

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



Volume 36, No. 7

45th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35c Per Year

September, 1967

Carry Sunshine



Many people carry shadows
By the gloomy lives they live,
By their grouchy way of speaking,
And by what they do and give;
But there is a way of living
That is better far than this,
Blessing men with sunny brightness,
Helping them to joy and bliss.

You may carry sunshine, neighbor,
Carry sunshine day by day,
Which is done by righteous living—
Yes, by what you do and say;
And it makes you feel much better,
And your fellows that you meet,
When your face is wearing sunshine
And your voice is kind and sweet.

Carry sunshine by your smiling,
By your gentleness and grace,
By the prayers you breathe for others
And the kindness of your face;
By the love your heart possesses,
By the sympathy you show,
By your patient way of dealing
With your friend or with your foe.

Carry sunshine to the needy,
To the sick and to the sad;
To the men and to the women
Who are good or who are bad;
Though sometimes 'twill cost you money,
Cost you effort, work and time;
Yet to be a sunshine toter
Is both noble and sublime.

You will ne'er regret it, neighbor,
As the years of life go by,
For it's this that makes you happy
While you live and when you die;
Then when you shall meet the Master
After you have run your race,
You will not be disappointed
When you see His smiling face.

—Walter E. Isenhour

The Nature of Christ's Kingdom



The idea that the Messiah would establish a literal kingdom upon the earth originated with the Jews. Many of them placed literal interpretations upon those prophecies which foretold the coming of Christ, and as a result they expected him to set up a temporal throne, subdue the nations, and restore again the kingdom of Israel. This gross error led them to reject Christ, oppose his spiritual kingdom and consent to his death. Wanting only an earthly kingdom, they rejected and crucified the Son of God. He did not meet their expectation, therefore he became a stumbling block to them. He said to Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight" (John 18:36). At one time they tried to take him by force and make him a king, but he departed from them.

His kingdom is purely spiritual and divine. If it were of a secular nature, then his servants would have contended. They would have opposed force with force, as the kingdoms of this world do in their wars. But since his kingdom is not of this world, no resistance was made, even when he was arrested. Jesus acknowledged himself a king, saying, "To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world"; that is, to set up a kingdom and reign as a king. But he clearly set forth the nature of his kingdom when he declared it to be not temporal, or literal, but purely spiritual—"not of this world."

Through all his teaching he endeavored to show the people that his mission was to establish the kingdom of heaven in the hearts of men and there reign as King of peace. "And when he was demanded of the Pharisees when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation; Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo, there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:20, 21). This positive text stands in square contradiction to the teaching of the modern advocates of a future literal reign upon earth. The Pharisees evidently believed that Messiah would establish a temporal kingdom and set up his throne in Jerusalem. Since Jesus claimed to be the true

Messiah, they naturally asked him when the kingdom of heaven should come. The fact that it "cometh not with observation," or outward show, positively proves it to be a spiritual kingdom—Christ ruling and reigning in the hearts of his people. "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). And you will find it in the full salvation of Jesus Christ. Jesus himself likened the kingdom of God to leaven, which quietly leavens the whole lump. Mark well this point; it is another indication of the spiritual nature of the kingdom.

"The kingdom of God is within you!" Some render this "among you"; others, "in the midst of you"; but any of these statements implies that since the kingdom was then among men, it is not a future thing. I am inclined to believe that the "Common Version" gives Christ's true meaning. It might be well to notice that the Greek word from which this is taken is "entos." This word appears in but one other text in the New Testament—"Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also." (Matt. 23:26). To substitute "among" for "within" in this last text would be ridiculous. Christ was simply teaching that the Jews were looking for the wrong thing. They expected a literal reign, and he was endeavoring to show them that his reign is spiritual and that his kingdom is in the hearts of his people. By the expression "within you," he by no means meant to convey the idea that his kingdom was in those wicked Pharisees, but that his kingdom is not literally located "here" or "there"; but in the hearts of men.

The nature of the kingdom is clearly seen in the five essentials that constitute it. (1) Christ is King. His spiritual domain extends over heaven and earth. (2) His throne is a spiritual throne, called a throne of grace and holiness, to which we can now come for favors from his hand. (3) The subjects of his kingdom are spiritual men and women, who, as "living stones, are built up a spiritual house, . . . to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 2:5, A. S. V.). (4) The law that governs this kingdom is a spiritual law. Jesus said, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." The unconverted are instructed to seek it: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33). (5) It has a spiritual door for entrance.

The moment an individual is saved from his sins, he is inducted into the kingdom of God. "At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and sat him in the midst of them, and said, Verily, I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:1-4). The language of this text is very clear. The kingdom of heaven is a present reality. Jesus was not speak-

ing with reference to a future age, but to the dispensation of salvation. To be great in the kingdom of heaven is to fill a place of usefulness and efficiency in the work and service of God. The way to reach such a place of usefulness and efficiency is to humble ourselves as little children.

In talking with Nicodemus, Jesus said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"; "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:3, 5). At another time Jesus said, "It is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved? (Luke 18:24, 26). Salvation and the kingdom of God are here classed together. Jesus plainly taught that in order to be saved, people must forsake all, and of course this includes riches. It is hard for those who are wealthy and who have their hearts set upon their riches, to comply with these demands.

Entering the kingdom and getting saved are the same thing. Since it is through the new birth that men enter, there are none in the real kingdom of God but those who are saved. The work of placing men and women in the kingdom belongs to God, "who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Col. 1:13). Since the new birth is a spiritual birth, and the door into the kingdom is a spiritual door, it is further proved that the kingdom of God is a spiritual kingdom; for how can a man enter a literal kingdom through a spiritual door?

"Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and harlots go into the kingdom of God before you" (Matt. 21:31). "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in" (Matt. 23:13). These texts also show that the kingdom was present at the time Jesus spoke these words and that people were entering it. When the disciples went forth preaching the kingdom of God, they did not speak of something future, or point people to a millennial age, but they declared the blessings and privileges to be enjoyed in the present. People so understood it, and as fast as they accepted the gospel, they pressed into the kingdom. Paul makes a definite statement on this point in Romans 14:17: "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." This text shows clearly the nature of Christ's kingdom, "which is within you" (Luke 17:21).

When a soul fully complies with all the Bible conditions, then by the work of conversion—the new birth—it enters through Christ the door into the church, or kingdom of God. This is the sense in which the door of the kingdom was opened and men entered into it during Christ's personal ministry. But even after conversion there yet remains in the heart of the believer a sinful nature, the carnal mind. This causes an inward warfare between the flesh and the spirit. Before Christ can reign supreme, this in-

ward foe must be destroyed, the throne of iniquity must be obliterated. This is accomplished in the glorious work of entire sanctification. So the fullness of God in the baptism of the Holy Ghost and the complete establishment of his throne of holiness in our hearts is something for which the believer must seek; therefore he prays, "Thy kingdom come" (Matt. 6:10). There is a sense in which God's people can pray this prayer in any meeting where they desire the salvation of the lost. Their cry is that the kingdom of God may come into the hearts of the people by the salvation of their souls. The promise is, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly."

When the believer presents himself a living sacrifice upon Christ the altar, when the last condition is fully met in a complete death to sin and self, then the Holy Ghost, with the blood of Christ, destroys the body of sin and moves in, in all his fullness as a personal Comforter, to abide with the soul forever. "The reign of God is within you." —H. M. Riggle

"Given Thee From Above"

Many parents have suffered great things for their children and family because they love them. We have heard of those who have gone into burning buildings to rescue someone at great risk to themselves. One father risked drowning to bring his son in from the deep waters after the tide flowed in heavily and caught them far from shore. Some people have suffered false accusations by taking the blame that belonged to someone they loved. In many ways many have suffered in this world because there was a purpose for it and they gladly did it.

It is normal for the human being to desire an answer to all the troubles, heartaches, or problems that touch their lives. When trouble presses in from every side and there is no "way of escape" for the mind or no answer, it causes one to feel crushed and in despair. That is the reason many take their lives.

But, dear ones, do you know that the children of God have an answer given to them for everything that touches their lives? They need never be in despair. Their minds can rest from despair and confusion. They never need to be crushed. Do you want to find the answer to all of your troubles? Do you want rest in the midst of trouble?

Let us meditate for a while on some scriptures in the Bible. "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." Psa. 34:7. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 Cor. 10:13. Jesus said to Pilate in the Judgment Hall, "Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above." John 19:11. "Ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Gal. 3:28. Do you not notice that these scriptures tell us that when we are

"born again" and filled with the Holy Spirit, yielded and consecrated to the Lord, that we are in Christ? "And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's." 1 Cor. 3:23. What a safe place to be! Now if this be true, then we are in the center of the circle and Christ and God are surrounding us. The angels are also encamped around us. And since we have Christ in us, Christ is saying to all that might want to harm us or to the troubles that touch our lives, "Thou couldst have no power at all against me [or my child in whose heart I am dwelling] except it were given thee from above." So you can see, God has permitted all the troubles to come. I am sure you are asking, "Why?" Let the Bible answer this for you. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Rom. 8:28. There is good in everything that touches your life. You might not see it at the time because God has ways of working that are far above our understanding, so we just need to trust Him and believe Him that it is for good even if we do not understand it all at the time. That is our "way of escape" for our mind.

