

FAITH^{AND} VICTORY

Church of God Servant



Volume 32, No. 11

40th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35c Per Year

September, 1963

Only One Life

If I could live life over
And know what I do now,
I'd never make the past mistakes,
And sin I'd ne'er allow.

I'd start right out for Jesus
As soon as e'er I could.
I know that I would always be
So patient, kind and good.

Because I could remember
How harsh I sometimes spoke,
And I would never try
My parents to provoke.

I'd know all of the snares
That caught me by the way,
And I would not go near them,
But look to God and pray.

Oh, I would never backslide,
So some day I could say,
I always walked uprightly
And never went astray.

But alas! I have but one life,
And one alone to live,
The soul that has been given me,
One day to Him I'll give.

And if I've done the best I could,
With all my sins forgiven
I'll spend eternity with God
And with His Son in Heaven.

—Grace Jones

The Two Roads

There are two ways along the journey of life, each leading directly to eternity, but the ends thereof are widely different. "For wide is the gate, and

broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat; because straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matt. 7:13, 14.

Both these ways are easily found, but only one can be traveled at a time, as they lead in opposite directions. The one leads to the regions of the lost into "everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels," Matt. 25:41 and those who end their pilgrimage here on earth on this road will reap the reward of the wicked throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity in the torments of hell. This scene cannot be overdrawn. No pen can picture the awfulness of that place; no tongue can express the bitter remorse felt, nor describe the horrors and untold agonies of lost souls who have gone their own ways to the pit of destruction.

The other way leads to a blessed place of inheritance prepared for the righteous—Matt. 25:34—where they shall forever dwell in the realms of peace and glory in the presence of God, to swell the chorus of the redeemed with the angels, where parting will be no more.

The human heart, before touched by the tender chords of divine love, has a natural inclination toward the things and way that leads from the paths of peace and way of truth. Yet there is also planted within every bosom something which at some time during life, if not always, makes one conscious of the existence of a divine being who has power to deliver from the iniquities of a sinful life.

Even the savage in his wild, ignorant, and uncultured state, roaming the forests and sweeping over plains, hunting and scouting, acknowledges a higher power whom he worships according to his understanding.

While it seems natural for people to wander into the ways of sin as soon as they reach the age of accountability, it is also natural among all nations of the earth to have some form of worship. In heathen lands, where they never have heard of Christ the Lord, they have chosen gods of their own; while some worship the sun, moon or stars, others make gods out of wood, stone, or metal, or select some-

thing else fully as powerless to which they bow in humble submission, or do penance, and imagine these things possess supernatural power. Many heathen worshippers are led to perform some frightful deeds, and some sad scenes are witnessed among them, even to the sacrificing of human life to appease the wrath of their false, lifeless god.

We are dealing more directly now with those who have had at least some knowledge of the God of heaven and his Son Jesus Christ, who came into the world as a Savior from sin, to redeem such as were willing to forsake their evil ways. There are millions who have heard of Christ; who believe in Christ, that he has power to forgive sins, yet they are without a knowledge of a real heart experience, only having a head belief, or an inclination of the mind toward the living God; and to be plain about the matter they are on the broad way to destruction, going on in the ways of sin. Many of that number are professing to be saved, but are not awakened to their real condition. There are some who try to identify God with nature, and would like to believe that there is no God to render judgment against the wicked; but their pet theories and views are swept away like chaff before the wind, by the eternal truths of his word.

—E. E. Byrum, 1896

True Independence

Paul said, "But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: for He that judgeth me is the Lord."—1 Cor. 4:3, 4.

There were two features of this man's character which made him more like Christ than almost any other figure in the New Testament. One was his tender, self-forgetting consideration for everyone around him, and the next was his noble independence of everyone about him. Like Christ, he made himself one among all men, and yet kept himself separate from all men. He was the servant of all, and yet triumphed over all. He loved all, but feared none. He would do anything in the world to win the confidence and trust and conciliation of all men, except any questionable thing, and he would not do that to win the world. It seemed that contradictory qualities met in him; yet they belonged to his fine Christian soul. He was one of the humblest of men and yet the most boastful. He said that he was less than the least of all the apostles and also said that he was not a whit behind any of them. He was always yielding his own wishes and laying himself out to please men, yet immovable as a mountain when men tried to draw him away from the principles which his conscience approved and the course which his Lord directed. A little child could lead him, but all the forces in the world could not drive him a hair's breadth from a conviction. He was absolutely independent of the authority of all men and this made him the fearless, strong, commanding man he was. He said that those "who seemed to be somewhat, whatsoever they were it maketh no matter to me: God accepts no man's person." —J. G. Greenhough

WISDOM

"Wisdom is the principal thing."—Prov. 4:7. This one thing, which seems small, is one of the most important virtues of the Christian. It is a gift of God which should be sought after by every child of God. "Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth."—Prov. 4:5. Wisdom gives happiness to the children of God. "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding."—Prov. 3:13. There are too many so-called Christians who turn their ears from reproof and instruction. This can keep us out of the kingdom of God. Read Prov. 5:11-13.

Wisdom is essential to help us know right from wrong. "I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths. When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shall not stumble." Prov. 4:11, 12.

Paul desired the Colossians to be filled with wisdom. "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." Col. 1:9. The book of Daniel speaks of the wise. "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." Dan. 12:3.

"The wise are in the hand of God." Eccl. 9:1. This does not mean the wise in the wisdom of the world for, "the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God." 1 Cor. 3:19. A man could know all about this world that could be known, then reject God's Word and have no true wisdom. Jer. 8:9. A man who does not seek the wisdom of God does not love his own soul. Prov. 19:8.

There are many today seeking the lust of the flesh and the things to please the body. It is thought by many that the riches of this world are better than the wisdom of God. "For the merchandise of it [wisdom] is better than the merchandise of silver and the gain thereof than fine gold. She [wisdom] is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared with her." Proverbs 3:14, 15.

The pastors and teachers of today need to wake up and seek the wisdom of God. You may ask how to receive the wisdom of God. James 1:5 says, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." —Noal Ted Shuffield

The Christian's Last Will and Testament

For the Christian, a will is an integral part of a life of stewardship. His life plan of stewardship is not complete until he has made a will or has in some other way made provision that his material possessions will be used wisely after his death.

We are stewards of what we have, whether we have little or much. It is God who gives man wealth

and the power to get wealth. Our possessions are therefore a trust from God and should be administered according to His will. The fact that a man may have given of his income to God does not free him from the responsibility of making wise provision for the use of what he has accumulated.

Thousands of dollars that God has entrusted to Christian men and women, that should have been used for the work of Christ's kingdom, have fallen instead into the hands of lawyers and ungrateful heirs, many of whom were not Christians. Christian people should see that their wealth serves good purposes after they themselves are gone.

If people permit these earthly treasures to be corrupted by moth and rust or stolen by thieves, they will be robbed of treasures in heaven. It is nothing short of tragic when a person with earthly possessions passes on without having made provision for these treasures to be translated into eternal values.

The rich fool laid up much of this world's goods, but without utilizing them was called by death. God asked, "Then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" Jesus remarked, "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Every faithful Christian steward should face up to the question of what will happen to his possessions after he is gone. How can God say, "Well done, good and faithful servant," to one who has received from his Lord large amounts of material possessions but has made no provision for their use after his death?

If the Lord rebuked the servant for hiding his one talent in the earth and not using it, what will He say to one who has not put to good use the thousands entrusted to him? Good stewardship demands not only the proper use of possessions while he is living but also of what he leaves behind.

A will is a tool in the Christian's hands to safeguard the principal he is using, so that it too may be used for good purposes after he no longer needs it. It prevents the dedicated money of consecrated men and women from falling into the hands of unbelievers or into the hands of these who would squander or misuse it. In this way man can use the income during his lifetime for worthy purposes and secure the principal for these same purposes after he can no longer use it.

A Christian's will should be a Christian will. A Christian will is a will made in conscious recognition that God is the owner of material things and that man is His steward. In this will the Christian steward expresses his last wish about his possessions.

Can a will that leaves large amounts to relatives and friends, but completely ignores the work of God and the Church be called a Christian will? Can the testator be called a Christian steward?

One man who had carefully made out his will was told by his attorney that he had left out his best friend—the One who had done the most for him. This attorney pointed out that God had not been remembered in the will; yet it was God who had given him all that he had. The man saw his mistake and

changed the will to include the work of the Church.

The Christian's will is his last opportunity to confess Christ, and this every Christian with means should do.

To faithfully care for what we have while living and then be careless about its use after we are gone is folly and a violation of the principles of stewardship. The property of dedicated men and women should not fall into the hands of profligates who will squander it in riotous living. This would make it a Christian's duty to have a will, unless his property has been made secure for God in other ways.

