

40th Anniversary Year

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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Every Day Is Mother's Day

What is home without Mother's love?
What greater need than Mother's care?
Who prepares our daily food
With service none other can compare?

And what about the clothes we wear—
To wash, to iron, to darn, to mend,
That we with pleasure may enjoy
Our lovely home, and none offend?

Who sweeps, dusts, tidies up the place
We all delight to call our home,
And makes us dwell with sweet content,
Yea, never wish from there to roam?

To whom do we look and loudly call,
When pain so rudely racks our frame?
'Tis she with loving heart, gentle hand,
Whose soothing influence we acclaim!

Is there one day in all the year
That we wish not her presence rare
To bring us happiness, joy, and peace?
The eventide with her to share?

How lonely is the day or night
Without our mother's love and cares!
Oh, we miss her everywhere!
Her love only with Christ's compares.

At whose knee were we taught to bow,
In reverent ev'ning prayer,
To the God of heaven who reigns
On earth and in that Home up there?

Then, ev'ry day is Mother's Day—
Not one day only of the year!
Do not withhold your gifts and praise;
Extend them freely while she's near.

—Pina Winters Tamplin

God's Triumphant Church

Zion represents the church in its primitive, unified condition under the government and law of Christ alone. The two systems are fundamentally different. This difference was true in the type and must therefore be true in the antitype. In the old days of Israel's glory foreigners visited Jerusalem, but their presence in the city of God did not make them Israelites. And at one time the people of God were carried into captivity in Babylon, but their presence in that foreign, heathen city did not make them Babylonians.

This distinction is also clear in the antitypical relation. We do not have to go to prophetic symbols to find in the New Testament clear predictions of the rise of a false Christianity in opposition to the true. They stand out in marked contrast in the prophecy. On the one side there is a false religious system described as a beast power reigning. On the other side is placed in contrast a company that have gotten the victory over the beast and over his image and over his mark, and they stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. The mother of harlots appears, but in contrast therewith is seen a pure woman, the bride of Christ. In contrast with Babylon we have Zion.

The sect system, wherein ecclesiasticism reigns and where the full truth in all its purity is not being taught and practiced, does not represent the true church, but Babylon. The system is foreign. It contains, however, some who are not Babylonians but children of the divine family—Israelites indeed. The awful judgments of God pronounced against Babylon are directed against the false system itself and the real beast-worshippers it contains, not against the true people of God, who love their Lord and are willing to walk in the light of His Word as fast as they are able to understand it. When we consider that this sect system has been the means of deceiving millions—millions who will come up in the last day and plead their religious profession, only to hear the awful words, "Depart from me, I never knew you"—

when we consider, I say, these evil results, we cannot but repeat the words of the prophecy concerning the overthrow of Babylon, "true and righteous are His judgments." The commandment of God is, "Come out of her, MY PEOPLE, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and THAT YE RECEIVE NOT OF HER PLAGUES."

The movement to ignore sect lines and bring the true people of God into unity is not based upon a mere interpretation of prophecy, however. The necessity of such a work is being felt by the true people of God everywhere, even those who make no particular claims to knowledge of prophetic interpretation. Knowledge that the ecclesiastical system of the present day does not represent the real church outlined in the New Testament is all that is absolutely necessary in order to stir the heart for reformatory action. Departure from the truth of God carries with it responsibility on the part of all those who become awakened to that departure—responsibility to return to the Bible standard. A final reformation there must and would be even if it had never been predicted by the prophets of old; for Christ, the great ever-living head of the church, would at the proper time pour out upon His servants the spirit of judgment against all unscriptural systems and forms of worship and demand the restoration of the pure church of the morning time of our era.

There is abundant evidence to be seen by the careful observer that there are forces now at work in true Christians which are preparing for significant changes. Christian charity is refusing to be confined by sectarian barriers. The Christian consciousness is becoming aroused to the evils of sectarianism and sectarian systems as it has never been aroused in any past age. There is a longing among spiritual people everywhere to escape from the blighting effect of a divided Christianity. Evangelism is becoming more and more detached from organized denominations, and the denominational lines are being ignored in a way that would have astonished the people of a century ago. Numerous attempts are being made to unite the various denominations on the mission fields and in the homeland. While many of these efforts are mere blind groping for a way out of the fogs of sectarianism, they show unmistakably that back of and underlying all these efforts is a mighty force slowly but surely gathering power that (so far as God's true people are concerned) shall in time rise to break once for all the rigorous reign of human ecclesiasticism and re-establish in power and glory the simple, primitive theocracy, where Christ shall be exalted as the true and only ruler of His people.

Ecclesiasticism, however dies hard. In fact, it is scarcely correct to say that it will die at all. The churches of men are largely made up of worldly-minded professors who know not the birth and life of the Spirit. To such the church will never appear as anything different from an institution organized and governed after the pattern of the kingdoms of this world. According to the prophecy, God's true saints will die to ecclesiasticism by forsaking the

sect system, but the rule of human churchly power will go right on until the end of time. Furthermore, we may expect the contrast and the conflict between these two forces to become more pronounced as the years go by. While the Revelation represents the call of God's people out of Babylon as the movement that again brings into prominence the "bride," the true church (chap. 19:1-9), it also reveals the fact that there will be another great movement in opposition to the truth.

"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty" (Rev. 16:13, 14). "Satan . . . shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and encompassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them" (Rev. 20:7-9).

Let this be a solemn warning to all, that God's people may discern between the false and the true. The movement that brings together in one the real saints of the Lord is effected by the Spirit of God, while "unclean spirits" operating in the apostate powers of the ecclesiastical world will effect a totally different union. The distinction is clear in the prophecy and must therefore become true in fact.

This God-ordained movement stands committed to the restoration of apostolic Christianity in its entirety—its doctrines, its ordinances, its personal regenerating and sanctifying experiences, its spiritual life, its holiness, its power, its purity, its gifts of the Spirit, its unity of believers, and its fruits. It is not a humanly organized movement depending for its success on the ability of men to persuade people to leave other churches and join them. God himself is breaking down the barriers that divide, and in response to His call the redeemed are forsaking human sects and creeds, and their hearts are flowing together. The center of this movement is not a particular geographical location, nor is its nucleus a particular set of fallible men: the center and nucleus of this movement is OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, and its operative force is the SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD, which draws the faithful together in bonds of holy love and fellowship.

"Back to the one foundation, from sects and creeds made free,
Come saints of every nation to blessed unity.
Once more the ancient glory shines as in days of old,
And tells the wondrous story—one God, one faith, one fold."
—Selected

PRAYER REQUEST

J. E. Hightower, Marion, Ore., brother of Bro. A. R. Hightower, Batesville, Ark., is seriously ill with cancer and desires prayer.

The Highway of Holiness

The work of God and those who are laboring for Him reminds me of the construction of our new modern highways. The first thing that is done is surveying the land. The next, is the purchasing of the right-of-way, and contracting the job to one who has the modern equipment to do it.

Now as I think of this in the building of the spiritual highway of holiness which leads to Heaven, it comes to me this way. The Holy Spirit is the surveyor. (John 16:8-10). The purchasing of the right-of-way was brought about by the precious blood of Christ. (Eph. 1:7). The contracting party is Jesus (Heb. 1:2), and His employees are the saints. (Matt. 28:19). The heavy equipment is the Word, backed up by His graces and the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 1:16.) The result is the salvation of souls (Acts 2:38), delivering them from the powers of sin. "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, . . ." (Acts 26:18). And in Psalms 40:2 it says, "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock and established my goings." A person with this experience is on the highway of holiness, the road that leads to Heaven. "And an highway shall be there, and a way and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the way-faring men, though fools shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there: but the redeemed shall walk there." Isa. 35:8, 9.

When a man is delivered from sin, evil nature, etc., and nothing left in his heart to condemn him, and the hope of heaven before him, the above scripture is fulfilled in his life. Then surely he has everlasting joys and songs upon his head. There is nothing to keep him from going to heaven if he keeps on the highway.

Just as the big modern equipment is able to uproot the trees and obstacles, and pull down the hills and fill up the valleys to make the way even and smooth, so the truth, when received in the heart, will affect our spiritual life the same way.