There might be someone watching our lives. God has a lesson to teach him and you are the one He has chosen to help get that truth to him. Did you know that we are just "vessels unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work"? (1 Tim. 2:21.) We also are "instruments of righteousness" to be used just as the Lord desires. We do not belong to ourselves, but belong to God. (1 Cor. 6:20.) Cannot God use that which belongs to Him as He sees best? "Nay, but O man, who art thou that repliest against God?" (See Romans 9:20.)

We love God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength, so we are willing to suffer for Him, just as the mother or father or those who suffer for others whom they love. That is what takes the sting out of the suffering. Jesus is our example and He suffered, being innocent, for the guilty. Sometimes we have to suffer to help the innocent. "And, if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Romans 8:17, 18.

Now the good from these troubles might not just be for someone else but they might be for us. We pray for the Lord to help us be ready to enter heaven, but there might be some things about us that we do not see and through trouble we can see it and get rid of it. Keep humble and be patient, learn the lesson and see God in it.

How safe and secure we feel in Christ and what a rest to the mind when we know that there is nothing that can touch our lives unless God has permitted it! If He permits it, it is "given thee from above," and He will take care of it if we will just be humble and put it all in His hands, submitting to God and His holy will.

—Sister Marie Miles

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

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

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

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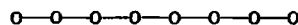
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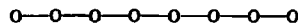
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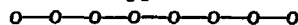
By the continued blessings of the Lord, we again greet our many readers: Since the August issue was omitted as usual, in order that our faithful co-workers could have the time off to attend the campmeetings, it has been a number of weeks since the July paper reached our readers. During this time we have kept close to the office work, mailing out books, tracts, and papers in all directions. The calls for pure gospel literature are increasing, and the demand presents a challenge to somehow increase the output. Our prayers accompany the literature that the Holy Spirit will carry the truth to every reader. Much free gospel literature was made available at various campmeetings this summer. As "workers together" with Christ, we solicit your continued prayers and co-operation in reaching the lost through literature evangelism.



The campmeeting season is passing swiftly, and in a few more days it will all be a part of history. From all directions—north, south, east, and west—come reports from these meetings of the outpouring of the presence of the Lord in these services. The Word was preached with the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Conviction rested heavily on the unsaved. Many souls heeded the call of God, sought and found peace and pardon at the altar of prayer. Believers consecrated their lives completely, were sanctified by the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Believers followed the through the prayer of faith. Believers followed the example of our Lord in the ordinance of water baptism. Also the other ordinances of the Lord's House—the Lord's Supper and Feet-washing—were observed at the various campmeetings. Jesus said, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." John 13:17.



It was our happy privilege to attend most of the annual National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo. for the 30th time, and we were glad to meet all our old and new friends. Saints and ministers came from many states to enjoy the feast at Father's table. On the first Sunday the large tabernacle was overflowing—perhaps six to eight hundred present to hear the precious Word of God. Throughout the meeting the attendance was good, a large number attending for their first time. Time after time the altars were filled with seekers to be saved and sanctified. Shouts of joy were heard as God fully satisfied the contrite hearts. About 200 happy saints observed the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and Feet-washing.



The campmeeting held in June on the Sioux Indian reservation near Mission, S. Dak., though small in comparison, was a success in a number of ways in spite of the very unfavorable weather. Storms and rain were incessant, for which the premises were not prepared. One night the entire group evacuated to the town of Mission because of the threat of a dangerous flood. Saints attended from Oregon, Ohio, Okla-

homa, and other places. Bro. Mart Samons was the minister, and the gospel messages went forth plain and definite. A young Indian, Leslie Lance, was confined to his home with serious injuries from an auto accident. The saints visited him with the good news of salvation a time or two. He got saved, and the next day the Lord called him Home—rescued at the “eleventh hour” as a “brand plucked out of the fire.” Zech. 3:2. Sister Marilyn Lyons, the resident missionary to the Indians, wrote: “Altogether, before the camp broke at noon on Sunday (June 18), one got sanctified, five saved, others brought closer to the Lord, and some healed. Fifteen took part in the ordinance services. . . . The saints sowed good seed, and we are watering it. God is blessing in a real way. Praise the Lord!” Sister Lyons attended a few days of the National Campmeeting and testified of the continued blessings of the Lord. Let us pray for her and her burden and call of God to get the gospel to the Sioux Indians in S. Dakota.

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The Oklahoma State campmeeting at Guthrie, Okla. began on Aug. 4 after work was rushed on the new addition to the chapel to the point where it could be seated and used for this state meeting. Several spent long and late hours in getting it ready. May the Lord reward the local and out-of-state saints for their sacrificial labors and gifts. Considerable finish work on the building and grounds is yet to be done, and the indebtedness now stands at approximately \$3,500. This information is for the special benefit of the Oklahoma saints.

The meeting was very well attended from over the state, and many from out of the state. We appreciated all of them. The Word was preached with the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, and many souls responded and found spiritual victory. The saints were edified and rejoiced in the truth.

On the first Sunday the saints were saddened by the word that Sister May Carver had departed this life, but sorrowed not as those who have no hope. A number of saints present went to the funeral at Loranger, La. which was held on Tuesday, Aug. 8. Bro. Cecil Carver came by air to the Guthrie meeting the same day after the funeral. It was exceptional how he was being sustained in his loss. May God's comforting presence continue to sustain him and the entire family in their bereavement.

Toward the end of the meeting Bro. and Sister Darius Gibson received a phone call to come at once to Perkasio, Pa. to pray for Bro. Houck who is aged and suffering greatly in his body. We trust they had a safe trip and that the Lord has undertaken in a special way for Bro. Houck.

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Last spring a storm struck Bro. and Sister Gibson's home at Seymour, Mo. while they were away on a mission for the Lord and damaged the house beyond satisfactory repair. A new home was the only reasonable solution, and the foundation has now been laid for it. Their son, who is a carpenter, intends to do the work of building it for them. Since Bro. and

Sister Gibson have and are spending their lives in the service of the Lord, it should be the pleasure of the saints to lay up treasures in heaven by helping them financially to build this new home. Please send your love offering to Bro. D. A. Gibson, R. 3, Box 23, Seymour, Mo. 65746.

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A new evangelistic tent, size 30 by 30 feet, has been purchased, and Bro. Mart Samons took the truck, house trailer, and equipment from the National campground after the Monark meeting to Kentucky where he, Bro. Curtis Williams, and Bro. Bob Forbes were to begin a tent meeting today, August 18, near Junction City, Ky., a few miles south of Lexington. A few saints there attended the National campmeeting and desired a tent meeting in that area. We are praying that this evangelistic effort will result in a special blessing to many precious souls. The tent evangelistic work is supported through the National Missionary Fund, for which Bro. and Sister Louie Marler are the treasurers. Your contributions for this purpose may be sent directly to them at Rt. 1, Box 180, Senath, Mo. 63876.

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Through the summer this writer has contacted many of the ministers of the Church of God, and we are so glad to report that they as a body are still standing solid for the truth and against the innovations and compromise which threaten the cause of Christ. The “television preachers” had no liberty in these parts. The Church that Jesus built is not going down, for she is founded on the Rock of eternal ages. Individuals may fall and depart from the faith, as some have always done throughout the history of the Church, but our Lord will find a pure and spotless Bride when He comes again.

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The Camp of the Saints Compassed About

The present ecumenical movement (union of all churches) is portrayed in symbolic prophecy by the “three unclean spirits [paganism, Catholicism, and Protestantism] . . . which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” Rev. 16:13, 14. Also the same movement for a “one world church” is symbolized as “Gog and Magog” gathering together on a world-wide scale to “compass the camp of the saints.” Rev. 20:8, 9. Great strides are being made to merge all false religions. One of the biggest steps in the march toward ecumenism is the recent approval of one Bible for all English-speaking Catholics and Protestants. The Oxford University Press quotes from the last May issue of Reader's Digest: “The final step in achieving a common Bible for English-speaking Christians . . . Richard Cardinal Cushing of Boston brushed aside the last Catholic objections and gave his approval to the regular edition of the Oxford Annotated Bible with The Apocrypha, RSV, as published by the Oxford University Press in 1965.” In spite of this universal acceptance of the Revised Standard Version,

the classic King James Bible, first published in 1611, is still the only recognized version for the true Church, of which Jesus Christ is the Head.

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We are sorry that space is not available in this small paper to include all the testimonies, articles, etc. which are sent in for publication. Please be understanding and bear with us in this situation.

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Our dependence is upon the Lord for wisdom and guidance in getting the the gospel literature out to this world which has gone mad on the broad way to destruction, evidenced by the race riots, bloodshed, wars, and the disregard for property, law and order around the world. No one is safe outside of the "walls of salvation." A special agreement of prayer is requested and will be appreciated for the problems which now confront us in the gospel publishing work. Our consolation is: "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us," and as we face the future our faith and confidence is firm in Him who is abundantly able to take care of His own. —L. D. Pruitt

OBITUARIES



Tulla G. Argeres was born July 20, 1898 in Greece, and departed this life July 15, 1967, five days before her 69th birthday, in San Bernardino, California.

