

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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Christ Arose



"He is risen!" said the angel to the women,
When they came to see Him sleeping in the cave;
Jesus burst the mighty bars of death asunder,
And arose to reign triumphant from the grave.

He is risen! surely death is now abolished:
Grave, where is thy vict'ry? death, where is thy
sting?

Jesus flashes light into the darkened valley,
Swell the mighty chorus, men and angels sing.

He is risen! let the nations hear the music,
Let the gospel truth reach ev'ry distant plain;
Let the tidings roll, that ev'ry guilty captive
May be fully free, and help to praise His name.

He is risen! hence, the fear that grim monster
Is forever banished to the shades of night;
And the grave and death have lost their wretched
terror

While we live on earth or take our upward flight.
—B. E. Warren

CHRIST IS RISEN!



"And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you." Matt. 28:5-7.

Christ's resurrection, foretold by the prophets and consummated in reality, stands as the greatest miracle of all time. The empty tomb is the strongest proof of the divinity of Christ, and evidence of the supernatural power of the only true and living God. Mohammed remains in his tomb, as well as all the founders of pagan religions, the various cults and creeds of men. Only the Christian can truthfully say that

his Lord and Master is living today—not only at the right hand of the Father, but also actually reigning in Spirit within the heart and life of the sanctified believer.

It is true that people have been resurrected from the dead before and after Christ's resurrection, but none other has come forth with a "glorified" body as He did. The Apostle Paul writes by divine inspiration: "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept." 1 Cor. 15:20. Christ alone blazed the way and set the pattern for the general resurrection that shall take place at His second coming. "But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming." 1 Cor. 15:23. Again Paul writes: "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our vile [decaying] body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." Phil. 3:20, 21. This is the blessed hope of the righteous.

Jesus said to Martha whose brother had died, "I am the resurrection and the life." This truth he proved on this occasion and throughout His ministry. Jesus did not preach or conduct any funerals. Whenever He came in contact with the dead they were resurrected to life. It is also very true spiritually that when a soul, dead in trespasses and sins, comes in contact with "the Resurrection and the life," he is resurrected and made a new creature in Christ to walk in newness of life.

The doctrine of the resurrection and immortality is the cornerstone of our faith and hope. Without it there would be no redemption. The Apostle Paul says that Jesus "was raised again for our justification." Rom. 4:25. Again the Apostle contends in 1 Cor. 15 that if Christ had not been resurrected our preaching is in vain, our faith is vain, we are yet in our sins, the apostles were all liars, the righteous dead have perished, and the living saints have no hope after death.

Thank God for the truth that we are serving a resurrected Savior, the One who came forth from the

tomb triumphant over death, hell and the grave. That blessed hope of immortality is instilled in the hearts of all who are partakers of His divine nature. Because He lives, we shall live also. Praise the Lord!
—Lawrence Pruitt

Salvation Adapted to Every Need of the Soul

The infinite wisdom and actual divinity of the Holy Bible is wonderfully demonstrated in this fact. No other book on earth is both instructive, interesting, and never exhausted; both by ignorant and learned, by youth and mature minds. To such as love God and the truth; and especially to such as have been conformed to the image of his Son, be they profound and cultured, or the most illiterate and simple, the inspired volume is ever precious, unfolding new and rich mines of golden thought at every reading, even down to old age.

How marvelously the inspired volume is adapted to the wants of mankind as a **Book of Salvation**.

Throughout the whole world it has been a fact in human experience that a sacrifice was needed to atone for the sins of our race. Everywhere the impression rests upon the human heart that God's wrath has been provoked by sin in this world. And in nearly all heathen lands, when the torch of heaven's truth was lifted there, it found men inflicting tortures of some kind upon themselves, or sacrificing in cruel death their own offspring, with a hope of satisfying offended justice. Oh reader, is not the gospel of God's salvation glad tidings of great joy to all this sin-stricken world? Does it not exactly meet that deeply and universally felt want in the human breast, of a sacrifice for our sins? How gracious the words of Him who knows and bears the sins and griefs of all our race! How wonderfully they anticipate our inward condition, and announce relief to the oppressed and struggling soul! "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Look at all this unhappy world. Are not the hearts of the children of men like the ever restless waters of the sea? Behold the Lamb of God who taketh away our sins; the Prince of peace who calms the sea of inward fear and guilt!

And the infinite wisdom of God has placed this great salvation in reach of all. The wise of heart and understanding, if only humble minded, may enter there and find, not only a perfect redemption, but also the wonderful stores of wisdom for which he thirsts. The most simple and unlearned find no difficulty in grasping and appropriating the saving grace of God as soon as they become willing to learn of Him who is meek and lowly in heart.

The wonderful fact in the plan of redemption is this: it heals the malady of sin from the inmost core of our nature. It enters and changes the whole bent of our moral being. It purifies the very fountain of

thought and action. It lifts up a perfect standard of holiness, and conforms our affections to the same. It demands a life of absolute freedom from sin, and creates that life in us. "The law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did." "The blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh"—rendered persons outwardly and legally pure. But, "How much more shall—yea, doth—the blood of Christ, who, through the eternal Spirit, offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God." Heb. 9:13, 14. Namely, the blood of the new covenant purges our very nature and produces an inward consciousness of purity and moral soundness.

Such a salvation was needed by our fallen race. After King David had been led by the tempter to tarnish his beautiful life with one dark spot of sin, in his humiliation he was led to deeply scrutinize the human heart, and the hidden causes of those outcroppings of sin, that are so opposite to the general character and principles of righteousness. And, behold! he discovered that he was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did his mother conceive him. By the sin of our first parents a vein of evil nature has been transmitted down through all our race. This he felt the need of having removed. "Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts." To insure a pure stream the fountain must be cleansed. And he through the Spirit predicted such a thorough cure for sin in the following prayer: "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Psa. 51:5-10.

Time moves on. The Son of God appears to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself; and in response to the heart of man that longs for inward purity we hear him say, "I will, be thou clean," "and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin," and "all unrighteousness," which includes inbred unrighteousness.

Some ancient philosophers discovered and taught very pure and perfect ethics. But they confessed themselves unable to live up to their own standard, much less impart an ability to their pupils to do so. Jesus our Lord and Savior so far exceeded all other moral philosophers, that he taught the only perfect law ever delivered to man, exemplified it in his life, and has power to raise all his disciples to the same standard. Enabling us not only to walk in a perfect way before God, but to do it easily and naturally. Outward holiness is just as spontaneous in the life, where perfect holiness reigns within, as good fruit naturally adorns a good tree. Oh, how shall we thank God for this new creating salvation in Jesus our Lord! Let the vilest come to him and realize an entire revolution from sin unto holiness.

Another beautiful fact in the adaptation of salvation to our needs is this: It does not only impart that grace and fortitude by which men can readily resist all temptations to evil, but its own inward happiness utterly weans the mind and heart from all sinful

indulgences. The ransomed soul is so perfectly satiated with its own heavenly feast of love and holy delight, that the allurements of this world become utterly distasteful. All evil is repelled by the surpassing delight of that which is holy and good. How can the base mud-cakes of sinful pleasure, "the bread of wickedness," excite desire in a soul that is accustomed to eat "angel's food"? Thus did Nehemiah testify: "The joy of the Lord is my strength." 8:10. The joys of salvation invest the soul with boldness to reject all offered pleasures of sin. Behold the presence of God is with his people. And, "In thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore." Psalms 16:11. "Therefore everlasting joy shall be unto them." Isaiah 61:7. The human heart, it is true, was created for and ardently thirsts after happiness. Salvation fills that desire, and abundantly satiates that thirst. FULL SALVATION, and nothing else will do it. "And in this mountain—of his holiness—shall the LORD of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined." "For in this mountain shall the hand of the Lord rest." Isaiah 25:6, 10.

Oh, if poor sinners but knew that the love of God imparts a "fulness of joy," a perfect delight in all the will of God; and raises us above all relish for the miserable pleasures they are acquainted with in the life of sin, then would they gladly exchange sin for salvation, and the drudgery of Satan for the peaceful service of God.

Again, salvation is adapted to the wants of the human soul in its perfect keeping power. The death of Christ atones for our transgressions, his resurrection gives us victory over death, and his life is a pledge of our preservation in him. "Because he liveth, we shall live also."

