

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

## Church of God Servant



Volume 34, No. 12

43rd Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35c Per Year

December, 1965

### *The Star of Bethlehem*



Some shepherds—like the Shepherd God  
In loving, tender care  
Guarding his flock—were deeply awed  
Like souls in holy prayer.

Bright beams of light, unlike the star  
Or that by pale moon made,  
Shone round the watchers in that hour.  
"And they were sore afraid."

"Fear not," an angel said to them,  
"I bring you joyous news,  
Today is born in Bethlehem,  
A hamlet of the Jews,

A Savior which is Christ the Lord—  
A Savior born to die  
To save men through his own life's blood  
And fit them for the sky."

An angel host in heavenly mirth  
Sang out the glad refrain,  
"Give praise to God for peace on earth;  
Good will be to all men."

O Christmas anthem, music rare,  
We hear the accents roll;  
It moves the heart to hallow'd prayer,  
With rapture fills the soul.

O holy Child, this sacred Yule  
Low at thy feet I fall:  
Within my life, of blessings full,  
I crown thee Lord of all.

Thy star is risen in my heart—  
O Gift of God divine!  
Its light is flooding every part;  
Today the Christ is mine.

—C. E. Orr

### *A Brief History of Christmas*



December 25 has not always, since the time of Christ, been celebrated as the birthday of our Savior. According to history, there was in earlier times, no strict uniformity in the day for celebrating the Nativity, the different churches disagreeing as to the exact date. Some favored January 2, some January 6, some celebrated May 20, while others fixed the date on April 18, or 19, and still others on March 28. The uncertainty existing in the minds of the historians at the beginning of the third century proves that there was no formal observance before the middle of the century. We have no historical record that our Lord's birthday was celebrated during apostolic times.

The first man to fix December 25 as the correct date, seems to have been Hippolytus of the second century. He believed that Jesus' life from conception to crucifixion was exactly thirty-three years. Since the crucifixion occurred on March 25, Hippolytus calculated that the Annunciation to Mary, or the Conception, took place in the same month, thirty-three years earlier. He decided therefore, that Jesus must have been born in the month of December, on the twenty-fifth day. But the uncertainty of all dates discredits every attempt at fixing the correct date. Indeed, some think it is almost certain that December 25 was not the date of Jesus' birth; for it is then the height of the rainy season in Judea, and shepherds would not likely have been watching their flocks by night on the plains.

The earliest record of the recognition of December 25 as Christ's birthday is in the Philocalian Calendar, which shows that the celebration of that date was a Roman practice as early as 336. An Armenian writer of the eleventh century states that the celebration of Christmas was invented in Rome by a heretic and first observed in Constantinople in 373. The present date has never been adopted by the Armenians; they still celebrate January 6. The church at Jerusalem also celebrated January 6, about the middle of the fourth century. At about this time, the Jerusalem bishop asked the bishop at Rome to ascertain, if possible, the exact date, in order to over-

come the difficulties of nonconformity between the Eastern and Western Churches. It is represented that a calculation based on the supposition that Zacharias' vision took place during the Feast of Tabernacles, thus favoring December 25 as the date for Christmas, was submitted to the church at Jerusalem, who, nevertheless, persisted in celebrating January 6, until the year 549 or later. In Egypt, the Western birthday was opposed during the early part of the fifth century, but was observed in Alexandria as early as 432.

Owing to the wide-spread belief in the earlier centuries of Christianity, that Jesus was born spiritually, that is, adopted as the Son of God and exalted to divine rank and power at the time he was baptized by John, the date of his baptism was considered much more important than the date of his physical birth. During these centuries little attention was given to the date of his birth in the flesh. But by the middle of the fourth century the former prevalent belief had given place to the doctrine based upon the first chapter of John's gospel and the Epistles of Paul, maintaining that Jesus existed with the Father from eternity, and that he was absolutely divine from the time of his conception. With the spread of the latter belief, the date of the physical birth of Christ became of greater importance to Christianity.

The date we now celebrate was not fixed by mere accident. The discussions and conclusions of the church fathers doubtless had a great deal to do with fixing December 25; but it is believed that the ancient heathen festivals which were held at the same time of the year, also had a powerful influence over Christianity in deciding the date. Almost all the heathen nations of the early centuries A. D., regarded the winter solstice—the time when the sun reaches its most southern point—as a very important event of the year. It was the beginning of the renewed life of nature and of the gods, and the beginning of the lengthening of days. Especially the more northern countries hailed this point of the winter with great delight; and from the oldest times they celebrated this season with sumptuous festivities. At the winter solstice, the Germans held their great Yule feast in commemoration of the return of the fiery sun-wheel. It is stated that many of the beliefs and usages of the old Germans and also of the Romans were carried over from heathenism into Christianity, some of which survive at the present day. Christianity itself added dramatic representations of the birth of Christ and of the first events of his life. This occasioned the composition of the manger songs and numerous Christmas carols. The Christmas trees adorned with lights and gifts were also introduced with the custom of exchanging presents and preparing special Christmas dishes. Thus Christmas has become a universal social feast day.

December 25 is observed religiously by Roman Catholics and by almost all Protestant bodies. However, the Scotch Presbyterians and the English Non-conformists generally reject religious Christmas observances, holding that such celebration savors too

much of Catholicism. It is said that the Puritan founders of New England established Thanksgiving Day as a substitute, in some degree, for Christmas.

We as the saints of God observe the day in memory of the birth of our Savior into this world for the salvation of souls, without any regard to the exactness of the date. One thing we do know, that he was born "to save his people from their sins," and that we have by his mercy obtained this salvation. For this greatest of blessings and many kindred benefits, we offer to him heartfelt devotions on the day generally commemorated as his birthday.

—From Gospel Trumpet in 1911 by F. W. Heinly

## The Reign of God's Saints on the Earth

By H. M. Riggle

Much has been written relative to a supposed reign of God's people here on the earth, but the majority of the writers on this subject place this reign in a future age. If it can be shown that the reign of God's saints on earth is a present experience during this dispensation of divine grace, then the contention of a future reign on earth is false. It may surprise some of our readers when I state positively that the notion of resurrected saints reigning on earth a thousand years with Christ is positively without scriptural support. A careful study of the texts used to support any such theory will show that they teach absolutely nothing of the kind.

That the Bible teaches a reign of God's people on earth, we do not deny; but instead of its being in a future age, thank God, it is the present experience of all those who are fully saved. We have proved that in this dispensation God's people are "in the kingdom of his dear Son" and possess its elements in their hearts—"righteousness, joy, and peace in the Holy Ghost." Jesus plainly taught that "the kingdom of God is within you," or, as some translators render it, "the reign of God is within you." Therefore it is evident that identical with our induction into the kingdom and possessing the kingdom in us, the reign of God's saints takes place. In fact, it cannot be otherwise. Possessing the kingdom and reigning through the grace of God is the same experience.

Paul says, "That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 5:21).

Adam Clarke says on this text: "As extensively, as deeply, as universally, as 'sin'—whether implying the act of transgression, or the impure principle from which the act proceeds, or both—'hath reigned,' subjected the whole soul and all its powers and faculties, 'unto death' temporal, spiritual, and eternal; even so, as extensively, deeply, and universally, might grace reign, filling the whole earth, and pervading, purifying, and refining the whole soul, through righteousness, through this free salvation by the blood of the Lamb, and by the principle of holiness, inwrought in the soul by the Holy Ghost, unto eternal life—the proper object of an immortal spirit's hope. Where God is, where he is seen as he is, by Jesus Christ our

Lord, as the cause of our salvation, the means by which it is communicated, and the source whence it springs. Thus we find that the salvation from sin here is as extensive and complete as the guilt and contamination of sin. Here is glorying: 'Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests to God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.' "

This exegesis beautifully presents the truth concerning the reign of God's grace in the human soul, the result of which enables us, through God's abundant favor and the possession of his own holiness, to reign triumphant in this life. "For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:17). Death is here represented as reigning over mankind; but, thank God, salvation places us in kingly triumph over all the elements of the world. "Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world" (1 John 5:4). And not only this, but we reign over Satan himself, who claims to be ruler of the earth: "Behold, I give unto you power . . . over all the power of the enemy" (Luke 10:19).