Approximately 18 years ago Bro. Gus Anast preached the gospel to Sister Argeres and she was saved. From that day forward she lived a Christian life and loved the Lord dearly and trusted in him completely. She witnessed for the Lord, not only by her testimony, but by her actions and deeds, also.

At the beginning of Sister Argeres' illness (she died of a heart attack) she had a dream in which the verses from 2 Tim. 4:6, 7 came to her over and over again. She requested that these verses be read at her funeral, which Bro. Wilson did, and he likewise read verse 8, which was very appropriate. "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Sister Argeres was a widow. Her husband preceded her in death 22 years ago. (He heard the truth on his deathbed and was saved.) They had no children. She leaves to mourn her passing a brother, Nicholas Constant, Hollywood, Calif.; and a niece, Mrs. Betty Eastenes, Inglewood, Calif., and the many friends and saints who loved her.

Funeral services were conducted in San Bernardino, Calif. by Bro. O. B. Wilson, and interment was made in the Mt. View Cemetery, San Bernardino. —Bessie Anast

Ruth Ellen Rudd, daughter of Frazier W. and Susan E. Belcher, was born in Patoka, Illinois, on Sept. 19, 1886 and departed this life on June 11, 1967 at Pacoima, Calif.

In September, 1911 she was united in marriage to Ralph E. Newton in Shawnee, Okla. To this union two sons were born, one dying in infancy. She is survived by the other son, Nick K. Newton of Pinole, Calif., one grandson, one granddaughter and three great grand-

children. Her husband, Ralph E. Newton departed this life in 1943.

In 1948 she was united in marriage to Andrew F. Rudd in Glendale, Calif., and he departed this life in 1963, at Orland, Calif.

She was saved when a very young woman, and in 1948 she embraced the truth of the Church of God and rejoiced in it, trusting the Lord fully for soul and body unto the end.

She is also survived by three brothers, Odie N. Belcher of Pacoima, Calif., Robert E. Belcher of Empire, Calif., and Willie B. Belcher of Shawnee, Okla., and one sister, Rada F. Watkins, of Pacoima, Calif., also many other relatives and a host of saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted at Noble Chapel Funeral Home in San Fernando, Calif. by Ira D. Stover and Harland H. Smith. Interment was at Orland, Calif. with graveside service by O. B. Wilson and H. P. Huskey.

Thomas Elmer Love was born December 31, 1872 in Corsicana, Texas. He departed this life May 21, 1967 at the age of 94 years and 4 months.

He moved to Boley, Oklahoma at an early age and grew up and was saved and later called to preach the gospel. During that time he met and married Mary Lucas. To this union four sons were born: Elmer, Abner, Cornelius, and Willie Ray. His wife, Mary, and sons Elmer and Abner preceded him in death.

In 1918 he met and married Mrs. Lula Williams. To this union two girls were born. His wife Lula preceded him in death in 1941.

In the year of 1945 he met and married Mrs. Dora Williams. He remained with her until the end came. He kept the faith and was dearly loved by many.

He leaves to mourn his departing his wife, Dora Love of the home address, two sons, Cornelius and Willie Ray, two daughters, Mrs. Katherine Burch and Mrs. Alice Nugent of California, seven stepdaughters, six stepsons, grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends.

The funeral services were conducted at the Church of God chapel, 800 N. E. 3rd St., Okla. City, Okla. by Bro. Herman D. Kelley, assisted by Bros. Woodrow Warren and Lewis Williams. Interment was in Hillcrest Memory Gardens.

Cora Leila (Williamson) Joiner was born Dec. 28, 1887 at Union, Miss. and departed this life at Hammond, La. on June 27, 1967 at the age of 79 years and six months.

She was married to Wilson Lester Joiner Dec. 27, 1905. To this union eight children were born: Eloise, Virgil, Claude, Zexa, Curtis, Homer, Frances, and Donald. She was preceded in death by her husband and two children, Zexa and Claude.

At an early age she gave her heart and life to Christ and lived and died in the faith.

She leaves to mourn her passing, Eloise of the home, Mrs. Howard Rabon, Mobile, Ala., and four sons, Virgil of Baton Rouge, Curtis of Atlanta, Ga., Homer of Hammond, and Donald of California; four sisters, Mrs. Robert Forbes, Miss Queenie Williamson, of Hammond, La., Mrs. Roy Langlois of Baton Rouge, La., Mrs. Everett Carver, Houston, Texas; five brothers, Grover, Denham Springs, La., Fred and Austin of Baton Rouge, La., Max of Hammond, La., Earl of New Mexico; eleven grandchildren, five great grandchildren and a host of friends and loved ones and saints.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. T. H. Coffey. Texts: 2 Tim. 4:7, 8 and Rev. 14:13. Interment was in Oak Grove Chapel Cemetery.

Lula White, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Ball, was born July 31, 1882, near Benedict, Kansas and passed away at Guthrie, Okla. on July 2, 1967 at the age of 84 years, 11 months and two days.

In the year of 1899 she was united in marriage to Marion White, and to this union 8 children were born, 3 of whom preceded her in death. Her husband preceded her in death in 1933.

Lula White came to Guthrie in the year of 1921, moving here with her family and lived here the rest of her life. She accepted the truth in her early married life and has been associated with the Church of God at Guthrie all these years. She was a faithful wife and mother and a devoted child of God. She will be missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by three sons: Roy White, Ray White, and Harry White, all of Guthrie, Okla.; two daughters, Mrs. Nellie Ott of Guthrie, and Mrs. Mary Reece of Fresno, Calif.; one step-daughter, Mrs. Wanda Gillaspay of Guthrie, Okla., 14 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-granddaughter, also a host of other relatives and friends.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. Willie Murphey, assisted by Bro. O. C. Porter. Interment was in Summit View Cemetery at Guthrie.

Note of Appreciation

The family of Sister Lula White extends sincere thanks to each and every one who was so kind and good to Mother during her illness and death. Your prayers, kindness, sympathy, and floral offerings were deeply appreciated in our time of grief. May the dear Lord bless you.

Bro. John Stephen Green, son of Willie and Ellen Green was born Nov. 14, 1885, near Hope, Ark. and departed this life at Guthrie, Okla. on July 2, 1967 at the age of 81 years, seven months, and 18 days.

Bro. Green met the saints at their campmeeting at Hammond, La. about 1927. Before this time he had accepted the Lord as his personal Savior and was faithful in upholding the truth until his passing. His devoted life to the Lord caused many who knew him to love and respect him very much. Bro. Green's service of love and many exhortations to the saints will be greatly missed.

Survivors include Mrs. Leona Green and Mrs. Aquila Benson of Guthrie, Okla.; John M. Green of Rhinehart, La., and Mrs. Myrtle Hoffman of Dallas, Texas. One daughter preceded him in death.

Funeral services were conducted at Guthrie, Okla. by Bro. O. C. Porter, then the body was shipped to Jena, La. where services were conducted by Bro. C. C. Carver, assisted by Bro. Merrill Williamson and Sister Ruth Murphey. Interment was there at the Belah Cemetery.

(Editor's note: Dear Bro. Green just recently moved from Jena, La. to Guthrie, Okla. where he was the caretaker on the church campground. Active up to the last, he took sick and passed away the same night, evidently with a heart attack, leaving a bright testimony of victory. He was a firm supporter of the Lord's gospel publishing work here, and stood steadfast for the truth. His race is run and the crown is won. The world needs many more witnesses for Christ such as our beloved Bro. Green.)

Ashton Jesse Bowman was born to William Simon and Tursey Christine Bowman on March 22, 1887 in Knoxville, Tenn. and departed this life July 1, 1967 at the age of 80 years in Hoffman, Oklahoma where he was an evangelist at a meeting being held there.

While he was in the U. S. Army he was converted at the age of 23. On March 27, 1921 he was ordained an elder in the Church of God and over the years has pastored at various places in North Carolina and Kansas. He was a zealous and faithful Christian and minister who dedicated his life to the service of the Master. He moved to Wichita, Kansas in 1936 and resided there until death.

On June 1, 1944 he was united in marriage to Mattie Toliver Clay and to this union four children were born. He was a devoted husband and father and only God came before his family.

In his departure he leaves his wife, Mattie Lee; four sons, Adriel and Ferrin of Pacoima, Calif., Oliver Clay of New York, Herbert Clay of Wichita; two daughters, Cynthia and Shannon of the home; two sisters, Flora Gallman of Philadelphia and Minnette Moore of Detroit, Michigan; five grandchildren and a host of other relatives, friends and saints. He was known and loved by many and will be greatly missed.

He truly lived out his testimony

So all of the world could see

That Christ was the one who ruled him

And gave him peace that made him free.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. Lewis Williams, Bro. Ulysses Phillips, and Bro. Herman Kelley. Texts: Acts 26:19 and 1 Thess. 4:13.

May DeLee (Jackson) Carver was born May 15, 1898 at Port Hudson, La., and departed from this life August 6, 1967 at the age of 69 years, 2 months and 22 days, at Shreveport, La. after an illness of several months.

