

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

## Church of God Servant



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### What's Your Decision?



If you were called to stand before  
A grim-faced judge today,  
To choose between your life or faith,  
I wonder what you'd say.

If you stood before a firing squad,  
And to live must your Lord refuse,  
Would you pause and stammer and stutter,  
Oh, which one would you choose?

If you were offered a kingdom  
With all its glory today,  
Just to reject your Saviour,  
I wonder what you would say?

I am sure there would still be martyrs  
Who would die like the saints of old,  
And they wouldn't give up the Saviour  
For life or a mountain of gold.

If God can give us living grace,  
He can give us grace to die.  
There's nothing to lose and all to gain,  
When we meet our Lord in the sky.

—Grace Jones

### An Awful Warning



Some time ago a physician called upon a young man who was ill. He sat for a little while at the bedside examining his patient, and then he honestly told him the sad intelligence that he had but a very short time to live. The young man was astonished; he did not expect it would come to that so soon. He forgot that the death angel comes "in such an hour as ye think not." At length he looked up into the face of the doctor, and with a most despairing countenance repeated the expression:

"I have missed it—at last!"

"Missed what?"

"Doctor, I have missed the salvation of my soul."

"Oh, say not so; it is not so! Do you remember the thief on the cross?"

"Yes, I remember the thief on the cross. And I remember that he never said to the Holy Spirit, Go thy way. But I did. And now he is saying to me, Go your way!" He lay gasping a while and looking up with a vacant, staring eye, he said: "I was awakened and was anxious about my soul a little time ago. But I did not want to be saved then. Something seemed to say to me, 'Don't put it off; make sure of salvation.' I said to myself, 'I will postpone it.' I knew I ought not to do it. I knew I was a great sinner and needed a Saviour. I resolved, however, to dismiss the subject for the present. Yet I could not get my own consent to do it until I had promised to take it up again at a time not remote and more favorable. I bargained away, resisted and insulted the Holy Spirit. I never thought of coming to this. I meant to have made my salvation sure, and now I have missed it at last."

"You remember," said the doctor, "that there were some who came in at the eleventh hour."

"My eleventh hour," he rejoined, "was when I had that call of the Spirit. I have had none since—shall not have. I am given over to be lost. Oh, I have missed it! I have sold my soul for nothing—a feather—a straw—undone forever."

This was said with such indescribable despondency that nothing was said in reply. After lying a few moments he raised his head, and looking all around the room as if for some desired object, he buried his face in the pillow, and again exclaimed in agony and horror, "Oh, I have missed it at last!" and died.

Dear reader, you need not miss your salvation; for you may have it now. What you have read is a true story. How earnestly it says to you, "Now is the accepted time."

Christ has suffered, the just for the unjust; and God's word to you is, "Repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16:31. "Today, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts" Heb. 3:7, 8.

—Selected

## EVERYBODY'S WISH

"Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his." (Num. 23:10)

Balaam, who spoke these words, sought, with Balak, to bring a curse upon Israel; but instead of a curse, was constrained by the Almighty to pronounce a blessing upon them. He pronounced them blessed as regards their being called to more peculiar privileges than the rest of mankind; as regards their number, not being so small a company as they were thought to be by their enemies; and also as regards their last end. Balaam was convinced of the reality of the life beyond the grave, and of the happy state of the righteous, and hence expresses a desire to be found in their condition; but without any endeavour to serve their God, or obey his laws. How vain and foolish to sow to the flesh, and yet wish for the reward of eternal felicity.

The righteous die in the Lord. They die in the faith of the gospel, in the belief of God's holy word, trusting on the gracious promises. They die in union with the sacred Trinity, in fellowship with all the angels in heaven and souls at rest in paradise. They die in Christ's will, in Christ's love, in Christ's favour and smile.

They die in peace. Their souls are tranquil and serene. No foreboding fears disturb their breast. They leave the world in peace with God, in peace with their own conscience, and in peace with their neighbors. "Behold the upright; for the end of that man is peace." The devout Simeon, when he had seen the salvation of God, said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word." To good king Josiah God gave this promise, "I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered unto thy grave in peace."

They die in hope. They die with a joyous expectation of immortality, with a firm confidence of future happiness, and a full assurance that they shall be with God; they are not distressed with doubts or fears. "The righteous hath hope in his death." Their hope is settled on the solid foundation of God's unchangeable promises.

Their death is the termination of all their sufferings. And oh, how great those sufferings often are! Many suffer from adversity, from losses in trade, or from want of success in business; many from poverty, from a lack of the necessities and comforts of the present life; many from affliction and bereavement, from sharp bodily pain, from the separation of beloved relatives or friends; and all, more or less, from temptation and reproach. But however great or numerous their sufferings, they will all end in death. Oh, what a glorious deliverance!

Their death is the beginning of their future life. As the body sinks into decay, the soul rests in the paradise of God. What the body loses, the soul gains, yea, and infinitely more.

It is absurd to desire to die the death of the righteous when you do not live the life of the righteous. You would not act so foolishly in your worldly

affairs. If you were a farmer, you would not expect to reap a harvest without ploughing and sowing your fields. If you were a tradesman, you would not expect to thrive in business without attention and perseverance. Then why should you wish to die well without living well? It is inconsistent to expect the prize without running the race. It is madness to desire happiness, and yet run away from the Source of bliss; to long for a peaceful end, and yet plant sharp thorns in your pillow; to pray that you may be taken to heaven at death, and yet pursue the way to hell through life. You cannot be a happy spirit in paradise, without being a follower of Christ on earth. If wishes would save a man's soul, none would be lost. If wishes would get a man to heaven, none would go to hell. Men everywhere wish to be saved, but with the multitude, alas, it ends with their wishes. They go no further than good wishes, which are ineffectual without resolution and action. Balaam's wish to die the death of the righteous was a good wish, but it availed him nothing, because he rested there, and made no endeavor to obtain the Divine favor.

In conclusion, let me appeal to your judgment and conscience. Is not the last end of the righteous an object you should fervently seek after? And is it not unreasonable to wish such an end, unless you live a holy life? But it is impossible to attain the one, if you neglect the other. If you live on as you are, your destruction will be inevitable. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?" If you sin, rely upon it, your sin will find you out; it shall be to your condemnation. The King's narrow way of holiness is the only way to the heavenly city; the devil's wide path of transgression is the sure path to the burning pit. Keep on sinning, and there is no hope; your sins, like your shadow, will follow you everywhere; and your guilt, like a mountain of lead, will sink you into perdition.

—S. Henn

## Was Jesus Different?

There is a general feeling among the people of the world that they do not want to be different from others. The child is told when very small to do this or that, "because you don't want to be different from other children." Of course, if this is taught for certain good reasons it is all right, but that feeling is implanted in a child and as it grows older it still does not want to be different from others. If they get with the wrong crowd who are breaking the law and doing harmful things to others or to themselves, they go along because they do not want to be different. This feeling is not only with just teen-agers, but also it is in most people of the world.

But let us look where this feeling will lead us. This is a dangerous attitude and is not in harmony with the Bible and the way to heaven. The Bible tells us there are definitely two classes of people in the world who are led by two different spirits. The Spirit of Christ is leading those who are His and the spirit of the devil is leading those who are of

the world. In the Bible when it speaks of those of the world it means those who have not been "born again" and redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus. God draws a definite line between the two. In John 17:14-20 Jesus says plainly of those who belong to Him that "they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." He also says that "the world hath hated them because they are not of the world." This shows definitely that they were different from the world. The spirit of the devil, who is a deceiver, hates the spirit of Christ. When Jesus was born he tried to work through Herod to kill that life of Christ. He is still working today to kill the life of Christ out of the hearts of all who have accepted the humble ways of the Lord, have taken up the cross of Jesus in this world and are following Him. Jesus also prayed that God would not take "them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from evil." Praise the Lord, He will keep His own from evil in this world. He will help His own to be different and not partake of the spirit of the world.

Now this is Jesus telling us not to be of the world and to be different. It is not man. Jesus was different. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not" John 1:11. The world did not receive Jesus. The spirit of the world could not blend with the Spirit of Christ. He went about doing good and being a comfort to many but the world would not recognize all that He did that was good because He was different from them. Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, came to talk to Jesus at night. He didn't want others to think he was interested in being different, yet he had a longing in his soul to know about heavenly things. That is the trouble with many today. They have a longing in their heart for God but are not willing to pay the price of being different from the world. But are we to be different from our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ? He was different. Are we willing to be different? Jesus, one time, compared those of the world to goats and those who were not to sheep. There is a great difference between a goat and a sheep. Just so there is a great difference between a saint and a sinner.

Jesus went about doing good, and finally the spirit of the world was so strong against Him that nearly all became afraid to make it known that they were different as He was different. When He was put on the cross only a few stood by Him. Only a few were willing to be different because they feared the people and what others would think of them. That same spirit is in the world today. Jesus was different, and if we are to be followers of Jesus we must be different from the world today.