We would consider it impossible for a man to take a pick and shovel and move a big mountain. So it is likewise impossible for a man to make the crooked places in his life straight and raise himself up from the gutters of sin without the help of God. "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: And the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain." Isa. 40:3, 4.

Dear ones, do you have things in your life that seem like mountains to you? If so, remember that Jesus said, "Have faith in God." In Matt. 17:20 it says, "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall

be impossible unto you." Some people will say that they cannot live free from sin, and that they cannot overcome this or that. But if they get on this highway they could. Those who are on God's highway do not look to the world for their help, nor at the waves around them. We are instructed to look to Jesus. We are to lay aside every weight, and everything that would hinder us, and look unto Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith. We are also instructed not to turn to the right hand nor to the left. "Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee." Prov. 4:25.

So I find that traveling on this highway of holiness is the safest way, and also the happiest way. When our life is cleaned up and our hearts made pure before God, then He takes care of all the rough places that come in our life. With His grace in our hearts, and His arms underneath us, we have nothing to fear, but we can keep marching right along with confidence on this highway that leads to heaven. And by His help, I mean to keep traveling that way.

Pray for me. Your brother in the Lord,

—Thomas V. McMillian

WORDS

Keep a watch on your words, dear people, for words are wonderful things. They are sweet like the bees' fresh honey, or like the bees they have a terrible sting.

In Proverbs 15:1 we read, "A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger." This scripture brings out these two kinds of words very clearly. The first is kind, loving and soft words like the bees' fresh sweet honey which turns away wrath, while the second, which stirs up anger, is like the bees' terrible sting, which hurts, crushes and injures. Oh let us be careful with our words! James 3:2 tells us, "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body."

Jesus says in Matt. 12:34, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." We can see by this scripture how needful it is to keep the heart right in God's sight, in order to speak the right kind of words. Then in the 36th verse Jesus speaks again, "I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Surely we can see how needful it is to be careful with our words, what we say and how we speak them.

Eccl. 5:2 says, "Let your words be few," and in Col. 4:6, "Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt. . . ." Again in Gal. 6:7 we read, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." Let us be careful to sow kind words that we may be able to reap what we sow, that it may bring forth the peaceable fruit of righteousness. —Sister Atha

The devil is never too busy to rock the cradle of a sleeping backslider.

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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; and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

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The Church of God Chapel at Guthrie, Oklahoma is located on the corner of Sixth and W. Warner. The congregation welcomes you. —Bro. Ira D. Stover, Pastor
417 N. 13th, P. O. Box 210, Phone BUTler 2-3244

EDITORIALS

Jesus, in praying for his justified disciples in the 17th chapter of John's gospel, said in part, "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world even as I am not of the world."

In the above scriptures Jesus our Savior didn't want His followers taken out of the world but He did want them kept from the evil of the world. He also wanted them to be sanctified through the truth. "Thy word is truth." He wanted His disciples to be cleansed, and have power and truth in them to shine as lights in the world so He would be lifted up and all men drawn unto Him. He still wants this same thing to be in His people today.

Let us see what the Word says about the world of which He speaks, so we can get our enemy located, as we are to be kept from this evil thing. In James 1:27, we are told to keep ourselves "unspotted from the world." In the 4th chapter of James we find some who were mixing up with the world and he termed them "adulterers and adulteresses," and strongly rebuked them, saying, "Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." Surely, no one who really loves the Lord would want to associate himself with the enemies of God. We are to love our enemies (their souls), but never to associate ourselves with their evil deeds, as we are exhorted in the Word to abstain from all appearance of evil. 1 Thess. 5:22. In 1st John 2:15 we read, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." By these scriptures we can easily see what the Lord means by the world. He is not referring to this earthly ball upon which we dwell, but it is the evil spirit of the world which dwells in the hearts of unregenerated men and women who are concerned with so many sensual things which detract from and undermine faith in God.

In Jeremiah 17:9, in speaking of an unregenerated heart, he says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Among the worst enemies that Jesus had while here on earth were those who made a high profession of religion and others under their influence. We find that it was the same with the Apostle Paul, and it is certainly that way with us today. This nation of ours seems to be

filled up with deceivers, and in turn they deceive others and cause many of the innocent to be defiled with the worldly religion which is the enemy of God. They become adulterers and have many spots of the world upon them. The Apostle John gives us three things that are of the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

The works of the flesh are enumerated in the 5th chapter of Galatians. The first two words given in this catalog of sins are adultery and fornication. Those who are following the vulgar styles in dressing themselves (or undressing) are guilty of these two fleshly lusts; if not in person, then they are guilty by endorsing such things. Under this grace dispensation according to the Word of God found in Matt. 5:28, "Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." The undressing of women today who parade our streets encourages just such sinning.

The next word is "uncleanness." In 2 Cor. 7:1 we read, "... Dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." Filthiness of the flesh would include the use of tobacco in any form and the use of habit-forming drugs, such as coffee, tea, colas and all alcoholic beverages. Satan has the religious world steeped in such sins. Peter tells us to abstain from these "fleshly lusts, which war against the soul."

The next lust mentioned by John is "the lust of the eyes." Through the seeing of the eyes the flesh lusts after many evil things that Satan has to show in the world today. Satan is not slow in taking advantage of poor souls, and he has his billboards along the highway showing whiskey, tobacco and nearly nude women galore. The latest and the most soul-damning thing he has in the world today is the television in the home. With this instrument in the home he can poison the minds and souls of the children, and feed the lusts of men and women with the dirtiest and most scarlet sins that the world commits. Through the lust of the eye many of the children are growing up to be reprobates and full of the worst sins in the catalog. I appeal to the fathers and mothers of our land to have more concern and care for their children, for the Bible teaches them to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and they will be held responsible for what they allow to be set before their children as temptations. Seventy "evening light" ministers have signed a statement on the evil of having a television in the home. God will not excuse you when the ministers stand against such things and are willing to let it be known.

Let us reason together. In a very short time you will be called from this world by death, and as you are when death overtakes you, so will you be found at the Judgment. By allowing a television to be in your home or by endorsing the same in others' homes, you will have to meet that wrong decision when you stand before the Lord. While you are awaiting the

final Judgment your children, your grandchildren and your neighbors' children will be viewing the evil scenes of the world because you endorsed the thing while here in the world. What do you think our just Judge will say to you? Satan works for years and years, gradually and slowly poisoning a soul in order to take him to the burning pit. For instance, we have men and women in the world today who one time had a good experience of salvation, but Satan cunningly got them to vote again and again with him and finally they lost their souls.

Here is an example of a man that confessed his sins to God in godly sorrow and repentance and received forgiveness of sins. He loves the Lord with all his heart and goes on to perfection or is baptized with the Holy Ghost, and now he has the Teacher, the Holy Spirit, to teach and to lead him into all truth. He is taught by the Spirit that all adornments on his person are wrong and sinful in the sight of God, and thus in child-like obedience he does not wear any more adornments. Read 1 Peter 3:3. He is taught by the Spirit that shows and theaters are of the world, and the world being the enemy of God, he will not indulge himself in such things for he loves the Lord and him only. Being thus obedient to please the Lord, he is given the gift of prophecy and called into the ministry of His Word. Then he is confronted with the thought of prefixing "Reverend" to his name, which he does not feel clear to do, as it is only found once in the Bible and there ascribed to God. Then, none of the apostles used that name but spoke of themselves as servants of God, so he turned Satan down on that. God has blessed him and he has much freedom in proclaiming the gospel. Someone suggested to him that he should demand a salary for his preaching and live easy like many other ministers. He found in the Word of God where it says that the hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. John 10:13. He had faith in God to care for his earthly needs, for Jesus had said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." He turned that proposition down and continued to be happy and contented in God's love. Satan is after every soul that will dare to stand true to God, and he means at any cost to capture that soul before his race on earth is run, get him separated from God and land his soul in the regions of the lost.