A man with possessions should face squarely a number of questions: How much should be left to companion and children? What amount will be best for the children? Will they use it with profit? What amount should be willed to the Church? How can he best confess Christ in his will? How will one's property serve the best purposes?

Certainly it would not be right to rob a godly companion and children in order to give more to the Church. To fail to provide for one's own is to become worse than an unbeliever and to deny the faith. Most people, however, are more likely to sin in the other extreme. They bequeath large amounts to relatives and friends and completely forget God. And often they are bringing a curse upon the ones to whom they are leaving large amounts.

The statistician, Roger W. Babson, said, "We are striving and even slaving to lay up property for our children, when statistics clearly show that the more we lay up for them, the worse off they are going to be. If statistics demonstrate any one thing, they demonstrate that the less money we leave our children, the better off they will be."

Some Christians will to the church or some church institution an amount equal to that inherited by each child. Others, who have lost a member of the family, remember some church institution with the amount that normally would have gone to that person. No doubt some would will a farm or other possessions to home and foreign missionary work, literature evangelism, or other worthy causes of the Church. (It would be better to deed it than to will it. A life lease could be kept on the property. This would avoid the possibility of the will being contested.)

One need not have a large amount of money to remember God in his will. It would mean much to the Kingdom if every Christian would remember God's work in his will. Whether he has little or much, what he has should be safe-guarded by a will. Many well-meaning people neglect doing what they know they should do.

God said to Hezekiah, "Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live." Is our house in order? We, too, must die. Jesus said, "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

Let's remember God's great cause in our wills.

—Selected and adapted.

—o—
"Seek ye the Lord while He may be found."

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

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, which is campmeeting month, and we omit an issue that month to attend these meetings) by Lawrence D. Pruitt, assisted by Marie Miles and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Okla.

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 13th of the month prior to the month of issue.

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single copy, one year\$.35
 Single copy, three years\$1.00
 Roll of 4 papers to one address, one year.....\$1.00
 Write for prices on larger quantities.

Subscribe to "The Beautiful Way," a weekly 4-page paper for children, edited by Mrs. Marie Miles and published quarterly.
 Quarterly sets of 13 copies, per year.....60c
 Five sets or more to one address, each set per year40c

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.

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

Free-will offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. All personal checks and Post Office Money Orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House.

A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

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

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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

Editorials

It is with a deep feeling of humility and inability that we pen these lines for the editorial column. Never in our Christian experience have we felt so much the need of divine wisdom and the leadership of the Holy Spirit since the departure of our father, Fred Pruitt, the first editor, on June 6th. Yet we have realized up to this date the gracious sustaining hand of God and the faithful leadings of the Spirit as we have endeavored to carry on this gospel publishing ministry in which our father was actively engaged for 45 years until his passing.

Again, we solicit the prayers of all the readers and the church at large that we and the entire staff of workers will be endowed with that divine wisdom, strength, courage and grace in order to faithfully carry on this ministry in a way that will be well-pleasing in the Lord's sight. It is our aim to perpetuate and carry out the policies and principles in substantially the same manner as they have been carried out over the years, and for which this institution was established.

Our continual aim is to co-operate with the saints of the Church of God in the extension of the cause of Christ to all the world. The power of the printed word is a very effective means to this end. Even the Communists have capitalized on this method and are now flooding the world with tons of printed atheistic propaganda, thereby influencing the minds and hearts of the masses.

Through the free-will contributions of our readers we are in turn mailing out, free of charge, thousands of pages of pure gospel literature. At the present time we have in stock over 270 different titles of tracts on most all Bible subjects. It requires much paper, labor and expense to keep this literature available. We can say with the old prophet Samuel, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us!"

We took more than 12,000 tracts and 400 books to the National campmeeting at Monark Springs, Mo. for free distribution. Most of these were taken, and we pray that the gospel seed will bring forth fruit. Where prices on literature are quoted, it is at cost or below, and whenever a person who is unable to pay wants literature for free distribution, we will furnish it to him free of charge as long as the Lord provides the means for its production.

Many calls have come to this office for copies of the books which were written and published in the early years of this "evening light" Reformation. In recent years we have reprinted a number of them which we now carry in stock. If the Lord opens the way, we plan, Lord willing, to reprint more of these older books which deal with the vital truths of the Church of God.

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

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

As usual, there was no paper published for the month of August. However, the August Sunday school lessons were printed and mailed to those who requested them. The co-workers were privileged by

this reduced work load to attend the campmeetings during the summer.

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

In the month of June, we suffered a double loss—not only the sudden departure to the Glory world of our father on June 6th, but also the passing to that eternal Home just 13 days later, on June 19th, of our (Marie and I) mother-in-law, Sister Lycenia Miles, at San Bernardino, Calif. She had suffered a stroke on Memorial Day, from which she did not recover, although in answer to prayer the Lord relieved her of pain many times. My wife, Maybelle, flew to the bedside of her mother on June 3rd and was with her to the end. Carl and Marie Miles, their son, Carl, Jr. and family, and myself made a rush trip to California for the funeral in San Bernardino.

We take this means to express our heart-felt appreciation to all those who sent cards and letters, and spoke words of sympathy in these times of bereavement. Also, again we thank all those who contributed toward our father's funeral expenses. May the Lord abundantly reward you in a special way.

The passing of our father was also a hard ordeal for our stepmother, Nettie Pruitt, especially for one of 80 years of age. They had been married about seven years and lived in a home to themselves next door east of the office. We advised her that she could continue to live in the home and she would be cared for, but she and her children decided that she should move back to Tulsa, Okla. where she would be close to her children, as she has five in that area. She went to Tulsa the latter part of June, and they found a house for her. The movers came and took the furniture to Tulsa on July 3rd. The change has been hard on her, so pray the Lord to help her in a special way. My sister, Marie, went by Tulsa and took her to the National campmeeting at Monark Springs, Mo. and brought her back to Tulsa at the close. Mother Nettie desires to see the publishing work continue for the glory of God.

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

Some of the workers—Bro. and Sister Clifford Wilson and family, and Sharon Watkins, who had been helping here in the publishing work for the past year—went to the Jefferson, Ore. campmeeting in June. They also visited their relatives there, and Sharon returned to the National campmeeting, then came on to Guthrie and is now again busily engaged here in the office.

The Wilsons went on to California, visiting other relatives and attended part of the Bakersfield, Calif. campmeeting. They arrived back here at the office on August 15 to help in the printing work. May the Lord bless these consecrated workers.

Two other fine young saints have felt led of the Lord to offer their services in this gospel printing ministry. Sister Roberta Melot, who lives with her parents near Guthrie, is now doing secretarial work here at the office, helping mainly with the correspondence.

Bro. Clifford D. Smith, a fine Christian young man, has offered his services and is now here learn-

ing the printing trade, doing typing, and whatever there is to do. He is the son of Bro. Harland H. Smith of Claremont, Calif. who is one of the most active workers in the Mexico mission fields. Clifford had attended the campmeetings at Hammond, La., Monark Springs, Mo. and here at Guthrie this summer. We appreciate all these saintly workers who are sacrificing their time and talents for the cause of Christ.

My brother-in-law, Willie C. Murphey, a minister of the gospel who is known to many of you, has been helping us with the typesetting for this September issue. We appreciate his interest in this printing ministry as well as his preaching ministry of the Word, and pray the Lord to crown his labors with success in whatever capacity the Lord may direct. The harvest is great but the laborers are few!

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

Some 15 years ago, in 1948, I purchased the printing plant and building here in Guthrie which was formerly owned by the Christian Triumph Company. I remodeled the building for living quarters, and we have resided there ever since. In that plant we have done a little commercial printing over the years. Now we are offering this plant and building for sale, as we intend to devote full time to the work here at the Faith Pub. House. Perhaps one of our readers is a printer or knows of a printer who may be interested in this business property. If so, please contact us as soon as possible.

—L. D. P.

OBITUARIES

Lycenia (Johnson) Miles, daughter of William J. G. and Rebecca Johnson, was born July 10, 1881 near Austin, Texas and departed this life June 19, 1963 at the age of 81 years, 11 months and 9 days.

On September 4, 1898 she was united in marriage to William I. Miles at Barksdale, Texas. To this union 11 children were born—7 sons and 4 daughters. She was preceded in death by her husband, who passed away on October 28, 1943, her oldest daughter, Argie J. Long and her youngest son, Curtis W. Miles.

Both Bro. and Sister Miles were saved under the preaching of Bro. Keeran, a Church of God minister of the Evening Light Reformation and embraced the truth as taught and practiced by those early pioneer ministers of this reformation and trusted God for both soul and body as long as they lived.

Mother Miles was a woman of strong faith in God and many times the Lord healed her miraculously in answer to the prayer of faith. She was a wonderful mother and grandmother. Also she was a genuine saint and friend and one who did credit to the name "saint" and brought much glory to God by her godly life and simple faith in Him.

