

FAITH^{AND} VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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The Crucifixion Scene

Borne away in mind and spirit,
To the solemn, awful scene,
Of Mount Calv'ry's sacred summit,
Where we see the crimson stream
Flowing from the side of Jesus,
That has washed us snowy white;
Here we seem in awe to compass,
Round the reeking cross tonight.

Hark! we seem to hear him utter
Pray'r of love so warm and true,
Do "forgive them, O my Father
For they know not what they do."
Once again the Savior crying,
Nature's pillars shake and give;
Lo! the Son of God is dying:
Guilty sinner, look and live.

O my Lord, what dreadful darkness,
Spreading sable gloom around,
Lo, thy death the rocks are rending,
Shaking deep the solid ground;
Suffered so creation's Author,
Sinful creatures to atone!
Can the human heart be harder
Than the flinty granite stone?

Round thy table here we gather,
And commune, dear Lord, with thee,
In the consecrated emblems,
Lo! thy precious blood we see—
See thy dear atoning passion,
And our holy unity.
Oh, we'll keep thy blest memorial,
Till anew we sup with thee.

—D. S. Warner

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you." Luke 22:19, 20

Christ's Resurrection

In the fifteenth chapter of First Corinthians we find an able defense of the resurrection of the dead by the Apostle Paul. He argues—"If the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised." There seems to have been some at Corinth who admitted that Christ had risen again but denied the resurrection of the dead. The apostle's argument was that if Christ was raised from the dead, mankind may be raised; if mankind cannot be raised from the dead, then the body of Christ was never raised. And since the whole structure of Christianity is built on the fact that Christ is risen and is at the right hand of God, ever living to make intercession for us, to deny the resurrection is to strike at the very root of the Christian religion. If it be true that Christ was not raised, then we have no hope and are yet in our sins. But Paul's argument reaches its climax in the bold declaration, "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man [Adam] came death, by man [Christ Jesus] came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (vss. 20-22).

The future resurrection of the dead hinges entirely on the fact that Christ is risen. And of his resurrection there is abundant proof. The evangelist Matthew, who was an apostle of the Lord, records the fact that "the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men" (Matt. 28:2-4). One writer describes this scene thus: "A profound, solemn stillness reigns all around, broken only by the tread of the guards as they pace backwards and forwards before the tomb of the crucified Prince of peace. The grave lies mute and closed before us; its seal remains unbroken. It would seem that the reign of the pretended new King of Zion was gone forever. But what now? Of a sudden the earth begins to tremble; the rocks are rent asunder all around with fearful crash; superhuman forms, bright as lightning and in garments

white as snow, glide down from the heights of heaven to the garden. They are holy angels. One of these gracious messengers approaches the tomb, touches the mass of rock which held it closed, and in a moment the seals are burst, the ponderous stone is rolled away, and from the open portal of the grave there steps forth, radiant with heavenly glory, him who was dead!—and, behold, 'is alive forever more.' "

From this angel that rolled the stone from the tomb we have positive testimony of Christ's resurrection. "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."

On several occasions before his death, Christ assured his disciples that after his death he would rise again on the third day. We have the recorded testimony of four inspired evangelists—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—that his resurrection actually took place. Angels from heaven testified the same truth to the women who came early to the sepulcher. Soon after, "When Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene" (Mark 16:9). Paul informs us "that he arose again the third day according to the scriptures; and that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: after that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time" (1 Cor. 15:4-8). In Acts 1:2, 3, it is further stated that "unto the apostles . . . he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."

Thus we have the testimony of many witnesses that Christ actually rose from the dead. It is equally certain that they saw him, not as a common man, nor as a ghost, but as their risen Lord—the one only Son of God. Revelation assures us that there will be a resurrection of the body. This hope the Christian church now possesses; for God has "begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Pet. 1:3).

Generally, those who oppose the resurrection endeavor to show that such a thing is incredible and utterly impossible. They cite such instances as bodies cremated and the ashes scattered to the winds, evaporating into air or falling to the earth and being assimilated into the vegetable kingdom; bodies drowned or buried in the sea and eaten by the fish, or people that have been eaten by cannibals. They argue that a resurrection of the body in such cases is absurd. We answer them in the language Paul used in his defense before King Agrippa: "Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?" (Acts 26:8). We maintain that it is reasonable and possible.

In this light, let it be remembered that "the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead . . .

shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit" (Rom. 8:11). Again, it is said, "He which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus" (2 Cor. 4:14). People seem to forget the power of Omnipotence. The same mighty power that raised up Christ from the dead shall raise us up also. He is the "first fruits of them that slept." On the omnipotence of God we take our stand and defy every attack against the doctrine of the resurrection. We scorn all attempts to wrest from us our hope, through a supposed impossibility of the resurrection, as puny struggles against the omnipotence of God. Did he not first construct a human form from the dust of the earth? Did he not breathe into a mass of clay the breath of life? And when he again speaks, shall it not be done? Can he not again bring bone to bone, sinew to its sinew, flesh to its flesh? Fear not, Christian! Thy dust may be scattered to the winds of heaven—but thy God is there. It may repose in the lowest abyss of the grave—he is there. It may dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea—even from there he shall bring thee forth, incorruptible and glorious, like unto that body which now receives the homage of the angels around the throne. Thou shalt be raised at the last day. Let us "comfort one another with these words."

Yes, this is our hope and comfort. "We look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile 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). Just as the first fruits and the first ripe sheaf were offered to the Lord, Christ's resurrection is the pledge and promise of a coming harvest.

In the light of science there is no incomprehensible enigma presented in the doctrine of the resurrection. In fact, the resurrection does not necessarily require that the identical flesh that composed the body when laid away in the grave shall compose the body raised in incorruption. No fact is more familiar to the student of science than that our present bodies are subject to continual change. As our bodies grow, new matter is added to them, besides the repairing of what is continually spent. In the course of a few years, that change is entire. Of the particles which composed the body in infancy, not one remains in youth; of those which filled out the frame in youth, not one remains in middle age; and so on. It is claimed that every seven years the body has undergone a complete change. But mark well the fact that, through this everchanging process identity is not lost. Something abides; and this is the most essential thing of all. Call it what you may—the vital principle, the law of assimilation and arrangement, the organic force—it remains permanent, and as the old materials are thrown off they are replaced with new. Paul goes deep into this thought by presenting a similitude in 1 Cor. 15:36-38. This something, like a germ in the seed, to which it corresponds, may lie dormant for ages, and in God's appointed time, under divinely arranged conditions, awake again from the dust of the ground, from the atmosphere about us, or from the depths of the sea.

"With God all things are possible." As truly as Jesus' body, which was laid in Joseph's tomb, came forth a glorified and immortal body—for he "dieth no more," and "death hath no more dominion over him"—so shall we be raised and our "body fashioned like unto his glorious body."

"So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption; it is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power: it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body" (1 Cor. 15:42-44). Whatever difficulties may present themselves in connection with the resurrection, whatever obstacles of a miraculous or supernatural nature may to our minds appear—for in these things we are but limited in understanding—are easily met by remembering the truth enunciated by Christ himself in connection with this very subject when he confounded those who did not believe in it, by saying, "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God." —H. M. Riggle

"BUT GOD . . ."

"But God, who is rich in mercy for his great love wherewith he loved us, . . . hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." Eph. 2:4-6.

I was lost in sin one time. I was fulfilling the desires of the flesh and mind. Pride was dominating my life. Condemnation was upon my soul. What joy I could drain from life did not satisfy my soul. My burden was heavy, "but God, who is rich in mercy" came to my rescue. God sent his Spirit to draw me to Himself. God lifted me up. God gave me hope, God heard my cry of repentance and forgave me of all my sins. God saved my soul. My life had been miserable, but God gave me "beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness." Isa. 61:3. Praise His precious name! What a change took place when God came in! I became a new creature in Christ Jesus, old things passed away and all things became new.

As time went on, I felt the need of more power in my life. When I saw the death I had to die, it looked like a mountain but God gave me the grace to say "yes" to all of His will and the Sanctifier came in to stay. I was baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire. God started a fire in my soul that is still burning. Salvation was complete. Praise the Lord! What God did for me He will do for you.

As time went on, I faced many problems and afflictions, but God never failed me. He came to my rescue. He healed me when I was sick. He worked out problems that I committed to Him. He worked miracles in my life. He is still doing that today. If I didn't have God, I don't know what I would do.

God has helped many down through the ages in the past. God is the same today. I think about Paul and Silas, who were ministers of God, laboring for Him. They were beaten and put in prison. There

they called on the Lord, trusted and waited. They didn't know what to do, "but God, who is rich in mercy" shook that prison and the jailer. The doors flew open and the jailer fell upon his knees. He wanted to know what he must do to be saved. He was desperate and had come to the end of his way, but God looked upon him and through His mercy He saved his soul and gave him peace within.