Hence the apostle Jude had the pleasure of writing a letter "to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ; and called." And Peter testifies that we "are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Peter 1:5.

Many poor souls hesitate to give themselves to God for fear they will not be able to endure unto the end. Oh, cast such fears to the winds! God's salvation provides for our eternal preservation from sin, and no child of God ever needs to have the sad experience of a backslider. The cure of sin is both a thorough and a permanent success.

In fact, the "salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory," fully and forever provides for every want of the human soul, creating us every whit whole, satisfying all our desires, and preserving us triumphant over sin, and blameless in the sight of God. And the great remedy is so miraculously adapted to man that the most feeble in mind can appreciate its blessings as well as the wise. All responsible men and women, of all nations, and under all circumstances may come to Christ and be saved, and everlastingly preserved in him, if they will hear his voice and obey.

—D. S. Warner

ALONE

It is human to stand with the crowd; it is divine to stand alone. It is man-like to follow the people, to drift with the tide; it is God-like to follow a principle of truth, to stem the tide.

It is natural to compromise conscience and to follow the social and religious fashion for the sake of gain or pleasure; it is divine to sacrifice both on the altar of truth and duty.

"No man stood with me, but all men forsook me," wrote the battle-scarred apostle in describing his first appearance before Nero, to answer for his life for believing and teaching contrary to the Roman World.

Truth has been out of fashion since man changed his robe of fadeless light for a garment of faded leaves.

Noah built alone. His neighbors laughed at his strangeness and perished in style.

Abraham wandered and worshiped alone. Sodomites smiled at the simple shepherd, followed the fashion and fed the flames.

Daniel dined and prayed alone. Elijah sacrificed and witnessed alone. Jeremiah prophesied and wept alone. Jesus loved and died alone.

And of the lonely way His disciples should walk He said: "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matthew 7:14.

Of their treatment by the many who walk in the broad way, He said: "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, therefore the world hateth you." John 15:19

The church in the wilderness praised Abraham and persecuted Moses. The church of the kings praised Moses and persecuted the prophets.

The church of Caiaphas praised the prophets and persecuted Jesus. The church of the popes praised the Savior and persecuted the saints. And multitudes now, both in the so-called church and in the world, applaud the courage and fortitude of the patriarchs and prophets, the apostles and martyrs, but condemn as stubbornness or foolishness like faithfulness to truth today.

Wanted Today: Men and women, young and old, who will obey their God-given convictions of truth and duty at the cost of fortune and friends and life itself.

—Selected

NOTICE

To all the dear saints, greetings: Just a few words to tell you we have publicly resigned the work here at home known as Oak Grove, out of Loranger, La., and we are looking to the Lord to further work to His glory. We love them and this is a wonderful congregation, but we feel the Lord is through with us here and a change would be encouraging. All, both old and young, have been so sweet to us. All we want is God's will to be done. So pray for us and them. Love to all you dear ones.

—Sister Katherine Key
Rt. 1, Loranger, La. 70446

“FAITH AND VICTORY”

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, which is campmeeting month, and we omit an issue that month to attend these meetings) by Lawrence D. Pruitt, assisted by Marie Miles and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

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

Notice to subscribers: Whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your Zip Code number. The post office charges 10c to notify us of each change of address.

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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. Checks and 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.

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EDITORIALS

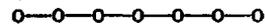


The results of the special trial subscription effort during the winter months are very encouraging, and we are pleased to report that many of the new readers are returning the subscription remittance envelope which was attached to each expiring March copy. Numbers have expressed how glad they were to get those three issues, and now they do not want to be without it. Some were contacted who had been hungering and searching for a group of God’s people who were still teaching and practicing the “old-time” truth.

We truly thank the Lord and express our appreciation to all our readers who so faithfully co-operated to make this gospel extension effort possible. Your reward will be beyond measure in heaven.

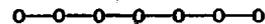
The Scriptures encourage us to be faithful in the Lord’s service, even though we may not see any visible fruit or good results from our efforts. “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” Gal. 6:9. Thus wrote the Apostle Paul who was seemingly tried to the limit of endurance, yet at the end of his life’s race he had the testimony that he had “kept the faith” with the crown of eternal life awaiting him.

The Prophet Isaiah says: “Blessed are they that sow beside all waters, that send forth thither the feet of the ox and the ass.” Isa. 32:20. The Wise Man exhorts us in these words: “In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.” Eccl. 11:6. Through the morning and evening of life—the entire day—we should continually sow the gospel seed in the hope that it will fall on good ground. We will never know in this life how God has taken our feeble efforts and blessed them in the salvation of some precious souls.



Job, the perfect man in his generation, posed this age-old question, “If a man die, shall he live again?” Job 14:14. The question of immortality—life beyond the grave—has intrigued the mind of man through the ages. The infidel says that death ends all. The skeptic says he doesn’t know, that no one knows for certain. The Christian says, “I know my Redeemer liveth . . . I shall see Him.”

Jesus, the Son of God, answers the question and makes this clear declaration of the general resurrection of all that are in the graves at the last day: “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.” John 5:28, 29.



The latest word from Bro. and Sister Ira Stover who are in Arizona is that in answer to prayer he is better in some ways. However, he still needs a complete healing touch, and they are trusting and expect-

Campmeeting Dates for 1965

Following are some of the Church of God campmeeting dates for the coming summer. Dates for others have not been received. Complete notices will be printed in later issues.

Holly Hill, S. Carolina Campmeeting—June 4 to 13.

Tulsa, Okla. Campmeeting—June 4 to 13.

Hoffman, Okla. Campmeeting—June 18 to 27.

General Southern Campmeeting at Hammond, La.—June 25 to July 4.

Oregon Campmeeting at Jefferson, Oregon—July 2 to 11.

Akron, Ohio Campmeeting—July 9 to 18.

National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo. July 23 to Aug. 1.

Oklahoma Campmeeting at Guthrie, Okla.—Aug. 6 to 15.

Missouri State Campmeeting at Myrtle, Mo. Aug. 13-22.

California State Campmeeting at Pacoima, Calif.—Aug. 27 to Sept. 5.

Dover, Okla. Campmeeting—Sept. 3 to 12.

Prayer Requests

Florida—Dear Saints of God: Greetings in the name of Him who died for us and saved us from sin. I thank you for your many prayers for me. I have been very sick but I am so much better. I'm so thankful to the good Lord for touching my body in answer to the faithful prayers of the saints. He is so good to me and I'm so thankful for His great power to save from sin and to heal the body. He's everything to me.

Continue to pray for me that the Lord will completely heal my body and keep me in the hollow of His hand. May the Lord bless each of you.

I enjoy reading the paper very much. Keep up the good work.

Your sister in the Lord, —Goldie Ross

Miss.—Dear Sister Miles: I would like very much for all the saints to be much in prayer for me. I have a nerve trouble for which prayer has been offered many times, but it seems I don't get well. Pray that our home will be a home that will be pleasing to God. Also pray for my children and grandchildren that they will all be ready when He calls.

One who loves the Lord, —Mrs. Froest Smith

Ohio—Dear Christians: I am asking for prayers for healing of a nervous heart and nervous afflictions. Pray for me to understand the Lord in more faith and truth. Also pray for my husband to abandon cigarettes. They are sapping his life away, and he will not resist them. I study the Bible but do not seem to be able to understand all I should. Brothers and sisters, help me to know the way.

—Mrs. Minnie Russell

Maryland—Dear Saints, greetings in Jesus' blessed name: I do want to thank you for sending the "Faith and Victory" paper to me.

Please pray for my husband's health, and that he will turn to God before it is too late and please pray for my brother who has cancer. Pray that the Lord will heal his body and save his soul. He is my only brother and I love him so much. My heart is greatly burdened for him.

Please pray for me that I will draw closer to the Lord and get to the place where I can be a soul-winner for Him and that I will have a deeper burden for lost souls.

In this letter you will find \$1.00. Please send me a few tracts to give out. If you have some on divine healing, please send me some. Thank you, and may God bless each one and keep you in His will.