In October 1959, Mother Miles left California to make her home in Guthrie, Oklahoma. On May 22, 1963 she made a trip with two of her sons and a daughter-in-law to California for a visit. On May 30th while visiting in the home of her son, Claude in San Bernardino, California she suffered a cerebral hemorrhage from which she never recovered. She manifested much faith and patience through her sickness and God's grace was abundant toward her. She was very sweet and kind and though her suf-

fering was great at times, no murmur escaped her lips. The Lord surely confirmed His promise to her, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee" and was with her all the way to the end and gave her a quiet and peaceful hour in death.

She is survived by six sons: Clarence L., Glendale, California; Calvin C. and Keran C., San Bernardino, California; Clyde F., Los Angeles, California; Carl B., Guthrie, Oklahoma; Clyne H., Van Nuys, California; and three daughters: Mrs. Maude Hornbeck, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Mrs. Maybelle Pruitt, Guthrie, Oklahoma; and Mrs. Wilma Anderson, Long Beach, California; thirty-five grandchildren; fifty-nine great-grandchildren; five great-great grandchildren; two sisters and a number of other relatives with many friends and saints.

She was a member of the Church of God congregation which worships at 6th and Warner Streets in Guthrie, Oklahoma. Formerly, while living in California she was a member of the Church of God congregation which worships at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, California and also at another time she was a member of the Church of God congregation of San Bernardino, California.

Funeral services were conducted by A. E. Harmon, assisted by Ostis B. Wilson on June 22nd at the Mark B. Shaw Funeral Home in San Bernardino with interment in Mt. View Memorial Park of that city.

Mary Elizabeth Hood, daughter of Eleanor and Bennett Hood, was born June 5, 1865, in Richardson County, Nebraska, and passed away at her home in Mound City, Missouri, May 3, 1963, at the age of 97 years, 10 months, and 28 days.

She was a member of a family of 12 children, all having preceded her in death.

She moved with her family to Holt County, Missouri, when she was a small child. She resided in Holt County during her lifetime; moving to Mound City 10 years ago.

She was converted at an early age, remaining true to her belief the remainder of her life.

She leaves to mourn her passing, many nieces, nephews and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Murphy Allen and Edd Whipple.

Nellie Grace Bradley was born October 24, 1883 in Fulton County, Arkansas. She departed this life on May 8, 1963 at the age of 79 years, 6 months, and 16 days.

In 1902 she was married to John H. Bradley. To this union two children were born; Shelby H. Bradley, Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Roy M. Bradley, Weiner, Arkansas. Her husband preceded her in death. She leaves to mourn her passing; two sons, seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, two sisters, one brother, other relatives, and a host of friends. Funeral service was conducted by Bro. Charles Smith.

We wish to express heart-felt thanks to all of the saints for their many acts of kindness and prayers in her behalf. We feel like it was the mercy of God through prayer that kept her here this long.

We are thankful we met the saints about nine years ago. We appreciate and love them. We desire your prayers.

—Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bradley and Family

Joseph Nesley Rapp, age 90 years, 11 months and 15 days, died July 4, 1963 at Nevada, Mo. He was the son of John J. and Mary Walton Rapp. He lived all of his life in Vernon County, Mo. His wife passed away in 1940.

Of his five children, only two survive. They are: Mrs. Gertie Highly and Mrs. Leta Hites. Three granddaughters, Wanita Didio of Hammond, La., Ila Duncan of

Glendale, Calif., and Dorall Forbes of Kentwood, La. are well known among the saints.

Funeral services were conducted by Ruth Murphey. Text used: Job 5:26.

Ralph Edward Robinson, son of James C. E. and Olive Crompton Robinson, was born on April 9, 1895 at Murphysboro, Illinois and departed this life July 8, 1963 in Pomona, California at the age of 68 years, and 3 months.

In 1919 he was united in marriage to Minnie D. Sanders. To this union two children were born, one son and one daughter.

Bro. Robinson was saved at an early age and embraced the truth as taught and practiced by the Church of God Evening Light Saints. He worshipped with the Church of God congregations at Whittier, Pomona, and occasionally at Pacoima, Calif. during the last 23 years. For the last few years of his life he was in frail health. He always enjoyed having the saints visit him, sing and pray with him and bring a little service to him.

His wife, Minnie, preceded him in death November 24, 1962.

He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Violet Cates, El Monte, Calif., one son; Ralph Edward Jr. of El Monte, Calif.; three sisters, Mrs. Rudy Decker, Mrs. Thelma Knudsen and Mrs. Esther Sager; five grandchildren, a number of nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted on July 10, 1963 by Ostis B. Wilson.

Benny Lee Sorrell was taken from this life on July 4, 1963 at 1:00 a.m. at the age of 19 years, 5 months, 11 days. He was born January 23, 1944 at Myrtle, Mo. He lived most of his life at Myrtle, but for the last two years he made his home at Thayer, Mo.

His mother, Tola Anna, preceded him in death in 1956.

Benny leaves to mourn his passing: his father Audie L. Sorrell, of the home; one grandmother, Mrs. Rebecca Chester, Kingsburg, Calif.; two sisters, Mrs. Eva Lou Gaines, Thayer, Mo., Rebecca of the home; five brothers, Leon, Carlos, Ind., Thomas, Audie Jr., Samuel of Myrtle, Mo., Paul of the home, 4 nieces, 4 nephews as well as a host of relatives and friends.

Services were conducted by Bro. Murphy Allen and Bro. S. E. Abbott.

In Benny's class at school, Nov. 21, 1960, the pupils were asked to write a poem, and the verses following were written by him.

They are not the lines of a learned poet, but what a noble tribute for a boy to pay to his dear deceased mother!

—Ruth Murphey

It seems to me, that of all my relatives

My mother was the best,

She was always so kind and good to us,

So much better than the rest.

She showed kindness and love to each of us just the same,

She would even on the busiest days

Take time out to teach us a game.

She was very faithful to the end, always doing her share,

In this game of life and death, did all our troubles bear.

She was ever found helping others,

And of giving that is what she did

As long as she was living.

I still can remember the time, just before she passed away

When visited by her cousin

Even tho' she was too weak to speak
 Of our smallest amount of sweet potatoes
 She gave her a dozen.
 The night before she left us, she beckoned us all to
 her bedside,
 Gave us her love and instruction, to always by the
 Christian way abide.
 It has been four years ago yesterday since she left
 us all alone,
 But her many deeds of love and kindness has never
 gone from us.

Mrs. Pina Ann Tamplin was born at Sheridan, Ohio
 on June 28, 1876 and departed this life at Los Angeles,
 Calif. on July 21, 1963 at the age of 87 years and 23 days.

In early life she was converted in the Church of God
 and served for several years in the foreign mission field
 of China. Within the last year she had written to the
 office several times, expressing her appreciation for the
 old-time truth which the saints are teaching and practicing.

Her niece, Helen I. Lynd, wrote to us of her last
 illness and passing, stating that she had a large correspon-
 dence and enjoyed writing to her friends.

Funeral services were held at a memorial chapel in
 Santa Monica, Calif. on July 24 with R. L. Hemenway
 officiating. Text: Prov. 31:10. Interment was in the
 Woodlawn Cemetery.

Cecil Calvin Miller was born near Ripley, Tennessee,
 April 4, 1899 and departed this life on July 25, 1963,
 at the age of 64 years, 3 months, and 21 days, at Kennett,
 Missouri.

He leaves to mourn: his wife, Sister Effie Miller; four
 daughters, Mrs. Herbert Flynn, Mrs. Doyle La Croix,
 Mrs. Joe Sorrell, and Sybilla of the home; five sons, Joe,
 Max, Gerald, Bobbie, and Darius. Two sons, Cecil Cope
 and Howard, preceded him in death.

He also leaves to mourn: one sister, Josephine Byrd,
 two half-sisters, Mrs. Ruby Sulton, Mrs. Bertha Mae Lee,
 one brother, Edgar, two half-brothers, Paul and Joe
 Wayne, and one step-brother, Luther, also a step-mother,
 Mollie Dunivan, twenty-two grandchildren and one great
 grandchild.

He professed his hope in Christ, and said he was
 ready to go. He was laid to rest in the Kennett Memorial
 Cemetery, Bro. Murphy Allen, officiating.

Card of Thanks

We wish to thank every one for their kindness to
 us through the illness and death of our loved one. We
 thank each one for their prayers, the floral offerings,
 gifts, words, and cards of sympathy.

The dear Lord is hearing and answering prayer by
 comforting our hearts and healing our body.

May God bless each one and help us to make Heaven
 our home is our prayer.

With Christian Love,

—Mrs. Cecil Miller and children.

Mrs. May Frazee departed this life on July 4, 1963
 at Arkansas City, Kan. at the age of 86. She was a pioneer
 gospel worker in that area.