Sometimes we are taken out of active service for God. We do not understand it all, but God has some things He wants to teach us or to help us show others that God does give grace in the battles of life. I think of the Apostle John who was put on the Isle of Patmos. He probably wondered what God had for him to do there. But God appeared to him, and while John was in the Spirit He showed him things "which is, and which was, and which is to come." God can make the bed of affliction, the duties of confinement, or the daily sameness a blessing to us and to others if we will cheerfully and humbly accept His will in our life.

Daniel faced the lions' den. He trusted God to take care of him and he continued to pray unto God daily and make his requests known. He was thrown into the lions' den, but God sent his angel down and closed the lions' mouths. We are serving the same God today, so take courage and look up. It might look dark up to the very last moment, but God will not fail. God changes conditions.

The Apostle Paul suffered many things. One time he was stoned and dragged out of the city as dead, but God, while the saints stood around him in prayer, brought him back to life and he got up and went back into the city. He still trusted God. Acts 14:19, 20. Paul said, "We are troubled on every side [crowded], yet not distressed [crushed]; we are perplexed [puzzled], but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed [overthrown but not overcome]." We would be, "but God, who is rich in mercy," helps us to be more than conquerors through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Dear ones, take courage. God never sleeps. His eye is upon His children and He will see them through. You who are in sin, God will make your life anew if you will cry unto Him. —Sister A. Marie Miles

Have You Seen Him?

Isaiah saw Him in the temple. Moses found Him in the wilderness. The Hebrew children saw Him in the furnace. Job found Him in the midst of severe affliction. Jacob saw Him at Bethel when beset by danger. He came to Joseph in the dungeon after years of imprisonment and slavery. Jesus was led by the spirit into the wilderness, just previous to the beginning of his life-work. Paul was given a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet him, that the power (and revelations) of Christ might be entrusted to him.

Strange places to meet the King! Are we willing to go our part of the way, that we may meet Him face to face? —Lottie Jarvis

"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.

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

EDITORIALS

A hearty welcome is extended to the many new readers who became regular subscribers by returning the subscription remittance envelope attached to the wrapper of those copies which expired with the March issue. Numbers have expressed how glad they were to get those three trial issues, and now they do not want to be without it.

We have nothing to offer except the truth of God's eternal Word. Jesus said to the Jews in the temple, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:32, 36. That truth, if believed from the heart, will liberate the soul from sin and darkness, and place his feet on the "highway of holiness" which leads to eternal bliss. Jesus saith unto Thomas, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6. Jesus was the truth personified. Jesus answered Pilate, "Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Pilate saith unto him, What is truth?" John 18:37, 38. The record does not say that Jesus answered the question in words. It needed none, for the truth in person was standing before Pilate.

"Truth is opposed to hypocrisy, dissimulation or formality."—Cruden.

In the King James version the term "Easter" is used one time with reference to the Jewish Passover, found in Acts 12:4. The Emphatic Diaglott renders the Greek word "Passover" in this text, as does all other translations which we consulted. The term "Easter," which is the name of the old Teutonic goddess of spring, came into use years later. This pagan term was likely adopted by Papal Rome, but it has no connection with true Christianity. Actually, the present observance of "Easter" comes after the Passover, for Christ's death coincided with the Jewish Passover feast. The Apostle Paul writes: "For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us." 1 Cor. 5:7. He was the blameless Lamb of God that was slain to fulfill the symbolic Paschal lamb of the Passover.

The evil power of unbelief is so bold and strong today that the existence of God is challenged, not merely by skeptics, infidels and atheists, but also by theologians, ministers and bishops who profess to be Christian. It is ridiculous, and shows how far a false Christianity can drift. In fact they have become atheists and have no basis of truth to stand on. The existence of God is the most basic truth for the believer. What would a minister have to preach and what would be the need of his position if there were no God? It is blasphemy emanating from the pit of hell.

Looking under the surface it is quite true that nominal Christianity is now telling in words what they have been saying in actions over the centuries, "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof," as described by the apostle Paul in 2 Tim. 3:5. Again Paul writes of this class: "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth; . . . men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith."

The prophet Isaiah says: "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither is his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." Isa. 59:1, 2. Under the teaching and practice of the sin-you-must religion, multitudes of professors are separated far from God. Their sins have hid His face from them, that He will not hear their formal prayers. No wonder they finally conclude in their own depraved minds that "God is dead," when the fact is that they themselves are "dead in trespasses and sins." "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." Eph. 5:14.

Thank God, He does have a pure Church—a holy remnant who have personally experienced the regenerating, cleansing and healing power of God in their lives. Yet each member must constantly take heed to God's Word, watch and pray, lest he become blinded and fall from grace after the same example of unbelief.

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Sister Sharon Watkins, one of the office workers, is on a two-weeks' trip to Arizona and California to visit relatives and friends.

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Just off the press is a reprint edition of an interesting book which has been out of print many years. This narrative, "The Deacon of Dobbinsville," by the late J. A. Morrison, was written perhaps 45 or 50 years ago, with the setting in the Ozark hills of eastern Missouri. Contrasted in this account based on actual happenings are the nominal religious professors of that day, and on the other hand the individuals who had been soundly converted, made new creatures in Christ, filled with the Spirit and rejoicing on the "highway of holiness."

This book consists of 64 pages in heavy paper binding. Price: 35c each, plus 10c for postage on mail orders. Write for your copy today!

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Preparations are moving forward to reprint more of the out-of-print books, especially some of the larger volumes, written by the pioneer ministers of the Reformation. Requests have come in for various titles of these excellent books, and as time and help permits and as the means are supplied we will get these books ready for the reading public. We pray that these vital truths will never perish from the earth. We covet your prayers without ceasing and solicit your continued co-operation in fulfilling the world-wide need of literature evangelism. —L. D. P.

OBITUARIES



Theodore R. Carter, son of Katie Williams and Tom Carter, was born January 18, 1933, at Hammond, La. He passed away on the 16th day of February, 1966 at his home in Hammond. He reached the age of 33 years and 28 days.

At the age of twelve he was converted into a new life in Christ, was steadfast in the faith and remained an obedient servant of Jesus to the end.

We do now entrust him into the hands of a loving God, and are confident he went peacefully into the Haven of Rest to be with Christ. He grew in grace and was a faithful, patient, and devoted son in the home, serving the Lord to the best of his ability, being very attached to the family.

He leaves to mourn his departure his parents, six brothers, eight sisters, a grandmother, 37 nieces and nephews and a host of relatives and friends.

Silently he closed his eyelids,
Near the ending of the day.
God had called, oh, so gently;
Quietly he slipped away.

"Come unto me, ye who are weary,
Come, and I will give you rest."
There he lay, so softly sleeping
In his last eternal rest.

In his youth he heard God calling:
"Repent and cleanse your life from sin,"
To be a laborer in His vineyard
Through one score years God gave to him.

We know this life is full of trials,
But through God's grace we stand the test.
For we know God, in His wisdom,
Always knows just what is best.

For the ones he left behind him,
It is so hard to say goodbye,
But we have the hope that some day
We will meet beyond the sky.

—Obituary and poem written by his sister,
Evelyn (Carter) Lee

(Theodore Carter, better known as Teddy in the Hammond, La. congregation, was loved by all the saints who came to the campmeetings. Teddy was a total invalid upon a stretcher. He became blind in later years, and yet continued to come to campmeetings. He was an inspiration to the children and young people who would see about him during the meeting. Different ones of the saints took turns feeding him and reading the Scriptures to him. He will be missed by all. The saints were very attentive to him, both when he was living, and when he died, being surrounded by a number of the saints at his deathbed. His last words were, "I want to go all the way. Though He slay me, yet will I serve Him." About ten minutes before death, he said, "I am happy. Praise the Lord!" —Salvatore Didio)

Eunice (Spears) Thomas was born Dec. 27, 1926 to Mr. and Mrs. Boley Spears at Boley, Okla., and departed this life on Feb. 5, 1966 in Los Angeles, Calif.

She was married to Jimmie Thomas. To this union no children were born.

Survivors include her devoted parents, Mr. and Mrs. Boley Spears, Boley, Okla., two sisters and one brother, Mrs. Anna May Thompson, Boley, Okla., Kytus Spears,

and Gwendolyn Nunley of Los Angeles, Calif., and a host of relatives, saints and friends.

We watched you slowly fade away.
We tried so hard to make you stay,
But God was watching from above,
And took you in His tender love.

Funeral services were conducted by Woodrow Warren, Sister Kathryn Williams, and Bro. Lewis Williams.

