

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

## Church of God Servant



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### *To The Followers of Jesus*

The earth is filled with violence,  
Famine, pestilence and woe;  
As it was in the days of Noah,  
Even today God finds it so.

Are the angels gazing sadly  
O'er the wicked world below,  
Seeking vainly for God's reapers  
In the needy fields and low?

Does the Lord of this great harvest  
Hear their last despairing cry,  
"Send forth laborers or we perish,  
And in our sins we die?"

Where are his zealous children,  
That the laborers are so few?  
Have they forsaken Him, as Demas,  
For the vain world's gaudy show?

Have they left the plains of Mamre,  
As did unwise Lot of old,  
And turned their eyes toward Sodom  
To gather of its gold?

Think of poor, misguided Esau,  
Weeping bitterly the while—  
He had sold his precious birthright  
For a mess of pottage vile.

Would we gain a crown eternal,  
We must choose our ways like Paul,  
And at the feet of Jesus  
Lay our lives and talents all.

—Olive McFarling

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners . . . " Psa. 1:1. " . . . and Peter stood with them and warmed himself." John 18:18. While Jesus was being questioned by the high priest Peter was warming himself by the fire of Jesus' enemies. That atmosphere and environment was conducive to compromise.

### *President Lincoln's Proclamation*

**A Proclamation for a Day of National Humiliation,  
Fasting and Prayer**

By His Excellency, Abraham Lincoln,  
President of the U. S. A.

WHEREAS, The Senate of the U. S.; devoutly recognizing the Supreme authority and just government of Almighty God in all the affairs of men and nations, has, by a resolution, requested the President to designate and set apart a day for National prayer and humiliation.

And whereas, it is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.

And inasmuch as we know that by His Divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments in this world. May we not greatly fear that the awful calamity of the cruel war which now desolates the land, may be a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptive sins, to the needful end of our National reformation as a whole people.

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown.

**But we have forgotten God!**

We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us. And have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!

**It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before**

the offended power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

Now, therefore, in compliance with the request, and fully concurring in the views of the Senate, I do, by this my proclamation, designate and set apart Thursday, the 30th day of April, 1863, as a day of National Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer. And I do hereby request all the people to abstain on that day from all their ordinary, secular pursuits, and to unite in their several places of public worship and their respective homes, in keeping the day holy to the Lord and devoted to the discharge of the religious duties proper to that solemn occasion.

All this being done, in sincerity and truth, let us then rest humbly in hope, authorized by the Divine teachings, that the united cry of the nation will be heard on high, and answered with blessings, no less the pardon of our national sins, the restoration of our now divided and suffering country, to its former happy condition of unity and peace.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Seal of the U. S. to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington the 30th day of March, in the year of our Lord 1863.

Signed by ABRAHAM LINCOLN,  
President of the U. S. A.

William H. Seward, Secretary of State

(Editor's comment: The above statements should be an eye-opener to the rulers of our nation today. If there ever was a time when our nation as a whole needed to humiliate themselves in fasting and prayer, it is surely now! Speaking in a general sense, our people have become proud and haughty, heady and high-minded. Many of those who do profess Christ honor Him only with their mental faculties and with very little heart service.

Oh, that we had a man in the president's chair today who would honor God in proclaiming a day of prayer, ratified by the Senate, as stated in the above prayer proclamation. It would, no doubt, be a lengthening of our tranquility as a nation. But the sad fact is that our people have drifted so far from real faith in God that they have elected a president who is a member of the apostate Catholic church and subject to a foreign pope. Many of the elected senators are skeptics, infidels and atheists who regard not the will of God.

The people of Nineveh believed the word spoken by the prophet Jonah. The king heard the message and proclaimed a fast and said, "Let neither man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything: let them not feed, nor drink water: but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn everyone from his evil way, and from the violence that is in his hand. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, and we perish not? And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not."

It seems to me that the need of our country is

so great in these perilous times that the President and Senate should call the nation to repentance and humiliation with three days of fasting and prayer. Then every individual should forsake his pleasure-loving and sinful ways by turning to God with his whole heart, and give to God the honor and reverence which is due His name and His Word. Let us pray for the rulers of our land as the Apostle Paul exhorts us in the Word.)

## SOUND DOCTRINE

I feel impressed to write on the urgent need for the preaching and teaching of "sound doctrine," and shall call your attention to some Scriptural reading on the effect of teaching that which is "not sound doctrine."

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom, **preach the word**, be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure **sound doctrine**, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears, and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, **make full proof of thy ministry.**" 2 Tim. 4: 1-4. This was a solemn charge from the aged Apostle Paul to the young minister, Timothy, that he should **make full proof** of his ministry. This instruction is for us today as much as it was for Timothy. Paul said that the time would come (and I fully believe it is here now) when teachers are being heaped together for the purpose of deceiving God's saints. Timothy was instructed to "preach the Word" which is "sound doctrine." Now the plain Word is "sound doctrine" but many interpretations present an easy, soft way of life—all love and no judgment. Some translations of the Bible are good, but interpretation in the foot-notes is where the poison lies, and would endeavor to deceive the very elect if it were possible.

A minister preaching on pride said that a long dress was no indication of spirituality. On the other hand, what would a short dress indicate? The Word of God teaches that "modest apparel" is becoming to a saint. If the current style were long dresses, many would wear them instead of the shorter ones being worn today. The dresses which are nearly to the knees are not modest. Oh, where are the old-time, definite, radical preachers who will lay judgment to the line and righteousness to the plummet? I will admit that the trend of the times is calling for a diluted doctrine.

Some ministers preach all love and mercy. Some preach judgment with love which will bring real conviction and true repentance unto real Bible salvation. Judgment which causes an individual to reach a full, godly sorrow for sin will find pardon full and complete. God will fill his soul with His divine love, which is the new birth. All love and no judgment

brings no conviction for sin, and is a compromising gospel.

When judgments are withheld many erroneous doctrines creep in among the saints. A loose gospel lays a foundation for loose living, and souls will come up before God in that final day, be weighed in the balances and "found wanting." Oh, how sad! And all because some have failed to cry aloud against the worldliness that would creep in. Even when the laws of the land are not executed against crime, then it flourishes.

Pride in the heart will manifest itself in many ways, not alone in dress. A Sister once said she heard a message on the wearing of gold, went home and read 1 Peter 3:3 seven times and it read the same way each time. In her heart she wanted it to justify her in wearing gold, for her heart was demanding or wanting it. God's ministers will be to blame for the loss of precious souls in eternity if they have failed to preach God's Word faithfully. God said in Ezek. 3:17, "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel. **Therefore hear the word from my mouth and give them warning from me.** When I say unto the wicked, thou shalt surely die, and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way to save his life, the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity, but thou hast delivered thy soul."

Now listen to more of the precious word of God. "How is the faithful city become an harlot! It was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water." Isaiah 1:21, 22. The pure gospel had been diluted with soft, easy preaching. Judgment means that we are to condemn what God's Word condemns, and we are to teach and practice it that way—not ease up on it. Wine mixed with water is a diluted gospel that will not come forth clear, definite, full of holy power and conviction. The Spirit of God calls for a gospel that will carry conviction to the hearts of men and women.

May God bless this message of love, mercy and judgment to every soul is our prayer.

Your Brother in the Lord and your servant for Jesus' sake,  
—E. M. Zinn

## Murder! Murder! Murder!

When Mr. R—, from Baltimore, was seized with cholera, he sent for me to come and see him, and said to me when I entered his room, "My wife, who is a Christian woman, has been writing me ever since I came here to make your acquaintance and attend your church, but I have not done it; and what is worse, I am about to leave the world without a preparation to meet God." He was as noble-looking a man as could be found in a thousand, and knowing many of his friends in Baltimore I felt the greatest possible sympathy for him; my soul loved him, and

I determined, if possible, to contest the devil's claim on him to the last moment of his life. But he was in despair, and after laboring with him about an hour, in urging him to try to fix his mind on some precious promise of the Bible, he said:

"There is but one passage in the Bible that I can call to mind, and that haunts me. I can think of nothing else, for it exactly suits my case: 'He that, being often reprov'd, hardeneth his heart, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.' Mr. Taylor," he continued, "It's no use to talk to me, or to try to do anything further; I am that man, and my doom is fixed."

