

FAITH^{AND} VICTORY

Church of God Servant



Volume 36, No. 12

45th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35c Per Year

February, 1968

Do You Know Him?

There was a man that came to earth
Born of supernatural birth.
He came in mercy, and in love,
To lift the souls of men above.
Do you know Him?

He was a light that truly shined
Deep into each enlightened mind;
That they might walk the narrow way
That leads to everlasting day.
Do you know Him?

He came unto His own, and brought
The Word of life, O blessed thought:
But sad to say, they knew Him not;
And for His life they often sought.
Do you know Him?

He healed the sick, the blind, the lame,
And succored all that to Him came;
A friend of sinners, so they say,
In love He spoke their sins away.
Do you know Him?

Despised, rejected, and disowned,
Crowned with thorns, and spit upon;
At last this Man they crucified,
Upon the cross for you He died.
Do you know Him?

Although once dead, behold, He lives!
And now eternal life He gives;
Acquaint thyself with Him today,
No longer now should you delay,
For you can know Him.

—Ulysses Phillips

Jesus earnestly invites you: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest to your souls."

Conversation With Christ

If I were asked what the world, the flesh, and the devil try hardest to prevent Christians from having, I should reply, "Conversation with Christ." I say this from my own experience, and from observations of all Christians I have ever known. A quiet, unhurried speaking to Jesus alone, and hearing His replies—this is what every Christian needs daily, and what many professors of religion obtain only monthly, yearly, —or never.

When did you last converse with Christ? Stop and answer this question to yourself before you read on in this treatise.

It is so easy to attend church services, and listen to prayers, and to join in them. It is so easy to sing to Him, or to pray to Him with others, or to think that we are doing so because we feel refreshed and helped by it. But what if we should find that we were mistaken in believing that we were conversing with Him at those times, while in reality we were talking or singing for other people and ourselves to hear! I tremble for those who only pray in services, at prayer meetings, or with other Christians. Communion services are very blessed helps and means of grace, but they are not necessarily conversations with Christ; nor is preaching, nor teaching, nor working for Him. You may be a most religious person—busy all day long about God's matters; you may give time and money and thought to Him, and yet you may never converse with Him. And the danger is, if you do not converse alone with Him every day, you will certainly get on the wrong road and become wrong altogether, and when you reach the Judgment, you will see all your work crumble away and yourself left destitute—suddenly waking up to the fact that you and the Savior are strangers to each other. It will be a horrifying surprise to you that nothing should remain of all the work on which you spent your life, the important words, "Without Me ye can do nothing," having been forgotten by you.

He meant you should have conversed with Him continually about everything you undertook, and

everything you cared about; and should have been always conscious of His sympathy and oversight and working; but, instead of that, you talked only to man, and catered to his sympathy, advice and help.

He meant you should have asked His counsel regarding your financial difficulty. He would have arranged it all; but you only asked your lawyer, and it turned out badly. (Matt. 6:33, Prov. 16:19.)

He meant you should have conferred with Him concerning your anxious feelings for loved ones, and He would have dispelled all fears; but you only consulted your friends, and the matter grew worse and worse. (Psa. 37:25 and 55:22).

He meant you should have asked Him for light about that doctrine which you could not understand; but you went to books to get it explained, and you became more confused than before. He would have satisfied you. (John 7:17; Eph. 4:14; Heb. 13:9).

He meant you should have committed to Him that painful illness, and He would have been your Physician and healed you; but you trusted your family doctor, and found no relief.

He meant you should have asked Him how much money you were to give away; but you settled that yourself, and settled it wrongly.

He would have been your Counsellor about the profession you chose, the situation you accepted, the servant you engaged, the books you read, the friendships you formed; but you chose other counsellors, or did after your own choosing, and all has failed. (Psa. 62:5-8; Psa. 73:23-25.)

Is He your intimate Friend, or not? If He is not, may the Holy Spirit open your eyes, and may you arise this moment and take Christ now, as your personal Friend and Counsellor!

Be Ye Also Ready

"Therefore, be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matt. 24:44.

