

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Look Straight Through to God

How well do I remember when I was lost in sin,
That Jesus through His mercy reached down and took me in.
He saved me by His blood, placed me at His own right hand;
I heard His word so simple a child could understand.
True pastors led us safely to tables that were spread,
And then upon His blessed Word my soul was truly fed
With milk and honey, rich and sweet, and also heavenly bread;
The Word of God was meat and drink as Jesus true hath said.

Oh, yes, I'll live for Him, the One who died for me
And cleansed me by His precious blood He shed on Calvary.
He took away my load of sin, made my heart clean and pure,
And sent the Holy Spirit in to work a perfect cure.
For years I fed upon the Word—pastors for truth did stand.
Alas! A falling away has come, a famine's in the land!
Hungry souls are starving now, true ministers are few;
They realize a famine's on, but they don't know what to do.

If they could say, "Oh, Soul, be still, and listen to His voice;
Search again for the old paths;" and be quick to make their choice,
It would mean a coming out, and on His Word to stand,
To soar above the man-made rules we see on every hand.
It's not the crowds that we should seek nor worldly friendship crave,
But that the Lord would safely lead this side the cruel grave
That we might have our souls dressed up in linen pure and white
To be the bride of Christ. We must keep walking in the light!

When Jesus comes to catch us up, He'll not make a mistake
And take the wrong one to Himself, but just His bride He'll take.
Christ suffered much, He bled and died this good way to prepare;
So He Himself will catch us up. We'll meet Him in the air.
Among the brethren, people say, "Things have gone wrong we know."
They wander here and wander there, and don't know where to go.
Some folks will still uphold the right, while others will do wrong
And step on to the real broad way to join the great, large throng.

But listen, friends, just set your eyes upon the Word of God;
Gladly suffer shame and loss, as through this world you plod.
Die out to reputation no matter what others do,
And take Jesus for your guide—He'll safely lead you through.
Let's give no heed to what folks think, or what they have to say,
Jesus will help us ever walk the straight and narrow way.
We may suffer many a sneer ere we're placed 'neath the sod.
Let's turn from all the scoffs of man, and look straight through to God.

—Minnie M. Reichelderfer

(Reprinted from front page of "Faith and Victory" dated July, 1945)

PREACH THE WORD!

Isaiah 62:6, "I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence."

Isaiah 52:8, "Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion."

Isaiah 58:1, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." This last scripture is not referring to the sinful world in general, but is speaking of the professing people of God. Notice, the prophet was emphatically told to "shew my people."

I don't believe true ministers are able to stand by, seeing people courting soul dangers, and not cry out. If they fail to cry out, they become as dumb dogs that cannot bark.

I know there are some today who do not want the minister to preach against sin and ungodliness that might exist among the congregation of the righteous. (We do know that no sin exists in the church, but it can be in the congregation.)

Beloved, if the watchmen fail to cry out against sin, present day evils, and innovations that are creeping in among the saints, the devil will come right into the congregation and boldly take a front seat.

Quite often you may hear voices that say, "Preach love, preach mercy, preach longsuffering, patience and faith. Don't preach so much on the judgments of God and hell fire." Now the Word does teach love, mercy, and these other things, but it also brings judgment upon the children of disobedience. Romans 12:22, "Behold, the goodness and severity of God." In essence, these voices are saying the same thing those people said in Isaiah 30:8-10, "Prophecy not unto us right things; speak unto us smooth things. . ."

We will never win souls, nor please the Lord by preaching to suit, or please, people.

You don't prove your love to your children by telling them you love them every time they disobey; but by saying, "I love you, and because I love you I must correct and chasten you." "He that spareth the rod hateth his son." Hebrews 12:8, "But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."

The Lord himself didn't go along with the rebellious and hypocritical people, but He let them know that unless they repented they faced the wrath of God. We are seeing the fulfillment of 2 Timothy 4:3 right before our eyes. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine." Many people today are desiring a hireling ministry—a ministry that will preach to suit them, or allow them freedom of conscience to do as they please. There are many today like those referred to in Isaiah 4:1, "We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name . . ." What

they are really saying is, "We will decide our own doctrines, and be clothed in our own righteousness; just let us be called by Thy name." Thank God for 2 John, verse 9, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."

Paul told Timothy to "preach the word." The Word still teaches modesty of dress, and against all worldly adornment. The Word still teaches that women are not to cut their hair, and that includes banging in front as well as behind. The Word still teaches against worldliness in all forms.

There may be some who think that because the Bible doesn't specifically name out some things that we have a right to place our own individual interpretation upon those things. But I believe the Bible is also a book of principles, and we must abide by the principles of holy living, as taught in the Word of God.

In 1 John 2:15-17 we read of some things that are not of the Father, but of the world. "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." Now this scripture does not point out specific sins, but by principle condemns every thing of a worldly nature.

The lust of the flesh pertains to the gratifying of all worldly, carnal desires.

The lust of the eyes pertains to the use of our eyes in gratifying evil desires of the heart. As an example, Jesus said, "He that looketh on a woman to lust after her, hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

Doesn't Psalms 101:3 apply to the lust of the eyes? "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes." Does this not include movies? Does this not include television? Does this not include love novels and other trashy reading material? Saints, we need to be careful how we use our eyes. These things are wicked and evil.

"The lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

I don't believe in being harsh, critical, or fanatical, for it is true we can't force people to be saved nor to obey the Word of God; but I do believe God is holding His true ministers responsible for preaching the doctrines of the Bible and the church, and for lifting up a standard for the people.

Isaiah 62:10, "Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway, gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people." Even if no one will obey our teaching, nor give heed to our preaching, it doesn't relieve us of our duty and obligation to preach the Word, and lift up a standard for the people.

No doubt, in some places there may be people who will not give due respect to the ministry and to the message of truth. There was a time when the prophet and his message was accepted as God speak-

ing, but it is becoming quite common for some to boldly refute the message, and disregard the messenger in the day in which we live.

In the face of a fast changing religious world, I have a greater determination than ever before to preach the Word and lift up a standard for the people. God being our helper, we intend to stay in the "old paths," and be guided by the old "landmarks."

May our prayer be as the prayer of the apostles, and early church: "Grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, by stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus."

Beloved, I hear a sound of "going in the tops of the mulberry trees." (1 Chron. 14:15.) Let us go forward in the mighty name and power of our God. **PREACH THE WORD!**

—T. H. Coffey

THE UNEQUAL YOKE

WILL IT WORK?

(A woman's bitter experience when she chose her own way and ignored God's Word.)

One afternoon, while traveling on a bus, a young woman spoke to me. I didn't recognize her at first, but when she said she had met me "at Mrs. Jones's house," I remembered who she was.

Quite frankly she said, "Mrs. Jones is a lovely Christian woman; she led me to the Lord, but I have not seen much of her lately, because she doesn't approve of my being engaged to an unsaved man. I keep telling her that even if Harry isn't a Christian before we are married, I'm sure I will be able to win him, afterward."

Before I could reply, the young woman had reached her stop and gotten off. I began to think of the fine Christian woman of whom she had been speaking. I prize that woman's friendship, and many times her wise counsel has helped me. One of the texts she often quotes is, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" (2 Cor. 6:14.)

One day she said to me, "You have commented often on my quiet, serene way, haven't you? But I haven't always known the peace of God I possess today. I married an unsaved man. I thought he was a Christian; he said he was. But I didn't wait long enough to get the Lord's will in the matter. I thought I loved him, and felt I couldn't live without him.

"What I suffered for that willful disobedience only God knows. I knew he drank a little, but he stopped it during the months I was engaged to him. So, many church people thought I was doing a big thing, reforming a man. They told me how great my influence was on him, and, mind you, some of these good people were professing to know Christ. Even the minister of our church, who was known as a conference speaker, and outstanding in many ways, encouraged me to go through with the marriage. My dear Christian mother wasn't happy about it. She did warn me that I ought to wait at least another

year. She died the year I was married, so she never knew the unhappiness I experienced.