In Christian love, —Mrs. Myrtle Warner

Penn.—Dear Saints: I would like to send in a prayer request, or several requests for which I desire the sincere prayers of the saints. One is for our dear boy who has joined the Air Force. He says he is so nervous and feels like he is losing weight. Also, he says some from that course may be sent to Viet Nam. He would like to be sent where he could come home week ends. Pray God to have His way. He said he wished there were more sober-minded boys in there. Most of them drink and smoke. He doesn't want to start drinking and smoking, but nervous pressure is so great. I desire the sincere prayers of God's saints in his behalf. Let's earnestly pray for this condition in Viet Nam. —Mrs. Ruth Godshall

Trinidad, W. I.—Pray for Sister Sealey who likes to read the "Faith and Victory." She is very old and lonely. Pray for Sister Inuriel who has sugar diabetes, high blood pressure and some trouble with her feet.

Please pray for Bro. Utson Platt's son, W. L. Platt, who has a mental illness. He is saved, and they feel that this affliction is an imposition of the devil.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:—

Ala.—"Severe hurting in my side."

Ark.—"Problems and a nervous stomach."

Calif.—"Pray that I can have my baby naturally."

Mo.—"A woman in an awful condition spiritually."

Okla.—"Cataracts on eyes."

Mo.—"My son weeps over his bride who left him."

Ohio—"My only sister who is blind, almost deaf, and weak in faith."

Our space is so limited in the paper, so we will put only a few requests in this time. We know God is able to heal all manner of diseases. We are thankful that the Lord has undertaken for many of the requests that appeared last time. —Sister Marie Miles

THE SAINTS' HOME

I was glad to be in Shawnee, Okla. with the saints, as they had an afternoon meeting at the Golden Rule Home, on the second anniversary of its opening (Feb. 21). There were eleven dear older saints living there at that time. It was precious to hear them tell how much they enjoyed being there in the home. One dear sister told about how she had had trouble with her stomach until she came to the home. Bro. Charles Smith told about how the burden for such a home came to him as he cared for his dear mother in her last days when he was a younger man. He said that the one thing an aged person needs in their older days is security. He made it clear that he wanted every one in the home to know that they were wanted and that they were not a burden and that it was a joy to have them and a joy to care for them.

Sister Malinda Penner, who is the matron of the home, worked here in the office for a period of time before she went to help in the home. All the time she was here she often expressed her burden to help dear aged ones. She would visit the rest homes here in Guthrie and it was clear that was her calling. She is doing a wonderful work for the Lord there without promise of any pay. She has proved that her work is done as a burden from the Lord. We thank God for her. She said that the dear

sisters there in the home help her and the brethren also help as well as take care of stock, garden, and chickens. It is almost being in services morning and night as they all gather together for worship. We thank God for this home for our dear aged saints. —Sister Marie Miles

NATIONAL CAMP GROUND REPORT

Spring is here once more and we will soon be able to begin constructive efforts to prepare the National camp grounds at Neosho (Monark Springs) Mo. for the annual campmeeting to be held July 23 to Aug. 1, Lord willing. We trust the labors of God's people will again be blest with a harvest of souls for the truth.

We take this opportunity to inform you of the progress being made toward providing caretaker's quarters. At the last trustee meeting the manner of providing this need was discussed. It was felt that we should endeavor to choose a way in which all can be workers together. Since the saints are, in general, separated by great distances, it seemed impractical to rely entirely on donated help as there is a limited number who are able to help in this manner. Also, the expenses of the trip and the shortness of time are generally not justified by the work that can be accomplished unless there is a carload coming together.

At present the trustees are seriously considering the purchase of a quality mobile home approximately ten feet wide by forty-five to fifty feet long. This would be situated on the site of the old caretaker's cabin which was removed last autumn. We feel that a mobile home would offer several distinct advantages which we shall point out.

No. 1—There is a future possibility that we may need the row of lots where the old caretaker's cabin was located for expansion of our kitchen and dining facilities. In this event a mobile home could be readily relocated, whereas a permanent structure would require considerable expense and effort.

No. 2—A mobile home will require the least amount of donated labor which will free the helpers to perform other needed tasks of improvement, etc. Also, many of those who are able to help are actively engaged in the ministry or other phases of gospel work. This requires a sacrifice of spiritual work to attend to the temporal needs and leaves the greatest share of the effort on the few who are close enough to help and are free to donate their time.

No. 3—The cost compares very favorably with that of a permanent structure, which would cost \$8.00 per square foot.

No. 4—The mobile home would be completely furnished, eliminating the need for extensive moving, in and out, of furniture, etc. by those who serve in the capacity of caretakers in time to come. This would be especially helpful in the event an elderly couple or someone from a great distance should be accepted to assume this responsibility.

At present we have been unable to locate a suitable quality used mobile home at a reasonable price. However, a local manufacturer of a quality-made mobile home has offered to sell a custom-made mobile home, 10 feet by 51 feet to the church at a dealer cost of approximately \$3,600. We were informed that this trailer sells for around \$5,750.00 to \$6,000.00 in the Kansas City area.

The mobile home would be well constructed with maximum insulation, partially painted aluminum exterior, have two bedrooms, 1½ baths, kitchen, dining area, and living room. There would be plumbing installed and provisions made for automatic laundry equipment, with one bedroom and the half bath located in the front of the trailer. This would provide convenient quarters for the

cooks or other workers during campmeeting without disturbing the caretakers.

In addition, there will be the expense and labor to provide a septic system and concrete work to set the trailer on.

The board of trustees will soon meet to make a definite decision concerning this project and we solicit the prayers and support of the saints as we endeavor with wisdom and understanding from God to move forward with this project, for which only about one-third of the cost price is on hand. This is the Lord's work, so ask Him what He would have you to do, and send your free-will contributions directly to the undersigned.

Some have asked if there was anyone who would build a cabin for them. A man here, who seems to have a good business and reputation, has offered to build cabins on the camp ground at the rate of \$2.75 per square foot floor space if he can get at least two cabins at a time. This includes concrete slab, single wall construction, shingle roof (gable style), windows and doors as required, with two coats of paint, but excluding electrical wiring. As an example, this would run \$594.00 for a new 12'x18' cabin, or run \$880.00 for a 16'x20' double unit. Those who are interested in having a cabin built may contact me, giving the size and details.

Anyone interested in assuming the responsibility of caretaker should write me at the following address for information and consideration by the board of trustees.

Your brother in Christ, —Kenneth D. Probst
R. R. 4, Box 172, Carthage, Mo. 64836

GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMP GROUND REPORT

The committee of the camp ground of the Church of God in Hammond, Louisiana, felt it would be in order to put this announcement in the "Faith and Victory" paper.

The church camp grounds here consist of a large tabernacle, chapel, kitchen and limited dormitory accommodations. Those who are familiar with other camp grounds know there is a great deal of maintenance, repairs, and additions which need to be made every year. At present, the building and repair fund is not sufficient to cover expenses of needed repairs and additions before next campmeeting.

Since this is the General Southern Camp grounds, the committee felt it would be in order to request support especially from those who reside in Louisiana and attend the campmeeting.

We were happy to see last year's attendance better than the previous few years, and it is our desire to have sufficient and suitable accommodations for future meetings if it is God's will.

Anyone who feels led to help in this small part of God's work, please send your donation to the following: Bro. Max Williamson, P. O. Box 1084, Hammond, La.

—Gerald Flynn, Secy.-Treas.

MEXICO MISSIONARY REPORT

March 12—Dear Readers of the "Faith and Victory": We are happy to greet you again in the precious name of Jesus, who gave Himself for us that we might be partakers of His divine nature and receive an inheritance incorruptible that passeth not away. Praise His holy name.

The Lord continues to bless the work in Mexico. Everyone is kept busy at the various posts of duty, never knowing what to expect next from the devil who is certainly aiming his artillery at the work of God to hinder if he can. However, we are glad that the church that Jesus

built will stand forever and that is the church of which we are a part.

From Ejido Patzcuaro, Mexicali, comes a report of ringing victory from Sisters Edith Cole and Carrie Shepard where the enemy tried to move in through a group who claimed to have much more light and understanding than we do and were very persistent about coming to services to "enlighten" our people on many lines, etc. God wonderfully blessed in taking care of the situation and the sisters are much encouraged. They conduct regular weekly services Sunday and Wednesday, besides Spanish classes for those who cannot read, English classes for others, and sewing classes for the women. Some Catholic women have attended these classes who otherwise probably would not have come around. This puts the workers in direct contact with them for opportunities to get the gospel to them. Bro. and Sis. Wittenborn from Pomona and Sister Freeman from Bakersfield plan to be with them this weekend, Lord willing.

