We haven't written concerning our gospel labors for several months, but we are still in this great work with all our heart, mind and strength. Last fall we moved from Myrtle, Mo. to eastern Kentucky at the leadings of the Lord but never realized this to be such a needy field for the gospel. We are located near the place where we, and the missionary group, held a tent meeting two years ago. Much good "gospel seed" was sown then, and now through our personal work and local preaching we have received an invitation to have another meeting here this season. Praise the Lord!

We were privileged to visit the Myrtle, Mo. congregation over one week-end. Truly, it was like old times and our hearts rejoiced together, for we had lived there and worked with that congregation for seven years when at home. We have visited the folks near Prestonsburg, Ky. where we and Bro. Leslie Busbee held a tent meeting last summer, and find them anxious for another meeting.

Recently we received an invitation from some folks in North Carolina to come there for a few services. We had never been there before, but thank the Lord, we found a hearty welcome and a fine group of old-time saints of God. They seemed to enjoy the preached Word, and heartily invited us back. We are expecting some of them to attend part of this tent meeting here at Holly Hill, South Carolina. God's people will surely make an effort to be together. Praise God for the wonderful family of God.

During Bro. and Sister Curtis Williams' trials and persecutions we made several trips to Dayton, Ohio to help in this battle, and we are still rejoicing and praising the Lord with them and all the saints for how God answered prayer in that matter and set our brother free. Yes, praise the Lord, Bro. Williams is a God-called evangelist. After seeing the miraculous power of God working in his behalf, he resolved to "cut the shore line" and go all out in the evangelistic work for God and lost souls. Immediately he gave up a good job at the shop, and plunged with all efforts into a two-weeks' meeting at the Dayton, Ohio congregation. God richly blessed in every way and several were saved. Bro. Williams is relatively new among the saints, and desires to travel and work with us for a while at least.

After the Dayton meeting we went to Akron, Ohio for a week. God sent forth His Word with power and anointing which was a source of strength and encouragement to the saints. We feel that we were all drawn nearer to God and nearer to each other. Praise the Lord!

Bro. Abbott and Bro. Williams visited the Guthrie



and Sapulpa, Okla. congregations recently, also Coffeyville, Kansas. They were glad to meet all the saints and brought back a good report of the meetings.

Soon thereafter we were invited to visit a place up on the Ohio River where neither of us had ever been. Bro. Williams went on Monday and began that meeting. We felt led to go to the all-day meeting near Decatur, Ill. so were unable to be at the new place until the following night. Thank the Lord, we found a group of folks hungry for the old-time truth, and regardless of what line of truth the Lord sent they seemed to accept it unanimously. Praise God for honest hearts who love the "strait and narrow way" and desire above all else to make heaven their home.

We began this tent meeting here at Holly Hill, S. Carolina as planned, on June 4th, and the tent is nearly filled every night. Four have already been saved, and others sought help at the altar. Good attention is given to the preaching of the Word and other souls are under conviction. We believe God will add several more to the Church here.

We want to say that we deeply appreciate the prayers and support of every one, for God hath said "we are workers together" with Him, and Jesus valued one soul at more than the wealth of the world. Brethren, pray for us. —Bro. and Sister S. E. Abbott, R. 3, Box 41, Somerset, Kentucky

—Bro. Curtis Williams, R. R. 3, West Alexandria, Ohio

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North Carolina—June 5th. Dear Bro. Pruitt and all: Greetings to you in Jesus' dear name.

The dear Lord has been with us in a special way on our trip for the Lord. We were in four services at Altapass, N. Car. They seemed to drink the truth in and did appreciate our being there so much. We are on our way northward now, and plan to go by South Charleston, W. Va., then on north. We may have some stops before we get to Michigan.

We need papers to give out. This is a precious work, giving out papers and tracts around these mountains. So please send us more papers. We will surely appreciate them.

We trust that all are well and enjoying richly the blessings of God. It is really time that every one was busy for the Lord. Times are fast closing in and we don't know how long we will be permitted to spread the truth like this. We are determined to do our best while we have the opportunity. We do desire special prayer that we may have wisdom from above in all that we do.

I hope you can read this writing. We are traveling on a road that is very rough and winding. By taking this road we can throw out tracts and papers. The main highways are restricted. Even though the little highways are not so good, maybe we can reach some precious souls by the printed page. If by these efforts we put forth just one soul can be rescued from the torments of the lost world, we will be well repaid. One soul is worth more than all the world. Samuel sits in the back seat and throws them on the left side and I throw them on the right. We throw them right in their front yards, as the houses are close to the highway.