"I soon discovered that reformation doesn't mean regeneration. My husband had never accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour. He knew nothing about the precious blood that cleanses from sin, and I also discovered that he expected to take me his way, when all the time I had expected he would walk with me in the ways of the Lord.

"He brought his unsaved, drinking friends to our home. He expected me to be friendly with them. He allowed them to openly insult me. I can tell you with the utmost sincerity that only the marvelous grace of God saved my reason.

"It is over twenty-five years now since I married this man, and he isn't a Christian yet. But how wonderful is the lovingkindness of our God! As I watched my husband going deeper in sinful living, God helped me to go deeper in His ways. He has blessed and kept me, and protected me often from my husband and his wicked friends. There is a degree of peace, now, between my husband and me. He is kinder now, and none of those bad people come to our home any more. But oh, what I missed in the way of married happiness, and companionship, and Christian fellowship!

"Those church people who encouraged me to marry this man didn't know God's Word. But that doesn't excuse me at all. I had access to the throne of grace to find the wisdom and guidance I needed. Instead of relying on the living Word, I took the advice of other so-called Christians, and my own way. I went against the Holy Spirit's warnings.

"How I try to warn Christian young people against the unequal yoke! I have heard people of God say, 'God guides us through circumstances.' Yes, that is true, but I beg Christian young people contemplating marriage, stick to God's word. I learned in childhood that 'the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom' (Psa. 111:10). If I had heeded that instead of taking my own way and the advice of others, I could have been saved many years of misery.

"I stayed with my husband, when many times I was tempted to go far away from him. God gave me grace to stay by the vows I took on my wedding day. He gave me grace to do my duty, and He continues that grace. Yes, you are right when you say I have a quiet peace and serenity. He gives me that. Praise Him! And He keeps me day by day. But oh, with all my heart I pray, Christian young people, beware of the unequal yoke."

—Selected

TOZER'S DESCRIPTION OF A CHRISTIAN

"A real Christian is an odd number anyway. He feels supreme love for one whom he has never seen. Talks familiarly every day to someone he cannot see, expects to go to heaven on virtue of another, empties himself in order that he might be full, admits he is wrong so he can be declared right, goes down in order to get up. He is strongest when he is weakest, richest when he is poorest, and happiest when he feels worst. He dies so he can live, forsakes in order to have, gives away so he can keep, sees the invisible, hears the inaudible, and knows that which passeth knowledge."

"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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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.

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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.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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EDITORIALS

Greetings in the precious name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who was dead but is alive forevermore and has the keys of hell and death. There is no other name under heaven whereby we can be saved. Thank God for the gospel of Christ which is "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."

When the eleven apostles were gathered together at Jerusalem after Jesus' resurrection, he appeared in their midst and did eat fish and an honeycomb before them. Then He said unto them, "Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." Luke 24:46, 47. This still remains the obligation of the church to carry the good news of repentance and remission of sins through Christ to all nations and every creature. The multitudes may not believe the message, but God has purposed that they should hear and have an opportunity to be saved. Again Jesus said, "And the gospel must first be published among all nations." To aid in fulfilling this commission we are printing and mailing out thousands of printed gospel messages around the world. These are going to people who will never be contacted by any other means. This phase of God's work is made possible by your prayers and co-operation, and may the Lord bless and reward each one. We feel as did the Apostle Paul when he said, "... a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me," and we mean to be faithful in our place in the Body of Christ, the Church, which he purchased with His own blood.

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The prophet Jeremiah said: "The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully." Jer. 23:28. All dreams are not from the Lord, but in the Bible are accounts where God revealed His will frequently in dreams.

Recently in the early morning of March 29, 1967 this writer had a dream, and now records it as a dream. It seemed that I was with Bro. C. E. Orr, a pioneer minister with whom I had been well acquainted in his lifetime, but he went to Glory about 34 years ago. In the dream I could see that familiar form kneeling in prayer and hear him praying very earnestly. He was very burdened for the unsaved world in general and a number of souls in particular. In his earnest petition before the throne he uttered these words: "Lord, you know that in about twelve years something very tragic is coming to pass, ..." With these words I awoke instantly, and the dream was deeply impressed on my heart and mind. The meaning of this dream, if any, I do not know. Whether this tragic event about 1979 A. D. is another global war or the end of the world, I cannot say. Obviously, it is a warning of a great calamity that will overtake those who are unprepared to meet the Lord. The signs of the last days just prior to the coming of

the Lord are being fulfilled very rapidly, and it is a normal healthy attitude for every child of God to be looking for His appearance momentarily. Whether He calls one from this life or comes in fulfillment of His promised second advent, one must be prepared, for in either event his destiny is sealed. More than 1900 years ago Jesus warned His disciples: "Watch therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matt. 24:42, 44. Though the skeptics may scoff, yet Jesus is coming again according to His Word. That will be such a sad day for the wicked and a glad day for the saints. Jesus said, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28.

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The nice cloth-bound reprint edition of the excellent book, "The Cleansing of the Sanctuary" by D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggle, is now in stock for prompt delivery. This 541-page volume, long out of print, is reproduced by the lithographic process in a very limited edition and may not be printed again. Tell your friends or anyone who would like to have a copy of this choice volume of Bible truth. Price, \$4.50 per copy, postpaid. Send your order **TODAY** and secure your copy.

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With reference to "Sidetracks and Wildfire," this writer is reminded of an instance many years ago when a preacher and religious publisher, formerly operating in Oklahoma, travelled to Wichita, Kansas, and attended a meeting held by the "tongues" evangelist, Aimee Semple McPherson. Being affected by what he saw, heard and felt, he reported to his co-workers when he returned home that it was just like heaven to be in her services.

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The next work days on the National Campground at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo. will be on May 6 and 8, May 20 and 22, and the first and third Saturday and Monday in June. Mark these dates on your calendar, and if possible, come and help prepare the grounds and buildings for the coming national gathering of God's people on July 21 to 30. Send all contributions for the repair and upkeep of the buildings and campmeeting to the treasurer and manager, Bro. Ralph M. Beisly, 407 Eldridge Street, Coffeyville, Kansas 67337.

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Sister Marilyn Lyons, missionary on the Sioux Indian reservation in S. Dakota, writes that she is in need of Bibles. New or good used ones can be used in her missionary work among the Indians. Anyone who can supply this urgent need please send the Bibles directly to Marilyn Lyons, c/o By The Way Store, Mission, South Dakota 57555, and the Lord will surely bless you.

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Another landmark, literally speaking, has been removed in the interest of progress. More than 45 years ago the 4-room frame residence at 611 W.

Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. was the original home of the Faith Publishing House. The old house and spot hold many precious memories for this writer—as a lad around and working in the print shop, and later my wife and I occupied this house and made it our home for the first six years of our lives together, and it is where our two sons were born. Last year this property was purchased and added to the local church grounds. Now in April the old house has been demolished and the ground will be used for a parking area during the annual Oklahoma State meetings.

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Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the bereaved relatives and friends of Sis. Pauline Brown who departed this life April 16 at Tulsa, Okla.

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In His dying hour Jesus made provision for the care of his mother. "When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple [John] took her unto his own home." John 19:26, 27.

Thank God for the saintly mothers who have stood and are standing by the cross of Jesus—the emblem of suffering, shame, reproach, self-denial, humility, holiness and purity. This world would be a much better place if we had more true mothers. At mother's knee characters are formed which will last a lifetime.

This writer certainly appreciates his dear godly mother who won the crown of life over 12 years ago at the age of 64 years. Hers was a life of self-sacrifice for her home, her family of six children, and for the gospel work. Nearly 40 years she faithfully assisted my father in his divine call to the ministry of the Word by the pulpit and press. Their race is run, the crown is won and "their works do follow them."