Man was created for a **designed purpose**, regardless of whether he fulfills that place of responsibility or not, or whether he accepts or rejects that designation. At the consummation of time, each must take his place before the Judgment throne to answer the reason why.

Now please take note as I show you the designed plan. This message was given to me especially for the Church, as we are living in perilous times, known not only by the obvious sins abounding, but also by the perils of deception.

In Eph. 1:3-12 we read: "Blessed be the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: [Diaglott] Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we might be holy and blameless in his presence; Having in love previously marked us out for sonship through Christ Jesus for himself, according for the good pleasure of his will. To the praise of his glorious beneficence with which he graciously favored us in the Beloved One. By whom through his blood, we possess the

redemption—the forgiveness of offences— according to the opulence of his favor [or the riches of his grace] which he caused to overflow toward us, in all wisdom and intelligence, having made known to us the secret of his will, according to his own benevolent design, which he previously purposed in himself, in regard to an administration of the fullness of the appointed times, to re-unite all things, [or gather together in one, all things] under one head, even under the Anointed One; the things in the heavens and the things on the earth—under him, by whom also we obtained an inheritance, having been previously marked out according to a design of Him who is operating all things, agreeable to the counsel of his own will; in order that we might be for a praise of his glory, we who had a prior hope in the Anointed One [Christ]."

O Church of God, all things are now ready. The table for a feast of all his glorious benefits is now set for us. Are we partaking of this heavenly food? Does the substance of these divine graces depict Christ in our lives daily? "Therefore be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the son of man cometh." A constant partaking of heavenly food exalts us to heavenly places in Christ.

Now the summary of our scripture lesson: God's eternal purpose for each individual, a divine plan for His people, or church—His great love, His boundless mercy, his longsuffering, his forgiveness of all sins, his great redemption from all iniquity, then a process of purifying unto himself a peculiar people zealous of all good works, a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, that being justified by His grace we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

There is a unity and a togetherness in heavenly places unknown to the world. We are born into the one family of God. We lose our identity as far as station in life. God is our Father; we are His children. As children we become subordinate to all His will. Then all of man's personal viewpoints, prejudices, and race discriminations melt into oblivion in the love of God. This gracious plan portrays to the world the knit-together oneness, the universality, and the unspeakable grandeur of the visible Body of Christ.

—Sister Hazel A. Clark

GOD USES TRACTS. DO YOU?

A sailor told how he was saved while reading a tract thrown to him from a passing car as he was hitchhiking. Alone in her room a girl who was a carhop received Christ after reading a tract left with a tip for her. A tract sent in the mail was used of God to lead a grandmother to the Saviour. God uses tracts! Do you?

"Preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Do you? You may not have enough time to witness personally to each person you meet, but you can witness through tracts. Write to this office for a free sample assortment, read, and pass on personally or by letter.

WHEN THE DEVIL DOES HIS WORST

Oh, it takes a lot of patience,
And it takes some earnest prayer,
As we travel on life's pathway
When we're tempted here and there
To depart from faith and duty,
Or for worldly things to thirst,
And to stay where God would have us
When the devil does his worst!

There are times when blows are heavy
As they come from Satan's ranks,
And when we resist him strongly
He will call us fools and cranks;
But in all that comes upon us,
If we put our Savior first,
We can claim and shout the vict'ry
When the devil does his worst.

Do not think it strange, dear pilgrim,
When you try to do your best,
And you're weary, soul and body,
And you seek to find some rest,
If a bolt of hatred flashes
And the thunders round you burst,
For it's then the Lord will bless you
When the devil does his worst.
—Walter E. Isenhour

Essentials For Happiness

A New Year has begun. A wish for a happy New Year will be heard many times. No doubt you will wish it to be a happy year for yourself. Everyone does. But just wishing for it doesn't get you anywhere. There are certain things which must be adhered to, which, if followed, will bring not only happiness, but also abundant joy.

It has been said that the three great essentials of happiness are: (1) Someone to love, (2) Something to do, and (3) Something for which to hope.