Time went on, and the Lord permitted the enemy to try this man to prove him. He began to be tempted in different ways, and his courage weakened. Satan whispered to him that if he would put on some adornments he would have more influence with the people and win more souls, so he voted with Satan on this and did adorn himself some. Later the enemy whispered to him that he should put a television in his home in order to make the children more satisfied to be at home and they could all be entertained with only religious scenes and so he votes with Satan on that. Now since he is a minister and is well-liked by many, Satan suggests to him that he ought to have "Reverend" attached to his name as other

ministers do, as that would make him more popular with the people, and so he votes with Satan on that. Expenses in the home have become greater and the family increased, so the enemy says to him that he should demand a salary for his preaching so he could live like other ministers, and he votes with Satan on that. Since getting the salary, he does not have to pray to God for his needs as they are supplied. Then the enemy whispers to him that if he would put on more adornments he would have a better standing with the people, would be respected more by the better class and his family would fare better in society, so he votes with Satan on that. When he adorns himself, his wife, children, and congregation follow his example. Expenses increase, and Satan has won so many victories that he boldly suggests to him that he should press the law of tithing and his needs would be supplied that way. He votes with Satan on that. Now his congregation has increased and his influence in the world has grown, and some of his fellow ministers suggest to him that being a prominent man as he is, he should join the Ministerial Alliance and the World Council of Churches and be a church among the churches. He votes with Satan on that, and buys him one of their new perverted Bibles which has much in it that undermines real faith in God. According to prophecy Catholicism and Protestantism will merge with Communism.

At last Satan has gained that soul who one time so dearly loved the Lord. What a sad picture, but we see Satan deceiving souls in this way all over the world. As they vote with Satan on issues that come up they are forsaking the Lord, and there is nothing else for the Lord to do but to forsake them. In Isa. 1:19 we read, "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: but if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it." In John 12:48 we read, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." Brethren, let us all be simple-minded enough just to believe His Word and be a doer of the same. Always vote with God on every issue that arises in life, regardless of the cost. Your vote will decide your destiny. Remember that Satan is after your soul. "For if I build again the things which I destroyed I make myself a transgressor." Gal. 2:18. In 2 Thess. 2nd chapter we read of God sending men strong delusions because they received not a love for the truth. In John 14:23 we read what Jesus says, "If a man love me he will keep my words." In 1 John 5:3, we read, "For this is the love of God that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

PRAYER REQUESTS

I am not in any church, but I believe in the Lord. I would like to be a member of God's church. Pray for me.
—Lizzie Thornton

I have a very sick invalid mother. In lifting her I become very tired. My hand and heart are also giving

me trouble. Pray the Lord to heal and strengthen my body.
—Sister P. R. Bowers

TRACT HOLDERS STILL AVAILABLE

Tract and paper racks for wall mounting are in stock ready for shipment, size 21" x 21", made of fir plywood, finished in natural, clear varnish, or any shade of varnish stain you may want. There are six pockets for tracts, and one pocket in the center for papers. Every chapel should have one conveniently located and kept filled with tracts and papers. They should be placed in rail and bus stations, and other public places. The low price (no dealers, please) is \$2.50 here at the office, or \$4.00 each postpaid to any address in the United States.

Also, we have a smaller rack, size 13" x 21", with two pockets for tracts and a center section for papers. Price \$1.25 here, or \$2.00 postpaid.

PLACE OF WORSHIP NEEDED AT BATON ROUGE

The saints at Baton Rouge, La. are desiring to purchase property that they may have a suitable place to meet and worship the Lord. We already have a fund started for this purpose. Anyone feeling led of the Lord or desiring to contribute to this need may send their offering to Brother Steve Henry, Rt. 2, Harrell's Ferry Road, Baton Rouge, La. Bro. Steve is the son of Sister Dot Henry of California. His wife Audrey is the daughter of Bro. and Sister R. J. Forbes of Hammond, La.
—Max Williamson

AKRON, OHIO MEETING REPORT

Bro. Curtis Williams started a revival meeting here on Wednesday night, March 27 and closed Sunday night March 31. Bro. McCoy was led of the Lord to come with Bro. Williams and worked faithfully in the meeting. Our hearts were made to rejoice. Other saints from Dayton came Saturday and spent the night, and were here to help us enjoy a glorious meeting on Sunday.

During the meeting, several were at the altar for spiritual help. Some were sanctified and some were seeking grace for future trials. Bro. Robert Jones and one of his nieces were saved and Bro. Adolph Robinson was reunited with the saints. It was just about more than we could contain—our cups ran over.

The saints here have been praying for some time for God to send us a Holy Ghost pastor. Now as the responsibilities are becoming greater, we feel the need of one more than ever. We are asking all the saints to help us pray that God will put His hand upon someone for this work. We are looking by faith. May God bless each of you.
—Annie Bell Allen

Meeting Notices

SOUTH CAROLINA ASSEMBLY MEETING

An assembly meeting of the Church of God will be held 2½ miles northeast of Holly Hill, S. C., from June 7, to June 16, 1963.

All are invited to attend. For further information, write to the pastor, O'Neal Pratt, Rt. 1, Box 38, Holly Hill, South Carolina. Saints, pray for this meeting.

GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMPMEETING

The annual Church of God campmeeting on the General Southern Campgrounds at Hammond, La. will be held on June 28th to July 7th, inclusive.

Hammond is located at the junction of Highway 190 east and west and Highway 51 north and south. It is also on the Illinois Central R. R., sixty miles north of New Orleans. The campgrounds are in the southwest part of town, about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from I. C. depot or Greyhound bus station.

We are expecting God to send ministers who will preach the truth in its fullness. The saints everywhere are invited to attend, and anyone else who may be interested. All will receive a hearty welcome from the saints at Hammond and Loranger, La.

Let us pray earnestly that the Lord will bless, not only in this meeting but also in all the meetings of the saints.

Yours in His eternal Kingdom, —M. F. Williamson

JEFFERSON, OREGON CAMPMEETING

The annual campmeeting of the Church of God at Jefferson, Oregon will be held June 28 through July 7, 1963, Lord willing. It will be run on free-will offering plan. All are welcome to come. Cabins and bedding are furnished.

We are expecting a feast from Father's table. Ministers of the Lord's choosing will be present to bring us the whole Word of God under the anointing of the Holy Ghost.

For further information, write Bro. Noah White, Rt. 1, Jefferson, Oregon, or Sister Bea Spaur, Pastor, P. O. Box 254, Jefferson, Oregon, phone FA 7-2855.

ALL-DAY SERVICES NEAR MANSFIELD, MISSOURI

Lord willing, we will have our annual all-day meeting on Sunday, May 12th, 1963 at the chapel located north of Mansfield, Mo. on Bro. Ed Tombleson's place. If the Lord burdens some minister to come, it would be good to have meeting starting the 8th through the all-day meeting. All are invited to come. For further information, write D. A. Gibson, Seymour, Mo. Tel. WE 5-4548 or Murphy Allen, Mansfield, Mo., Box 352, Tel. WA 4-3726.

—Murphy Allen

SPRING MEETING AT WICHITA, KANSAS

The annual spring meeting of the Church of God will be held at the chapel in Wichita, Kansas, located at 1701 N. Ash from May 30 to June 9, 1963. Everyone is cordially invited to attend these services.

—Lewis Williams, Pastor

ALL-DAY SERVICES AT NEOSHO, MO.

There will be all-day services held each 4th Sunday at the Church of God Chapel in Neosho, Mo., also young peoples' meeting on Saturday night before the all-day services. The congregation welcomes all.

Obituaries

Mrs. Ora Gem Casto, aged 83, was born in Indiana and lived in and near Webb City, Mo. most of her life. She departed this life Feb. 25, 1963. She was married to James Casto at Cartersville, Missouri in 1911. He preceded her in death. To this union were born three children, two sons, Glen Casto of Webb City, Fred Casto of Dewey, Okla., and one daughter, May Ola Johnson who passed away in 1954 at the Monark Campmeeting. There are eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Mother Casto united with the family of God years

ago and seemed satisfied in her soul. She enjoyed our visits and desired prayer.

Funeral services were conducted at Webb City, Mo. by Sister Ersu Carrick.

Bessie (Shoemaker) Dunkley was born July 20, 1879 in Allegan Co., Michigan, and departed this life March 25, 1963 at the age of 83 years, 8 months, and 5 days.