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The Lord has healed this writer many times over the past 50 years, for which I am truly thankful. Having been brought up to trust the Lord fully, I know nothing else, and the Great Physician has never failed. At this time I have a prayer request for the healing of a growth on the left side of my head, just below my ear. I have been anointed with oil and prayed for according to James 5:14, and I am standing on His promises. Please agree in prayer that the work will be done.

—Lawrence Pruitt

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The Secret of Salvation by E. E. Byrum. First published in 1896. Paperbound, 264 pages. 75c each, or three for	2.00		
The Pilot's Voice by Isabel Byrum. Paperbound, 146 pages with pictures. A "must" for youth. 60c each or two for	1.00		
The Man of His Counsel by Effie Williams. Paper bound, 112 pages. 50c each, or five copies for	2.00		
Unraveling Revelation by A. Q. Bridwell. In paper cover, 36 pages. 20c each, or six copies for	1.00		
Highways and Hedges—records the life and labors of the late Faith Stewart, a missionary who spent many years in India and Cuba. Clothbound, 300 pages, plus pictures	2.15		
Christian Conduct by C. E. Orr, 45 pages, paper bound, 35c each or four books for	1.00		

OBITUARIES



Bettie Taylor was born March 11, 1906 in Mount Selman, Texas, and departed this life February 26, 1967. She married Grant Churchman in 1950 and was saved later under the pastorship of Bro. I. C. Chandler. Sister Churchman trusted the Lord and was faithful to the end.

The Scripture in Psalm 37:4, "Delight thyself also in the Lord, and he shall give thee the desire of thine heart," was revealed to Sister Bettie by the Lord during the last hours of her illness.

She will be greatly missed in the Los Angeles congregation and in other congregations. The saints and relatives loved her, but the Lord's will must be done; therefore, we submit to the will of God.

She is survived by two sisters, two step-brothers, and a host of relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. I. C. Chandler, Bro. Paul Lawson and others.

Bro. George Washington Rhodes, the son of Solomon and Maggie Rhodes, was born at Corsicana, Texas, on April 5, 1898, and departed this life on March 7, 1967, at the age of 68 years, 11 months, and 2 days.

In early childhood he moved with his parents to Colbert, Oklahoma, later moving to Okmulgee County where, in 1950 he was united with the Church of God in Okmulgee, Okla. He remained true and faithful to the end, serving as church treasurer from 1959 to the time of his death.

In 1924 he was united in marriage to Rosa Le Demery and to this union nine children were born—three sons and six daughters. One son and two daughters preceded him in death.

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, Rosa Lee, of Beggs, Oklahoma; two sons, George E. and Charles Rhodes, of Tulsa, Okla.; five daughters, Mrs. Reinette Henderson of Beggs; Mrs. Leona Rentie, Mrs. Lorenzo Elan, and Miss Lucenda Rhodes, all of Tulsa, Okla.; two brothers, Oscar Rhodes of Sapulpa, Okla., and Gus Rhodes of Canute, Okla.; three sisters, sixteen grand children and two great grandchildren, as well as a host of other relatives and friends.

The funeral was conducted by Bro. Woodrow Warren, assisted by Bros. Herman D. Kelley, Charles Smith, and others.

Thomas H. Golden was born in Winchester, Ky. on Oct. 26, 1876 and departed this life on April 1, 1967 at Anderson, Indiana, past ninety years of age.

The funeral was conducted by Bros. S. E. Abbott and Wm. A. McCoy at the Stanley Funeral Home in Cincinnati, Ohio. The body was laid to rest in the Baltimore Pike Cemetery, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Brother Golden spent many years of his life in the service of God. He traveled extensively and enjoyed giving out gospel literature and talking to souls about God's salvation. He carried a burden for lost souls and it was his desire that something be said at his funeral that would cause his loved ones to turn to God and be saved. God blessed in the services and some were weeping.

Brother and Sister Golden had spent the winter in Florida at the home of a daughter. She said a short time ago he woke up in the night and said to her, "Let's go home for I don't want to die down here," and added, "I want to visit the saints at Dayton, Ohio one more time." This he did on the last all-day meeting. He was happy in his soul and praising the Lord. Someone asked him if he would like to call back about thirty years of his life to

live over again. He emphatically replied, "Why no, Brother, no, I don't want to call back even one day; I'm on my way to heaven and almost there." Brother Golden loved the service of God and his fervent prayers and his praises to God will be greatly missed. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Psa. 116:15.

—Sister S. E. Abbott

Gertrude J. (Leverette) Walker was born to William and Amanda Leverette in Charleston, South Carolina, on September 11, 1883.

At a very tender age her parents brought her to Tullahassee, Okla. where she lived for many years. She was converted at the age of twelve and was frequently called upon for prayer for various people.

She was united in holy matrimony to Samuel Thornton Walker, and to this union seven children were born, some of whom preceded her in death. They attended a Church of God revival in their neighborhood and both were saved that night, through Jesus' blood, in this precious "evening light" reformation. She reared her children with a very firm hand in the fear and admonition of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. She was firm in the faith unto the end, kept and taught all the commandments and doctrines and preached God's word to many, until ill health forced her to retire. She was highly respected as a good saint and minister and mother to God's children throughout many states and for the last twenty-one years to the congregations of saints here in San Diego, Calif.

She departed this life April 2, 1967 at the age of 83 years, six months and nine days, her husband having preceded her in death by fourteen years.

She leaves to mourn their loss a son, Sherman T. Walker, San Diego, Calif.; two daughters, Blanch Davis of Los Angeles, and Tora Mae Jensen of San Diego, Calif.; a brother, Gus Leverette, of Tulsa, Okla., and a sister, Mrs. Omar Dickens of Pasadena, Calif.; also a number of grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, and a host of relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. I. C. Chandler, Bro. Johnnie Johnson, and prayer by Bro. Z. E. Francisco.

Mother to Me

M—Is for the many things she did for me,

O—Is that she did grow old.

T—Is for the tears she shed to help me,

H—Is for her heart as pure as gold.

E—Is for her eyes of light which shone to me,

R—Is for the right she always meant to be.

Put them all together and they spell "MOTHER," who meant more than all this whole world to me.

—(Daughter) Flora B. Davis

Lucy May Patterson was born on April 30, 1888 at Golden City, Mo. to Jesse and Mary Johnson. She departed this life March 29, 1967, while visiting her son in Rupert, Idaho. She had reached the age of 78 years, 11 months and 29 days.

She was united in marriage to Mr. George Stevens on January 7, 1910. He preceded her in death in 1927. She married Mr. Clarence Patterson in 1943. He preceded her in death in 1952.

Sister Patterson was the mother of 10 children, three of whom preceded her in death. Those left to mourn her departure are four sons: Jesse of Seattle, Wash., Paul, of Coffeyville, Kansas, Eddie of Rupert, Idaho, Donald of Lake Jackson, Texas, and three daughters: Mrs. Evelyn Fuhlhlage, Toronto, Kansas, Mrs. Darlene Hannah, and Mrs. Ruth Means, both of Coffeyville, Kansas; five step-

children, 35 grandchildren, 45 great grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

Sister Patterson professed a hope in Christ at the age of 18. In 1947 she came in contact with the Church of God and fully accepted its teachings and remained faithful unto death. She never lost her burden for lost souls until the end.

Funeral services were conducted by Sister Margaret Eck, assisted by Bro. Donald Sharp.

—o—

**Mother's Day Poem in Memory of Sister Maude Christ
Who Departed This Life Jan. 4, 1966**

It is not in flowers I'm sending
You another little bouquet,
But I thought I'd better write you
As it's nearing Mother's Day.

Dear Mother, it's of you I'm thinking
As I pause and meditate.
I wish to congratulate and thank you,
Before it is too late.

For the loving care you had for me,
While you reared and taught me right.
I may have been stubborn and disobedient;
I'm sure I was a sight.

But the things you taught will stay with me,
As on through life I go.
I wish to congratulate and thank you,
And now I must tell you so.