The next day when I entered his room he said to a couple of young men present, "Go out, boys, I want to talk to Mr. Taylor." Then he said, "I have no hope, my doom is fixed; but, for the warning to others, I want to tell you something that occurred a few months ago. I was then in health, and doing a good business, and a man said to me, 'Dick, how would you like to have clerkship?' and I replied, 'I wouldn't have a clerkship under Jesus Christ.' Now, sir, that is the way I treated Christ when I thought I did not need Him; and now when I'm dying, and can do no better for this life, it's presumption to offer myself to Him. It is no use; He won't have me."

Nothing that I could say seemed to have any effect toward changing his mind. A few hours afterward, when he felt the icy grasp of death upon his heart, he cried, "Boys, help me out of this place!"

"Oh no, Dick, you're too sick; we cannot help you up."

"Oh do help me up; I can't lie here!"

"Oh Dick, don't exert yourself so; you'll hasten your death."

"Boys," said the poor fellow, "if you don't help me up, I'll cry Murder!" and with that he cried at the top of his voice, which was yet strong and clear, "Murder! murder! murder!" till life's tide ebbed out, and his voice was hushed in death. How dreadful the hazard of postponing the business of life, the great object for which life is given, to the hour when heart and flesh are failing!

—From "Dying Testimonies of Saved and Unsaved"

## NOTICE OF GENERAL MINISTERS' MEETING

According to the decision of the ministers attending the Missouri and Oklahoma campmeetings this summer, there will be a general ministers' meeting held at the Church of God chapel on the corner of 6th & West Warner Streets, Guthrie, Okla., on October 5th, 6th, and 7th, 1961. This is strictly a ministers' meeting and open only to generally recognized ministers among the saints. If you are such a minister, you should be present if at all possible. Every congregation should see that its pastor has funds for traveling expenses to and from this meeting, which is being held for the benefit of the Church of God in general.

The dining hall and dormitories here at Guthrie will be available to the ministers. Donations from the saints to meet the expenses of food and utilities would be appreciated. You may send your offering to the treasurer of the Oklahoma Campmeeting, Bro. M. A. Davis, R. 2, Guthrie, Okla.

**"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 secret and religious orders organized and governed by man.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Co-operation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way the Bible and the Holy Spirit teaches you to do or stirs your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 24:2; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

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

In order to comply with the Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

**FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE**

P. O. Box 713, 920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma  
Phone No. BUTler 2-1479

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**

The Lord permitted us to attend three of the campmeetings this summer, and we surely did enjoy the association and fellowship of the dear saints at each and every meeting.

The first campmeeting we attended was the General Southern at Hammond, La. It seemed so good to be there and look into the faces of the saints, many of whom we have known for years. This meeting was very profitable in the edification of the saints, saving of souls and sanctifying of believers. In our younger days we did quite a lot of evangelistic work in Louisiana and Mississippi, and many souls were saved. The Apostle Paul exhorts us to be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for our labor is not in vain in the Lord.

The National campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo. was the next we attended. This National meeting in the central part of the country was well attended and crowds swarmed the campground day by day. Many souls were saved all through the meeting, believers were sanctified, and more bodies were healed than usual. The preaching was in the power and demonstration of the Spirit. The devil was greatly defeated and Christ was honored with powerful witnesses to the resurrected, living Lord.

The next campmeeting was the Oklahoma State here at Guthrie, Okla. This meeting was very beneficial and well attended. The preaching was clear and to the point. The Holy Ghost worked through His ministers, reproving the world of sin and the works of Satan. Souls were saved, believers sanctified all through the meeting which ended with victory for the saints in light.

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Here are some meditations on the blood of Christ which will work a perfect cure for all the ills of the soul of man if properly applied by a living faith. Glory be to God forever!

The giving of God's Son as a blood sacrifice for sin was not in vain to all that believe. The Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world, has given us a perfect cure for that sin which causes men to sin. When the cause of a thing is taken away, that which gives trouble and distress, then we are free, for the works of Satan are destroyed. (1 John 3:8). There is power in the blood of Christ, if believed, to save the soul and to keep one saved. Those who reject the blood of Christ will find that there is power in His blood to condemn their souls to hell where the worm dieth not and the fire is never quenched. Your soul will never die, but because you rejected the only blood sacrifice ever made for your sins, God's pleasure will not be upon you, but hell and torment will be the only place of abode for your soul in eternity.

In Lev. 17:11 we read, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your sins: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." How true it is that the literal blood is the life of every living creature. When the blood in your body ceases to flow through the body, it becomes a dead body. As the blood is the life to your physical body so the blood of Christ is the life to your soul—the inner man. A bloodless religion is a dead religion. Without the blood of Christ they would naturally depend upon their own works, their self-righteousness which, the Lord says, is only "filthy rags" in His sight. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins. Paul says that we are not saved by works, lest any man should boast, but by grace are you saved through faith in His blood as an atonement for your sins.

When the Israelites put the blood of the slain lamb (which was typical of the blood of Christ) on the doorposts, the death angel, passing through that night, had respect to the blood, passed over that house and the inmates were left unharmed because of the blood. But not so with the Egyptians. When the death angel saw no blood, the firstborn of that family died, and there was great mourning and wailing throughout Egypt. The blood of Christ on your heart today will cause God to pass over you, have peace with Him and be free from all condemnation.

When Cain killed his brother, Abel, his blood cried unto God for vengeance. God said to Cain, "Sin lieth at the door," and He did avenge Abel's blood. However, we read in Hebrews 12:24 that the blood of Christ "speaketh better things than that of Abel." Abel's blood cried unto God for vengeance, but the blood of Christ cries unto God to have mercy upon sinful man. In His blood we have forgiveness of sins, as we read in Eph. 1:7, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." Again we read in Col. 1:14, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." In 1 Peter 1:18, 19 we learn that we were "not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

In Rev. 1:5 we learn that Christ "loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood." Water baptism is merely a figure (1 Peter 3:21) of this washing in Jesus' blood. Without first being saved by the blood of Christ your water baptism would all be in vain. You would be yet in your sins. Most all those who teach water baptism as a saving ordinance also teach that one cannot live free from sin in this life. Therefore, their water baptism avails nothing—they are left in their sins. But the blood of Christ "cleanseth us from all sin," so we can by His grace live free from sin in this life and be at peace with God through Christ.

The Church of God was purchased by His blood. Read it in Acts 20:28 where Paul exhorts the pastors "to feed the Church of God which he hath purchased

with his own blood." Yes, my beloved brethren and sisters, there is power in the blood of Jesus to save from all sin and to keep one saved, for the blood will work a perfect cure, will cleanse the heart and keep it pure.

Isaiah says in chapter 53:5, "But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." In the 8th verse we read, "He was taken from prison and from judgment: who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken."

In Zech. 13:1 we read, "In that day [the gospel day] there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David [we are his house] and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem [we are inhabitants of new Jerusalem] for sin and for uncleanness." "There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins, and sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains. The dying thief rejoiced to see THAT FOUNTAIN in his day: and there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins away."

Let us make the blood of Christ our plea before the throne of God, and not depend on water baptism or any outward work to gain heaven. To do so would be trying to climb up some other way, or trying to rob God of the sacrifice of His Son for man's sin. Christ's blood speaks before the throne of God, and His alone.

#### BIBLES, BOOKS AND CARDS

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#### Obituaries

Sister Lonnie Cleland, known as Sissie Cleland, passed to her eternal rest June 6, 1961 at the age of 81 years past. Funeral services were conducted at the Schoen Funeral Home at Covington, La. assisted by the undersigned, and interment was in the Waldheim, La. Cemetery on June 7th.

We knew her for a number of years as a real devoted saint of God, who loved the Lord and his saints. She attended services as long as she was able at the Long Branch saints' chapel. After she was unable to come out to services we would stop at her home to read and pray with her.

Her husband, Bro. Lonnie Cleland, passed away sev-

eral years ago, and she leaves one nephew, cousins and several relatives by marriage. We believe she is at rest with Jesus whom she dearly loved.

—Sister Katherine Key

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L. C. Alexander was born May 23, 1914 near Eufaula, Okla. and died June 17, 1961 at Hoffman, Okla.