Christian love, —The D. A. Gibsons

Rt. 3, Box 20, Seymour, Mo.

#### MEETING AT WICHITA, KANSAS

The summer meeting at Wichita, Kansas will be held from the 12th to the 24th of September, 1961.

—Bro. Lewis Williams, Pastor

#### LET US CONTINUE THE GOOD WORK

Coffeyville, Kansas—June 15—Dear Saints: Greetings in Jesus' dear name.

We are thankful for God's love and tender mercy to us. Recently I (Sister Inez Beisly) was bitten by some poisonous insect which caused me much pain, suffering and sleepless nights, yet I still feel it is sweet to trust in Jesus and rest upon His promise. I am not able to be up very long at a time, but thanks be unto our God for giving me much relief and allowing me to rest.

I want to say that we have personally acknowledged receipt of the offerings coming in to the National Missionary fund, but thought it would be well to let the saints abroad know that the tent meeting in South Carolina is proving a real blessing. Sister Abbott reports that the tent is nearly full every night and souls are getting saved. The Lord is also blessing them and Bro. Williams. Let us continue to join our hearts in sincere prayer that God will anoint them richly by His Spirit, that the Word of God will have eternal effect upon the hearts of sinners and many more will cry for mercy and find the Lord precious to their souls here in these last evil days.

We felt that the saints who have sacrificed of their means to make this missionary tent work possible would like to know they, too, are having a part in the salvation of these souls. Let us keep the tent in the harvest field by praying and sending forth our means. May the Lord richly bless you for your labors of love.

We received some offerings with no return address, and may this be the means of letting you know that we received it. Pray for us that we will ever do the will of Him who redeemed us from sin.

Yours in His service, —Ralph and Inez Beisly  
407 Eldridge St., Coffeyville, Kan.

#### THE SAINTS' HOME UNDER CONSTRUCTION

In regard to the construction of the Saints' Home here at Shawnee, Okla. we have these few remarks. First, we are very thankful from the depth of our hearts for every one of you who have and are co-operating with your means and prayers, and do pray that our God will reward you fourfold, not only in basket and in store, but with every spiritual blessing to your soul and a brighter anticipation of heaven.

We are sure that many more of you have felt the burden for this great need and have been impressed of the Lord to give, but for some reason have been hindered. If any rumor coming to your door has shaken your confidence in this project, we want you to be assured, feel and know that the hand of the Lord is back of this undertaking. We are cautious and watchful that every move is made to the best advantage for the successful completion of this project.

Bro. Charles Smith and the boys have worked hard on the cleaning and painting of the workers' building, also Bro. Clifford Lindner has been very busy with his skilled labor. We are doing our best to not hire any labor at present, and hoping that all who are able will give some of their time in labor.

We are shopping around and have made some good purchases. The sand and gravel are now on the ground for the concrete work. We plan to do the concrete mixing ourselves, which will save \$400 on every 100 yards of mix, more or less. So we are making a step forward by faith in the name of Jesus, and it is going to mean everyone's effort working TOGETHER for the advancement of this long-neglected cause. I believe this is one of the most neglected causes among us—the care of the

aged and handicapped saints. So this opportunity offers you the greatest investment you could ever make for soul and body. We are not begging, but want you to know that the way is open now for you to help as the Lord had first impressed you.

We hope these few words will encourage your faith to full confidence in this great move for God's work in behalf of the precious old saints of God who have been through the storms, heat and cold for you and me. Please pray and listen, and then remember—as we have done it to the least of these precious old saints we have done it unto the Lord. You may send your free-will offerings to either W. C. McMakin, R. 5, Shawnee, Okla., or to Charles Smith, P. O. Box 1853, Shawnee, Okla.

Your Bro. in Christ and Trustee on this project,  
—W. C. McMakin

## TESTIMONIES

Mo.—Dear Saints everywhere: I thank the Lord for the many blessings He has bestowed upon my family and myself since I gave my heart to Him. He has healed our bodies many times in these two years. I thank the Lord that I have learned to trust Him.

I want to tell how the Lord healed my little boy, Dwight. A very tiny red spot came on his chest and it began to grow. It stuck out on his chest far enough so that he scratched off the top of it and then it began to bleed. This was about a month after it came on his chest. My other two children were at school. I prayed for him and it stopped bleeding. Some time later he struck it against the table and it bled badly this time. I called some of the saints for prayer and it stopped again. I don't remember how many times it bled like this. About the last time when I was giving him a bath I thought I would soak the dried blood off that was on it from the last bleeding. But this made it soft and it began to run a stream. I called the saints for prayer. The children, Suzie and Doyle, and I had already prayed for him. By the time the saints arrived at our house it had almost stopped bleeding. We all agreed in prayer for him. I was told by some that it might be a cancer, and some thought it might be a blood tumor or a broken blood vein. I don't know what it was—I never took him to a doctor to find out. But I can thank the Lord that He removed it! Praise the Lord, it is gone now completely! Satan made it look bad to me, but I knew that God could heal all manner of disease if I would only trust Him.