Someone To Love

Many of us find it easy to love someone if he loves us. How heartwarming it is to be told that we are loved by those whom we hold dear, and what joy we experience in professing our deeper feelings for our loved ones. There is Someone, though, who loved us when there was nothing lovely in us. The Bible says, "God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). When we were sinners and away from God, He loved us and provided the Lord Jesus as the Savior of sinners. It is from sin that mankind needs to be saved. Christ provided this salvation by His death on the cross. He paid the price; He purchased man's redemption by the shedding of His precious blood. "In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sin, according to the riches of His grace" (Eph. 1:7). It is by faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus upon the cross that we realize His love for us. We can then express "We love Him, because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19). God, above all, through Christ Jesus, is worthy of our outgiving

of this emotion. With every sunrise and with every setting sun, and often through the hours of the day, we should tell God that we love Him.

Something To Do

God does not permit anyone to work for salvation, for "it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8, 9). Once we have received this gift of salvation, there are many things one can do to please Him. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again" (2 Cor. 5:15). Our one desire should be to do those things which please Him.

He has asked us to observe the divine ordinances of baptism, the Lord's supper, and feet-washing, and to keep ourselves "unspotted from the world." There is also the privilege of supplication, prayer, intercession and giving of thanks to God.

He desires that we be a witness and testimony to those around about us of His saving grace. He would that we "do good to all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10). He desires that we feed upon His Word which is so necessary for the growth of our spiritual life (1 Peter 2:2). As we read and study the Bible, He will reveal to us more fully what His plan and purposes are concerning our lives.

Something For Which To Hope

We know in natural things that time passes faster if we have something to look forward to. The Christian has the greatest possible hope! His blessed, or happy, hope is the return of his Lord to take him to be with and like Himself. The Lord promised: "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; That where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:3). "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).

It would be useless for you or anyone else to wish for a happy New Year apart from these basic principles of your relationship to God. If you will take heed to these things, ponder them over, apply them to your life, you will be assured of a truly happy New Year.

ENTERING THE NEW YEAR

Today I leave the old house
And move into the new
That Father Time has let to me
To keep the whole year through.

Oh, how clean the walls are;
The steps upon the stair
Are white as any snowbank—
No smudges anywhere.

And here upon the threshold
I kneel and softly pray
That I may keep this little house
As pure as it is today.

—Selected by a Good Friend in Arkansas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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EDITORIALS

Christian greetings to all our readers which includes in the ever-widening circle about 5,600 new recipients made possible through the recent trial gift subscriptions from their friends.

More than 13,000 copies of this issue will be printed, and we rejoice in anticipation of reaching so many with the soul-saving gospel of Christ. Our sincere thanks and appreciation are extended to each and every one who has so faithfully co-operated with us and the Lord in this gospel literature extension effort. Your work of faith and labor of love is not in vain in the Lord. Already a number of the new readers have written expressing their appreciation for their first copy, and desiring to kindly thank the one who had it sent. Several have subscribed for a year or three years, stating that they do not want to miss an issue. A few letters from new readers appear in this paper. Let us continue to sow the gospel seed "beside all waters."

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An interesting note from Bro. E. D. Blackburn of Jonesboro, La. informs us that at the Trumpet office in 1914-15 he worked with the Pennsylvania Dutch preacher, Edwin Flyte, who is the main character in the touching narrative, "The Poorhouse Walf and His Divine Teacher," written by Isabel Byrum and first published in 1919. This book, 223 pages in heavy paper cover, is now reprinted and available at this office. Price, \$1.00 per copy, postpaid.

Many other out-of-print books, formerly published by the Gospel Trumpet Co., have been reprinted at this office and ready for prompt delivery, such as "Birth of a Reformation," by A. L. Byers, 496 pages in cloth binding, \$4.00 per copy, postpaid, and "The Cleansing of the Sanctuary" by Warner and Riggle, 541 pages in cloth cover, \$4.50 each, postpaid. Those truths published in former years are vitally needed today. Write for a complete list of available books.

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Work is progressing on the new book, "Divine Physical Healing, Past and Present," which we expect to have ready in about 60 days. This volume will have many pages, as there are so many inspiring testimonies available that it is difficult to decide where to end. We anticipate that it will be a real blessing to every reader. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." Hebrews 13:8.