You taught me the life of Jesus;
How He suffered, bled and died,
Proving the love He had for us,
As on Calvary's cross He died.

And of His life and teaching
There is none we can compare
With the blessed teaching of Jesus,
Though we may search everywhere.

There're a few lines I'd like to write you,
A few words I'd like to say—
I wish to congratulate and thank you
On this, another Mother's Day.
—Your Son, Ernest Christ

—o—

**IN MEMORY OF LYCENIA MILES
Who departed this life June 19, 1963**

This is in memory of someone close to our hearts. I ask myself what more in life or in death could a person give than this good woman did? In life she had many children and many more grandchildren. To each of these she gave love, protection, and above all, understanding; understanding of God and of God's ways. She lived, taught, and died for God. What more could a person want or give to another than a knowledge of God? So let us for a moment forget our own little problems and kneel in prayer. Ask God to "lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." These words I remember from a little boy as coming from the lips of my grandmother, Mrs. Lycenia Miles. May she rest in peace.

A grateful grandson, —William A. Meyers

—o—

Whether one is walking in the light of God's Word or away from it determines whether or not he has fellowship with the Lord and His people. It is just that important. (1 John 1:7.)

Campmeeting Dates for 1967

Following are the campmeeting dates for the coming summer. More complete notices of each will appear in later issues.

Mission, S. Dak.—June 9 to 18.
Holly Hill, S. Carolina—June 9 to 18.
Tulsa, Oklahoma—June 9 to 18.
Zion Hill, Benton, Ark.—June 18 to 25.
Hoffman, Okla.—June 23 to July 2.
Jefferson, Oregon—June 23 to July 2.
General Southern—Hammond, La.—June 30 to July 9.
Akron, Ohio—July 7 to 16.
Green Pastures, Okla.—July 7 to 16.
California State—Pacoima, Calif.—July 7 to 16.
Myrtle, Mo.—July 7 to 16.
National Campmeeting—Neosho, Mo.
(Monark Springs)—July 21 to 30.
Oklahoma State—Guthrie, Okla.—Aug. 4 to 13.
Bakersfield, Calif.—Aug. 4 to 13.
Fresno, Calif.—August 18 to 27.

—o—

PRAYING FOR SOUL-SAVING MEETING

The saints at Coffeyville, Kansas desire a meeting here, directed of the Lord. We believe there are souls here ripe and ready to be harvested. We are fasting and praying for the Lord to burden someone to come this way. Any Holy Ghost-filled minister burdened to come will be welcomed.

We have all-day services on the second Sunday of every month, and send a hearty invitation to all who would like to come and be with us. We covet your prayers.

Yours in the Master's service, —Bro. Donald Sharp
114 W. Second St., Coffeyville, Kansas 67337

—o—

ALL-DAY SERVICES AT SPRINGFIELD, MO.

The congregation in Springfield, Mo., whose chapel is located at 728 N. Kansas St., cordially invites everyone to meet with them on April 30, the 5th Sunday, for all-day services. A gospel singing will be held on Saturday night, the 29th. Bro. Leslie Busbee is the pastor.

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5th SUNDAY ALL-DAY SERVICES AT SAPULPA

A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend all-day services on the 5th Sunday, April 30, at the Church of God chapel on the old Sapulpa Road, Sapulpa, Okla. Come and worship the Lord with us in the beauty of holiness.
—Bro. Richard Madden, Pastor

—o—

LOS ANGELES SPRING MEETING REPORT

The spring meeting in Los Angeles, Calif. was in session March 17 through March 26 with victory for all those in attendance.

The mid-day meeting was edifying during the entire ten days, and the saints and visitors were enlightened and strengthened in the truth of the Bible. The precious Word was preached with power and anointing of the Holy Spirit that brought conviction on the honest hearers who submitted to the Word and benefited thereby. Several received help and reconsecrated their lives fully to the will of God. Three souls followed the Lord in baptism,

and the ordinances were observed and administered to many saints during the last Saturday of the meeting.

We thank the Lord for all the ministers who labored in the meeting and pray God's blessings on them all.

By Sister Minnie Ola Jones
—Bro. I. C. Chandler, Pastor

NATIONAL MISSIONARY FUND REPORT

Dear Ones: We trust this finds each reader enjoying God's blessings, and more conscious than ever before that it is only through His mercies that we live and move. All good things come from His bounteous hand. Surely it grieves us, as well as God, that we don't hear more people praising Him for all these wonderful things. We praise Him for salvation from sin. We thank Him for helping us to put and keep everything on the altar. We desire to continue to use our strength, time and means to His glory. Pray for us.

It was mentioned before about the need of a smaller and better evangelistic tent, as the old one is almost beyond repair. Bro. Ralph Beisly has checked in Joplin, Mo. about a tent. By using the poles and walls from the old tent, a top could be purchased for about \$500.00. It is of the best material available (Gala No. 43). The proposed top is two 30-foot ends, which is smaller than the old one (40 x 40). We want to check in other places about this and get the best top at the most reasonable price.

We don't know who will be taking the evangelistic tent and equipment out this summer, so if anyone has any leadings of the Lord about going out and using this equipment, we would like to hear from you.

The Lord has been blessing and supplying the fund with money to send monthly to the ministers that we knew were ill and shut-in. We trust Him to move on all to help in this tent evangelistic work. If you are like Peter, "Silver and gold have I none," you can still pray.

Let us not allow the widow to show us up with her mite (her all), but let us each one do all we can to further the work of God while it is yet day, for the night cometh when no man can work.

May God bless all who have helped and those who will help in the future.

—Louie and Evodna Marler
Secretary-Treasurers, Rt. 1, Box 180, Senath, Mo. 63876

Editor's Note: Bro. and Sister Louie Marler are the new secretary-treasurers of the Church of God National Missionary Fund, from which responsibility Bro. Ralph Beisly asked to be relieved at the National campmeeting last summer. He continues as general manager and treasurer of the campground.

All your free-will offerings for the support of the evangelistic tent work, home missionaries, and evangelists should be sent directly to Bro. and Sister Marler.

The saints have provided this evangelistic equipment to aid the ministers and gospel workers in fulfilling their burden to get the soul-saving gospel of Christ into new fields. Even though able and qualified gospel workers are few, there are those who could work together to keep this tent moving in various fields throughout the summer. It should not be idle when the needs and calls for the gospel are so urgent. By all means it should be kept in use, beginning about June 1st when the weather would be suitable for tent meetings in many areas. Let us ask the Lord what He would have us to do to help keep the evangelistic tent in use this summer. If we neglect or fail in our responsibility, perhaps many will say as did one of old, "No man cared for my soul!"

MEXICO MISSION REPORT

Dear Co-Laborers, greetings: As this letter comes to you I trust that all is well with you in every way, soul and body. The Lord has been inspiring me along the line of our souls' welfare, and that we have a great part in our spiritual health. ... Our will must be to do His will.

The Lord has given many victories and blessings since the last letter was written. He has blessed His work and Word, both in and out of services. How grateful we are to know and serve the great God of heaven. Brother Angel Rodriguez and wife, Celia, have been passing through a real testing time but they have put their trust in the Lord and found that the Lord is true to His Word. It causes our hearts to rejoice to see these little ones stand true to God and trust His promises. How we long to see more progress of those who have begun to walk with God!

The Lord has given some messages about sanctification and a holy life, and different ones came to the altar for help, and one for sanctification. The children's meetings have been encouraging, too, with fair attendance and good enthusiasm on their part. They are doing well on their memory verses, and we are making a book in their class about the life of Christ and learning new choruses.

The sewing classes have begun now with thirty women and girls enrolled in them. Some are very little girls who insist that they are big enough to run the treadle machines. The smallest ones have begun a baby quilt for their little brothers or sisters. Older ones are making dresses, blouses, skirts, shirts, and comforts. Most of the material is from second-hand clothing. Please pray for me in this effort, for it is an avenue of personal work with those who never darken the door for services.

