

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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The Christian's Pathway

Not always sunshine bright and clear,
Sometimes there's shadows and the tear;
But though there be encircling gloom
The way leads onward to thy Home.

Sometimes no blue is in the sky.
Cloud on cloud is piled on high,
Fierce blow the winds, and chill and wild,
Tempered they are to heaven's child.

Not always smooth life's path for thee,
Not best that it should always be;
Ways that are rough and hard to trod
Cause us to harder lean on God.

Sometimes deep sorrow fills thy heart,
Dear friends and loved ones walk apart,
But where no human face you see,
'Tis then thy God is nearest thee.

Sometimes the way grows steep and long,
Your soul it seems, has lost its song;
You do not, need not understand
Just leave it all in His dear hand.

A crown of thorns sometimes you wear,
The cross sometimes is hard to bear;
Ask why 'tis so! No, child, forbear,
Thy Father knows the cross is there.

Sometimes 'twill end—this lonely way,
Your soul will find its perfect day;
You do not, need not understand,
Just leave it all in His dear hand.

—C. E. Orr

Even He that died for us upon the cross, in the last hour, in the unutterable agony of death, was mindful of his mother, as if to teach us that this holy love should be our last worldly thought,—the last point of earth from which the soul should take its flight for heaven.

—Longfellow

"COME UNTO ME"

What a wonderful opportunity Jesus offered to mankind when he said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matt. 11:28-30.

The Lord is sending forth a call to all, both young and old, small and great, to everyone that will come. To every nation, people, kindred and tongue, "Whosoever will may come," the invitation is to all, no one is left out. This call is to you, my sinner friend. No matter how great your sins may have been, or how long you have lived in sin, if you will hear his voice, then let the desire of thy heart be made known unto him and with the fruit of thy lips confess, the Lord will satisfy your soul. To those who are sick and tired of sin, there is a fountain open for you, where you can plunge in and be washed from your sins. "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Isa. 55:6, 7.

Remember, the invitation is to all. If anyone who reads these lines is in sin and feels that there is no hope for you, remember, the Lord is saying, "Come." "Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy milk and wine without money and without price." Isa. 55:1.

Listen sinner friend, man stands without excuse. This salvation is free, without money and without price, to those who will accept the invitation according to his Word. "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfieth not?" There are many who work hard, and spend their money for that which is not bread. Instead, they spend it for things which are hurtful to both body and soul. This ought not to be. God has given us our lives; he has given us strength to labor for those things which we need. It is our duty

to honor him with our lives, with our means and our all, for it is through his mercy that we are what we are.

Let us all take warning and flee from sin and destruction while time affords us an opportunity. Today, if you hear His voice, harden not your hearts. There are many souls who have neglected this opportunity, and have slipped from time into eternity, into that endless duration of despair and woe, lost without God, and without hope.

Let me persuade you, my dear sinner friend, you who are without God and without hope of heaven, seek him while time affords you opportunity, ere death comes and snatches you away, unprepared to meet Him. It may be that you will have not one moment's warning. There are those whom we may call to mind, among our personal friends and relation, who have gone in this manner, gone, as it were, without a moment's warning. Sad, indeed, at the best, but how much sadder, if unprepared. Remember, what happened to others could happen to you. One day a man left the job where the writer was working, at four-thirty in the afternoon. He was apparently in good health, but he was found dead in his bed before morning. We have no assurance of our lives, thus it behooves each of us to be ready for death's summons.

There is a time appointed to man to meet his God. Job said that his days "passed away as a swift ship," "as the eagle that hasteth to the prey." He realized that time waits for no man. Life is compared to a flower; when it is cut down, it fades away, and, as a shadow that continueth not. At the longest, man has but a few short years, then, he "lieth down and riseth not, till the heavens be no more."

Dear sinner friend, let us not sleep our time away, and be lost in that endless duration of eternal hell. Let us not by our neglect, make our leap into the darkness of eternal damnation. —A. R. Hightower

Sanctification A Second Work

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" Titus 3:5.

Let us examine the Christian experiences recorded in the New Testament with the view of ascertaining whether or not the perfect redemptive experience was received in two works of divine grace.

The first recorded experience I shall notice is that of the apostles. A careful study of their experience will bring out the following: 1. They were converted before the day of Pentecost. 2. They needed a more perfect work. 3. They received a second and more perfect work of grace on the day of Pentecost.

It is unmistakably clear, also, from what Jesus said of his disciples in his prayer recorded in the seventeenth chapter of John, that the disciples were justified believers previous to the day of Pentecost.

The disciples needed a more perfect experience than that of justification. Referring again to the prayer of Jesus in the seventeenth chapter of John,

we hear Jesus, after saying of his disciples, "I have given them thy word," "They are not of the world," pray to the Father, "Sanctify them through thy truth . . . and for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth." It cannot be held that this second work, or sanctification, was intended for the apostles only; for Jesus said, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word." Jesus taught his disciples to expect a purging that should make them more fruitful. Jesus specifically instructed his disciples to tarry at Jerusalem until they should be endowed with power from on high.

This second work, this endowment with power, this purging, this sanctification, prayed for by Jesus was received by the disciples on the day of Pentecost. "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1-4). This outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the purification of heart were associated as one work by Peter when he was relating to the elders how God enjoined them to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. He said, "God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them [the Gentiles] the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us [the Jews]; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith" (Acts 15:8, 9).

Were the experience of the disciples the only recorded instance of the two distinct works of divine grace, the argument that the Holy Spirit had not yet been given might seem to militate against our conclusion, but recorded experiences subsequent to the day of Pentecost are parallel with that of the disciples just mentioned. I will notice the experience of the Samaritans, the record of which it will be necessary to quote somewhat at length. "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city . . . But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. . . . Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost" (Acts 8).

From this passage we note the following facts: 1. Philip preached Christ to the Samaritans. 2. They

of one accord gave heed. 3. Even unclean spirits were cast out and the sick were healed. 4. There was great joy in the city. 5. They believed Philip's preaching. 6. They were baptized. These are unmistakable marks of true believers. 7. Sufficient time elapsed for the news to reach Jerusalem that the Samaritans had "received the word of God." 8. The church at Jerusalem realized the necessity for a second work of grace and "sent unto them Peter and John." 9. When Peter and John reached Samaria, they prayed for the Samaritans, laying their hands on them, and the Samaritans received the Holy Spirit. It is reasonable to conclude that the reception of the Holy Spirit in this and in every other instance, like that experience of Peter preaching to the Gentiles, was accompanied by the purification of heart by faith.

The Christians at Ephesus received two distinct works of grace. "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise" (Eph. 1:3). This text makes it unmistakably clear that the Christians at Ephesus received the Holy Spirit not when they believed, but after they believed. The plain statement of this text is in perfect harmony with the facts recorded in the nineteenth chapter of Acts: "And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, he said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since [subsequent] ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. . . . When Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied" (Acts 19:1-6). These twelve men at Ephesus were disciples of John who had believed on Jesus, but had not heard of the miraculous descent of the Holy Spirit. Paul evidently considered them true believers; for as soon as he had instructed them, he permitted them to be baptized. Then after their baptism Paul laid his hands upon them, and they received the Holy Spirit. So the Ephesian Christians first believed and afterward were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

From the first chapter of Paul's letter to the Thessalonians we learn that, though the Thessalonians had labored in love, were patient in hope, were elect of God and called of the Lord, and were ensamples to all that believed in Macedonia and Achaia, yet Paul perceived that they still had need of entire sanctification, for he said to them in the fifth chapter, "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you who also will do it" (1 Thess. 5:23, 24).

Texts might be multiplied in proof of the doctrine of sanctification subsequent to justification; but these four instances are clear and, on the whole, parallel, uniform, and unmistakable in their teaching. This doctrine of a second distinct work of grace agrees also to what we have learned of man's moral need and

nature. Sanctification as a second work is a completing of the supply of man's double need, a climax of the double cure.