She was married to Cecil C. Carver on May 12, 1922.

Sister Carver was reared in the Church of God faith; her father, Scott Jackson, being a pioneer minister in this movement. She sought the Lord at the age of eight years and received a definite experience of salvation. Prior to her marriage, she taught school in south Louisiana and worked at the Herald of Truth Publishing Company at Carthage, Mo. Her life was devoted to the service of God and her joy was to be in the camp of the saints.

In 1965 she went with her husband on a missionary trip to Nigeria, Africa, and they were making a return trip this year when it was interrupted by civil strife in that country. She died as she had lived, trusting in God completely for soul and body. Her last prayers were for others.

She is survived by her husband; four sons, Cecil Lynn and Arnett J. of Shreveport, La., John Harlan of Lubbock, Tex., and Vernon C. of Atlanta, Ga.; one brother, John Jackson of Norco, La.; three sisters, Mrs. Emma Jackson of Hammond, La., Mrs. Elizabeth Brashear of New Orleans, La., and Mrs. Ivy Williamson of Baton Rouge, La.; ten grandchildren and other relatives.

The funeral service and interment were at the Oak Grove Church of God chapel and cemetery at Loranger, La., conducted by Bro. O. C. Porter, assisted by Bros. T. H. Coffey and Herbert Probst.

The family wishes to thank all for their expressions of sympathy and comfort, floral and other offerings, and especially for the prayers and love manifested for our dear wife and mother. She said toward the end, "I didn't know so many people loved me."

"While the church is endeavoring to change the world, it must not lose its holiness by becoming contaminated with the world."

Campmeeting Reports

HOLLY HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA CAMPMEETING

The Holly Hill, S. Car. campmeeting has come and gone and we thank God for a wonderful meeting. God blessed in every way, even beyond our expectations. Seven states were represented and the Lord sent six out-of-state ministers who, with the local ministers, preached His Word without fear or favor. A number of folks who attended this meeting for the first time enjoyed it so well that they plan to attend next year. It was indeed a time of refreshing for the Church. Several sought and found help at the altar. Thirty-seven happy saints enjoyed the ordinance services and one remarked that it was the most precious service ever attended.

A three-room school house on the grounds had been remodeled into several private apartments which were well filled throughout the meeting. The local saints bountifully supplied garden-fresh vegetables, fish and other food. Every need was met. We praise God for all His blessings.

—Bro. and Sister S. E. Abbott

AKRON, OHIO CAMPMEETING

We had been praying earnestly for the success of our campmeeting, realizing that time is short, too valuable, and the cost too great to go through the formality of just having a campmeeting here. With so many campmeetings on the same date we knew our Lord would have to rebuke every opposing power and let the Holy Spirit have preeminence.

Praise the Lord, He sent ministerial help—Bro. Lewis Williams of Wichita, Kansas, Bro. Woodrow Warren of Okmulgee, Okla., and Bro. Ray Key of Kalamazoo, Mich. These and many other saints came with a burden for the meeting. "Where there is unity, there is strength."

The Word of God went forth with great anointing, souls were saved, sanctified, and bodies healed. The singing was inspiring, the unity and fellowship was glorious.

Sixteen souls turned from a sinful life and followed the Lord in watery baptism. The baptismal service was impressive and very sacredly carried out.

Every temporal and spiritual need of the meeting was supplied.

We were privileged to attend the National Campmeeting at Monark Spring, Mo. which, with twelve others of this congregation, was enjoyed to the fullest. While there our trustee board met with the members of the Myrtle, Mo. board of trustees and came to a very satisfactory decision on the date of our 1968 campmeeting. They chose to move their date to August, while we here in Akron will keep our July date. With the new arrangement we can better support each other.

We are rejoicing with victory in our souls today, knowing also that our Lord is reigning in the lives of other men and women.

—Sister Hazel Clark, Pastor

JEFFERSON, ORE. CAMPMEETING

Our hearts are still rejoicing and praising His precious name for how the dear Lord did hear and answer prayer in our 1967 campmeeting held here at Jefferson from June 23 to July 2. The saints here had been praying that God would send ministers of His choosing. As usual, Bro. and Sister Gene Harmon came a month early to paint cabins and other necessary work. The saints here painted the chapel and my trailer and built another bedroom which made it so I could keep four sisters very nicely.

Bro. Hepler and his niece, Joy, came a few days before the meeting started to lend a helping hand.

The meeting was precious from the first day until the last night. We thank the Lord that by His Holy Spirit, He still leads, guides, and sends His ministers. We would not exalt one minister above another as we are all brethren, but some, through years of fellowship in sorrow and trials seem closer as the years go by. Therefore, my heart was overjoyed to see Bro. and Sister Darius Gibson and Bro. and Sister Ira Stover. These were such a comfort to me when God took my dear husband unto Himself. The dear Lord sent other precious ministers whom we appreciated. This was the largest attendance we have had for years. The ministers were anointed of God with soul-feeding messages from time to time. Many souls were at the altar for help, for salvation and sanctification and some for healing. Sweet unity prevailed all through the meeting. Many said it was one of the best meetings for years. Eight were baptized. About 65 took part in the ordinance services, though some had left before this service. The seed that was sown is still bringing forth fruit and we are thankful.

Our campmeeting is now in God's book of remembrance, and now we are looking forward to our meeting this fall, as the dear Lord wills. We desire the prayers of all the saints that God will hold His hand of power over His work here and encourage each one to press on deeper into God and His holy way of light and truth. May God bless all, and let us pray God to stir our hearts to do all we can to rescue precious souls.

Your Sister in the Lord, —Beatrice Spaur

MISSOURI STATE CAMPMEETING

We wish to let the readers far and near hear the report of how the Lord blessed in the Myrtle, Mo. campmeeting held July 7 to 16, 1967.

The presence of the Lord was very near and He blessed in the preaching of the Word. Over one hundred people from about eleven states attended. We feel this was good, considering the fact that two other meetings were on the same date and several others were near this date. When the number was the smallest, we were still blessed and it seemed we felt even nearer and appreciated each other more than ever. The saints from Ohio and North Carolina were a blessing to the meeting, as well as the ones from closer by. We rejoice to see the isolated and new saints come in and get a refreshing to their souls.

We feel the Lord was once again magnified in that place, though few outsiders took advantage of the feast. Perhaps more would come if we had someone to go from house to house to give an invitation in advance. Many honest souls have been contacted this way. Let us pray God to call people to this work of personal visitation.

Forty-five took part in the Lord's Supper and foot-washing service. It made us happy to do as Jesus did. He said, "If I then your Lord and Master have washed your feet; ye also ought [duty bound] to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example that ye should do as I have done to you." John 13:14, 15.

A work day is set for November 3, the Saturday before the first Sunday all-day service, to re-roof the west side of the chapel at Myrtle. Several other repairs are to be done. If anyone desires to help in any way the saints will appreciate it. All donations may be sent to the Treasurer, Bro. Alsie J. Sorrell, Route 1, Box 116, Myrtle, Missouri. 65549.

—Evodna Marler

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FUNDS FOR NATIONAL CAMPGROUND

At the business meeting of the recent National campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Spring), Mo. plans were laid to raise funds to purchase additional ground adjoining the present campground provided it can be bought at a fair price.

The present grounds are overcrowded—not sufficient space for tents, cabins, and parking areas. All the lots are sold (leased) and none are available for those who would like to build cabins. Additional land is the proposed solution to the problem.

In order to raise funds to purchase the land, the Campground Board offers to sell lots to the Church members on a 99-year lease basis on the proposed additional ground at \$100 each, and you may purchase several at this price. Congregations may also help finance this project by purchasing several lots at \$100 each. The choice of the locations of the lots, etc. on the proposed land will be granted in the order that the money is received, so please get your order and money to the secretary at once. This offer is limited until November 1. All money received will be deposited in a savings account drawing interest until such time that enough is available to purchase the land. In the event the trustees are unable to buy the proposed additional land, the money will be returned to the sender with the interest it has earned. This is your chance to advance this worthy project even though you do not want nor need a lot.

Make all checks payable to The Church of God and send directly to the secretary, Bro. Bob Stover, 6304 S. 97th West Avenue, Tulsa, Okla. 74131. The campground business manager, Bro. Ralph Beisly, 407 Eldridge St., Coffeyville, Kansas 67337, will be co-signer on this savings account.

DOVER, OKLA. CAMPMEETING NOTICE

The Church of God campmeeting at Dover, Okla. will be held from September 1 to 10, 1967, Lord willing.

As usual, the meeting will be supported on the free-will offering plan. Ministers will be present to preach the Word. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this campmeeting.

The camp grounds are located 1 mile north and 2½ miles east of Dover. For further information contact Bro. Henry Caldwell, Rt. 1, Box 76, Dover, Okla.

—Sister Katherine Williams, Pastor

ALABAMA MISSION TRIP

Dear Saints: Greetings in Jesus' name. We thank God for salvation and His gracious dealings with us.