Peter thus describes the church in this dispensation: "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood [kingly priesthood; that is, a priesthood of kings], an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Pet. 2:9). The very things that many people are looking for and expecting to enjoy in some fancied age yet to come, are being enjoyed by God's people at this present time. Writing to the churches of Asia in the first century of Christian grace, John declared that Jesus Christ "hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father" (Rev. 1:6). Right in harmony with this, John testifies of himself, that he was "in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ" (vs. 9). God's church in this dispensation is a priesthood of kings who, through the grace and righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, "reign in life." Hallelujah! All who live in sin are slaves to their own lusts, are not able to govern themselves; but salvation makes us "kings," because through Christ we can rule our own selves, our own passions, appetites, and desires. Paul says, "I keep under my body" (1 Cor. 9:27). And a wise man of ancient times said, "He that ruleth his spirit [is better] than he that taketh a city" (Prov. 16:32).

Millennialists are expecting to reign over Satan when he will be cast into a great pit and bound with a mighty chain, so that he cannot harm anyone: that certainly would be such a very easy thing that no one would boast of it. Thank God, we have something better than that; right now, while Satan is loose, going about as a roaring lion "seeking whom he may devour," we have power over him. In the name of Jesus Christ every demon in hell is subject to the saints of God. We reign over sin. Sin held the whole human family under its dominion for thousands of years, but now, in the Christian Era, "sin shall not

have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace" (Rom. 6:14). Yes, we reign over sin. The truly saved now possess the very things that formalists are looking for in the future. "Now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness" (vs. 22). A master of the situation of life, with a peace that nothing disturbs—this is now realized in the kingdom of God. Well hath the poet, D. S. Warner, said:

"One we hail as King immortal  
He did earth and hell subdue;  
And bequeathing us his glory,  
We are kings anointed, too.

"Shall we, then, by sin be humbled?  
Must we yield to any foe?  
No, by heaven's gift, we're reigning  
Over all this world below.

"Oh, what grace and high promotion,  
That in Jesus I should be  
Raised from sin to royal honor,  
Even reigning, Lord, with thee!

"All this life is blissful sunshine,  
Earth is subject at our feet;  
Heaven pours its richest blessings  
Round our throne of love complete.

"I am reigning, sweetly reigning,  
Far above this world of strife;  
In my blessed, loving Saviour,  
I am reigning in this life."

(The above is chapter 10 from the book by H. M. Riggle entitled, "JESUS IS COMING AGAIN," which volume of 111 pages will soon be off the press and available at 60c each, or 2 for \$1.00, postpaid.)

## The Shut Door

"And the Lord shut him in" Gen. 7:16. Noah did not close the door of the ark. There are works that God keeps for Himself. The burden is too heavy for the back of man. To shut that door on a world about to perish would have been too great a responsibility for a son of Adam. Another moment, and another, and another might have been granted by Noah, and the door might never have been shut, and the ship that carried the life of the world might have been swamped. And so it is in the ark of salvation. It is not the church, nor the minister, that shuts or opens the door. These do God's bidding; they preach righteousness; they offer salvation, and it is God that shuts and opens the door. Oh, what a sigh and shudder will pass through the listening universe when God will shut the door of the heavenly ark upon the lost!

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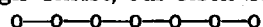
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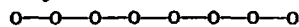
**EDITORIALS**

As this last issue for the year of 1965 goes to press, we are very thankful to the Lord and our readers for the more than 3000 new names received through the special subscription offer, to whom we will be mailing this gospel paper for the first three months of the new year. By the time you receive this copy you should have a few days before the expiration date of this special subscription offer on Dec. 8 to send in more names—10 for \$1.00. It would please the Lord to have at least 5000 new readers beginning with the January issue. Be a home missionary and please rush in all the names possible by Dec. 8! May God bless your efforts in spreading the good news of salvation through Christ, our risen Savior.

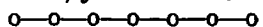


Christ's birthday greetings are extended to all of our readers, praying that His holy presence may be your portion during this holiday season. Though the exact date of our Savior's birth is unknown, yet it is a historical fact that he was born and the year of our present calendar is reckoned from that momentous event. In the fullness of time God sent His only Son as the long-promised Messiah to redeem mankind from the bondage of sin. Jesus was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil out of men's hearts. He did not come to "condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved." Neither does He impose himself upon anyone, but His offer of salvation is a free gift. Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Rev. 3:20. Jesus stands at your heart's door and knocks for admittance. Since the latch string is on the inside, you must willingly and gladly open the door and invite Him in. With the Apostle Paul we exclaim: "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift!" 2 Cor. 9:15.

Truly, Christ was born into the world, but the most important event in your life is when He is born in your heart. If He is not now living there and governing your life, He was born and died in vain as far as you are concerned. May He be crowned the King in every heart!



Thinking of Christ's birthday at this season of the year, let us give a birthday offering more directly to Him and His great cause. It is nice to give gifts to friends and relatives, but what would be more fitting than to give a gift or offering in memory of our Lord to a very needy person, a special offering for literature evangelism, or to support home and foreign missionary work? Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."



The popular Christmas spirit is foreign to the true spirit of Christ. The real purpose and meaning of His birth is buried under the maze of commercialism, mystic Santa Claus, Christmas trees, revelry, social pleasure and debauchery. In no sense do these

activities honor Christ or commemorate His birth. On the contrary, they dishonor Him and indicate that many have no place in their hearts for the holy Son of God.

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Bro. Curtis Williams is a full-time evangelist, and recently he held very profitable and soul-saving meetings at Enid, Okla. and Webb City, Mo.

Some time ago he and his family moved from Ohio to Kentucky. If you are in need of physical or spiritual help, or want a gospel meeting in your area, you may contact him at his new address: Bro. Curtis Williams, Clearfield, Ky. 40313.

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Bro. T. H. Coffey, pastor at Hammond, La., held a meeting recently at Jena, La. The congregation was strengthened by the preaching of the Word.

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Bro. and Sister Ray Key are moving from Lorange, La. to Senath, Mo. where they will aid the church in that area. Sister Katherine Key is not very well and will need special strength to make this move. Pray for them in their new field of labor.

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Bro. Ostis Wilson recently held profitable meetings at Dayton, Ohio and Kalamazoo, Mich. The gospel is still "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."

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The "Evening Light Songs" book, now in the process of reprinting, is planned to be in stock the first part of December. Costs have risen, necessitating a slight increase in the price of the book to \$1.65 each, plus 15c for postage. The orders now on hand will be filled as soon as the books are ready.

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Another very good book by H. M. Riggle, entitled "Jesus Is Coming Again," is being reprinted and will be available some time in December. Consisting of 111 pages, paperbound, this excellent book is priced at 60c each, or two for \$1.00 postpaid. Mail in your order now for later delivery.

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In the gospel work there is very much to do and the laborers are few. Just preaching on Sunday, or working part-time in God's cause, will not meet the requirements of our Lord's commission to carry the gospel to "every creature." Some are tied up on farms and other secular occupations who should be answering God's call. These carnal things will matter but little when they stand before the Judge of all the earth to give account of their stewardship.