—From "The Double Cure" by D. O. Teasley

FORGIVING OTHERS

In the 23rd chapter of St. Luke we read the crucifixion story of our Savior. Most of us know the cruel treatment they laid on Jesus. He bore it all and gave His life's blood for you and me as an atonement for our sins that we might be saved. He was innocent, but because of His great love for mankind He was willing to suffer and die that through His sacrifice, the way of salvation might be purchased for all.

The 34th verse reads thus: "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment and cast lots." This strikes a note deep in the heart of a Christian. Do we have the kind of forgiveness that Jesus had? In Heb. 12:14 we read, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." This is a serious thought for us to consider along the line of forgiveness. Following peace with all men and holiness toward God and man requires something on our part. Without doing so means that we shall not see the Lord. Jesus said, "... for they know not what they do." It is quite possible that most injustices done among people would not be done if the guilty ones truly realized the depths of what they are doing. If we could look into their hearts and lives and minds, we could probably better understand their actions. God looks into our hearts and with His great love manifests His mercy to us by forgiving our sins against Him. We all need forgiveness sometimes in life. If we can't forgive others, we cannot receive forgiveness and we cannot see God.

Perhaps someone has done you a terrible injustice. Perhaps that one continues to do so day by day. Dear one, God has grace for you. You can and you must forgive them. Consider Jesus' prayer as He hung on the cross for the sins of the world. He died for their forgiveness—and for yours and mine. He is able to give you a forgiving heart that you can be at peace with everyone, living a holy life before the world and ready to meet the dear Lord in peace. When we truly forgive, we put the whole situation in God's hands and turn loose of it ourselves, resist all unholy thoughts about the matter, put the individual in God's hands, and by faith in Him and confidence in His Word we can rejoice in the goodness and blessings of salvation.

To carry an injury is a great burden. Jesus says to cast our burdens upon Him.

I pray the dear Lord to bless His people with sincere forgiveness toward their fellowman. The joy bells of heaven will ring in our souls and we can be free and happy in the Lord the way He wants us to be. I praise the Lord today for the rejoicing in my soul.

—Jessie Taylor

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

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

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

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

Free-will offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House.

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

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

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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

Christian greetings to our readers far and near. All praise and honor is due unto "the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation." Again we say with the Psalmist, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's." Psalms 103:2-5. "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." Heb. 13:15. The chief purpose for which man was created was to bring praise, honor and glory unto his Creator. The sweet incense of gratitude arising continually from the heart brings pleasure to the Lord. Praise and thanksgiving are the wings which carry our petition to the throne of grace.

The Lord has enabled us to print more than 12,000 tracts in the Efik language and ship them recently to Nigeria, West Africa to be distributed by the native ministers in spreading the gospel in that darkened land. You have a part in this worthy missionary effort by your free-will offerings to the Free Literature Fund.

Bro. Curtis Williams, evangelist from Clearfield, Ky., held a revival meeting from March 25 to April 3 at the 50th Street Church of God chapel in Oklahoma City where Bro. Archie Souder is pastor. A very profitable meeting was reported there.

Coming directly from Oklahoma City, Bro. Williams held a week's meeting here at Guthrie, Okla., closing on Easter Sunday with all-day services. The ordinances of the Church were observed in the afternoon, with Bro. Roy Harmon of Overland Park, Kansas officiating. During this week's meeting the Word was preached with anointing and the Holy Spirit performed His office work in sending conviction. A number of souls sought and found mercy at the altar of prayer. Our pastor, Bro. Ira Stover, was sick and confined at home during most of the meeting. However, in answer to continued prayer, he was able to attend the morning service on Easter. He is improving, but still needs your fervent prayers for a complete healing touch. In the economy of God's grace is provided healing for both soul and body. Thank God for the Great Physician in Zion!

On Saturday afternoon, April 2, a double wedding was solemnized here at the Guthrie Church of God chapel with Bro. Charles Smith officiating. Roberta Melot, a former worker at the Lord's Printshop, and

Eddie Wilson were united in marriage. In the same ceremony Roberta's sister, Sue Melot, was joined in holy matrimony to Louis Morgan of Indianapolis, Ind. where they will make their home while he continues his C. O. work. Roberta and Eddie will make their home at Kansas City where he is fulfilling his C. O. assignment. Eddie is the oldest child of Clifford and Dorothy Wilson, our co-workers in the gospel publishing activities. May the Lord bless and direct these young couples, and may their lives be dedicated to the upbuilding of the kingdom of God in the earth.

Bro. and Sister Sam Abbott of Somerset, Ky. were in a revival meeting at Dayton, Ohio which closed on Easter Sunday with all-day services and the observance of the ordinances of the Lord's House.

Word has come to us that all the bonds have been sold for the completion of the Church home for senior citizens on the campground at Pacoima, Calif. A number of saints in that area are looking forward to residing in this new home as soon as it is finished.

Bro. Charles Smith, pastor at Shawnee, Okla. held a week's meeting (April 3 to 10) at Hammond, La. where Bro. T. H. Coffey is the pastor. Reports express how the saints were blessed and edified in these services.

Bro. and Sister Gene Harmon, Glendale, Calif., attended the Easter meeting at Jefferson, Oregon. For a number of years Bro. Harmon has felt a special burden for the Lord's work in the Northwest. May the Lord prosper his work in that great field.

Bro. and Sister Herbert Probst have gone to Loranger, La. to pastor, at least for a few months, the church which meets at the Oak Grove chapel. May the Lord continue to bless their labors in that area.

Sister Katherine Key, former pastor at Oak Grove for many years, is at Hammond, La. in a frail physical condition, sometimes better and sometimes worse. Continue to pray for her and Bro. Ray Key in this great test of faith, and may the Lord bless all the saints who are so faithfully caring for Sister Key in her declining days. God has promised to go with His trusting children all the way, even unto the end of the world. With firm confidence in the Good Shepherd, they can say with David, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me . . . , and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

It has been observed that the pioneer ministers of this "evening light" reformation "had no interest in promoting unity on the basis of compromise. If unity were to be real and permanent it must be in line with the standard of New Testament Christianity." That is still the position of God's people today. He has called His Church out of the world

in spirit to be a separate and distinct people unto Himself. They are in the world, but not of the world, and Jesus prayed that they should be "kept from the evil." Christ came to bring peace and harmony among His people, but on the other hand, He came to bring division between the saint and the sinner, the sheep and the goats. Read Luke 12:51-53. During Jesus' personal ministry we read that "there was a division among the people because of him." Jesus has become a "stumbling stone" and a "rock of offense" to many people.

Innovations and so-called "no harms" will deaden spirituality. And history has proved that where these things are tolerated it will start a spiritual movement on a fast decline. The Apostle Paul saw the apostasy in his age, and he warned the saints night and day with many tears. Oh, Zion, put on thy beautiful garments!

"The day of this world is declining,
The forces of sin are combining,
The faithful our Lord is refining,
And soon shall the Bridegroom appear."

With the continued blessings of the Lord we expect to have the out-of-print book, "BIRTH OF A REFORMATION—Life and Labors of D. S. Warner," reprinted and available in a nice gold-lettered cloth binding by June 1st. It consists of 496 pages, and this reprint edition will have about 25 more pages of pictures than the original book, pictures of ministers and scenes connected with the Reformation work during the period of Bro. Warner's labors. You will want a copy of this limited edition. The price is \$4.00 per copy, postpaid to you. Orders may be sent in NOW, and they will be held and the books mailed as soon as they are ready.

As the Lord permits, other out-of-print books on vital subjects will be reprinted.

Pray for us, as we feel our dependence upon the Lord for divine wisdom in dealing out the Word of God through the literature from this office. —L.D.P.