Saints, pray for me that I may always trust in Him, and that I will have knowledge in teaching and bringing up my children in the admonition of the Lord. Pray that I may be an example before my family and others.

Your Sister in Christ, —Nelva Stanley

Illinois—Dear Saints: On May the 12th, while cleaning house, I fell from the 4th step of the stepladder. It hurt me pretty bad and fractured my left leg. I was anointed and prayed for by Bro. Herbert Probst and others on the third Sunday all-day meeting at Spitler Woods Park in Illinois. Bro. Murphy Allen and Bro. and Sister S. E. Abbott were with us and had an agreement of prayer for me. The Lord wonderfully healed me, and I am able to do most of my work. I still suffer some with my limb but I know the Lord will knit this fractured bone completely. I know it happened for some good reason—for the glory of God and for my good. Even when I suffer with my limb I do not let this discourage me. I tell the enemy I am healed, and I arise and go on in the power of my Savior who has all power.

I said, "Devil, you can't put me down again." I was on a crutch and a cane. Then I got better, so husband and I did the washing, and I got worse—was back on my crutch and cane. I felt that I had hurt my limb again. I suffered a lot worse, then the Lord encouraged me in answer to prayer. I knew God had healed me. I laid my crutch and cane aside, and stepped out in the power of the Lord. I walked across the room by faith, and have been walking better ever since. I am working in my garden and go up to town which is about five blocks.

Dear saints, we are healed by faith, and we keep our healing by faith. If we let the devil discourage us we will lose our healing. Don't ever let the devil make you doubt. Hold on to God's promises. Praise His dear name!

Keep praying for me until the Lord delivers me from this suffering completely. It is in the hands of God. "Hold to God's unchanging hand; set your thoughts on things eternal—hold to God's unchanging hand."

Your Sister in Christ, —Lettie West

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Wash.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints: Greetings in that Name which is above every name.

This is a joint letter of thanks from all the men here who read your publication, and myself personally. We wish to thank you and the staff for sending us this paper each month, and say how much we enjoy reading it, especially the testimonies for Christ Jesus which are uplifting and strengthening to us.

For your prayers in our behalf and all men and women who are imprisoned, we all say "Amen." Please continue to pray for us.

In closing we say that we have "faith and victory" over sin and the evils of this world through Jesus Christ. The men here in Walla Walla are sending thanks, and pray that God will supply your needs in order to continue this blessed service for Him. May the grace of God through Christ be with you one and all.

Your Bro. in Christ, D. O. West, Jr.

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Mo.—Dear Saints: I have felt for some time that I should write my testimony. The Lord has been so good to us and has done so much for us.

On May 11th I hurt my back. It had been giving me trouble for some time but at this time it got much worse. It seemed at times that the pain was more than I could bear. Bro. and Sister John Wilson, our pastors, had left the day before for Oklahoma. On May 16th I was so sick that my mother phoned them for prayer. About an hour later I felt the Lord touch my body. I am sure that others of the saints were praying for me. I improved each day from that time on. Many times I have had the Lord to instantly heal me, but this time it seemed to be gradually. I thank God for what He has done for me. My back is still weak but I am expecting the Lord to strengthen it. He has healed me so many, many times.

I feel that I should tell of the goodness of God to my mother, Sister Pearl Porter. As many of you know, she hasn't walked for five years. It was two years ago last February since she has been able to spend a night in her bed. She sits day and night in her chair. For a while she was able to lie down once in a while during the day, but could not lie down very long due to the pain in her feet and legs. Two years ago she suffered so much with her feet. It seemed at times the pain and suffering was unbearable, but the Lord would hear prayer and give relief. During that summer she had three attacks like light strokes. She would not be able to speak and each one would be worse. With the last one she began to talk a little so we could understand her on the third day. The

Lord healed her and she never had any more attacks, for which we praise the Lord. He has touched her so many times. After months of suffering the Lord gave her relief in her feet.

A year ago this past winter she had pneumonia and was in a critical condition for weeks, but again God came to her rescue. Her health improved and she was able to attend the Monark Springs campmeeting last summer. The Lord has done so much for her during her affliction that time or space would not permit me to tell it all. She has suffered much during these past two years, but God has always come to her rescue. She has been so patient through all these trying months and years of suffering.