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Through the blessings of the Lord a factory rebuilt Baum automatic book folder has been installed in the Lord's Printshop, costing more than \$6000.00. Part of the song book sections were folded on this machine, and will speed the production of other books to be printed in the future. We are delighted to be engaged in the service of the Master. Pray that the gospel literature will reach every distant land wherever there is a hungry soul.



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FAITH PUB. HOUSE, P. O. Box 713, Guthrie, Okla. 73044

### Prayer Requests

Mo.—Dear Sister Marie and saints everywhere: Greetings to all of you again in the name of the Lord. We are glad for His love and mercy to us each day and thankful to still be one of His little ones. Surely He cares for us all.

We desire the prayers of the saints everywhere that we continue in the will of God and live each day pleasing to Him. I also desire special prayer for my body. Seems my nerves are bad again. I can't sleep at night but just lie awake, and I am getting so tired and worn out. Pray for my family and unsaved children and that I may always have the wisdom and understanding I need from God in rearing the younger ones. Many problems arise along the way and I need God's help.

Christian love to all, —Zella Dollins

Pa.—A newly born-again man is being severely persecuted in prison.

Texas—Ruptured disc in back.

Ind.—Boils and ear infection.

Texas—"Pray that I will have my baby normal."

La.—Blood poison around eyes.

Iowa—Five-year-old girl has lump on her back.

Ala.—Shingles.

Pa.—Young girl has a very bad nervous condition.

Ill.—A growth.

N. Car.—Needs salvation in their home.

Many, many write for prayer for their unsaved loved ones. This should be the burden of every soul. God is working and answering prayer. We know not what it will take but the soul is more precious than the body or anything. So pray on and believe. —Sis. A. Marie Miles

## Obituary

Joe Leverett was born March 4, 1905 in Wagoner, Okla. and departed this life October 24 in Okla. City, Okla. Joe was the son of Gus and Rebella Leverett.

He was united in holy matrimony to Essie Myles who preceded him in death. He married Frances Jones on Feb. 4, 1944.

Joe was stricken with illness in January. Through much suffering he remained very patient and appreciated all kindness shown him. Joe was kind and had a very meek, quiet disposition. He will be sadly missed by friends and loved ones.

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, Frances Leverett of Okla. City, his father, Gus Leverett of Tulsa, Okla., Mrs. Mayetta Pettiford, and a host of relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Woodrow Warren and Murphy Allen, assisted by others.

### HELP CARRY THE GOSPEL

It has come to the attention of the saints in the Enid, Okla. area that Bro. Curtis Williams, a well-known and recognized evangelist, is in need of a new and heavier car to pull his house trailer in the gospel work. The small Ford station wagon, which the saints were instrumental in getting for him, broke down in pulling the trailer, causing him much expense to keep it running. Therefore, the saints at Enid have placed an order for a Pontiac station wagon costing about \$3650.00 including tax, tag, etc. No doubt many other saints would like to help on this very worthy project which will enable Bro. Williams to hold many more meetings and reach more people with the gospel. If all would do a little, it would not be a burden on anyone. Ask the Lord about it and mail your love offerings for this purpose directly to Bro. Waldo Eck, Rt. 1, Fairmont, Okla. —Lawrence Pruitt

## Assembly Meeting Notices

### OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Oklahoma Assembly meeting of the Church of God will be held, the Lord willing, at Guthrie, Okla., beginning December 24 and continuing through January 2, 1966. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people. The chapel is located on the corner of 6th and West Warner Ave. The dining hall and dormitories are located in the same block for your convenience. All who come will be cared for. The expenses of the meeting will be met as usual by the free-will offering plan, of money and groceries. These offerings and supplies should be sent to the treasurer, Bro. M. A. Davis, Route 4, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

We are truly praying that the Lord will give us a very special meeting ordered and blessed by his Holy Spirit. We are expecting the Lord to send in Spirit-filled ministers to preach the pure unadulterated Word of God sent down from above. All hungry souls seeking light or any spiritual help, come, and God will meet you here. If you are sick in body, come—the Lord still heals His people. He is able to save, sanctify, heal and keep us by power divine. Praise God!

It was decided at the National campmeeting to give the young saints the first Saturday of the Guthrie Assembly meeting when our young ministers and saints will be free to exercise their talents for the Lord. So, young

saints, this is especially your day. May the blessings and anointing of the Holy Spirit be upon you. You who are not saved, come and get good to your soul.

Let us all come praying with a burden for the lost. Times are perilous. Let us rush to the rescue of perishing souls before it is too late. Pray earnestly that the Lord will give us a glorious Assembly meeting.

Yours for all the truth,

—I. D. Stover

### CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held on the saints' campground located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, California, (a suburb of Los Angeles) beginning Friday, Dec. 24, 1965 and continuing through January 2, 1966, Lord willing.

Pacoima is in the northwest section of Los Angeles. Those who come from the north by bus should get off at San Fernando. There is only one train from the north which stops at San Fernando. If you come on any of the streamlined trains, get off at Glendale. In no case should you go on into Los Angeles. Those arriving by bus or train, phone 369-3608 and a car will come for you. If you drive and come from the north, come right on through San Fernando and follow San Fernando Road (99 highway) to Osborne St. There is a traffic signal at this intersection and a Piggly Wiggly Market just a block before you get there. Turn to the left across the railroad track and come straight about 6/10 of a mile to the campground. If you drive from the east or south, come out from Los Angeles on the Golden State Freeway (it will be marked "BAKERSFIELD" all along) and leave the freeway at Osborne St. and go right approximately two miles to the campground. If you get lost, call 369-3608 and get instructions.

We urge all of the saints throughout the west to attend this meeting. Those from farther east are welcome, also. Anyone who can do good or get good should be at this meeting.

If you can bring some bed covers with you, it would be good, as there is not always enough to go around in cold weather. Those who can bring covers, would make it possible to save what is here for those who cannot bring any.

Let us all be praying for a good, profitable, spiritual, successful, edifying meeting in the Lord.

—Pastor Ostis B. Wilson

12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif.

### SERVICES AT LOVINGTON, ILL.

The saints in the vicinity of Lovington, Ill. have rented a store building at 108 Main St., in Lovington and are having Sunday afternoon services. We extend a hearty invitation to everyone to come and worship with us. Ministers and others passing through may contact Sister Lettie West, W. South St., Lovington, Ill. or Bro. and Sister Clyde Edwards, Mulberry Grove, Ill.

### NATIONAL MISSIONARY REPORT

Dear Saints scattered abroad: We greet you in the love of Jesus who is our great High Priest. We love Him because He has redeemed our souls and makes us to reign as kings and priests over all the powers of sin.

We have felt it needful to write a few lines of encouragement to the saints concerning our National Missionary burden. As we traveled east early this summer and saw Indian reservations and thousands of souls lost who probably never heard the true gospel preached, our hearts



yearned within us for a greater zeal and burden for precious souls. From town to town, village to village, we saw sin on display. In our hearts we have earnestly prayed, "Lord, make us more useful in your vineyard." The Lord is blessing us with more opportunities right around us and we want to be faithful to fulfill our duty.

We want to encourage everyone to help keep our home ministers in the field of labor. Every congregation ought to lay aside for our ministers. We have several who are fully consecrated and go, leaving home and families, to labor in this great harvest field for souls. We must support them and stand by them with our prayers. Some of us may not be called to go, but we can help send those whom God has called, through the Church of God National Missionary Fund. Our hearts are made to rejoice every time that someone hears the voice of God and obeys. Just recently we had a special burden and the Lord wonderfully undertook and supplied. Our hearts go up in thanksgiving to God.