Campmeeting Notice

The campmeeting at Fresno, Calif. will be held, the
 Lord willing, from Sept. 13 to 23, 1963 at 1830 Fruit
 Ave., Fresno, California. For further information, contact
 Bro. E. J. Trotter, 163 North Angus, Fresno., phone
 AM 8-2336.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Sister Lloyd Dollins, 1825 N. Oak Grove, Springfield,
 Mo., writes on August 5 for a prayer request to be put
 in the paper for her husband who is very badly afflicted.
 He had improved some, was able to use his hands some,
 and get around in a wheel chair; but now he is worse
 again. Please pray earnestly for his complete healing.
 She also requests prayer for strength to her body.

Texas—Do you still have your church and praying
 people that you had in 1958? Just tonight I found this
 paper, which I like very much. Do you still print it?

I am 75 years old, and afflicted with palsy and rup-
 ture. Please pray earnestly for my healing. Pray also
 for my unsaved children.

Yours in Jesus,

—E. C. Prichard

Campmeeting Reports

HOLLY HILL, S. C. CAMPMEETING REPORT

The campmeeting at Holly Hill, S. C. has come and
 gone with many things to thank the Lord for. All the
 saints received help. Some were sanctified, and some re-
 dedicated themselves to the Lord. Some sinners were born
 into the family of God.

On Friday afternoon five were baptized. Oh, what a
 glorious service that was! Then on Sunday, at the close
 of the meeting, the ordinances of the Lord's House were
 observed, with 33 taking part in these services. Bro. Abbott
 and Bro. Samons brought a wonderful message for this
 occasion.

We want to thank the Lord for all the brothers and
 sisters who came many miles to be in this meeting and
 for the many saints who were praying for this meeting.

Continue to pray for the work at Holly Hill and
 Ridgeville.

Yours for the advancement of the Kingdom of God,

—O. Neal Pratt

GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMPMEETING REPORT

Dear Saints: We are happy to report that the camp-
 meeting at Hammond, La. was a success for God. The
 attendance was good, and many saints gathered in from
 other states.

The services were ordered of the Lord, and the Word
 went forth under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. Some
 souls were saved, and others received help for soul and
 body. Six were baptized, and about seventy partook of the
 ordinances of the Lord's House.

We wish to thank the ministers of God who came to
 labor in the meeting, and also to thank all who contributed
 in any way. Above all, we thank the Lord for the sweet
 spirit of Christ and the fellowship of the people of God.

The poet has said, "The song is ended, but the
 melody lingers on." We can say, "The meeting has come
 to an end, but the blessings of God will continue in our
 souls."

May God bless every one of His children and preserve
 them blameless unto the coming of the Lord.

—Max F. Williamson

JEFFERSON, OREGON CAMPMEETING REPORT

To the dear saints scattered abroad: Once again we
 wish to report on the Jefferson, Ore. campmeeting for
 Sister Beatrice Spaur, who is pastor at that place. This
 meeting was visibly better, more successful, more souls

seeking help, larger numbers in attendance, greater joy than any we have attended there for a number of years. This came to pass in spite of the fact that the enemy has worked overtime for years trying to tear down the work there.

The preaching was searching, and a good many sought God for help. Those in the camp were in a shouting mood many times. It was hard to break camp because of the love of God in our hearts. A number of saints came from other states, which was a joy to our hearts. This is not a large camp meeting, but the attendance came at times close to one hundred.

The saints there are trying to get another piece of land so they can build more cabins. We are looking forward to and inviting you to attend the meeting there this fall. [Watch later issues for the date.]

We can never express in words the things that be of God, but the manifestations of the Spirit of God is proof of itself of the support that God gave us. I say this, because I am assisting in trying to advance the cause of Christ there. We know God has some other sheep in the Northwest that He is trying to bring into the fold.

Sister Spaur needs your prayers to help her. She is doing a good job there for the Lord. A number of ministers from different states were present and refreshed us very much. I hope to meet some of you there in the next meeting.

We invite all the saints to pray much about the work in the Northwest.

Yours for the whole truth through the Lord Jesus Christ,
—A. E. Harmon

NATIONAL CAMPMEETING REPORT

The 25th annual National campmeeting of the Church of God at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo. was held July 19 to 28, inclusive. It was a great gathering and a real time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord for His people. This meeting was most outstanding for the number of souls who sought help at the altar of prayer. Day after day the spirit of conviction swept over the grounds, and the altars were filled with seekers for divine aid. Many were saved, sanctified, and healed physically. Those who followed the Lord in water baptism by immersion numbered 64. About 35 ministers were present at the meeting.

The New Testament ordinances of feet-washing and the Lord's Supper were observed by 130 sisters and 70 brethren. This was a very sacred service which brought joy to every sincere participant. Jesus said to His disciples, "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you." John 13:14, 15.

Many new faces were seen on the campground this year—many who were seeking and asking for the "old paths" and the "good way" and desiring to walk therein. God is gathering His true people out of the many so-called Church of God groups and pointing them to Mt. Zion, which is exalted above all the hills of Babylon.

As the meeting began, the weather was hot and dry. In answer to prayer, the weather cooled for a few days, and toward the end, the literal showers of rain began falling along with the many showers of spiritual blessings.

The new frame building, size 18 by 24 feet, was completed on the campground to the point where it was used during the meeting for special services. This structure, costing more than \$800, was a very necessary addition.

The present campground is not adequate for the increasing attendance. More land is needed for cabins and

parking area, the dining hall needs to be enlarged and better equipped, and there is a very urgent need for a new caretaker's home. Ask the Lord what He would have you do about this phase of His work.

At the business meeting, Bro. Ralph Beisly asked to be relieved of the responsibility of business manager of the campmeeting. He had faithfully served the Church many years in this capacity. His resignation was reluctantly accepted with a standing vote of thanks for his past services. Thereafter, Bro. Kenneth Probst was duly elected to fill this vacancy of business manager for the coming year.

There is a need for a qualified retired Christian couple to live on the National campground as caretakers. Any who may be interested should contact Bro. Kenneth Probst, 208 W. Wilson, Cartersville, Mo. or Bro. Ralph Beisly, 407 Eldridge, Coffeyville, Kansas.

GUTHRIE, OKLA. CAMP MEETING REPORT

The Oklahoma State Campmeeting here at Guthrie has come and gone. Truly, the Lord blessed us with a good meeting. The attendance was good and the preaching of the Word was rich and precious. It seemed the Lord especially anointed the ministers for the giving out of His Word this year. Message after message was thundered out on the doctrines of truth from God's holy Word, warning the saints to dig deep and get a firm hold on God in these perilous days. We can say of a truth that God blessed, edified and stirred souls and much good was accomplished. Several were saved, sanctified and healed.

The spirit of the meeting was precious. The saints rejoiced together in song and prayer and sweet fellowship prevailed as one happy family. The theme of the meeting was "A closer walk with God."

We appreciated all the dear ministers and saints who were able to attend, and may God bless each one.

Let us make the coming year one of greater zeal, both in the work of the Lord and in our own souls; for the time is soon coming when man's labors will be past for eternity. Your Brother in Christ, —Ira D. Stover.

INFORMATION ABOUT BRO. WAYNE TURNER

Bro. E. B. Pinkerton of Hammond, La. is the officially-recognized minister to visit Bro. Wayne Turner who is in the death row in the Louisiana State Prison at Angola. The account of Bro. Turner's marvelous conversion more than a year ago in the parish jail at Amite, La. has been widely read. This spring he was transferred to Angola, and Bro. Pinkerton visits him and the others in death row. After returning home from the National campmeeting Bro. Pinkerton visited Bro. Turner and writes on Aug. 9th that he is getting along just fine—that he found and left him very much encouraged in the Lord. Bro. Pinkerton also requested prayer that the Lord would give him heavenly wisdom in dealing with the other men in death row. Bro. Turner's definite testimony of salvation and prayerful concern for the other prisoners is having a good influence. Pray that the Spirit of God will work with the Word.

Bro. Pinkerton has made arrangements with Chaplain Fletcher at Angola for tape recordings of sermons, songs, etc. from the saints to be played for Bro. Turner. It was agreed and announced that each tape and container should be labeled with the owner's name and address, and mailed to my son, Byron Pruitt, Rt. 1, Loranger, La. 70466, who is one of Bro. Turner's few official correspondents, and then he will forward the tapes to Chaplain Fletcher who

in turn will set up his recorder just outside Bro. Turner's cell and play them for him. We appreciate Chaplain Fletcher's favor in extending to us this service, and I am sure that Bro. Turner is likewise very grateful. In order to prevent confusion, send the tapes to Byron Pruitt only and not direct to the prison.

Chaplain Fletcher has stated that they were short of Bibles and Testaments for the prisoners. Here is an opportunity for our readers to fill this need by purchasing Bibles and Testaments and mailing them, or any extra copies you may have, direct to Chaplain Fletcher, La. State Prison, Angola, La. —Editor.