On September 16, 1933 he was united in marriage to the former Miss Laura Ligans. No children were born to this union.

He leaves to mourn his passing: his wife, Mrs. Laura Alexander, of Hoffman, Okla., a grandmother, two sisters, one brother, a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Lewis Williams, assisted by Bros. Woodrow Warren and W. W. Crawley.

We take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to all for your prayers and love shown during this time of sorrow. May the Lord bless and reward each of you.

—The Alexander Family

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Sister Sadie (Bell) Nave was born in Lexington, Mo. on Nov. 10, 1879 and passed from this life on July 1, 1961 at the age of 81 years.

Sister Nave moved to Pomona, Calif. in 1942 and lived in this vicinity ever since. She attended services with the Pomona congregation of saints many years until disabled by failing health about five years ago.

Her husband having preceded her in death several years ago, she is survived by one brother, Judson Bell, of Granby, Mo.; two sisters, Mrs. Virginia Cochrane of Kansas City, Mo. and Mrs. Ruth Perkins of Salina, Kan.

Sister Nave loved and served the Lord many years. Her testimony four days before her passing was that she was fully ready and asked us to pray the Lord to take her home.

Funeral services were conducted by Sister LaVern Manuel and Sister Opal Wilson. Texts used: James 4: 13-14.

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Marjorie Edith (Barbee) Williams, the only daughter of Robert and Ethel Barbee, was born June 4, 1925 at Los Angeles, Calif. She departed this life May 17, 1961 at Los Angeles at the age of 35 years, 11 months and 18 days.

Most of her life was spent in Compton, Calif. where she was married to Harold Williams on Sept. 9, 1953. She had been in poor health for a number of years and would call for the saints to pray for her many times. About Easter Sunday 1961 she made her decision to be a Christian.

She is survived by her devoted husband and loving mother, Ethel (Stover) Barbee. Her father preceded her in death a number of years ago. She was the niece of Bro. Ira Stover and leaves many other relatives.

She wrote some beautiful poems, one of which is the following and was read at her funeral:

#### THE NIGHT

Each night a myriad of stars lay twinkling in the western sky;

Glittering there where all may see them, lighting up the heavens so high.

Each one in its lonely orbit sends its rays on us below, Lends its everlasting presence to us travelers where'er we go.

Though we travel o'er vast oceans or o'er great lands the world to span,

We may know that they have shown there ever since the world began.

They have shown on those before us and will shine on those to come,

Making night a time of splendor from twilight to the dawn.

They care not our race or color or what wealth we may possess;

God has given them to cheer and comfort us in our hours of loneliness.

Funeral services were conducted at Compton, Calif. with Bro. Erbe and Bro. Ostis Wilson officiating.

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Amanda Elizabeth Alexander, daughter of Green and Mary Ann Triplett, was born August 10, 1868 in Hopkins County, Texas and departed this life to live with Jesus on July 16, 1961 at the age of 92 years, eleven months and six days.

In 1883 she was united in marriage to Berry Owen Alexander. To this union 15 children were born. Seven children preceded her in death, also her husband in 1943. After her marriage she went with her husband in 1899 to the Indian Territory which is now Oklahoma, and had occasion for some real pioneering.

She had lived in California since 1946. In 1957, because of failing health, she went to make her home with her daughter, Mrs. Opal Wilson, in Pacoima, Calif. where she remained until she passed through the Pearly Gates at an early hour on Sunday morning.

Mother Alexander gave her heart to God many years ago and lived a constant, consistent and continuous Christian life. She possessed a firm faith and strong trust in Almighty God, taking Him for all of her needs in life both spiritually, physically and materially. Her pastor often told us that Mother Alexander was a real easy person to pray for when she had any problem, burden or sickness. She met the Church of God Evening Light Saints some fifty years or more ago and accepted that faith and teaching as her way of life and never turned from that faith throughout the remainder of her life. She spent more than five years in bed and I am sure those must have been trying years, but she never at any time became impatient, unkind or failed to appreciate every little service and attention rendered her. The test of anyone's faith is surely the fruit they bear in the most trying circumstances of life.

She is survived by eight children—four sons; J. J. Alexander, Yorba Linda, Calif., G. W. Alexander, Pencil Bluff, Ark., R. F. Alexander, Richmond, Calif. and R. L. Alexander, Wynnewood, Oklahoma; four daughters: Mrs. Myrtle Sutton, Pomona, Calif., Mrs. Lois Miller, Maplewood, La., Mrs. Opal Wilson, Pacoima, Calif. and Mrs. Ruth Mason, Pomona, Calif.; 18 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren, seven great-great-grandchildren, one sister, Cynthia Alexander, Downey, Calif.; one brother, Jesse Triplett, Albany, Oregon, a number of nieces, nephews, friends and saints.

Funeral services were conducted on Tuesday, July 18, in Pomona, Calif. with A. E. Harmon officiating. Interment in cemetery at Downey, Calif.

The Alexander family wishes to express their appreciation to everyone for the sympathy cards, letters, floral offerings and all the expressions of love extended them in their time of sorrow.

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Thomas Lee Lawson was born Nov. 16, 1876 at Springfield, Mo. and departed this life on July 5, 1961 at Spencer, Okla. at the age of 84 years, seven months and 19 days.

In 1955 he met and worshipped with the Evening Light Saints, and was loved by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Agnes Lawson, many friends and saints.

Funeral service was conducted by Bro. Lewis Williams, assisted by Bro. A. J. Bowman and Bro. Ulysses Phillips.

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Sister Ida B. Johnson, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Benford, was born Feb. 14, 1887 at Huttig, Ark. and passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Annie Mae Thomas, Bakersfield, Calif. at the age of 74 years, seven months and twelve days.

In 1907 she was united in matrimony to Mr. James Jenny, Sr. To this union four children were born, one dying in infancy. In 1908 they moved to Boley, Okla. In 1915 her husband passed away. In the latter part of 1915 she married Mr. William J. Johnson. To this union seven children were born. One child preceded her in death. On June 25, 1942 her husband passed away at Boley, Okla.

At an early age Sister Johnson was concerned about the welfare of her soul and lived a Christian life to all that she knew and understood. In 1943, while visiting her children in Bakersfield, she heard the teachings of the Church of God Evening Light Saints. She went to the altar and fully consecrated herself to the Lord. She then lived a constant, victorious life until her passing.

She leaves to mourn her passing: ten sons, James Penny, Jr., Okla. City, Okla., A. C. and Milton Lovell Johnson, Okla. City, Mencer, Roy and Willie, Boley, Okla., Leo Johnson, Okmulgee, Okla., Mansfield Johnson, Berkeley, Calif., Raymond and Jewell Leon Johnson, Wichita, Kansas; four daughters, Annie Mae Thomas, Rosie Lee Moland, and Lucille Francisco, all of Bakersfield, Calif., Lillie Stevenson, Okla. City; one brother, W. M. Benford, Chicago, Ill.; 46 grandchildren, 52 great grandchildren, seven nieces, five nephews, a host of other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Woodrow Warren, assisted by Bro. Crawley, Bro. Souder, and others. She was laid to rest in the Childsville Cemetery near Boley, Okla.

We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to each of you for your prayers and expression of love to us during our bereavement. May God bless each of you. —Frances Adams Chandler and Johnson family.

## Meeting Reports

### NATIONAL CAMPMEETING REPORT

The National Campmeeting of the Church of God convened at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo. on July 21, 1961 and continued ten days. The attendance was not quite as large as last year, but the Word of God was surely preached with much anointing. The doctrines of the Church were clearly set forth, along with salvation and evangelistic messages which brought heavy conviction on the sinners. Forty or more were at the altar during the campmeeting for spiritual help on different lines. Several baptismal services were held and a large number were baptized. About thirty ministers were in attendance, and many states were represented at the campmeeting. Two days of rain at the beginning of the meeting cooled the air and benefited the crops.

The ordinances of the Lord's House—the Lord's supper and feet-washing—were observed by 100 sisters and 62 brothers. The ordinance services were conducted by Bro. Ostis Wilson, impressing our minds and hearts of our blessed Lord's suffering and death on the cruel cross

for our eternal redemption of soul and body. We thought of the cup as a symbol of suffering and death for all of us. As Jesus looked into the cup He saw a picture of His own suffering and death, but looking further He saw eternal life for us in His death. In another picture He saw in His suffering a feeling of gladness, for with it eternal life was offered to all this world. Looking again in the cup He saw healing for all mankind. Looking deeper He saw a remedy for the troubles of all mankind. His death was not a failure.