In 2 Cor. 6:14-18 Bro. Paul teaches the difference between those who have the spirit of Christ and the spirit of the world. He denotes them as believers and unbelievers; righteousness and unrighteousness; light and darkness; Christ and Belial; believer and infidel; temple of God and temple of idols. "Wherefore, come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you,

and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." Oh, how wonderful it is to be sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty! If we are His in this world we will be His in the world to come. Praise the Lord! Jesus is going to burst through the clouds some day and He is coming for a separate people—a people who are different from this sinful world.

The beloved John tells us, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1 John 2:15, 16. This is a plain truth laid down in the Bible.

Some might look at a saint and wonder why he is happy, but one writer has described a saint as an odd number because "he feels supreme love for One whom he has never seen, talks familiarly every day to Someone he cannot see, expects to go to heaven on the virtue of another (Jesus), empties himself in order to be full, admits he is wrong so he can be declared right, goes down in order to get up, is strongest when he is weakest, richest when he is poorest, and happiest when he feels worst. He dies so he can live, forsakes in order to have, gives away so he can keep, sees the invisible, hears the inaudible, and knows that which passeth knowledge." This is not an unusual or superior saint, but just one of those happy people whose sins have been covered by the blood of Jesus and whose complete trust is in the Lord. This world is not his home but he is getting ready here to live again in that world without end. He doesn't care if he is different. He dresses, acts, lives, and conducts his business dealings to please God and not man.

When God chose the children of Israel to be His special treasure and a peculiar people, He told them to keep themselves separate from the other nations. All others in the world worshipped idols, but the Israelites were to worship the true and living God. That is a type of God's people today. God now has a chosen, separate, different, peculiar people. They are the "called out" few and have the love of God in them and the love of the world is not in their hearts. They do not mind to be different because they have chosen Jesus as their example and heaven for their eternal home. God's people are all different from this sinful world.

—Sister A. Marie Miles

#### ALL-DAY MEETING AT MIDWAY, LA.

There will be an all-day meeting on the second Sunday, Feb. 14, at Midway, La. with dinner on the ground and singing in the afternoon instead of the usual afternoon service. We extend a cordial invitation to each one to come and be with us. For further information, write to Merrill A. Williamson, Pastor, Star Route 1, Box 49-A, Olla, La. 71465.

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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, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

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

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the promulgation and restoration of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God; and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation 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, Okla. 73044

Phone No. BUTler 2-1479

The Church of God Chapel at Guthrie, Oklahoma is located on the corner of Sixth and W. Warner. The congregation welcomes you. —Bro. Ira D. Stover, Pastor 415 N. 14th St., P. O. Box 210, Phone BUTler 2-3244

**EDITORIALS**

With the blessings of the Lord more than 13,000 copies of the January issue were printed and very few remain on hand. With thanksgiving to God we rejoice to learn from numerous letters received that many new readers have been blessed by its contents. It appears that even more extra copies will need to be printed of this issue, and for March. God is moving and working by the Holy Spirit and His people are rejoicing in the old-time truth of the gospel. By faith we see in this year a great advance in the spread of the pure gospel—by the press, pulpit, and missionary work. May we lift our voices in one accord in prayer that with Holy Ghost boldness we may faithfully proclaim God's Word to this generation.

Another order for 5,000 pounds of book paper from the mill has been placed with the paper dealer and scheduled for delivery on February 20. This shipment will provide for many thousands of white-winged silent gospel messengers.

Through all ages since the creation, God has communicated His Word to mankind by various means and manners, as we read in Hebrews 1:1-3, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high."

God talked to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. After the transgression and fall of man He spoke directly and by angelic messengers to Noah, Abram and the other patriarchs. On occasions God made known His will through dreams and visions. God spoke to Moses from a burning bush. He was sent to lead the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt. God spoke to His chosen people in thundering tones from Mt. Sinai where Moses received the Old Testament law and gave it to Israel. In that dispensation God raised up many prophets through whom He transmitted special messages to the people. One of the last was Malachi. Then followed a period of about 400 years when gross spiritual darkness covered the people and no prophet was sent from God.

God's supreme, final, and most effective plan in dealing with fallen mankind began to be unveiled with the dawn of the gospel day. That great prophet, John the Baptist, prepared the people for this major event. "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." Luke 16:16. Our text

in Hebrews says, "God . . . hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son." "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son . . ." John 3:16. After He "purged our sins" by His atoning sacrifice on Calvary's cross, He ascended to heaven and sat down on the right hand of the Father. Speaking of Christ we read, "But now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." Heb. 9:26. When John saw Jesus coming unto him, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29.

When Peter, James and John were on the mount of transfiguration, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with Jesus. "Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." Matt. 17:4, 5. The law and the prophets were fulfilled in Christ, and now in this gospel dispensation the "beloved Son" is our Lawgiver, Prophet, Priest and King. We are to hear no other. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12. Christ is the only Mediator between God and man.

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Our brother-in-law minister of the gospel, Bro. Willie C. Murphey, and his family have begun a missionary radio broadcast called "The Mission Trail" over Station XEG, 1050 kilocycles, Monterrey, Mexico, each Friday night at 11:30 p.m. CST. The truth will be presented in message and song, with perhaps some reports of mission work and its activities. This powerful station of 100,000 watts should be heard all over North America. Please pray that this venture will be a blessing to many souls, and those will be reached who have not heard the gospel before. The mail, with reference to this broadcast, should be addressed to The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla.

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On Dec. 12 we were saddened by the passing of our sister-in-law, Helen Pruitt, my brother Frank's wife, at Phoenix, Arizona after a long illness. My sister, Frances Murphey, arrived in Phoenix by plane on the same day that she passed, remaining until after the funeral which was attended by all six of the Pruitt children, as well as other relatives. Dear Helen, aged 44, was a devoted wife to her husband, and a loving mother to their two sons, ages 10 and 14. My sister, Marie Miles, remained with Frank and the boys a week after the funeral to help and comfort them in their grief. May the "God of all comfort" be near in their bereavement.

Marie had the privilege, while in Phoenix, to meet with the saints there in a service.

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On the press is a reprint of the book, "The Secret of Salvation—How to Get It and How to Keep It," by E. E. Byrum, first published in 1896. As the

title indicates, it deals with the complete plan of salvation, how to get and keep the victory over sin and Satan, and also sets forth the truth on divine physical healing. It consists of 264 pages, bound in a heavy paper cover. Everyone should have a copy. This book will be ready for distribution about Feb. 10. Send your order in NOW! Price, 75c per copy, or three copies for \$2.00, postpaid.

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## From The Mail Box . . .

Texas—"I received the first issue of your church publication and I have enjoyed reading it so very much. It is so refreshing to read this inspiring Christian literature after reading the daily papers and the terrible things that go on in this old world of ours today. It's like a ray of sunshine in a dark world." —O. N. D.

California—"Recently I received a copy of 'Faith and Victory' by mail. I enjoyed reading it." —M. H.

Indiana—"I received my first copy of 'Faith and Victory.' I don't know why it was sent to me, but I enjoyed it very much." —E. P.

La.—"I have been enjoying reading the 'Faith and Victory' paper." —J. W. B.

Okla.—"A neighbor gave me one of your papers to read. It is so good. I do want to read it each month. Thank you for your fine Christian paper. May God bless your work and ministry." —G. C.

Ohio—"I am enjoying your paper, 'Faith and Victory' so much. I am so glad I found it." —M. S.

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## Prayer Requests

Okla.—Remember Sister Betty Smith, (Bro. Charles Smith's wife) in prayer. She suffers with such terrible migraine headaches at times. She has many responsibilities and needs healing. Also pray for their son, Merrill, who has had severe pains in his chest.

Minn.—Bro. E. J. Kirchner needs much prayer for his body and soul.

Va.—"I have had health; need prayer."

W. Va.—An alcoholic needs prayer; has cancer in his throat.

Ohio—"My sister is blind and almost deaf. Needs better experience with God."

Fla.—"Head accidentally hit by a man taking a suitcase down from rack above my seat in the train. It pains me much."

Ohio—Two friends who have backslidden need prayer.

Okla.—Remember Sister Brown of Enid who was in an accident. She refused to get into the ambulance to be taken to the hospital. She told them that Jesus was her doctor. She is holding on for healing and needs prayer. The Lord has blessed her, but she needs complete healing. She is a true saint of God.

Ky.—Sister Baldrige is in need of prayer. She is sorely afflicted and needs complete healing.

Mo.—"I have a problem that I need the Lord to help in and work out."

Va.—A sister is holding a number of requests before the Lord.

Calif.—There is a need of healing for nervousness and an abnormal growth.

There are some homes the devil is trying to break up. They need God to help them to live for Him so they can call on Him for help.

Pray for a woman that seems to be devil-possessed. She needs salvation badly. Her poor children and husband are suffering.

Remember Bro. Cade of Ark. whose eyes are failing him and his sister, Dolly Williams, who is suffering from stomach and bowel trouble.

Ky.—"I need prayer for my head and eyes."

Miss.—"My granddaughter is to be a mother and is not saved."