Sisters Ruby Marken and Opal Kelly are teaching the day school as well as conducting regular gospel services on the Indian reservation at Santa Catarina. The new chief is very glad to have the sisters teach their children and has given his word to cooperate in every way. Also the Delegado (government representative) has voiced his approval and offered his cooperation in seeing that the parents are diligent about sending their children. You can readily see the wonderful opportunity to get next to the hearts of these youngsters as well as the adults through this work of love. They solicit the saints' prayers.

Word from Bro. James Huskey this week said, "Bring 150 more Spanish papers" (La Luz de Esperanza or Light of Hope). They desire the saints' earnest prayers concerning some burdens for precious souls for whom the devil is bidding high. Let us pray and ask God to make missionaries out of the Huskey children. They are getting the Spanish language so well and so easily since their playmates all are Mexicans. Sister Shirley Stice is working with the Huskeys in Rosarito.

Brother Tomas sends greetings to all the brethren from El Alamo, along with his wife and three children. He reports that four people were saved last Sunday, March 7, and hoped we would all rejoice with them for this great blessing. They were planning to leave Monday for Valle de Trinidad (about 35 miles from El Alamo) to spend three or four days working on the well and giving out the Word. He (Bro. Tomas) is much concerned about those who did not attend services and said, "We need a church fervent in prayer for the lost souls." In order to have that kind of church, it means individuals fervent in prayer. How is your prayer life?

I want to say the Dodge truck purchased for Bro. Tomas is surely proving a blessing to the work. Having four doors, two seats, and the large pick-up covered bed, it is ideal for gathering the people for services, rain or shine, snow or hail. Since the original \$600.00 cash down payment, there has been sent in \$450.00, leaving a balance of \$1,150.00 due April 5. We all appreciate what the saints have done to see the work expand and grow as it has to the glory of God, Who is worthy of all praise, honor, and blessing.

We are so grateful for the home which was opened to the workers in Ensenada in which services are now held. The interest is very good and new faces are seen coming as time progresses. Sister Hite and daughter Rebecca, and Sister Kathleen Murphey have endeavored to spend nine days (Friday through two Sundays) on the field and five days home out of each 14 days, which has proved very profitable, giving them much time for per-

sonal contacts in the homes as well as a mid-week prayer meeting every other week.

Two weeks ago I was privileged to make a number of new contacts in Ojos Negros with ranchers who said they would be happy to come to services to hear the gospel. One dear elderly woman has suffered a stroke four months ago and is paralyzed on one side. They readily accepted prayer and asked when I could return. They are mostly fine, clean-cut, hard working farmers in that valley who have heard very little or no gospel. (With God's favor, I will be there tomorrow.) From there I went to the general store where I was able to testify and witness to the storekeeper and others until 11:00 p. m. After a night's sleep out under the stars I arrived in La Huerta for Sunday morning services, (we do not have a resident worker there yet) then travelled up to the lumber camp where I passed out papers and visited up and down the streets, still waiting on the Lord to open a door for public services.

In closing, we have this poem from a missionary:

"Because you prayed—

God touched our weary bodies with His power,
And gave us strength for many a trying hour
In which we might have faltered, had not you,
Our intercessors, faithful been and true.

"Because you prayed—

God touched our lips with coals from altar fire,
Gave Spirit fulness, and did so inspire,
That when we spoke, sin-blinded eyes did see;
Sin's chains were broken, captives were made free.

"Because you prayed—

The dwellers in the dark have found the Light,
The glad good news has banished heathen night.
The message of the cross so long delayed,
Has brought them life at last, because you prayed."

May God richly bless each one for your many prayers and your faithful support of the work in Mexico.

Your brother in behalf of all the workers,

—Harland H. Smith

317 E. Cucamonga Ave., Claremont, Calif.

Any contributions may be made direct to CHURCH OF GOD MISSIONS, c/o above address or to O. B. Wilson, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif.

MORE REPORTS ON MEXICO MISSION WORK

Rosarito, Baja Calif., Mex.—Dear Saints and friends: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Matt. 5:10. Praise God! We are glad for the privilege of being counted worthy to suffer for the Lord. Since we last wrote for the paper we have been through a period of persecution and being evil spoken of. But praise God, it has been false, and our souls stand clear before the God of heaven.

In the March paper we listed a number of requests for prayer. God has answered some of them and is working on others. Bro. Estevan is well, working and testifying for the Lord in central Mexico. The two families who had quit coming to service have been back, although one family is still not doing good spiritually. The other is doing real good and moving up in the Lord. They have been a great consolation to us in this period of persecution. Well, as for request number one: "Pray for the salvation

of Miguel Esquers." We know the prayers have gone up and the Lord is working and also that the devil is real mad. This man has been under such heavy conviction that he can hardly live with himself or anyone else, and has tried to turn his relatives and friends against us. But thank the Lord, he is now softening, as Sister Esquers said that he was willing to let the family come back and live in their house next door to us, and just yesterday he even waved at us as we drove by where he was. So keep on praying as the battle is not over yet. Pray for us that we will be humble in every move.

Two weeks ago I made a trip out to the El Alamo area. I found Bro. Tomas very much encouraged in the midst of battles and victories. I found that he does all his fighting on his knees. In one of his exhortations he said, "If you have been praying twice a day, pray four times; if you have been praying four times, pray eight times, and if you pray eight times, pray until you get calluses on your knees like it is said of James of the Bible." Brothers and sisters, if you are not in a battle you soon will be, so let's get on our knees.

I also had a short visit with the sisters at Santa Catarina who are encouraged in their work, namely, teaching the Indian children. Sister Opal Kelly and Sister Ruby Marken seem to be very much at home in their place where the Lord has put them and they do feel secure even though living with these primitive people.

In this area there are more groups of families now moving in to receive land that the government is giving to them. I was very much impressed with the courage and real pioneer spirit of these people. They are digging wells, building houses, schools, and roads. Oh, what a challenge to plant the Word of God in these new villages! I was impressed to make some seed packages to give to these people. So I bought nine kinds of bulk garden seed, and made 150 packets of each kind, and labeled each with a Bible verse about sowing or reaping, then put one of a kind into 150 paper bags with other literature, including "La Luz de Esperanza." The 15th of March I am looking to the Lord to help me make a trip to these new people to give instructions and seeds for planting their gardens and to sow the Word of God in their hearts. So do pray for this project. If it is a success I want to make up another 150 bags of seeds. We would be thankful for any suggestions or help on this project. So far this seed project is financed with borrowed money. We are sowing expecting to reap, and with the Lord's help and your prayers we will reap bountifully.

We would like to hear from some of you who have never written.

—James and Charlotte Huskey
Box 2075, San Ysidro, Calif. 92073

MISSIONARY REPORT FROM NIGERIA, WEST AFRICA

Bro. Friday F. Ekpo, one of the native ministers at the Church of God mission in Nigeria, wrote us an urgent request for prayer under date of Feb. 23. He stated that an epidemic of measles was sweeping Eastern Nigeria, and many members at the mission stations were stricken with the disease. Pastor Stephen Akpan was down with it. On the day that he wrote this prayer request, Bro. and Sister Etuk's youngest child, an eleven-month-old daughter, died with the measles. They expressed that they were fully trusting the Lord for healing and victory over this disease.

This urgent request was promptly carried to the throne of grace, and later in an agreement of prayer by the Guthrie congregation, believing that the Lord was

hearing and answering in behalf of our suffering brethren in Nigeria.

The answer to prayer was reported to us under date of March 3 by Bro. B. U. Etuk. He stated that the recent spread of measles had been "arrested by the Lord Himself." Only a very few brothers and sisters were still down, and they were still praying and trusting in God. He wrote that "the sickness is killing a lot of people, and so far, except my 11-month-old child, none of our members has died from it."

We join with the Church in Nigeria in thanksgiving to God for answering prayer in this trial of faith, and our hearts go out in sympathy to Bro. and Sister Etuk in the loss of their little one. They cannot recall it, but they can go some day to that eternal Home where it reposes in the arms of Jesus.

Also, under date of March 3, Bro. Etuk forwarded the February reports of the mission activities written by Bro. Friday Ekpo. These reports cover several typewritten pages, and are too long to reproduce here. However, they are summarized as follows:

On Sunday, Feb. 7, Bro. Etuk, Bro. Ekpo and Bro. Nse went to the Ukpom congregation and observed the ordinance of feet-washing with them.