In the ordinance of feet-washing is a real picture of true humility, bowing down before one another in the holy bonds of love and fellowship. The brothers washed the brothers' feet, and in another and separate room the sisters washed the sisters' feet, so that all things were done "decently and in order." Jesus left us a wonderful example to follow with the command that "ye ought to wash one another's feet."

The past year has brought much improvements on the campground, especially the interior of the tabernacle. Improvements are planned for the coming year if the Lord wills. A new roof is needed on the tabernacle, a substantial fence around the grounds and an enlarged dining hall. Some may think that God's work is going down, but no, never! God will find a holy remnant when He returns.

Let us make the coming year one of greater zeal, both in the work of the Lord and in our own souls, for the time is soon coming when man's labors will be past for eternity. Yours for Christ, —E. M. Zinn

### OKLAHOMA STATE CAMPMEETING REPORT

The Oklahoma State campmeeting here at Guthrie, Oklahoma has come and gone, and truly the Lord has blessed us with a good meeting. Several were saved; sanctified and healed of afflictions. If we live close to the Lord we can all retain much lasting good throughout the rest of the years ahead. Seven were baptized. We were blessed in the observing of the ordinances of the Lord's House. Several new ones were permitted to be with us who had not had the privilege of being in the saints' campmeeting or not for a long time, and were happy to find the saints still standing firm on all the Word of God.

Dear saints, let us all live real close to the Lord, for truly we know not what a day may bring forth. The coming of the Lord is close at hand and by all means let us be ready when He comes to receive His holy Bride to her heavenly home. Praise His name!

We were happy for the good number of ministers and the good messages the Lord sent forth, and trust they will be with us again. May the Lord bless both saved and unsaved.

Your Brother in Christ,

—Ira D. Stover

### REPORT OF JEFFERSON, ORE. CAMPMEETING

Greetings to the saints abroad: We feel that it would be to the glory of God to give a brief report on the Jefferson, Oregon campmeeting.

We can say of a truth that God blessed in the meeting, especially in the preaching of His Word. He sent forth many wonderful messages on His Church, as well as on many other lines, and here are some of the results.

Two ministers, brothers from the same family, attended the meeting. They had been standing alone from sectism for many years. After listening to the truth as it went forth, both of them testified, "We have seen more light." They took their stand with the saints and wanted to be baptized again.



A man came from Vancouver, Canada who said that God spoke to him and said, "You have one more chance to be saved." He went to the altar and prayed through.

An elderly lady 85 years old said that she had "professed for many years and never had an experience." She went down before the Lord and got an experience of salvation, and was baptized.

The saints of God were truly edified. Some testified of how much they appreciated the unity in the congregation there in Jefferson.

On the last Saturday of the meeting we had baptizing in the river. Candidates were from six different states: Idaho, Canada, Washington, Oregon, Nevada and California. It was a glorious gathering at the river.

Ministers laboring in the meeting were: Bro. Darius Gibson from Missouri, and Bro. E. J. Trotter, Bro. H. P. Huskey, and Bro. Clarence Hattley, all from California.

Sister B. Spaur is the pastor. —Clarence Hattley

### HOFFMAN, OKLA. CAMPMEETING REPORT

The Lord blessed the congregation here at Hoffman, Okla. with a wonderful campmeeting which was in progress June 23 to July 2. The Lord richly blessed in sending forth His precious truth day and night under the anointing of His Holy Spirit. Several souls were at the altar of prayer for spiritual help and professed to have gained the blessing they sought for.

The Lord enabled a number of His faithful servants to be with us in the meeting and their labors were a blessing to us—Bro. and Sister W. W. Crawley, Bro. and Sister Roberts, Bro. Woodrow Warren, Sister Katherine Williams, Bro. and Sister Ulysses Phillips, Sister Nancy Jones and others.

Pray for us here at Hoffman that we will be a bright light for God.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Lorene Payne

### TENT MEETING REPORT AT HOLLY HILL, S. CAR.

Dear Bro. Pruitt, greetings in the precious name of Jesus: It is time to send in a report of the tent meeting in June held at Holly Hill, S. Car. It just didn't seem like a revival, but more like an old-fashioned campmeeting. The Lord certainly did bless everyone. Praise His dear name! Nineteen were buried in water baptism, among whom were a number of our young boys and girls. How our hearts did rejoice to see them saved. The ordinances of the Lord's supper and feet-washing were observed just like the New Testament teaches it with 25 sisters and 23 brothers taking part. It was a wonderful time in the Lord.

Then it came time to separate and we were very reluctant to see the workers leave—Bro. and Sister Sam Abbott, Bro. Curtis Williams, Bro. and Sister Samons and children.

I want to thank every saved brother and sister for their prayers that were offered in behalf of this meeting. We certainly could see the results. Please pray for the work at Holly Hill and Ridgeville that we may be lights to shine in the kingdom of the Lord.

The undersigned, as pastor of the Church of God here, extends a hearty welcome to those who were here in the meeting and to all who feel the leading of the Lord to come this way.

Yours for the saving of souls, —O. Neal Pratt

### REVIVAL MEETING REPORT

The Lord blessed the congregation here at Sandusky, Ohio with a precious meeting which was held June 23 to

July 2. The Lord richly blessed in sending forth His Word throughout the meeting. Several were at the altar for spiritual help and everyone seemed to get the help they needed.

Bro. Curtis Williams of W. Alexandria, Ohio preached on the subject of faith the first night of the meeting which was richly blessed of the Lord. Bro. Lewis Williams of Wichita, Kansas was with us the rest of the meeting and the Lord anointed in sending forth His Word. Several carloads of saints from Michigan, and from Dayton, Springfield and Akron, Ohio were with us in the meeting.

The saints of Sandusky extend a welcome to all. The meeting house is located at 2017 3rd Street.

—Henry Chaney, Pastor

## TESTIMONIES

My testimony for Christ: I am a cancer patient lying flat on my back in this small hospital room at the Masonite Clinic in Laurel, Miss. Without God this small room could be the loneliest, dreariest place on earth, but our blessed Saviour has been with me every step of the way. I know it is hard for anyone to think of a disease like cancer as being a blessing, but my illness has been a blessing because it has brought me and all my family closer to God. I have turned everything over to God because He is such a good God and He loves all of us. He will make the darkest hour bright for us if we will trust and believe in Him. I am willing to stay on this bed as long as he wants to keep me here, because I know it is for His glory and whatever He wants to do with my life is all right with me because He has never made a mistake. I know all the suffering and heartaches can never pay for the home God has waiting for us in heaven. All of my suffering is a pleasure if it will just bring one man or woman closer to Christ. We think it is a terrible thing to lose our health, but it is a much worse thing to lose our soul. If we should gain our health and all the world, then lose our soul we have profited nothing. These earthly treasures mean nothing to us after we have come to know Christ.

I thank God for giving me this chance to get to know Jesus as my Saviour, because I know my life could have been taken instantly and I would have never known what it means to have a Saviour like Jesus.

If this testimony will help any person to know Christ as his Saviour, I will feel like this time I have spent on this hospital bed has been an even greater blessing. Remember that God is always ready and willing to help, whatever your problem may be. May God bless and keep you, whoever or wherever you may be. —Earl Palmer

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S. Car.—Dear Bro. Pruitt, greetings to you and all the saints at the Print Shop: Today still finds me settled upon the Rock of this clean, holy Church of God which is unspotted from the world and from all man-made creeds. Praise the Lord for it, because it is founded upon the Rock which the gates of hell cannot prevail against.

I wandered around a long time in sin, but at last I found the way to old Mount Zion. At this writing my soul is rejoicing over the truth which makes me free. I am not bound down by any creed of any kind—free to worship God as the Spirit leads. Praise the Lord! I was once a stranger and foreigner, but now I am a fellow-citizen with the saints and of the household of God. The Church of God is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner Stone, in whom all the building fitly framed together



growth unto an holy temple in the Lord. I am not built through man, nor his creed.