Calif.—"Remember my two sisters who live in a wicked part of a city and need God's protection."

"Pray for a soul who has given himself over to the enemy."

Kansas—"I am greatly burdened for a soul. My nerves are bad. I have so much trouble. Pray that I will have courage, faith, patience and a determination to keep true to God."

Ohio—"I have been suffering with rheumatism and my leg is enlarged from fluid and ulcer."

Ky.—Sister Sam Abbott has been sick with flu. She needs urgent prayer.

Okla.—"I have a spiritual need."

Mich.—"My wife has sugar diabetes and high blood pressure. Please remember her in prayer."

W. Va.—"Please pray for my mother. She is going through a severe trial and is losing weight. Pray that God will heal the goiter. If we lose Mother we don't have anything to live for on this earth. Remember all of us in prayer."

Do agree with us in prayer for the many requests that come in here at the office. We are glad we are serving a great, big God. I am especially thanking God this morning for His healing power manifested toward me last night. Yesterday all day I had some headache but continued to work in the office. In the afternoon I became worse and my stomach became upset. I began to sneeze and my nose began to run. I had to go to bed. In the evening I had some fever. I kept looking to the Lord, and others who knew about it prayed, too. In the night I awoke and my fever had broken. Later I awoke and all pain was gone. This morning I felt fine, except for a weakness. I do not have the least bit of cold. I have been able to work in the office today as usual. I do thank God for healing me of the flu and it did not have to run its course. My heart is overflowing with great love to Him for His mercy. Only God did this for me. I count it a great privilege to trust God and not in the medicine of man nor the arm of flesh. Be encouraged to place your body in God's hand for healing.

—Sister Marie Miles

## OBITUARIES

Lee Campbell, son of Joseph and Amanda Campbell, was born in Clearfield County, Pa. and passed away on Jan. 5, 1965 at the age of 93. He was a member of the Church of God.

Survivors include the following children: Miss Twila Campbell, Mrs. Max Hile, Orbis, and Wilbur Campbell.

Funeral services were conducted at Burnside, Pa. and interment was in the New Washington Cemetery.

Ada B. (Shields) Davis was born April 16, 1887 near Oxford, Mississippi and departed this life Dec. 7, 1964 in Wichita, Kansas at the age of 77.

She was united in marriage to Thomas Davis on January 15, 1908 in Lafayette County, Mississippi. To

this union eight children were born—one daughter and seven sons. She was a devoted and affectionate wife and mother. One son and her husband preceded her in death.

In 1911 Thomas and Ada moved near Dover, Okla. where she met the saints and was saved in the Church of God. Sister Davis lived a clean, holy life. She was called to be a minister of the gospel and was pastor at Hennessey, Okla. for a number of years. She was faithful to her calling. It was there at Hennessey that she lived most of her life, moving to Wichita only a couple of years ago.

Sister Davis was a woman of great faith. She was miraculously healed of a tumor and several strokes. She always claimed the Lord to be a present help in time of trouble. She chose to trust the Lord for her healing and trusted him to the end.

She leaves to mourn her passing one daughter, Mrs. Laura Campbell of Wichita, Kansas; six sons, Willard of Topeka, Kansas; Preston and Vernon of Los Angeles, Calif., Elvee of Flint, Mich., Edward of Denver, Colorado, and Delmar of Tulsa, Okla., one brother, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren, a host of other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted at Hennessey, Okla. by Bro. Lewis Williams, assisted by Bros. U. Phillips and Ira Stover.

Prudence A. Schmidke was born March 31, 1877 in Knoxville, Tennessee and passed from this life to her heavenly Home November 7, 1964.

In 1893 she was united in marriage to Cole Floyd who preceded her in death.

From 1903 to 1929 Sister Schmidke lived and worshipped with the saints at Anthony, Kansas. In 1929 she moved to Pomona, Calif. where she has resided the last 35 years and worshipped with the saints at the Church of God chapel, 750 S. Eleanor, Pomona, Calif.

In 1948 she was united in marriage to Sam Schmidke.

A few hours before Sister Schmidke passed away she testified that she was ready to go or ready to stay. She was a wonderful mother in Israel, trusting God fully and living a saintly life for 52 years. She will be greatly missed by all.

She leaves to mourn her passing her husband, Sam Schmidke; two sons, Kutch Floyd of Denver, Colorado, Richard Floyd of Torrance, Calif., and a grandson, Johnny Floyd of Pomona, Calif., besides other relatives, friends and saints.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Harland Smith, assisted by Bro. Charles Elwell.

Aaron Ulysses Chandler, the son of Bro. and Sister Isaac C. Chandler, was born April 14, 1944 at Bakersfield, Calif. He passed away Dec. 23, 1964, at the age of 20 years, eight months and nine days.

Aaron was faithful in attending services with the saints. About a year and a half ago he renewed his consecration with the Lord. During his illness he did much praying and learned much more about God. He would often tell of things that God had done for him as a direct answer to prayer. He was obedient and trustworthy. His kind attitude, his gentleness and his quiet, easy smile served to endear him more to all his acquaintances, both young and old.

He leaves to mourn his passing his parents, Bro. and Sis. I. C. Chandler, six brothers, James, of Sacramento, Calif., Paul, Lewis, Timothy, Nathan, and Dimitri, all of the home; six sisters, Mrs. Juanita Phillips, Mrs. Edith Sellers and Mrs. Mildred Thomas, all of Los Angeles, Mrs. Rebecca Benjamin, abroad, Alice and Clariissa of the

home, four uncles, five aunts, 13 nieces and nephews, besides many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted at the saints' chapel in Bakersfield by Bro. Calvin Hobbs, assisted by Bro. Francisco and others. He was laid to rest in Union Cemetery here at Bakersfield.

Daniel J. Diggs, son of Daniel and Julia Ann Diggs, was born Feb. 15, 1874 in Sumter, S. Carolina and departed this life on Jan. 9, 1965 at Oklahoma City in his 91st year.

In 1908 he was married to Alzena Marshall. To this union was born one son who died before reaching manhood.

He leaves to mourn his passing, his wife, one sister, one brother, many other relatives and friends.

For many years he attended services in Oklahoma City at the Church of God chapel, N. E. 3rd and Phillips Streets, where his funeral was conducted by Bro. Herman Kelly, assisted by Bro. Myrle Eddens and others. Burial was in Fairlawn Cemetery.

Sarah Jane Elwell, infant daughter of Charles and Coquette Elwell of Pomona, Calif., was born December 31, 1964 and died at Park Avenue Hospital on the same day.

Besides her parents, she is survived by her paternal grandmother, Mrs. Virginia Elwell, Pomona, Calif., and maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Sorrell of Myrtle, Missouri.

The funeral was conducted by Sister La Vern Manuel.

Sister Mattie Daniels Carter was born in Nealin, Tex. on Oct. 2, 1899 and departed this life Dec. 20, 1964 at Tulsa, Okla. She was the daughter of George and Josie Daniels.

Sister Mattie embraced this truth about 1949 and remained faithful in attending services until illness struck her about six months ago. Sister Mattie was a dutiful saint in attending and contributing to the welfare of the saints and taking the saints to the meetings. This seemed to be a special work for her. She was very faithful in caring for the sick and older people. She seemed to carry a burden for lost souls. She will be sadly missed by all.

She leaves to mourn her passing one brother, three nephews, four nieces, other relatives, a host of friends and the saints.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Warren, Bro. Barton, and Bro. Phillips, assisted by others.

Issac Bennett, the eighth child of Anthony and Octavia Bennett, was born at Boley, Okla. on March 8, 1917, and departed this life August 4, 1964.

He was married to Ruth Ross, and to this union one daughter was born. He professed a hope in Christ and lived a devoted life to his wife and daughter.

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, Mrs. Ruth Bennett, one daughter, Claudia Marie Bennett, both of Brooklyn, New York, five sisters, two brothers, a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Woodrow Warren, assisted by Bros. Crawley, Kelly and others.

## Meeting Reports

### HAMMOND, LA. ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

We wish to report on the Assembly Meeting held at Hammond, La. in November. First, we want to say that the Lord blessed in the meeting from start to finish. The Lord sent the right ministers, at the right time, with

the right message. The Word of God was mighty through God to the pulling down of "strong holds." We rejoiced to see the devil defeated and souls delivered from bondage.

The ordinance services were precious and well-attended, by both brothers and sisters.

Bro. Charles Smith came the last part of the meeting and felt led of the Lord to hold night services on through Wednesday after the meeting closed on Sunday. The Lord used Bro. Smith in much wisdom to bring forth the truth.

We wish to thank the ministers and saints who came from near and far for their interest and support in the meeting.

Your brother in Christ,

—M. F. Williamson

### OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

The annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting held here at Guthrie, Okla. during the Christmas holidays has come and gone. The Lord blessed in a mighty way. We had wonderful weather all the way through, and the attendance was very good from the very start. Sometimes the building would hardly hold the crowds. It was precious to see the dear saints coming together to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.