She was united in marriage to Frank Moore in 1897. To this union four children were born. In 1935 she married Fred Dunkley. Her survivors include her husband, Fred, her sons, LeRoy H. Moore, C. Lafe Moore; her two daughters, Mrs. Mildred L. Roblyer and Mrs. Valda Harback, all of Kalamazoo. She also leaves 14 grandchildren, 37 great grandchildren and 2 great great grandchildren.

She attended the services at 3rd and G. Avenues, Kalamazoo, Michigan. She always gave a good testimony of her love for the Lord. She was faithful to her convictions to the end. She was loved dearly by her brothers and sisters in the Lord, her children, relatives, and friends. She will be greatly missed.

Funeral services were held at the Langeland Funeral Chapel, with Sister Margaret Brant conducting the service. Ralph and Dorothy Wilkins sang "Watch and Pray," and "Face to Face." Her body was laid to rest in Mt. Ever-Rest Memorial Park, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Mose Ditermas Johnson was born approximately 78 years ago, the third child born to Millie Hester and Aaron Johnson in Grimes County, Texas. In the year 1902 the family of brothers and sisters moved to Oklahoma. He became a Christian when quite young and spent more than 35 years in the Master's service. He gave freely of his time, his counsel and his money, and was always willing to do anything that he felt would help in any way.

In 1908 he married Gertie Smith. To this union two sons were born. His wife and children preceded him in death. He remained unmarried for 45 years.

He leaves to mourn his passing a host of relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Woodrow Warren and Bro. Sam Barton.

Eliza Pierce, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Pierce, was born July 16, 1884 in Poke County, Arkansas and departed this life March 21, 1963, at the age of 78 years, 8 months and 5 days.

The family moved to the Indian Territory when she was a small child and she grew to womanhood near Crowder, Okla. She went to the home of her sister, Mrs. Sarah Johnson in 1910. There she made her home until she married Bro. H. R. Holdcraft, a minister of the gospel, in August, 1935. They made their home in Guthrie, Okla. Bro. Holdcraft preceded her in death in August of 1956. At the time of his death Sister Holdcraft had lost her eye sight and was in poor health until her departure.

She was saved and became a member of the Church of God in 1911, receiving Christ as her personal Savior, and Healer of her body. "Aunt Eliza" was faithful in her long suffering, and not once desired help from the aid of men. She was a great inspiration to young and old through her long suffering. She stood on the promise, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Aunt Eliza's trust for healing was a light in this world which will be remembered.

She leaves to mourn her passing, two sisters, a number of nieces and nephews and other relatives, plus a host of friends.

She will be greatly missed by the saints here at Guthrie. She was faithful to come to services as long as she was able. When she could no longer come, she enjoyed their visits and many times when in her great suffering the saints would sing and pray with her, and God would bless her and she would join in the singing. The many times God answered prayer in her behalf will never be forgotten.

Funeral services were held in the Saints' Chapel at Guthrie, Okla. Brothers O. C. Porter, I. D. Stover, and Ulysses Phillips officiated. Text used: 2 Tim. 4:7; Rev. 14:13. Interment in Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie.

Ivalyn Edith Peck, daughter of Theresa Augusta and Benjamin Clarence Peck, was born December 21, 1878 in Madison, Wisconsin and departed this life on March 15, 1963 at Los Angeles, California.

She was born into the Kingdom of God at Milwaukee, Wisconsin in August, 1904.

She was married to Addison Kriebel on May 11, 1907. They came to Los Angeles, California in October, 1919. To this union no children were born. They worshiped at Walnut and Naomi Streets, Church of God Chapel. Bro. Kriebel was highly esteemed as a minister. He taught the adult Bible Class for years. He passed away November 4, 1938.

On June 3, 1958, Sister Kriebel had a stroke which caused her to lose her speech and the use of her right hand. Six weeks later she was moved to Pasadena, Calif. under the care of Willa Turner. Her death was due to a fatal heart attack from heart disease, which she had for ten years.

She was buried by the side of her husband in Inglewood Cemetery. Funeral services were conducted by Bros. O. B. Wilson, I. C. Chandler and A. E. Harmon at Angelus Funeral Home, Los Angeles, Calif. She leaves to mourn two brothers, one sister, nieces and nephews and many Christian friends. —Mrs. W. A. Turner

WRITINGS FROM A. E. HARMON

(Part 2)

This part has to do with light. God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another. This light cannot change, for if so, we would have no foundation to stand on, like some spoken of in Scripture saying the resurrection is already passed and overthrow the faith of some. Jeremiah says we should seek the "old paths," a single beam of light, some times broadening out and sometimes narrowing up, but the same beam of light, that shines from dawn until evening. But many have left the light and this way, calling it progressing, while getting colder and weaker all the time. At the time of Jerusalem's destruction, there were 1,200,000 people there but only a small number escaped. Before this, ten tribes were carried away captive into Persia and never returned. About 130 years later two tribes were carried to Babylon as captives for 70 years but were allowed to return after that. To me this is a type. The ten tribes that were lost were replaced by the Cutheans who were later called Samaritans, and when the Jews prospered they claimed kinship, and when the Jews suffered reverses the Samaritans denied kinship. I see that as well applying to this "evening time."

Let us take it a little further. Amos 5:3, "The city that went out by a thousand shall leave an hundred, and that which went forth by an hundred, shall leave ten to the house of Israel." That is 10 per cent left and 90

per cent lost. That is a sad condition, all because they got off the beam of light. Also the two tribes suffered a setback, but God saved a remnant, about 10 per cent according to the book.

When I was a boy, I heard someone say (the best I can remember) that there were an hundred thousand saints in the U. S. About a year ago I got hold of a year book, listing all congregations in the U. S., also their number. I didn't count them, but I estimated about ninety thousand. I reasoned by this that there were 10 per cent or about 10,000 who stayed "on the beam" or in the "old paths." The rest were carried away, never as a whole to return, only by proxy like the Cutheans who were called Samaritans, and would like to help build the wall of Jerusalem. But let us beware and stay on the beam or in the light, for to err is to be carried away captive, the same as the 10 tribes.

I don't suggest that ten thousand are all that will be saved, but here it is said 10 per cent. In Matthew 25th chapter, concerning the virgins, only 50 per cent made it. In some places none have made it. In other places, most all made it. The Word is so clear on this subject it gives something to base our estimate on.

We have suffered the presence of a good many "Samaritans" among us in my time, either on an extreme line or on a liberal line, and I believe we need to be more sensitive as to what kind of a spirit activates such people.

May the Lord bless and keep you all.

Yours in Him,

—A. E. Harmon

TESTIMONIES

Tenn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all at the Printshop: I want to tell you how much I enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory" paper. It makes me happy to read it, and I think it is a wonderful paper. It really has helped me. I wish there were a true church here in Maryville.

Pray for me to have more power from God and more light to walk in. Also pray for me to be healed. I had the flu and it left me with something like arthritis in my limbs. Sometimes I can hardly walk. I have some unspoken requests. Please pray for them.

Yours in Christ,

—Grace Burger

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear Sister Miles, I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am still saved, trusting the Lord for soul and body. I love the Lord, for He first loved me. I have had the flu this winter. It weakened my eyes. Please pray that the Lord will strengthen my eyes and heal me of this pain in my right hip. I know He will heal. Pray for my unsaved loved ones.

I see this is the 40th year that the "Faith and Victory" has been printed. I received one of the first copies. We assembled at Tullahassee, Okla. at that time. I have taken it ever since. It is so much consolation to me. I am isolated and glad to have the "Faith and Victory" paper.

Your sister in the One Body,

—Lizzie Randles

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mo.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints everywhere, greetings in the wonderful and glorious name of Jesus: I express my deepest thankfulness to the great God whom we serve and to you and to the saints everywhere who lifted me up in prayer before God in my recent sickness. I can't praise God enough for what He has done for me.

I am so thankful that I surrendered my heart to the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ some years ago and was lifted from the miry clay of sin and have been estab-

lished upon the solid rock, Christ Jesus. Praise God! By the grace of God I intend to stay grounded on this Rock. I am a part of this great Kingdom or Church of God, and am thankful for the light that led me into this family of God. Praise God forever! I love God, His Son Jesus, the Holy Ghost, and all God's saints. Thanks be to God for His great gift of love.