Time is short and it seems we are doing so little for the sake of souls. Thank you for your interest in the work here and for your prayers. Surely I beg you not to forget to pray for us. We don't want to fail you or our dear Master. May God bless you richly.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Edith Cole
Box 1425, Calexico, Calif. 92231

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

A letter dated March 25 from Bro. C. M. Verghese, native minister of the Church of God mission in India, sends greetings in the precious name of Jesus to the saints in America.

The main subject of his letter was the terrible food famine which India is presently undergoing. He quoted at length from printed reports of the severe conditions. Since the state of Kerala in which he lives is the most populated of all the Indian states, it is always short of food and must import much of what they need. Because of the general famine in India, the neighboring states have closed their borders and will not permit rice and other food to be brought into Kerala. Seeing their sad plight, the denominational institutions of America are sending food relief shipments to their groups in India, as well as to the affiliates of the American Council of Churches. We quote from his letter: "Naturally we poor believers are denied from getting anything from them. We don't expect to get any help or support from these sources because we are not affiliated with such institutions. Naturally our believers will feel deserted, neglected or frustrated. We look to God alone and pray that our faith may be increased with these trying circumstances."

Bro. Verghese feels that the Lord has graciously opened the way for him to purchase some wetlands, on which to grow rice, near the new chapel at Karikam. His aim is to share this land with other believers. This venture was by faith and he still owes a small sum. He believes the Lord will provide.

The primary obligation of the church is to carry the soul-saving gospel to every creature and not merely to set up a temporal welfare program. Jesus directed His hearers: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33. Then the Apostle John asks this question: "But whoso hath this world's goods, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." 1 John 3:17, 18.

Bro. Verghese closes his letter with this plea: "Please pray for us, and also for the innumerable precious perishing souls in India. As Esther said, 'For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?' " Esther 8:6.

—Lawrence Pruitt

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Under date of April 3, Bro. B. U. Etuk writes a very interesting cover letter and enclosed the detailed reports of the mission activities in Nigeria, W. Africa for the month of March written by the secretary, Bro. Nse Umanah. Space will not allow these to be reproduced in full.

The mission work is moving forward, and special services were held each Sunday of the month at various stations. On March 19 at Ukpom 25 converts followed the Lord in baptism. Also at Ukpom Bro. B. U. Udeme, native gospel worker, happily announced that in answer to prayer the Lord blessed them with a baby boy on March 18. He was cradled at the House of Prayer recently erected at Ukpom.

On Sunday, the 26th, 45 converts were baptized at Ikot Ofon Ikono. On the same day 11 converts were baptized at Ikot Ebak. The Lord's Supper was served to 349 participants.

In answer to prayer the banks in Nigeria have begun cashing the drafts from the Missionary Fund which were being held up for 30 to 60 days. These delays have worked hardships on the native missionaries. Pray that this situation may be fully corrected.

In their letter they questioned the cause of the delay in Bro. and Sister Cecil Carver's arrival in Nigeria. In the last issue of this paper we stated that they expected, Lord willing, to be in Nigeria by Easter Sunday, but this did not materialize. They were waiting near Atlanta, Ga. at the home of their son, Vernon, expecting the visas for India to arrive momentarily, but they did not come. In the meantime they returned home to Shreveport, La. and took care of the funeral for Sister Constable's mother. As this issue goes to press (April 22) they are back in Georgia, waiting for the visas to India. In a phone call from Bro. Carver he stated that their present plans are to leave by air for Nigeria the first of May whether or not they receive the visas for India. The visas can be forwarded to them or perhaps they can get clearance for India at an office overseas. This delay has been quite a disappointment to them. We assured Bro. Carver that the Church would be praying for them as they leave in the near future.

Pray that the unsettled political situation in Nigeria will not interfere with their mission efforts. —L. D. Pruitt

NOTICE TO THE CHURCH IN OKLAHOMA

The work on the substantial addition to the chapel here at Guthrie for the accommodation of the annual state meetings is progressing very well. The concrete block walls are up, and since April 17 quite a number of volunteer workers and others have been working this week on the roof structure. Much more remains to be done before the building is ready for campmeeting. More volunteer laborers from over the state would be appreciated. The congregations and individuals are especially urged to shoulder the financial obligation of this state project. Please forward your free-will contributions directly to the treasurer, Bro. M. A. Davis, Route 4, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044.

Prayer Requests

Okla.—Pray God to deliver Sister Jessie Taylor. Her faith is steadfast in the Lord.

Mo.—"Urgent unspoken request. Pray God to save my two children at any cost."

Ind.—"My son is going with a divorced woman. Pray God to stop this. I have another problem that is serious."

Mo.—"Some serious problems and some souls need help." Sister T. Holbrook.

Calif.—Sister Mabel Doolittle has been sick for some time, but her condition is serious now. She is able to eat very little food. Her trust is fully in the Lord.

Mo.—"Weak spells, kidney trouble, salvation of loved ones." Sister E. Hill.

Ohio—"Wife has been suffering." V. Earle Yantis.

Mo.—Several ailments. "I know the Lord can heal." Mrs. C. Birmingham.

Ill.—Sister Lettie West has some serious problems.

S. Car.—"Pray for my hearing."—E. F. Ellenburg.

Okla.—Sister Iva Lebon still needs prayer for gas around her heart.

Ohio—"Sister Lillian Brown is very ill." Sis. H. Clark.

Ill.—"Healing of a serious affliction." Viola Perry La.

La.—Son has a bad ear condition. Mrs. A. Britton.

Ohio—"Suffering with bad leg." E. Clark.

Tenn.—Two afflictions. L. Dillinger.

Fla.—"I have a very bad nervous condition." Mrs. F. Cook.

Ill.—My 11-year-old grandson has a nervous condition. His parents have taken him to several doctors but they have not been able to help him. I know God can heal." Sister L. Nicholson.

Ark.—"Enjoyed the paper Sister M. Eck gave me. Have noise in my head ... throat trouble and unsaved loved ones." B. Howard.

Mo.—"Kidney stones." Sister Nels Allen.

Tex.—"Son afflicted in mind; has a family."

Pa.—"The Lord healed an affliction I had for 18 years and it was gone for over a year but it is troubling me again." Sister Avis Tinsley.

Mo.—Sister Lloyd Whipple is trusting God to heal her of crippling arthritis. Her trust is in the Lord.

Tenn.—"Pray for the complete healing of my throat. It could be cancer. The Lord is equal to the occasion. Recently I was divinely healed of a stroke in my left side. I have been preaching and practicing divine physical healing for 53 years. —James T. Hooten

Okla.—Sister Poulos, Sister Hann, and Sister Hunter at the Golden Rule home still need much prayer. So thankful for what the Lord has done for Sister LaFaver. The Lord is giving her a new heel and bottom to her foot that decayed away from the diabetic sores. She is now able to

sit up in a wheel chair after being in bed for almost three months. God has performed a miracle on her body.

"The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." 2 Chron. 16:8. Isn't that a comforting scripture! God's eye is looking at you with a desire to help you and to "show himself strong" in your behalf; that is, if your "heart is perfect toward him." Sometimes we would like to give to our children things they desire, but it would not be good for them. We have learned by experience that their wisdom and knowledge are not sufficiently developed to govern their desires.

May the Lord bless all of us as we wait before Him is my earnest prayer. It is God's will to heal us of all our diseases. Let us with faith look up with a "perfect heart" and let God show Himself strong in our behalf, giving Him all the glory. —Sister Marie Miles

Okla.—Dear Workers at Faith Publishing House: greetings to you in Jesus' dear name. I am happy in the Lord and praising Him for His continued goodness to me. Continue to pray for me as my chest pains me much, in fact, most of the time, and I feel nauseated much of the time. My failing eyesight is also a burden of prayer. One eye is blind and the other is failing quite fast. I greatly desire my eyesight that I may see to read and write. I have fully trusted God for many years and I mean to trust Him to the end.