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The 61st annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting held here during the holidays closed with victory on Dec. 31, 1967. The attendance was good. A number of in-state and out-of-state ministers were present to preach the Word under the leadership and anointing of the Holy Spirit. More than 30 souls found spiritual victory at the altar of prayer, some justified and others were sanctified. A number testified to physical healing in answer to the prayer of faith. The preaching was heart-searching and the saints were edified in the faith. Ten converts followed the example of Jesus in water baptism. Especially toward the end

of the meeting several saints took the flu, but they have all recovered without the use of medical aid, the Great Physician being their Healer.

Bro. and Sister Henry Dornhofer of Flint, Mich. attended the meeting and remained with us about a week afterward. We certainly appreciate their devout lives, and enjoyed their visit and fellowship in the Spirit.

Bro. and Sister Darius Gibson came with their trailer house to the meeting, but he was able to attend only one service. His trial of affliction has been long and severe, but his courage and faith are firm. They are still here, and today (Jan. 16) he was improved enough to visit us and our co-workers here at the office. Thank God for those who have set "an example of suffering affliction, and of patience." The Apostle James wrote: "Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." Jas. 5:11. These gospel workers are urgently needed in the field. Let us pray fervently that they will be restored to health and activity again soon.

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A good report comes from the California State Assembly meeting at Pacoima which was also held during the Christmas holidays. A number were saved, sanctified, and healed. The Church was fed on the rich spiritual food from God's eternal Word.

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Many of our readers would like to know the dates of the various campmeetings of the Church of God for 1968 so they can pre-arrange their vacations to attend these meetings. Those who have this information please send in the campmeeting dates by February 10, 1968 so we can publish the entire list in the March issue. Please be prompt. Thank you.

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As we take a retrospective view of the spiritual, political and economic trends of the year just ended, what are "the signs of the times"? Which way do they point? Spiritually, the nominal Christian world has rapidly combined its forces against Christ and His Church. The battle of Armageddon—the truth against error, Satan against Christ—is waxing more fierce. The lines of difference are brought in sharper focus "between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not." To the true child of God these are the most dangerous times since Jesus Christ established His church, not because of physical persecutions and hard economic pressure, but the reverse condition is the danger point. The majority of this nation now profess Christianity and say, yes, yes to the gospel message as a lovely song, but in works they deny Christ and follow the popular course of this sinful world. Economic prosperity, inventions for pleasure and recreation, easy credit, and the many cares of life are the weapons of Satan to choke out the love for God's Word and way of life, and gradually but surely bring on indifference, lethargy, lukewarmness, and finally the sleep of spiritual death. Little or no time is found for reading God's Word

and fervent prayer, little concern for the unsaved souls all about or that sick neighbor, a slight desire to assemble for worship with God's people, and it becomes easy to miss the midweek prayer-meeting. These danger signals in one's life should alarm and awaken him to diligent prayer for a closer walk with God. Jesus has faithfully warned us of these present conditions in these words: "For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, . . ." Luke 21:35, 36. The poet has well advised his soul: "My soul, be on thy guard, ten thousand foes arise, and hosts of sin are pressing hard to draw thee from the skies."

Politically, the nation is on the verge of anarchy. General lack of respect for property, law and order is obvious in every area of life. Riots, strikes, civil disobedience marches and demonstrations, and a major war bogged down in Vietnam all indicate the chaotic conditions. "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Prov. 14:34. Whatsoever a nation soweth, that shall it also reap. The seeds of sin are producing a terrible reaping for individuals as well as the nation, and it will get worse and worse according to God's prophetic Word.

The only safe refuge is in the fold of our Lord Jesus Christ. The child of God in this world is not of the world. His citizenship is in heaven, "from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile [decaying] body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body." Phil. 3:20, 21. Again the Apostle Paul says: "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." Heb. 12:28. The outlook is dark, but the uplook is always bright. In the ark Noah had one window—in the top—toward heaven. Lift up your eyes, for your final redemption draweth near.

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Looking forward in the gospel publishing work, we anticipate by the continued blessings of the Lord a greater volume of printed gospel messages going forth to the world in obedience to our Lord's commission to His Church. All the laborers at this office are working together in love and harmony with the one purpose of getting the "whole gospel to the whole world" by way of the printed page to the full extent of our consecrated service. As obstacles arise, we are expecting the Lord to clear and open the way as He has done in the past 45 years.