I continue to desire your prayers in my behalf.

Your brother in the one family of God,

—Kenneth Christiansen

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

La.—Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name to all the laborers in the Publishing House at Guthrie:

We do appreciate the way that Bro. Fred Pruitt has held the standard of truth in God's Word. It encourages us to go on unto the end. We know not where the first "Faith and Victory" paper came from, but we thank God for it. Pray for us here at Monroe that we will be a blessing in God's kingdom.

Brother Goldsberry and family are ministering to the needs here at Monroe and we do thank God for them. Remember us in your prayers.

Yours in Christ,

—The Futch family

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

Okla.—March 25, 1963. Dear Workers at the Print Shop, greetings in Jesus' dear name: I would like for you to earnestly pray for my little boy. He is three years old. It seems as if he has had a facial stroke. He had a severe headache and real high fever. He cried a lot with it. The Lord wonderfully undertook. It lasted about one day. But afterwards he looked in the face as if he had had a long spell of sickness. I noticed one of his eyes running all the time and his mouth being twisted to one side. The eye that runs won't close as it should. His speech is also changed a little. He says it doesn't hurt unless he tries to turn his mouth the opposite way from which it is twisted, then it hurts in the muscles of his jaw.

We surely desire your earnest prayers that God will touch his body and correct whatever the trouble is. I suppose that fever left him like that. But my trust is in God for healing him. God has healed of many sicknesses since we've been saved, including heart ailment and pneumonia. Through all of this God gets the praise for we don't believe in anything else. My heart is encouraged to trust Him for this, too.

(The following was received at a later date, April 13, 1963.)

To our dear Sister in Christ: Just a few lines to let you hear from us. We are all well and happy in the Lord. We thank Him for His goodness to us. I hope these few lines find you well.

I told you I'd let you know from time to time concerning Cleophas. He is much better, thanks be to God. His eye doesn't run any more and his mouth is much better. Only when he smiles or cries, can one tell it is twisted. I surely thank God for His goodness to us and we want to thank the saints there for praying, too. It seems I can see it getting better every day. We surely thank all of you for your prayers. Continue to remember him for complete healing. I know God can and will heal him.

Your sister in Christ, —Earnestine Jordon

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

Mo.—Dear Bro. Fred Pruitt: I am glad the Lord is blessing there in the print shop. I receive the little "Faith and Victory" paper each month and surely do enjoy its pages of testimonies. I want to read it through before I quit. I wish we could get it more often.

God is blessing us, too. When I wrote for the Bibles, I sent in a prayer request for my chest and shoulders. They hurt me so badly that I could hardly get my breath. Now they are well. God has healed them. I give Him all the praise, for I didn't take a thing, or rub a thing on. I trusted God and He healed me. Praise His holy name! I am learning more each day how to trust Him. My heart's desire is to go all the way. I want to be led by His Spirit and please Him in every way.

May the good Lord bless and keep you and all the saints at the printing shop is my prayer. Pray for us, for we need your prayers.

I am sending a little offering.

A sister,

—Mrs. Eathel Hill

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

Okla.—Dear Ones: greetings of Christian love to each one who may read this. The Lord has done so much for me I hardly know where to begin. "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures."—Psalms 23:2. This is something the Lord has been teaching me the past year or two very definitely—that the soul cannot be hurried. When a person loses his health, it takes in more than can be imagined, even though still in their youth. I gradually lost the greater part of my strength. The hardest battle I had to fight was the terrible depression which descended so often because I was unable to keep up my duties as a mother (of three) and a housewife, plus the many responsibilities which go with being the wife of a minister. I wept often, prayed much. The Lord had many hard lessons to teach me which would be impossible to put into words. Job 26:14 "Lo, there are parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? but the thunder of his power who can understand?" He tells us He'll not put more on us than we can bear and will, with the temptation make a way of escape which He did for me. When I felt I could no longer bear the many burdens, the Lord gave me a healing touch of strength to my body. It was a rejoicing time for my husband and two boys as they prayed continually for me to get well. It was quite a burden on them. Also with a baby girl to care for, it greatly increased my need for good health. Through it all I gained a greater understanding of others who may have similar trouble. I found it is very hard for others to understand, usually impossible, unless having similar experiences, in order to be the help and encouragement and bear the burden to victory. The Lord did burden some to pray earnestly and help in other ways, to lighten my load at times. I appreciate these dear ones very much and by the Lord's help hope to be a help to others going through similar trials. The Lord healed me last November and I began to assume my many duties from that time on.

Then the Lord really opened up the furnace, so to speak, a few weeks later which has been several months now. We have been tried, it seems, in every way imaginable. If one thing didn't work, the devil dealt several other crushing blows. Through it all we have held on to God's unchanging hand. He has never failed us yet, thank the Lord! The Lord has given victory, peace and contentment deep within our souls as the tempest raged without. "Godliness with contentment is great gain." The more a child learns in school, the harder he has to study and the bigger the tests are, otherwise he doesn't learn much. So it must be with God. If we can only be as patient, longsuffering, kind, and loving to others as He is to us! That is my prayer.

Last week while Troy was away, as he has been much more of late, in the Lord's work, we had a phone call in the night for prayer, which is not unusual. I

answered the phone, then lost consciousness and when I came to, I found I was lying on the floor in the dark. It was hard to realize what had happened as I have never fainted easily; then as I reached for the phone, again I felt myself blacking out. I asked Sister Wahl to call for prayer, made it to bed, then realized the terrible pain and indescribable grip upon my chest, left arm and head was not passing, but increasing and breath was very short. The Lord let me know my life was hanging by a brittle thread about to break. I felt ready to go and didn't care till I realized that the children would need someone to care for them. I began to fight to keep conscious and call on the Lord. My strength was gone, I couldn't move. If I had called a doctor, it would have been too late by the time he got here. But the greatest physician of all was right by my side. It surely pays to trust the Lord and be in a position to call on Him for help, rather than needing time to clear our own soul. The ministers came and prayed for me. I got relief. Troy was called home and others came in to help.

All the next day it caused pain in my chest to talk and my strength was gone. Troy said I was very pale. I was in bed four days, but I was so weak and my left arm and chest hurt to move.

Sunday evening on the fourth day, I felt impressed to call for prayer to obey the scripture in James 5:14, 15. The ministers came out, anointed me with oil, I sat up and sang with them! Praise the Lord! I dressed and went to services that night and testified to the goodness of the Lord. Some who knew how bad I was, felt they were almost seeing a ghost walk in. The days of miracles are not passed away with the disciples as some would believe. There is no doubt in my mind but what I would be a heart patient for years to come, unable to live a normal life had I put my trust in man as the world does.

Although I didn't have an earthly doctor examine me, I called on the greatest physician in heaven and earth. Without a doubt it was a heart attack. I talked to others still under a doctor's care and it only helps prove that God is the same today as yesterday, showing His greatness in still working miracles.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the many who called, visited, sent cards, letters and offerings, brought food, gave encouraging words and prayed for me. I will thank each one or write as soon as I can. You can never know how much it meant to us. We can only pray God's richest blessings on each sacrifice of love and thoughtfulness shown toward us.

Christian love, —Mrs. Troy (Wilma) Meek

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Calif.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name, the One who forgiveth all our iniquities delivereth us from destruction and crowneth us with loving-kindness and tender mercy. Praise His dear name!

I surely enjoyed all the good testimonies in the March issue of the "Faith and Victory." I have always appreciated Bro. Pruitt so much and I don't know who I would rather have pray for me when I'm sick. It always seemed when he would pray for me I knew God heard and answered and it was so.

I remember the time the typhoid broke out at Monark Springs campmeeting, I know I started to have it. I was sick, but never called for prayer. When I went to meeting one night (I think it was to our Guthrie campmeeting) Bro. Pruitt said, "You are healed; the Lord healed you today," and it was so. I didn't know anyone knew I was sick, but it was precious to know God knew, cared, heard and answered prayer. Praise His dear name!

I always appreciated your mother, Sister Pruitt, too. If I needed help in prayer I would tell her to agree with me for a certain thing, and it would soon come to pass. It's wonderful to be a prayer warrior for the Lord and others.