I was at the National campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo. It was one of the best meetings that I ever have attended. My soul did rejoice to be in those good services. My cup of joy ran over. It seemed like all of the saints had such sweet love and fellowship with one another. Praise the Lord! Since I got settled down with the saints of the true Church of God I don't have to take medicine to get healed. The Lord heals me without it. He is so good to me that I cannot praise Him enough. I think of the Scripture in 2 Cor. 6:9-10 which says, "As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing and yet possessing all things." I thank God today to know that within this outer body is perishing the inner soul is renewed and rejoicing.

I pray that this little testimony may encourage some one to press on and fight this battle through to final victory. Let us be found praying more than ever before.

Your brother in the Lord, —Eddie Driggers

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Okla.—Dear ones in Christ, greetings: I thank God this beautiful morning for health and strength. God is so good to me. He healed me of two wasp stings—one on my right arm and one on my left hand. It certainly was painful, and I did all I knew to do to offset the sting but it just got worse and spread. A friend called the doctor but he did not help. After two days, as I was thanking the Lord for my food for breakfast, He told me to wring out those wet things and have faith and trust in Him and He would heal me. I said, "Thank you, Lord," and did as He said. In less than an hour I could see the red color leaving and swelling going down, and God completely healed me of the wasp stings. I do thank and praise Him for it. May He help me to be more faithful. Yours in Christ,

—Martha Winch

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Ohio—Bro. Pruitt and saints everywhere, greetings in Jesus' dear name: I thank the Lord for what He is to me. He is my Savior, Healer and Keeper. He has healed me so many times. I mean to go all the way with Him.

Please pray for me, also for my unsaved family that they may find Jesus before it is too late.

Your sister in Christ, —Katie Patrick

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Arkansas—Dear Bro. Pruitt and family, greetings in Jesus' dear name:

Thank you for the good, encouraging letter and tracts, and thank you for your prayers. The good Lord has been blessing me so much here of late and I feel that your prayers have been answered in my behalf.

Oh, it is so wonderful to live for Jesus and to trust Him for both soul and body. I would rather have Jesus than any thing in this old world. I know there is nothing like living for Jesus. He is so good to us and no trial is so hard that He won't help us through. I will ask you to please continue to pray for me that I will be a blessing to some one and that I will do all to God's glory.

God bless you and yours is my prayer.

Your sister in Christ, —Mrs. W. M. Thomas

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Ohio—Dear Bro. Pruitt and co-workers, greetings in the precious name of Jesus: Today finds me saved, sanctified and enjoying the blessings of our loving Savior. There are no words to express what I feel down in my soul. I am so thankful to be in the truth and among God's people.

The Lord has truly been blessing Mart (my husband) and me to the fullest of late. He permitted us to be able to go to Holly Hill, S. Car. to be in the tent revival meeting. I have never, since I've been saved, been in a meeting where so much of the power of God was manifested. I guess there were between 25 and 30 that were saved, and about that many sanctified. They were truly hungry for God and believed His Word. Quite a few young people really got saved and they surely do need all the saints' prayers. Oh, how we do need more consecrated workers to go out into the fields, work with these dear ones and help them get established! I pray that the day will soon come, if it be the Lord's will, that we can be completely free to give all our time to the Lord's service. I think of those dear ones in South Carolina. They may not have much of this world's goods, but they are some of the richest people in the world because their Father owns the whole world and holds it in His hands. They have more time to serve God.

Some of God's children today have so much of this world's goods that it takes most of their time keeping it up, while others have gotten themselves in debt so much that they can't be free to serve God like they would like to. The devil is sly and this is the tool he uses the most today. Just about anyone can go buy anything they want on credit with no down payment.

On our way to South Carolina we were privileged to visit the saints in Altapass, N. Car. They are precious and so hungry for the Word of God. We truly did enjoy being with them in their homes and the sweet fellowship that was manifested.

When I got saved I never did think too much about what it was going to be like when we got to heaven. I didn't just want to be saved so I could go to heaven when I died. I was tired of this old life of sin and living for the devil. I would think of how Jesus loved us so much that He gave His life upon the cross for us, and how He suffered so much just so we could be saved from our sins so that we could have a better home to go to when this life is ended if we are faithful and true unto Him. He tells us in His Word, "He that endureth unto the end the same shall be saved." We are going to have to endure some things if we get to heaven. I know it will be worth it all to get to be with all of God's children and never have to part anymore. When we meet with them here in this world it hurts so much to have to leave them. I desire each one of your prayers that I will be a soldier brave and true for the Lord, and I know that at the end, if I stand true, there will be a crown of life.

There are many different faiths in the world today, but the Bible only speaks of "one faith." If we are not in that faith, we will be lost in the end. Many people are deceived in that "once in grace always in grace" false doctrine. I surely thank and praise God for deliverance from that thing. It is one of the most poisonous doctrines existing today and it has nearly swept all the country. The Bible tells us to "watch and pray." If we can't be lost after we get saved, what is the use to watch and pray? We would be saved anyway, according to that doctrine. I was talking to a preacher of that doctrine this week. I asked him if he believed it was a sin to tell a lie. He said, "Sure, it is." I asked him if he ever tells lies. He said, "Yes." I told him that the Bible teaches us that all liars shall have their part in the lake of fire. (Rev. 21:8). Sin separates us from God. Jesus said, "If ye die in your sins, where I am ye cannot come."

I have many lost loved ones whom I desire to be saved. Do pray for them. I want to so live before them that they can only see Christ in my life. Pray for me that I

will be the wife and mother that God is calling me to be. We need much wisdom and prayer in rearing our children. I want to bring them up in a way that they will love the truth, and never be turned against it.

Your sister in Christ, —Verna Mae Samons

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Ohio—Dear saints everywhere: I am glad I can say I am saved and don't have any desire for anything of this old world. I have started several times to serve the Lord, but I never went on and got sanctified. When a hard trial would come up, I would go down under it. I want all the saints everywhere to pray the Lord to sanctify me for His use.

I am sick now—hardly able to do my house work, and can't get to the saints' meetings. But I can read God's Word, pray and believe the Lord is going to make a way soon so I can be with the saints in meeting. I have loved the saints ever since I met the first one of them. That was Sister Laura Powell in Huntington, W. Va. She conducted our last baby's funeral in 1940. Yesterday was our wedding anniversary. Husband and I were just talking about what all can happen in 27 years.

Two of our babies died. While my other children were small, the old devil separated me and my husband because we were not minding the Lord. Then he went in the Service for two years. When he came home from the Service, we got saved and lived for the Lord for nearly 12 years. I lost out again with the Lord. At that time we had my father with us. He was sick, and the Lord saw best to take my father. Within six months my husband's father died, but we still didn't change and went on just like we were. In 1960 I saw a doctor and he said I had cancer. I was operated on in November. After I got to feeling better, I wrote to the saints to pray for me. Bro. and Sister Samons of Dayton, Ohio visited me several times, and they have been a great encouragement to me. I got back to the Lord. Then we made one trip to Dayton, and Bro. McCoy and Bro. Williams anointed and prayed for me. The Lord healed me. The devil tried to make me doubt it, but when I went back for a check up in March, and they got the test back, it showed no evidence of cancer whatever, for which I praise the Lord. I am having a little trouble now with the place where I was operated on and the devil tries to tell me that it is coming back, but I don't believe it. I believe when the Lord heals, it is healed. I want the saints everywhere to pray that the Lord will give me faith to keep on believing, and will let me gain my strength back, if it is His will. But if not, His will be done. I mean to trust Him as long as I live. I threw away all the medicine we had in the house last March and have never taken any since. I know the Lord is able to supply everything this old body needs if we will only trust Him.

I got a card from Sister Sharp a few days ago. On the card she wrote, "Jesus is coming soon." That really struck me, for I believe He is, too. My husband is away from the Lord. Please pray for him and our two children that they all will be ready so our family will be complete in heaven.

Pray for my mother. She fell in the winter and hurt her arm. She is still having trouble with it.

Your sister, —Essie Carter

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Ohio—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the saints everywhere: I thank the Lord today for being saved and happy in the Lord.