We would like to share with you some of the blessings the Lord bestowed upon us here in Coffeyville. Surely all of you who couldn't attend the services of our recent meeting missed something good. Sister Katherine Williams from Oklahoma City has carried a burden for souls here in Coffeyville. She has been coming quite often for almost a year, doing some ground missionary work among the people here, and she felt it would be good to have another meeting. Some other ministers expressed their burden to come, and the Lord in heaven gave us a good Holy Ghost meeting. Sister Katherine Williams, Bro. Lewis Williams, and Bro. Curtis Williams were with us and the power of God fell on the hearts of men and women to convict them of sin. We, the saints, had a real refreshing in Zion. We wish all could have been here and all the town could have heard the pure unadulterated gospel of salvation preached. The meeting is still alive in the hearts of many and we are looking forward to a harvest as we labor on. You pray for us as we have a greater responsibility upon us to nourish the seed that was sown.

We are praying that more meetings will be held and the Lord will continue to work upon souls everywhere. Our hope is brighter today as we look to God who is still reigning on His throne and is able to do more than we are able to ask or think.

May the Lord bless each of you with a greater vision of the possibilities of work for God, and bless you with a greater burden for lost and dying souls. Pray for us.

Yours in His service, —Bro. and Sis. Ralph M. Beisly  
407 Eldridge St., Coffeyville, Kansas

(Editor's note: Please send your contributions for home missionary and evangelistic work directly to Bro. Ralph Beisly at the above address, as he is the treasurer of this particular fund.)

### MEXICO MISSIONARY REPORT

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, our blessed Redeemer. I felt it was time to answer your letter, acknowledge the offering for the missionary work in Mexico, and at the same time give a brief report on the progress below the border.

First I wish to testify that I am saved, satisfied, and sanctified through and by the blood of Jesus. Also I wish to praise God for the way He has blessed me in my body recently. A while back I was quite poorly in general and my right arm went completely out of commission and I could do practically nothing for about two weeks. At this writing I am feeling good in general, and have been plastering on the Senior Citizen's Home for three

weeks and my arm is holding up fine. All glory and honor be to our God! I thank all the saints for their prayers.

There is much activity on the mission field at this time. The chapel building at Valle de Trinidad is looking more like "moving-in" time every day. It will be such an asset to the work. It will be 30' x 30' in size. Recently in a Thursday night meeting there were five adults and two children saved. Bro. Tomas' face shone as he told me about it.

The four who were saved in El Alamo recently appear to be holding out well. Continue to pray for these new ones in Christ. We can see God dealing with some Catholic families there who show more interest in our work as time goes on.

In Ensenada God is blessing Sister Hite with good interest from the people. The attendance ranges in the fifties in the living room of the home that was opened for a meeting place. Her ministry of visitation is growing as the calls increase to go pray for the sick, etc. God is working and the people are recognizing it. We are waiting on God to reveal the time to find a location to build a chapel. Remember Sister Hite and the work there in your prayers.

In Rosarito Sister Virginia Wittenborn and her two youngest children, (Lois and Walter) with Geraldine Luehring from Oregon are occupying the house there and carrying on a full scale gospel work with two services on Sundays and then night prayer meeting. The congregation is very much alive with three recent converts and new people being contacted. The saints there are faithful to testify and praise God in the services. A good spirit prevails. There are some who attend who need much prayer, however. Please pray that God will give divine wisdom to know how to deal with each case. Pray that Brother Wittenborn will be able to be with his family before too long.

A letter from Sisters Edith Cole and Carrie Sheppard in Ejido Patzcuaro reports victory and blessings from God. Pray on, saints.

Sister Opal Kelly arrived in Pacoima, Calif. Nov. 1 from Oklahoma. It seemed God's will for her to return to Santa Catarina. She and Sister Violet Cable are now in the mission house in Santa Catarina preparing to begin school on Monday, Nov. 15, and conduct regular weekly and mid-week church services. Pray for them.

That will relieve me now to concentrate on Ojos Negros where I believe God's time has come for a chapel to be built there. That is 10 miles from La Huerta which will make it easier to conduct services at those two places and have Saturday to work on the new building. I confess I get excited, enthusiastic, burdened, and blessed all at the same time. Remember I stated a couple of years or so ago that my faith took in a congregation of 200 there in that farming valley. Pray that God will grant this to be a reality. Yes, I'm interested in numbers for numbers represent souls that need salvation. Amen! Jesus commanded "Go ye into the highways and byways and compel them to come in that my house may be full."

We realize the saints have many places to give of their means. We are sure that if everyone stays close to God, He will show each one where and how to give. We do appreciate the saints, their prayers, their giving, and letters of encouragement. All offerings sent in my care are prayerfully distributed to the workers. God's church is working harmoniously, each member subject to the Head which is Christ.

I wish to express my deep feeling of gratitude to all the saints and friends who contributed to a camper for



my use in Mexico. May God bless each one greatly is my earnest prayer.

Continue to pray much. Your brother in behalf of  
all the workers, Bro. Harland Smith  
317 E. Cucamonga Ave., Claremont, Calif.

### MISSION WORK AT ROSARITO, MEXICO

Dear saints everywhere: It is with thanksgiving that we come to you again with a short report of the work in Rosarito, Mexico. Since we last wrote, several things have happened. As you may already know, we have a new little "Mexican" in our family. She is doing fine. We wish to thank the saints for their many offerings, prayers, and labours of love for us. Sister Wittenborn arrived in Rosarito a few hours after the baby, and took over all responsibilities of the house for two weeks. Sister Esquer and her girls were a lot of help to us, also. We are thankful for them and all the saints who helped in other ways.

The Wittenborn family and Geraldine Luehring are now living at the mission house in Rosarito. The services are being very well attended. After service last week, while Tomas was there, a Catholic man was saved. This man lost his wife last year when a hit-and-run driver struck her, throwing her several feet, causing her death. Since that time he has been a frequent guest at the mission house, primarily because he was lonesome, but praise God, conviction got hold of him. Bro. Pedro and Sister Beatrice, the couple who were baptized at the California State campmeeting are a real help to the work. Hold them up in prayer.

Our burden for the work is to raise up native workers. Keep praying for Bro. Esteven that God will qualify and lead him into a field of work. His wife is encouraged and his children are well.

Bro. Ernesto of La Mission will possibly be another native worker with the saints. He has been in gospel work in Mexico for fourteen years. He attended the El Alamo campmeeting in July and enjoyed himself greatly. He was pastoring a small congregation until an American minister came along and told him he was not needed any longer. Since Bro. Ernesto has left, most of the congregation have become dissatisfied with the new set-up and want to build a brush arbor or something for a meeting place. The people are scattered in a long valley about eight miles long. He does visit these folks on his bicycle. Last Monday while I was visiting in his home, a neighbor man got saved. Pray that God will lead and direct these dear ones.

Bro. Tomas writes that nine more out in the desert have given their hearts to the Lord.

We are now living in El Cajon, near San Diego. The three older children are in school. Bobby is having trouble with spelling. Pray for him. Our home address is 2054A E. Madison, El Cajon, Calif. 92021. Those living in Rosarito are receiving mail at our former address: P. O. Box 2075, San Ysidro, Calif.

Yours in His service, —James and Charlotte Huskey

### NIGERIAN MISSIONARY REPORT

Under date of October 29 Bro. Etuk, mission superintendent, signed this letter thanking the church in the States for their prayers for his recovery from the stroke he suffered in September. In answer to prayer he is improving, but is not completely back to normal, and is requesting your continued prayers in his behalf.