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Christian Conduct by C. E. Orr, 45 pages, paper bound, 35c each or four books for	1.00		

OBITUARIES

Marvin Porter, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Porter, was born at Fayetteville, Tenn. on Dec. 11, 1882 and departed this life at Carthage, Mo. on March 31, 1966 at the age of 83 years, three months and 20 days.

On June 5, 1905 he was married to Miss Nola Jones. To this union four sons and two daughters were born and survived. For many years Sister Nola Porter was a well-loved minister in the Church of God and departed this life on Sept. 13, 1940. At Columbus, Kansas, on Dec. 7, 1944 he was married to Mrs. Anna Hodges, who survives.

Bro. Porter was a member of the Church of God at Webb City, Mo., having known this truth since the pioneer days of the Reformation. Living at Carthage, Mo. since 1899, he was a man of great integrity and lived a good clean life.

Besides his wife of the home, the survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Hassie Coats of Tulsa, Okla. and Mrs. Zetta Mae Hendrickson of Ontario, Calif.; four sons, Emmett and H. B. of Joplin, Mo., Marvin of Morgan Heights, Mo., and Robert, Fayetteville, Ark.; one brother, Otto Porter, of Lemon Grove, Calif.; two sisters, Mrs.

Carrie Hord of Orlando, Fla. and Mrs. Anna Trent of Carthage, Mo.; 16 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, many other relatives and a host of friends and saints.

The funeral services were conducted at Carthage, Mo. by Sister Ersa Carrick.

Murray Shipp, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James M. Shipp, was born at Laneville, Texas on July 22, 1918 passed away on March 13, 1966 at Bakersfield, Calif. at the age of 47 years.

In 1940 he was married to Miss Bessie Turner at Marlow, Okla. To this union four children were born. On November 25, 1960 she passed away.

In July, 1965 he professed a hope in Christ and remained faithful until his death.

Survivors include three daughters, Mrs. Sharon Oliver, Debbie Kay Shipp, and Katy Fern Shipp, all of Bakersfield, Calif., one son, Dean Shipp, of Bakersfield; one brother, Charlie Shipp, of Laneville, Texas; five grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. I. C. Chandler and Francis Doolittle.

Meeting Reports

Dear Saints everywhere: We feel much encouraged in the work of the Lord here at Grubbs, Arkansas. The saints here had been earnestly praying for a meeting. Bro. Mart Samons of Ohio had told us last winter he felt burdened for a meeting here, but each time he planned to come, something would hinder. But on the tenth day of March the Lord permitted him to come. Every night for ten nights the Word of God went forth against sin and evil. God sent His Holy Spirit and convicted souls and there were 15 that sought the Lord for help, some for salvation, some for sanctification, and some for spiritual help. On the last Sunday of the meeting there were ten who followed the Lord in baptism. Our hearts were truly overjoyed in the Lord.

We desire all of you to pray for this work here that God will establish everyone in the truth. There is a nice group of young people. We are praying God to raise up some young workers that will win others to Christ. Some who were saved were bound by the tobacco habit, pride, and other things. So do pray that God will give them all victory over everything.

We have been renting a very small humble-looking building for services, but it is too small for us since the Lord has added others to His Kingdom. There is a chapel for sale in Grubbs. We are looking to the Lord to help us buy it for a place to worship, but we feel the price is almost more than this little group can handle, so we do ask your prayers that the Lord will provide and help us out. We know the Lord is able to supply every need and our trust is in Him. As we look over the past, we see how God provided for the work of the Lord when a chapel was needed for the saints at Coffeyville, Kansas. Although there were so few of us, God wonderfully provided and supplied all the needs of building a new chapel. Also the first chapel that was built at Chetopa, Kansas was completely paid for with a little money left when it was finished. God is a mighty God and able to supply all our needs. Again we ask the dear saints to pray for us. We never want to doubt the might and power of God.

Brothers and sisters, let us reach forth and spread the gospel and reach every darkened land with the truth.

Yours in His service, —Bro. and Sister Albert Eck
DeLoris and Lynda

PROFITABLE MEETING AT WICHITA, KANSAS

The spring meeting at Wichita, Kansas closed on April 6. It was very profitable. A few sought the Lord for salvation, but many were at the altar making a deeper consecration.

The messages were soul-stirring. I believe that many got a clearer vision of the beautiful Church of God.

Bro. Isaac Chandler was here with us from California, also Sister Katherine Williams and Bro. Willie Murphey from Oklahoma.

Pray that God will continue to bless the congregation here. Pray also for some who were under conviction and did not yield, that God will continue to deal with their hearts.

—Bro. Lewis Williams, Pastor
By Sister Gladys Williams

Prayer Requests

Okla.—Dear Bro. Stover: I am sending you an urgent prayer request for the healing of my body. Please pray for me, and put this request in the "Faith and Victory" paper which we do enjoy reading.

We are glad to hear that you are in Guthrie. May God richly bless you is our prayer.

Yours in Christ,

—Tom Pounds

Okla.—Bro. Warren of Okmulgee needs a healing touch from God.

Miss.—Wants to be saved. Needs healing. Has troubles.—Vinola Grady

Ga.—Hard of hearing. Her daughter is on crutches, wants healing.

Ill.—"We need real victory over afflictions."—Ruth and Harvey Rathbun.

Pa.—Needs healing.—A. Tinsley.

Wis.—An affliction.—Sister Dietrick.

Ill.—Serious unspoken request.—Mrs. Geo. Herman

Pa.—Chest and back trouble.—Twila Campbell

Ill.—Grandson needs healing.—Sis. Bertha Gill.

Ohio.—Arthritis. Increase of faith.—Herrissa Roush.

Mo.—Sinus trouble, eyes.—M. Niswonger.

W. Va.—"Mother has an awful cough and other afflictions." Some burdens.

N. Car.—Nerves, other afflictions.—Effie Covington

Okla.—Some burdens for my family's afflictions.—Sister L. Jordan.

Calif.—Mole under eye.—Sister A. McKinney.

Mo.—Sister Carrick has not been well since having the flu.

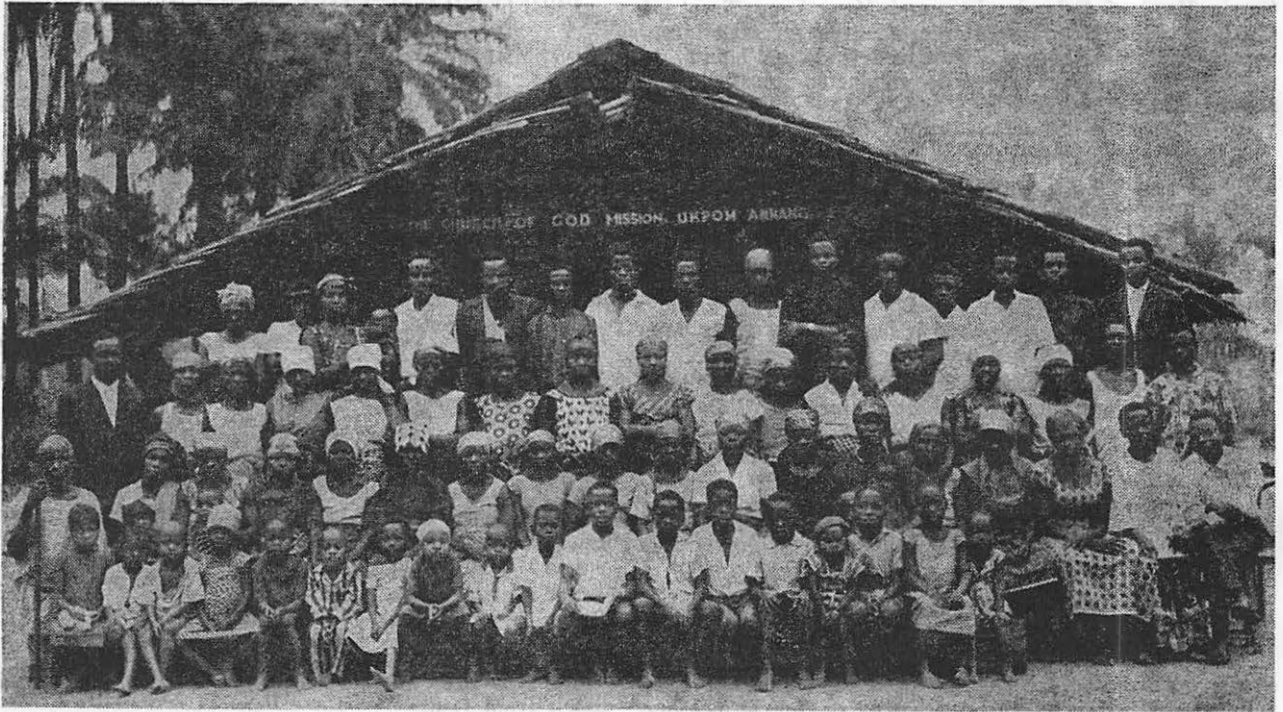
Ohio.—"Husband in serious condition in face. I have leaking heart and crippling and painful arthritis."—Hazel Jackson.