We had a pick-up truck and I was taking Brother and Sister Simon Post and our grandchildren to Sunday School and meeting on Sunday mornings. We didn't have room enough in the pick-up so I asked your mother, Sister Pruitt, to pray with me that I could have a car, if I would use it to the glory of God. If I remember correctly, in less than two weeks I had a car, a nicer one than I wanted or expected, and it was brought about in such a marvelous way. It thrilled my soul to see what God had done for me.

The Lord surely is good to us and it seems there is no stopping place, for His goodness endureth forever. Praise His dear name! God's ways are surely best. I am so thankful for what the dear Lord did for Sister Nettie Pruitt. I thank God for the whole truth and that He ever led me to the truth. Praise God!

Love and prayers,

—Emma Dilley

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Nebraska—To all the readers of the "Faith and Victory," greetings in Jesus' precious name: We are indeed so thankful for the great blessing our heavenly Father bestowed upon us in calling and leading our kind Bro. Pruitt into His service. Praise our dear Lord! We are reminded that in years past, how our heavenly Father could see the need and called him to carry the blessed gospel into the four corners of the earth, and now he has blessed and established the truth that can never be erased.

We look back to the year of 1927, when our late Brother and Sister Humphrey and I were living in Peru, Nebraska and longing to establish the truth in the mission work there. Sister and Brother Humphrey were the elders and were true to God. They were sad as they saw compromise from what our late Bro. Warner had taught and lived. I often was in their home. This special day I went to their home, and our dear Sister Humphrey says, "Oh, Sister Sultzbaugh, someone has sent us a roll of papers!" Rejoicing, she said, "They teach just like Brother Warner taught!" We were so happy for this, even though at that time I was a babe in Christ Jesus. We subscribed for the paper and were a happy band of only a few, but we always claimed the promise, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst." We do indeed believe that the "Faith and Victory" is built on the Word of God. We, in deep Christian love, have high respect and confidence in our kind, gentle, longsuffering, patient and firm brother, Fred Pruitt. His kind advice helped this very small child out of a cloud of discouragement. Today my heart is indeed fixed on Jesus. Praise His blessed name! We believe our Brother Pruitt is alert but not hasty. Kind words never die. Humanity today needs kindness and truth.

This unworthy servant was blessed with justification and later sanctification in the year 1924, and this same autumn dear Sister Humphrey helped me to see the one true church. Oh, we were so happy with this truth which we never forgot. I was blessed with the two works of grace through the reading of the New Testament. Praise our blessed Savior! Our brother Paul declared, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth." I carefully read and believed it was written for me. When I came to the scripture, "Cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may

be clean also," I said, "That was written for me." With deep godly sorrow, I repented and later I made my surrender and was blessed again with the outpouring of the baptism of the Holy Spirit of God upon my soul and being. I found that I had been blessed with a rest I had never known before. I was alone, yet not alone. Now the Bible became an open book, and God had said, "I will give them an heart of understanding." As did the angel say to John the Beloved, "Eat the Book." I loved it then and I still love it now. I was then in my thirties and now am in my seventies, and I love to eat the Book or feed on the word of God. I may be isolated, but not alone. We always need the prayers of our sisters and brothers in Jesus. Oh, to be pliable and submissive in the blessed hands of our dear Savior who knows how to work out all our problems!

Here I will quote a few words of a song I like: "I'll sing it and tell it, Wherever I go. I want all to hear it, I want all to know, I love all the Christians, I love sinners, too, For I have been born again."

May God bless all of His dear ones.

—Sister Mittie M. Sultzbaugh

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

Okla.—Greetings of love to all the saints: I want to send my testimony of how God so wonderfully healed me. I had the flu and was in very severe pain. It was Wednesday night, and after prayer meeting, a number of the saints came in to pray for me and God healed me instantly. Praise His name! Truly, the Lord is good to us and causeth us to triumph. I did not have any more pain—no cough—I was well. It seemed as though I never felt so humble before my Lord, as many of God's children were sick at the time. I felt so unworthy, knowing that others were suffering. But the Lord has had mercy on us all, for which we give Him all the praise and glory. Amen.

—Sister Myrtle Souder

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

La.—Dear ones in Christ: We are so thankful this morning that we can report victory in our soul. The diabolical forces of evil are loose in the world and God's saints are being tried on every hand. I am glad, though, that He giveth more grace, and we can say with Paul, "None of these things move me."

The Apostle Peter says, "Though now for a season, if need be, you are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." 1 Pet. 1:6, 7.

Jesus said to Peter, "Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not." We are so glad that the Lord is mindful of our every need. When Stephen was going through the severe test of being stoned and as his life was ebbing away, he looked upon heaven's scenes and saw Jesus standing on the right hand of God. What a comfort and joy to know that we have a faithful High Priest who can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; who in all points was tempted like as we are yet without sin. We wish to say to every soul that may be oppressed by the hand of Satan, look up.

Paul, that great apostle and servant of Jesus Christ said in Heb. 12:2, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

May God help us all to be able to discern the workings of Satan. The prophet Isaiah said of Jesus, "A bruised reed shall He not break, and the smoking flax shall He not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth."

Again we quote the prophet Isaiah in chapter 50:4, "The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary." Paul said, "I beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ." He also said, "We were gentle among you even as a nurse cherisheth her children."

In St. Mark 9:49, 50 we read, "For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt. Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltiness wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves and have peace one with another." May our words be seasoned with salt that we shall not crush a tender planting of the Lord.

"To them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." 2 Pet. 1:1, 2 "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised:) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works." Heb. 10:23, 24.

Wearry soul, take courage in Jesus. When He, the chief Shepherd, that great Shepherd of the sheep shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 15:57.

Yours in Him,

—M. F. Williamson

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

Oregon—Dear saints everywhere: I am encouraged to press on and live for my Lord more each day as I see the time of our redemption drawing near.

Some time ago I had a severe pain in my arm between the shoulder and elbow, and could hardly dress or get my arm up to do my work as it was so painful. So after prayer one night I was wondering why the Lord didn't heal me. He has done it so many times before, so I asked the Lord if there was anything in my life to keep me from receiving His blessings for Him to let me know, and I began to search my life. I thought if He would heal me so I could do my washing and ironing the next day, I would send in my testimony to the saints. I went right to sleep and in the morning I was healed and able to do all my work. Praise the Lord! He is able to do all things, but at all times He wants us to give Him honor and praise and not just take it for granted because we know He is able.

Pray for me that I will ever be thankful and not be neglectful again.

Your sister in Christ,

—Sister C. H. Olson

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Michigan—Dear Bro. Pruitt: We receive the "Faith and Victory" regularly and read it from cover to cover. We really get a blessing with each issue.

There are many things I would like to say in this letter, but really do not have time at present to write them.

There are some real true saints here in Kalamazoo who have stood by us in our recent illness which we have had in our family. God has blessed in our home greatly and we are thankful, and want to serve Him all the way. A Sister in Christ,

—Kathryn Beason

The apostles never voted anybody into an office of any kind. But when God, by the Spirit, placed somebody into a vocation, they acknowledged the gift of God in him by a season of fasting and prayer and the imposition of hands. Acts 6:6; 13:1-3; 14:23. Nor did they "lay hands suddenly" on a man who professed a calling of God, but waited until he proved his gift by exercising the same.

—Wm. G. Schell

Are You Searching for Serenity?

(The following article was written for this publication by Bro. Wayne Turner, whose written testimony of his marvelous conversion in a Louisiana jail on Feb. 17, 1962 has been eagerly read across this country and foreign lands. Pray for our dear Bro. Turner that his courage and faith will not fail as he faces the future under sentence of death for his crime.—L. D. P.)

The dictionary defines serenity as quiet peace; calmness. Down through the ages man has sought serenity and the secrets that lie therein. Some have found these secrets that unlock the doors to serenity. Others have not, but every day the search goes on by the majority of humanity for this quiet peace, this calmness, this serenity. So to you, dear friends, who are still searching for this key that unlocks the doors to serenity, I direct this writing.