Now other complications have set up in her toe and she suffers such great pain. We are looking to God to give relief in this. We know God's power is unlimited. He has all power and nothing is too hard for Him. We desire that all the saints will keep my mother on your prayer list at all times. Surely she needs help in her body. In Matt. 19:26 Jesus said, "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible," and we are not afraid to keep our trust in Him.

In Christian love, —Pauline Lowe

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Arizona—To the Saints scattered abroad I send greetings: I am still saved and living for Jesus every day. I am so thankful He counted me worthy to be His child, and so thankful that His death and resurrection was not in vain in my case. Although the tests and trials are many, I know that His grace is sufficient for every one. I mean by His help and grace to press on, for I know this is a pressing way.

I want the saints to pray for my unsaved family and me. Yours in Him, —Sister Bertha Slaughter

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Ohio—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the saints: I feel like sending in my testimony telling what the Lord has done for me. Today finds me saved, sanctified and happy in the Lord.

I want to tell how the Lord has wonderfully saved my soul and how He brought the fear of God before my eyes. I had been saved twice before, but I could not get to the place where I could hold on to God. It seemed that the devil had blinded my eyes to sanctification, and I just didn't have grace enough to stand. I kept going back to meeting every once in a while. At night I would lay in my bed and ask God to not let the fear of God leave me. We went to meeting, and the altar call was given, but it seemed as though I could not yield because the devil would say, "You tried it twice and couldn't live it, so why try again?" I would raise my hand for prayer, and come home with the feeling of guilt and condemnation on my heart.

Then one day Sister Verna Samons of Fairborn, Ohio came over. She and I took a ride up to Rosewood, Ohio where a dear old saint of God used to live—Sister Amanda Basye had recently passed away. Many of you folks knew her. Her husband died about a month before she did. He was unsaved. As we went up to her house, walked through the yard, looked in the window and saw the old stove that she used to cook on, I thought of the many prayers that she had prayed for my salvation, as we had been very close friends before I was married. We then went to the graveyard where she and her husband are buried side by side. As we stood there by their graves I thought of the sweet rest in Jesus that Sister Basye was enjoying, and how that her husband had died without God. It seemed that I could hear him say, "Helen,

if I just had another chance as you have today, I would not be where I am now." The Lord certainly brought the fear of God before me in that graveyard. On the way home I was so restless and miserable that I could hardly stand it. Sister Samons went on home. It was almost supper time so I went ahead and prepared supper. Still I was miserable. So bedtime came, and when I knew that my husband and children were asleep I soon began to call on God for mercy and to save my soul. Praise God, He heard my cry and my prayers. Today I am saved and sanctified, with victory in my soul. Truly, we are serving a great and living God.

I desire the prayers of all the saints that I will please God with my life. I want God to be in everything that I do and say. Please pray for my unsaved husband.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Helen Baird

(W. A. McCoy's daughter)

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Oregon—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the dear saints at the publishing office: I greet you in Jesus' precious name this morning. My heart is just running over with praise and gratitude to God for His love He has shown to me—for His wonderful healing power! I was very sick when I had my daughter call you for prayer. In fact, I didn't know for a while whether the dear Lord was going to take me home or not, but I knew I was ready to live or die. After my daughter got the message through and you prayed for me, I got the witness that God would heal me. This sickness drew me so close to Him. Before I got through with the test I believe I was ready to be martyred—so willing for God to have His way, live or die. I said, "Lord, I am willing to die any way you see fit. Maybe it will take that for my children to be saved." Oh, how I love Him, for He gave His life for me and all the world of people. If I could give my life for my children and cause them to be saved, I would willingly do it. I have heard people say they would give their life. I don't know whether I ever said this before, but I can truly say it now. Praise the Lord!

Oh, how I appreciate God's children as never before, and how the saints at Guthrie have prayed for me in every request I have sent, and how the Lord has answered prayer. I experienced so much of God's Word being fulfilled during this test. I thought of so many precious scriptures. I am so glad that I have read the precious Bible and know His precious promises are for me. I am so glad I found the Lord in my youth. I just observed my 80th birthday on the 25th of April. The Lord has been with me all the way. —Sister O. K. Myers

(As this issue goes to press, word is received from Sis. Myers' daughter that Sister Myers is now very ill and requests special prayer for her.—Ed.)

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

Kansas—Dear readers everywhere: Just a note to you this morning. May this encourage some of you along the way.