Bro. Darius Gibson, a faithful minister of Seymour, Mo., is still battling an affliction. He is fighting the good fight of faith. Let us agree in fervent prayer for his complete recovery.

Jesus is the Healer of the whole man—soul and body. In the Scriptures there are great and precious promises for the healing of the body as well as the soul.

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.



THE CONGREGATION of the Church of God Mission at Ukpom, Nigeria, West Africa where many sick and afflicted are being healed. At present a House of Prayer is being built here to care for them while they are prayed for. The pastor is Bro. Sunday Udo Udo, standing in the back row with his arms crossed. The Sunday school superintendent, Bro. Brownson Inyang, is standing at the extreme left dressed in a dark suit.

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Under date of April 5 Bro. B. U. Etuk, the native Nigerian minister, has sent a 4-page typewritten report of the Church of God mission activities for the month of March, written by Bro. Nse Umanah, the field secretary. It is summarized as follows:

The usual monthly combined service was held at the Ukpom congregation on Sunday, March 6, with a very large attendance. After the sermon by Pastor Ben E. Udoka, several came to the altar for more spiritual blessings and help from the Lord.

On Sunday, March 13, a district meeting was held at Ikot Akpan Eda with 212 people in attendance at the Sunday School. Pastor Stephen Akpan preached a sermon on the crucifixion of Jesus and the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, after which over 236 observed this memorial.

At Ninya Ntak a general meeting was held on Sunday, March 20. The little thatched house, around which a permanent chapel had been started, could not contain the people. Quote, "We managed ourselves as sardines in a can." They have not been able to finish the building, and it was estimated that it would take about \$200 to complete it. Bro. Brownson U. Udemé conducted the services. Bro. Paul M. Umah read 1 Cor. 10:14-28. After prayer Pastor Ben U. Udoka spoke on drinking the cup and eating the bread unworthily. The Lord's Supper was then served to 180 souls.

On the last Sunday of March a communion service was held for the congregations of the creek area at Nung Asang Ikono which are under the charge of the district pastor, Bro. Macauley U. Ekpene. Bro. B. U. Ekpene, an evangelist, is caring for this local station. The thatched house was crowded, and some looked in through the windows. Bro. Frank U. Uffort ably con-

ducted the services. Pastor Ben E. Udoka preached a sermon on the lessons learned from the account of Samson and Delilah. Pastor Macauley U. Ekpene administered the Lord's Supper to over 200 participants.

The adult reading classes are running smoothly. The first set of adults who joined the classes are beginning to read Efik Bibles, which is the aim of this project. They rejoice in what God is helping them to accomplish.

The sewing classes are continuing, but the seamstress complains: "We need two or three foot-pedal sewing machines." The secretary adds: "Bro. Ostis Wilson has been endeavoring to send monthly payments to the hired [teacher]. For this we are grateful and appreciate his effort to promote the project best loved by his dear late Opal when in this country."

Bro. Etuk writes: "This work has been much expanded and it urgently needs the presence of a resident missionary. A manse [missionary home] could be built immediately."

Can it be true that among the gospel workers and saints in this country that no one or ones have heard the call of God to enter this opened door in this needy field? Ministers and saints, this situation should challenge and greatly burden us for the spiritual prosperity of Zion. The command of our Master still reads: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Christ's spirit is a missionary spirit.

"When taking His Word to the lost ones,
It is not a gift we bestow:

By working and praying and giving,
We pay but the debt that we owe.

If millions are lost at the judgment,
Their cries shall our conscience upbraid,
Because when their souls we could rescue,
Our debt unto them was not paid."

—Lawrence Pruitt

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.

Hoffman, Okla.—June 17 to 26.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 24 to July 3.

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

Green Pastures, Okla.—July 2 to 10.

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.

MISSIONARY REPORT FROM MEXICO

Ejido Patzcuaro, Mexico—Dear Fellow Laborers: Today, as we begin this letter to you, we feel the inspiration and blessing of God in our souls. We are so happy to be children of God. The message today was about guarding our experiences and keeping fervent in our relationship with God. If there was ever a time that we needed a message of this sort, it is now in our day and in our time. So many are talking of another age and day to get ready to meet God, but God's Word shows us in 2 Tim. 3:13 that things are going to get worse instead of better. And if we make heaven our home we will have to be overcomers through all circumstances. May God help us all to keep zealous for God with an humble and open heart.

We feel that it is time to tell you about God's work here in Patzcuaro. We are happy here in this little village where God has sent us to labor. The attendance has been increasing, which is an answer to prayer. The children's meetings on Saturdays have been a real blessing, by good attendance and good attention. At one time we had more than 100 in one of these meetings. Of course we aren't out for the numbers that might come, but certainly it means that this many heard the Word of God. Generally there are around 70 in these children's meetings, so we earnestly ask that you keep praying that God's Word will find a lodging place in their little hearts.

Everyone is so happy and grateful for the four new benches that Bro. Harland Smith made for us. And the first time we used them a woman came weeping her way to the altar for salvation. When she prayed through to victory, how good it was to see her happy face. She fought conviction a long time. One Brother said afterward that he knew he was ignorant and didn't know if the Bible said so or not, but he felt that God and the angels were happy in heaven over this soul coming through for God.

Nothing great or exciting has happened since we wrote to you last. But we are sure if you could see the lives lived and hear the testimonies and prayers from time to time, it would certainly stir your heart as it does ours.

Very few people here know much about the Bible and we thought about having lessons to learn about different Bible characters, but found that very few have Bibles. We are praying that soon we can have Bibles and begin some lessons.

There has been or is an epidemic of flu here. So many have been sick, but God in His mercy has blessed them. Some the Lord touched instantly. Praise His holy name!

We have been having the sewing classes for over a month now. They are proving to be a benefit for the work here, since some come to the classes who won't come to services and we have opportunities to witness for the Lord that we wouldn't have otherwise. We trust that it will be a help in their homes, too. Two people are making comforts (covers), others are making clothes for their children and the girls are making things for themselves for school or for their little brothers or sisters. They are using used clothing to learn on and then later use new material that different people have given to us. There are 24 in the classes and more want to enter, but we feel 24 a week is all we can handle, for there is so much to do and we must keep in close contact with God for the work is big, too big, for us alone.

We want to thank all for your prayers for us and the work. Let's pray on for souls, eternity-bound souls. May God bless you is our prayer.