Ministers were here from several states and the Word of God went forth with power and anointing, and souls were touched and hearts melted under the power of the Holy Spirit and sought help at an altar of prayer. A number were saved, others sanctified, and many sought help for a closer walk with God, or healing of the body. It is wonderful to still be permitted to meet as we were and worship the Lord.

Let us each one live closer to God in this new year than in the past. Satan is doing all he can to take advantage of every soul. Let us live watchful and prayerful, for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

Yours in Christ,

—Ira D. Stover

### LAS VEGAS, NEV. REVIVAL MEETING REPORT

The revival began Sept. 23, and continued through October 18, 1964, and it was a success. Community interest was good and six souls claimed salvation. Many others were impressed and stirred. Some came to inquire about services after the meeting had closed.

The meeting was run on the free-will offering plan, and was supported by the saints of various congregations in California. Our sincere thanks and appreciation are expressed to each one who aided in the support and success of the meeting. We are certain that the Lord will bless each one for your labor of love and liberality.

The Lord blessed in supplying ministers to carry on and help out in the revival. Most of the ministers traveled as far as three to four hundred miles to be in the services. Each week-end several carloads of saints drove great distances from out-of-state to help in the meeting.

Sister Katherine Williams of Oklahoma City came and stayed for the duration of the meeting. Bro. E. J. Trotter and company of Fresno, Calif. came and remained one and one-half weeks. Other ministers who came were Sister Betty Churchman and Brothers Alvin Lucas and Lawrence Francisco, all of Los Angeles, Calif., Sister Rose Etta (Eddens) Randle, Paso Robles, Calif., Bro. Z. E. Francisco, San Diego, Calif., Bro. Felix Francisco, San Bernardino, Calif., and Bro. I. C. Chandler, Bakersfield, Calif.

Even though this is a new field, we are endeavoring to establish regular services there and have made arrangements for at least one minister to be there each Sunday to take care of the services. An invitation is extended to



any minister passing through, and feeling led, to feel welcome to stop and encourage the few.

We hope to have a permanent place of worship as soon as possible and request the prayers of the saints for this work in Las Vegas, Nevada. The present meeting place is located at the residence of Bro. and Sister L. S. Davis, 518 Wilson Street, (corner of "F" and Wilson). —Bro. I. C. Chandler

#### QUOTATIONS FROM OKLA. ASSEMBLY MEETING

The following are some quotes from some of the messages preached during our recent Guthrie Assembly Meeting.

"The more of God you have in you the more beautiful you are." —Bro. Darius Gibson, Mo.

"Learning of Jesus is not a four-year college course but a life-time course." —Bro. Leslie Busbee, Mo.

"Sometimes it takes a lot of suffering to get us out of some troubles or a change in a certain course we took in our life because we did not get the mind of the Lord, or were not led by His Spirit." —Bro. Mart Samons, Ohio

"The only way we received help when we were in sin was to come to Jesus and cast ourselves at His feet." —Bro. Herbert Probst, Illinois.

"No preacher is your priest today, but Jesus Christ is your priest. You, individually, will have to deal with Him." —Bro. Archie Souder, Okla.

"What's inside of you will come out. If good is inside, that will come out. If bad is in you, it will come out. Sometimes it will come out at a time when you wouldn't want it to come out." —Bro. Curtis Williams, Ohio

"If you do not accept the fact that there is a definite line between you and the spirit of the world, you cannot be happy. You cannot hold to God with one hand and the world with the other." —Sister Marie Miles, Okla.

"It's to the extent that we have failed that we need to go to God and get forgiveness and to clear up with others. As you want to be forgiven, you forgive." —Bro. Merrill Williamson, Louisiana.

"God keeps the record of when you minister to others and when the time comes, God will tell the angels to bless you and you will be blessed." —Bro. Murphy Allen, Mo.

"Have faith in God.' The margin says, 'Have the faith of God.' The Lord wants to increase our faith, and it can take in your healing today." —Bro. C. C. Carver, La.

"Out of 24 hours daily, how many hours do we spend in prayer? Prayer is our main weapon to get victory in the Lord. How many Scriptures do you read each day? How many thoughts do you get in a week that you can tell when you come to prayer meeting? God can't pay us if we don't work. If I get blessed in my soul, I can be a blessing to someone else." —Bro. Lewis Williams, Kansas

"Awake thou that sleepest and arise.' Time is fast flying. We are living in a 'funny' age when everyone is wanting to have a big time." "I would rather go to heaven without any arms or legs than to hell with them." —Bro. Sam Abbott, Kentucky.

"You and I have a great High Priest who never sleeps nor slumbers. When we come to Him, He will satisfy every need of our souls." —Bro. T. V. McMillian, Mo.

"There is not a soul in this world that Jesus cannot save, nor His love touch." —Sister Lottie Porter, Okla.

"When we pray an 'effectual fervent prayer' we know it touches God's throne and we are satisfied if God says 'yes,' or 'no' or sometimes, 'wait.' You pray according to the will of God, then you can press your case and God will hear and answer your prayer." —Sis. Margaret Eck.

"A personal touch from God will affect our walk, disposition, and our whole life." —Sister Abbott, Ky.

"'God is good' (Psa. 119:68). Whether you are saved or not, you owe it to God to thank Him for His goodness. We have to have God in us to attain to that measure that is required in the Word of God." —Sis. Ruth Murphey, Mo.

"If we have started living for God, we do not want to ever consider giving up. God wants us to have a burden to help others. Without a burden we cannot work for God." —Bro. Ira Stover, Okla.

—Sister A. Marie Miles

#### MEXICO MISSIONARY REPORT

Dear Readers of the "Faith and Victory":

Greetings again in the precious and holy name of Jesus who died for us that we might have life, and that "more abundantly." Glory be to God, it is true right here in this life when He is reigning supremely in us and we are reigning together with Him as kings and priests, victorious over the world, flesh, and the devil! Thank God for victory TODAY! Then at the last day, if we remain true and faithful, we shall be ushered into that eternal Home of rest, joy, peace, and happiness to enjoy the blessings of God and heaven, unmolested in the ceaseless ages of eternity. So press on, my brother and sister!

Two months elapsed without giving a report of the missionary work in Mexico. Some have asked if the work there had stopped. The answer is NO. In fact, our present goal is to have resident workers at nine mission stations taking care of eleven different congregations, which we have been able to minister to in the past. Please continue to pray for the work and workers in all places, and those who are still traveling on week ends to conduct services.

The new 1965 ¾-ton pickup truck with the "big 6" engine, automatic transmission, no-spin axle, heater, etc., for which the saints contributed so generously, is now in service and I want to thank each and every one for his part in giving and praying for the same.

During the California State Assembly meeting held in Pacoima from 12-26-64 through 1-3-65 the saints were blessed with the presence of Bro. Tomas Mendoza and family, our native missionaries from Mexico. This precious family of five really won the hearts and confidence of all those present. Bro. Tomas brought a message in one service which was enjoyed by everyone. He preached through an interpreter, of course. During the last Sunday afternoon meeting, the need was presented to the congregations for a better means of transportation for Bro. Tomas. I told some of Bro. Tomas' experiences of being broken down often, having to walk miles for help, sleeping in the car or truck, etc. with never a murmur or complaint from them. No offering was taken, we only told of the urgent need and that a dear brother was offering to sell a ¾-ton four-door Dodge pickup, 8 cylinder, 4-speed transmission, no-spin rear axle, with low mileage for \$2,200.00. (Original cost was about \$3,700.00 with tax and license.) In hardly more than 12 hours there was \$590.00 given toward the purchase of the truck and with another \$10 from the missionary fund a total of \$600 was accepted as down payment. Then a 90-day loan for the balance of \$1600.00 was obtained from the bank for which we are trusting God to send in through His saints everywhere. If anyone is led to help clear this debt, contributions may be made out to "Church of God Missions" and sent to either O. B. Wilson or Harland H. Smith.

Sisters Edith Cole and Carrie Sheppard are finally settled down in Ejido Patcuaro (Mexicali) and see much work out ahead of them, but are leaning on the Almighty arm of God and the prayers of the saints to make them able for the task. The field around is large and ripe.