Card of Thanks

We wish to thank everyone for your love offerings, telegrams, flowers, cards, and other deeds of kindness during the illness and death of our daughter, Eunice (Spears) Thomas. We deeply appreciate the saints and friends who visited Eunice in Los Angeles where she lived during her illness, for praying with her, and those who came to share with us in our bereavement. All this has helped lift the grief of the passing of our daughter. We desire you to continue to pray for us.

—Mr. and Mrs. Boley Spears and family

PERMIT GRANTED TO CALIFORNIA SAINTS

In the February issue of the "Faith and Victory" paper, there was a notice inserted in behalf of the saints in California in regard to the Churches of God in California issuing bonds to install fixtures and equipment in the home for the aged saints on the Church of God campground in Pacoima, California. Since that time, the permit has been granted by the Corporation Commission of the state of California for the bond issue and everything is being prepared for it now. It took longer to get the application for the permit processed than had been thought so the whole schedule was set back some but now the permit is in hand and the bonds will be released for distribution the 27th of March.

These bonds pay 7% interest per year which makes them a pretty good investment for anyone who has some money to invest. I received several good replies from the notice in the February issue and most all of the top half have been assigned on advance orders. Most that are available now are in the 12-to-20-year range.

If anyone is interested in this program and this type of investment you can contact me as soon as possible and I will give full information to any interested parties.

—Signed: Ostis B. Wilson,
12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, California

Campmeeting Dates for 1966

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

Tulsa, Oklahoma—June 3 to 12.

Holly Hill, S. Carolina—June 3 to 12.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 24 to July 3.

General Southern—Hammond, La.—June 24 to July 3.

California State—Pacoima, Calif.—July 8 to 17.

Missouri State—Myrtle, Mo.—July 8 to 17.

Akron, Ohio—July 8 to 17.

National Campmeeting—Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo.
July 22 to 31.

Oklahoma State—Guthrie, Okla.—August 5 to 14.

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REPORT OF MEETING AT HOLLY HILL, S. C.

Dear Saints, greetings in the precious name of Jesus: We are thankful to send in a report on the meeting which Bro. and Sister Sam Abbott held here at Holly Hill. Each night as the preached word went forth under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, each soul was certainly blessed. Although there was not much response from the sinners, thank the Lord, each saint received much blessing from the Word, and was much encouraged to press on. Sister Abbott was sick for a few nights but the Lord undertook for her.

We want to thank each of you who prayed for the meeting. It was a blessing to have Bro. and Sister Abbott with us again, and we hope they will soon return.

Our campmeeting here at Holly Hill, S. C. is drawing nigh. The campmeeting will be held June 3 to 12, 1966. All are invited to come. Pray that the Lord will bless this meeting.

Your Brother in Christ,

—O'Neal Pratt

Meeting Notices

SPRING MEETING AT BOLEY, OKLA.

The Church of God annual spring meeting at Boley, Okla. will be held April 15 through 24, Lord willing.

We are looking to the Lord to send ministers of His own choosing. Saints, pray much for the meeting that God's approval will be upon the services. —Sis. Ora Spears
Route 1, Box 108, Boley, Okla.

LOS ANGELES SPRING REVIVAL

Lord willing, the Los Angeles annual spring revival will convene April 1, through April 10, 1966 at the chapel at 1381 Walnut St., Los Angeles, Calif. All are welcome and urged to come, and expect the Lord to manifest His presence. We solicit your prayers.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. I. C. Chandler. Phone FA 5-6752 at 415 11th St., Bakersfield, Calif. or Bro. T. R. Summers, phone 758-8319 at 207 E. 76th Pl., Los Angeles, Calif. 90003.

REVIVAL MEETING AT DAYTON, OHIO

A 10-day revival meeting will be held at Dayton, Ohio starting the first of April and ending on Easter Sunday, with all-day meeting. The ordinances of the Church will be observed on Easter. All are welcome to come.

—William A. McCoy, Pastor

SPRING MEETING IN OKLAHOMA CITY

The spring meeting at the Church of God, 3rd and Phillips, Okla. City, Okla. will be held, the Lord willing, on May 6 through May 15, 1966. You are cordially invited to attend. Come praying. For further information, contact Bro. Herman D. Kelley, Pastor, 2304 N. Everest, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

SINGING AT SHREVEPORT, LA. ON EASTER

A gospel singing will be held at the chapel at Shreveport, La. on Easter Sunday afternoon, April 10. The West Monroe and Midway congregations plan to meet there on Easter. Come and worship the Lord in song.

—C. C. Carver

NATIONAL CAMPGROUND AFFAIRS

Again we greet the Body of Christ that has been purchased with the shed blood of God's Son.

As some of you are aware, we are no longer living at Carthage, Missouri, but have moved to the State of Alabama. Because of this, we will be unable to continue to serve in the capacity of business manager for the National Campground at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo.

We have enjoyed the privilege of being a servant to the people of God. The many times of trial and toil are repaid each time we witness the saints of God gathering together in love.

Our thanks and appreciation go to all who have helped with the care and responsibility of the grounds.

Bro. Ralph Beisly has agreed to resume the duties as business manager until the next general business meeting at the coming campmeeting, at which time the general assembly can make necessary plans for the future. All correspondence regarding the grounds, etc. should be addressed to Bro. Ralph Beisly, 407 Eldridge, Coffeyville, Kansas.

We have felt the approval of God in our recent move and ask an interest in your prayers that we may be of greater service to the Lord.

We would appreciate hearing from any of the saints, and since there is no congregation of the church in this community, pray that God will bring us in contact with honest souls. If you are acquainted with anyone in this area who would be interested in the truths of the Church of God, we would be happy to receive their name and address.

We may be reached through our temporary address: Kenneth Probst, 302 N. 31st, Gadsden, Alabama.

If you are passing through, you can reach me at my business phone—Area code 205—547-5472.

Yours in Christ, —Bro. Kenneth Probst

PLANS FOR EVANGELISTIC TENT MEETINGS

Bro. and Sister Mart Samons of Fairborn, Ohio feel that the Lord is directing them to take the evangelistic tent out into new fields during the school vacation summer months. Lord willing, they will start the tent meetings as soon as their three boys are out of school to accompany them.

This move is an answer to prayer to fill a long-felt need when we remember that the tent was used very little last summer. This is a very important and worthwhile endeavor to reach souls with the gospel. Their fields of labor will likely be in Kentucky, Indiana and the Carolinas.

The tent and equipment are at the home of Bro. Ralph Beisly, Coffeyville, Kansas. Bro. Beisly, treasurer of the National Missionary Fund which sponsors the tent meetings, reports that the truck which hauls the equipment and pulls the house trailer needs a new and larger motor. He intends, as the Lord supplies, to get this larger motor installed as soon as possible, and get everything in readiness for Bro. Samons and company.

Traveling from place to place with the truck and house trailer, setting up and taking down the tent, is very strenuous work, requiring much physical effort besides the spiritual responsibility involved in holding the meetings. Bro. and Sister Samons would appreciate some consecrated and qualified gospel workers to go and help them in this endeavor. If the Lord speaks to your heart, please contact Bro. Mart Samons, 58 Erie St., Fairborn, O.

Since these tent meetings are planned to be held mostly in new fields where there is not likely to be much

financial support, the church will need to assume this responsibility and count it a privilege to have a part in the harvesting of souls for the kingdom of God. For this purpose, please send your free-will offerings directly to the National Missionary Fund, Bro. Ralph Beisly, treas., 407 Eldridge St., Coffeyville, Kansas. Above all, pray earnestly that the Lord will bless the effort and that the Holy Spirit will carry the gospel message to the hearts of the hearers. God must give the increase. Will you pray and do your part? —Lawrence Pruitt

Prayer Requests



Nebr.—"I hurt my right hip and leg." M. Sultzbaugh
Ala.—Serious throat trouble. E. Michen
New York—Been ill for five years. E. Jackson
Ark.—"I want the Lord to heal some growths on my body." Sister Bray.

Ala.—Growth on eyelid. Sister Whitson
Ohio—Heart races, other afflictions. Mrs. M. Russell
Md.—Nervous trouble, no one to pray for her. Mrs.

J. P. Rambe

Va.—Arthritis, other pains. Mary Pecus

Mo.—Bad eyes. Kerry Marler.

Ind.—Diabetes, kidney trouble. Effie Walls

Ind.—Bro. and Sister Lowell Wilson are neither one well. Bro. L. Wilson has palsy. Do earnestly take them to the Lord in prayer.

Kans.—Sister Hann has a lot of swelling in her limbs. She is looking to the Lord to heal her.

Calif.—Husband left with neighbor woman, won't support wife and retarded child.