I promised the Lord that if He would heal my children again I would testify through the "Faith and Victory" paper. The childhood diseases were going through our neighborhood. One of my children, who is quite frail by nature, usually gets very sick even with minor diseases. I was so concerned and prayed much that the Lord would see fit to let her have only a light case. Praise the Lord, He answered prayer and she wasn't very sick at all. The others had them quite severely but the Lord healed them too. Also, I am thankful that the Lord undertook so that the children did not miss much school, and for so many other things.

How I do thank God for giving us His precious Son

Jesus to die on the cross in our place, and I know His precious blood can cleanse even me.

Please pray for these prayer requests which I have before the Lord. He knows all about them. Pray that He will bring these things about soon, for which I have been praying so long. I desire to be able to serve Him better. God bless and encourage each one of you.

—A Kansas Reader

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ohio—Dear ones at the Office: Greetings in Jesus' name. This leaves us saved and with a desire in our hearts to love and serve Him in the beauty of holiness. Hope all of you dear saints are well.

We are not so well in body, and at our age we can't get out and do for the Lord as we have done in the past, but we can still bear the fruits of the Spirit. We were privileged to go to Union City, Ind. last Sunday. We had a good meeting and got our souls blessed. Bro. Williams preached. It is hard for my husband to ride. His legs are so afflicted. He just can hardly walk any more. He has to use two canes, but the Lord certainly has been with us. We haven't turned to the help of man.

Dear ones, I am sending a special request for prayer. I have an inward affliction, and it is getting worse. I have had it for about six months. I feel that it will turn into something serious if God doesn't help me. Pray earnestly for the Lord to heal me, and I will surely give Him all the glory. The enemy of my soul tells me that I had better go to a doctor and find out what is wrong, but I don't want to give in to him by God's help. I do want to live closer and closer to the Lord and be ready when He calls. So please pray that He will give us grace in our last days. The toils of the road will seem nothing when we come to the end of life's way.

I do enjoy reading the Faith and Victory paper. It's the best that is put out. I hope you are much better with your limbs, Bro. Pruitt.

Pray for my loved ones that they will get saved. May God keep all of you in His love is our prayer. Yours in Christ,

—Bro. and Sister W. R. Jenkins

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mo.—Dear Saints: I have received so many good letters from the dear saints. I do not have words to express my heartfelt thanks. I am not able to answer all of them as my vision is so dim. So I will extend my thanks and continue to pray the blessings of God on each one.

I hope the saints will read this and remember me in your prayers. I am happy in the Lord. After I got the hard fall on the floor I was not able to kneel in prayer for some time. The dear Lord has blessed me so much that now I can kneel. Praise our God forevermore.

—Sister Minnie Noakes

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Arkansas—Dear Sister Anna Marie and all: I surely do thank the dear Lord that He saw fit to spare our daughter when it looked as though she was near death. Thank all of you for your prayers for her. You will never know just how much it meant to me to know that when you said you would go right to prayer that you would do just that. Continue to pray for her and us.

Come over our way if you ever have the opportunity. Love to all,

—Vera Dotson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ohio—Dear Saints of God: Greetings to all of you in the precious name of Jesus. "I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving." God has been so good to me. I give His great name all the honor and glory for it.

I have been very afflicted in my body for some time. I was holding on to God for my healing. Many prayers went up to God in my behalf, and I thank each of you for praying and fasting for me. God, in His mercy, has undertaken for me and begun to heal these afflictions. I had sore places on my body and today they are gone. Praise God! I am so glad that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We have a rich heritage in Christ. I am holding on and looking for complete deliverance. If God can forgive every sin, He can also heal every sickness and disease. "My soul, wait thou only upon God, for my expectation is from him."

May the Lord bless and keep each of you.

Yours in Christ,

—Annie Stills

## Is Murmuring Sin?

Phil. 2:14 says, "Do all things without murmurings and disputings, that ye may be blameless and harmless the sons of God. . . ." Then to be the sons of God we must be blameless—without murmuring. So murmuring must be sin, for it is sin only that keeps us from being the sons of God.

There are other things which are in the same class as murmuring, such as complaining, grumbling, criticizing, fault-finding and no doubt many more. We need to guard against these things lest we be overtaken and fall into condemnation.

I wonder if those who murmur against and criticize the pastors, evangelists and ministers realize how serious their actions are? The Word of God says in Psa. 105:15, "Touch not mine anointed and do my prophets no harm." How can we destructively criticize the ministers and others, and still keep clear before God? We are again instructed in Hebrews 13:17, "Obey them that have the rule [margin—guide the rule] over you and submit yourselves, for they watch for your souls. . . ." How can we respect God's anointed and at the same time hinder them by malicious criticism? It cannot be so. God help us. When we think they are not doing just right, let us start praying for them. I believe that would solve many problems.