This past week end we had an unusual experience there in Patzcuaro. Saturday afternoon a young man (perhaps 20 years old) came and asked Sister Virginia Wittenborn to read the Bible to him. In the discussion, he told how a spirit had been visiting him for a period of about one year, talking to him, telling him he is a good spirit and will do him good. It drove him to a cemetery at night, telling him if he would dig holes he would find a treasure. It commanded him to take eight other men with him to the cemetery. Some did go with him but not all would stay as long as the spirit wanted them to. This young man has been staying with a brother and sister-in-law, (the latter has attended our services quite regularly) and she is in sympathy with the spirit and is hopeful that it will lead to some money. Therefore, with her around, it was difficult to get help to the man because of her strong influence. Each time in reading the Word to him, as he would seem near to renouncing that spirit and getting help he would say, "Here it comes again," and then he would stiffen up, get a wild look in his eyes, etc. He testified that once he wanted to tell the spirit he didn't want it to come back, but his mouth was held shut so that he could not say anything. About 5:00 p. m. Saturday before they left the chapel to go home we suggested we have prayer and renounce that spirit and ask God to put a rebuke on it. The boy asked, "What if he comes back again?" The sister-in-law said, "No, don't pray any more." We asked if we could pray for the Lord to watch over him through the night, and with little or no answer we began to pray and the devil came against us with such force that it was necessary to resist him and command him to depart in the Name of the Lord. A calm came over the atmosphere and we bid them good-night. Sister Wittenborn said the Lord showed her clearly that we would have to deal with the young man when the sister-in-law was not present. Sunday morning the boy came again to have the Bible read to him, which Sister Wittenborn did. During that discussion he said the spirit had come again Saturday night and had him out walking for three hours. After that, he went to another house and was able to sleep. He said he is not able to get much sleep or rest in his sister-in-law's house. Soon Sister Wittenborn came to me and said the boy desired that I would come and pray with them, only the three of us. This was done and we are confident we gained a victory. He testified that God had forgiven his sins and given him victory and peace in his soul. Please pray much for this soul as well as others.

May God richly bless each of you for your many prayers and for your support. There are nine adults and seven children now serving on the mission fields. I am seeking the Lord about moving to Mexico to work full time in the work as soon as the Rest Home is finished at Pacoima. Will you join me in prayer that God's will be done in the matter?

Your brother in behalf of all the workers,  
—Harland H. Smith  
317 E. Cucamonga Ave., Claremont, Calif.

### LATEST REPORT ON BRO. WAYNE TURNER

La.—Jan. 20—Dear Saints, greetings: The U. S. Supreme Court handed down their decision on Monday, Jan. 18, with reference to Bro. Wayne Turner. Their decision was voted 8 to 1 that they recommend he be given a retrial. Actually it amounts to this: The conviction is set aside. He is no longer convicted of anything. It is now up to the State of Louisiana to decide whether he be given a new trial or not.

This will all take time, but how long, we do not know. Attorney Allen Pierson, Jr., will now begin to

work upon Wayne's removal from death row back to the Amite Parish prison until the State decides what it will do. [Bro. Turner was marvelously converted at Amite.]

Please pray that whatever the state decides, God will be the guiding Hand. Pray also that things will go smoothly and quickly for Wayne's transfer back to Amite.

"To God be the glory for all He hath done."  
Love and prayers, —Betty Howell

### "So Let Him Give . . ."

A preacher wrote to a church one time that "when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself." 2 Cor. 11:9. We thank God we still have preachers of the pure gospel who are doing this very thing today. They are willing to go wherever they are called, as the Lord leads them, and do not refuse because they are not promised a certain amount. In fact, they have received offerings from other congregations and ministered unto those who did not help them financially. We need to support our ministry and we thank God for those who do give.

The Dayton, Ohio congregation is to Bro. Curtis Williams as the Macedonian brethren were to Bro. Paul. Several months ago they bought a new car for him and are still making monthly payments on it. They tell us that they do thank the Lord for helping them to meet the payments thus far, but we feel it would be good for it to be paid off as this congregation has other financial obligations to take care of. They owe \$1,230.25 on the car yet. "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7. Bro. Williams is a traveling evangelist and a good car is essential in his calling in the work of the Lord.

Please send your offerings directly to the secretary of the congregation and she will see that it is applied on the car. Send to Bro. or Sister Wm. Abbott, 741 Gondert Ave., Dayton 3, Ohio, or to Faith Pub. House and we will forward it. —Sister A. Marie Miles

### REPORT OF NIGERIAN MISSION ACTIVITIES

Under date of Jan. 4, 1965 Bro. B. U. Etuk, native minister at the Church of God Mission in Nigeria, West Africa, has mailed in the December report of the mission field activities written by Bro. Friday Ekpo, the mission secretary. Excerpts from this report are as follows:

Our annual baptism this year took place on Dec. 6, 1964 as scheduled, but as usual, people began to arrive the previous evening. By 7 p.m. all was set for an all-night prayer. It was indeed a glorious occasion. We sang songs of praises to God for having added more souls to us and for the additional congregation from which mainly the intended baptismal candidates were drawn. Pastor Tom W. U. Ekpene was in charge of the night prayer. During his short sermon, Pastor Ekpene advised, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13) "Baptism will not save your soul, but it is an outward sign of the inward change taken place in your soul, that your sins have been washed away by His precious blood; but unless you repent and follow in Christ's footsteps, baptism and taking of the Lord's Supper tomorrow will only bring damnation to your soul," he concluded.

This prayer meeting continued until 4 a.m. the following day. By 7 a.m. there was a short morning prayer

meeting before we all left for the stream. At the stream-side, after praying, Bro. Etuk said, "We all rejoice very much with you today and I have no doubt 'joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth more than over the ninety and nine just persons which need no repentance.'" Later Pastor Stephen Akpan and Pastor Tom W. U. Ekpene baptized all the 65 saved souls.

At 10 a.m. service started with Evangelist B. E. Udoka as the conductor. There were many choruses, several hymns and prayers and the 65 newly baptized persons displayed an exceptional pleasure. But none was happier than I for, after all our toil and hard work, Christ has gained 65 souls. Praise Him!

After the sermon from Ex. 20:3, "Have no other gods before me," by Pastor Ekpene, the Lord's Supper was observed. Pastor Stephen Akpan was in charge and all his warnings and advice came from 1 Cor. 11:23-34. This service was attended by about 530 people.

Annual Camp Meeting: I had thought it expedient to change this year's camp meeting time from August to December. Last year, when we had it fixed for August, the rains disturbed us a lot, having been in the heart of raining season. But this year, being in the heart of the dry season, everything worked out as planned and led of the Lord. Scheduling the meeting to be held at Nung Asang Ikono camp-grounds from Dec. 18 to 20, I arrived on the grounds on Dec. 16 (two days prior) to see about lodgings and catering for everybody and to try to find a way to ease congestion in the chapel. Comfortable lodgings were prepared and sheds were erected around the chapel premises.

On Friday, December 18, members began to arrive as early as 7 a.m. and by about 10 a.m. the chapel was full. Service started with Bro. Jimmie A. Udo conducting. By 11:30 a.m. all the additional sheds were filled up. Bro. Etuk, who gave a short sermon, advised every one to comport himself throughout the period in a dignified manner worthy of praise. By 12 noon, there was a two-hour break. At 2 p.m. the sisters had a meeting which was addressed by Sister Mary U. Akpan, the newly employed seamstress. She advised the sisters on "Christian fellowship" which is badly needed today. She advised the sisters, too, on the upbringing of their offspring and general behavior in their husbands' houses. At 3:30 p.m. the men-folk had their meeting. It was addressed by Bro. Brownson E. A. Inyang, the Sunday school teacher. At 7 p.m., after a recess, there was the night prayer meeting and Evangelist B. E. Udoka was in charge. This was a healing prayer and there were hundreds who came along to the altar to be prayed for, and many of whom went home completely healed. Praise be to our God!

On Saturday morning we had the morning prayer meeting. By 9 a.m. we went out to hold open air services. By now all people from our farthest congregation had arrived. We held services in six places addressed by Brothers Etuk, Udoka, Iwok, Inyang, Umoh and Pastor Stephen Akpan, respectively. Coming back by 2 p.m. we broke a bit for an hour and then reassembled again. This time the number of the observers quite outnumbered the members. During the evening prayer quite a number came out to be prayed for and accepted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. Some of these people, I understood, have belonged to other churches, and having found dissatisfaction in their ways of worship and doctrines, had to stay back, neither professing Christianity nor worshipping idols.

All these new converts, I understood, came from six different villages, viz:—Ikot Offiong, Minya Ikono, Ikot Eyiene, Ikot Obio Inyang, Nduo-eduo, and Obio Okpok. The first three have agreed to build a chapel at Ikot Offiong for the three villages and the last three villages have agreed to build a chapel each for themselves. We

had the gods and idols destroyed, and a date for baptizing these dear souls within the next two months is yet to be announced by Bro. Etuk. He and I have so far visited Ikot Offiong congregation (comprising three villages with a membership of 157 saved souls). Ikot Obio Inyang congregation, whose members numbered 79, and Nduo-eduo which has 113 souls. We are to visit Obio Okpok on Jan. 10, 1965. These dear souls are attending the regular classes whose lessons come weekly from Bro. Ostis B. Wilson. They are indeed souls thirsting and hungry for the Saviour. The Lord is wonderful! The Church of God is spreading at a more rapid pace than ever before. The lessons sent by Bro. Wilson are doing more service to these people than most. Praise our good gracious God! He is on the Throne! We have been greatly blessed by Him through the last camp meeting, and I am satisfied.