Inclosed find a check for \$5.00. Please send me a box of birthday cards and also one of sympathy cards. The rest use in the Lord's work where needed.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Nellie Poulos

(Editor's note: Sister Poulos, formerly of San Bernardino, Calif., is a satisfied resident of the Golden Rule Home, at Shavnee, Okla. Remember her special request for prayer for healing, as well as for a number of others in the Home, and that the Lord will undertake for them in a marvelous way in their declining years. Bear in mind that if you live long enough, you, too, will get old and feeble.)

Alabama—Dear Sister Marie Miles: Since I wrote you to pray with me for my ill health, thank God, tonight I feel fine. Your faithful prayers have helped me. Please continue to pray for me for I still have some more problems. The Lord knows what all of them are. Pray with me that the good Lord will open the proper channels to supply all our needs. Also pray that I will be strong spiritually and physically.

We are small farmers and are now getting ready to plant. Please pray that the Lord will bless our farm this year so we will have more to give to the mission work of Christ.

May the Lord bless all of you.

Elizabeth Mickens

Texas—Dear Sister Miles: I wrote you once before for prayer. The Lord answered prayer that time and I meant to write and tell you, but didn't get it done.

Will you please pray at this time for my son and his wife that God will save them? They have a sweet little girl seven years old, very smart and sweet. Oh, how they need God's help in rearing her! Pray for God to take care of my boy when he is out drinking on weekends. He's good to his family and makes them a good living, but oh, how he needs God! Thanks you so much for your prayers. —Elsie Doak

It is not so important where you are from, but where you are going.

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Georgia—Dear Sister Marie and all the saints: I thank the Lord for the blood of Jesus that was shed that we might be saved from our sin. I thank God for the people of God who are determined to go through with the Lord Jesus Christ.

I enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory" paper and thank God for the friend who gave me the trial subscription. May God bless this one. Reading the many wonderful testimonies has helped to strengthen my faith. Pray for me.

I am saved and sanctified and have a mind to live for Jesus.

I am sending \$1.00. Please enter my subscription to the "Faith and Victory" for one year.

Sincerely,

—Sister Gussie Grimes

Mo.—To the dear saints scattered abroad: I feel that many of the saints of God have been praying for the healing of my body. The Lord has been good to give me relief many times in the past year when this affliction was on me. I want to thank all of you for your prayers, encouraging letters, nice cards, and the phone calls. Surely they have been a source of help and encouragement to me, though I haven't answered them all yet.

On this date, April 10, I have been very sick for about five days. My case is in the hands of the Lord to do whatever He wants to do about it. I am ready to go or stay.

Thanks be unto the Lord for all He has done for me.

—Mrs. Bessie Sorrell

La.—Dear Sister Marie and saints abroad, greetings to all in the precious name of Jesus, our wonderful Savior and Healer: I want to take this means to thank everyone for your prayers during my recent sickness. The Lord has certainly been good to me and has come to my rescue. Our faith is still in the One who is abundantly able to do more than we can think or ask. Praise His name!

Through our sicknesses we have been drawn closer to the Lord, and we thank Him for it. Continue to pray for me that I will regain my strength.

Yours in Christian love,

—Sister T. H. Coffey

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie, the workers at the Lord's Print Shop and all the readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper, greetings in the precious name of our dear Lord who has done so much for us, saving us from all of our sins, and accepting us as His dear children, writing our names on His book in heaven. Praise His wonderful and holy name!

It was 17 years ago last January that I lost my sight, and I can say truthfully I could not have gone through it without the Lord. He has been more precious to me in these years than ever before. Praise His name! He has brought me through many tests and trials with victory that I could not have gone through without Him.

I had been blind just a year when I fell and broke my wrist. Someone called a doctor and he said it was a hospital case, but I refused to go or have it set. My daughter said it looked like my hand was pushed back between the two bones of my arm and said it looked awful. But the Lord undertook and healed it, as He always does for His trusting children, and it was not long until I could carry as heavy a load with that hand as the other.

Then two years ago last August I fell and injured my hip and was not able to walk for three weeks. I was

getting around in a walker until the morning of the third week. I got up to get into my walker and the Lord spoke and said, "Go right on," and I have been going ever since with no need for the walker. Praise His dear name!

Two years after I lost my sight I had the privilege of learning the Braille system for blind readers, so was able to read my Bible myself which has been such a great blessing to me. I truly thank and praise the Lord for helping me, as I was 62 years old then and it could have been hard for me to learn at that age. The dear Lord is so good to His trusting children and I am privileged to be one. The Lord has never failed me yet, so pray for me that I will never fail my blessed Lord who has done so much for me.

One day I had just baked a custard and was taking it to the sink to cool. I hit the cupboard and knocked it out of my hand. It fell on the tile sink and broke the dish, spilling the custard, but the Lord did not permit me to get burned. In cleaning it up, I did not get cut or get any glass in my fingers. It was so wonderful how the Lord took care of me while I was living alone and He helped me to do things which seem almost impossible for one blind, and hard to believe, but thank the dear Lord, all things are possible with our God. Praise His dear name!

One time I was watering my lawn. I would set the sprinkler and then follow the hose back to the faucet. This time I let go of the hose and lost my way and in trying to get back to the house, headed straight for the road. When I got to the gutter I recognized where I was and called on the Lord for help. He told me to look toward the sun. As it was evening and the sun low in the west, I was able to get my bearings and head toward the house. The rose garden was between me and the house and I had to feel my way along the row of roses, which was about 15 feet, then I could turn and cross over to the house. I got a wonderful spiritual lesson in this experience. If we let go of the Lord, we are headed for danger. But when we get in the gutter and realize we are lost, then call on the Lord and acknowledge we are lost, the Lord instructs us to look to Him and He helps us out. But we may have some thorns along our path in getting back, yet if we just look up, we will see some roses blooming among the thorns. We can well realize it was worth the thorns to get back to the Lord.

I have learned so many precious lessons from the Lord; they are too numerous to tell. I want to encourage anyone who is losing his sight that if the Lord does not see best to heal you, He can and will give you grace to go on. Just as the Lord told the Apostle Paul when he sought Him thrice to remove the thorn in his flesh, "My grace is sufficient for thee," so it has been for me, and He will do the same for you. Take courage and trust Him. He will not fail.

May the Lord make this a blessing to all who read it is my prayer.

Sister Flossie Atha

(Editor's note: Sister Atha, formerly of Pomona, is now a contented resident of the Senior Citizens' Home on the church campground at Pacoima, Calif.)

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

Okla.—Dear Saints, I am so thankful for God's blessings to me. I have been thinking about how God watches over us, protecting us each day as we go about our duties. I well remember one time when I lost some important papers downtown during a rush. I reached home before I discovered my loss. When I returned, I found that the person who found the papers had left his name. Afterwards, as I saw how God watched over the papers before

I even knew they were gone, I certainly did thank Him. To have replaced them would have been expensive.

The Lord helps me in my work in the home. This may seem like a small thing to some folks, but I'm very thankful to have Him help me find misplaced items.

The Lord has protected me from auto accidents thus far. In sickness He has taken care of me. Really, His blessings are too numerous to mention. I am reminded of the song, "Count Your Blessings." Each verse is good. Here is one:

"When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done."

Christian love,

—Anna Chrisman

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

Calif.—To the dear Saints and readers of "Faith and Victory," greetings in the precious name of Jesus: I wish to thank the friend who sent in my name for a sample of the "Faith and Victory" paper. I have received them before and I get a blessing each time I read them. I am sending a check for three years for myself and three years for my sister in Tennessee. If she is already a subscriber, you may use the extra dollar as you care to for the glory of God.

I was born into the Church of God in Tennessee forty years ago and I've served Him ever since and hope to as long as I live. God has blessed me and healed my body many times in past years and I praise Him daily for His care over me. I was ill for months last year and my sister in Tennessee and the good saints in her congregation there had special prayer for me. The Lord healed my body and I was able to go back to work after being off for five months.