HOME MISSIONARY REPORT

At the business meeting of the recent National Camp-meeting at Neosho (Monark Spring), Mo. the annual financial report of the National Missionary Fund was read by Sister Inez Beisly, wife of Bro. Ralph Beisly, who is the secretary-treasurer of this fund. This report disclosed that a number of home ministers and missionaries had been aided from this fund throughout the year. May this effort increase for the advancement of the whole truth.

At the business meeting a decision was made that the minister or ministers who start out with the evangelistic tent and equipment at the beginning of the season would have charge of it until his schedule of meetings is completed and burden lifted.

We are sorry to say that the tent and equipment has been idle this summer. However, on Aug. 2, Bro. Curtis Williams of Dayton, Ohio left Coffeyville, Kan. with the equipment to start a meeting at Vanceburg, Ky. on Aug. 7. He expects to keep the tent busy the rest of this season.

Those desiring tent meetings for the next season let us hear from you so that the schedule can be arranged in such a way that will save time in traveling and the expense of moving the equipment.

We are nearing the end of time, so what we are going to do for this lost world we must do quickly. There is a need of many more consecrated and qualified gospel workers in this harvest of souls.

In a large measure the evangelistic tent work is supported through the National Missionary Fund, so keep your love offerings going direct to the undersigned for this worthy cause. —Bro. Ralph M. Beisly, 407 Eldridge St., Coffeyville, Kan.

"GIVE AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN UNTO YOU"

Six of the brethren in the Dayton, Ohio congregation felt led of the Lord to purchase on time payments a much-needed car for Brother Curtis Williams who is an evangelist and at this writing (Aug. 13) has the evangelistic tent and equipment in Vanceburg, Kentucky in meeting. As most of you know, he is giving his full time to the work of the Lord and in times past his consecration took in hitch-hiking to be in meetings for the saints when his car would not run. Surely, it would please the Lord for those who have some of the Lord's money to send some to Bro. Curtis Williams to help pay for this car. When sending it to the address given below, please state whether you want it to be paid on the car or for personal use. He will turn the amount for the car over to the secretary of the congregation in Dayton which will be applied on the car payments. I know the Lord will bless and reward you for helping in this venture of faith for Bro. Williams and the work of the Lord. Send to:

Bro. Curtis Williams, Route 3, Box 98, West Alexandria, Ohio.

Do You Just Belong?

Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you just contented—
To be among the blest?

Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the saints of God,
Or do you just stay at home,
And "crab" both long and loud?

Do you ever go to visit
A member who is sick,
Or leave the work for just a few,
And talk about the clique?

There is quite a program scheduled
That means success if done,
And it can be accomplished
With the help of everyone.

So attend the meetings regularly
And help with mind and heart.
Don't be just a member
But take an active part.

Think this over, members,
Are we right or wrong?
Are you an active member,
Or do you "just belong?"

—Sam Barton

LETTER FROM NATIVE AFRICAN MISSIONARY, BRO. B. U. ETUK

Nigeria, West Africa—July 19—Dear Bro. Lawrence and saints, greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ—the only Name above all others both in heaven and on earth!

Please permit me a space in your "Faith and Victory" paper to say just a few words of testimony about our dear late Bro. Fred Pruitt and of the good works he did for this mission while on earth. It is with tears that I say that Bro. Pruitt was a complete Christian in the widest sense, both in words and in deeds. He was a person who loved everybody as himself, a person who did not want praise in return for his good deeds but advised that those praises should go to God who made the good deeds possible.

With him there was no discrimination. Color bar, with him, was out of the question. Everybody was just the same to him. Faith, Love, and Charity were his food. He started and ended his life with God working for these. His love for us was boundless. Though he is dead, yet here his name will ever remain green. I knew him only through writing and by his picture, and that not earlier than Dec. 1961. He wanted no "thank you" when he, with others, made available to us: two bicycles, one typewriter, one flannelgraph board, one second-hand Volkswagen motor car No. EY233, and gave no deaf ear to part payment for the mission workers.

May his soul rest in peace till that resurrection morn-
ing when we shall part no more. —B. U. Etuk

Editor's note:—In the July report from Nigeria, Bro. Etuk stated that they are in the midst of the rainy season. This lasts about six months of the year. A general serv-

ice was held at the Ikot Ebak Church of God Mission on July 21. On that day there was an eight-hour downpour, but the people defied the rain and went to the meeting though drenched to the skin. He stated that the "attendance was poor—only 216 were present!"

A later letter dated Aug. 2 from Bro. Etuk repeats this appeal: "Please pray for us daily and ask the Lord to make it possible for us to obtain a 'resident missionary' from amongst you. The work is too great for me and a few of my aides."

Saints, pray that if it is the Lord's will that He will burden some qualified gospel worker to go to Nigeria, West Africa, for at least a few months to see if the foundation is laid for a permanent work in that country. The language is mostly English, so that would not be a barrier.

EL ALAMO, MEXICO CAMPMEETING REPORT

Dear readers of the "Faith and Victory," greetings in the name of Jesus:

The first annual campmeeting in El Alamo, B. C., Mexico is now history. [It was held three days—on Aug. 9, 10 and 11.] It was a blessed event never to be forgotten. We are thanking and praising God for His presence which made it a success. The hearts of some 300 people were touched by the singing and preaching of God's wonderful Word. Quite a number had planned to attend but were hindered. Meals were prepared outdoors on a home-made adobe stove with a four-foot square iron top. The food consisted of beans, rice, potatoes, and tortillas. One newly saved brother brought a goat which was served Sunday noon. People slept on cots, pads, canvas on the ground, in cars, and on boards.

The New Testament ordinances of feet-washing and the Lord's Supper were observed on Saturday afternoon. It was precious to see those who had never seen such an observance enter into it wholeheartedly.

On Saturday morning there were eight souls at the altar. Six of them were new converts and they were baptized on Sunday morning. Seven trucks and two cars transported the people to and from the baptism, twelve miles from El Alamo. Two women came and said they wanted to be baptized the first opportunity, but they didn't have a change of clothes.

Sunday afternoon there were a number of ringing testimonies, praising God for blessings in soul and body. Some asked when we would have another campmeeting. A teen-age girl was saved Sunday afternoon and gave a real sound testimony of determination to live for God.

Bro. and Sister Hite and Rebecca Hite, Sister Kathleen Murphey, and I left for the U. S. before Sunday night's service. Bro. James Huskey and Tomas Mendoza (the native Mexican preacher) were to have the evening service, so we trust when their report comes in that more souls were saved. Thanks to all who carried a burden for the meeting.

Yours in His service, —Harland Smith

TESTIMONIES

Oklahoma.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and all the family: We wish to extend to you our deepest sympathy in the loss of your father. We know how great is your loss for I have also lost both father and mother. We know as David did that we cannot bring them back but we can go to them.

Last Thursday night (June 6), after I went to bed, I felt impressed to write a poem; and I couldn't sleep until

I had finished the poem. I wrote it almost as fast as I could write. This was very unusual, and I couldn't understand it. Then Sunday morning I again felt impressed to put it in my Bible and take it to church services. Why? I did not know. Then at service I was told of Bro. Pruitt's passing. Immediately I thought of the poem I had written Thursday night. I asked Bro. Souder when Bro. Pruitt passed away and he said, "Thursday morning," and I told Bro. Souder I felt specially impressed to write a poem Thursday night. I told him I believed it was because of Bro. Pruitt's passing that I had been impressed to write this poem. He asked me if I would like to read it, and I told him I would after prayer. I opened my Bible to this scripture and it read: "And ye now therefore have sorrow, but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you." John 16:22. Then I read the poem. Bro. Lawrence, when I wrote the poem it seemed I could hardly write it fast enough; and when it was finished, my cup was full. I would like to dedicate it to Bro. Pruitt, for surely his life sends forth such a powerful fragrance that sweetens all the lives of those who knew him. We know that God can bind up all wounded hearts, including our own.

Please remember us in your prayers always.

—Bro. and Sister Douglas

(Following is the poem which Bro. Douglas wrote and dedicated to our father, Fred Pruitt. —Editor).

WHERE FLOWERS NEVER FADE

Many times I've gone to funerals,
All of which I did not choose.
Almost every heart was broken
For the loved one they must lose.
How my heart with great compassion
Went out to those of closest kin;
'Round their hearts would I fashion
A balm of love, where ache began.

Hearts so heavy from the sorrow,
Brought because a loved one died.
Time is what we do not borrow;
For death to us is not denied.
Could our lives be as a flower,
From this life to wilt and die—
The lovely fragrance, with such power
Fills the air for those who cry.

Yet each heart is gladdened too,
As they turn for home once more—
For soon again to be with you,
Someday upon an endless shore,
Where flowers bloom, no more to fade,
And birds sing all the day,
Rent is free and bills are paid,
Where skies are never gray.