On Sunday, Dec. 20, we had an early prayer meeting and service started as early as 8:30 a.m. Bro. Etuk in his short sermon thanked everybody on behalf of himself and the whole mission for having attended the three-day camp meeting in an atmosphere of calm and brotherliness. "It is gratifying," he said, "that through this camp meeting the membership of the Church of God has increased unbelievably. But while this is so, I want you all to face the fact that Satan will increase his activities for combatting the Gospel of Christ. You will meet with stumbling blocks, and seeming difficulties, but take courage and believe that God will always be with you. Do not give up the fight. The more energy you release, the more He will supply. Believe me, if you pray and believe, your needs will be supplied accordingly," he concluded.

May God bless you, dear reader, and keep you under the shadow of the Almighty.

Yours in Him,

—Friday F. Ekpo

As you have noted, the above report indicates that many souls and more congregations have been added recently to the mission in Nigeria. This has necessitated an increase in the number of preachers and pastors to take care of these additional congregations. As a result, the itemized pay list under date of January 6 from Bro. Etuk shows names of 19 preachers and gospel workers, plus six language class teachers, to whom monthly allowances are paid from the Missionary Fund maintained at this Office. A bank draft of \$300 has just been mailed to Bro. Etuk for the January allowances. Bro. Ostis Wilson is paying the monthly allowance for the sewing class teacher, Sister Mary U. Akpan.

We have made no promises or commitments that these allowances will be continued, only as the Lord provides the means through the Missionary Fund. Pray that the Nigerian mission work will not slow up for any reason, but that the Lord will call, qualify and send more gospel workers to that needy field. It seems that a particular need at present is for an able-bodied, qualified gospel worker (man, or perhaps a man and his wife) who would be able to supervise the building of a permanent missionary home on the field.

Another matter of prayer is the proposition of financing and arranging a visit to this country for several months of Bro. Etuk and Bro. Friday Ekpo in order for them to meet the Church here and learn firsthand its doctrines and practices. This would involve a greater responsibility on the Church in several ways. Let us pray and do as the Lord bids, and say amen to His will.

—Lawrence D. Pruitt

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## TESTIMONIES

Dear Saints scattered abroad, greetings in the precious name of Jesus: Our hearts are full of thanks to God and all His dear saints for the many blessings we have received during our stay here in Mexico. Of course, there have been times of discouragement, but when we stop to think that there is all heaven and many saints on the earth behind us, we could not stay in discouragement very long. He has promised, "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

As we drove down the highway on our way back to Mexico from the California State Assembly meeting, our minds went back three years ago when we traveled over the same road. It was about noon on March 3, 1962. James was driving the old panel truck with our furniture and I was driving the '50 Chevy station wagon with our clothing and bedding. We had ten dollars as our possessions; no groceries, no house to go to, but God knew just what He was doing, although we did not. He supplied through the Mexicans everything we lacked. It was about two weeks later we met Bro. Tomas who has since been used very much of the Lord.

This year was quite different. I drove the '58 Chevy station wagon that the saints in and around Webb City, Mo. had bought for us last September. James drove a '63 Dodge pickup truck which has been recently purchased for Bro. Tomas. We were well loaded with groceries which Bro. and Sister Wittenborn and others had supplied and money for other necessities, also a real good helper (Sister Shirley Stice) to help lighten the many duties.

We were very glad that Bro. and Sis. Tomas Mendosa and family were able to attend the assembly meeting. They enjoyed the fellowship of the saints very much and made mention of the great love the saints have for each other. It was made known that they were in need of some better transportation. The saints responded very well to this need and gave enough that Bro. Harland Smith purchased this pickup, trusting the Lord will supply the balance due.

In December, James went to Navojoa, Sonora, where he visited with Bro. Gonzales. He was with him in some jail services and one service with the Mayo Indians. When the saints were there about ten years ago they met a good American brother who is working with the Indians translating the New Testament into their language. He has now completed the gospel of Mark and sent us one in the mail. We have five Mayo Indians in our congregation now and some of them have expressed a desire to be saved. We hope that having some of the Bible in their language will make it more real to them and they will be able to be real victorious. The Mexican mainland is very much different than here in Baja, California. It is almost impossible to buy used car parts, so James, not having enough money to buy a new wheel for the car, came the seven hundred miles home without a spare, or a flat! Thank the Lord!

Also in December, Bro. Esteven, his wife and child went back to their home near Mexico City. They felt that they should go and tell their relatives of the wonderful salvation that they had found. One day he said to us, "There are two things in my life for which I am more thankful than any other. First, that I went to the army and learned to read and write; then second, and most important, that I came to Baja, Calif. and found you and heard of salvation." We received a letter from them Jan. 6 saying that one of his brothers was studying the

Bible with him and was very interested. Let us stand behind him in our prayers and means that he will be able to raise up a work there. He is not looking for material gain, and worked faithfully here at the mission house several weeks digging us a well, asking no pay for it. Having plenty of water whenever we need it has been a great help to us.

Sister Opal Kelly and Sister Ruby Marken are faithfully carrying on the work at El Alamo. Sister Ruby came out for a few days of the Assembly meeting at Pacoima, Calif., but Sister Opal stayed at El Alamo to take care of the mid-week service. Sister Opal needs constant prayers for her physical needs.

The house at Mexicali is almost completed now, so Sister Edith Cole and Sister Carrie Sheppard will be moving in within the next few weeks. Getting the house there completed has been slow because the brethren have only about one day a week to work on it.

Bro. Tomas is faithfully caring for the work at Santa Catarina, Llano Colorado, El Rodeo, and La Valley de la Trinita.

Love and prayers,

—Charlotte Huskey

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La.—Dear Saints: As it has been almost impossible to answer each one who sent beautiful get-well and sympathy cards and some enclosed letters which encouraged us so much, I will take this means to sincerely thank each and every one for their prayers in our behalf. I can't express in words just how much each of you mean to us. Just a few years ago when I had a tumor, my husband fell twenty feet and broke his back, and shortly afterward we were in a car wreck and hurt, and then my husband had more broken bones, and our son broke the main bone in his leg at school. All of this happened within a short period of time, but we were not discouraged but knew that there was "honey in the Rock." It caused us to realize more than ever before what the saints really meant to us, as they offered prayers for us and some sent us means that we didn't even know personally. Thank the Lord, He brought us through with victory and healed me of tumor as I submitted myself to Him whether it would mean life or death. He raised my husband up and we often remark what a blessing it is that he is able to work as he does. Of course, he can't do some of the things he did before he broke his back, but we thank the Lord so much for the health he has. Surely we want to launch out in the deeper things of God and give our lives wholly to Him. We are not our own.

On July 14 of last year we had a little girl born prematurely. She lived only two hours and God in His mercy took her to be with Him. Even though we were quite disappointed as we only have one son, who is twenty years old, we know God's way is best. Though we can't understand why some things happen, I never feel like questioning God because He does all things well and it is for our good. We had tried to get a doctor to come to the home but couldn't, so we talked to a doctor and told him we were trusting in God and we only wanted him to deliver the baby. He was very nice, and when we went to the hospital, he had already informed the nurses that I wasn't to have shots or medicine. Dear Sister Eva Mitchell came in the room while I was suffering so, and I surely know the Lord sent her to encourage us to hold on. Also Cynthia LaCroix was with us and the other saints were praying. We are so thankful the Lord helped us to fully trust Him, as it strengthened our faith for more trials just ahead of us.

I seemed to get along pretty well for a little while, but continued to have smothering spells and I wouldn't sleep much during the day, thinking I would sleep better that night. But when night came, I still smothered and

I finally got to the place I could hardly lie down at all for the awful pressure in my chest. I didn't know much about nerve trouble and that it would affect a person in that way. After losing so much sleep and being so utterly exhausted, I got to the place where the least noise would send a shock through my body and maybe I couldn't get settled down again all night, and then came to the place that when I would drop off to sleep it seemed I was just sinking and I would awaken gasping for breath. Then with all this, as night would close in upon me, it just seemed depression would close in upon me and the very imps of hell seemed to be talking to me and trying in every way to discourage me and make me question God and why I couldn't get help, but by the grace of God, I rebuked him the best I could and when I came to the place where I had to have help to resist him, I would call someone in. The Lord didn't fail me. How beautiful and outstanding were those promises that came to me at the very right time. I have never had a good memory as some have in quoting scripture but scriptures would come to me that I hadn't thought of for a long time and were just for me.

I was too weak to sing or hardly to talk, but as I would sit on the bed and lean over on a chair, I would open the song book and just read the songs. They helped me so much. When we were in the hottest of the battle, the Lord sent Uncle Max Williamson and Bro. Ray Key to be with us and pray with us. Sister Goldsberry also stayed a couple of days with us and helped so much. Just their presence and knowing they were here praying seemed to help me to sleep better than I had for a long time. From that time, I began to gradually improve and after several weeks the pressure in my chest and the misery in my stomach began to leave where I could lie on my back and right side. I am still improving and I am looking to the Lord to help me to be able to overcome, as the enemy tries at times to bring depressing feelings, especially when I am worn in body. I don't want to sympathize with myself or give place to the devil in any way or to blame everything on nerves. I know the Lord is willing and able to strengthen us in our nerves that we may be able to work more for Him.