The monthly combined service was held on Sunday, Feb. 21, at Ukpom with 205 people in attendance for worship. This service is a kind of get-together meeting, and they do this once a month. Some of the new converts live too far away to join in this meeting, and they plan to introduce the same thing for them farther away, but all are to meet every three months. At this particular meeting Bro. Udoka preached a sermon on "loving one's enemies."

Bro. Friday Ekpo writes: "The campaign meeting scheduled for February 26 to 28, took place at Ikot Obio Inyang, one of the new congregations I reported to you last month. Though not all the stations were able to arrive on Friday, Feb. 26, yet the prayer meeting continued till dawn. Out of free-will efforts, a lorry was hired to go around to all the stations and bring members to Ikot Obio Inyang. The lorry brought the last load by 11 a. m. on Saturday, Feb. 27. Service starting by 9 a. m., was conducted by Elder Stephen Akpan. During time for sermons the following people preached: Bro. B. U. Etuk spoke on the past being a shadow of the present. Pastor Tom W. U. Ekpene spoke on Christian Unity. Bro. Stephen Akpan spoke on Idolatry as a sin. Bro. Brownson Inyang spoke on Free-will offerings. All of them gave very good information and advice to the large audience.

"By 1:30 p. m. we broke for lunch, and by 3 p. m. reassembled again and soon started off for open air service. At the first square, Evangelist Udoffia preached and introduced the Church of God to the waiting crowd.

"Moving from there to the second square, we attracted even more attention, but for the first time, we were opposed. While Evangelist Udoka was speaking on faith a gang comprising about ten to fifteen men appeared and began to sing some abusive songs and using some offensive and nasty words, calling us names. We determined to go on praising the Lord, for that was a challenge thrown on to the Lord. Bro. Etuk asked them to be sober and listen to our preaching. As this was going on, they began to disperse one by one until their leader alone was left, who later knelt down and Bro. Etuk prayed for him.

"When we moved to yet a third square, it was already dark and we simply prayed there and went on. We got home and broke up for an hour for dinner. By 8 p. m. we reassembled for the night prayer-meeting. The good Lord brought such a big crowd to this meeting that there

could not be less than a thousand souls who wanted prayer and were prayed for. We closed by about 1:30 a. m.

"Baptism and communion: By 4 a. m. we woke up again, had a short prayer meeting lasting till about 6 a. m. By 7 a. m. we started for the stream about two miles off. At the stream's side, I cast back my thought and let it wander for a while. I first thought of Gethsemane, and of the sweat that ran down like drops of blood. I imagined the crown of thorns, and how painfully He wore that. Then I imagined Golgotha filled with skulls of evildoers, and this Man, being taken down there, did nothing wrong. I imagined a cross and the Lord being stripped of His clothes, His being laid down, His being nailed, yes, nailed to a cross, before planting the cross in the ground! And these He did not resist. I thought of Him hanging on the cross with His full weight at the mercy of the nails. Ignoring these pains He uttered words that no human at such a state could utter, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." I imagined His last breath and His giving up the Ghost; and the spear with which He was pierced. I shed tears of joy at the thought that His sufferings were not in vain, for standing beside the stream were 210 souls who, having accepted Him as their Saviour, were baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. These 210 converts were mostly drawn from all the six new stations. I was comforted. My voice was so hoarse that I hummed:

O that day, I remember that day;
I will never forget that day, when
Jesus washed my sins away.

Yes, reader, I will never forget it!

"Pastor Macualay U. Ekpene preached, taking his text from Gal. 6:17, "From henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus."

"The Communion Supper was administered and more than 810 people took part in this ordinance. The total attendance was 1,218.

"Yours in our Master's Service, —Friday F. Ekpo."

The names of 30 native gospel workers and teachers appear on the itemized list forwarded to us by Bro. Etuk, and to each of whom a monthly allowance for February was made from the Missionary Fund at this office. This fund is maintained by the free-will offerings of the saints. Let us not slack our pace or concern for the missionary work. To lose the missionary spirit is to lose Christ's Spirit. Every saint and congregation should have a fund to support missions, home or foreign.

—Lawrence Pruitt

"The Secret of Salvation" by E. E. Byrum. Very good book, first published in 1896. Paper bound, 264 pages. 75c each, or three books for \$2.00, postpaid.

TESTIMONIES

Mo.—Dear Saints of God scattered everywhere, greetings in the precious name of Jesus: Today finds me very happy in the love of Jesus, pressing onward and upward.

I felt led of the dear Lord to write through the paper as God has done so very much for me.

At one time I had a very precious experience with the dear Lord. But through disobedience and listening to the devil, I fell from grace to a very low state. Oh, I didn't intend to go so far, but that's the way the devil works. He drags one down one little step at a time until after awhile a big step doesn't seem so bad. May God help us all to never give a listening ear to him. He's nothing but a liar and the father of lies.

While in this condition, away from God, I got a bad aching across my chest and down my arms. One day this same aching got in one of my legs. My brother-in-law had had this feeling before he had a bad heart attack. I feared lest this should happen to me.

I studied up on the diet and what foods would be best for me to eat. As I changed my diet, I did feel better and the aching left my body. But you see, the devil didn't let me stop there. I heard of a book called, "The Mucusless Diet Healing System," which I sent for, and started following diligently. While following this system of diet and so-called healing, my body failed to eliminate without special aid.

Many times in the following three years I wanted to get back to the Lord, but I seemed to be tied. I knew not how to get out of this situation. I would make a start for the Lord and then I'd realize that I couldn't do as I was doing and trust God. I seemed to hit a brick wall, as it were, every time. I felt as if there was no hope for me. There I had gotten myself into this mess and how could I ask God to help me out! Oh, how dangerous it is to leave the straight and narrow way for any reason! The dear Lord had shown me my big mistake in leaving Him and how He would have helped me through my trials if I would have only listened. Oh, how I do thank and praise Him for not taking me out of this world while still in this terrible lost and undone condition.

The Lord started calling after me again. I saw such a great need, not for myself only, but for the children's sake, also. They were needing help from God. They were getting old enough that they were doing things that grieved my heart. And I wasn't helping any at all. We'd sit before the rotten television every night until late, sometimes midnight and after, just bound by Satan's snares. I know, by experience, that the thing is evil; it's of the devil, and originated in hell to capture every living soul possible. And believe me, there are very few precious souls who will not bow down to this god. But as God kept dealing with my heart, He helped me to start confessing some of my wrong-doings and He took the love for television right out of my heart. That's why I know that when God comes into the heart, the love for evil and wrong things goes right out. Praise our God! One can't serve two masters. Then the Lord began dealing with me about my diet. I told the Lord I didn't know what to do. I wanted to go all the way with Him and He'd have to show me what to do. Well, praise His dear, sweet name, He did. He showed me to eat the foods that I knew were good for me, but to quit the system. So I said, "Yes, Lord, I'll do it." He made it so plain to me. I knew it was the Lord talking. I just put my hand in His and trusted Him fully to have His way in healing my body. He told me to burn my book. I thought it had some good recipes in it that I could use. I just tore these out and burned the rest of the book. After while I was rejoicing because I had obeyed the Lord and He spoke right up and said, "No, you didn't. You didn't burn all of it." I thanked the Lord for talking to my heart and helping me. I burned the rest of it, and other things, too. Every time He shows me something to get rid of, I am doing it because that is the only way we can have victory in our souls. We can't hold on to one little thing. ALL must go for Jesus. Praise Him! Anyway, He has healed my body. Praise our wonderful God! It has been less than three weeks since He started me on the straight and narrow way and I find great joy and peace and love in my dear Saviour.

This all seemed so impossible to me, but as one dear sister said, "Our God deals in the impossibles." Nothing is impossible with Him, if we will humble our hearts

down to do the whole will of God, nothing held back. May this be an encouragement to others to press on and never turn back for any reason. All the devil has is heartache, sorrow, pain and a snare to trap you in. The good things are only in our Father's House.

I know I have hurt many of the dear saints and caused you much pain and grief. I beg your forgiveness for this and desire your prayers that I will stay low and humble where the dear Lord can lead me in the center of His holy and righteous will at all times.