With people smiling all the time,
And no one ever sad,
Where no one ever thinks of crime;
For no one's ever bad.
With children playing in the street,
Where mamas never scold,
And say, "You children, wash your feet!"
For the streets are made of gold.

Where mamas never walk in pride,
And daddies never fume;
For everybody is the bride,
And Jesus is the groom.

I'm talking 'bout Heaven, folks,
A place we all should see,
Where there'll be no dirty jokes,
Nor pictures on T. V.

A place where all is rest,
And peace and joy and love,
Where everyone is at his best,
In Heaven up above.
No rush to go a fishing,
No rush to go to work,
No unnecessary wishing,
No place for us to shirk.

All things are perfect there,
Not one mistake is made,
The skies are always fair,
And the flowers never fade.
Someday I'll go to a funeral
When my last prayer is said,
And they'll put my body under
To be left there with the dead.

My soul to God who gave it
Will take its upward flight,
To be at home with Jesus,
In the place where comes no night.
In God's garden, Rose of Sharon,
Sweetly resting in the shade,
Where the trees are never barren,
And the flowers never fade.

June 6, 1963

—R. H. Douglas

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

Oklahoma.—A tribute to our Bro. Fred Pruitt:—

Truly, a great tree has fallen—one of those trees that "was planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth (brought) forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth (has done) shall prosper." (Psalms 1:3). Yes, a sturdy oak has fallen, but he is not dead. He is resting in Abraham's bosom. His fruit is still flourishing (Praise God) through the land. I truly thank God for his faithful children that are keeping the banner flying high as his works follow on. Yes, he finished his work, and God called him off the battle field. God said, "Come my child, come to me. You have borne your burdens in the heat of the day. Now come, my child to me and rest." No, we will not weep as those that have have no hope. "Lo he is not dead, but sleeping," Thus the blessed Master spake: Why all these tears of weeping? We shall in His likeness wake. Only Sleeping, sweetly sleeping, While the angels vigil keep; Jesus gives to His beloved Rest at last in peaceful sleep."

From one of the faithful sisters, —Mrs. Hattie Hines

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

Texas.—Dear Saints, greetings in Jesus' name: Though I am still pressing on, the devil is surely on the job to pull us down and tries to crowd Jesus out, but I am so glad Jesus' blood cleanses us from sin. Praise His Name!

I am sending \$1.00 for three years, so I will get the "Faith and Victory." It's food for my soul. I have never read another paper that's all Bible truth like this little paper. God bless you all at the print shop and all the saints everywhere.

I want to thank all the saints for their prayers in December when our daughter was in the hospital. God wonderfully undertook for her. She is well today. Praise His name!

I was saddened by the passing of Bro. Pruitt, but God has claimed another precious jewel for His king-

dom above. He labored long and faithfully for God's true Word. May God comfort you.

We don't have a Church of God here, but pray for us that we will be faithful.

Your sister in Christ, —Mrs. Buster Hall

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

Virginia—Dear Sister Marie and Bro. Lawrence, greetings in Jesus' precious name: I want to write my testimony about the goodness of God.

When I heard that Bro. Pruitt had passed away, I didn't feel grieved. I felt a heavenly atmosphere around me. I know he lived what he taught. Since I've been afflicted, I have lived by the saints' prayers. The dear Lord has touched me three times, but I'm not completely healed. The dear Lord has been so good to me. One time I had a hemorrhage. The saints here were praying for me. They called to Guthrie, and I soon got all right. I lifted something and hurt my back. I was sitting on the porch and suffering so badly. While I was praying the pain moved from my hip into the back, and then to the other hip. I've never had the pain again.

It's so wonderful to have this great salvation. It overcomes every trial. I am satisfied with Jesus. It doesn't matter what He does, for it is best for me.

Bro. Gibson and wife were here to see me a short time ago. They encouraged me so much.

Pray for me and my family. Pray that I will get completely healed.

Yours in the one body of Christ,

—Sister Laura Powell

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

Missouri.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and all the saints, greetings to you in the dear name of Jesus: I trust that God will comfort all your hearts in regard to the passing of Bro. Pruitt. I'm sure all of us will miss him greatly.

I have a few thoughts that might comfort us concerning him. I believe all that really knew him, loved him, and hold deep respect for his life and labors, knowing that he was a devoted man of God. He was continually seeking how he might be a blessing to the saints, to the unsaved, and even his enemies. He labored all of his Christian life, which was over 47 years, for the welfare of the Church and for the salvation of sinners. His labors were surely a labor of love. And interwoven into his work were many earnest prayers, mingled with tears, for the benefit of souls. His body no doubt would have worn out many years ago had it not been for God sustaining him.

It is said of children, that they never pay for their rearing until they have reared a family. So it is with us spiritually. We never repay our father or mother in Israel until we have let God work in us His purpose for which they have labored. In Col. 1:28, 29, Paul said, "Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Whereunto I also labor, striving according to His working, which worketh in me mightily." Then in Eph. 3:14-21, Paul expresses his desire for us to be filled with the fulness of God and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge.

I feel that Bro. Pruitt and other true servants of God have labored for the same. Jesus labored for it and shed His precious blood for all men and for the Church, that He might sanctify and cleanse it. Eph. 5:26, 27. Then after all this labor and love, shall we not yield ourselves completely to God and let His dear purpose be fulfilled in us? Jesus said, "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you and that your joy might be full." When we give heed to the Word presented to us, it fills our hearts with joy.

On Memorial Day a wreath is placed on the grave of the unknown soldier in memory and honor of the soldiers who gave their lives for their country. Then shall we not honor and respect the lives of those who have labored for the gospel? They have done this through love for God and for souls. So let us all arm ourselves and strive for the same purpose, and some day we will be rewarded for our efforts.

Your Bro. in Christ, —T. V. McMillian

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

Okla.—Dear Sister Anna Marie and Bro. Lawrence: Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus. I felt impressed to write a letter of encouragement in regard to the work of the Lord.

Press on and fight on in Jesus' name. I feel that God is with you and He will be with you unto the end. As I was reading your writings in the July "Faith and Victory" paper, tears flowed from my eyes—not tears of sorrow, but tears of joy, knowing that the Lord, with His great love and magnificent power prepared you for this day and this wonderful work down through the years. You children were brought up in this wonderful work that God laid upon the heart of your father. This work has been a blessing to many precious souls, helping them to see the Church of God which is without spot or wrinkle. It is a church that brings joy, peace and happiness in the hearts of dying men, women and children. Thank the dear Lord!

Truly, I do thank the dear Lord for you dear children and for your obedience, your faithfulness, the love and respect you had for God, and your dear parents who brought you up in the fear of the Lord. No doubt, you didn't think when you were children that you would be carrying on this wonderful work, but the dear Lord knew and saw this day when you were little children. Oh, how good and precious, and necessary it is to obey the Lord, in what He tells us to do!

Sister Anna Marie, I was thinking how the Lord so worked the way out for you to come to Guthrie because you had a desire to obey God. He made it known to you that He wanted you there. By being obedient God worked it out to His glory. Praise His dear name! I know many battles have been fought and many victories won. And I hear you saying: "Though tried and pressed, yet I will trust—this one thing I can do. I'll lean upon Thy loving breast, Thou'lt guide me safely through. Oh, Jesus, I will cling to thee, I'll love thee more and more, I'll place my trembling hand in thine, until the battle's o'er." I see you clinging to the dear Lord with an anchor steadfast, fixed and settled, and proclaiming the great truth of the Bible. Praise His dear name for you, dear ones.

I can hardly write, for the tears are flowing down. When the Lord impressed me to write, I didn't know how or what to write. I didn't know, but the Lord gave me the words to say. I believe I can speak for the congregation here in Tulsa. We are praying for all of you that the blessings of God will rest upon you, also the dear co-workers. Truly, I am thankful for all of you. Work on, toil on, until life on earth is done. Be strong and valiant for the truth, and the Lord will surely hold you up by His mighty power.

May the God of heaven ever bless you is my prayer. With love, —Carrie Woods

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

Okla.—To the Saints of God and all interested persons, greetings in Jesus' name:

I have often thought the last few months of writing of my experience in affliction. Each time I have thought that if I waited awhile I would be able to tell of final victory, so I have kept putting it off. Today I will start

anyway and trust that by the time this might be published I can still report complete deliverance.

Almost two years ago (Sept. 1961) I had a sudden attack of severe pain in my lower abdomen, which after a few hours the Lord wonderfully undertook. I felt that that was about all there was to it, but eventually, five weeks passed before I somewhat recovered. Later, just before Christmas, I was troubled with it for about three weeks. I did not feel well in between attacks but carried on about as usual.