It touched our hearts and made us feel so unworthy when the saints and friends had given us means to fully cover the hospital and doctor expense, and also the funeral cost for the baby. It meant so much to us, not because of the money given us, but to know we had a place in their hearts and the love that was shown us. It only made us desire to do more for our brothers and sisters in Christ and our fellow-men, in the future than we have in the past as God gives us strength and wisdom.

Again, we want to express our appreciation for each one who helped us out when we felt so helpless and dependent upon your prayers. May God reward you. Pray for us that we will keep true to the end.

In Christian love, —Mrs. Merrill Williamson

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

Okla.—Dear co-workers and saints scattered abroad: Greetings to all of you this Christmas Day, 1964. This morning finds me saved and determined to go all the way with the Lord. I am enjoying the presence of the Lord more than I ever have in my life. I see a greater need of being a light to the world today, as so much darkness and sin is abounding all about us.

I am standing on the old-time truth of the Bible for the healing of my body, soul, and in a financial way, also. A brother said to me one time, "I have plenty, and if you ever need anything, let me know," and I told him that if I did not have a loaf of bread, or had any other need, I would tell my needs to God and not man, and praise the Lord, He has always provided for me all things I needed in both soul and body. It is truly wonderful what

the Lord can do for each of His trusting children. I feel as though I am living in a completely furnished house, built and furnished me by God, my Father. I'm truly thankful to God for His love and care for me and my decision is to go all the way for Him.

I have to be led and fed by the Lord from day to day, so I'm asking the prayers of all of God's people that I may remain faithful to God and have a testimony that I did not fail my Lord who loved me so well that He paid the debt for my soul when I could not pay it myself. Praise God for full and free salvation!

Your brother in the Lord,

—Sam Barton

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

La.—Dear saints everywhere, greetings of love to everyone: This leaves us encouraged in the Lord and in His service.

Bro. Wayne Turner (in death row at Angola, La.) has written that he was rejoicing in heart and soul. He was rejoicing over all the wonderful Christmas cards that he received. It just made his Christmas a happy one. He received over 140 cards from all over the country and he sincerely wishes to thank every one humbly for remembering him. Many sent gifts of money through me and he deeply appreciates every blessing.

Through the year, any one wanting to send money to Bro. Wayne may do so by sending a money order with the top line written for: "Wayne Turner." The other lines should be left blank and I will fill them in. This way money orders sent to me will go through and a letter from me telling who the money is from.

The Amite, La. jail services are still going well. This month made 29 months of service with about 30 men kneeling for help during this time. Some of these men were from Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, Kansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Missouri, Illinois, Georgia, and Oklahoma. One that we know of knelt for help and later, when he was out, was killed in a car accident.

This is surely a work for the Lord. If there is anyone—minister or teacher—who has free time, the jails and old folks' homes need help and comfort, and it is surely an encouragement to do what one can to reach souls.

Remember us all when you pray. May God bless you each one. Love and prayers,

—E. B. Pinkerton

102 White St., Hammond, La.

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

Mo.—Dear Saints, we greet all of you in the love of Jesus: We love Him, the One who died that we might live, and have a greater desire to live closer and press harder to gain an eternal home in Heaven, when we take our departure from this life.

We have met with a great sorrow in the death of our companion and father, but we can truly say that God has been a Comforter and a help and refuge in our time of trouble and distress. Surely there's not a friend like Jesus. When it seems the sorrow and loneliness are more than we can bear, He is always close to comfort and give us help in just the right way. Many times He will bring precious Scriptures to our minds to help us or give us some precious comforting thought.

Many times our loved one would say, when he was suffering, "Some day I'll have a well body, if not here in this life," and we feel he now has. We shall never cease to miss him and no doubt we will be lonely many times as you all know who have lost a companion. There is just part of one's self gone, but we know God in His wisdom knew best and saw best to take him.

We desire your prayers that we will ever live in the presence of God and be pleasing to Him in all our ways. We truly have our affections set on things above, and have no desire for any part of this old world. We know that His tender love and mercy shall continue to follow

us and His grace will keep us as long as we dwell in Him. Pray that I will have His guidance and wisdom in rearing the children. I do want to teach them all the truth and rear them in the fear and admonition of the Lord. I know I will meet with many problems and trials along the way but I know God will see me through if I but look to Him.

We do want to thank all the saints who have sent cards and letters of sympathy and comfort and sent offerings to help in our needs. It has meant so much to us. We have not been able to answer each card or letter but we want you to know we did appreciate them all and they were such a comfort. There's nothing like God's love and that love dwells in His saints.

Pray for all the children to come to the Lord. Their father's last words for them was to tell them how much he loved them and for them all to come to the Lord. Pray for me at all times. I want to live so I can know that God is with me even unto the end, and that when I take my departure from this life that I, too, can die the death of the righteous. May God bless all of you.

Love in Jesus, —Zella Dollins and children

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

Ariz.—Dear saints, holy greetings in Jesus' name: Truly the Lord has done great things for me. I praise God for His wonderful plan of salvation and for the peace and joy there is in serving Him.

He has given me a healing touch to my body during the past week for which I am very thankful. He is so good to His trusting children. We serve a mighty God, One who knows and cares for all. I surely want to please Him in every little thing and want to walk humbly before Him, and let Him lead the way, for I know He knows what is best in everything for us. He is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

I would like to say that the Lord blessed by sending Bro. Roy Harmon and family here for a week's meeting during the Christmas holidays. The preaching was very good. We are yet meditating on the precious Word. This really did encourage and strengthen us here at Phoenix, and how our hearts do rejoice in God that He still cares for the little flock.

We again want to invite all the saints to come when you can. We would appreciate an interest in your prayers. Your sister in Christ,

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o —Mrs. Annie Peete

La.—Dear Saints: Today finds me much encouraged to press on against the enemy of our souls. We are thankful the Lord called after us until we turned to Him and we are determined to see the end with victory. The Lord has given us so many blessings in the last month, and we want to tell about some of them.

We had been desiring to go to the Guthrie, Okla. assembly meeting, but as the time came closer we almost gave up hopes of going because we didn't see how we could get away. Then on Saturday night my brother-in-law called and said they would take care of the chores for us, take care of the children, and also lend us his new car to make the trip to the meeting. So the Lord just gave us a great big blessing all in one package.

The affliction on my body was very bad. The muscles had died out, so that I was very weak. Also my stomach had been giving me trouble. As we were on the way to the meeting my stomach muscles just stopped working and my food wouldn't digest. By the time I got there I was in a bad shape, but the saints were all prayed up and when we requested prayer they just got under the burden and the Lord instantly touched me and started the food to digesting and my stomach has been working good ever since.

A few days after that, during the meeting, the Lord gave me a definite witness to my complete healing, and

I am now feeling much better and am looking to the Lord to start putting the muscles back where they have withered away.

We very earnestly desire you to continue to pray for us that the Lord will complete the work He has begun. We certainly appreciate the ones who have really been under the burden for us and believe the Lord will honor our faith. Christian love, —Dale Doolittle

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

N. Carolina—Greetings in Jesus' dear name: This leaves us all well, doing fine in soul and body. We did enjoy the presence of Bro. Williams and the good words the Lord sent us. It brought a blessing to our souls. The good words encouraged our hearts to press on for the Lord. We are praying that the Lord will burden someone's heart to always come and see about us. We are a little group trying in the name of Jesus to do what is pleasing in His sight. You all please keep us in mind and pray for us.

Please pray for my husband that he will obey the Lord's will. He needs your prayers so badly.

We want to hear from Bro. and Sister Gibson, as we learned to love them so much. We love all of the saints over the whole world and pray for all. If anyone feels led of the Lord, please come and see us.

Your saved sister in the Lord, —Leaquertha Lennon

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

Calif.—Dear Sister Miles: Please send me the poem book, "Spiritual Paintings," by Sister Penner, for which remittance is enclosed.

I enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory" paper as well as I did when your father was editor. If the dead know what the living are doing, I am sure your father is well pleased with your work.

May God continue to bless the office workers is my prayer. —Moslette Kiles

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

La.—Dear saints of God: I am sixteen years old and am saved and sanctified. But I felt a need for a closer walk with God and greater faith in Him, so Sunday night, December 13, I went to an old-fashioned altar of prayer and received these wonderful blessings from the bountiful hand of God.

Anything that grows strong has to be exercised, so on Tuesday of that week I had a chance to exercise my faith in God. I had a bad fall and received a serious injury on the side of my left foot. I didn't realize how seriously it was hurt until a large knot formed on the side of it and my whole foot began to swell and turn black. By nightfall it was so bad that I couldn't bear to put my weight on it. Some of the saints prayed for me and I thought that the Lord would heal me instantly but that wasn't His plan. Daddy borrowed some crutches from our neighbor so I would be able to go to school the next day. He also wrapped an elastic bandage around it to keep it from being so easily hurt again in case I bumped it. The next day I went to school and by the grace of God I made it through the day, going up and down the stairs. But that night I was sore almost all over my body and my hands nearly had blisters from the crutches rubbing them. That night at prayer meeting, Daddy requested prayer for me and the saints said they would fast and pray the next day. Thursday morning I awoke very sore and knew that if the Lord didn't help me to walk without the crutches I could not go to school. By faith I walked without the crutches. I just wore the elastic bandage and two socks. My foot was still about twice its original size and I couldn't even attempt to get it in a shoe.