Fla.—Not well and has a sick brother. Audrey Fowler

Ga.—Suffers in shoulders, arms, and fingers. Sister

P. R. Bowers

La.—Sister Patsy Doolittle's little boy had a heart attack.

Calif.—Arthritis, painful to get around; wants to be a blessing to others. Sister Hoffman

Va.—Daughter gone for two years; pray that she will find her. Mrs. Bonnie Burgess.

Tenn.—Afflicted. Mrs. J. Willis

Okla.—Bro. C. Fry had a heart attack. God undertook, but still needs prayer.

Okla.—Remember Bro. Audney and Sister Etta Davis. They both have afflictions.

Pray for Bro. Wayne Turner in the State prison at Angola, La. that God will give him grace and courage to keep victorious. He was assigned as the secretary of the Protestant chaplain. We can send him literature but no letters. Only those on an approved list can write.

Pray for Bro. Darius Gibson of Seymour, Mo., a traveling minister who has been confined at home with a serious affliction but not too serious for the Lord. He and Sister Gibson both need to be strong and well for the gospel work. I visited them on March 18.

Pray for the complete healing of Sister Coffey, Sister Key and Bro. Pinkerton of Hammond, La. and Bro. Oscar Williamson of Loranger, La.

Pray for the aged saints in the Golden Rule Home at Shawnee, Okla.

Pray earnestly for Sister Sam Abbott. Since they returned home from S. Carolina she has been so weak and frail. She is nervous and has trouble in her breathing.

We are still praying and expecting God to keep a young girl from marrying a married man, and many other serious conditions that we desire God to work out. We are thankful for what the Lord has been doing for those who have requested prayer.

I was reading in Eph. 1:19, 20 and those verses teach us the exceeding, great and mighty power that brought Christ out of the grave and set him at the right hand of God is to "us-ward who believe." Can you not take that in? I have had a battle with a virus that was going around. A wave of sickness hit me as I was getting my husband his breakfast. I had to sit down. These verses came to my mind. I applied some of that great power against that affliction and it instantly left me. I continued my duties and ate breakfast. I haven't had any touch of it since. We need to believe and use the power of God against the afflictions and problems that touch our lives.

—Sis. Marie Miles

MISSIONARY REPORT FROM INDIA

Kerala, S. India (March 3)—My dear Bro. Pruitt: I send my greetings again in Christian love and fellowship in the name of Jesus Christ who has done so much for us.

Thank you so much for your very kind letter dated Feb. 15 with the enclosed draft for helping a congregation in the purchase of a cemetery. I extend the deeply felt thanks from the brethren and believers of that congregation at Niranam. The brethren are busy looking for a suitable site for the cemetery and are sure they will purchase it shortly. They are much encouraged and are burdened for every soul in sectism.

I have already started the building of the chapel and God is helping us marvelously to prosper with the building in spite of oppositions from denominational Sanballats and Tobiahs. But God is great and He alone doeth great wonders.

The Lord gave us a precious soul and I baptized him in a river with the company of believers. This brother is a field officer working in a sugar factory. His family and parents were against him, but the Spirit of God granted him boldness to obey the Lord.

I am striving hard with straitened financial resources to disburse the money the Lord has given us to a few workers. I know you are willing to help us the best you can. I do not make commitments to the workers to give to them monthly, but at the same time the burden rests upon me to see that half a dozen workers are supplied with a small pittance. May God strengthen your hands to drop the fragments and crumbs from your table for the hungry and spiritually starving souls.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration for the work here. I will send you in my next letter an itemized account of the money disbursed. Yes, we are walking by faith, and not by sight.

I have halfway finished translating the tract, "Church Membership," so that I can publish it when a favorable occasion arises. I am trusting in the Lord to publish other tracts and literature. The booklet, "Image to the Beast," in Malayalam has not yet come out of the press. The manager promised me to send them out after another week. He suffers power cut as do all mills, factories and presses in Kerala. I will send your sample copies subsequently.

I received the "Evening Light Songs" books and the "Faith and Victory" issues, along with other tracts and books. Thank you very much. The songs are inspiring and thrilling. I go through the lines with rich reflections of the early pioneers' experiences. Praise the Lord!

Remember to pray for us that we may stand in defense of the full gospel and declare the whole counsel of God and that all men will be convinced that we are the people of God, the true Church of God, the Body of Christ.

We are saved to be together in Christ in Spirit and in unity.

Please pray for the half a dozen workers who need to be supported monthly. "The Lord will provide" is our motto. May the flow of resources be incessant. May the hearts of the saints be opened to reach their hands for God's needs in India. Our earnest prayers are for all of you.

Yours in the fellowship of His service,

—C. M. Verghese

MEXICO MISSIONARY REPORT

Dear Co-workers at the Lord's Print Shop, I greet you in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ, praising Him for His wonderful goodness to me as well as all His children: Amen.

Please forgive me for not answering sooner and acknowledging the missionary offering. Thank the Lord and all His faithful children. It was gratefully received and much needed. There has been much expense for tires, new licenses, one new engine, one transmission, brakes, and other things in general which seem to come all at once on six vehicles, so we surely appreciate the help. We would rather not need to say anything about money for we know that God knows our needs. However, since we are all still human, it seems needful for our pure minds to be stirred up occasionally. We know that our adversary sometimes causes God's children to believe there is no need here, or there, and so on. Oh, how we need to live so close to the Lord that we can hear and discern His voice!

In Patzcuaro Sisters Edith Cole and Carrie Sheppard now have four new pews to help accommodate the people. On Saturday, children's meeting has numbered as many as 90 little ones. The Sunday services are well attended with God's Spirit prevailing.

In Santa Catarina, Sister Opal Kelly has 20 students in the day school. She was much encouraged with Sunday worship service.

During the illness of Virginia Wittenborn's father, she has had to be away from Rosarito. James and Charlotte Huskey have been conducting services on Sunday.

Bro. Tomas keeps busy in El Alamo and Valle de Trinidad. Sister Ruby Marken and her parents are also in Alamo.

From Ensenada, Geneva Hite sends an urgent request to all the saints to pray for Sister Rufina who originally opened her yard for services there. She is very ill with what seems to be cancer.

Please continue to pray that means will be provided to build a chapel in Ojos Negros.

The workers were privileged to have Bro. Herbert Probst visit the field recently.

Sister Greer from Los Angeles spent two weeks with Violet Cable in Rosarito. Violet has been ill and is now at home. Pray for God's hand to rest upon her and guide her future with His tender care. She is a consecrated worker.

In closing, I will repeat that the fields are white, the workers are still few in comparison, but God is great. We are encouraged to press on and see precious souls bowing at Jesus' feet, washed in the blood, to live faithful to the very end and hear Him say, "Well done," that they may enter into the place prepared before the foundation of the world. Amen.

Your brother in behalf of all the workers,

—Harland Smith

317 E. Cucamonga, Claremont, Calif.

REPORT OF NIGERIAN MISSION WORK

Under date of March 4 Bro. B. U. Etuk of the Nigerian mission, West Africa, writes a cover letter and enclosed the 4-page typewritten report of the mission activities for the month of February written by the secretary, Bro. Nse B. Umanah.

They report that the spread of the recent measles epidemic among the mission stations has been arrested, and they thank the Church here for their prayers for the affected folks.

The detailed report is summarized as follows: On Sunday, Feb. 6, a combined service was held at Ikot Obio Inyang. The Sunday school was conducted by Bro. Brownson Inyang, with Bros. John J. Udo, O. B. Akpan and Brownson Udeme as helpers. Bro. Friday Jonah conducted the general service.

On the second Sunday of February Bro. B. U. Etuk, Pastors Stephen Akpan, Jackson U. Etuk and Bro. Umanah went to Ikot Akai to preach. The members welcomed the messages. English and Efik tracts were distributed here.

A group fasting was held at Ukpom, all outlying stations being represented. Bro. Michael Amos conducted the meeting. Several ministers spoke on different subjects. The Holy Spirit was present to convict and to bless. Several souls came to the altar for spiritual and physical help and went away testifying of God's immediate visitation.

Bro. Udoffia narrated the events of his recent evangelistic trip to Benin City where there is a Church of God mission pastored by Bro. D. U. Enu.

On February 27 a special service was held at another station. It was well attended. Pastor Ben E. Udoka conducted the service. Bro. Willie Udoffia preached on the Church that Jesus built, using many texts of Scripture. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper was observed, with 128 participating.

The field is widening, and a number of congregations are asking for affiliation with the mission.

Bro. B. U. Etuk reports that he is improving from a stroke suffered last September, but appeals to the Church for unceasing prayer for his complete restoration.