Now let us start by posing a hypothetical situation, and ask you just what would you do were you to find out you had just 24 hours left to live—twenty four hours, the sum total of one day out of a year? I can imagine your first reaction would be one of surprise and shock, but I doubt whether it would last very long for you would soon be faced with other more important realizations than surprise and shock. You soon would be ready to start thinking of what you were going to do these final 24 hours, and making preparation for leaving this earth. Would these final 24 hours be spent in fear and indecision as you went about your preparations, or would you spend them in the quiet peace of serenity? It would not be a normal day of business as usual for you because your final day on earth would in itself be a most unusual one. As in our life, it would be just one time, never happening before and never happening again — a step from earth into eternity.

One of your first thoughts, I'm sure, would be of what lies beyond for you and whether or not you are ready to face eternity. I have no doubt that some would run to the nearest church building and spend their last day desperately searching for soul peace at the altar of prayer. Would you be one? Others would go around hoping it wasn't true, but yet full of indecision as to what to do. Would you be one? Some would not be able to face these last 24 hours. Would you be one? Or would you be one with the assurance of salvation and God's promise of a heavenly crown of life in facing this last day? Actually what you would do this last day is not what we are interested in, and I mention it simply as a sounding board of thoughts for you. What we are interested in is what you are prepared to do today for your eventual last day on earth.

The story is told of a Chinese shopkeeper by the name of Le San who awoke one morning wondering what he would do were this to be his final day on earth. He lay in bed long moments pondering the thought and finally decided that he would spend this day as if it were his last on earth. Now Le San was a devoted man of God and upon arising he held his morning devotions as he did every morning. He

asked God's guidance and strength in his life, especially on this his last, and when he was finished he prepared to go about the day's business.

Being a shopkeeper, Le San would usually arrive at his place of business around 8 a. m. to make ready for the events of the day. But this morning he did not open his shop. Instead he stood on the sidewalk in front of his shop greeting passersby with a cheery "good morning" and handing out gospel tracts. To all who would stop to hear, Le San would give his personal testimony of what God had done for him in saving him from his sins, and witness to the precious blessings of salvation through Jesus.

Now Le San had a competitor across the street by the name of Hi Ling, and for several hours Hi Ling watched in wonderment at the actions of Le San. Does Le San have so much money he need not worry about opening for business, thought Hi Ling. Finally his curiosity got the best of him, and Hi Ling left his shop, crossing the street to where Le San stood.

"Good morning," said Hi Ling, "and what, may I ask, causes you not to be open for business today? A special holiday maybe, or perhaps illness in the family?"

"Oh," said Le San, "have you not heard that this is my final day on earth and I have more important things to do today? Today I am serving my Savior who died on the cross for my sins and yours too, Hi Ling." With that, he thrust a tract into Hi Ling's hand.

Quite naturally this all came as a great surprise to Hi Ling, for to him a man dying should be in the hospital, or at least at home in bed. Walking back to his shop, he was even more mixed up than before, and as the day wore on he could not keep his thoughts or eyes off his friend, Le San, across the street. That night at home he read the tract Le San had given him. He read of a man called Jesus who came into the world to save man from sin, and who shed His blood on the cross in payment of the sins of the world so that all who would call upon the name of the Lord would be saved. He read of God's promise of eternal life in heaven to all who would accept Christ and follow Him, and the more he read, the more conscious he became of his need of salvation.

Hi Ling, like so many others, had always believed there was a God but had never taken the time to seek Him out. He'd always thought there would be time tomorrow, but tomorrow just never seemed to roll around for Hi Ling. A busy shopkeeper had so many other things to take up his time. Well, Hi Ling spent a very restless night tossing and turning fretfully in his attempt to sleep, but sleep would not come. His mind was full of thoughts of Le San and the tract Le San had given him. And as the sun came up on another new day it was a sleepless Hi Ling who arose to make his way down to his little place of business. Arriving, he was both shocked and surprised to see Le San once again in front of his shop greeting passersby and handing out gospel tracts. Hurrying across the street went Hi Ling to confront Le San and demand

why he wasn't home in bed since he would be dead shortly—or was this all a big hoax by Le San?

"Oh, no," said Le San, "this is not a hoax. I have just been granted another day to remain here on earth, my friend, and all is quite well."

The puzzled look on Hi Ling's face then brought about this explanation.

"You see," said Le San, "this earth is not our final home and we are all subject to be called into eternity at any moment. Yesterday on awakening, this thought was brought to bear on my mind of what I would do were this to be my final day on earth. So I decided to live yesterday as if it were my final day, and before being called home by my Savior I sought to tell others of the precious salvation God offers each one of us through His Son, Jesus. I sought to warn people of the dangers that await them in eternity should they not be ready on their final day. The choice is ours here on earth to choose our destiny in eternity and God wills that none should be lost, but that all should be saved from the eternal fires of hell. We cannot choose once we pass into eternity. We must choose right here on earth. Jesus, speaking in John 5:24, says, 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my words, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.'"

"You see how wonderful and precious it is, Hi Ling," said Le San. "When we accept Christ into our hearts and live free from sin, we need never fear our final day because we have God's promise of eternal life in heaven. And so," said Le San, "I shall live each day as if it were my last, for I shall not pass this way again. If we do not do our very best today, then we have lost a day, and the day we lose may very well be our last."

The tears were flowing down Hi Ling's cheeks as Le San finished talking, and in a cracked and broken voice he asked Le San to pray with him that he might have this precious salvation also. Together on the sidewalk these two men knelt to pray to God—one the possessor of salvation and serenity and the other a man who had just found the key.

Oh, dear friends, are you living in this your final day without being prepared for eternity? The serenity you seek is in only one element—the shed blood of Jesus who died that you and I might have this eternal crown of life. Did Le San have it? Does Hi Ling have it now? I'm sure that if these two were here to speak to you now they would surely say they have found soul rest. They have no worries about what tomorrow may bring because their tomorrows are God's assurance of the eternal crown of life as they keep prepared for their final day.

Not many people on this earth will know beforehand that they are definitely facing their final day. But whether you realize it or not, you are faced with it every day because our call to eternity may come at any moment, and if we are not ready, it is then too late to get ready. 2 Cor. 6:2 states: "Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." Not a month from today, or a year from today, but

NOW! With Christ in our hearts we possess salvation, and with salvation we possess soul rest.

I pray, dear friends, that you will not be caught unprepared for your call to eternity. The way is open to you through the blood of Christ. Seek Him NOW! Do not wait until your final day is upon you.

In the service of our Savior, —Wayne Turner

"On the Evil and the Good"

Matthew 5:43-48 tells us: "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That you may be the children of your Father which is in Heaven: for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." God is in Heaven and He beholds all the works of man. He sees the gross works of darkness and the depths of vanity. He knows that men and women have not time for Him and are not inclined to serve Him. He hears them blaspheme His name and abuse His cause. But still He allows mankind to be blessed with good things upon the earth. He sends sunshine and the rain and preserves the earth in her orbits and bounds. We cannot deny that God is good to those who do not serve Him. Sometimes He lends help in miraculous ways out of His sheer goodness. In that He is good to people does not signify that He upholds them in their way. But He bestows upon them His blessings simply because He is God, and He is good.

There are special blessings that He reserves for those who fear Him. But there are blessings that He freely gives everyone, good or bad. Those who do not serve Him know nothing of the special blessings but taste of His general blessings daily. Man, his surroundings, his success, achievements, and all his state exists by the goodness of God.

But Satan has sought to warp man's thoughts concerning this. Many mistake the general goodness of God as a token of His good pleasure in them. Some fail to realize the extent of His goodness to those who do not serve Him. The above scriptures taken as they were meant to be received give a clear concise report on the matter. The love that Jesus designs for His people to have is not determined by the actions of others. It exists of itself, a fountain with its own source and supply. It flows when mistreated as well as when blessed. It flows when misunderstood or when one cannot understand. Love your enemies, he said, and do good to them that do despite. We are to do this if we are the children of God, for this is the love which He has.

We find Satan slipping an ungodly attitude in many today. May God help us to guard against it.