May God bless you and all your co-workers in the wonderful work you are doing.

Your Sister in Christ,

Effie Maxwell

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

Mich.—Dear Sister Marie and saints scattered abroad: We are happy to report victory in our souls this evening. I'm thankful that Jesus died for even me that I could have a part in this marvelous plan of salvation.

I've been reading the good testimonies in the "Faith and Victory," and thought it was time to send in our testimony to tell some of the things God has done for us.

Ralph, my husband, has been having a lot of trouble with his back and leg for quite some time now. Seems like it has been getting steadily worse. But he is determined, by the help of the Lord, to trust God all the way for his healing. God has been good to him and relieved the pain many times. Last Sunday the Lord really did help him, and we had a wonderful meeting, believing the work was done. But, of course, the devil isn't satisfied, nor happy with such victory and blessings "in the camp of the saints." Since then, Ralph has been having more trouble with his back and leg. We don't know just what it is, but we know the Lord knows, and is more than able to take care of it. Praise His name! The Bible tells us, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Isa. 53:5. Praise the Lord! Last night Ralph had a hard time trying to rest, so we called several of the saints. We were all agreed in prayer and the Lord wonderfully came on the scene and gave Ralph relief from the pain and helped him to relax and get good sleep. How good it is to be able to put our complete self in the hands of the Lord! Now, we are not just wanting relief, but we are looking for complete victory. Won't you help us to pray?

A while back I had a wart that was growing under my fingernail. I could hardly touch it without it hurting. I requested prayer in meeting and I also asked the Lord to heal it. I think it was the next week I testified how much better it was, with most of the soreness being gone. I came home from services and was getting dinner ready for my family, when all of a sudden a sensation like electricity went from my finger and on up my arm. From then on, it was completely healed. It didn't even leave a scar to show where it had been. What a mighty God we serve!

The saints here are thanking the Lord for sending Bro. Ray Key here to be our pastor. We had prayed for such a long time, and the Lord was good to us once again to help us. We appreciate Bro. Key and are thankful for the help and encouragement he has been to us.

Dear ones, God has been good to us all. We can never repay Him. We can give our all and be holy consecrated to Him to work in His vineyard. Let us examine ourselves and see what more we can do for the Lord. The devil sometimes has us so busy with little things that don't profit our souls. But the Word says, "Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth." Col. 3:2.

Pray for me that I will be found doing the things that the Lord wants me to be doing. Truly the harvest is white already and the laborers are few. We can all do a little; if nothing else, we can pray for those who are in the field gleanings souls for the Kingdom.

Your Sister in Christ,

Dorothy Wilkins

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

Kentucky—Dear Workers who publish the "Faith and Victory" paper:

Did you ever stop and think what "faith" and "victory" mean? Almost everything that can mean the salvation of our souls is tied up in those two words. What can we do without faith? Even sinners must have some faith—in their work, or in their families, and even in themselves. But without faith we cannot enter heaven, for we must have faith that Jesus lived and died for us. We must have faith that we can be saved, and have faith in God that He will heal us and let us enter His everlasting kingdom after death. Without faith we are nothing. The word "victory" speaks for itself. We have won, we have gained the prize, we are free—victory at last! Two wonderful words!

Almost a month ago I became very ill. My throat almost closed on me. I could hardly speak so that my family could understand me. I began to have spells with my head feeling numb. My mother came and had prayer for me. I seemed to get some relief for a while, but the next day my head got worse and the attacks lasted longer. A minister's wife came to see me, so she and my mother agreed in prayer again. Once more I was relieved, but not completely healed. My husband called an ambulance and had me taken to the hospital. A voice had said, "I will take care of you," so I held on to those words and God helped me. All kinds of tests were made and the doctor told me he couldn't find anything wrong with me except low blood pressure and bad nerves. God is helping me with my nerves. I am trusting in the Lord for complete healing and strength. I know Jesus never refused anyone when they asked to be healed when he was here on earth, and Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. I promised God if He would heal me I would testify through your paper. I feel that God will complete the healing of my body.

My mother is ill with a kidney infection. Please pray for her complete healing, also pray for the healing of my father who is ill.

A Sister in Christ,

—Wilma Horsley

Tenn.—Dear Sister Marie, greetings in the Saviour's name: I trust this finds all well in soul and body and encouraged in the Lord and His work.

Bro. Murphy Allen had a card with his address on one side and this verse on the other: "Only one life, 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last." That is really true. All things will pass away, but God says His Word will not pass away. I want to be able to stand in that day and be true and faithful to keep and obey His Word to all my ability until then.

Bro. and Sister Cecil Carver came up from Atlanta, Ga. (they have been with their son, Vernon) and were with us for two services, which we appreciated. They are still waiting for their visas to India. Bro. Kenneth Probst's grandmother passed away and he could not be with us.

Some time ago I requested prayer for our daughter's eyes. She had ulcers on her eyelids and the optometrist would not fit her with glasses. He wanted to treat them, but we refused. When Bro. Samons came by our place, he prayed for her and we can report victory. The Lord healed and we took her to another optometrist who fitted her with glasses. I certainly thank the Lord and appreciate your prayers and interest and all the saints. We are to pray for one another, and it will bring results.

Still remember us and also our grandson. He still has a cast on both legs. I know God can heal. Pray that it will bring his parents to God.

Christian love and daily prayers,

—Sue Shell

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

Mo.—Dear Sister Marie and all the dear saints, greetings in Jesus. I thank you for your dear letter. Your letters always mean much to me. I am as usual physically; not able to do anything, but God is blessing me with care.

As you may know, my daughter, who was lost and is found, is very sick in County Hospital at Santa Barbara, Cal. Continue to hold on to God for her, soul and body.

I thank all the dear saints for their cards, letters, and gifts for my birthday. If I were able, I would answer them. God bless everyone.

Sister Minnie Noakes

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

Kansas—To the dear saints and readers of "Faith and Victory" paper, we send greetings of love in the precious name of Jesus, the One that sticketh closer than a brother and has promised to never leave us, nor forsake us. We are so thankful to be saved and serving such a mighty Saviour.

I am sure several are interested in the progress being made by our younger son, David. It seems our experiences were so great and the many answers to prayer so marvelous that we could write pages and not tell it all, but we frequently have to say as did the Psalmist of old, "The Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad." I am glad, too, that we don't have to use up all the space telling what great things happened years ago, but since He is just the same today, we shall have new experiences from time to time. But a few things are in keeping to show His goodness to the children of men.

David had a real severe case of measles. From the time he began taking them until they had dried away, he had a very high fever which never did go away. Immediately it developed into pneumonia, and he was in a coma for a week. As a result of the measles he lost complete use of his mind, could not see, hear, talk, or move. It was hard to see him in this condition, but we never questioned our Father, knowing His ways are best, and that we are His trusting children and that our lives are clear before Him. We knew that He would only permit the things that were for our good. Often we

may pray for the Lord to take us to heaven whatever the cost, or may sing, "In the heated furnace, Father, let me stay," but when He lets things come to pass to fulfill these thoughts then some turn to the arm of flesh. Neither Glen nor I even once considered this, having full confidence and assurance through His Word that He who made our bodies in the beginning, then saved our souls, was more than able to care for David. We are thankful to report that He did heal him and surely we appreciate it. His mind is as alert as before; eyesight, hearing, walking, and speech are all very normal. His lungs are very weak yet, so he tires easily, but he is improving daily along this line. We are holding on in faith because we aren't expecting anything but that he will be as healthy or healthier than before. To us this is a twentieth century miracle. This Scripture has been rich to us, "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." Lam. 3:22, 23.

We still appreciate your prayers in his behalf, and have other needs before the Lord, also.

Pray for us as we do for you. —Glen and Leta Inman

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

Ark.—Dear Sister Marie and all the saints, I am thankful to be saved and know it in my heart. Some false teachers may teach that we don't know when we are saved, but I know we do.