I feel led to write of how I lost the favor of God from my life but afterwards I repented and God wonderfully forgave me. I had been suffering with toothache

for some time. I started to seek the Lord to work out some way for me to have my bad teeth pulled. After requesting prayer, and praying about it for some time myself, I got a little anxious. One day I walked quite a distance to see about having them pulled. The Lord was not in this move and my trip availed nothing. I accepted this, knowing that it was not God's time for me to have it done, so I went right on praying and seeking the Lord. God answered prayer and the money was provided. I went to a dentist and asked if I could have them pulled with novocain, but he refused, saying that they would have to be cut out and that I wasn't strong enough to stand it. I feared the taking of gas because of complications after the birth of one of my children. So I went and had a shot in the arm before having my teeth pulled. Now I had failed the Lord because I wasn't taking time to read and pray as much as I should. I came short and weak on these lines. Then after my teeth were out, the dentist said that I had a bad infection and gave me a shot of penicillin. I reasoned that one shot was no worse than another. Also I took pain pills which did me no good, so I quit taking them. I failed the Lord by not having faith in Him, knowing that He would not lead contrary to His Word. My father-in-law, Bro. Wm. McCoy, told me to read Genesis 2:21, "And the Lord caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh thereof."

Two days after I had my teeth pulled, Bro. and Sister Williams and Sister Helen Baird came to see me. I had been flat on my back for two days. I had to hold back the tears in order to tell them what had happened. They asked me if I knew what I had done was wrong. I said, "Yes." I went down on my knees in prayer and asked God to forgive me, and they prayed for me, too. In His goodness the Lord forgave me and took away the pain and headache.

Dear saints, today finds me happy that the Lord took me back. In Eph. 4:27 we read, "Neither give place to the devil." Again in Eph. 3:12, "In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him." James 5:16 says: "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Dear saints, be strong in the Lord through faith.

Your saved sister, —Louise McCoy

#### A REMINDER TO THE SAINTS

In 1959 the congregation at Dayton, Ohio took upon themselves the responsibility to pay, in monthly payments, for a new Chevrolet car for Bro. and Sister Sam Abbott to use in the Lord's work. The saints at Dayton have appreciated the funds that others have sent in to them for this purpose. They have been paying on this item for about two years and will continue to meet these payments to the best of their ability. However, at this time some have become physically unable to work and another may have to move to another state for work, so this situation is laying a heavier burden upon the remaining responsible parties. There are 12 more payments at \$61.40 per month. Now since the saints everywhere are one big family and are all "workers together", how nice it would be to help our brethren in Dayton to bear this burden! You may send your love offerings to Bro. Bill Abbott, 741 Gondert Ave., Dayton 3, Ohio. If you send it by check, make it payable to "Church of God."

In looking for big opportunities, are little ones cast aside?

## REPORT FROM THE CHURCH OF GOD MISSION, BAJA CALIFORNIA, OLD MEXICO

Dear Saints and Friends Everywhere:

Greetings of love in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Last summer several Mexicans and Indians began asking about being baptized. We made it a matter of prayer—wanting to be sure they were saved and knew what they were doing. God began to inspire for a baptismal service. The time and place were set. Messages went forth at Santa Catarina and El Rodeo on the theme of baptism. It was brought out that only those who "bring forth fruit meet for repentance" are candidates and eligible for baptism. Praise the Lord! On the day of the baptism there were eight souls who gave firm, positive, public testimonies of their faith in Christ as their Savior. A large crowd gathered for the occasion, and God was everywhere. A young friend accompanied me and proved a blessing to me. I surely felt the prayers of all that were praying at home and other places. All day long waves of glory swept over my soul. Praise the Lord! Following the preaching service which was held out doors under the ramada (we'd call it a covered patio joining the mission home), some of the young men and boys sat on huge rocks nearby (as is their custom), and the people filed down the hill and up over the second hill to the reservoir behind the dam which the Indians have built with the material sent down by the saints. On this occasion eight souls went down into the watery grave to come up to walk in newness of life.

A few weeks ago, as the meeting was about over, a spirit of conviction settled down on the people. The preacher sensed it and a brief invitation was extended. The chief's wife moved out quickly to the front, laid her small baby in a seat and said, "I've come to be saved." Others began to come—one, two, three at a time—until all but one Indian had made their way as far forward as possible to kneel for prayer. Many were weeping and earnestly praying. Some, we feel, came because of conviction but not because they were ready to quit sin and live for God. However, it was evident that the Lord was dealing with souls in a definite way. We are much encouraged!

About a month ago I felt led to go to a certain home in El Alamo. When I arrived, the grandmother, the mother, and some of her children were there. The mother was sick in bed with the flu. A chair was offered me and I sat down. The Lord helped me to deal very firmly with her concerning her lost condition, sinful life, example before her children, and eternity with or without God. She received the Word of God and counsel with a broken heart and said she wanted to be saved. I left to get the other workers to come pray with her. Before returning to the house we agreed to go believing God, refusing to doubt that God was going to save her. Glory to God! Dear ones, I want to tell you that when prayer was offered for that soul "heaven came down." That little woman raised up off her pillow and began to agree in prayer and say, "Lord, with all my heart I repent!" Jimmy Jones remarked afterward that he couldn't understand the prayer (in Spanish) but he certainly was blessed. Every one got the witness that "a new name was written down in heaven." I believe that when people really come clean with God it will be just that way every time. This last Monday when Bro. and Sister Hite and daughter, Rebekah, and I came through El Alamo and were at her house, she gave a plain, clear testimony saying, "I am very contented, I am saved." Her countenance shone and her words rang true.

I want to say also that two weeks ago her very small baby was sick with what seemed to be pneumonia. She asked about sending to Ensenada for a penicillin vaccine shot. We told her that she didn't need any medicine; that God was our doctor and for her to just put that baby in God's hands. She seemed a little fearful but promised she would. Last Sunday the little child was well. Hallelujah! Jesus never fails! Heaven and earth shall pass away, but Jesus never fails. We could write on and on about God's wonderful goodness to us in the Mexico work.

(Note: The foregoing is only a portion of a letter from Brother Harland Smith in regard to the Mexico work. I wish to make mention of the need of a building to conduct the services in at El Alamo which is where some of the strongest interest is being shown in the gospel at this time of any of the places on the field. Work is under way now on this building and enough adobe blocks have been made to lay up the walls. It will take approximately \$800.00 to complete this project. The building will be 30 feet wide and 40 feet long.—Ostis B. Wilson)

(Send all offerings for the Mexico missionary work to Bro. Ostis Wilson, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, California.—Editor)

## Believing God

"I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me." Acts 27:25.

I went to America some years ago with the captain of a steamer who was a very devoted Christian. When off the coast of Newfoundland he said to me, "The last time I crossed here, five weeks ago, something happened which revolutionized the whole of my Christian life. We had George Mueller of Bristol on board. I had been on the bridge twenty-four hours and never left it. George Mueller came to me, and said, "Captain, I have come to tell you that I must be in Quebec Saturday afternoon." "It is impossible," I said. "Very well, if your ship cannot take me, God will find some other way. I have never broken an engagement for fifty-seven years. Let us go down into the chart-room and pray."

I looked at that man of God, and thought to myself, what lunatic asylum can that man have come from? I never heard of such a thing as this. "Mr. Mueller," I said, "do you know how dense this fog is?" "No," he replied, "my eye is not on the density of the fog, but on the living God, who controls every circumstance of my life."

He knelt down and prayed one of the most simple prayers, and when he had finished I was going to pray; but he put his hand on my shoulder, and told me not to pray. "First, you do not believe He will answer; and second, I believe He has, and there is no need whatever for you to pray about it."

I looked at him, and he said, "Captain, I have known my Lord for fifty-seven years, and there has never been a single day that I have failed to get audience with the King. Get up, Captain and open the door, and you will find the fog gone." I got up, and the fog was indeed gone. On Saturday afternoon, George Mueller was in Quebec for his engagement.

—Selected

## The Past, Present and Future of the Church of God

Our God had in mind and designed from the creation of the world that He should have a people of His own, a family to own His name, of whom He could be a just Husband (Rom. 7:4 and 1 Cor. 3:9); a kind and loving Father (2 Cor. 6:17, 18); a family whom He could inhabit by His Spirit and they would obey Him. (Eph. 2:19 to end of chapter).