Postage rates are up again, as well as the cost of paper and almost every item connected with publishing the gospel. For example, just a few days ago 2½ tons of paper were delivered to us, billed at \$908.28. Our faith that the Lord will supply every need does not falter. As this is a non-profit faith work, we still believe that faith will bring the victory and cause the gospel literature to continue going out to the world according to God's plan. Your continued prayers and co-operation are appreciated.

—Lawrence Pruitt

OBITUARIES



Katie Magdalene (Haney) Freeman, daughter of James and Mary Haney, was born in Wesson, Miss. on December 17, 1899 and departed from this life December 9, 1967 at her home near Magnolia, Miss. at the age of 67 years, 11 months, and 22 days.

She was united in marriage to Edward J. Freeman on October 19, 1924, and to this union were born two sons and twin daughters. One son, Henry Earl, preceded her in death in 1943 at the age of 15 years.

Her survivors are her husband, one son, Alfred Ellis Freeman, of Magnolia, Miss., the two daughters, Mrs. Nora Reeves of McComb, Miss., and Mrs. Dora Doolittle of Hammond, La., nine grandchildren, one brother, and one sister, and other relatives and friends.

Several years ago she was converted and manifested great faith in God. Some wonderful miracles were performed in her life. She failed to keep victory, but a few weeks before death she renewed her covenant with God and rejoiced in the love of the Savior. She wanted the Lord to take her on and told her family to meet her in heaven.

Funeral services were conducted by Sister Ruth Murphey with graveside rites by Bro. Bob Forbes. Interment was in the Magnolia, Miss. cemetery.

Elizabeth Marinda Fellows, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Johnson, was born in Jones County, N. C. on Nov. 28, 1885 and departed this life on Nov. 21, 1967 at Phoenix, Arizona.

Sister Fellows was converted at a young age and worked tirelessly for her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Her constant testimony in life was: "I don't have time to pick flowers." Her husband, Leon Fellows, preceded her in death.

She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Arnetta Stewart, Phoenix, Ariz.; two sisters, Mrs. Janie Eastman and Mrs. Nina Lee, both of Phoenix, Ariz.; a brother, J. T. Johnson, Los Angeles; a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Charles Wilson, assisted by Elders Williams, Grant, Chandler, and Francisco at Phoenix, Ariz.

Hulda Pearl (Helmig) Rhoads, daughter of the late August and Mary Duncan Helmig, was born March 7, 1891, near Linn, Mo., and departed this life January 5, 1968, at the age of 76 years, 9 months and 28 days.

On March 14, 1917, she was united in marriage to Ambros J. Rhoads who preceded her in death January 9, 1959.

Mother Rhoads loved the Lord and lived by the Word of God to the best of her knowledge and understanding. When she heard the truth, she came out of Babylon and was born into the Church of God over forty years ago.

Survivors include: four sons, Arthur L. Rhoads, Jefferson City, Mo.; Mann E. Rhoads and Dr. D. R. Rhoads, both of Belle, Mo.; Carl A. Rhoads, Linn, Mo.; three daughters, Verna Schaeperclaus, St. James, Mo.; Velva Steffens, Chamolais, Mo.; Emma Rhoads, Hazelwood, Mo.; one sister, four brothers, and fourteen grandchildren.

Funeral service was conducted at Morton's Funeral Chapel in Linn, Mo. Interment was in the Useful Cemetery on Route 50.

Bessie Lavinia Grace Gordon was born July 27, 1891 at Lawrence, Kansas to Joseph and Annie Lee, and departed this life Dec. 28, 1967, at the age of 76 years, 5 months and 1 day.

She was united in holy matrimony to Robert Gordon in the year 1914. To this union seven children were born. Her husband and two children preceded her in death. She heard and embraced the truth in 1915. In her early experience she was called to the ministry and was faithful unto death. She was dearly loved and had great faith in God.