With this same letter was the report of the Nigerian mission activities consisting of eight typewritten pages, produced by Bro. Nse Umanah, the mission secretary. Too long to reprint here, these reports cover in detail the mission activities during the time Bro. and Sister C. C. Carver were there—Sept. 20 to Oct. 16. A summary follows:

Arrangements were made, and the Carvers met with the various congregations in that area during their stay, receiving warm welcomes everywhere. Bro. Carver preached or spoke to each congregation through an interpreter. Texts and sketches of the sermons were recorded. Out of their poverty the people gave offerings to them of what they had—oranges, bananas, onions, potatoes, paw-paw, yams and chickens.

Bros. Carver, Etuk, and Umanah drove to a large city over 200 miles from the mission headquarters and met with a large religious group. Bro. Carver preached and many seemed to accept the truth. He baptized 19, including the pastor, and they felt that their effort there was very successful. Now a quantity of literature has been mailed to that group.

On Oct. 16 the Carvers were escorted to their plane for the return trip home. Farewells were said, with the hope that they would meet again if the Lord willed.

The next day, Sunday, Oct. 17, the members from all stations met for a baptismal and communion service. It was hoped that Bro. and Sister Carver could have been there for that service. 117 believers were baptized by Pastor B. E. Udoka, 669 took part in the Lord's Supper, and a total of 761 were in attendance.

When the Carvers arrived in Amsterdam from Nigeria, he phoned me that a leader and a large number of congregations in Nigeria, W. Africa, had taken their stand for the truth of the Church of God. He was very optimistic about the advancement of the gospel work in Nigeria, so let us give thanks unto the Lord, continue to pray and labor on faithfully to reach the millions in that country who have not yet heard the pure gospel.

The mission work in Nigeria requires financial support every month from the Church in this country. We are endeavoring to meet this need through the special Missionary Fund at this office. Will you continue to help?

May the Lord bless those who are financing and sponsoring individual native ministers in Nigeria. Some of the native workers cannot read or write English, so be patient if you do not receive a prompt acknowledgement of your offering from them.

Christ's spirit is a missionary spirit. Do you still have that God-given soul burden for those in heathen darkness?

—Lawrence Pruitt

### MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

After a round-about flight from Amsterdam and several delays in India, Bro. Cecil Carver arrived safely at Bro. V.'s home on Oct. 25. In a letter from Bro. V. on Nov. 2 he expressed his appreciation of Bro. Carver's coming, and wrote that "we are sure that the Lord has already laid the foundation and started to build up a permanent mission work by the Church of God, the spiritual body of Christ. Our work is going to gloriously shine and take root and bear fruit because we trust in God and His Holy Spirit." In the same letter Bro. Carver wrote in part as follows: "I am really pleased and encouraged with what I'm finding here. Am really rejoicing." They had a very busy schedule for him, holding meetings at different places, making many personal contacts, even some hundreds of miles away by train. On his return trip

home Bro. Carver sent a cablegram dated Nov. 15 from the Bombay air terminal which reads: "Returning, bringing fellowship of thirty ministers and congregations, expecting many more." We rejoice in the Lord for this very favorable report which was beyond our expectation, and appreciate the open hearts and wide response to the truth in that great mission field. Let it be remembered also that the opening of this field will place greater obligations upon the church in America to enter this open door with qualified missionaries and financial support. Who is willing to meet the challenge?

After part of this issue was on the press, I talked by phone on Nov. 19 with Bro. Carver who had just arrived the night before at the home of their son, Vernon, at Harper's Ferry, W. Va. Thank the Lord for answered prayer for his safe return home, and he is bringing to the Church a report of bright prospects of the ripe harvest field in India. Bro. and Sister Carver plan to be at the latter part of the Hammond, La. Assembly meeting where they will report on Nigeria and India. —L. D. Pruitt.

## TESTIMONIES

Wisconsin—Dear Sister Marie and saints scattered abroad: We are truly grateful for the Lord's abundant blessings to us. We were privileged to attend the Monark, Mo. campmeeting for the fourth year and felt this was the best meeting of all this year.

In the afternoon of September 12, Bro. and Sister Gibson drove in with their car and trailer and Bro. Gibson preached for us that evening. We appreciated the good message as well as having them in our home and getting better acquainted.

Then Sunday evening when we came home Bro. Richard Madden called from Tulsa, Okla. saying they would be with us Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, so we feel we have indeed been blessed with these good meetings. Bro. and Sister Madden were with us last year at Thanksgiving time. Their family was with them then and we had services Friday evening and all day Saturday and Sunday. God blessed in the preaching of His Word this last Sunday and souls were touched. We do appreciate those who are willing to come so far to minister to the few. May the Lord reward them all.

I still visit in the rest home and hospital. I was happy to find last week a man, for whom I had prayed when he was hospitalized before, rejoicing in salvation and testifying and praying with his roommate. He said he had kept saved since I prayed with him. As I visited an elderly man his roommate seemed interested and was eager for salvation. He thought it too good to be true that the Lord would thus pardon a sinner. As I was speaking to him another man came in to say goodbye and I gave him a tract so the one who had been saved asked for some, saying he loved to read. Sometimes we wonder if much is accomplished but last week it seemed the Lord blessed in a special way. Some are so thankful for me to come to read and pray with them. Two dear old women seem to be sweetly saved. Another seems to have difficulty in getting a clear experience, but asked me to pray for her. She seemed to repent. False religion seems to be the greatest hindrance for the majority in getting real salvation.

We need the prayers of God's people that we might see souls saved and willing to walk in the light of the gospel. —Sister Dietrich

Mo.—Dear Ones, greetings in Christian love to each one at the print shop: We surely are thankful for the

many good things the Lord has been mindful to do for us. We have been pretty needy (physically) several times during the last three months, but how good the Lord has been to us each time. There have been times that we have had to fight the fight of faith, but as we stood upon His promises He came to our rescue. Thank the Lord!

One thing that we feel especially thankful for is the Lord's protection upon Donald when he was involved in a headon collision the night our baby was born. He was in the company's wrecker, towing a large truck back to be worked on. The impact caused the truck he was towing to turn completely over, demolishing the truck. The wrecker didn't turn over at all. Had it all happened a few seconds later, Donald would have struck a bridge. Our hearts have offered praise to the Lord many times for His goodness. The only injury Donald sustained was a very small bruise.

Our baby has been quite fretful, and his stomach was so upset, but the Lord has blessed him and he is fine now. Our love extends to all the saints.

—Donald and Marilyn Eck

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Texas—Dear Sister Marie: We have so much to thank the Lord for. We want to let you know the Lord has wonderfully healed of the indigestion which I had for over five weeks. We surely thank the saints for their prayers. They did their part in prayer and fasting for me. But the greater part of exercising faith had to be within me. The Senath, Mo. saints fasted for me one week ago today. I wrote you, and the Oklahoma City congregation was praying. I felt no special touch from the Lord. But I felt if God's Word was true (and I knew it was), I just had to be healed. He said He would heal us, and gave us instructions how to obtain healing, which I knew I had carried out.

On Saturday I had the affliction all day. When supper time came I was hungry, but afraid to eat. The gas smothered and choked me so badly. The Lord spoke to me and said, "If you are walking by faith, exercise your faith. Go ahead and eat and believe the work is done." I ate a good supper and slept well all night. How I did thank the Lord! My sister called me Sunday morning. She said Bro. Samons was there and a number of other saints and they would be praying for me. I felt a touch of indigestion that morning, but ate breakfast in the name of the Lord and have been eating regularly ever since, and anything I want. How my heart did rejoice, not so much because I was free from suffering, but to see and know and feel the presence of the Lord which was most precious to me.