Then in February, 1962 it hit me very hard. I didn't go to bed for 13 days and nights but spent most of the time walking the floor in severe pain. I became very nervous and ate very little. Our pastor and his wife came out on the 13th night and had prayer, and before leaving, Sister Stover told me to go to bed by faith and stay there by faith. I did, and I had a battle, but the Lord gave grace and victory, and I slept there most of the night. I was very thankful, even though I could only lie on one side.

Time passed on, and I was unable to do my work and spent my time between the bed, chair, and walking the floor. I was never any closer to the Lord in all my life. I improved a little—enough to walk to the barn or mailbox or hang out a few clothes.

About the last week in March, Ralph, my husband, had to sell our crop of greenhouse plants. This meant that I was needed at the greenhouses to manage them while he was gone. We had several employees, and business had to go on. I took my bedding in the car each morning and what time I could or had to, I would rest in the car. I had much pain and shed many weak tears. The Lord has promised that he would not allow more to come upon us than we are able to bear, but He will make a way. As I look back now, I marvel how the Lord took me through those two months.

As plant season was over and I could stay home again, things remained almost the same with just the smallest improvement occasionally. Yet the Lord gave me strength to go to Monark Springs campmeeting. I drove the car with only my little four-year-old daughter.

It was a little hard for me to go to the Guthrie meeting regularly.

On September 2 my husband's side of the family had a reunion in Wichita, Kansas. I went mostly by faith and because it was expected of me. I made it just as well as if I had stayed home. Since my sister-in-law, with whom we stayed, was very kind and considerate, I even stayed an extra week. She brought me home, and that was the last day I can remember of the severe day-in and day-out hurting. There were times later, but not constantly as it had been for practically a year.

I would like to make some comments here, as I surely don't want to leave the Lord out of this. He has been my all and in all through this affliction. Just one day at a time He has given me the needed strength and courage which I did not have within myself. I had never known what real pain was. If I could have looked ahead and known what lay before me and the length of time I would be required to suffer, I truly would have given up right then. I found out that pain is cruel, but I also found the Lord to be my friend in a way that words can't describe.

I value my experience in affliction greatly. The Lord has been faithful to my soul in permitting me to suffer and thus working to make me ready for Heaven. I have not always had great victory in the trial but have been introduced to a little glimpse of what it means to walk by faith alone. The saints of God have been so good to me. I truly feel I couldn't have made it this far without

them. May the dear Lord bless each one who has had a concern for me.

In October of 1962 I began to realize that my abdomen was enlarging. In November (the last Wednesday night prayer meeting) the Lord sent a minister with a message that inspired my faith. I was anointed and prayed for, and the Lord made me to know that the prayer of faith had been prayed and gave me full assurance of healing. Several others definitely felt the same way. I still believe it just that way.

In January of 1963 I was still having trouble and couldn't turn over in bed or hardly lie down. I was so sore, that walking was a little difficult. I had enlarged more and some seemed to feel it possible I might be expecting. On their advice I was examined by a doctor for the first time and was found to have a large tumor. I was not surprised. The doctor recommended an immediate operation on account of the danger involved if I didn't. The Lord gave me grace to tell him that I would trust the Lord. Ralph was upset, as might be expected, since he isn't saved. Naturally, my parents were, too, and even friends and neighbors. Oh, I do pray that this will be a real blessing to every precious soul that doesn't know the joy of divine healing!

We went through another plant season this spring in which the Lord greatly blessed as before. This year we had some added trials and tests other than the affliction. They were hard, but again we saw and enjoyed the blessings of God upon our soul as well as others and are still expecting good to come of it in the future.

Now this is the middle of June, and many ask the question, "Why hasn't Jessie got her healing since she is so sure God promised it?" I cannot answer that question, but this one thing I know—it is on the way, and it will arrive at exactly the right time, in the right way, and I don't have to worry about it. The Lord has given His Word, and that is the way it will have to be, because He cannot lie. There is a reason for the delay, because we know that God does all things well. The Lord is interested in souls above all things, and it may be that there is yet a soul that can be blessed in some way. It might be that I have more to learn. In fact, I feel that I have a lot to learn about a lot of things.

This has been rather lengthy, but my reason for it all has been to possibly encourage someone else that may be called upon to go through similar circumstances.

The enemy likes to tell young folks that they can't live a holy life or that they can't bear affliction without human help, etc. The message of my testimony is, "By the help and grace of God, you can!" If He did it for me, He can do it for anybody! Folks who do not understand trusting God for healing say to me, "You've sure got more nerve than I've got." I say, "No, that is not true. I have no more 'nerve' than anyone else. It is the Lord that holds me up and makes me able." If it were left up to me alone, I would have failed a long time ago.

The Lord has definitely touched me since last Saturday in June, and I have been able to do work that I have not done in two years. By faith I see it leaving and not staying.

May the Lord bless everyone that reads this in the way that it is intended in the writing. When deliverance comes I intend to tell everyone that will listen to me. In the meantime, there are still battles to fight, and I covet your prayers. I love all the dear saints, and you are in my prayers. With Christian love,
—Jessie Taylor

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

Mo.—Dear ones at the print-shop: We trust this finds each one well and encouraged anew in the holy fight of faith. We are encouraged today and feel down in our

souls the presence of our God, who was manifested to us through His Son to give light and hope unto us and victory in every scene of life. I have been thinking of late what a wonderful experience it will be to meet the Lord some day and recompense the reward of the Christian life. Our reward is not here, though we are blessed with unnumbered blessings. But our reward is over there, and the knowledge of it as being promised to the faithful means more than all earth's garlands could ever afford. How grateful we are that we ever made a start and came to the Lord. My soul is satisfied. We are both still happily pressing our way up the path that is shining brighter and brighter.

We have been thinking of you dear ones and the work of God that lies heavily upon your hearts. We just want to say that we are behind you with our prayers, and we feel that the Lord wants us to help you. My mind has been much on dear Bro. Pruitt and the life that he has lived and left us as an example of the hand of God working. You do not know just what Bro. Pruitt meant to me. A little more than two months before he took his departure from us into that world above, I received a letter from him which bore an important message. This phrase stood out so to me, especially after his passing: "Keep encouraged in the way; for years soon fly by, and you will be so happy when this life is ending that you spent it for the Lord. You will have a crown of life that fadeth not away." My soul is moved to tears as I muse upon what he said, for I can see the truth of it lived before me in his life. Though your father had opposition in his life and ministry, yet I can say that I felt the influence of the Spirit of God in his presence and in his ministry which tended to edify my soul and lift me up. He was surely one of the redeemed.

His passing had quite an effect upon my soul. In musing on it all, the Spirit of the Lord directed my soul to the 46th Psalm. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God . . ." The earth being removed here and the mountains being carried into the midst of the sea refers to the passing away of this earthly state. The Lord subjected the creature to vanity; and when He sees that it is enough, He calls the soul of His own and removes them from their earthly habitation. We that are left behind to feel the loss of their being removed have no cause to fear, for our trust is yet in God.

The earthly life of Brother Pruitt has been removed, and the glorious mountain of the Lord that filled his life has been carried away and swallowed up into eternity. But let us not fear. The same God that led him through life is yet present with us. There is yet flowing that same river from the throne of God for our never failing supply. He will be with you as you carry on the work that God has given you. When we started for Him, our covenant was a perpetual covenant. He has so wrought righteousness for us and has been of the Father given a throne of eternal duration, that we can have a habitation in His will which cannot be moved. Let us have confidence to trust Him each day for strength; and know that His eye is upon His people for their everlasting good.

I think so much of what the apostle Paul said in II Tim. 4:18. "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." The Lord also has directed my heart to Hebrews 13:20, 21.

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." God is with us, dear ones, and His everlasting covenant through His Son extends for our steadfastness unto His coming. Be strong in Him, for His coming is very near. May the God here mentioned be with you ever and keep you in His will. May God bless you all.

—Leslie and Sylvia Busbee

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Oklahoma.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings from the Golden Rule Home, P. O. Box 1853, Shawnee, Okla.

Mother Claudia Sidener was hurt in a fall on October 27, 1962 in Tulare, California. Prayers were requested for her healing while being cared for by Bro. and Sister Ostis Wilson. In answer to prayers of faith by the ministers, she was wonderfully touched and walked for the first time on April 3. She would like to thank all who have written cards, sent letters of encouragement, and let everyone know she appreciated them very much.

On June 19 she was moved to the above home at Shawnee, Okla. and is improving. She likes her new home very much and will be glad to hear from her friends again. May God bless all is our prayer.

Her son,

—Orrin Wade Sidener

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ga.—Dear Sister Marie.—Greetings to the staff and you in the name of our loving Lord. I received your good letter. I was so glad to hear from you and to know that you and the others are keeping up the good work for God.

I certainly was glad for those nice tracts. Thanks a lot. I mean to stay with the Lord. I love this clean, holy way, the teaching, and the good sound doctrine that Bro. Fred Pruitt gave me through his gospel literature. I will never forget it. Praise God!