Your sisters in the Master's service,

—Edith Cole and Carrie Sheppard

EVANGELISTIC EQUIPMENT READY FOR USE

Dear Saints, greetings in Jesus' precious name: We are thankful to still be saved, sanctified, and with a purpose in our hearts to press the battle on to the end of life's journey. We don't want Jesus to look upon us as He did Peter when Peter had denied the Saviour and had failed Him.

We trust that we have not been a disappointment to any of you in making the decision that we have made in regard to the evangelistic truck. After going into details we found out that to replace the present six-cylinder motor with a rebuilt guaranteed eight-cylinder motor would cost about \$400.00. The motor in the truck has less than 26,000 miles on it, so after consulting other brethren, we decided to have this motor put in shape and get along with it, at least for this season. I took the truck to a good mechanic and it cost \$57.74 to have the work done.

We have heard from one young brother and his wife expressing their desire to help in the evangelistic effort this season if the Lord works things out for them. We feel that they would be a blessing to all. Pray for them.

As it has been stated previously, Bro. Mart Samons will take the evangelistic equipment for the entire season, and he feels burdened to go to new fields of labor where there are no known saints, and the responsibility of the effort will rest entirely upon all the saints. Please pray much about this.

We certainly desire the prayers of the saints that we remain faithful.

Your Brother in Christ,

—Ralph M. Beisly
Treasurer of National Missionary Fund

(Editorial note: Please send your free-will offerings for this evangelistic effort directly to Bro. Beisly at 407 Eldridge St., Coffeyville, Kansas.)

Don't make your marriage on a 50-50 basis, but on a 100-100 basis. Each one of you two should go all the way to make your marriage successful.

If women want men to see the image of God in their faces, they should keep their bodies clothed.

MEXICO CONVERT GONE HOME

Dear Sister Marie, greetings in our Lord: We desire to write you about a saint who lived in Ensenada, Mexico. Her name is Rufina Lopez. She passed away March 30, 1966, with what all felt was cancer. She had been ill for some time, but her words were always the same: "Ready to die or ready to live." Since she was elderly, one would not condemn her if she only read her Bible, prayed, and came to services. However, she was never at ease in Zion. We have never had a service in Ensenada without someone new being there. Most of these came at her invitation. The old, old man who cut wood for her was invited, and came. A Catholic family bought an old stove from her. They were invited, and came. These are only two examples of her zeal.

She made tortillas for a living, cooking them on a home-made stove. Her house was made of posts at the corners with scrap lumber and cardboard tacked up to make walls. The floors were dirt. Her eyes were literally "cooked" from cooking tortillas long hours every day. When her eyesight began to fail badly, she asked us to pray that God would spare her enough sight to read the Word.

The last days of her life were spent on a cot without a mattress on the back porch of her son-in-law's home. We tried to give her a bed from our house but the small porch would not accommodate it. We did pad the cot with quilts and did all possible to make her comfortable.

It was she who opened her home to us, and for over a year we held services in her yard. (The house was too small.) There were foggy days, hot ones, windstorms, even rain, but we had services right through it all.

There is a regular attendance of about fifty people in the congregation, but it will never be the same without her. The last time I sat by her bed we wept and prayed together. She was in much pain, but was concerned and desirous that I visit the family across the back fence from her son-in-law's yard. She had already done so and wanted me to follow up the contact.

We had tried at the time her eyesight began to fail to get her to come live in our little house, since we could only be there weekends, but she refused. She was not welcome in her Catholic son-in-law's house, but, thank the Lord, he did not refuse to let the saints visit and pray with her.

None of the missionary workers was there when she died, but her family's words are that she went "with all things pardoned, and was carried to rest and peace."

My heart is sad and lonely, for she was a real leaning post, but I have a hope of meeting her again. And while one can rejoice in hope, it is sobering to think of those who are going out one by one without hope.

Pray for us that we may be more dedicated and more faithful.

—Geneva Hite

TESTIMONIES

Missouri—To our dear friends and the saints scattered abroad, greetings: We want to take this means of thanking everyone for the interest, love, and love offerings, and the letters of encouragement, phone calls, and lovely get-well cards we have received. Many have driven many miles to see us.

This morning, April 5, we feel a deep courage and report that God has touched Darius and he is resting, with but little pain, whereas he has been suffering so much. I am also better in body.

For all the love and interest of each one, we are so very grateful, and may the Lord bless you each one is our prayer. Do continue to remember us in prayer.

—Darius and Evelyn Gibson
Route 3, Seymour, Mo.

Colo.—Dear Sister Marie and all the saints at Guthrie and all around who have prayed for me:

I am much better this morning, for we know the Lord is on our side. I don't have my sight back yet in my right eye, but it is nearly opened up. Oh, thank the Lord for His goodness to us. I am believing for complete victory through the precious blood of Jesus. The Lord has been so good to me and I feel like traveling on.

He is a wonderful Savior to us and we are so glad we ever learned to serve Him. Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

Please keep praying. I would like to have my sight back, but I will serve Him anyway. We are in this world, but not of it. I feel good in my soul.

I wish we could have some more preachers come our way. We enjoyed having Bro. Herbert Probst a few weeks ago. There are hungry hearts here. I wish we had more room, as some don't like to come to a home for services. Keep praying for us, as we want to do the Lord's will.

Thanks for the many prayers for me.

In Christian love, —Ed and Addie McEndree

Okla.—Dear Saints, greetings of love in Jesus' name: I am thankful to say I am saved and sanctified, and very much encouraged to live for the Lord and do His will.

The Lord has been dealing with me for some time to write my testimony through the paper. Tuesday night I was sick all night, and Wednesday morning when I got up I was still sore and very weak. I prayed and told the Lord if He would touch me so I could go to work that day, I would write my testimony for Him. I had an instant touch before I got up from praying. Thank the Lord!

Tonight I have a terrible cold, but I'm trusting in the Lord to take that away. Pray for me.

Your Sister in Christ, —Carolyn Moore

N. Mex.—Dear Sister Marie and saints, greetings of love in Jesus' dear name: I feel I want so much to thank everyone for praying for my arm, and I praise God for His healing power. My arm is weak yet and I hurt it at times, but I am so thankful it is as good as it is in every way. One morning my shoulder popped and I do believe the bone went in place, and it has felt much better ever since. I am standing on the promises of God, believing it will soon be as good as new. Praise the dear Lord for all His goodness to everyone.

Christian love, —Ruth Doolittle

Arkansas—Dear Bro. Lawrence, Sister Marie, and the dear saints everywhere: I have been thinking for a long time that I would write a letter for the "Faith and Victory" paper. I have never met you (only some of the saints) in person, but I feel as if I know you through reading the paper. I know God and He is so dear to me.

Some years ago I was going to and helping in a so-called Church of God. Then I got to go to the Myrtle, Mo. campmeeting. It was so wonderful to me how God had His way in everything, and they all seemed to love each other. I noticed that when a prayer request was given they just seemed to take it to their hearts and cared. I truly thank God for getting to go. After a few

times of going to the campmeeting and having some of the ministers come to our home for services, I would go back to the other church and the preaching didn't even sound good any more. So one time at Myrtle, Mo. I took my stand with the saints and came out, and have been trusting God ever since, too, for my body, and now I am free and living for God. I love Him so much.

We thank God for sending Bro. and Sister Albert Eck and DeLoris here a little over a year ago, and Lynda Weir has been here for some time. I truly love them all. The lives they live and the good preaching Sister Eck does surely helps me to dig deep and get really settled and grounded in the things of God.

Bro. Mart Samons preached ten nights for us. Oh, it was wonderful how God worked! Ten were baptized. My son and daughter were baptized.