Moses prayed for God to forgive the children of Israel for this sin of murmuring. The Apostle Paul warns us against murmuring in 1 Cor. 10:10, 11 in these words: "Neither murmured ye as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition. . . ." Let us take warning from the sad experiences of the Israelites who murmured against Moses, whom God had chosen to be the leader of His people. Many were swallowed up in an earthquake and fire came from the temple and burned others, showing that the wrath of God was kindled against those who criticized and opposed their God-given leader. Neither will He tolerate the same sin today.

But thanks be unto God for His mercy and love to forgive us of these sins and to cleanse from all unrighteousness IF WE REPENT OF THEM. But sin, unrepented of, will keep us out of heaven.

—Flossie Atha

## The Better Financial System

Those who believe in paying tithes are ready to cry that if the tithing system be abolished there remains no scriptural financial system. But in this they mistake, like law-teachers generally concerning most matters. The Savior has given us a financial system in the gospel that is better by far than the system set forth in Moses' law.

Jesus' system is far superior to the Mosaic system as regards these matters; for He positively forbids the laying up of treasures on earth. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal." Matt. 6:19. "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Luke 12:16-21. These texts set forth the sentiment of the entire New Testament. No jubilee is taught, nor any year of release; because none is needed. Jesus cuts off the necessity for either by striking at the very head of the evil, and forbidding the laying up of treasures on earth. In Luke 12:33, 34 He commanded, "Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." These teachings of Christ are very easily comprehended; for the command is to sell our superabundance of treasures and lay them up in heaven.

But some would ask, May we not lay up a great fortune for our children when we are gone? I answer, No: his teaching nowhere allows it. When he commanded us not to lay up treasures on earth he inserted no exceptional clause; so we are to understand it in its absolute sense. It is all right to do business and make money under the gospel; in fact, it is wrong not to exercise ourselves in that direction; for we are commanded to be "not slothful in business." Rom. 12:11. The apostle Paul sums up the legitimate objects of making money under the gospel under two heads, as follows:

First, to provide for our families. "But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." 1 Tim. 5:8. "For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children." 2 Cor. 12:14. The latter text some hold to teach the hoarding up of wealth for our children after we are dead, but this is refuted by the context. Paul makes use of these words when speaking of his refusal of means from the hands of the Corinthians. This shows that the language refers only to the providing of necessary food and raiment for the children. If he had intended to teach the duty of laying up treasures for our descendants after our death, he would have enjoined a duty that many Christians could not perform.

Second, to have something to give to the needy. "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth." Eph. 4:28. This would include the challenging needs of the gospel work at home and abroad.

John Wesley has beautifully set forth the financial system of the New Testament in his sermon on money, in which he maintained that we are required, first, to make all the money we can; second, to save all the money we can; third, to give all the money we can.

The New Testament financial system so far as pertains to the maintenance of ministers of the gospel is as follows: "The Lord hath ordained that they which preach the gospel shall live of the gospel." 1 Cor. 9:14. But they are not allowed to make any charges for their preaching. They are commanded inasmuch as they have freely received the gospel, to give it freely. Matt. 10:8. It must be delivered without charge. 1 Cor. 9:18. According to this, stipulated salaries are unscriptural. God's ministers are to trust the Lord fully for their living, and the Lord in answer to their prayers will move the people to bestow upon them free-will offerings sufficient for their support. God commands the laity to communicate (give) to the ministry of all good things for their support. Gal. 6:6. But they are not to be driven to this giving by taxation, but should be taught by the ministers to give cheerfully and from the good purpose of their hearts. 2 Cor. 9:7.

This is in truth a better financial system than that of the Old Testament. The Levitical priesthood under their system obtained their living by taxation; hence needed not to trust the Lord for it. Under the New Testament system God's ministers do not receive their living by taxation, but by faith in God. This gives them a chance to develop their faith, and thus make themselves more efficient as ministers of the gospel. The New Testament system also tends to keep the ministry pure; for except men are clear before God, they can not trust Him for their living.

The proper way to gather money in the church under the New Testament system is set forth in 1 Cor. 16:1, 2—"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." According to this text each local assembly should have a treasury established. A box or something of the kind should be provided, into which each Christian could place his liberalities every Lord's day. This may be stationed at the door or in any convenient place, and thus avoid the passing of baskets, etc., to the disgust of unbelievers.

—Wm. G. Schell, in 1899

—o—

Though much is being said these days about the second coming of Christ, the question arises:—What about the millions who have never heard about His first coming?