Eva Grant had seven openings in her side at one time. She was just a young girl with no one saved in her home to pray for her. She had a cruel stepmother and wicked father to persecute her. But she had faith and exercised that faith. We have to step out and believe the Word. I see it so plainly. Oh, how I pray for all of us to have greater faith! We should not look on the affliction, but look on the greatness of God. There is nothing impossible to those who believe. How I do thank the Lord for the help I have received through this affliction.

I've been reading some of the letters written to me when I had arthritis so badly. There are still an encouragement to me and I do appreciate every letter and every prayer that was offered in my behalf and want you to know they have not been in vain.

How I do love the Lord this morning, and all His people! I feel everything is clear between me and my God and want to keep it that way. I think so often of what Bro. Chandler said one time about true forgiveness.

**It is as though it had never been. If everyone could see that as I do, what love and what power there would be!**

We trust this finds you well in body and may the Lord richly bless you for the many kind deeds of love you have shown me.

Sister Moore is still happy in the Lord and we have some precious times together.

Love and prayers,

—Edith Wall

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Calif.—Dear Sister Marie, greetings of love to you: I just received your letter and did enjoy it so much. It was full of precious truths. I am feeling better since I wrote you last. Praise the dear Lord for all He is doing for me and for what he has done the past few months, healing me of colon trouble and a very bad varicose vein rupture, also of a severe nervous condition caused by the rupture. It was so very bad that I couldn't stand much noise or talking. The dear Lord did finally cause it to get all right after about three months of waiting patiently and praying. Then there was a horn cancer on my eye brow that was there for seven months. God healed it. It dropped off just like Bro. Ostis Wilson prayed. I was told to have it frozen and cut off, but I just trusted in God to heal it.

The scripture comes to me written in Mark 11:24, "Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them." Praise our God for this promise He has given.

At the Pacoima, Calif. all-day meeting I testified that day how my grandson got on his knees with his head down on the couch when I prayed for God to make it possible for him to stay out of the army. While I prayed, there was a real downpour of joy that came over me, and I just had a real evidence of prayer being answered. Two days later my grandson got an X-ray of his knee and the cap was split and the ligaments out of place. I feel that God will work this out for the dear boy.

Pray with me for my grandson and also for me.  
November 23rd I will be 87 years of age. Annie McKinney

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Ky.—Dear Saints, I just received your wonderful "Faith and Victory" paper. Even the title means hope for all. It is a good messenger from God.

I promised God if He would heal me of dizzy spells and other ailments that I would send a testimony and offering to your paper.

I do thank God for what He can do for all who trust Him. I am much better. Praise God!

**A Sister,**

—Wilma Horsley

## VAIN RELIGION

**Exodus 20:7, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."**

One day as I sat meditating upon this verse of scripture, the thought came to me that it isn't necessary to curse and swear to take God's name in vain. Turning to Cruden's Concordance I found the following: "Vain and vanity are used in the Bible entirely with the idea of emptiness, fruitlessness, or worthlessness." Webster also gives the definition as "empty, worthless, of none effect."

Many people today desire to take God's name, that is, they want to be recognized as the Church of God, but are not willing to live the life that God demands

or requires of them. I John 2:15-17, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." In open rebellion against the Word of God, these people live like the world, dress like the world, (wear short dresses, short sleeves, tight skirts, short sleeved shirts, neckties), and go to worldly places of amusement such as ball-games, fairs, all kinds of plays and programs, and skating rinks. They have become lovers of their own selves, not greatly concerned about God's work, God's ministry, or their fellow man. All that seems to matter is that their own selfish desires be satisfied, and they still go on professing God's name. People of the world, and the different religious sects, knowing the standard we preach and hold, find it difficult to understand how people professing to be saints can drink coffee and tea, put on the tie and in general dress like the world. Just as the scribes and Pharisees spoke of in Matthew 23:3, "They say and do not."

Now I realize our salvation isn't based altogether on these things, but how can we hope to influence and win others to the truth if we fail to live by the recognized standard of the Bible and the church. According to the Bible and the dictionary, people of this kind are taking God's name in vain. It is of no effect in their lives, but empty, futile, and worthless. Their lives are void of the graces of God.

2 Timothy 3:1-5, "This know also that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, . . . having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." They are taking God's name in vain.

**Ephesians 3:14, 15, "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." By virtue of the new birth we receive the name of our Father. The true saints, or children of God are given the name of their Father. We don't just decide to take His name irrespective of the way we live. Matthew 15:7-9, "Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, this people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Isaiah 4:1, "And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, we will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach." When people profess to be saints, and their lives do not measure to the word of God; when they set their own standards and determine their own doctrines, trusting in their own righteousness, their religion is vain. They are taking God's name in vain. Oh, how sad to think of taking the name of God—Church of God—and bearing that name on down to the end of the way, only to realize you have taken His name in vain.**

Saints of God, let us ever stand true. Let us earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints, that our living be not in vain.  
—T. H. Coffey

### “Had No Root”

“Because they had no root, they withered away.” Matt. 13:6. “Root downward, and bear fruit upward.” 2 Kings 19:30. When we read these two scriptures we immediately think of the hidden source of a plant. The root system of a tree must be healthy so it can bear fruit. We cannot see the roots but we can see the results of good roots.

Dear ones, there is a depth in God that we each must have to be able to bear fruit in our daily life. Shallow people have no depth, no deep honest purpose, no earnest desire to know duty and to do it. They are just going along. God is looking for something better. There is a burning fervency that God wants us to have which is moved from a working of the Spirit of God deep in the soul. This will bring forth fruit for God. Don't be satisfied with anything less than all that God has for you. There is no better way to live than to live a life that is in the center of God's will.

No one can see the work of God in your soul. This is something just between you and God. Be honest with God. Have your sins been all forgiven? Have you made all your wrongs right? Have you forgiven others? Did you make a full surrender of your self, your life, possessions, talents, time and all to God? Did you feel the witness in your very soul that God had forgiven? Did you have the witness of the Holy Spirit taking up His abode and giving you power? Do you feel the workings of His Spirit leading and guiding you each day? God has this kind of an experience for you. But it will cost you something. It will mean a life of careful watching and prayer. Won't you root downward?

We root down by faith. Believe God's word. “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you” James 4:7, 8. The devil will fight every step that you take toward God. The devil doesn't want you to submit to God, nor to His Word. He will keep you from being willing to obey it. Therefore, you must resist the devil. That is drawing nigh to God. Then be assured by faith in your very soul that just as you come to God he is coming to you. Believe God's Word. Count it so. Surrender all to God. Let go and let God have full control of your life. God will bless your soul. God will become real to you. His love will flow into your very soul. Your love will become great for God. Your soul will be fully satisfied. The praises of God will go up and a deep willingness will be in your heart to do all you can for God. You will find that there is more to do for God than you can seem to get done. Your desires and purposes will all be for God, and the peace of God will be great. You won't have to tell anyone that you have been rooting down into God's love.

The fruit you bear will show forth healthy roots. The fruit of righteousness will be very evident. May God bless you.  
—Sister A. Marie Miles

### Children—The Gift of God

2 Timothy 3:16, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness . . .”

My heart is burdened when I see the lack of concern for our children—little lambs that God has entrusted in our care. If God placed in our hand a diamond and told us to write something on it that would be read at the Judgment Day, would we not be careful what we wrote? God has placed in our care the immortal souls of our children on which we are writing every day by our instruction and by our example—something which will be on display for or against us at the last great day.