This family or people has been foretold by the prophets in metaphors, figurative and symbolic language all down through the ages from the beginning of time. In Genesis 3:15 we are informed by the words of God himself that the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head and his seed would bruise His heel. Christ is the seed of the woman through Abraham. Gen. 12:3. Read Gal. 3:16 and you will see that the seed spoken of was Christ our Lord who was to be the instrument in God's hand to bring the thing to pass. The last prophet, Malachi, prophesied of Christ and said in chapter 4:2, "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings: and ye shall go forth and grow up as calves of the stall."

In Genesis 49:10 we read, "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh [Christ] come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be." The next verse says, "Binding his foal [those born again] unto the vine." In the 15th chapter of John, Jesus Christ declares himself to be the true vine.

In the first few verses of the 61st chapter of Isaiah is a prophecy of the work of Christ, the builder of God's Church. In Luke the 4th chapter we read the words of Jesus in the 18th verse verifying this prophecy and referring it to Himself by saying in the 21st verse, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." Oh, how clearly and exactly are the prophecies of the prophets in the Old Testament verified and fulfilled in the New Testament! Truly, the Old Testament has the prophecies concealed and the New Testament has them revealed.

Before going further in this writing we feel that it would be best to give some of the many names given in the Bible which refer to the family of God—the Church of God. It is referred to as the city of God, Mount Zion, New Jerusalem, His Bride, His Wife, the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, the Tabernacle of God, the household of faith, the house of David, the house of God, the temple of God, the sanctuary of God, the body of Christ, and in some places the names of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph are used in referring to the family of God, the Church.

Abraham was a man who had unfeigned faith in God and he was called the "friend of God." When God called him to leave his own country, his friends and loved ones, he obeyed God and left his country. The scripture says in Hebrews 11:8, 9 that he obeyed and went out, not knowing whither he went and sojournd in the land of promise, as in a strange coun-

try. The 10th verse says, "For he looked for a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God." Abraham failed to find that City in his day, as it was not built until later, but he was looking for it. But thanks be unto God and the Lord Jesus Christ, we today have found that City. (Eph. 2:20, 21). If Abraham could have found this city of God in his day he would not have been a stranger in a strange country, but would have been comforted by the Comforter, the Holy Ghost. In speaking of the saints and the household of God the Ephesian writer goes on to say, "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." The City that Abraham was looking for has good stones for a foundation, and Christ is the chief corner Stone. All the building is fitly framed together and groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord, and then he says, "In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the spirit." Now this is the city that Abraham was looking for, though it was not built at that time. But since that time God through Christ has built the City of saved men and women, and it has become a habitation of God through the Spirit.

We have a clear statement of this city; the church, recorded in Hebrews 12:22, "But ye are come unto Mount Zion and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels." When Jacob saw the ladder set up on the earth whose top reached to heaven, he also saw the angels of God ascending and descending upon it. When he awakened out of sleep he said, "This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." In Psalms 34:7 we read, "The angel of the Lord encampeth around about them that fear him and delivereth them." Angels of God often make themselves known and are seen of His children in the city of God. John the Revelator was often visited by them. He said that we had come unto the "city of the living God." In 1 Tim. 3:15 we read thus, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." In Heb. 12:23 we read, "To the general assembly and church of the first born which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaketh better things than that of Abel." In Rev. 21:9, 10 is recorded that John saw this city of God, the heavenly Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, for the angel said to him, "Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife [the Church]. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain [the Church in figurative language is lifted up in this world as a mountain, the highway of holiness], and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God." In the 2nd verse of this chapter we read that "John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

In Matt. 16:13 to 19 we have some very important words spoken by Peter and by the Lord himself that we shall do well to take heed unto. Peter had just declared that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. This truth was given to him by God the Father which Jesus acknowledged, and said, "Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Let us look into the scriptures of the Old Testament and see what they say about Jesus building this Church, city or temple and thereby see how the New Testament reveals these truths to us.

In Psalms 132:11 we read, "The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it: Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne." This prophecy is fulfilled in the New Testament as recorded in Luke 1:69, "And hath raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David." The angel of God, in speaking to Mary the mother of Jesus, said: "And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 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: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever [God's family, the Church]; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." This is truly the kingdom or church which Jesus built and He is reigning over His people today as a King and the gates of hell (man-made churches) shall not, can not and never will destroy it or prevail against it. When the Judgment sets and the earth and all literal things are burned up, ungodly deceivers and the wicked are cast into hell, then will He take His kingdom, His family or His Church up to heaven and turn the kingdom or Church over to the Father. Read 1 Cor. 15:24, 25 and 26.

In Zech. 6:12 we read, "And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is the BRANCH [Christ]; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple [Church] of the Lord: even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both." What a clear testimony this is of Christ reigning now on His throne as a King over His people, the Church which He purchased with His own blood.

In Amos 9:11 is another prophecy of Jesus building His church, which is referred to as the tabernacle of David, and reads thus: "In that day [the gospel day] I will raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old." In the book of Acts the Apostle James quotes this prophecy and refers it to the then existing Church which Jesus had built. Let us read it in Acts 15:16, "After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: that the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all things.

Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world." It is the height of folly and a disgrace to the cause of God among men for false teachers to wrest the scriptures from their proper meaning and teach a literal reign of Christ on this earth for a thousand years. The truth is that when Christ returns He will take His kingdom or Church to Himself to be with God forever and ever. His kingdom or church is already built, and is now in the world but not of the world. Jesus said plainly, "My kingdom is not of this world."

The Church is a heavenly institution which came down from God out of heaven and is functioning in this world in gathering all who will into His kingdom or Church. In the end He will take them back to the Father and present it to Himself a glorious church without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing. Eph. 5:27.

Let us read the prophecy in Jer. 23:5, "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch [Christ], and a king shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel [His children] shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." This is a prophecy of the gospel day, the day of the reign of Christ, for He is truly now the Lord our righteousness. We dare not depend upon our own righteousness to bring God's favor, for it is His righteousness working in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure. We are counted as naught that He might be heard, seen and lifted up. Read the first few verses of the 3rd chapter of Colossians, practice what it teaches and you will soon know that Jesus is reigning now as King and not in some supposed future age in a literal sense.

—Fred Pruitt

(The above article is the first chapter in a new book which we have written and expect to have in print soon. This book will be sent to anyone in the U. S. for 50 cents per copy, postpaid, or three copies for \$1.00. Every child of God should have a copy of this book, as it Biblically gives an account of how Jesus built His Church, when He occupied it, where the elements of the Church came from, its commission and growth, the millennial theory advanced in the first century and its firm rejection by the apostolic church, the Lutheran Reformation in the 16th century, the apostate church—Mystery Babylon the Great and her harlot daughters, the gradual return of the truth to men, the Church in this evening light, the present condition of the world, the Church shining in her beauty, its future state and world conditions up to the end of time when the enemies of the saints are destroyed, the lake of fire and brimstone into which the devil and his angels are cast, and where the beast and false prophet are placed even before Satan is destroyed. You should secure one or more of these books. We expect to have them ready for mailing in September. Order today!)

#### PRAYER REQUEST

Ark.—Dear saints of God: I wish to make a request for prayer for my husband, children and myself that we would all be saved, and that God would give me what I need in my heart. He is able if I can just have faith.

—Mrs. Lagunia Jones

## CHRIST THE ROCK

Christ the Rock was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah in chapter 28:16, "Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation; he that believeth shall not make haste." This foundation that God laid was a Tried Stone which was His only Son Jesus Christ. Yes, Jesus came into this world and died on the cross to give His life and shed precious blood for our sins. In Rev. 1:5 we read, "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood." Since Jesus has purchased us by His own blood on the cross, He has become the Tried Stone, the Precious Corner Stone, and the only sure foundation and door to Heaven. Paul says in 1 Cor. 3:11, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

Christ the Rock, according to 1 Peter 2:6, is called the "Chief Corner Stone, Elect and Precious, and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded." How wonderful that Jesus has become our Redeemer, and if we repent of our sins and believe on Him, He will forgive us our sins and give us eternal life. In John 6:40 Jesus says: "And this is the will of Him who sent me, that every one which seeth the Son and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

Christ the Rock, according to the Holy Bible, is the only mediator between men and God. In 1 Tim. 2:5 we read: "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." Since Christ is the only Mediator to God for us, let us go directly to Him with our sins, and He will forgive and redeem us with His shed blood. In Ephesians 1:7 we read: "In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."