Pray for my husband that he will be saved. I need healing very badly in my body. God knows all about it. Remember our home. I would like for it to be an example for everyone. I mean to follow Jesus and do His will. I have it all settled with God. May God bless all of you. Your Sister in Christ, —Mrs. Della Anschultz

Alabama—Dear Sister Marie and co-workers, greetings in Jesus' precious name: I thank the Lord for being saved and having a mind to follow Him.

I thank the Lord for all of you and the great work that you are doing. I enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory" paper so much. I just finished reading the book, "God's Gracious Dealings." I found it so inspiring. I enjoyed every line of it.

May God bless all of you. Pray that I will be all the Lord would have me to be. Please send me two of the book, "The Corrupt Tree," and some tracts that I may give out.

Your Sister in Christ, —Alma Latham

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie: I felt led to write my testimony this beautiful day that God has given to me. May I be a blessing to Him this day and always. I'm grateful for the many, many blessings He bestows upon me and our loved ones; the health and happiness Elmer and I have.

Over the years Jesus has been a present help in time of need. To know Him is to love Him.

Many times I have gone through trials and difficulties but they are only a means by which faith is exercised and thereby increased. Reading the Scriptures helps to acquaint us with God as He has revealed Himself in His Word. We find there that He not only is God Almighty, and a righteous God, but also we shall find how gracious He is, how gentle, how kind, how beautiful He is—in a few words, what a lovely Being God is!

He is a God who knows our weakness, knows our needs before we call. "It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear." Isa. 65:24.

While working in the yard today, I noticed how warm and beautiful everything was. It looked like spring was coming early, with the peach trees in bloom and birds busy singing and building their nests. One mocking bird was sitting on the very top of an avocado tree and it sang for hours. I felt so prayerful and thankful to be a child of God.

We are serving a living God who will never leave us nor forsake us.

"He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today.
He walks with me and talks with me,
Along life's narrow way.

He lives, He lives, salvation to impart.
You ask me how I know He lives,
He lives within my heart."

May the Lord bless everyone of you at the "Faith and Victory" office. May He keep you well in your labor of love.

Pray for us.

—Lucille Allen

Calif.—To the dear saints at the press and those scattered abroad, greetings in the name of Jesus: I am yet saved to sin no more.

May I take this space to report some of God's blessings to us and to thank the saints everywhere for prayer for my son who for many years suffered a nervous breakdown. Today the Lord has blessed him to be home. It is so marvelous and I would like to say more, but God knows and understands.

I requested prayer years ago through the paper. That is why I feel it good to report through the paper. Pray for him that he might be saved.

Your Sister,

—K. G.

N. Carolina—Dear Saints everywhere, greetings to all of you in our Savior's precious name, the One who has done so much for us: I want to report that I'm still on the winning side and that the devil doesn't have one thing that I wish I had.

The Lord has been so good to the little flock here. We are deeply indebted to Him and must tell of His goodness. I promised Him that I would. Recently one of the saint's twin babies, a little girl, became very ill with high fever, sore mouth and a severe cold. She could not breathe normally. We thought that every breath would be her last. But we called on God with all our hearts. Sister Darius Gibson and Sister Curtis Williams were contacted by telephone. Sister P. R. Bowers was contacted by letter. These dear sisters, along with Sister Lennon, Sister Orange, and myself agreed in prayer. God heard our prayers. To Him we give all the credit. He healed her. Praise His name! She's eating, sleeping and acting normal in every way.

Some of the neighbors are amazed. They had said that Sister Orange (the mother) "should call the doctor and not let that child suffer like that." They came each day, looking and talking about the baby. Sister Orange said as little to them as she could, and looked to the Lord to do the healing. After the Lord healed the baby and the word got around, one of the ladies acknowledged the Lord's healing power and wants us to come and pray for her. She also promised to attend services. We thank God for letting us witness for Him. We thank Him again for standing by us and coming to our rescue in a time like this.

Loved ones, we do need your prayers for our little group here. The wolf (Satan) crept into the fold and took away some of our loved ones. They have gone back into the world again. Please pray that they will find their way back before it is too late.

We are truly living in the last days. Perilous times are here. People do not want to hear sound doctrine. The old and the young are "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." There will be just a few who will be able to say as Paul said in 2 Tim. 4:7, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." Saints, be steadfast, hold on and let us be ready when Jesus comes for us.

In His service,

—Sister C. B. Nelson

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THE GIFT OF SALVATION

Are you tired, faint and weary?
Stop and eat some honey.
Receive this great salvation,
Without price—without money.

In the Rock there is sweetness,
And there is enough for all.
No one need to go hungry
When on the Lord they call.

He will surely give unto us
More than we can think or ask.
So let us call upon the Lord,
And our troubles on Him cast.

He will give beauty for ashes,
And joy the rest of our days.
He will fill our cup with honey
If we will follow in His ways.

Oh, the goodness of our dear Lord
Is more than tongue can tell.
He'll never leave, nor forsake us,
When all with our soul is well.

—Effie Miller

GOD IS ALIVE!

"Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth." Rev. 20:7, 8.

To find out who "Satan" is that is referred to in this verse of Scripture, we need to look at Rev. 12:9 where it plainly tells us that "the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world." In the symbolic language of Revelation we find that the dragon was the anti-God and heathenish spirit that was ruling the then-known world when Jesus was born. Only a few, who were the Jews, believed in the true God.

The book of Acts tells about the power of God, through the saints and ministers, fighting against this dragon spirit, which was anti-God. The Apostle Paul was accused of turning the world upside down. Acts 17:6. We read in Acts 17:16 that when Paul arrived at the great city of Athens, "his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry." Many in that time believed and burned their books of witchcraft, etc. Acts 19:18-20. As time passed, the then-known world generally accepted the truth of the existence of only one God and Christianity, at least nominally. This would be the casting out of the dragon, the spirit of anti-God or heathenism. Since that time the civilized world, generally speaking, has believed intellectually in the one and only true God. Maybe they did not with a "born again" experience or from the heart, but it has been accepted nominally by them as a fact.

But we have the prophecy that "Satan shall be loosed," and in verse three it says that the dragon, anti-God spirit, "must be loosed a little season." This

will come to pass before the final judgment of God.

Dear ones, we are living in that time today. We have become alarmed and saddened to see it shaping up so fast. We know that the end is near. It makes us know that souls need to be stirred and be on their guard. I am sure that you have been reading in the newspapers and hearing it otherwise about some of the great discussions and controversies among the clergymen and professors in Protestantism over the issue as to whether God is dead or alive. It has been a nominally accepted fact that there is a God in a large part of the world down through the years since the great battle of the early church with that "old dragon," which was the anti-God spirit. They had a great battle to fight and they won, though many gave their lives to convince others that they believed God to be alive and that Jesus Christ was His Son. We find that some laymen are alarmed at the talk of their clergymen and this "new theology." But they will have to accept it as a fact in time or they will not be in fellowship.

One of the arguments of the clergymen in this modern culture and space age is that not many have had any personal relations with God, so therefore they can't teach that He exists. Of course, we who know in our hearts that Jesus is alive and that God is real know why they do not have any personal relations with God. It is because they have not come the Bible way to find God. The Bible tells man to repent with godly sorrow and to forsake their sins and turn unto God with all of their heart. When a man gets on Bible grounds and obeys it, he will find God right there to bless him and truly, truly he will become "a new creature" in Christ Jesus, "Old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." 2 Cor. 5:17. He will live without sinning each day.

There is a warning that should be sounded far and near. Hold your faith and confidence in a living God. God is real! God is alive and His Son, Jesus is alive today. He is sitting on the right hand of God interceding for you and me. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb. 4:16. We want to trust His wisdom and know that He does all things well with His trusting children. We must never doubt Him but believe.