After our first mission trip to Alabama with a company of saints in April, Sister Gladys Williams and I felt burdened to return in May. We spent about five weeks working with the dear saints in Tuscaloosa, Aliceville, and Northport. Several got saved and a number of the saints sought the Lord for spiritual help and a better understanding as how to please Him since they have taken a stand for the truth.

Sister Gladys helped the dear ones to acquaint themselves with the Evening Light songs which was needful and appreciated. We also conducted Vacation Bible School for the children; in Tuscaloosa thirty-nine enrolled and in Northport we had fifty-two. The Lord blessed the children to be quiet and listen to the truth that was taught them from the word of God. It seemed that they had never heard it before. One of the saints testified

that some of her neighbor's children told how much they had learned. One thing they mentioned was that girls should not wear boys' clothing. We loved those children and they seemed to learn to love us. It was a sad goodbye. We met as strangers but departed as good friends.

We were thankful to have with us a good supply of literature from the Faith Publishing House given us by Bro. Pruitt. We shared it with the children with a prayer in our hearts that it would be a blessing to them and their parents and perhaps lead them to salvation. Two of the children who attended the Bible School claimed the Lord as their Saviour. Word from there tells us that two more have been saved since we left.

Bro. Shelton, the minister there, wanted us to visit some people in Indian Springs before we left. On our way there we stopped at some friends' home. While there a very hard rain came and the friend told Bro. Shelton he didn't think we could make it to Indian Springs as it is on a rough dirt road. Even though the rain had been quite heavy, after it stopped we still felt burdened to go on. When we got to where we were to turn off the pavement onto the dirt road we saw that it had just sprinkled enough to settle the dust. Praise God! So we went on to Indian Springs to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Young. We told them the wonderful story of Jesus and how we felt God had held up the rain for us to visit them. They could see that Jesus was indeed concerned about their souls. They both sought the Lord and got saved. Bro. Young told us they had been married sixty-three years.

We went to visit another neighbor there but just as we stepped on the porch the elements became so black that they told us we had better go while we could get out to the pavement. We could see it was going to rain so we hastened out. By the time we got back to the highway it just poured down rain. But the Lord did not let it rain until He got those two souls saved and got us back on the paved highway. Praise the Lord! "Oh, what a mighty God we serve!"

We surely thank the Lord for all He did for us and for the saints' prayers. He is the same God who stopped the sun for Joshua. Continue to pray for the work in Alabama.

Yours in Christian love, —Katherine Williams

PLANS FOR NEW CALIFORNIA CHAPEL

To Whom It May Concern: We are very happy to be saved and encouraged to press on and do our very best to please God.

We are endeavoring to build a new chapel here in Stockton, Calif. The saints are doing some extra work to bring in money. We need help, whatever kind we can get—carpenters, brick-masons, electricians, or financial help. Whatever you feel the Lord would have you donate would be kindly appreciated. For further information concerning the matter, please contact either Bro. Louis Breckenridge, 2377 Alabama Ave., Stockton, Calif., 95206, Phone 464-0869 or Bro. Olonzia Fuller, 77 West Delhi, Stockton, Calif. 95206. —The Stockton Saints

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FAITH PUB. HOUSE, Box 518, Guthrie, Okla. 73044

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

Kerala, S. India (July 28)—Dear Bro. Lawrence Pruitt: Your letter dated July 8, 1967 duly reached me and I noted the contents. Thank you very much for the kind help for God's work. I note that it is summer for you and hence quite convenient to hold the campmeetings. I wonder how will be the shape of your campmeetings. I have no idea of it because I have never been to such a campmeeting. I am sure there will be showers of blessings on those who attend. May God bestow His choicest blessings and outpourings on the meeting is my prayer.

In spite of famine and severe trials, the Lord is encouraging us with His Spirit. So we march on. Praise the Lord! One booklet we printed and published is on "The Church of God" and how God voices His gathering call, "Come out" of sectism. It, of course, cleaves through the mists and clouds of prevailing confusion. We know that without doubt we are inviting dire opposition, but let the old days come on us and history repeat itself. Please pray for us.

These are hard days of famine here in Kerala and hence people are vehemently running here and there for food grains. Please remember to pray for us. May He grant me wisdom to discern things by the guidance of the Holy Word and Holy Spirit.

Yours in Him,

—C. M. Verghese

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Nigeria, W. Africa (Aug. 1)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in Jesus' name and His blessings we wish for all the saints.

Please find, briefly furnished, the activities of Benin City congregation and comment on Civil War in Nigeria. It is unfortunate, however, that Asana Mission whose duty it has been to collect, consolidate, and transmit monthly progress report of Nigerian missions to U. S. A., is temporarily out of contact. This section, where most of the missions of Church of God are situated, formerly known as Eastern Region of Nigeria, trooped out of Union of Nigerian Federation to proclaim itself an Independent Republic of Biafra. Pray for Asana brethren for strong faith in our heavenly Father who is able to supply all needs regardless of conditions.

Benin City Congregation: The program is satisfactory. It is a joy that knows no bounds that God adds steadily many more souls to the holy family. Were Bro. and Sister Carver chanced a presence in our midst, as hitherto expected, they could have joined us undoubtedly to glorify God for the spiritual growth of this young congregation of barely two years in existence.

There is an item of special mention. It is abundantly established that apart from other gifts which God has graciously brought to pass in this congregation the gift of healing gains momentum. Cases of possession by evil spirits are now three which Jesus the Divine Healer miraculously healed through laying on hands by the saints on the possessed. Bro. Sunday Ajari was the worst possessed who previously had his shelter anywhere in the open air and was stoned mercilessly by children of this city. He is perfectly healed and becomes the beloved in the congregation. Two others set free are Bro. E. Charles Osamwese, a fourth-year student in a college who was driven from his college for being possessed and a Sister Iye-Daniel who is about 60 years old and was for years under possession.

Civil War in Nigeria: The nation is visited. Blood is flowing. Yet, there does not seem to be a special yearning in the hearts of many for divine assistance on behalf

of a nation that is desperately sick and does not seem to understand what the trouble is, and standing right on the brink of utter ruin. It is wrong to believe that demonstration of military might is the answer to cure the ills. God does allow His rain to fall on the just and the unjust, but how many times have we seen by the reading of the Scriptures that the patience of God was exhausted and His wrath poured upon the wicked. How can anyone claim to represent and stand in the place of Christ who loves to be carried around on a throne borne upon the shoulders of his fellowmen, who in the sight of God are his equals? John bowed down to an angel, who is greater than anyone on earth, yet the angel cried, "See that thou do it not," (Rev. 22:9) yet men will rush in where angels fear to tread. One of the strong truths of the Scriptures was penned by Solomon: "Where there is no vision, the people perish." They believe in God as they say, but reject Christ who is the DOOR. How can they get in? Their bishoprick therefore let another take.

—Titus U. E. Enu

(Editor's note: The above report comes from Bro. Enu, native pastor of the congregation at Benin City in the midwestern section of Nigeria, the only mission station with which we have contact at present. The other 20 stations were in the Eastern region which seceded from the central government in June, and we have received no communications from them since May. Even Bro. Enu cannot contact them. He writes: "Much as we know that they, like ourselves, are within the cover of God's mighty umbrella of protection, it should be believed that they are indescribably suffering from an untold hardship of starvation. . . . We are daily praying for them." The civil war has been raging since July 7 and recent newspaper reports indicate that the rebel soldiers from the East have invaded the mid-western section and are fighting the Federal troops within Benin City where Bro. Enu lives. He had feared that his area would become a battleground. Let us pray fervently for the believers especially in that war-torn country, that hostilities will soon cease. Funds are being sent each month from the Missionary Fund to Bro. Enu to aid him in the Church of God mission work in his area.)

Prayer Requests

La.—"Please pray for my husband, Sonny Reeves, for his body. The Lord sweetly saved him four and a half years ago and he is trusting Him completely. We know God knows what the trouble is. We feel it is serious but are not afraid to trust him." —Nora Reeves.

Ind.—"Please pray for my husband who is an invalid and is very sick with effezema." —Mrs. Mae Hill.

Okla.—"Please continue to pray for the healing of my body." —Mrs. Iva Lebow.

Ind.—Bro. Earl Bliss has serious colon trouble and has been unable to work for two months. The Lord has helped him at times, but he needs permanent healing.

La.—Sister Lillie Miller is still looking to the Lord to heal her of a serious affliction behind her eye.

Ohio—"Have a very afflicted leg with swelling and fluid; at times I suffer much pain." —Mrs. Ella Clark.

Mich.—"I have a sore place under the skin on my finger that will not heal." Sister M. E. Parsons.

Okla.—"Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus. Glad I can still report I love Jesus and He grows nearer and dearer to me each day. He is a Friend who can and will stand by us when earthly friends can do no more. Continue to pray for me as I am able to retain very little

food, and hemorrhaging more or less every day. Christian love to all there."—Nellie Poulos.

Ore.—"My knees are so stiff that I can hardly go sometimes."—O. K. Myers.

Ore.—"I have some urgent unspoken requests. Sister Adelia Davis is improving with her broken hip, but still needs prayer."—Sister Emma Busch.

Okla.—"I have had trouble about a year with my ears and head and other troubles."—Mrs. John M. Copher.