Some people use idols or go to leaders of churches as their mediator to God. Perhaps they do not know that Jesus has never transmitted His power to forgive sins to any one on earth. Jesus speaks plainly in John 14:6 the following words: "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but BY ME." In Luke 5:24 Jesus says: "But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins." So dear reader, let us come directly, because He is the only way and the only door to Heaven. Paul says in Acts 3:19, "Repent ye therefore and be converted that your sins may be blotted out." And Jesus also invites the sinners to come directly to Him. In Matt. 11:28 He says: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

Christ the Rock, according to Acts 1:9-11, is coming again. In the last part of verse eleven we read: "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." What a great and blessed

day this will be for all who have accepted Jesus and have been washed in His blood, to meet Him and go with Him to heaven!

But what an awful day it will be for all who have rejected Christ, to be lost forever in hell. In Rev. 20:15 we read: "Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Jesus spoke often of hell in all the four gospels, and in Matt. 25:41 He says: "Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, depart from me ye cursed, into everlasting fire."

But we can escape hell and make heaven by coming to Jesus with our sins, and He will gladly forgive us and accept us as His children and will write our names in the book of life.

Let us never forget the words of Jesus in Luke 19:10, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Jesus does not want anyone to be lost or go to hell, but He wants all to make heaven—that is why He came to seek the lost.

"Rock of Ages, cleft for me; let me hide myself in Thee. Let the water and the blood, from Thy wounded side which flowed, Be of sin the double cure, Save from wrath and make me pure." —D. D. Tieszen

## BIBLE STUDY

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

September 3, 1961

TIMOTHY, A YOUNG MINISTER

Printed Portion Acts 16:1-3; Phil. 2:19-23; 2 Tim. 2:1-5, 22

Acts 16:1. Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek:

2. Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium.

3. Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.

Phil. 2:19. But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.

20. For I have no man like-minded, who will naturally care for your state.

21. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

22. But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.

23. Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.

2 Tim. 2:1. Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

3. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

4. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

5. And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.



22. Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

**Memory Verse:** Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God. 2 Tim. 1:8.

**Practical Truth:** The results of proper early training usually prove valuable, as in the case of Timothy.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Timothy was a young minister whom Paul loved very much. Paul wrote the two letters in the New Testament called 1st and 2nd Timothy to him. Timothy's grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice, had great faith and Timothy had it, too. ( 1 Tim. 1:5). We today should take courage because our faithfulness will affect our children and our grandchildren. There was much forbearance in the early Church with those who still wanted to observe the law. In Acts 21:21 it says, "Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe: and they are all zealous of the law." James, who was the pastor at Jerusalem, and the elders, said this to Paul. Timothy's mother was a Jew and they seem to have a claim on him. Paul seemed to feel it wise to observe the law in his case.

Paul, who at that time was a prisoner in Rome, wrote the Philippians that he would send Timothy to bring him news about them. He told them that Timothy was a consecrated child of God, seeking only to do the will of God.

The last verses in the lesson bring some wonderful instructions to us today. It is the devil's business to get people so entangled with the affairs of this life that they do not take time to feed their souls and therefore aren't able to help others spiritually. We need to press hard against the devil along this line. Be determined to put God first. The things of this world are going to perish and we need to lay up treasures in heaven. The last verse is good instruction for our youth. Do not yield to youthful lusts but keep your heart, mind, and life pure and holy.

September 10, 1961

#### AQUILA AND PRISCILLA, ABLE TEACHERS

**Printed Portion** ....Acts 18:1-3, 18-21, 24-28; Rom. 16:3-5a.

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

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

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

18. And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow.

19. And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.

20. When they desired him to tarry longer time with them, he consented not;

21. But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus.

24. And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

25. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.

26. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

27. And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:

28. For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

Rom. 16:3. Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:

4. Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

5. Likewise greet the church that is in their house.

**Memory Verse:** Every man hath his proper gift of God. 1 Cor. 7:7.

**Practical Truth:** In behalf of the kingdom of God we ought to make use of the abilities with which God has endowed us.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Teaching is a gift from God. Each teacher of Sunday school (or teaching otherwise) should feel his dependence upon the Holy Spirit. Much prayer should be behind each lesson given out. Through prayer the Holy Spirit is able to bring thoughts and truths to a teacher's mind that he otherwise would not have received. Children receive impressions through their teachers by the Holy Spirit working that they remember all their lives. Each teacher should try to lead his pupils to Christ. Lift Him up as being very important to each one's life.

This couple was a source of much encouragement to Paul. They worked hand in hand with him in the gospel work. They even risked their lives to help him. Those whom we look upon as being strong in the Lord need encouragement in their battles.

Apollos, born in Alexandria, was a mighty preacher. He knew only the truth up to John the Baptist, and was living up to all he knew with an open heart. When he heard about Jesus he gladly received that truth. Then Aquila and Priscilla recommended him to the brethren, and God greatly used him. God needs teachers and those who will do personal work. Pastors need those who will willingly help them in times of stress. Remember that pastors have burdens and duties to perform that they can tell to no one. They need your help and cooperation.

September 17, 1961

#### TITUS: SERVING IN HARD PLACES

**Printed Portion** ....2 Cor. 8:6, 23a; Titus 1:1a, 4-11; 2:7-8.

2 Cor. 8:6. Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

23. Whether any do enquire of Titus, he is my partner and fellowhelper concerning you.

Titus 1:1. Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ,



4. To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

5. For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

6. If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

7. For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

8. But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

9. Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

10. For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:

11. Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

Titus 2:7. In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

8. Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

**Memory Verse:** In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works. Titus 2:7.

**Practical Truth:** A competent and spiritual pastor is a blessing in any community.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Titus was a Gentile and some of the Jewish brethren made things hard for him. But he stood true. God had to teach Peter the lesson about accepting the Gentiles by telling him that what God had cleansed, let no man say it is unclean. (Acts 10th chapter). Titus was sort of a test case in Jerusalem but the saints accepted him and the Gentiles that were saved.

Titus was given the job of ordaining elders in every city. Paul gave him instructions as to the qualifications of elders and bishops. God wants a blameless ministry.

In a previous lesson we brought out how many believed who were zealous for the law. Under the law they were permitted to have more than one wife, but under the New Testament teachings a man is to have only one wife. It might have been hard to find one who met these qualifications since some still clung to the law, but this is God's way.

A bishop or elder must have obedient children. It didn't say they had to be saved, but must show respect to their parents. He also must be one who is able to teach and convince gainsayers of the truth. Each qualification is important.

The last two verses of the lesson were instructions to Titus as he did his great work. We today must also be "a pattern." Jesus is the master pattern and we want to lay down our lives and be willing to be cut by the pattern. The cutting will not be done unless we yield to God and resist fleshly desires.

September 24, 1961

GAIUS, A CHRISTIAN LAYMAN

Printed Portion .....Third John

1. The elder unto the well-beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

2. Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

3. For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.

4. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

5. Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

6. Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:

7. Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.

8. We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

9. I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

10. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

11. Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

12. Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true.

13. I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee:

14. But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.

**Memory Verse:** I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. 3 John 4.

**Practical Truth:** A Christian whose soul prospers will not be striving for a place of preeminence.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson is the whole of the book of Third John. John wrote this letter to Gaius who was a Christian layman of good report. He not only wished that Gaius would prosper in soul but also in body. Many times a person's spiritual condition affects the body. God has taught us to let him carry our burdens; by so doing our bodies will be in a better condition.

Apparently Gaius did not preach himself but greatly encouraged those who did, not only by his financial help but also by entertaining them in his home. Gaius was a faithful layman and a worker for peace. John warned Gaius about Diotrephes who was following after evil ways. He seemed to be one who wanted to run things and talked against John. He didn't want the missionaries to come their way, and even tried to stop those who were willing to entertain them. He was a trouble-maker. Leaders among the laymen are needed, but they must be humble, submissive men and have a deep concern for every soul.

John recommended Demetrius. He had a good report. John says to follow those who are good and are of God. Jesus taught that he that is the greatest among you is the servant of all. Be willing to do the little things and be faithful in that, and then you will find that there is more to do all the time. A true leader leads the flock and does not try to drive them. —Sister Marie Miles