This dragon, anti-God spirit is going out in the whole world to deceive it. Many will follow after it and be swallowed up by its deceptive, slick ways. We find that this spirit with Catholicism and Protestantism will compass the camp of the saints. Catholicism and Protestantism will go down first and in the end of time the anti-God spirit or dragon will be loosed a little season, and, then finally cast into the lake of fire "where the beast and false prophet are." "And the devil [dragon spirit] that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast, [Catholicism] and the false prophet [Protestantism] are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever." Rev. 20:7-11.

Dear ones, awake and be ready for that great day when God will take His saints out of these trouble-

some times. When God sees that the battle is too much, He will send down fire out of heaven and devour their persecutors. Time will be no more and the dead, small and great, shall stand before God and be judged according to all that they have done in this life.

—Sis. A. Marie Miles

Everlasting Habitations

Jesus told His disciples in Luke 16:9, "Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations." Comparing this reading with the original Greek text we gained a clearer expression: "By means of the mammon of unrighteousness make friends for yourselves, that when you fail, they may receive you into eternal dwellings." This was a direct charge to the Lord's followers and it bears an extremely important thought.

Let us notice the example that accompanied this command. Jesus told them of a steward who was accused of wasting his lord's goods. The lord, upon hearing of this, demanded an account, and gave sentence of dismissing the steward. The steward knew that he was presently to lose his position, and was greatly concerned with his future and what would befall him when he was put out. Finally he came to a crafty, wise decision. "I am resolved what to do," said he, "that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses." You see, he was seeking a promise of security for himself. He was employing careful thought and wise maneuvering to obtain friends that would afford him shelter and dwelling when he was at last put out. Now it is evident to us and consistent judgment with the law of righteousness that what he did to secure such a refuge was wicked and sinful. But the Lord used the incident to bring out a thought to us. "The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light," and we can take lesson from them that will help us in our quest for salvation and eternal life. The Lord used an unjust judge, in a certain sense, to compare with God (Luke 18:1-8) and here he uses a worldly person to compare with a child of God.

After the Lord had given the account of this unjust steward, He turns and applies the same principle to us. "Make to yourselves friends [just as this steward did] of the mammon of unrighteousness, that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations." The steward used the money that was yet in his power to gain the friendship of his lord's debtors. He did this that he would be received into their houses. Jesus enjoins us to do the same; "Make friends . . . that they may receive you into everlasting habitations."

We can now proceed to explain the real significance of this scripture to us. We are to make friends to ourselves by means of the mammon of unrighteousness. What is meant by the term, mammon of unrighteousness, you may ask. Reach into your purse or billfold and draw out a one, or five, or ten dollar

bill, or whatever amount of money you might have. Look at it closely. You are looking at mammon of unrighteousness. Mammon means money, or wealth. Why then is it called mammon of unrighteousness? 1 Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7, and 1 Peter 5:2 call money filthy lucre. 1 Timothy 6:9, 10 tells us that to desire to be rich is a temptation and a snare which drown men in destruction and perdition. He also states that to love money is the root of all evil. On down in that same chapter, verse 17, he calls money "uncertain riches," not worthy of our trust. "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." Therefore money is of no eternal benefit to us, thus it is destined to fail, or pass away. For these reasons literal money and material wealth are labeled by our blessed Lord in our text as the "mammon of unrighteousness."

Back to our text: "Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness, that when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations." With the money that we earn, or fall heir to in this life we are to make friends. How can this be done? "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will He pay him again." Prov. 19:17. And oh, the numerous scriptures we could mention that have to do with helping the poor! It is such a prevalent theme of the Bible! "He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever." 2 Cor. 9:9; Psalm 112:9. The Bible teaches by this scripture and many others that God has connected our hope of eternal life directly with what we do with our literal wealth in this life. We are going to fail; that is, we are facing death and the grave. We are to gain the friendship and favor of God that He might receive us into eternal habitations. Psalm 49, speaking of the vanity of the rich men who glory and rejoice in their wealth, gives forth this expression of hope: "But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for He shall RECEIVE me!" ver. 15.

We are saved by grace through faith, and not of works, lest any man should boast. Eph. 2:8, 9. But let us not forget that the thought we are mentioning here must accompany our faith and hope for eternal salvation. One part of Daniel's dire warning to Nebuchadnezzar concerning his future fall was to "break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor." Daniel 4:27. The rich young ruler who came running to Jesus inquiring concerning what he must do to obtain eternal life was finally answered by Jesus: "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me." To use a worthy portion of what material wealth or money that is in your possession for the good of the poor and those who are less fortunate is a worthy fruit of righteousness and favor with God. We are gaining friendship with God and the powers of eternal life when we faithfully use our money for those who are poor and in need. What wealth we possess will fail; we will fail also. But by being rich in good works and using what we possess

for the good and benefit of others will help secure an everlasting world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." 1 Tim. 6:17-19.

—Leslie Busbee

BIBLE STUDY

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

May 1, 1966

GOD CONFRONTS AHAB

Printed Portion 1 Kings 21:1-7; 17-20, 27

1 Kings 21:1 And it came to pass after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel, hard by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.

2 And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money.

3 And Naboth said to Ahab, The Lord forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee.

4 And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread.

5 But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him, Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread?

6 And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard.

7 And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? arise, and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

17 And the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,

18 Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it.

19 And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the Lord, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the Lord, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine.

20 And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the Lord.

27 And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly.

Memory Verse: He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good: and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? Micah 6:8.

Practical Truth: God will not let us go blindly into a wrong cause, but will reprove us.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

There are many lessons that are taught in our lesson for today. The covetous spirit of Ahab got him into trouble. His wife was a wicked woman and she did not help him do right. The Bible tells us that a good woman's "price is far above rubies." Jezebel sent letters which were to be confidential, and had Naboth killed. The witnesses told lies to have him put to death so King Ahab could have his land. The bloody, lifeless body of Naboth, who chose to obey God rather than men, could not speak again. But as the blood of Abel cried from the ground unto God for vengeance, just so did the blood of Naboth. God does not always send vengeance as quickly upon those who touch His children as He did in this instance, but it will surely come. God has said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." (Rom. 12:19). This should cause those who would think to do harm to God's children to stop and think. It also causes those who are God's children to commit all things into His hands to care for, and go right on serving the Lord with love in their hearts for everybody, even those who do them wrong.

Elijah startled King Ahab as he was enjoying Naboth's garden, by telling him what punishment was to come to him. No one does wrong without feeling the rod of God in his mind, heart, and soul. Many are doing as Ahab did. They want to blame others for their own wrongdoing.

When Ahab "went softly," God's vengeance was softened to a degree. Dear ones, see the mercy of God.

May 8, 1966

JUSTICE ESTABLISHED IN JUDAH

Printed Portion 2 Chronicles 19:4-11

2 Chron. 19:4 And Jehoshaphat dwelt at Jerusalem: and he went out again through the people from Beer-sheba to mount Ephraim, and brought them back unto the Lord God of their fathers.

5 And he set judges in the land throughout all the fenced cities of Judah, city by city,

6 And said to the judges, Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the Lord, who is with you in the judgment.

7 Wherefore now let the fear of the Lord be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, nor respect of person, nor taking of gifts.

8 Moreover in Jerusalem did Jehoshaphat set of the Levites, and of the priests, and of the chief of the fathers of Israel, for the judgment of the Lord, and for controversies, when they returned to Jerusalem.

9 And he charged them, saying, Thus shall ye do in the fear of the Lord, faithfully, and with a perfect heart.

10 And what cause soever shall come to you of your brethren that dwell in their cities, between blood and blood, between law and commandment, statutes and judgments, ye shall even warn them that they trespass not against the Lord, and so wrath come upon you, and upon your brethren: this do, and ye shall not trespass.

11 And, behold, Amariah the chief priest is over you in all matters of the Lord; and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house of Judah, for all the king's matters: also the Levites shall be officers before you. Deal courageously, and the Lord shall be with the good.