In Gen. 33:5, when Jacob was to meet Esau, Esau lifted his eyes upon the women and children, and wanted to know whose they were. Jacob said, “The children which God hath graciously given thy servant.” Psa. 127:3, “Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is His reward.” Heritage is a birth-right or inheritance. Are we caring for the heritage (children) of the Lord so we can reap good things? In Heb. 2:13 we read, “Behold I and the children which God hath given me.” In Mark 10:13, 14, when they were bringing the children to Jesus, the disciples rebuked those that brought them, “but when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, suffer [allow, permit] the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not.” When we do not take time with our children every day, we are like the disciples. Are we denying our children their rightful heritage—of parents who will teach, instruct, and take time every day to point them to God? It is their birthright to have parents who will instruct them in the right way.

We believe the Word of God is our guide, and the Word tells us what a gift of God the children are. It teaches us how to train them, how to instruct them, how to teach them, and how to punish them. I wonder how we are going to answer God in that Judgment Day if we are not careful with these little lambs, the immortal souls of our children. We are writing our instruction every day on these little jewels. “For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” Eccl. 12:14.

Psa. 51:5, “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.” We see that all have the Adamic nature and the devil is just as busy with the children as he is with adults. That's why God placed us as shepherds over His lambs, His precious jewels, to keep them from the ways of the devil. It is a full-time job teaching children and it requires much prayer and guidance from God. We must watch carefully that we do not let our children form bad habits. If we permit it, we have become

careless and neglectful. But there is power in prayer and deliverance in God from all bad habits. We can earnestly seek God for the training of our children, just as we do for the healing of the body, or any other problem, whatever the need may be. Let us seek Him diligently for wisdom for the training of our children.

Some of the children I have had placed in my home were already set in bad habits, but I felt it was my duty before God to take extra time with these children. I spent hours on my knees and many days I would not eat. The Lord let me know that I would answer to Him for their souls if I refused to correct them. That called for much prayer and fasting, but Jesus has stood by me, and we are winning.

Teaching children is like growing a flower garden. It is an every-day job, weeding, cultivating, and watering. One thing I have tried to do is to teach my children that I am Mother, and will be to the day I die, and I conduct myself in a way to have respect. I try to let my words be words of wisdom. I prove to the children that I am right, and when I am wrong, I will confess it also, and ask pardon. My children's ages are 10, 13, 15, and 18 years.

God can help us in every task that is too hard for us, but first we must desire for God to help us, and we must be determined that the devil will not get the best of us. Through Jesus we can do all things and defeat the devil.

"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." Prov. 19:18.

"He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." Prov. 13:24. There is a difference in loving and correcting a child and domineering him. Love seeketh and findeth a way. —Margaret Cable

### The Grace of Giving

"The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself." How few seem to understand the secret of gospel giving! We often hear people say, "I would be glad to give, but I am not able now, I have to save for coming expenses." If God is laying it upon your heart to give, according to the text quoted above, you will not lose anything by giving.

We cannot consistently make such excuses when we contemplate such Scripture as, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over." Do we understand by this that God is going to let his obedient children suffer? No, but instead it will cause them to prosper. On the other hand, there is a withholding that tendeth to poverty. Solomon said, "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty."

If you have not realized by giving, a rich increase, both spiritually and temporally, you are living beneath your privileges. Do you desire that your soul be in a flourishing condition, enjoying real fatness

and watered with the dews of heaven? Then pay heed to the Word: "The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself." Do you desire to be blessed in earthly goods? Here is the secret, "Give, and it shall be given you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over." Could you ask for more?

I fear that many are looking out for the comforts of this life more than getting the gospel to a lost and dying world. It is all right to have home comforts if we get them in their order; for they have an order according to the Word of God. It says, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added." But, alas, too many have this scripture turned around, and are seeking first the comforts of life, saying, "After I get a good start, I will give to the cause." Let us not forget that we are only pilgrims in this world and that we need to redeem the time because the days are evil.

—By Minnie B. Tasker

### THE RAINBOW ANGEL

(Revelation, Chapter 10)

This is not one of the angels of destruction from the pit of the last vision, neither is he the sixth trumpet angel, but "another mighty angel . . . from heaven"—a messenger angel using his God-given power against the forces of darkness that had enveloped mankind during the dark and the cloudy day of Catholicism and Protestantism, and to reveal the full gospel message to men. The "little book"—the Bible was opened as never before since the days of the apostles. He also sounds the warning of the soon-coming of the end of all things.

Messenger angels from heaven are symbolic representations of God-sent ministers. This mighty angel represents the ministers of the "evening light" age, as does the angel of glory of the eighteenth chapter. But the rainbow angel reveals prophecy that carries us closer to the end.

The cloud sets forth the glory of God. Much truth had been lost during the dark days. Therefore, there was a need of a renewal of the covenant. The rainbow is a symbol of God's covenant to man. This angel's face beamed with the glory of God. The faces of the redeemed from sectarian bondage light up with the glory of God, as they enjoy their freedom in the courts of Zion.

The "evening light" ministry "cried mightily with a strong voice" (chap. 18:2). The rainbow angel "cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth." What did they cry? "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen," etc. (Read chapter 18:2, 3.) The "evening light" ministry broke the power of deception which had long kept men under its spell. False doctrines were cast down, trampled under foot, as it were, by true ministers of God. This great victory is symbolized by the angel placing his "right foot upon the sea, and his left foot upon the earth." The evening light came to expose the darkness of Catholicism and Protestantism, and to call the redeemed home to Zion, thus crushing Babylon underfoot. The rainbow angel

places his right foot upon the sea, (Catholicism), and his left foot upon the earth (Protestantism) and remains so standing until the end of all things. John was told, "Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth."

The great body of people under the Roman Catholic Church is symbolized by waters (chapter 17:15). Consider the symbolic language of verse one of chapter thirteen, "... saw a beast rise up out of the sea." The objects, "beast" and "sea," are used as symbols, in the prophecy of the developing of the Roman Catholic Church. The beast power (man rule) in the ecclesiastical realm came into existence among the people of Rome symbolized by "sea" (the great body of Roman citizens). Therefore "sea" (many waters) becomes a fit symbol for the Roman Catholic Church.

Protestantism was said to have risen out of the "earth," verse 12. Notice what took place when the first vial angel poured out his vial of wrath "upon the earth." "There fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worship his image" (Protestantism). In the description of the redemption from Babylon bondage of God's people (chap. 14:1-5), it is written, "which were redeemed from the earth" (Protestantism). Verse four reads, "These were redeemed from among men" (man-made traps of Babylon). In this case it was the section of Babylon called Protestantism for at the late date of the last reformation all were spiritually dead in Catholicism.

An object is used to symbolize, not itself, but something of like nature. In the vision John was standing upon the literal earth close by the literal sea when he saw the angel placing his feet upon the sea and earth, therefore "sea" and "earth" are used as symbols of objects in the ecclesiastical realm, and must not be understood to represent any part of the literal earth or sea.

Vs. 7. We are living very close to the time of the end. Therefore "the mystery of God" shall soon be finished. What is this mystery? The apostle Paul gives the answer. "Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: ... which is Christ in you the hope of glory." Col. 1:26, 27.

The greatest mystery of all time is Christ Jesus reigning in our hearts, coming into our mortal bodies, giving us victory over all sin and the devil. The working power of salvation will cease to affect the lives of men when they become so hardened that they will not listen to the gospel message. It shall soon be as it was in the days of Noah—all shall be rejecting God.

John, as a symbol of all believers, was told to eat the little book. Dear ones, let us eat the Word of God. It will bring on bitter persecutions, but we must be equipped to spread the gospel while it is still day before the night comes when no man can work.

A lover of truth, —H. P. Huskey

"Prepare to meet thy God." Amos 4:12

## Effect of Cigarette Smoking

"You smoke thirty cigarettes a day?"