Okla.—Still remember Sister Jessie Taylor. She had felt real well for about a month but since then a trouble in her side has built up that causes her much pain and distress at times. She is still expecting deliverance from the tumor.

There was a woman who had a serious affliction, but she knew that if she could just touch the border of the garment that Jesus wore she would be healed. No doubt, she was very weak, but, trembling greatly, she pressed her way through the crowd. She was not content just to lie on her bed at home, but put forth great effort to get to Jesus. Jesus felt that touch and asked who had touched Him. The woman told all and that she had been healed immediately. Jesus said, "Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole." Luke 8:32-48. Dear ones, we need to put forth some effort and press our case to Jesus. Search your heart and life, obey His Word on every line, take your affliction to the Lord and leave it there. Manifest your faith in Him and arise and be healed.

We thank God for the way He healed the different ones in the campmeetings this summer. We could not tell all of them. Bro. Clarence Fry had a heart attack at the National campmeeting and they thought he was almost gone. In answer to prayer the Lord touched him and he got out of the bed, praising the Lord. Bro. Curtis Williams came to the meeting very weak, and unable to preach. God healed him and he preached for almost two hours without coughing or getting hoarse. Another sister told me that after she was anointed and prayed for on the day of fasting that she could hear better without her hearing aid than she could with it. God is still on His throne to heal and deliver, so take courage and look up with faith. It is for you! —Sister Marie Miles

GREETING FROM CO-WORKER

Dear Saints: Praise the Lord for His goodness and mercy toward all His creation. As the songwriter says, "What a mighty God we serve, reigning now above on His throne of love, what a mighty God we serve!" He also tells us "on the fatness of the land He will feed us" so if our rations are skimpy we had better check where we are feeding and see if perhaps we have wandered out of bounds. Too many are willing to "get along," but we need to be more alive and alert than a "get-by" attitude.

God has been good to us in making it possible that we could make a quick trip to Mexico and see a few of the dear ones there. However, our hearts were touched, as always, by the cry of some for services. The Lord lets such things come our way to stir up our hearts that we will not be careless, but ever up and about the Master's business.

We had a wonderful vacation with our dear loved ones and have seen some definite answers to prayer. My mother is much in need of a touch in her body. She hasn't been to a medical doctor, so we are not sure, but feel it is a colon condition and she can get very sick so quickly. God has helped but we are looking for a complete deliverance. Do please continue to remember her in prayer.

We are happy to be back in the Lord's work of getting out the gospel literature and feel that He has placed us here for a season for some schooling and training, so are much encouraged in the Lord.

We do want to thank each one of you for your prayers and covet them much in the future. As the Lord causes my name to cross your mind, please offer up a prayer, for we do want to do all the Lord would have us to do. I am determined not to let worldliness get in my life, nor to become a part of it.

Yours in His service,

—Ruby Marken

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



La.—Dear Brother Pruitt, greetings of love to you and to all the saints scattered abroad: I am so glad to once again be back writing a few words to everyone by way of the "Faith and Victory." It seems like such a long time since I last wrote to you, but actually it has only been about nine months. I am thankful, though, that I can still report victory in my soul and a steady growth toward more grace since last I wrote. Nothing is ever easy, especially a life of complete submission to Christ. But whether it is easy or not is not the real question. What we must ask ourselves is whether or not it is worth it. And here I find the answer an emphatic YES! Sometimes it takes great suffering on the part of the Christian to mold his determination and life. But I doubt very much if you would find many who would give up this suffering once they had tasted the sweetness of a life that is hid with Christ. How thankful I am that I have been found worthy to suffer a bit for my Lord. And yet as I look about me I find that what little I go through is not nearly what I see others going through. And the knowledge of this strengthens me because I see that He is with us through every trial no matter how great or small. No matter how rough the future may get, I know He will be at my side because I see Him at the side of all His children. And this is just part of the reason why it is worth it. Praise His name!

For a brief moment I'd like to make mention of the recent passing of our beloved Bro. John Green. To him the battle is over, and now comes the rest. I can remember the first time I met Bro. Green at a jail service at Amite, La. Bro. Pinkerton brought us the message that day and he used Bro. Green and his life as an illustration. After the service I had the opportunity of meeting him and from this meeting there came a love for this Christian man that has never failed to warm and inspire my heart. We visited at various times when he was in the area. And we also corresponded as much as was possible. But I still find myself wishing that we had visited and written more to each other—not so much for his sake as for mine. I loved him very deeply and I will miss him greatly. But the example that he left me will be before me as I fulfill the remaining days of battle toward victory and the crown of eternal life. Rest well, Brother John! I am glad that we are brothers. So often I notice that the testimonies in the paper will start out in greetings to the saints scattered abroad. And it surely makes the heart to rejoice to know that one day we shall all be gathered in by the Master, never more to be scattered.

The work here at Angola, La. State Prison is still growing. So many, though, are daily rejecting God, and this saddens our hearts. One man sat in my office this morning and told me that he'd always have enough time to get right with God. I asked him what he would do if he had a heart attack that very moment. (He has heart

trouble.) He told me the first words he would say would be, "Have mercy." I realize that others carry this same attitude of having enough time, of waiting until the very last moment. But it still hurts our hearts to see these attitudes and to witness this waste of lives that could be in the service of Christ. Let me urge all of you to remember the work here at the prison in your prayers, also our two chaplains. Brother Platt is doing a tremendous work in corresponding with the families of inmates that is starting to see some fruit. We are thankful for this and we hope that it will bring more families and inmates closer together in seeking Christ. All too often a man coming to prison is rejected by his family for bringing disgrace upon the family name. And the thing that tears my heart most is when I'm called upon to write letters trying to find a man's mother. To be in prison and to not even know where your family is is something that never fails to bring sadness.

I am very grateful for the opportunity and time to study that I am afforded in here. I sometimes feel, however, that I don't get in as much study as I should. Recently I have been interested in the meanings of trees that we find in the Bible, and how these meanings are reflected in the lives of Christians and non-Christians. It is quite a revealing study and I'm sure I have just skimmed the surface so far.

My mother has yet to make it down for a visit but we are still trusting that it won't be too long before our desires will be a reality. If not this year, then perhaps next summer. If I had to name one thing that I miss most here at Angola I know without a doubt that I'd name my association with the saints. First of all, not being able to write all my friends, and secondly, not being able to be in service. This is what I find myself yearning for most of all. As most of you already know, I am allowed to send and receive Christmas cards. This is the only time of the year that I'm allowed to correspond with persons other than those on my approved correspondence list. And I will be trying to send as many of you a card as I can. I am not able to write more than a simple greeting on each card. But this rule does not hold true in your cases. So to all of you, let me say that I would enjoy hearing from you at Christmas time, and don't hesitate to write all over your cards and let me know how the Lord has been blessing your lives.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one who has remembered me in prayer. I cannot tell you what it means to know that there are those on the outside praying for me, especially when the road begins to get a little rocky to this bare-foot traveler. I think of you all often and I pray for you daily. Until we meet, whether it be on this side of heaven or in heaven proper, I want you to know that I thank my God upon every remembrance of you. May God bless you all.

Your Brother in Christ, —Wayne Turner

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

Oklahoma.—To the Saints abroad: Greetings in the name of Jesus: I am saved, sanctified, and encouraged to press the battle on, trusting in the dear Lord for soul and body. I do praise God for saving me when He did, and above all things I praise Him for being my healer for over 40 years. When I need help I go to my prayer place and He wonderfully comes to my rescue.

I do thank the dear Lord for the old-time ministers who stood for the whole truth without compromise.

When I was in Tulsa attending the campmeeting, the question arose concerning buying Sister Annie Bell Allen a car so she could carry on the work the Lord has given her to do. Her work is with young people and children,

teaching Bible schools and whatever else she can in this line. Her car motor was badly burned coming from Boley and it is beyond repair. The Lord laid it on my sister to mention it in Tulsa. I made the announcement for her. Now we are asking each assembly to support freely in this matter. She travels all over the state of Oklahoma and needs a dependable car. Let us look to the Lord to see what He would have us do. Please send all donations to Sister Hattie Hines, 183 N. Trenton Ave., Tulsa, Okla. 74120.

Your Sisters in the Bible way, —The Allen Sisters

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

Pa.—Dear Sister Marie and all the saints everywhere, greetings in Jesus' wonderful Name: We were glad when He called us out into His wonderful way. It is the only way to heaven and we want to help others to find it, too. Therefore we send an offering to help you to help others through the printed page and in whatever way you can.

Mother is much better but the flu left her still talking in a high voice. That may be old age, too. She has a goiter and that may affect her but she is still praising God for all of His goodness. Her knees are so stiff she can hardly get up from her chair, but she still keeps trying. Arthritis makes them ache when it is rainy, but still she has a smile and a "praise the Lord" each day. I'm so thankful for a godly mother.

My daughter has another job working in a laundry in a hospital. The work is not hard, but standing on her feet is. There is no change for the better, but I am still holding on to God for her and ask that you still remember her. She needs Him desperately. Her little girl goes with me to Mother's each morning, and we read and pray and sing. She enjoys that very much. I do pray God will keep her from the evils of this world which is increasing at a rapid pace.