She leaves to mourn her passing three daughters, Cornelia Ragsdale, Audrey Tompson, and Renolda Grace Williams of Oklahoma City; two sons, Lester L. Gordon of Natchitoches, La., and Robert V. Gordon of Oklahoma City, ten grandchildren, four great grandchildren, one sister, Ethel Miles, Oklahoma City, and a host of other relatives, saints and friends.

Bro. Herman Kelley and Bro. Lewis Williams officiated, assisted by Bro. E. G. Sanders and Sister Katherine Williams. Text: Numbers 23:10. The funeral service was held at the Memorial Hall, Hennessey, Okla. and interment was in the Parvin Cemetery, Okeene, Okla.

The following is a poem of unknown origin, arranged to suit the passing of Sister Bessie L. Gordon by her sister, Ethel Miles.

Her Timely Passing

The little old house that she lived in
Was wind-shaken, old and decayed.
It had weathered the storm and the tempest;
And the lightning around it had played.

'Twas no longer a suitable dwelling
For the sister who dwelt there-in,
Time was out for earthly sorrows
And the dawn of heavenly bliss to begin.

So we grieve not for the house she lived in
As we lay it away 'neath the sod;
But remember the one who lived in it
Has gone to be with her God.

OKLAHOMA CITY FALL MEETING REPORT

The Church of God annual fall meeting in Oklahoma City was held at Third and Phillips Streets on November 17 to November 26, 1967. Bro. Trotter from Fresno, Calif. was with us. The Lord wonderfully used him in bringing forth His Word under the anointing of the Holy Ghost.

Many received help at the altar of prayer. Truly our souls were fed from Father's table.

Pray for us that the work may prosper here.

—Bro. Herman Kelley, Pastor,
By Sister Mary Ellen Harris, Secy.

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Dec. 18)—Dear Bro. Lawrence Pruitt: Warm greetings and New Year wishes in the precious name of Jesus, our Redeemer and Lord. He is our Ebenezer; God with us, and Christ in us, the hope of glory.

Thank you very much for your good letter dated Dec. 6 and for the contents. Our hearts are full of thankfulness for all the goodness our Lord has shown to us during the past and we hope His faithfulness will continue for us in the future. Glory be to Him.

Yes, it is true that all foreign missionaries have to leave India sooner or later, according to the existing policy of India. The Central Government wants the native workers to come forward and take up the leadership and manage the affairs of the church. No doubt, it means shutting out the light and closing the doors against the

foreign missionaries. Intolerant adversaries of the gospel are gaining prominence in the political realms. Our state of Kerala is at present in the hands of the Communists. It may be God's will to lead the Christians to suffer persecutions and adversities so that they may cry unto the Lord and trust Him alone. It is deplorable that professing Christians in these days are in a state of slumber, under the lullaby of institutional, modernistic, sacerdotal, ceremonial, external, traditional religion. I believe it is high time for the nominal Christians to wake up from their fatal lethargy. However, the political upheavals will of course, bring upon Christians terrible results. Jesus has said, "In the world ye shall have tribulations: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) Praise the Lord! He is the Captain of our salvation. We believe His church will march on, conquering and to conquer, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Thank you very much for the good calendar and the valuable Bible covers you have dispatched for me. Hope it will reach me duly.

I was glad to note that you all are praying for Bro. Carver that he may obtain a visa for his coming to us. We are praying together with you and waiting to know the will of God.

Our Karikam convention comes off early in January. We are quite busy in preparing and arranging things. We have to erect a paudal with a flat roof to hold not less than a thousand, or a thousand, five hundred souls. It is quite an expensive job. Please do remember to pray for this convention, and also for other conventions. We hope the Lord is going to work mightily with His Holy Spirit.

I am finishing my testimony in Malayalam. I will print it after I send you its English rendering and hear from you what you have to say about it.

Yours in His service, —C. M. Verghese

ANOTHER LETTER FROM NIGERIA

Midwestern Nigeria (Dec. 29)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the mighty name of Jesus who is mighty to save all that put their trust in Him.