"Yes, on the average."

"You don't blame them for your run down condition?"

"Not in the least. I blame my hard work."

The physician shook his head. He smiled in a vexed way. Then he took a leech out of a glass jar.

"Let me show you something," he said. "Bare your arm."

The cigarette smoker bared his pale arm and the doctor laid the lean black leech upon it. The leech fell to work busily. Its body began to swell. Then all of a sudden a kind of shudder convulsed it and it fell to the floor dead.

"That's what your blood did to that leech," said the physician. He took up the little corpse between his finger and thumb. "Look at it," he said. "Quite dead, you see. You poisoned it."

"I guess it wasn't a healthy leech in the first place," said the cigarette smoker sullenly.

"Wasn't healthy, eh? Well, we'll try again." And the physician slapped two leeches on the young man's thin arm.

"If they both die," said the patient, "I'll swear off—or at least I'll cut down my daily allowance from thirty to ten."

Even as he spoke the smaller leech shivered and dropped on his knee dead, and a moment later the larger one fell beside it.

"This is ghastly," said the young man; "I am worse than a pestilence to these leeches."

"It is the empyreumatic oil in your blood," said the medical man. "All cigarette smokers have it."

"Doctor," said the young man, regarding the three dead leeches thoughtfully, "I half believe you are right."

"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Gal. 6:7. "Wherefore do you spend your money for that which is not bread?" Isa. 55:2. —Sel.

## BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll, \$1.75; Lesson Cards, 12c.

December 5, 1965

ISAIAH

Printed Portion ..... Isaiah 1:11, 12, 24-27; 31:1-3a

Isa. 1:11 To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the Lord: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.

12 When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?

24 Therefore saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts, the mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease me of mine adversaries, and avenge me of mine enemies:

25 And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:

26 And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt



be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.

27 Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.

31:1 Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the Lord!

2 Yet he also is wise, and will bring evil, and will not call back his words: but will arise against the house of the evildoers, and against the help of them that work iniquity.

3a Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit.

Memory Verse: Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. Isa. 1:2.

Practical Truth: Only those who have a "pure and undefiled" heart will be ready to enter heaven.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We need more Isaiahs today to cry out against the hypocrisy in the world. Our nation calls itself a Christian nation but it has forgotten what the word "Christian" even means. The people have a "form of godliness, yet denying the power thereof." (2 Tim. 3:5) Holy Spirit leadership is not recognized. A program of man's making is used in the so-called religious services on Sunday in the huge edifices. The preacher reads his sermon and his prayer to a group who has sinned during the week and comes to hear that everyone sins more or less every day. Many of them can hardly wait until the pipe organ finishes playing for the choir so they can get outside and light a cigarette. This nation needs to awaken to the fact that they have too long followed false prophets. They need some prophets like Isaiah who will tell them that God is tired of this and delights not in it. "My soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. I will hide mine eyes from you: when you make many prayers, I will not hear. Wash you and be clean." It is time that all repent and be saved. Real Bible salvation will keep one from sinning each day. Good works will not save anyone.

The last part of our lesson teaches us that we should look to God and not the world (Egypt). God can do all things. Man is just flesh. A woe is pronounced upon all who turn away from God.

December 12, 1965

#### JOSIAH

Printed Portion ..... 2 Kings 22:1, 2; 23:1-5, 25

2 Kings 22:1 Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah of Boscath.

2 And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.

23:1 And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem.

2 And the king went up into the house of the Lord, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the Lord.

3 And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

4 And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the Lord all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel.

5 And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven.

25 And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.

Memory Verse: Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. Psalm 119:9.

Practical Truth: God needs people who will not be afraid to stand for right.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Josiah had a wicked grandfather and father. They forsook the Lord God of Israel. Manasseh one time offered his son on an altar to his god. But in spite of this Josiah feared the true God. No doubt he had a good mother. Her name means beloved. We must not follow in the footsteps of those whom we love if they do wrong. It takes courage to do right in the face of the wrongdoing of our loved ones.

God gave Josiah a vision of what needed to be done to bring a revival in his country. No doubt he had to fight all kinds of fears but he boldly declared the will of God. When the word of God was read in the hearing of all, both small and great, God worked with that word and the people promised to keep it. The king then went to work to get rid of that which caused the people to sin. The vessels that were used to serve Baal were burned. He put down the priests that burned incense to the "host of heaven." Real turning to God causes a change to take place. Those who turn to God with all their hearts will have to put on the "whole armour of God" to fight in the battle against sin and the devil. God's people should always take a decided stand against wickedness wherever they see it.

December 19, 1965

#### JEREMIAH

Printed Portion ..... Jeremiah 31:15-17; 33:14-16; 31:31-34

Jer. 31:15 Thus saith the Lord; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.

16 Thus saith the Lord; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the Lord; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy.

17 And there is hope in thine end, saith the Lord, that thy children shall come again to their own border.



33:14 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.

15 In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land.

16 In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The Lord our righteousness.

31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord:

33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Memory Verse: In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. Jeremiah 33:15.

Practical Truth: Jesus brought a new life for the world.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The first verses of our lesson are referred to by Matthew as being fulfilled when Herod killed all the boy babies under the age of two years, after the birth of Jesus, thereby hoping to kill the Christ. (Matt. 2:17, 18).

The prophet got a vision of the coming of Christ whom he called a "Branch of righteousness." Through Christ, all who are saved are "Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." (Gal. 3:29). Therefore we who are saved are spiritual Jews and live in the "New Jerusalem" which came down from God out of heaven. Rev. 21:2, 3.

Today we can rejoice because Jesus has come. He taught the way from earth to heaven, then died on the cross for our sins. Thank God he arose and ascended up into heaven. After he left he sent the Holy Spirit. The last part of our lesson tells us what God promised to do through the Holy Spirit. Through forgiveness and the infilling of the Holy Spirit, God writes His laws in our hearts. We can live without sin each day. He gives us power to live according to His commandments. We are "new creatures" through the spiritual birth and have spiritual natures. The old covenant was to be replaced by the new covenant of grace.

December 26, 1965

#### NEHEMIAH

Printed Portion ..... Nehemiah 4:6-14, 21-23

Neh. 4:6 So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.

7 But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites,

heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth,

8 And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it.

9 Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

10 And Judah said, The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall.

11 And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease.

12 And it came to pass, that when the Jews which dwelt by them came, they said unto us ten times, From all places whence ye shall return unto us they will be upon you.

13 Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

14 And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

21 So we laboured in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared.

22 Likewise at the same time said I unto the people, Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labour on the day.

23 So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, saving that every one put them off for washing.

Memory Verse: And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it. Psalm 90:17.

Practical Truth: We need to recognize our enemies and fight against them with the whole armour of God.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Nehemiah was a cupbearer for the Persian king. He did not let his place of position and life keep him from having a burden for his people and Jerusalem from which they had been taken captive. The king noticed his concern and, after inquiry, authorized him to lead his people in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem and bringing the people together.

First we notice there was a burden given Nehemiah from God, then a vision through faith, of what could be done. Next through prayer the answer came. Nehemiah was on his way. Others caught the vision and their faith was inspired and our lesson said "the people had a mind to work." Co-operation is a wonderful thing and is needed greatly in the work of God. We have a great example of what can be accomplished through all watching, fighting and working together. Everything you start to do the devil will contest it. Be assured of that. But we do not need to be dismayed. God will bring us through if we will be willing to fight on and not become discouraged. Oh, for a greater vision of greater things to be done for God! should be the cry of every heart which belongs to God. Let God use your talent in His service. This is God's plan in extending His kingdom in the world today.

Sister Marie Miles