I trust this finds you well. We have been praying for your brother's affliction. God hears and I'm sure He will answer, perhaps not as soon as we think, but in His own good time. He is never in a hurry. He says, "Be still and know that I am God." "Wait, I say, on the Lord." Oh, how wonderful to have a God on whom we can depend. He has given us many precious promises.

May God bless all you do for Him. I am always glad to get your letters to us. You say just what we need to help us each day.

Your Sisters in Him, Dona Campbell and Eva Cox

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

Ireland.—Dear Brother: I am looking for the soon coming of the blessed Lord Jesus, the precious One who took our place on Calvary's cruel tree. Sin was an awful thing. I look at God's only well-beloved Son go through life and death, shedding His precious blood to save us sinners. I like to think of Him and how He saved the woman at the well of Samaria. Please read the story over and over again. He saved others; Himself He could not save. Such great love for us and our salvation!

I sit here alone, yet not alone. God watches over me. I told my daughter, "Surely it is not much to see an aged pilgrim passing on like Lazarus." I long to depart and be with Christ which is far better. I was praying and I saw a vision of the golden streets and the jasper walls, a big, broad avenue all lit up with glory like the setting sun. Here in the glen across the road I can see the sun in its glory as it sets at night. It is beautiful to look at. Oh, the glory of that blessed place! No more parting, no more loneliness, and to see the face of Jesus—how wonderful! God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself. When I first awoke this morning I put out my hands and arms to God for keeping me safe.

I was born in 1882 on the 4th of February, and now it is 1967. Oh, how sinful is this world! How I grieve to see the bare knees of the women and their short hair, helping to rush the world to destruction. The woman, Eve, brought man low at first. Women are still at it by their half-naked bodies. I tremble and horror takes hold of me when I think how far women have fallen! Women have their crowning glory cut off. I thank God I have two long plaits. We are to dress with shamefacedness. Oh, the awful sin of the world! I think that the so-called Lord's people will have to answer for more than those who have never learned the truth. The world does not read their Bibles, they read the Christians. We are the world's Bibles. We should not speak harshly nor be unkind. We should be all love. Love in death should let us see what love in life should always be. How much we regret the unlovely words then!

I send love to my companions on the narrow way that leads to Glory.

—Margaret Louisa Dundas

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

Mo.—Dear Sister Marie and all the saints of God everywhere: I greet you in Jesus' wonderful name. I am praising the dear Lord each day. My trust is in the Lord to heal my body. I put everything in the dear Lord's hands. They said I had another stone. They want me to be operated on. My trust is in the dear Lord who can dissolve them. I am home again. What a mighty God we serve!

My daughter had a nervous breakdown which saddened us. I would like for you to fast and pray earnestly for her and my other children, relatives and friends. I also have another prayer request. Remember my eyes. I want all the saints to pray for me as I have turned over everything to the Lord to let Him have His way. I was put in the hospital. I didn't know I went there, but that didn't keep me from living for the dear Lord. My trust is in the Lord.

—Bertha Yoder

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

Okla.—Dear Sister Marie and staff, also the saints far and near: Today finds me saved and encouraged to go all the way with the dear Lord. My desire is to work more for the Lord and to let my light shine in my home and in the neighborhood where I live.

A few more souls were added to the Church during our campmeeting in June here in Tulsa, for which we thank the dear Lord.

The offering enclosed is to be used where most needed. Remember our family in your prayers that the ones saved will stay saved and the ones unsaved will get saved before it is too late.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Vera Mae Hawkins

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

La.—Dear Sister Marie: I would like to take this means to thank everyone for their prayers, flowers, and many cards and letters of encouragement during my recent illness. For some time I was unable to retain food, not even milk or water, but through prayer and the mercy of God I am able to retain milk and ice cream. I am still not able to take solid foods, so please continue to remember me when you pray, that the Lord will give complete victory. My trust is all in Jesus and I am looking to Him for healing.

I remain your sister in the body of Christ, earnestly contending for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints,

—Sister T. H. Coffey

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

Okla.—Greetings in the name of our Lord: I feel that I must tell everyone how good the Lord has been to me, even though I was placed out in the world at a tender age to make my own living because both of my parents

were dead. My grandmother wasn't able to keep me, so she placed me in a Catholic Orphan's Home where I was very rebellious. With all my punishment and trials, I know the Lord kept His hands upon me. Praise the dear Lord! It took fifty-two years for me to find the saints. Hallelujah, I'm Homeward bound now!

It grieves me deeply to hear so many of the children of the saints say that they can hardly wait to get away from home and out into the world. Dear children, don't wish that. There's nothing in the world but heartache and trouble. I know, because I had no mother or father to guide me and I had to face it alone. Of course, I know that God was with me all the time, but I didn't know Him then as I do now. Praise His holy name!

—Agnes M. Gatties

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

Wisc.—Dear Sister Miles, greetings of love to you and to all the dear saints everywhere:

I have been so nervous and poor in health I thought I would write to you dear saints for prayer. I believe in prayer and have done much praying and feel I need help that God will undertake for me. He has been a help to me in many ways. Husband and I always took our burdens to the Lord in prayer. Now I have no one to help me as my family are all mixed up in the things of the world. Please pray for them. They know the truth as they tell me they know that their daddy went to heaven. They always looked to him when they were in need of prayer.

The "Faith and Victory" paper has been a great companion to me. It seems I have someone to talk to when I read the testimonies. Thank God for the wonderful paper. I do appreciate it very much.

I send my love to all saints and may God bless you is my daily prayer.

—Mrs. Arthur Klatt

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

La.—Dear Sister Marie and Bro. Lawrence, greetings in Jesus' name: I felt led to testify to what the precious Lord has done for me. I have lots to be thankful for. I had a hurting through the right side of my body from my waist up. It was severe at times and lasted for several months. The precious Lord was as good as His Word and healed me of this affliction. The enemy tries to bring the pain back at times but I am standing on God's promises. God promised to heal our afflictions if we trust and obey Him. (Read James 5:13-15.) The Lord has more power than the enemy who tries to bring these afflictions back upon us.

Pray that I will have a close walk with God and be all that He would have me to be.

With Christian love,

—Mrs. Maurie Lea

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

Mo.—Dear Saints: Some time ago I promised the Lord if He would work in behalf of an unspoken request we had I would write my testimony in the paper. Truly, I do thank the Lord that He did work in our behalf and I do give Him all the praise.

I was just reading 2 Chron. 16:9 where it says, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." Another version says, "Blameless toward him." Truly it is my heart's desire to be blameless before God, not only that I might have my trials worked out, but also that I might have more of the joy of salvation in my heart.

I earnestly desire your prayers that I might have a closer walk with God.

—Hazel Halladay

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

Dear Ones: I would like to send in a testimony. Perhaps this will encourage others to wait and pray. Nothing is too small or too great to take to the Lord

in prayer. For some time I had wanted my husband to get other help as he was working too hard. I had talked so often about it, but to no avail. Then one day it occurred to me that I had not really committed it to the Lord. I went to the Lord in prayer and that very afternoon Husband looked for someone to help him in his work. Other things I had taken to the Lord began to work out.

So often we turn to relatives or friends for help in our problems, when our wonderful Lord and Saviour is so willing and able to supply our every need.

Again I ask for prayer for my unsaved loved ones.

To each of you at the Printshop, I say, God bless you and help you continue in His service.

Christian love, A Kansas Reader

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

La.—Dear Saints: I feel led of the Lord to write my testimony. Perhaps someone will get good from it.

For several years I had been going along with a cold, dead profession of salvation. I knew that I needed to get right with God but I thought, "What will people think?" But the Lord kept dealing with my heart until it came to the place that I didn't care what people thought! I went down to the altar at Hammond, La. during a meeting that Bro. Ostis Wilson held during March of this year and praise the Lord, He saved my soul! I can never thank Him enough for that. Praise God!

It wasn't long after that until the Lord began to deal with me concerning sanctification and I yielded myself completely into His control, to be used as He sees fit. This glorious event came to pass the last day of the Hammond Campmeeting. It is sweet to my soul!

I thank the Lord also for healing my gums. A couple of months ago I was having a lot of trouble with my gums swelling up and hurting, but the Lord healed it all up and I haven't had any trouble since.

I also want to thank the Lord for healing our boys of sores. They both had several bad sores not long before the Monark Springs, Mo. campmeeting. We had them both anointed and prayed for healing. Praise His holy name, they were all gone before we got to Monark. He also healed my older son's foot while we were at the meeting. He had stuck a rusty nail in his foot. I could go on and on, telling what God has done for us, but I don't want to take up too much space.

Remember us in your prayers. By the help and grace of God, I mean to make heaven my home.

Your Brother in Christ, —Doyle LaCroix

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

Okla.—Dear readers of "Faith and Victory": I feel I should write a few lines. The dear Lord has surely been good to me. I want to give Him praise and honor.

I work in a children's home here in Guthrie. We have a baby who had been having trouble sleeping at night. One night I was with her as she was coughing a lot. I earnestly sought the Lord for her, and she stopped coughing and slept well until close to time to get up in the morning. I was surely thankful for that and promised to testify about it.