Money was sent from the Missionary Fund to start the building of the "house of prayer," a place where the sick can be taken care of while prayer is being offered for them. In reply they asked our advice on where to locate the building. We advised them to build it at Ukpom where the ministers were having very good success in getting answers to prayer for the sick. No doubt they are now in the process of building. Let us pray that it will be completed speedily.

Resident missionaries are still needed on this vast field. Are you listening for the call of God?

—Lawrence Pruitt

Conscientious Objectors and the Draft

Who is a Conscientious Objector?

A conscientious objector is any person "who, by reason of religious training and belief, is conscientiously opposed to participation in war in any form. Religious training and belief in this connection means an individual's belief in a relation to a Supreme Being involving duties superior to those arising from any human relation, but does not include essentially political, sociological, or philosophical views or a merely personal moral code."

This is the definition in the draft law. Membership in a particular church—or in any church—is not a re-

quirement, though most conscientious objectors are members of some religious organization. Members of one hundred or more different religious denominations or sects have obtained recognition in recent years. And some are not members of any religious organization. But they have all claimed recognition as religious persons, men whose religious principles prevent them from participation in war and military service.

What Happens to Conscientious Objectors?

Every conscientious objector goes through the same registration and classification process as others who are required to register under the draft act. At age 18 he registers with his local board. Shortly after this his local board will send him their Form 100, the General Classification Questionnaire. On this form he completes Series VIII, declaring that he is a conscientious objector.

Then the local board sends him their Form 150, the Special Form for Conscientious Objector. By completing and returning this form he submits the information by which he may be classified in Class I-A-O, if he objects to combatant military duty only, or in Class I-O, if his objection is to all military training and service.

If he is a student, or a father, or physically handicapped, or otherwise eligible for special consideration, he submits this information also, in addition to his claim as a conscientious objector. His local board is under obligation to consider him for any deferment or exemption for which he may be eligible. He may appeal from any classification which he believes to be improper. Finally, if classified in Class I-A-O as an objector to combatant military service he will be inducted for noncombatant duty only. If classified I-O as an objector to all military service he will be ordered by his local board to perform some appropriate form of civilian work in lieu of induction into the armed services.

Selective Service regulations require that a registrant be placed in the lowest class for which he is determined to be eligible, with I-A considered the highest and I-C the lowest.

Civilian Work in Lieu of Induction

He will serve in such civilian work for two years. While in this work he will be classified I-W. Over the last thirteen years more than 17,000 conscientious objectors have received this classification. More than 3,000 are in such service now. They are working in hospitals, welfare services, relief agencies, services for the mentally and physically handicapped, in war sufferers' relief and in other works of mercy in the United States and its possessions and in other countries around the world.

Where to Get Help

If you are a C. O. needing counselling service, write or telephone to the National Service Board for Religious Objectors, 604 Washington Building, 15th and New York Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20005. Telephone 393-4868—area code 202.

The National Service Board for Religious Objectors is a service agency for individual conscientious objectors and for churches and other religious organizations interested in conscientious objectors. The Board was established in 1940 to provide a common channel for dealing with government in matters concerning registrants who are conscientiously opposed to participation in war and military service. NSBRO does not itself advocate any particular expression of conscientious objection, but it attempts to represent faithfully the concerns of each of the constituent groups and of all individual conscientious objectors who desire its services. The policies of the or-

ganization are determined by a Board of Directors, and a Consultative Council from more than 40 different religious bodies shares in the concerns and problems of its work.

The NSBRO offers a carefully selected list of literature of interest to conscientious objectors facing conscription. A current complete list will be sent free on request. The following is a partial list:

Civilian Work Agency List
How to Fill in Form 150 for Conscientious Objectors
Questions and Answers on the Classification and Assignment of Conscientious Objectors
Sample Selective Service Forms
Statements of Religious Bodies on the Conscientious Objector.

The foregoing information is published for the benefit of those registrants who are conscientiously opposed to participation in war by reason of their religious training and belief, and for ministers who counsel CO's. —Editor

TESTIMONIES

Nigeria, West Africa (March 7)—To the dear saints everywhere: I must write now to tell of the wondrous love that Christ had for me and thousands of others under my care when on October 13, 1965 through Bro. C. C. Carver God called me and others into the Family of God. I made much intercession and fasting during that trying period when the news of a sudden break in my former ministry flashed into my ears from the United States of America. Many of my workers were depressed and confounded, but the Lord upheld me and others who confided in me. I had many days, weeks and months of incessant meditations and communion with God, giving Him the right-of-way, for it is written, "Vain is the help of man."

I have never questioned the Lord about the sudden break for nine months in my defunct Mission, as I felt that He has permitted it to happen for a purpose—a call to "come out of her [Babylon] my people, and be ye separate." This kept ringing in my ears whenever I prayed until October 12, 1965 when I came home from a trip. My wife showed me a scrap of paper on which was written, "A missionary from the Church of God wanted to see you." I felt that maybe the Lord had some message through him for me. The following morning I found my way through the guidance of the Lord to Ukpom Anang where the missionaries were staying for a purpose. We met each other for the first time, and the Lord was with us throughout the period we had religious conversations with each other. Indeed, I was filled with the blessings I cannot express. Believe me, brothers and sisters in the Lord when I say that the half had not been taught me in my former ministry. With no hesitation I agreed before Bro. Carver the affiliation with the congregations under my care. Praise the Lord!

Now I want to praise the Lord how wonderfully He has used me, and the power of the spoken words He has given me to be able to bring in for affiliation 18 congregations. Others are beckoning me and Bro. B. U. Etuk to come for some discussions before affiliation. I am planning a trip up there with Bro. Etuk on Friday, March 18, 1966, and the Secretary, Bro. Nse B. Umanah, to meet them and bring them into the true Family of God. Praise His holy name!

I am writing this letter with a sincere desire and prayer that it will surely prove a real blessing. I am glad I have taken His yoke upon me. Oh, what a remarkable change the teachings and practices of the Church of God have brought and wrought in my life! Thanks to

Brother and Sister Carver who brought me and my family, together with the congregations under my care, into the Family of God. Silver and gold have I none to give them, but may their shadows never grow less in life.

Your Brother in Christ,

—J. U. Etuk

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Calif.—Dear Children of God: "Cast thy bread upon the water: for thou shalt find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, and to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth." Eccl. 11:1, 2. In the perilous times in which we are living we surely do not know what evil shall come upon the earth. Knowing this, it behooves us to do all we can to see others saved. Are there those who have died without a Saviour because I have not given "a portion to seven and to eight"? Let us think.

The San Diego daily newspaper of March 4 stated that 42 persons have died from the flu in Tijuana, Mexico. What an opportunity for a gospel worker or missionary nurse to minister in these grief-stricken homes!

Death has claimed one who was very dear to all who have worked in Mexico. Grandmother Esquires passed away March 5. We feel confident she met her Lord in peace. She was reared a strict Catholic. Being very devoted to this religion, she taught her children in this manner. Although she has one daughter who is married to a missionary in Puerto Rico, Grandma Esquires says her first realization that Christ died for her sins came through her daughter-in-law, Sister Christina, who was saved under Bro. Harland Smith's ministry in Santa Catarina. Grandma Esquires could not read nor write, so daily whenever possible Sister Christina went to her home to read to her the word of life.

The Wittenborns have not been able to be at Rosarito for several weeks. Sister Greer and Violet Cable were there awhile. Bro. Tomas' family is there now. He is taking care of regular services different places in the desert, but spends a few days a week in Rosarito also, visiting and conducting mid-week services. James is there to fill in vacancies. Regular services and visiting are being carried on.

Perhaps some of you have sent mail addressed to P. O. Box 2075, San Ysidro, Calif. and had it returned. There were several of us getting mail at the same box and seldom anyone passing the post office during the day when the windows were open. In this situation it was very easy to hope the next person would pass during "open window" time and be able to pay the box rent. However, this did not happen and as a result the box was closed. We hope to soon get another box at this border town as it has been an asset to both American and Mexican brethren.

I find myself busy with domestic duties, private and family devotion to God, and a little visiting and calling on the phone to help souls around me. The children are enjoying school very much, and so far have not taken the flu. In my last letter I requested you to pray for Bobby in his spelling. God has answered and he is doing much better. In January James began the International Dental Institute course. This institution is "established for the purpose of training missionaries to do practical dental work on their field of service." If you feel God has called you to a mission field, this knowledge would be of interest to you.

Continually remember Sister Opal Kelly who is conducting day school and worship services at Santa Catarina. At present she has a Mexican girl staying with her, but the girl wants to go home as soon as there is someone else to stay with Sister Opal.

We trust you will continue to stand behind us as you have done in the past. We feel very indebted to the children of God for all you have done for us. May God repay you "pressed down, shaken together, and running over."