Memory Verse: Wherefore now let the fear of the Lord be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts. 2 Chron. 19:7.

Practical Truth: We should be honest, fair, and kind in all our dealings with others.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

First, I want to say that I appreciate from the depths of my heart, every godly mother. Only eternity will reveal what your godly influence has accomplished. Be encouraged.

Our lesson is about a godly king. Jehoshaphat (Jehosh-uh-fat) gave godly advice to the judges that he set over the people whom he brought back to God. That advice is good for us today. Each of us deals with people every day. In our minds we are judging every act that they do and every word they speak. When someone speaks or acts it causes you to react in some way to it. You draw a conclusion as to its worth. It showed to you the bad or the good, the mercy or the lack of mercy, the hardness or the compassion in the person, or at least you judged them according to the impression it left on you. But maybe your judgment was changed by a gift from them or you showed respect to their social standing, or blood kin. Now our lesson tells us that we are to have the fear of God upon us and to take heed. We are to have a perfect heart so we can think, speak, and deal courageously. We are to warn those who trespass the laws of God regardless as to their position in life so the wrath of God will not come upon us.

As mothers, fathers, or leaders of any kind, we should give forth "righteous judgment." John 7:24, Phil. 1:9. We are to base it upon God's Word. Our lesson tells us that God "shall be with the good."

May 15, 1966

JEHOIADA SAVES THE HOUSE OF DAVID

Printed Portion 2 Kings 11:4, 9-12, 17-19; 12:2
2 Chronicles 24:15, 16

2 Kings 11:4 And the seventh year Jehoiada sent and fetched the rulers over hundreds, with the captains and the guard, and brought them to him into the house of the Lord, and made a covenant with them, and took an oath of them in the house of the Lord, and shewed them the king's son.

9 And the captains over the hundreds did according to all things that Jehoiada the priest commanded: and they took every man his men that were to come in on the sabbath, with them that should go out on the sabbath, and came to Jehoiada the priest.

10 And to the captains over hundreds did the priest give king David's spears and shields, that were in the temple of the Lord.

11 And the guard stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, round about the king, from the right corner of the temple to the left corner of the temple, along by the altar and the temple.

12 And he brought forth the king's son, and put the crown upon him, and gave him the testimony; and they made him king, and anointed him and they clapped their hands, and said, God save the king.

17 And Jehoiada made a covenant between the Lord and the king and the people, that they should be the Lord's people; between the king also and the people.

18 And all the people of the land went into the house of Baal, and brake it down; his altars and his images brake they in pieces thoroughly, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. And the priests appointed officers over the house of the Lord.

19 And he took the rulers over hundreds, and the captains, and the guard, and all the people of the land; and they brought down the king from the house of the Lord, and came by the way of the gate of the guard to the king's house. And he sat on the throne of the kings.

12:2 And Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the Lord all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

2 Chron. 24:15 But Jehoiada waxed old, and was full of days when he died; an hundred and thirty years old was he when he died.

16 And they buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward God, and toward his house.

Memory Verse: For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts. Mal. 2:7.

Practical Truth: We should be willing to give our lives for that which is right.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Jehoiada (Je-hoy-uh-duh) was a High Priest of God. After Jehoram died, his wife, Athaliah, (after their son was killed) seized the throne by killing all of her children and heirs to the throne. But there was one son that was not killed. The High Priest, Jehoiada, hid the little baby Joash in his home. This was a daring thing to do but Jehoiada was a man of God. Jehoiada was careful to teach Joash about God and His ways as he planned that some day he would put him on the throne. All children are important. They need someone to guard them from evil and lead them aright. I am sure that each of you can tell of someone who had a great influence on your life as a child. May we each one let our godly influence go out to the children of today that we come in contact with. May God give us wisdom, should be our prayer.

Our lesson tells us how the plans of Jehoiada came to pass when Joash was seven years old. Jehoiada risked his life that an heir of David would still be on the throne. We notice that God worked with him and the people turned to God. They broke down their idols to Baal. Joash was a good king, just as Jehoiada had instructed him to be. When Jehoiada died they buried him among the kings. His influence for God had helped many people.

May 22, 1966

CORRUPTION AMIDST PROSPERITY

Printed Portion 2 Kings 14:23-29; Amos 7:10-12

2 Kings 14:23 In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel began to reign in Samaria, and reigned forty and one years.

24 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord: he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.

25 He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the Lord God of Israel, which he spake by the

hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gathhepher.

26 For the Lord saw the affliction of Israel, that it was very bitter: for there was not any shut up, nor any left, nor any helper for Israel.

27 And the Lord said not that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven: but he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash.

28 Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, and all that he did, and his might, how he warred, and how he recovered Damascus, and Hamath, which belonged to Judah, for Israel, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

29 And Jeroboam slept with his fathers, even with the kings of Israel; and Zachariah his son reigned in his stead.

Amos 7:10 Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel went to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all his words.

11 For thus Amos saith, Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall surely be led away captive out of their own land.

12 Also Amaziah said unto Amos, O thou seer, go, flee thee away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and prophesy there:

Memory Verse: Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Proverbs 16:18.

Practical Truth: When one forgets God, riches will not bring true happiness.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Prosperity and popularity are not signs that God is with one. Many times it is a hindrance to the spiritual progress of a soul. A woe is pronounced upon those who are "at ease in Zion." Jesus tells us, "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you!" Luke 6:26. The Spirit of God and the Spirit of the devil do not mix. When we declare ourselves to be God's child through our actions and words, it causes a division to take place between us and those of the world. This is part of the cross that we are to bear for God.

A few Sundays ago we talked about Jeroboam, the son of Nebat who made the golden calves. (ver. 2) Today we are studying about Jeroboam II, the son of Joash. He had a long reign but we do not have much record of it. We do know he did evil in the sight of the Lord. It seemed that God showed mercy to them and did not blot them out. God sent Amos, the prophet, to talk to them about their sins. In the book of Amos we read about their life of ease. They laid around on beds of ivory, drinking bowls of wine and listening to soft music. They were a proud, selfish people with the best of flocks, vineyards and land. Amos told them God was going to punish them but they would not listen. We find that the time came when He did punish them. Prosperity in material things is a delusion to many a nation and people.

May 29, 1966

THE FALL OF SAMARIA

Printed Portion 2 Kings 17:9-18

2 Kings 17:9 And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the Lord their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.

10 And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree:

11 And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as did the heathen whom the Lord carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the Lord to anger:

12 For they served idols, whereof the Lord had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing.

13 Yet the Lord testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets.

14 Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the Lord their God.

15 And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the Lord had charged them, that they should not do like them.

16 And they left all the commandments of the Lord their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.

17 And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger.

18 Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.

Memory Verse: Who is wise, and he shall not understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein. Hos. 14:9.

Practical Truth: We should always remember that it pays to serve God and obey Him.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

God's spirit will not always strive with man. There comes a time after mercy has been rejected that judgment will be meted out. Some might feel that no one will know about their secret sins, but be assured that God knows all about them. The ten tribes of Israel worshipped images, golden calves, Baal, and all the host of heaven. None of these things could speak to them or help them. History tells us that there have been uncovered 3000 burial jars of children between the ages of one month to four years old who were offered as sacrifices to their gods. Oh, the horror and heartbreak of child-sacrifice! No wonder God looked down upon those who once were his with the greatest displeasure. "The Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight:" there was only the tribe of Judah left. (verse 18). They were a rebellious people.

History tells us how the Assyrian army invaded Israel and took their capital city, Samaria. The once-quiet cities were now burning. People were lying dead in the streets. Long lines of people were being led away as slaves. They were leaving their land of promise. "Oh Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself." (Hosea 13:9). Their payday had come.

Remember that we, as individuals, need to become aware of the fact that failure to obey God's commands will bring spiritual doom. Sister A. M. Miles