I needed help for my body a few Sundays ago and requested prayer at the chapel. The Lord blessed me, greatly that morning. It made my heart rejoice. He is very good to us.

There are different afflicted ones I would like to see healed. We surely need to pray for them. I also have unsaved loved ones I'd like for the saints to pray for, that they may be saved before too late.

Pray for me that I live just as the Lord would have me to, and that I may be a help to some of the children I work with.

—Leona Green

La.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: I very heartily approve of the stand you took, in an editorial, against television and other encroaching evils. I am not a minister, just a retired working man. I am seventy-eight years old, and the fifteenth of this August will make another one.

I have been identified with the Church of God reformation movement since 1912. It was like a refreshing stream in a desert land. I learned later that the compromise had already set in, at that time, but it had not affected the local congregations so much at that time. I stand for the pure gospel truth in its purity, as advocated by D. S. Warner and his associates, and will continue to stand for it. I left old Babylon fifty-five years ago, never to return.

May God bless you and all the faithful ones in the good work in which you are engaged.

Christian love, —J. Rolley Self

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

Colo.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who saves and keeps from all sin.

I am thankful for the editorial you put in the July issue of "Faith and Victory," entitled, "Not One of Zion's Stakes Shall ever be Removed." I firmly believe this writing of yours. It will take just as close a walk for you and me and everyone else to make it to heaven as it took for our fore-fathers. It means completely forsaking this world and all its follies. Paul said, "If I build again the things I once destroyed, I make myself a transgressor."

I still believe in true holiness and old-fashioned saints of God. Thank you so much for your writings in the paper. May God bless you. Pray for us.

—The McEndrees, Ed and Addie

I Must

Must I pray on through stormy sea,
And trust the hope I cannot see?

Must I pray on when darkened skies
Are fixed upon the weeping eyes?

Pray on, I must, in spite of all,
And heed the voice, the Pilot's call.

"Take courage, friend, don't mind the gale,
I've marked the course—we shall prevail."

Must I trust on beneath the care,
And linger on in silent prayer?

Trust on when sight doth fail to bless;
And steals away my peaceful rest?

Trust on I must—in Christ I find
A guiding hand, a peace of mind.

"Submit and trust," He spoke to me,
"I've paved the way on Calvary."

I must, I must, pray on and trust,
And flee from sin and worldly lust,
And overcome the tempter's snare,
By the "must" of fervent prayer.

When time brings on life's setting sun,
And night proclaims the day is done,
The crown I sought on wings of trust
Depends on what I do with "MUST!"

—Donald Sharp

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

"One thorn of experience is worth a whole wilderness of warning."

BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll for 3 months, \$1.95; Lesson Cards, 15c per pupil for three months.

September 3, 1967

PAUL WITNESSES BEFORE RULERS

Printed Portion Acts 24:10-21

Acts 21:10 Then Paul, after that the governor had beckoned unto him to speak answered, Forasmuch as I know that thou hast been of many years a judge unto this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself:

11 Because that thou mayest understand, that there are yet but twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem for to worship.

12 And they neither found me in the temple disputing with any man, neither raising up the people, neither in the synagogues, nor in the city:

13 Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me.

14 But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets:

15 And I have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

16 And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

17 Now after many years I came to bring alms to my nation, and offerings.

18 Whereupon certain Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, neither with multitude, nor with tumult.

19 Who ought to have been here before thee, and objected, if they had ought against me.

20 Or else let these same here say, if they have found any evil doing in me, while I stood before the council.

21 Except it be for this one voice, that I cried among them, Touching the resurrection of the dead I am called in question by you this day.

Memory Verse: And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men. Acts 24:16.

Practical Truth: Christ is on trial in your life every day. Can others see Him or do they see you in your deeds and actions?

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Paul had not committed any crime and was innocent of the things of which he was being accused. He did agree that he worshipped God "after the way that they call heresy." (ver. 14). He believed in Jesus as his Saviour and that of the world, also. He said he had "hope toward God which they themselves also allow." (verse 15) Paul was not ashamed of Christ and he let the rulers and the world know where he stood even if it should mean his life. He also let them know that he believed in the resurrection. This statement caused his accusers to get into an argument which took their attention away from Paul.

Paul was on trial before men. Those looking on were on trial before God. Perhaps some felt that Paul was innocent and others who hated him wanted to see him silenced regardless of how it had to be done. Some might not have cared either way, and some prayed earnestly for him to be spared. There might have been some who loved him so much that they let ill feelings creep into their hearts against his accusers, and this made them wrong in the sight of God, too. All of this God saw. Paul declared, "I exercise myself to have always a con-

science void of offence toward God, and toward men." (ver. 16) It is not what man thinks of us but it is how we, in our hearts, feel toward them and have acted toward them. If we have treated them in a way that has pleased God, then we are clear.

September 10, 1967

AMBASSADOR IN CHAINS

Printed Portion Acts 26:24-32

Acts 26:24 And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.

25 But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.

26 For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him: for this thing was not done in a corner.

27 King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.

28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

29 And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

30 And when he had thus spoken, the king rose up, and the governor, and Bernice, and they that sat with them.

31 And when they were gone aside, they talked between themselves, saying, This man doeth nothing worthy of death or of bonds.

32 Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto Caesar.

Memory Verse: And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds. Acts 26:29.

Practical Truth: If we will not be ashamed of Jesus we can help others to be saved.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Jesus had told his disciples that they would "be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak." (Matt. 10:18, 19) In our lesson today Paul is telling Festus, who succeeded Felix, also King Agrippa who was visiting Festus, about his conversion and how he was one time a persecutor of the Christians. He spoke of the sufferings of the Saviour and how the prophets had prophesied of his coming many years before and how that all "should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance." All this was too much for the governor, Festus. The Holy Spirit was doing His office work. He was helping Paul to speak with boldness and caused the words to hit like a dagger into the hearts of the governor Festus and King Agrippa. No doubt there were many others in that court room who felt the dealings of the Holy Spirit as Paul talked.

A life that is surrendered fully to the Lord and completely given over to God is a life through which God can work. Words spoken from a heart that has been changed and filled with a deep, moving love for God by the Holy Spirit will touch those whom God is dealing with, or who have an open mind and heart.

September 17, 1967

JOURNEY TO ROME

Printed Portion Acts 27:21-26, 33-38

Acts 27:21 But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have harkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

22 And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.

23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,

24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

25 Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be as it was told me.

26 Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island.

33 And while the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing.

34 Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health; for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you.

35 And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat.

36 Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat.

37 And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls.

38 And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, and cast out the wheat into the sea.

Memory Verse: Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. Acts 27:25.

Practical Truth: We should be like Paul—believe God.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Paul, in our lesson, is on his way to Rome as a prisoner, because he had appealed to Caesar. They had not listened to Paul and stayed at Fair Havens so their ship was in a severe storm. The ship and cargo were about to be lost. Paul had been fasting and an angel had appeared unto him and told him there would be no loss of any man's life among them, but just the ship. Paul asserted that "I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me." (ver. 25) In this world of great unbelief and perilous times surely we each need to grasp the promises of God stronger and, with confidence and a firm faith in God's Word, declare with a loud voice, "I believe God." We should cry so loudly that it will drown any doubts or fears that the devil might try to impose upon us. How safe and secure is the person who has committed his soul and body into God's hands. Paul declared another time, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." (1 Tim. 1:12). Can you say that with Paul, from your heart? Then you are ready for whatever touches your life. The Poet has said:

"How safe is the soul that abides in the Lord,
Securely from sin hid away;
His anchor the promise of God's written word,
To keep him by night and by day.
That wicked one touches him not."

September 24, 1967

PAUL WITNESSES IN ROME

Printed Portion Acts 28:23-31

Acts 28:23 And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.

24 And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.

25 And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers,

26 Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive:

27 For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and should be converted and I should heal them.

28 Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.

29 And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, and had great reasoning among themselves.

30 And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,

31 Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

Memory Verse: I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. Romans 1:14, 15.

Practical Truth: Paul was busy witnessing for God wherever he went.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The commission to the disciples was to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. (Matt. 28:18-20.) Paul had gone to what to him was the "utmost part of the earth." Rome was a city through which many traveled. Paul had prayed to be able to go there. Although he was in bonds and a soldier was with him, he was allowed to dwell in a house by himself. Many came to him and he expounded the gospel, telling them that the prophecy had been fulfilled and Jesus, the Savior, had come.

God has committed to us the gospel to take to others. This is His plan and we have a duty to God and to man to carry it out. We need to teach this generation about God and in every way possible let them know the doctrines of the Bible. The Lord laid the burden upon my heart to write about the doctrines of the Bible in a book for this generation. Will you help us get this book into the hands of others? It is called, "Bible Chain of Truth." (Price, 60c each, or 2 for \$1.00.) We are all workers together in carrying out the great commission. If one generation is untaught, the chain is broken. Paul strictly charged Timothy: "The things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." (2 Tim. 2:2.) There is something that we can all do. Let us work while we can. Paul did not lose any time, but called others to come to him so he could teach them. —Sister Marie Miles