We had ordinance services here April 9. The Lord wonderfully blessed. I really enjoyed it. It was the first time since we have had our little work here. We do thank the Lord for sending Bro. and Sister Albert Eck and family here. We feel the Lord's blessings here. We are thankful to have all-day meeting here every third Sunday of each month. We enjoyed our first all-day meeting February 19. Bro. and Sister Leslie Busbee were with us. We had our meeting on the fourth Sunday in March because of Randle and DeLoris' wedding being on the Saturday night before. Bro. Charles Smith and Bro. Darius Gibson brought some good messages and some were at the altar.

I would like for all to pray with us that the Lord would work out some problems for Bro. and Sister Eck so they will be able to stay here with us. I believe their labors here are worthwhile. We know the devil would like to hinder God's work.

I want to thank the Lord for how He helped me in a trial. The enemy really worked on me but just before I was overtaken the Lord gave me victory. I feel real encouraged in the Lord. I mean to go all the way. I desire your prayers for more boldness and help from the Lord to do what I feel He wants me to do. I am thankful for what God has done for me in my body but I still need more help. Pray for all of us here.

One who loves the Lord, —Opal Bradley

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"The church of God is the congregation of those who are united by the same Spirit, the same faith, the same God, the same Mediator, and the same word, by which alone they are governed and in which alone they have life." —Lambert

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The Twenty-third Channel

The television is my shepherd, my spiritual life doth want. It maketh me to sit down and do nothing. It leadeth me beside men of no faith. It restoreth my desire for worldly pleasures. It requireth all my spare time and keepeth me from doing the will of God, because it presenteth so much foolishness, which I must see. It increaseth my knowledge of nonsense and keepeth me from the study of the Word of God. Yea, though I live to be an hundred, yet the viewing of my television shall have first place in my life as long as it doth operate, for it is my closest companion. Its sound and its picture, they comfort me. It presenteth foolishness and folly before me continually, and keepeth me from surrendering my whole life unto God. It anoints my mind with seeds of corruption, and fills my head with vanity, which profiteth me nothing; my cup remains empty. Surely, no good thing will become of my life, because I am devoted to my television, which leaveth me no time to serve God acceptably; Thus I will dwell in the house of confusion forever.

If you would reform the world from its errors and vices, begin by enlisting the mothers. C. Simmons

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BIBLE STUDY

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MAY 7, 1967

THE CHARACTER OF THE EARLY CHURCH

Printed Portion Acts 4:23-33

Acts 4:23 And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all

filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

Memory Verse: And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:31.

Practical Truth: Let Jesus take all the honor and dishonor that comes to you.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The report that the apostles brought back after their release from prison was serious. Only God helped them to escape with their lives but this did not intimidate them nor the church which had gathered to hear the details. We do not see any note of self-pity nor any shrinking from future sufferings. We do not note any change in their determination to continue in the faith. They loved Jesus even more than their lives. They referred to what the prophet David had foretold that the people would imagine vain things and the kings of the earth would stand up against the Lord, whom they represented in this life. They did not consider that it was against them but against Jesus whom they served. Can we look at our persecutions in this manner?

Notice their prayer. It was not a prayer to help them shun persecutions but they forgot themselves and desired that God would grant them greater boldness to speak during the times of stress and strain. They wanted more signs and healings to be done than ever before. They surely were just vessels through which God could work. God was pleased with such a prayer and he blessed and filled them with more power and "great grace was upon them all." Do we want more power and more grace? Then we must forget ourselves and be willing to be a vessel used just as God sees best. Perhaps He can use us best while we are in severe trials. Are we willing for it to be thus?

MAY 14, 1967

GAMALIEL ADVISES THE COUNCIL

Printed Portion Acts 5:27-39

Acts 5:27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them,

28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

33 When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.

34 Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space;

35 And said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men.

36 For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to naught.

37 After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed.

38 And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of man, it will come to naught:

39 But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.

Memory Verse: I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. Job 42:2.

Practical Truth: Every "born again" child of God should say, "We must obey God rather than men."

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The disciples had been arrested and cast into prison for preaching and healing in the name of Jesus, but they were freed by an angel. Then they returned to their preaching in public in the temple. Again they were taken and brought before the council. They were reminded that the council had told them not to preach in Jesus' name. The high priest felt condemned and pointed out that they had filled Jerusalem with their doctrine and were blaming the Jews for Jesus' death. They had said, "Let His blood be upon us and our children" (Matt. 27:25) but now they were not willing to assume the guilt of the death of Jesus. The apostles did not try to gain favor with them by denying their part but boldly declared, You killed Jesus, but God raised him from the dead and He is our Saviour, ready to give repentance to all who will repent. This was too much for these men who probably could not sleep well because of their consciences. They took counsel to slay them. Peter had told them, "We ought to obey God rather than men." God is to have our supreme allegiance. The apostles were not seeking trouble nor stripes but they were determined to obey God, as He was their Master.

Gamaliel said, "If it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it, but if it be of man it will come to naught." It is better to stand alone with God than to stand with millions and have God against us.

MAY 21, 1967

STEPHEN—A MAN OF FAITH

Printed Portion Acts 6:8-12; Acts 7:51-60

Acts 6:8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

9 Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

11 Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God.

12 And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council.

Acts 7:51 Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

53 Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.

54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God.

56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God.

57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

59 And they stoned Stephen calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Memory Verse: I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Philippians 4:13.

Practical Truth: Be willing to give your life for Jesus' sake.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Down through the years there have been men of strong faith who were willing to give their lives for the gospel of Jesus Christ. There was a time when the government was controlled by wicked men who would kill all Christians. They would hunt for them and bring them up before the rulers. They would be cast into the lions' dens and be killed while thousands of people watched and cheered. Sometimes the Christians would be tied to a stake and burned to death. Many cruel things were done but these men and women stood firm. They knew that soon they would be with their God and Saviour in heaven. They would be comforted and safe from trouble. They would be enjoying their treasures in heaven and hear the Saviour's words, "well done." In the early years of Christianity it is said that for every one who was killed for Jesus' sake and would not deny him nor recant, ten more people who watched them were won to Christ. They were convinced that salvation was real. The courage and glory on the faces of those who died for Christ could not be a sham. Their lives bore fruit.

Stephen's clothes were laid down at the feet of Saul. No doubt this convinced Saul that there was a reality to salvation. Stephen's triumphant death and his prayer for God to forgive his murderers brought forth fruit.

MAY 28, 1967

THE GOSPEL IN SAMARIA

Printed Portion Acts 8:4-17

Acts 8:4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

7 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.

8 And there was great joy in that city.

9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one,

10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

12 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.

13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost;

16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Memory Verse: Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. Acts 8:4.

Practical Truth: God is in the center of all your trials and persecutions to whisper His secrets that will bring forth good fruit.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Persecutions in the early church "scattered abroad" the disciples and they went everywhere preaching the Word. After the death of Stephen, James, one of the Lord's disciples was beheaded. Saul of Tarsus was one of the greatest persecutors of the Christians. God saved him and made a good preacher out of him. Many of the Christians left Jerusalem to escape the severe persecutions, which was God's plan in getting the gospel spread abroad. Sometimes the Lord has to treat us like the eagle does the little ones. They pull the down out from under them and let them rest upon the sticks. They soon want to leave the nest. It is better for us to carefully listen for the still small voice of God and move as he desires us to.

Jesus had told the disciples at his ascension that they were to preach in Jerusalem, Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth. Our lesson shows us that they had now gone to Samaria. It was God's time and He blessed the labors of Philip there.

There is still witchcraft in the world today but we read in the Bible that those who work witchcraft and practice sorcery are named among those who "shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone." (Rev. 21:8; 22:15). God's people should not have anything to do with such. Simon had great influence with the people but God broke up that nest of the devil's. More of the disciples came from Jerusalem to help in the great gospel meeting that was going on in Samaria.

—Sister Marie Miles