Yours in Christ, —James and Charlotte Huskey

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Mich.—Dear Sister Miles and saints of God: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, the only One able to deliver from the depths of sin and heal the worst affliction.

I'm writing this letter with a joyful heart. The Lord has done so much for me lately. I can testify that the Lord healed my infected finger. About a month ago I got a splinter in my finger. It swelled and kept getting worse for several weeks. Though I did not trust the Lord all the way, thank God, He had mercy and healed my finger. God really showed me things in this test that I'll never forget. Praise the dear Lord.

I promised the Lord about a year ago that if He would remove the warts on my hand, I would give my testimony through the "Faith and Victory." But I did not fulfill that promise and now I have three or four warts back on my hand. I'm not asking the Lord to remove these warts unless it is His will for I feel I disobeyed God. It pays to obey God, dear ones.

I would like the saints to pray for my grandfather who lost his dear wife on February 7. We don't know if she was prepared to meet God, but she loved the saints. Pray also that I may grow in grace.

With Christian love and prayers, —Larry Sneed

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Calif.—Dear Saints everywhere: It has been a long time since I've sent in a testimony to the paper. My heart is so full of love and praises to God for being so good to me and answering prayer so many times for me. It surely is a wonderful thing to know the Lord, and have His love in our hearts. How I've thanked God so many times for letting me be reared by good Christian parents, and being taught the true way! I thank God for the love of His children for each other. How happy it makes us to read the testimonies and know what God does for His children that will trust Him!

I promised the Lord that if He would heal me of a kidney infection, I would testify to it through the "Faith and Victory" paper. Eight years ago I had it for the first time. I've had it several times since then. Three weeks ago I was getting ready to move, when it hit me. The third day it was getting worse, and I knew I would not be able to do the work I had to do, unless the Lord touched me. On Friday afternoon I went to the Lord in earnest prayer. I asked the Lord to heal me of it and to let me start getting better, instead of worse. Praise His name, He surely answered prayer. By evening it was so much better, and the next morning it was completely gone.

Surely, it pays to live a close, prayerful life to God. We don't know how soon we will need Him, and we surely need to live where there is nothing standing in the way of our prayers reaching His throne.

Last October my husband took suddenly ill, just as he finished eating dinner. I saw he was real bad. I asked him if he wanted me to call a doctor (he is unsaved) and he said, "No, you can help me." I surely prayed as I worked with him. For awhile it looked as if it might be his time to go. But, oh, how I thank the Lord for answering prayer and sparing his life! He went to work the next morning but wasn't feeling well. I surely cried and prayed and begged God to be with him and take care of him and He surely did.

Dear saints, let us all be encouraged and keep on the forward march for the Lord. Surely there is nothing but sorrow, trouble and heartache in this old world. But if we live close to the Lord, someday we will hear Him say, "Well done, my faithful servant."

With Christian love, —Hazel Savage

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

Okla.—You will find enclosed \$1.00 for a subscription for your "Faith and Victory" paper for the next three years. I have enjoyed reading the three trial papers you sent me. I was saved one time there in Guthrie. The saints there know me. I have a brother in Salem, Oregon who has been a saint for fifty years. You know him, Bro. Harry Davis. He used to live at Guthrie.

I am reading the Bible and praying all the time trying to get back with God. I wish you would print in your paper asking all the saints to pray for me that I might get back with God soon. I want to be at the camp-meeting this year if there is any way possible. I am thanking each and everyone of you, and hope I get saved soon. Pray for me.

—Carl B. Davis

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Mo.—Dear Publishers: I am sending you \$1.00 for the "Faith and Victory" paper for another three years. I love to read this good gospel paper. Thank God that He ever made it possible for this fine paper to be published. Praise His holy name! Pray for me. —Mrs. Edith Nichols

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

Okla.—Dear Sister Miles, greetings in Jesus' holy name: I am receiving the "Faith and Victory" paper and it is a real blessing to my soul to read it, and I hope and pray it will visit my home the rest of my days here on earth. It is real spiritual food for the saints of God, and also to others who are hungry for the true Word of God.

I have been in this true gospel faith and teaching since 1927 and the more I read the more I want of it, for it is food for my soul. I love to read the letters, notes, and requests from the dear children of God, and I sincerely remember those requests in my daily prayers.

I also need the prayers of my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Some day we shall all meet face to face in our heavenly home to never part any more. Praise God! So let us all work and pray until Jesus calls us Home. We will not be strangers when we get there—just one big family of brothers and sisters in the fold of the Lord.

May God bless all of you dear ones who are doing such a marvelous work for souls who are in darkness.

Sincerely in Christ, —Lydia J. Jantz

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Mo.—May God bless the dear saints. I praise God for this great and wonderful salvation. I will be 88 years old the 30th day of March. I have been saved more than 54 years. The way grows brighter. I can truly say the outward man perishes, but the inner man is renewed day by day. My heart service to God is to pray for souls and pray for the sick. The dear saints take care of me and I am still able to be taken to meeting. Pray for me that I will be faithful to death.

"Jesus is all in all to me,
His blessed face I soon shall see,
And as I trust His love divine,
I feel the touch of His hand on mine."

—Sister Minnie Noakes

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

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie and all, greetings in Jesus' name: We do thank all you saints for your many prayers, cards, and letters during our great losses. Would you also put a note in the "Faith and Victory" paper thank-

ing all the saints for their prayers, cards, and letters during our sorrow in the loss of my son, Kenneth, killed in a plane crash in October, and my husband who passed away in February. We do appreciate all the saints and their kindness to us. Thank you kindly.

Love,

—Evelyn Linch and family

(Editor's note: Let us continue to offer special prayer for Sister Evelyn Linch of Calif. who has suffered sorrow upon sorrow with the recent passing of her son and husband. May the "God of all comfort" be her portion to give her sustaining grace and courage to face the future. She is Bro. Ira Stover's niece, and the daughter of Sister Edith Wittenborn.)

Wash.—Dear Sister Marie and Saints everywhere: I greet you in Jesus' dear name. I am trusting the Lord for body and soul. He has done so much for me. All glory to His name!

I want to testify to His glory about an accident I had the middle of January, 1966. I was attacked by a neighbor's cow and I was knocked down and trampled badly. I had a cut on my head that took eight stitches to close. I was bruised badly. The Lord healed me so wonderfully. I didn't want to go to the doctor but my husband, who is not saved, wouldn't listen. The blood was gushing out of my head and he was afraid. There were two or three things that looked like they might develop from the bruises, but I just held on to the Lord and didn't tell my husband because he would have taken me back to the doctor. God in his great mercy and love has completely healed me. I only went back to the doctor to be checked and get the stitches out. Praise the Lord! I do thank the dear saints who prayed for me. God has healed me so many times.

May the Lord bless all of you at the Lord's print shop. I remember you in prayer.

Your sister in the Lord,

—Mrs. Violet Thomas

Okla.—Dear Ones at the Faith Publishing House: Some sweet one had your little paper sent to us and we got so much good from it, so we are sending for it for a year. We go to the Church of God and we love it. The dear Lord is so good to us. We love His way of living. He has been so good to keep us well.

Please pray for our children. They need a closer walk with the Lord. We all stand in need of each other's prayers. Please pray for our grandchildren and our little great grand-daughter. She is just a baby, two years old. Her daddy left them. Please pray for her and her mother that God will keep them.

Your Brother,

—Oliver Lovelace

Okla.—Dear Saints and readers of the "Faith and Victory," greetings in the name of our dear Lord and Saviour: I feel led to send in my testimony, for the Lord has done so much for me.

I wish to thank each one for the prayers, cards and gifts and also for visiting me during my recent illness. May God bless each one.

I had been in ill health for quite some time. Then about the first of January I took my bed and for six weeks I had to have care 24 hours a day. I had terrible sores on my hip and could hardly move, and quite a bit of this time I can't even remember what happened. My loved ones had the fear that I had cancer. Some of my unsaved loved ones wanted me to go to the hospital. My husband went to see a doctor in Sapulpa who has been favorable to the saints in their belief. We are thankful for that. He came with the understanding that I didn't want any medication. He examined me and said

I had sugar diabetes, kidney infection and this terrible infection on my hip and without medical aid I would never be able to walk again. But thank the Lord, I'm able to walk now (Feb. 26) and have been out to services. What a mighty God we serve! My right hand was paralyzed, but thank God, I can even use it a little now. I still desire your prayers for my complete healing.