Friday morning I went to school in my ordinary shoes without the bandage. That is just how wonderfully the Lord blessed me.

The next Wednesday night on our way to prayer meeting I had a tooth ache which caused my eyes to hurt and my head to ache badly. I was so sick I couldn't sit up but had to lean against the back of the seat. Daddy reached over and laid his hand on me and said, "Let's pray." So while we were traveling down the highway we agreed in prayer and just as soon as we were through praying, the pain left.

But the devil still didn't want to accept defeat. He tried to keep me from receiving the greatest of all the blessings which come from trusting in God. We had a rather lengthy discussion of the Scriptures but were about to dismiss prayer meeting without anyone having testified. By the grace of God I stood up and gave God the praise for what He had done and the devil was defeated again.

Dear friends, it is a great blessing to know that God is still in the healing business and to receive a blessing from His healing hand. But it is a greater blessing to obey God and tell others what God has, can, and will do if we will just trust Him fully.

A friend in Christ, —Kathy Alexander

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

Virginia—Dear Saints, greetings in the holy name of Jesus: I have just received the January issue of "Faith and Victory" paper, and read it all. I thoroughly enjoy every word of it. I get a blessing from each testimony of the dear saints.

I am writing to you at this time for prayer. I have four children, all in need of Christ, and His salvation. Please especially pray for my oldest son, Nelson, who is trying to get victory over alcohol. He wants to stop and is trying on his own. However, unless God intervenes I fear he cannot get complete victory. My heart is so burdened for him. I know you will pray with me for him. I know the One in whom I have believed is able to deliver my son from this awful thing and from all sin.

May God bless everyone of you there at the print shop. May you have a prosperous year for the Lord and may many souls be reached by your sacrifice and labors.

With much love, —Mrs. W. S. Lowe

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

Ohio—To the dear saints everywhere, greetings in the name of Jesus who saved us and is keeping us by His power. The Lord has been so good to us, as I had an affliction on my body and I am so thankful how the Lord came to my rescue and healed me of it. I am praising Him for it. I want to make heaven my home. I do want to serve Him better and be just as He would have me to be. It is a pleasure to live for the Lord. The more we deny ourselves, the more pleasure we have in the service of our King.

I desire your prayers for my daughter who is having trouble with her eyes.

Yours in Christian love, —Mrs. Bame

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

Kansas—Dear Sister Marie: The Lord blessed us with the privilege of getting to go to the singing at Wichita, Kansas in December. We stayed over for Sunday services. Last week end we went to Coffeyville, Kansas and attended all-day services on Sunday. The Lord has been good to us and gave us a safe trip each time. We enjoyed the meetings.

A car fell on Clayton about a week ago. His chest has been very sore and pained him quite a lot. He said it was some better tonight. We trust the Lord has undertaken. We would appreciate prayer in his behalf that the Lord would completely heal him.

Did I ever tell you that in a day or two after I wrote for prayer for Ruth that her sores were completely gone? We do thank the Lord! —Sister Eva Lou Gaines

## BIBLE STUDY

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

February 7, 1965

### PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

Printed Portion .....Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

Matt. 13:24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

26 But when the blade was sprung up and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Memory Verse: For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. 2 Cor. 5:10.

Central Thought: The good and bad are known here and will be known by God in the day of judgment.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The word parable means "a comparing, by the side, —simple story teaching a moral lesson." (Webster).

Our lesson is a parable in which the kingdom of heaven is portrayed. Jesus plainly tells us that the field is the world. Jesus also plainly tells us who sows the wicked seed. He said the devil does. He did this while men slept. He is a deceitful foe. He will come to you as a friend or as an "angel of light." He is ever watchful and when he finds a person asleep or careless he moves in in a deceitful way. The Apostle Paul exhorts us to be



careful. He said, "Therefore let us not sleep as do others; but let us watch and be sober." (1 Thess. 5:6) We need to ever be on the watch or the enemy will sow wrong in our hearts. If a person lets a little feeling of being mistreated enter into his thoughts, the enemy will try to sow some dislike toward the one who is mistreating him and that will turn into hatred if it is not resisted. The devil is very sly and crafty. We need to watch and be careful. Do not go to sleep spiritually.

Our lesson also teaches that we need to be patient with those who are of the world. We want every soul to be saved. It is not our place to punish those who do wrong. "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord." Our lesson also brings out clearly what will happen at the end of the world. Hell is real and so is heaven.

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February 14, 1965

### TRADITION AND CHRISTIAN DUTY

Printed Portion ..... Matthew 15:1-20

Matt. 15:1 Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;

6 And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

7 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,

8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

10 And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand:

11 Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

12 Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?

13 But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.

14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

15 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable.

16 And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding?

17 Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?

18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

20 These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

Memory Verse: The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:10.

Practical Truth: We will be judged by God's Word.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The word tradition means something handed down. The Jewish rulers were stirred against Jesus after he had fed the 5000. Through tradition the Jewish rulers taught that they should wash their hands before eating and other times as a mark of an outward cleansing before God. (Details in Mark 7:2-4.) They bound this on the people who could not keep it. Jesus asked them a question. Through their tradition they had disobeyed Moses' law by letting a person be free from caring for his aged parents by saying he gave that money to the temple worship. Jesus called their religion vain worship. They wanted to keep man's idea instead of the commandments of God. The heart must be right before God and then the life will be right. If we love God we will keep His commandments.

It is not what my father or grandfather did, but it is what God requires of me that counts with Him. It is not what I think about a doctrine but it is what the Bible says is right that counts. A group of theologians might say that a person cannot live without sinning in this world or that the virgin birth of Jesus Christ was not true but that does not make it so. The Bible is still true. "Every plant [or false teaching] which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." God's truth will prevail. The commandments of God will prevail over the doctrines of man. We had better stay with the Bible and not let man's ideas influence us. If we follow the blind we will fall into the ditch of hell.

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February 21, 1965

### JESUS, THE CHRIST

Printed Portion ..... Matthew 16:13-26

Matt. 16:13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist; some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Jesus answered, and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

20 Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Memory Verse: Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. Matthew 16:24.

Practical Truth: When we accept Jesus as our Saviour, we then carry our cross joyfully.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The enemy of our soul does not want us to believe from the heart that Jesus is the Christ, the Saviour, able to save from sin all who will come to Him in true repentance. But those who will believe are the happiest people in the world.

Peter had been with Jesus enough and he believed Him to be the Christ and the Son of God. Not only did he believe because of what he saw, but also because the Spirit of God confirmed this to him. Some want to say that the church was built on Peter or that he was the first Pope but Jesus is only repeating what Peter had said. Peter said, "Thou art the Christ." Jesus said, "Thou art Peter." We are glad that the foundation of the church was not built on man. Peter, later in Acts 4:10-12, firmly declares to all, "Jesus Christ . . . is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other." Christ is the rock upon which the church is built. Jesus did not build many churches, He built only one. On the day of Pentecost Jesus set His church in action by filling it with the Holy Spirit. Ever since that day there has been a Church of God. To get into this church we must take up our cross and follow Jesus. We must not be as Peter, who, in the last part of our lesson, tried to rebuke Jesus. We must follow Him and have a willingness in our heart to forsake the self-life and this world.

February 28, 1965

#### FORGIVENESS

Printed Portion ..... Matthew 18:15-17, 21-35

Matt. 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times, but, Until seventy times seven.

23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

27 Then the Lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Memory Verse: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Eph. 4:32.

Practical Truth: If we do not forgive others, Jesus will not forgive us.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

To forgive means to pardon; to cancel; to overlook; to give up resentment. God wants us to forgive. In His Word He has plainly told us what to do when we feel we have been wronged. The Bible didn't say to tell everyone but just to tell the one who has done the wrong. Go to him and tell him alone. If he won't hear, take two more with you. Then if he doesn't hear, take it to spiritual brethren or ministers to help in the problem. When forgiveness has been asked, then it is to be granted and cancelled. If we don't forgive, neither will God forgive us. This is a serious thing, is it not?

The parable Jesus brings to teach us forgiveness is very impressive. The huge debt that the servant owed the king of \$7,500,000 is compared to the debt we owed God for the sins that we committed against Him. That debt was paid for us by Jesus. We never could have paid it. He freely forgave us. Then for us to go out and take a person by the throat who only owed us \$18.00 and show no mercy at all just for some wrong we felt they had done us is a sin against God. Surely the love of God does not dwell in the heart of those who stubbornly hold an unforgiving attitude toward others. Resist the first wrong feeling the devil presents to you against another. If you entertain it, more will come and they will grow into mountains. Keep a forgiving attitude toward all.

—Sister A. Marie Miles