I am thankful to God that I am still alive to hear from you again. For this alone I am satisfied and may God's name be forever glorified. We cannot at present detail to you of what happened to me at Benin City on the 29th of September, 1967, when I went back to Benin City to visit the brethren and to hand over the departmental keys in my possession. I was dramatically arrested and miraculously delivered. For fear of giving offense, I have to drop commenting in detail until the war ends. All members of the Benin City congregation are aware of my arrest. They thought I was no more alive until a telegram was received from me telling them that I was still in the land of the living. God is still on the throne, you know, and He loves me. Were it not for Jesus, the Saviour, I could have been missed by my family, brethren, and friends since on the 29th of September, 1967.

From Kwale to Benin is approximately 107 miles. It is within an easy reach, but for transport and war. By the grace of God I shall go back to Benin when normalcy and confidence are restored. May God's will be done. I can work for the Master anywhere and everywhere and under the Church of God Mission. I have started to see that I am sent here for the great assignment of soul-winning. Sincerely yours in Him, —Titus U. E. Enu

Bro. Enu was formerly the native pastor of the Church of God mission at Benin City, Nigeria, but was forced to leave during the current civil war because he belonged to another tribe.—Editor.

MEXICO (BAJA) MISSION REPORT

Dear Readers of "Faith and Victory:" Greetings again in the lovely name of Jesus. Truly, Jesus was love personified inasmuch as, while we were yet sinners, He loved us and gave Himself for us; and He who was rich became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich.

A rich man, it may be said, is one who has everything he wants. Praise God, the truly saved and sanctified person does not want for anything. With food and raiment he is contented—and besides, he is rich in divine love and grace, peace that passeth understanding and joy unspeakable and full of glory! If there is present with God's child any sadness or a heavy heart, it is because of the sin element in the world, and the burden for souls that are lost and unprepared to meet the Lord.

If God spares time and permits another July 4 to roll around, it will have been ten years since a group from Southern California made its way down to Baja, Calif., Mexico to find the Pi Pi Indians at Santa Catarina. It was my privilege to be with Barney and Virginia Wittenborn and three of their children, Dianne, Lois, and Walter, Bill and Geneva Hite, Sister Opal Wilson, and my son, Clifford, on that trip. Soon a mission station was established there and since that time nine more congregations have been established. Actually there have been 13 congregations in all, but some are not having regular services, yet they attend other services as transportation makes it possible. It is our sincere desire that this will soon be different. Please pray for David Rosas, the native Mexican, age 30 years, whom the Lord has called. He was conducting weekly services at two of these stations and has the potential of being a real asset to the work. He needs to consecrate all to God and be filled with the Spirit, so that trifling things of this life will not hinder him.

Please pray with us that God will supply the needs and means to complete Bro. Tomas' house to make it warmer in winter; also pews for the chapel in Valle de Trinidad. (Mothers with small babies sit on benches with no backs.) The Dodge truck needs an engine overhaul. The building in Rosarito still needs a ceiling and other improvements. The building fund for the chapel in Ojos Negros is being "tapped" continually to meet other needs.

We are very grateful for all the saints have done and are doing to support the work in Mexico. We realize there are many other fields and needs that are being met by God's people. Also, we are aware that many who may never send offerings directly to the work are contributing through their local congregations. Now, based on the scriptures in 2 Cor. 8th chapter and especially verse 12, it is likely that some have desired to give five, or ten or even a hundred dollars to God's cause, but just didn't have that much to give. However, they might have been able to give three, or two or one dollar, but because it seemed so much less than what they would have liked to give, they ended up by not giving anything. Not only does the work suffer, but the individual loses a blessing as well. Did you ever stop to think what would be the result if every wage earner would just give according to "that which he hath" (under the direction of the Holy Spirit, of course)? If you haven't read 2 Cor., chapters 8 and 9 recently, read them slowly and notice the promises of blessings and rich grace to those who will give "scripturally." Notice 2 Cor. 9:6-9. This is not a plea for money, just an exhortation for your edification. We ask you to continue to pray, above everything, that the word of God will go forth with power and anointing, that precious souls be turned from darkness unto light.

We would be glad, if time and space would permit, to write of many exciting and thrilling experiences of the work these past ten years in Mexico. I'm sure you would laugh one minute and cry the next, all mingled with shouts of praises to God for His wonderful dealings. Perhaps in heaven we can share with each other many of life's battles and victories. Until then, let it suffice to say that many precious souls have been saved, the workers have learned many precious lessons and grown in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.