Yours in Christ,

—Sister E. A. Perkins,

(Written by Frances Perkins)

Kentucky—Dear Sirs: I want to subscribe to the "Faith and Victory" monthly paper for three years. Inclosed is \$1.00 for the subscription. I enjoy reading the paper very much. May God bless your work for Him. Sincerely,

—Mrs. Nelson Ratliff

Rhode Island—Dear Friends: May God's richest blessings be upon everyone at Faith Publishing House throughout 1966 and many years to follow.

Please remember me in your prayers. I am afflicted with arthritis. My trust is in the faithful God. There is nothing impossible, nor too hard for Him to do. He never fails, and is the same today as He was yesterday and will be the same today to the end of my journey. I say amen to His will. I am claiming Isa. 40:31.

A Sister in His service,

—Mrs. Mary A. Hazard

Arizona—Greetings in the name of our blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ:

I would like to say how much I have enjoyed reading your paper. Truly, it has been a great help to me. I do not remember the very nice lady's name that I met on the bus. She lives in California. It was very sweet of her to send my name in. God bless her.

Please remember me in your prayers. I pray God's blessings on all of you.

—Berenice Nelson

Illinois—Dear Sister Marie, greetings in Jesus' dear name: I wrote you about a month ago requesting prayer for my husband's ankle. He had sugar diabetes and his ankle was swollen badly. It was so sore that he could hardly walk. He had to drag his foot. As soon as I wrote for prayer for him, the dear Lord undertook and the swelling and soreness left his ankle. He can walk well again. All praises belong to the dear Lord, for He is the One who did the healing. We want to thank all the dear saints for being agreed in prayer with us. We love all the dear saints and would like to be with them in all the services if we could.

Pray for us that we will always be in the center of His will at all times. That is the desire of our hearts. We also have an unspoken request. We desire the saints to be agreed with us in prayer. The dear Lord knows all about it and I know He is able to take care of it for us.

With Christian love,

—Bro. and Sister Edw. Boling

Alabama—Dear Bro. Lawrence and saints: This brings Christian love to all. We are truly glad to know the people of God and have a vision of the beautiful Church of God. How sad to see so many professing to belong to the Church of God succumbing to the wine of Babylon and yoking up with sectism rather than lifting up a better way.

We have desired to write a testimony for some time to praise God for His goodness to us in both soul and body. The prayers of all were appreciated in behalf of my wife when she was so sorely afflicted. Our trust was in God alone and as always He did not fail us then. Since the Lord healed her body she has been completely free from all traces of infection. Also, our youngest girl was

afflicted with what seemed to be the same affliction about one month ago. For several days we were required to sit up with her day and night. Then one evening after prayer was again offered in her behalf, she immediately relaxed and began to laugh, showing no signs of pain. From that time, her recovery was so quick and complete we were made to praise God exceedingly.

By now, many of you know that we are living in Alabama. This move was almost a complete surprise to us, but as we were earnestly looking to God to make known His plan for our lives, this field opened before us and God worked in miraculous ways to convince us of His leadings. We sincerely desire the prayers of all that we may be a blessing in this area as well as receive a blessing to our souls. Our greatest desire is to prosper in spiritual matters and be as profitable unto our Master as possible.

Yours for the truth, —Kenneth, and LaVerna Probst
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Tenn.—Greetings to all the dear saints in Jesus' dear name: I feel I have a testimony for the glory of God. My heart rejoices for what the dear Lord has done for me recently.

Monday evening, when I came home from work, I felt cold and since I didn't have any fire, the house was cold, too. I decided to go to bed to get warm while the house warmed up. As soon as I got in bed and lay down I found that I couldn't lie any way without great misery to my body. For two days and nights I couldn't lie down. I got very little rest by propping up in bed or sitting in a big chair with pillows. I couldn't bend over, either. Only the dear Lord knows how I suffered. I walked the floor, stood up, did lots of praying and crying. On the third afternoon, late, I could lie down for the first time and got a few hours' rest. Then the misery started again and lasted the rest of the night. On the fourth evening, again I got easy enough to lie down a few hours, and again the misery set up in my body and lasted until the day I began to get better. On the fifth night I was blessed of God to have victory and rested all night, except for the pain in my left arm and shoulders.

During my sickness the dear Lord told me to trust Him and be true, and He would bring me through. I called to Guthrie for prayer, also the saints here were under a burden for me. My mother-in-law was concerned for me. She wanted to know if I wanted to go to the doctor. I told her, no. God knew all about the trouble, and in His good way and time He delivered me. It seemed He hid his sweet face from me for almost a week. My arm got worse on Friday and Saturday night, but I prayed and cried until God has almost taken away the trouble. Today is Monday and I went to work and worked hard. I have a little hurting in my arm yet, but I believe God is going to give me complete victory.

Now this afternoon I feel that I have more faith in God and more courage to press on the upward way. A few days before all this trouble I had three teeth to get loose and my gums to get sore as a boil. I surely did suffer with them, but God took away the soreness and I didn't have to have my teeth pulled. Our God can do anything. I am glad I am His trusting child, and surely want to prove my love to Him by being faithful until death. Pray for me.

Let us all keep encouraged. Heaven will be worth all we may have to suffer.

A blood-washed Sister, —Nora Clayton
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

La.—Dear Saints: I am so thankful today for salvation. I know God saves and keeps me each day. The devil is at work on every hand, but it just makes us pray

more and draw closer to God. I feel we need God's help more each day that we live. I just could not get along without Him. I love to serve Him and read the Bible, the "Faith and Victory" paper, and good books. We could never name the many blessings He blesses us with each day.

I know we can do nothing without God's help. We are like a little vapor—here a little while and then gone.

God has really been so good to us. He has surely answered prayer in our family. He made a way when it seemed there was no way. All things are possible with God.

We still have prayer meeting, and Bro. Merrill Williamson and his wife and some of the other saints from Jena, La. come almost every first Sunday and he preaches to us. We surely do appreciate it and love them so much.

We still need your prayers so much. My health has been pretty bad since last summer. I have very bad headaches and am so nervous. My daughter, Betty, is doing much better. I sent in a request for prayer for her, and God surely did hear and answer prayer. She still stands in need of your prayers. I have some other requests I would like for you to remember to the Lord. Most of my family is in sin and I desire prayer for them.

I want to live close to the Lord. Pray for me that I may be a blessing to others who are watching my life every day that they may see Jesus in my life. I want my life to be my testimony.

Especially pray for my son, Albert. God surely has blessed him. He is doing so much better but he still needs prayer. Yours in Christ Jesus, —Beulah Johnson
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

La.—We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the saints everywhere for their prayers, letters, cards, and offerings during the severe illness of my wife, Katherine Key, brought on by the strain of the gospel work for many years and perhaps other causes. She has received blessings at different times through the prayers of the different ministers and saints, and it seemed she was on the way to recovery, then something would cause her to relapse and we have had almost a continual fight of faith for her life. At this time (March 10) she is in need of much prayer. I am not discouraged in the Lord, for I am trusting Him with all my heart. The saints are so precious to stand by us to help in every way they can.

May God bless everyone who has helped us in any way. Yours for the gospel of Christ, —Ray Key
300 Jackson Rd., Hammond, La. 70401
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Calif.—Dear Saints and friends, greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour: We're thankful and glad for being saved and are very much encouraged to press on.

I find much to be thankful for today. I'm so grateful to God for sparing my life when I was so sick in May, 1965. I feel that words can't possibly convey to you how thankful I am for being saved with a real hunger for more of God in my life. Up to this time I feel that my life should have been more useful to God, but it seems that only through the affliction of my body was I able to really see how slack I'd been living. This is why I thank God for permitting me to be sick, sicker than I've ever been in all my life.

We're thankful for everything that everyone did for us. Thank you, saints, for all the prayers, phone calls, letters and cards. I suffer with headaches quite a bit yet. The Lord blesses me and gives me relief and I'm thankful for it, but I desire complete healing of this. Please pray for me. Also remember our children in your prayers.

Your Brother in Christ, —James Randle

La.—Dear Brother Pruitt: Christian greetings in the name of our Lord and Master! I am very grateful for the "Faith and Victory" paper. I am so very glad there is a publication which still stands for the old-time Reformation truth.

I came in touch with the Church of God Reformation about the year of 1912. To me it was a refreshing oasis in a desert land. How tragic that events occurred as they did in the old Reformation movement!

I would be glad to receive a few samples of the tracts which you publish.

Christian love, —J. Rolley Self

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Calif.—Dear Saints, greetings in the name of the Lord: This leaves me saved, sanctified and encouraged as never before to trust God.

I would like to thank the saints for their prayers and the many ways they expressed their love during the illness of my mother, Sarah Stockstill. The Lord wonderfully blessed her in her illness. It was precious to me how she trusted God to the end, though suffering much pain day and night. She always found time to thank the Lord that it was as well with her as it was. Her last words were, "Thank the Lord." The saints at Bakersfield and others were so good to us in sharing our burden and caring for her day and night.