Your blood-washed sister,
—Mildred McIntosh



Calif.—Dear Sister Miles: Greetings to you and all the saints of God. I thank the Lord for His saving grace and healing power. I would like to tell how the Lord has healed me. Last Thanksgiving time I broke my toe by striking it against a table. It swelled up twice its normal size. Mother was at the chapel at a meeting so I called her. She told me to have my cousins, Paulette and Michael, to lay hands on me and pray. They did and the Lord wonderfully healed me at once. All the pain and swelling went out. On Thursday when I was getting ready for school, I accidentally hit the toe against the door, injuring it again. I went to school trusting the Lord for healing. I didn't feel like taking part in physical education so I went to get an excuse from playing. (The only way we can be excused from gym is by asking the nurse at school to excuse us.) I went to the nurse, and she sent me directly home, telling me to go to a doctor and not to come back until I had seen a doctor. Mother brought me home and called my grandfather (Bro. Benson) at work. They had an agreement of prayer, and again the Lord healed me.

The girls at school were amazed that I didn't go to a doctor. They told me I was going to have trouble with my toe all my life, and that infection would set in. But, thank the Lord, nothing is wrong with it and I've been walking on it since the day I broke it, except for two days when my parents advised me to stay off it.

This isn't the only time the Lord has been my help in time of need. He has helped me to manifest Him at school. I'm asking the Lord for more boldness because I want to be able to tell the people more about Him. The Lord has given me courage and boldness to wear a skirt for gym instead of shorts. He has helped me to overcome the fear I once had about people talking about me. I realize that it is God that we will have to face in the Judgment Day, and what people say about you or me now won't be as bad as what God will say in that day if we fail to obey Him.

I want to say that I'm still encouraged and I'm determined to go all the way with the Lord. Remember me in your prayers.

A Sister in Christ,
—Violet Cable



La.—Dear Saints of God: I am much encouraged in the Lord and my greatest desire is to please Him, the One who redeemed me from sin. I don't know where I might have been today had God not called after me and saved my lost soul. Oh, how mean Satan is and how he can drag down a poor soul who is willing for him to be their master! I have told my children that if they live for the devil they need not say what they won't do, because they don't know.

I'm thankful I found God over twenty-two years ago and have been striving to please Him ever since. I'm so thankful for that great desire I have within my being to please Him for without the desire it would be impossible to live for God.

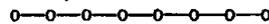
Last year I went through one of the most heartbreaking experiences I have known. If it had not been for God sending help through some of His ministers and saints,

I felt that the load would have just been too much for me spiritually, mentally, and physically. But God came to my rescue through different ones of the saints, also letters with words of encouragement and help. No one will ever know what it is like to go through a strain like this unless they experience it. I thank each one that had a part in making our load lighter. May God bless and reward you. You will never know what it meant to us, even my husband, also Jo Ann, who is saved, and I'm so grateful to God.

I want to live so close to God that I might be led of Him and a help to some poor suffering one. I want to be patient and understanding of others, and say only the words that will help. We never know what will come our way.

Pray for us. Pray for the salvation of my husband and my daughter.

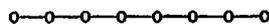
A sister in Christ,
—Cassie Price



S. Carolina—Dear Saints, greetings in Jesus' dear name: I am glad to send in my testimony that I am saved and have the Spirit within and trusting God for both soul and body. He heals me when I am sick and comforts me when in trouble or trials. Thank God for His mercy to those who are weak in faith. Read Rom. 8:1.

I am thanking God for Bro. and Sister Sam Abbott having been with us recently here at Holly Hill, S. Car. God did wonderfully bless the meeting. Two were at the altar seeking help. We desire your prayers for them and for all the saints in South Carolina. Remember Bro. Winters at Summerville, S. C. who has had several strokes. The dear Lord has spared his life but he needs your prayers. May God continually bless all the saints everywhere.

—Utson Platt



Calif.—Dear Saints: Greetings to all in the name of our blessed Saviour! I want the saints to know how the Lord has healed me. I had a colon attack which lasted several weeks. I wasn't able to eat much—very few vegetables unseasoned, pabulum and skim milk. I decided one Sunday to go home with Sister Lucille Elliott so she could cook for me and where she and Sister Georgia Zinn could also pray for me. I was very weak and trembly. On Tuesday at 9 a. m. I asked the sisters to pray for my healing. While they were praying the Lord showered me with His blessings and I felt instant healing. Three hours later I sat down to eat with no fear that anything would hurt me. As I began to eat I raised my hand and praised the Lord with tears streaming down my face. I ate a good meal, and since then have been able to eat any food without it making me sick.

Four days later a varicose vein burst just above my ankle. It became swollen, feverish, and fiery red. A red streak the width of my finger ran up my limb to my knee. I was prayed for and the fever left, but it was still sore and streaked, and I could scarcely walk. A day or two later my daughter, Lucille Allen, phoned and said, "Mother, I'm going to fast and pray until sundown for your healing." About 3:30 p. m. the Lord brought many Scriptures to my mind. One especially was, "Seek me and ye shall find me." I began to repeat that verse over and over, and to praise God. Soon the redness and streak left my limb. Thank the Lord! What a mighty God we serve!

—Sister Annie McKinney



Miss.—Dear Saints in Christ: You asked for comments from the readers about your plan to reprint the books written by the pioneer Church of God ministers. Personally, I believe the Holy Spirit will endorse it. It is one of the greatest needs of our day, especially to the

professed Church of God. I have read after, and I knew some of the old-time ministers. They had power with God and He honored their faith. God has not changed. He is the same today and will be as long as this time world shall last. If the true living Church of God doesn't carry the true message from heaven, who is going to take it?

I enjoyed the last issue of the "Faith and Victory" paper more than ever before.

May God bless and reward each consecrated worker at the Lord's print shop is my prayer.

In the lovely name of Christ, —Mose Lee

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

Mo.—Dear readers of the paper, greetings to you: Today as I was working in my kitchen and lifting things, I was reminded of what God had recently done for me, and I was impressed to write my testimony. Recently I had something wrong with my limb and had to cripple around for a few days, but the Lord undertook, for which I was so thankful. Then I had arthritis in my left arm and hand. My arm was so sore and lame, and was the one I used mostly. I thought of different ones who suffer with arthritis, and my heart went out to them in sympathy, and I better understood their suffering.

It wasn't but a few days until God again blessed, and answered prayer, helping me out. Oh, how thankful I was to have the use of my arm again. Also God has kept me from having colds as I used to so much during the winter. It is just wonderful to be able to be out in winter weather.

I am still in the battle for truth, and am glad to be serving such a mighty God. He is with me still, in the sunshine or the shadow. Praise His name!

In His service, —Ruth Murphey

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Okla.—Dear Saints at the Faith Pub. House: I greet all of you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am saved to all I know and understand.

I took an awful chest cold and had a severe cough. I asked the Lord to heal me of that cold and I would testify to it through the paper. He healed me.

Please pray for me. I am weak in my body.

Your sister in Christ, —Lizzie Randles

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

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie and others, greetings in the Lord: Tonight we are saved and encouraged. We have found so many things to be thankful for—His saving and keeping grace and His wonderful healing power which people of the world are not acquainted with.

We think of the many times the Lord has come to our rescue. He has never failed. Especially do we remember how, about a year ago He healed our youngest boy of a very serious illness. For several days his fever was so intense that he ate very little and slept a great portion of the time. Because of his high fever, the enemy tried to make us think his mind would be affected afterward, but we had prayed for the Lord to take care of his mind and body and He certainly didn't fail us.

We have testified of this before but felt like telling it again. The world never ceases to tell of their medical progress. How much more should we as saints make known over and over the goodness of the Lord.

We received so much good from the testimonies of the faithful children of God. We, too, want to prove faithful unto the end.

—O. A. Davenport

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

Ohio—Dear Saints, greetings in Jesus' name: I want to thank the Lord for what He did for my finger a few months ago. I mashed my finger at the shop. It was cut pretty deep. They said I was pale but I had victory

in my soul. I testified that I wanted to trust God with it. They took me to the doctor to have it checked. He wanted me to let him sew it up. I told him that God could sew it up. He told me, "People like you die." But praise God, I am still living and praising God. He bandaged it up and sent me on my way to work. I never used any medicine on it. I worked and never missed a day. God will get all the praise for this. It is healing up and getting better all the time. I surely want to praise God. He is all and in all to me.