I see now that I'm going to be encouraged and comforted through your letters just as I was through his. I'm keeping you before the Lord. My grandchild's sores are healing. One is well, and the other one is getting well. Thank God and thank all of the saints of God for the prayers that they sent up to the Lord for the healing of her sores. God is able to do all things. There is nothing too hard for God. Bless His holy name!

One in the body, —Sister P. R. Bowers.

"Come now and let us reason together."

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

BIBLE STUDY

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

September 1, 1963

SURRENDER AND VICTORY

Printed Portion Genesis 32:22-32

Gen. 32:22 And he rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two womenservants, and his eleven sons, and passed over the ford Jabbok.

23 And he took them, and sent them over the brook, and sent over that he had.

24 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.

26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

27 And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob.

28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

29 And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.

30 And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.

31 And as he passed over Peniel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh.

32 Therefore the children of Israel eat not of the sinew which shrank, which is upon the hollow of the thigh, unto this day: because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the sinew that shrank.

Memory Verse: Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. 1 Peter 5:6.

Practical Truth: Eternal life will begin for us after we have come face to face with God in this life and have been cleansed.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Jacob had something in him that God did not like, yet he was chosen to be the covenant bearer. In last Sunday's lesson when Jacob met God in the dream he was afraid when he left Bethel but today in our lesson we find when he left Peniel he was blessed in his soul. Many things had happened after his experience at Bethel. Jacob was tricked into getting Leah instead of Rachel for his wife. No doubt he remembered how he had tricked his father and received Esau's blessing. Later he received Rachel but had worked 14 years for her. Through shrewd handling of the flocks on Jacob's part he outwitted Laban in his unfair practices. In the end Jacob fled with his family and was followed by Laban. He was accused of taking the family god and Laban's daughters. After some frank talks and the help of the daughters, all was settled. His next trouble was in facing Esau, the one he had wronged many years before. He heard he was coming to meet him with 400 men. Our lesson tells us what he did that night when this news came to him. He had been praying, and confessing to God, begging for help. At last God had led Jacob to the place where he could see himself. He was alone with God. Each one of us has to come to that place of meeting God face to face. In His presence we can see that nature within us that needs to be cleansed. We need to say with Jesus, "not my will, but thine be done." Power is then given to us when we surrender.

September 8, 1963

WHEN WE WONDER WHY

Printed Portion Genesis 37:17b-28

17b And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan.

18 And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.

19 And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh.

20 Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath

devoured him; and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

21 And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.

22 And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands to deliver him to his father again.

23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;

24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

25 And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.

26 And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?

27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content.

28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

Memory Verse: O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! Romans 11:33.

Practical Truth: Unwelcome events often help to bring a blessing to us and to others.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson centers around one of Jacob's 12 sons Joseph, who is the great-grandson of Abraham. Because of the immoral acts of the older sons it seems that God chose Joseph for a special work. He had a glimpse of this work in some dreams but he unwisely told it to his father and brothers. This increased the hatred that they already had because of Jacob's special love and attention given to Joseph. Jealousy leads to hatred and hatred often leads to murder. God caused Joseph to be helped through Reuben who was the oldest and the one to lose the most if Joseph was to become the leader of the tribe. God is able to cause people to do things that they otherwise would not do and even will look back and wonder why they did them. God will not let anything hinder the carrying out of His plans. This was a hard blow to Jacob. The son of his beloved wife was taken from him. He no doubt could not understand God's dealings with him but he held his confidence in God and later he understood it all. Even Joseph held his confidence in God and as a slave he did his best and served God. He did not become discouraged when he was falsely accused and put in prison. He was soon found helping his fellow-prisoners. Through his willingness to know that God does all things well he became material that God could use in a high position to be of great service to mankind. Sometimes Joseph is spoken of as a type of Christ. Joseph was hated without a cause but still loved God. He was sold for 20 pieces of silver.

September 15, 1963

THE LOVE THAT FORGIVES

Printed Portion: Genesis 45:4-15

Gen. 45:4 And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come

near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.

5 Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.

6 For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest.

7 And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

8 So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

9 Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not:

10 And thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast:

11 And there will I nourish thee; for yet there are five years of famine; lest thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast, come to poverty.

12 And, behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin, that it is my mouth that speaketh unto you.

13 And ye shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that ye have seen; and ye shall haste and bring down my father hither.

14 And he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck.

15 Moreover he kissed his brethren, and wept upon them: and after that his brethren talked with him.

Memory Verse: And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Gal. 3:29.

Practical Truth: Real forgiveness is given from the heart before a request is made for forgiveness.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Oh, for more in the world that are endowed with "the love that forgives." We think about Joseph living in the time when he did not have the power of the Holy Spirit to help him, and yet he went through many hard things and held that forgiving attitude toward all those who had wronged him. He did not allow bitterness to creep into his heart toward his brothers. He looked beyond them and their terrible deeds and realized that his life belonged to God. He saw God in it all. He came through his troubles with victory and made material that God could use to preserve the lives of others. May we learn the lesson of yielding to God and not to the trouble or blame people for those things that touch us. God wants us to know that it takes some moulding to make of us "a vessel of honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, prepared unto every good work." (2 Tim. 2:21). Paul also tells us in Hebrews 12:11, "Now no chastening for the present seemeth joyous, but grievous; nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

While in prison, Joseph was brought before Pharaoh; and he was able to interpret his dreams. Pharaoh said that the Spirit of God was within Joseph, and he was rewarded for his faithfulness to God. Joseph's own dreams came true when his brethren bowed before him asking for mercy when Joseph, whom they did not know, questioned them.

September 22, 1963

BLESSINGS WHICH FOLLOW FORGIVENESS

Printed Portion Genesis 45:16-21; 46:1-4

Gen. 45:16 And the fame thereof was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, Joseph's brethren are come: and it pleased Pharaoh well, and his servants.

17 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Say unto thy brethren, This do ye, lade your beasts, and go, get you unto the land of Canaan;

18 And take your father and your households, and come unto me: and I will give you the good of the land of Egypt, and ye shall eat the fat of the land.

19 Now thou art commanded, this do ye; take you wagons out of the land of Egypt for your little ones, and for your wives, and bring your father, and come.

20 Also regard not your stuff; for the good of the land of Egypt is yours.

21 And the children of Israel did so: and Joseph gave them wagons, according to the commandment of Pharaoh, and gave them provision for the way.

Gen. 46:1 And Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices unto the God of his father Isaac.

2 And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I.

3 And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation:

4 I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again: and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes.

Practical Truth: It cost the gift of God's only Son to bring forgiveness to us.

Memory Verse: And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Holding grudges causes many heartaches. It is like a lion hid in the bushes, ready to spring out. A grudge against anyone in the heart will cause a person to say and act in a way, when the opportunity arises, that later will bring shame to them. But that grudge will not let a person fix up their wrongs. Joseph put his brothers through some painful experiences before they were brought to their knees. His brothers were without excuse for their sins. They understood that they were to be honest men to walk before God, but they did not live that way. For years they had lived loose, careless lives; but after God had dealt with them, they were different men. They fell on their faces before Joseph the ruler, and asked forgiveness. It was almost unbelievable to them that they were granted forgiveness. Not only were they granted forgiveness, but many other blessings followed. Their lives were preserved. No one had to die for taking the cup that belonged to the great ruler. Benjamin's life was saved. They had promise of land and supplies in Egypt during the famine, and they were lavished with gifts of clothing and money. They also were given a reminder from Joseph not to quarrel as they traveled. Then they were to bring some happiness to their father, who was a heart-broken man. Forgiveness will bring many blessings to a person, home, family, and community.

September 29, 1963

THE LIFE OF FAITH

Printed Portion Hebrews 11:1-12

Heb. 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.

Memory Verse: And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:29.

Practical Truth: It takes faith to live a righteous life in this world and to enter the eternal world above.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson today is a review of the men of faith that we have studied about the last few weeks. They believed God, and God did what He told them He would do. (It would be good to read from your Bibles down to the 22nd verse). "The just shall live by faith." (Heb. 10:38).

According to one writer, "faith is a firm confidence in things hoped for and conviction regarding things not seen." It is believing that those things that are desired really exist, even if they are not seen. Faith cannot be worked up or thought up, but faith must be given to us by God through the Holy Spirit. A real inspiration will fill our souls and we will know that what we have asked of God will come to pass or that we have it now. One time I prayed for a certain thing, and the Lord blessed me to the point that I just knew it would come to pass. It would be some time before I could know that it would; but after that, it seemed I just could not ask for it again. Every time I thought about it, I just thanked God for it. Others even tried to discourage me in it, but their words never affected me.

We are justified by faith, sanctified by faith, kept by faith in this world, and it will take faith for us to rise and meet Jesus in the air when he comes.

—Sister Marie Miles