My oldest son was called into the army the next week after my mother's funeral. It seemed more than I could bear. I requested prayer. The Lord wonderfully helped me. The morning he left I felt that the Lord was going to take care of him.

I am praying that I will be faithful to God in every way. I covet your prayers. —Ethel Square

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

S. Carolina—My beloved brothers and sisters, greetings of love to you each one in the precious name of Jesus. I do trust that these lines will find you well, happy, and rejoicing in salvation. It is once again our Lord has permitted me to testify to you of saving grace in this life, freedom from sin and power over the enemy of our souls. I am asking every saint to remember me in prayer that I will be faithful to the Lord until He calls me to my reward.

Yours in the Lord, —Archie L. Sweat

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Calif.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and Sister Miles: Thank God for you two dear ones to carry on so faithfully.

I was prayed for at the Pacoima, Calif. meeting in December for a growth coming on my cheek and it came off, root and all, in a few days.

On January 9, 1966 I got up and went into my bathroom to shave and take a bath. I shaved and was standing by the bath tub when I began to feel queer and I blacked out. I fell and hit my leg on the edge of the tub, then my head hit the rim of the tub. When I came to myself, I got up, took my bath and got my breakfast. In a few days it hit me in my left side, and my kidney got real sore, but I stayed true and thanks be to God, it all passed away. I was alone through it all. God is good. I will be 86 in June. Pray for me. —Bro. Guy Littrell

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Just off the press is the book, "The Deacon of Dobbinsville." 64 pages, paperbound. Price, 35c each, plus 10c for postage. Order several copies at this price.

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The Little Foxes

"Little foxes that spoil the vines" Solomon Songs 2:15

One little fox is "Some other time." If you track him up, you come to his hole—never.

Another little fox is, "I can't." Just set on him a plucky "I can," and he will kill him for you.

Another bad little fox is, "Just a little" pride, self-will, worldly conformity, etc. That little mischief will strip the whole vine if left go.

Another malignant little fox is, "I haven't faith." He slips into the vineyard through a knot-hole called "self." You can shut him out by removing the self-plank and filling up with Jesus only.

Another bad little fox is, "I haven't power." Be sure and catch him. If you will take the pains to dig him up, you will find his nest somewhere beyond the end of your present consecration. It will pay you to take him, if you have to "dig deep" and work hard.

Another devouring little fox is, "My church." "Salt" and "fire" is sure and only antidote for such nasty vermin.

We will point out one more little fox, and he is able to devour all the fruit of the vineyard and kill the very vines. His species is "Fear." One good dose of "perfect love" will kill him stone-dead. And a constant application of the blood of Christ will prevent this, with all other little or big foxes, yea, and all other animals ever coming to life again.

—Charles E. Orr, from "Food for Lambs"

BIBLE STUDY

NOTICE: Primary Picture Roll, \$1.95; Lesson cards, 15c.

April 3, 1966

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Printed Portion 2 Cor. 5:16-21; Eph. 3:7-12

2 Cor. 5:16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Eph. 3:7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.

9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

Memory Verse: Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 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. Matthew 28:19, 20.

Practical Truth: We should be true representatives or ambassadors of Christ in this world.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The work of the church is to bring a lost world back to God. What a great responsibility rests upon you and me. Are we doing our duty and laboring with a burden? Our lesson tells us to "know no man after the flesh." We should know each person as a soul. We are not to measure them by worldly standards; such as, money, fame, power, or as being poor, a social misfit, drunkard, fornicator, or too low to bother with. We are to evaluate their souls. One soul is worth more than the whole world. The church has been given the ministry of reconciliation. Each one of us is an ambassador for Christ. We are to tell others how Jesus was made to be sin for us, died on the cross, and arose from the grave for our salvation. This is the mystery unfolded to us. And as they believe, repent and turn away from sin with a willingness in their hearts to obey all of God's word, they become "a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Praise the Lord. It is a wonderful experience to have. There is no better way to live than for God.

We notice that Paul declared that he was given the gift of ministry and then adds that he is the least of all saints. He took the place of a servant in laboring and bringing the Gentiles to God. God wonderfully used him and he was accused of turning the world upside down because many believed and turned to God. Our memory verse tells us the duty of the church.

April 10, 1966

THE VICTORY OF THE CHURCH

Printed Portion 1 Cor. 15:20-26; Rev. 7:9, 10, 13-17

1 Cor. 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept.

21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterwards they that are Christ's at his coming.

24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

Rev. 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands.

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Memory Verse: And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. Revelation 11:15.

Practical Truth: Because Jesus arose, we, too, will arise at the end of time.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Today our souls are filled afresh with thanksgiving and praise as we think of the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. The grave could not hold Him. He had fulfilled His purpose in coming to this world and now all of heaven was taking care of His resurrection. Power was given to Him to become the "firstfruits of them that slept." Because He arose, we, too, have that hope in our souls that we will arise from the grave on the resurrection morn. Adam sinned and brought spiritual death to the soul. Now through Christ all can be made alive. We are serving a living Christ. The angel announced, "He is risen; he is not here." (Mark 16:1-8)

The last part of our lesson is a scene that John the Revelator saw in a vision. He saw a multitude that could not be numbered of people from all nations, kindreds, and tongues, standing before the great throne of God. They were clothed with white robes, which means they were all saved. They were waving palms of victory. These people who made it into heaven came up through much suffering and great trials, but now they were happy. There were no more tears, troubles, nor trials. They were safe in heaven. This is the victory of the church or the kingdom which Jesus, in the end, will give to the Father. (ver. 24) What a great hope we have within our souls!

April 17, 1966

THE KINGDOM DIVIDED

Printed Portion 1 Kings 12:1-5; 16-20

1 Kings 12:1 And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king.

2 And it came to pass when Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence of King Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;)

3 That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying,

4 Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.

5 And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed.

16 So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents.

17 But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.

18 Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem.

19 So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.

20 And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.

Memory Verse: And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. Mark 3:24.

Practical Truth: Greed, stubbornness, and pride will bring a great harvest of trouble and division.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

There are always many little things that lead up to a division. Division is a terrible thing. It is grievous and reaps a great harvest for the devil. The Bible says we are to endeavor to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Eph. 4:3. We should never separate from anyone through our own desire of wanting our way. We are never to withdraw from anyone without Bible grounds. Then it will be the sword of the Spirit that causes the division.

In Solomon's early life he was humble, but later he turned to heathen marriages which led him to worship idols. His son, Rehoboam, who took the throne, was a product of such environment. He was proud, stubborn, and arrogant. He refused to take counsel from those who were older and wiser but took counsel with the young men who were his contemporaries. He refused to make the taxes lighter on the people, and increased them instead. When all Israel saw that he would not consider them they pulled away from Judah. Jeroboam reigned over them. When King Rehoboam sent a man to collect the taxes, they stoned him. How sad for brothers and relatives to be divided. The devil would like for families friends, and saints to be divided today. We must be on our guard. The Bible tells us to "mark them which cause divisions." Rom. 16:17.

April 24, 1966

JEROBOAM MISUSES RELIGION

Printed Portion 1 Kings 12:25-33; 1 Kings 13:33, 34

1 Kings 12:25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in Mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Peniel.

26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David:

27 If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their Lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.

28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

29 And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan.

30 And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan.

31 And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi.

32 And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made.

33 So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel; and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.

13:33 After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places.

34 And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth.

Memory Verse: Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Gal. 6:7.

Central Thought: We will be punished if we lead astray others or follow those who do not follow God.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In our last Sunday's lesson we talked about how Jeroboam took ten tribes of Israel with him in the division. In our lesson we read about the scheming of Jeroboam to hold them. But how sad it was that he misused religion to accomplish his plan. There is that which is in the heart of man that causes him to desire to worship something. Since the temple was at Jerusalem and that is where the people were to go to offer their sacrifices, he was afraid it would be the means of his losing his kingdom. He did not trust God to take care of his kingdom. He devised his own plans. He substituted two calves for the worship of God, even declaring that these calves brought them up out of Egypt. Aaron before him had made two golden calves while Moses was in the mountain. (Ex. 32:1-4). Perhaps his mistake influenced Jeroboam. (It was the custom of Egypt to worship, as they called it, the sacred bull.) They broke the first commandment, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

Jeroboam tried to make his false religion almost like what God had commanded. He appointed priests and had feasts at certain months which was a great abomination to the Lord. He may have thought he had accomplished great things but it was the means of his losing his soul.

Today we need to watch or the truth will be compromised to please some who might not want to live up to all of God's Word. This will bring a loss of power in the church and in the life.

Sister A. Marie Miles