Pray for me that I will stand true to God and never fail, with His help.

Your brother in the Lord, —Gordon Humphrey

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

Okla.—Dear Sister Marie and workers at the Faith Publishing House: I'm still saved and encouraged to go the Bible way. The Lord is my healer in Zion. He healed my body last month when I was suffering with the flu. My pastor would come twice a day some times, praying for the Lord to heal my body. The Lord was moved on His throne and He did the work in my behalf. He is my healer and my keeper. He is my all and in all.

Continue to remember me in prayer that the Lord will make of me what He would have me to be.

Your sister in Christ, —Lizzie Jordan

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

Ark.—Dear Saints everywhere: Greetings of love in Jesus' great name. I am more determined this beautiful morning to live for God. Oh, how He has blessed in our home! He has comforted, encouraged our hearts, and blessed our bodies in His wonderful way.

One night last August my husband and I sat here in our living room. We talked a while, then prayed before going to bed. When I got up from prayer, I was so dizzy I could hardly stand up, but I got the beds ready. I turned so sick at my stomach. Oh, I was sick! Such vomiting, suffering, so cold and yet wet with perspiration! My head felt so big and hurt till I could not lie down for some time. I tried again to lie down but with much pain. Near midnight I felt some better. My husband had worked hard that day and I knew he was tired, so I told him to go to bed, that I would be all right. Some time afterward I went to sleep and rested, but for days I was so weak I could only be up for a short time. Then one evening Bro. and Sister Albert Eck came by on their way to Grubbs, Ark. to have the tent meeting there. They saw how weak I was and all prayed for me. We went to the meeting all week and attended two nights and days of the Myrtle, Mo. campmeeting. The dear Lord blessed me in soul and body. All glory and praise be to His great name for ever!

Now for three weeks my husband has had trouble with his head and left eye. It is very painful. His eye is swollen, turned red and purple. It has been a testing time for all of us. Dear Bro. and Sis. Eck are so good to come, and how they do pray for us! Thank God, He is surely helping my husband, but he still needs your prayers.

Oh, how blessed it is to have all on the altar and trust in God and not be afraid. He knows each one of His trusting children, and when one gets weak, He tries to draw us back closer to Him again. How I do thank God for His love, His longsuffering, and patience with all humanity.

I need healing, also. I tell the Lord that this old body belongs to Him. He knows just what it needs and He knows how to fix it. Praise His great name forever! I do want to live for His glory the remaining few years I am here. I do pray God to help His people to live holy and be a blessing to others.

Your sister in the Lord, —Mrs. N. E. Adams

An Open Letter

One who had been persuaded to believe the doctrine of no cleansing in sanctification wrote a number of questions and objections about cleansing in sanctification. After looking to the Lord for guidance in the matter, the saint who received the letter, answered with the following letter; which is printed for the purpose of helping others who may be confused:

I do not know all there is to know about the doctrines of the Bible, but I do know by my own experience that after a person is justified there is a nature there, an element on the inside that troubles him and has a tendency to draw him earthward and keeps him from being his best for God. This nature works differently in different individuals, but to deny its presence is a serious mistake. Surely you know from your own experience that this is true, or I just cannot understand how you could have been teaching it as truth all these years.

You asked the question, Why did Jesus say "I sanctify myself—" if sanctification is cleansing of the carnal nature. The truth is, there are two meanings to sanctification. One is to set apart; to consecrate. The other is to make holy; the act of God's grace by which men's affections are alienated from sin and exalted to a supreme love to God, or the state of being thus purified or sanctified. Jesus said he sanctified himself that they (the disciples and others) might be sanctified. His sanctification was something he was to do for himself; while that of the disciples was something that was done for them. His sanctification was his consecration to die and give himself for a sacrifice for the sins of the world that the disciples (and others) might be sanctified or cleansed. Note also that our sanctification is a baptism of the Holy Ghost, but Jesus' sanctification could not have been that because he already had the Holy Ghost.

The Scripture you mentioned in Matt. 3:10, speaking of Jesus baptizing with the Holy Ghost and the axe being laid to the root of the tree is exactly what the saints have always taught and does not agree with the "one work" doctrine. Also John 15:1, 2 is along the same line: "Every branch IN ME that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit he PURGETH IT that it may bring forth more fruit." The fruit which those IN Jesus (a justified person) bear is to be "in all goodness, and righteousness, and truth." Eph. 5:9. The word "purge" means to cleanse or to purify. What has a justified man to be purged from? Answer: the sin principle or fallen nature.

Now a few words about the types and shadows of the Old Testament: Of course, we are delivered from the kingdom, power, and dominion of Satan in justification; but in my experience I didn't find that Satan was dead. The effects of that former bondage remained with me as with the Israelites that caused them much trouble. They had desires to return to Egypt, and they worshiped the golden calf, etc. All

but two over twenty years old had to die before the others crossed into Canaan. Surely this would typify the death of the "old man" in our case.

In the tabernacle and temple there was a "holy place" and a "most holy place." That typifies a justified and sanctified state. Now we are the temple of God. We are in the "holy place" in justification and "most holy" in sanctification. Since the word "holy" means freedom from sin, then after we are holy, there must be something of that nature of sin to be removed to make us "most holy." But according to the doctrine which you have accepted, a person is as holy in justification as in sanctification. It is true that the veil which separated the most holy place from the holy was rent in twain when Jesus died; but the two altars remained. "We reach the cleansing laver, the blood has been applied; then on the golden altar, we're wholly sanctified."

The complete work of salvation from sin did not begin until after the death of Jesus. That is, justification and sanctification (which is the new covenant) did not come into effect until after the death of the Testator. It was especially "sanctification" that was not made manifest (Heb. 9:8)—in other words, the way into the "Holiest of all."

You say the disciples had only a "law experience" while they were following Jesus during his lifetime on this earth, and were not justified until Jesus opened their understanding after His resurrection.

The disciples met the conditions of discipleship (Luke 14:33). They were believers (John 2:11; 6:69); they were born of God (John 1:11-13); they were not of the world (John 17:6, 9, 14, 16; 15:19); they were ordained to the ministry (John 15:6; Mark 3:14, 15) and Jesus sent them out to preach (Matt. 10:5-8). According to Matt. 9:2 Jesus forgave sins before his death; and not only so, but their names were written in heaven (Luke 10:20). We read "that Jesus Christ was a Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Such being the case, when people came directly to him and believed on him, they were pardoned of their sins. Surely you do not think Jesus would send the disciples out to preach the doctrine of repentance and forgiveness of sins, who had not already had their own sins pardoned first. They even cast out devils and did many other miracles in the name of Jesus. These things the law keepers could not do. The law and the prophets were until John, and after that the "kingdom of God is preached and every man presseth into it."

I could not take up carnal weapons to fight in a justified state, but I have more understanding of such things than Peter did. Peter was not defending himself, but he thought it was his duty to defend Jesus. That is no worse than for a person who says he is letting God fight his battles for him to pray that God will bring judgment on a certain one for doing a wrong to him; neither is it any worse than some do now who take the Sword (Word of God) and hurl it for the purpose of hurting someone. Some people have done things I could not do; and I probably have done things others could not do. But as soon as Jesus

speaks concerning a matter, a person must obey, even as Peter obeyed in putting up his sword.

The disciples were required to live to a higher standard than the law. Jesus was talking to them in chapters 5, 6, and 7 of Matt. and in many other Scriptures. In Matt. 13:16 He said to them, "Blessed are your eyes, for they see." After His resurrection Jesus opened their understanding to Scriptures concerning His death and resurrection which they had not understood before, but their lack of understanding did not make them unsaved. Jesus opens our spiritual eyes to many Scriptures sometimes many years after we are saved and sanctified. Peter knew Jesus meant for them to live to his teachings rather than the law in Luke 17:3, 4, for he said, "Lord, increase our faith." I don't see how anyone could read the gospel of John, and especially the 17th chapter and then teach that the disciples only had a law experience.

Consider the Scriptures which tell us to put off the "former conversation" (conversation means conduct). No one who is a true saint ever taught that one could live on in his old sinful ways and deceitful lusts and still be justified. A justified person has the nature which would lead him back into some of those things if he did not look to God for grace to keep the nature in subjection before it is removed in sanctification. But "by the grace of God" he lives a holy life in justification with the carnal nature suppressed and can present his body a living sacrifice and "holy" to God for sanctification.