## *The Soul's Companion*

Alone and lost into the night,  
Sinking into life's wild sea;  
My God above  
With tender love,  
Sent wondrous grace to me.

Grace led me on to freedom's shore,  
With tender voice that charmed me.  
Without a doubt  
I sing and shout,  
I'm safe and fully free.

It taught me truth and righteousness,  
Denying self and worldly fame.  
It will prevail,  
If I do not fail,  
By conquering in His name.

It taught me how to watch and pray,  
And foil the tempter's luring power.  
By yielding all  
I will not fall—  
Grace keeps me every hour.

O wondrous Grace, still lead me on;  
Let me not from thee sever.  
Though storms arise  
To claim my prize,  
I'll cling to thee forever.

If I should gain my crown at last,  
And stake my claim on Heaven's shore,  
God's grace I'll praise  
Through endless days,  
And shout forevermore.

—Donald Sharp

### WHEN I GO AWAY

When I leave this world, I shall leave behind  
All the things I've ever thought of as mine:  
Children, friends, home, and this frail house of clay  
Must be left here on earth when I go away.  
Since earth's treasures for time only shall be,  
I must plan ahead for eternity.  
Poor indeed I shall find myself, I know,  
If all I've lived for is this world below.  
Just what I've done in His name and for Him  
Is what I shall have that life to begin.  
Treasures in heaven, no moth can corrupt—  
Those things I shall never have to give up.

—May P. Thiell

## BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll, \$1.50; Lesson cards, 10c

July 2, 1961

### MARY: CONSECRATED MOTHERHOOD

Printed Portion ..... Luke 1:26-35, 38; John 19:25-27

Luke 1:26. And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

27. To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

28. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

29. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

30. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

31. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33. And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

34. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

35. And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

38. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

John 19:25. Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

26. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

27. Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

Memory Verse: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour, for he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. Luke 1:46-48.

Practical Truth: Mothers have reason for rejoicing to-day if they successfully train their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lessons for this quarter will be biographical studies. They will be about personalities of the New Testament. The quarter will begin with the study of Mary, the mother of our Lord. It was a wonderful thing for Mary to be chosen from all the virgins in that day to become the mother of Jesus, yet we do not believe as the Roman Catholics. They pray to her as though she were a substitute for Christ. They attempt to teach that there was no taint of sin about her. We do not believe this theory. She was one of the 120 on the day of Pentecost who received the cleansing and infilling of the Holy Spirit.

Teachings today try to do away with the virginity of Mary and her conception by the Holy Ghost, but our lesson gives ample proof that those teachings are false. The event of "espoused" or the betrothal usually preceded the marriage by a year. The engagement ceremony was the beginning of the marriage ceremony. A woman could not be put away during that period without a divorce. Mary had a legal husband when the announcement was made by Gabriel. It was hard for Mary to take it all in, but verse 37 says, "For with God nothing shall be impossible." To strengthen her faith, Gabriel gives her

the news that her cousin Elizabeth in her old age was to have a son who would be six months older than Jesus.

July 9, 1961

### ANDREW, A FISHER OF MEN

Printed Portion.....John 1:35-42; Matt. 4:18-20; John 6:8-9

John 1:35. Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

36. And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

37. And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

38. Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

39. He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

40. One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

41. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

42. And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

Matt. 4:18. And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

19. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

20. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

John 6:8. One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,

9. There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

Memory Verse: Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. Mark 1:17.

Practical Truth: To bring others to Jesus is one of the most blessed attainments that man can achieve.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Andrew with others traveled 75 miles to Judea to see and hear the great preacher, John the Baptist, who was stirring the multitudes of that day. One day as Christ walked by, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" Andrew and another disciple heard him speak and they followed Jesus. How happy they were to find the Messiah. The news was too good to keep. "Whom shall I tell first," no doubt Andrew thought. He hurried to his brother Peter and said, "We have found the Messiah." And our lesson said, "And he brought him to Jesus." Have you found the Saviour? Is that new-found joy bubbling up in your soul today? Are you still anxious to tell others about Jesus, your new-found Friend? If so, then I am sure you are a worker for Jesus, like Andrew. Those who bring others to Jesus have a profound concern for the welfare of souls. They genuinely desire to see sinners find a way out of their sins which have them bound in darkness and despair. I can't understand how anyone who has found Jesus as their Savior can be satisfied in doing nothing to help others find Him. Jesus wants us to be "fishers of men." It takes patience, wisdom from above and earnest prayer to lead others to Jesus. We need more Andrews

today. Other glimpses of Andrew are found in Mark 3:18 and John 12:23-36.