One person disapproves of another's life or conduct. For that reason all human contact or relationship is restrained. The reason for this lies in one's fear of fellowshiping the wrong. But one must discern the difference between fellowship, and the kindness and respect we should show each other as human beings. We can deal with each other as mortals without sanctioning the wrong that may exist. God will take care of the wrong. We are to be full of love while being firm for the right ourselves. I believe that the Spirit of the Lord was sent to help set the proper gauge on this line for us. If we listen to Him through the Word we can be balanced in this thought. But remember the text, "That you may be the children of your Father which is in Heaven, for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

—Leslie Busbee

GOOD WORKS

All good is found in God only. He is the source and author of all goodness. "The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him" (Nahum 1:7). Jesus said, "There is none good but one, that is GOD" (Matt. 19:7).

It is God who has ordained that we should walk in good works. "For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of GOD, not of works, lest any man should boast; for we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:8-10). Paul gives honor and praise to Jesus Christ and God for the fruits of righteousness. "Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God" (Phil. 1:11). "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Col. 3:17). Without Christ, no one can bear fruit. "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine: no more can ye except ye abide in me." "I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:4, 5). "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13).

The purpose of the word of God is to instruct in righteousness. "Which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." "All scripture is given by inspiration of GOD, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be PERFECT, thoroughly furnished unto all GOOD WORKS" (2 Tim. 3:15-17). What everyone needs is to be established in the word and work of God. "Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and ES-

TABLISH you in every GOOD WORD and WORK" (2 Thess. 2:16, 17).

All men must be brought into judgment. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ: that everyone may receive the things done in his body, whether it be good or bad" (1 Cor. 5:10). "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or evil" (Eccl. 12:14). The very Christ that wicked men put to death will be their judge. "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: that all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him" (John 5:22, 23).

Man reaps what he sows. Paul says to the Galatians, "Be not deceived: God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also REAP. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption: But he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit REAP LIFE EVERLASTING" (Gal. 6:7, 8).

It is God's good pleasure to reward His saints in His kingdom. "Fear not little flock: for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom . . . for where your treasure is there will your heart be also . . . but rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Luke 12:31-34).

In heaven above, all who are faithful will have a more glorious view of Christ and the Father. "And they shall see his FACE: and his name shall be in their foreheads, and there shall be no night there, and they need no candle, neither light of the SUN: for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign forever and ever . . . He that is unjust, let him be unjust still, and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still, and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. I come quickly, and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his works shall be" (Rev. 22:4, 5, 11, 12).

—Thomas J. Bowers

AN EXCLUSIVE CHURCH

The Prophet Isaiah said, "In that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying: We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name to take away our reproach." Isa. 4:1. The Church of God name has become popular to most all Bible students, but to see the exclusive body is quite another thing. Some have the idea that all sectism comprise the Church that Jesus built, and if you so recognize them as a part, you can have access to their pulpits, but no Holy Ghost minister can do so. —E. M. Zinn

BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll, \$1.75; Lesson cards 12c

May 5, 1963

REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS

Printed Portion Psalm 32:1-11

Psalm 32:1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

2 Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

3 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.

4 For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

6 For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.

7 Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

9 Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.

10 Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about.

11 Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

Memory Verse: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Psalm 51:17.

Practical Truth: Being sorry and repenting that you have grieved a God of love will bring salvation.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Sin is a terrible thing. It seems that one sin has to have another sin to cover up the first and thus they mount up; sin upon sin until the soul is covered with sin and the condemnation is great. Can you not remember how awful you felt the first time you realized you had sinned? Oh, the torment that tortures the soul of those who have committed a host of sins! The third verse in our lesson describes how the Psalmist felt about sin on his soul. The fourth verse shows he realizes the heavy hand of God upon him. How can he escape God's wrath? How can he be forgiven? How can that condemnation be lifted from his soul? First a decision has to be made. In the parable that Jesus gave, the prodigal son said, "I will arise and go to my father." First he decided to go home and then he said he would say to his father, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee and am no more worthy to be called thy son." What happened? The father was looking for him. The Lord knows when a soul makes a decision to turn unto him. He will be waiting with outstretched arms and a forgiving heart. Our lesson said (in the 5th verse) that he acknowledged his sin and did not hide it. He confessed it and the Lord forgave him. He continues to tell how the Lord blessed him and delivered him from trouble; how he guides him with his eye and makes him happy.

May 12, 1963

WORSHIP AND THE FAMILY

Printed Portion Psalm 78:1-8; Psalm 128

Psalm 78:1 Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.

4 We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:

6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:

7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:

8 And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.

Psalm 128:1 Blessed is everyone that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways.

2 For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.

3 Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.

4 Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord.

5 The Lord shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life.

6 Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.

Memory Verse: He . . . appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children. Psalm 78:5.

Practical Truth: Parents are commanded by God to teach their children the Bible.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson teaches us that the parents should teach their children the ways of the Lord. They are not only to tell them about the grand and glorious things that God has done, but also to tell them about the mistakes that have been made by others and how they were punished for their sins and mistakes. Children should be taught to learn through other's mistakes and not follow in the footsteps of those who have gone astray or they will also be punished. Indeed, it is a stubborn person who cannot and will not learn a lesson through observation. We think it would be very foolish indeed for a person to drive up onto a bridge when they were plainly told that it would give way with their car. But today so many are going and doing as they please and are bringing much trouble upon themselves because they will not listen. But parents are to clear their souls and teach their children. It is then up to the children to teach their children. Parents should sincerely and consistently serve the Lord and be a real example to their children. Parents should abhor sin and with tears plead with their children to shun it.

It is wonderful when the mother, father and children love the Lord. Our lesson compares that family to a fruitful vine. The wife and mother is like a fruitful vine and the children like olive plants around the table. When all the family works together and prays together, God's blessings will rest upon them.

May 19, 1963

DELIVERANCE IN TROUBLE

Printed Portion Psalms 91:1-7, 9-16

Psalm 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God, in him will I trust.

3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

9 Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

13 Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

16 With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

Memory Verse: Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses. Psalm 107:6.

Practical Truth: Complete trust in God brings real happiness.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

This is one of the favorite Psalms of many. It is a comfort in time of trouble and a blessing to the soul as one meditates upon it.

When the child of God is in trouble and remains calm and trustful through it, others might not know that he is abiding in the secret place of the Most High. There he draws strength and courage to press on through the trouble. Why? Because he is the Lord's and he knows God rules the events of every day.

I was told that a soldier boy was hit by a bullet on the battlefield. When he opened his New Testament that he had in his pocket over his heart, he learned the bullet had stopped on the seventh verse of our lesson. God surely took care of that boy.

One sister told me that she stood firmly on the 10th verse when the flu was raging and many were dying with it. She said the Lord kept that plague from coming near her dwelling.

The devil believed the 12th and 13th verses and quoted them to Jesus when he tried to tempt him to jump off the pinnacle of the temple but Jesus plainly

told the devil that such would be tempting God. We aren't to voluntarily get ourselves into positions of adversity and then expect God to help us out. It is precious to trust in the Lord and He will help us.

May 26, 1963

LONGING FOR GOD'S HOUSE

Printed Portion Psalm 84:1-12

Psalm 84:1 How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts!

2 My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

3 Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God.

4 Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah.

5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them.

6 Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools.

7 They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.

8 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob. Selah.

9 Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed.

10 For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

12 O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

Memory Verse: I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord. Psalm 122:1.

Practical Truth: God blesses His children when they meet together.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Solomon built a house for the Lord God to dwell in. When it was finished, he called the people together and after his offering of sacrifices and prayer, the glory of the Lord came down and filled the temple. (2 Chron. 5:12-14). Every Jew who could not come to the temple to worship, looked toward it from their homes and prayed. They recognized His presence among them, dwelling in the temple. But since Jesus came to this world, lived, died, and rose again, the Holy Spirit will come and dwell in our bodies which is the temple of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 6:19, 20). The church is made up of those who are spirit filled. When they come together in a building then it is the church worshipping God. Jesus has promised to be in the midst of two or three that are met together in His name. (Matt. 18:20.)

Our lesson can be taken spiritually in speaking of Mount Zion as the Church of God in the world today. There in the presence of God our souls are blessed as we dwell in His house. We receive strength and more strength in Zion, the church of God that He has purchased with His own blood. It is more wonderful to be just a doorkeeper in the house of God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked. There we have the warmth of the Holy Spirit upon our souls and peace in our life. We are to worship Him in spirit and truth. —Sister Marie Miles