The anti-cleansing doctrine is false and is accompanied by a spirit which has to be resisted before those under its influence can see the truth. Some have come under the influence of that spirit and are separating themselves from the body of saints, even though they admit that the doctrine is wrong.

When God chooses a vessel (or vessels) to bring about an awakening among His people to a certain truth, He uses His very best material that is tried and proven—"A mighty angel." In 1880 God revealed the "evening light" truth to a number of outstanding ministers all over the country. He called and anointed them to preach it and confirmed the Word with signs and miracles following. Later they were confronted with the teaching which you now advocate, but God made them to know it was false. By rejecting it, they continued in His favor. You mentioned so many ministers going down since the beginning of the "Evening Light" Reformation, also the church as a whole not standing. The church is still standing, but is smaller in numbers because of many falling. The main great backsliding was not because they were standing on a sandy foundation of false doctrine. They fell because they yielded to temptations of pride and the devil's offer to give them the "kingdoms of the world" if they would compromise with him (Luke 4:6, 7). Some ministers went down by accepting false doctrines, such as the one you have accepted, and others. But many who have held firmly to this truth as taught in the breaking forth of the "Evening Light" have died in the triumphs of a living faith.

I have noticed ever since I have been saved that those who separate themselves from the body of saints for one cause or another, soon get into false doctrine and go down. If what you have accepted is Bible truth, how do you explain the fact that the ministers who taught it in 1899 were not prospered by the Lord, but they went down?

Here are some Scriptures you requested:

Hebrews 10:14, 15, "For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us," etc. The Holy Ghost possessed by us witnesses to the fact that sanctification perfects us.

Acts 15:8, 9, "And God, which knoweth the hearts bare them witness, giving them [the Gentiles] the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us: and put no difference between us and them, purifying [cleansing] their hearts by faith."

Eph. 5:25, 26, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and CLEANSE IT [the church, not sinners] with the washing of water by the word [or through the truth]." John 17:17. —G. R.

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BIBLE STUDY

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April 4, 1965

THE TRIAL OF JESUS

Printed Portion Matthew 27:11-26

Matt. 27:11 And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest.

12 And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing.

13 Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee?

14 And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

15 Now at that feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a prisoner, whom they would.

16 And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas.

17 Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?

18 For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

19 When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.

21 The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas.

22 Pilate saith unto them, what shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

23 And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.

24 When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.

25 Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.

26 Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

Memory Verse: Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. Matthew 27:22.

Practical Truth: Every person will have to decide the important question that Pilate faced.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Jesus had six trials. He was taken first before Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the High Priest, then before Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin, which is a group of men who passed on Him from the ecclesiastical laws. He then had to be taken before the Roman rulers to make it legal. First he was taken before Pilate and then to Herod and then back to Pilate which is recorded in our lesson today.

The people were to make a choice between Barabbas, an evil man, and Jesus, a good man. Today each one of us has to make a choice. Do we want the evil one to rule in our lives or Jesus, the good one to rule? How sad so many are choosing evil instead of right. But even though they choose the evil spirit to rule them they still are going to have to do something with Jesus. Every boy, girl, man, or woman will have to answer the question that Pilate asked, "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" In this life is our only chance to choose what we will do with Jesus. He is on our hands. His precious blood was spilled for our sins. Are we going to accept Him and receive eternal life? If we reject Jesus there is no other place but eternal damnation for our soul in eternity. What are you going to decide? Pilate tried to get around answering this question by washing his hands before all of them and saying he was innocent of that just man, but one cannot wash sin off with water. He was still guilty of Jesus' blood.

The Jews have suffered greatly because they said let the blood of Jesus be on them and their children. We reap what we sow.

April 11, 1965

THE CRUCIFIXION

Printed Portion Matthew 27:33-50

Matt. 27:33 And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,

34 They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.

35 And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

36 And sitting down they watched him there;

37 And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

38 Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left.

39 And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads,

40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.

41 Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said,

42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.

43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

44 The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.

45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

47 Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias.

48 And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink.

49 The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him.

50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

Memory Verse: But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8.

Practical Truth: Jesus gave His all for us and we should give our all to Him.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Outside Jerusalem to the north, on a barren hill which is shaped like a skull, three crosses stood one day. On those crosses three men were hanged. On the middle cross our blessed Savior was hanged. Beside him on the left and on the right were two thieves. The first thief "died in sin." Our blessed Savior, on the second cross, "died for sin." The third thief "died to sin." The first thief railed on Jesus and did not repent so he died in sin and went to the place prepared for those who reject Jesus as their Saviour. Jesus, who was innocent of all sins, yet bore our sins on the cross, died for sin. Oh, how we ought to love Him for that terrible suffering! He could have called for the angels to deliver Him but He loved you and me so much. As we accept Him as our Saviour our sins are all covered by His precious blood.

The third thief realized his lost condition. He asked God to forgive him and Jesus made him know his sins were forgiven. He told him that, "today thou shalt be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:39-43). This man could say, "I died to sin and let Jesus take them all." Oh, how precious it is to be dead to sin and alive in Christ.

Every shame that could be heaped upon our blessed Lord was given. He was stripped almost naked, his helplessness was seen, he was ridiculed and insulted before the multitude, crucified between two thieves, yet it all was changed to the grandeur of his perfect life. Death was swallowed up by victory.

April 18, 1965

THE RESURRECTION

Printed Portion Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20

Matt. 28:1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Mag-

dalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

10 Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Memory Verse: That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. Romans 10:9.

Practical Truth: Because Jesus arose, we will one day arise.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We are so glad that Jesus did not stay in the grave, where he was put by Joseph and Nicodemus, who were rich men. Our hearts are full of praise and rejoicing because He arose. We are not serving a dead Christ but a living Christ. Jesus, our Saviour and Redeemer came forth from the grave. The veil of the temple in Jerusalem had been torn apart. The veil that kept boys and girls, men and women from entering into the very presence of God was destroyed. All can come boldly to the mercy seat and find rest to their weary souls. They can eat of the heavenly manna, the Word of God, and have the commandments of God written in the fleshly tables of their hearts. Their lives can bud and bloom with the sweet virtues from heaven. They can, through the precious atoning blood of Jesus, be forgiven of their sins and be cleansed from the evil in their very nature and being. They can live daily without sinning. They do not have to repeatedly ask the Lord to forgive them of their sins because they believe in a Saviour who came to "save his people from their sins." Praise the Lord for His saving and keeping grace!

Let us rejoice and be glad that we are living in a day when we can experience in our souls the saving grace of God. Jesus is alive now and is sitting on the right hand of God, interceding for you and me as we come to Him.

April 25, 1965

GOD FORGIVES THE PEOPLE

Printed Portion 1 Samuel 12:19-25; 1 Kings 6:11-13

1 Sam. 12:19 And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the Lord thy God, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king.

20 And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart;

21 And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain.

22 For the Lord will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the Lord to make you his people.

23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:

24 Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

25 But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.

1 Kings 6:11 And the word of the Lord came to Solomon, saying,

12 Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father:

13 And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.

Memory Verse: For the Lord will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the Lord to make you his people. 1 Sam. 12:22.

Practical Truth: If we fail it is better to repent than to go deeper in sin.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

God had brought the children of Israel out of Egypt and blessed them in many ways. He had been a father to them and they had been his children. He fed them when they were hungry and sent them water when they were thirsty. He delivered their enemies into their hands and gave them the land of Canaan. At times they forgot all of His blessings and turned to worship idols, but when they would repent He would be merciful and forgive them.

After Joshua died they were told what God wanted them to do by judges. They asked Samuel, who was their last judge, to give them a king. This was really a rejection of God. They had entered into an agreement with God at Mt. Sinai (Ex. 10:5-8). God promised to bless them if they would obey Him and keep His commandments. Our lesson brings out the fact that the people had at last realized they had broken their covenant with God. They begged Samuel to pray for them after God had sent thunder and rain as a proof they had disobeyed Him.

We wish that people today would see their evil ways and cry for mercy. They need to quit sinning and turn to the Lord because the things of this world cannot "profit nor deliver." How precious to know that God will not forsake His people. He is the same God today. He will bless those who will serve Him in truth and with all of their hearts. We need to think of His great blessings to us. Today He dwells in the heart of the truly "born again" child of God.

Sister A. M. Miles