July 16, 1961

### MATTHEW, THE CONVERTED PUBLICAN

Printed Portion .....Matthew 9:9-13; 10:1-4

Matt. 9:9. And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.

10. And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples.

11. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?

12. But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.

13. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Matt. 10:1. And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

2. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

3. Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus; and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

4. Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

Memory Verse: He left all, rose up, and followed him. Luke 5:28.

Practical Truth: Salvation is provided for all classes of people.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Jesus had a great work that needed to be done. His mission here in this world was an important one. He was to be in His ministry only three years. He needed men who would carry on after He was gone. His choice of those who would be close to Him and then be able to tell the world afterwards was important. We notice that He did not call the learned men of the day. Worldly wisdom did not enter into His choice of apostles. He needed humble, honest, and hard-working men. We do not find where he chose a lazy person, but they were all busy men.

Our lesson today is about Matthew, whom Jesus chose to be one of His disciples. Matthew wrote the book of Matthew in the New Testament. Matthew was a tax collector or a customs officer outside Capernaum. This was a caravan route between Damascus and the Mediterranean Sea. In those days some collectors were very dishonest and would collect more than they should and keep some for themselves, but we do not have any reason to think this of Matthew. We find that he was obedient to the call. He immediately left all and went with Jesus. Not only did he follow Him but wanted his friends to meet Him too. He had a feast and it seems that Jesus was the honored guest. In those days a feast was a public affair. Others could stand around and watch the invited guests eat. Jesus was criticized for eating with sinners. He made it clear that He came to save sinners. How could He have helped them if He had avoided them?



July 23, 1961

## MARY AND MARTHA, FRIENDS OF JESUS

Printed Portion ..... Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-5; 12:1-3

Luke 10:38. Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

39. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

40. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

41. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

42. But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

John 11:1. Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

2. (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

3. Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

4. When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

5. Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.

John 12:1. Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.

2. There they made him a supper: and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.

3. Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

Memory Verse: Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God which should come into the world. John 11:27.

Practical Truth: The thing most needful in life is fellowship with Christ.

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson covers three accounts about this wonderful family that Jesus especially loved. When we think of the sorrow of our Lord, it is a comfort to know He did have some true friends while here on earth. Their love for Him was overwhelming. The first part of our lesson tells about one of His visits to their home. Martha was genuinely interested in His physical welfare. She desired to show her love and concern, yet Jesus knew her soul needed food also. He gently told her that only "one thing is needful." I am sure this was an important message and is a sermon within itself. What could be more important than the soul? It will live on and on, but the body will go back to dust as well as every other earthly thing. We should put first things first. Truly only one thing is most important, and that is to be certain that the soul is ready to meet God before the hour of death.

It was a sorrowful day, yet a wonderful day when Jesus came and spoke to Lazarus in the tomb and he came forth. The glory of the Lord was shown forth that day and many believed. There is a purpose in every delay of a prayer being answered. Trust the Lord and rest in Him because He does all things well.

July 30, 1961

## THOMAS: THROUGH DOUBT TO FAITH

Printed Portion ..... John 11:7-8, 16; 14:3-6; 20:24-29

John 11:7. Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judea again.

8. His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?

16. Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellow-disciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.

John 14:3. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

4. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

5. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

6. Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 20:24. But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

25. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord, But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

26. And after eight days, again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst and said, Peace be unto you.

27. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

28. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

29. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Memory Verse: Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. John 20:29.

Practical Truth: There is evidence concerning Christ which should be sufficient to lead any honest doubter to faith in Him.

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We do not know very much about Thomas, but we do know he was one of Jesus' disciples. Our first part of the lesson overlaps last Sunday's lesson. Jesus had left Jerusalem because the Jews had sought to stone Him. But after Jesus heard about the sickness and death of Lazarus He decided to go back there. The disciples didn't feel that it was wisdom, but when He decided to go, Thomas spoke up and showed his great love for Jesus. He was willing to die with Him. He showed forth what was in him. After such a firm statement, if there was any draw back in the others they didn't show it. Sometimes our firmness will help those who are wavering to stand firm. Anyway their willingness to die with Jesus brought a great blessing to them. They witnessed the miracle of Lazarus being brought forth from the dead, and I am sure their faith was strengthened. If we are willing to face hard things, God will bless us the same way. Thomas wanted to see Jesus for himself after His resurrection. His doubts were all dispelled when Jesus appeared to him. A greater blessing is pronounced upon us today. We believe, though we have not seen Him with our natural eyes. There are doubters today, but if we will live the life and teach the Truth under the Holy Spirit's anointing it will dispel the doubts of some. Many times they become staunch disciples of Jesus.

—Sister Marie Miles