Now may the grace and peace of God keep your souls firm and steadfast to the end, watching and praying with supplications before the throne of mercy by day and by night. You have our prayers.

Your servant on behalf of all the Mexico workers,
—Harland Smith

317 E. Cucamonga, Claremont, Calif. 91711

Prayer Requests

Ohio—"My father got saved two years ago . . . will be 74 years old. He has rock dust in his lungs . . . eyesight bad. Please pray for him." —Sis. Kenneth Abbott

Fla.—"Pray that my sister, who is a child of God, will walk again. . . . She was in an accident. Her parents are gone, but they believed in healing and saints' prayers." —Mrs. Grace (VanZandt) Lanning.

Ill.—"My friend has tumor on brain and needs salvation." —Bertha Gill.

Mo.—"I can say the Lord healed my stomach. . . . I have been troubled with pains in my right arm. . . . Expecting God to heal it." —Sister Goldie Knapp.

La.—"Pray with us about some neighbors that are afflicted and have called us to pray for them. . . . I have a serious affliction on my body that keeps me in bed part of the time. I am looking to God for complete healing and deliverance. I want to 'be still' and let the Lord work out His will in my life if needful, but I don't want to accept illness when it is time to be healed." —Sister Sybil Goldsberry.

La.—"Pray for my only brother who has diabetes and is not saved. He is 76 years old." —Sister Baumgartner

Texas—"Our request for one son was answered, but we have another son who now needs prayer. He needs to be saved and needs a problem to be worked out." Mrs. Floyd Doak.

La.—". . . not well in body." —Eva Wiggins.

Texas—"A boy has epilepsy." —M. Crumples

Colo.—". . . skin affliction." —Fred Allen

Oregon—"My nephew has cancer in lungs . . . in Veterans' Hospital." —Ina Sorensen.

Okla.—". . . nephew has an eye infection." —Sister S. Williams.

Ky.—". . . my left side is numb." She has other problems. —Sister Baldrige.

Miss.—"High blood pressure . . . husband afflicted." —Tanner Jackson.

Ohio—"Arthritis so bad can't get around very well . . . no one close to agree in prayer with me." Harrissa Roush.

Pa.—"I still need the prayers of the saints for healing to my body." —Avis Tinsley.

Miss.—"I am having a battle to keep saved. Pray for me." —A reader.

Mo.—"My friends are in Arizona for their daughter's health. Pray for her." —Mrs. R. J. Cook.

Minn.—"Thank you for prayers for my husband . . . feeling much better." He had a heart attack and still needs prayer. —Mrs. Elmer Olson.

Calif.—"Have afflicted eyes." —Monteen Graham.

S. Car.—"I have a sister . . . blood very low and in a nervous condition . . . needs spiritual help." —J. L. Koon and mother.

Cal.—Dear Sis. La Verne Manuel needs special prayer at this time. Her husband has had a stroke or something that has affected his mind and was put in the hospital. We need to ask God to extend His mercy and give him another opportunity to seek God for salvation. Pray the Lord to comfort and sustain our dear sister.

Ark.—Dear Sister Marie and saints: I would be very thankful for prayer for my healing. I've never been strong, for I've had high blood pressure since I was a girl of 18, off and on. Sometimes I would get better, but since last summer I have been real bad at times. My heart bothers me, too. Just a few weeks ago I was dizzy for nine days and nights. When I would try to walk, I would fall. I was so thankful when I got over that, and I know God can heal anything. I am so thankful for the prayers of the saints. . . . Also, pray for my oldest son, Alvin, who is very nervous and has something wrong with his hips. Also pray for my youngest son, David. He went to school with a very sore throat and cough this morning. I've been praying for him and I know God can heal him. I just felt like I needed the saints to help me pray. May God bless each one. I am enclosing a small offering to use as needed. Pray for each member of our family that we will be true to God.

Christian love to all,

—Sister Opal McMurrin

There are many of the saints who have the flu or are getting over it. We need to pray the Lord to stop the flu from spreading among the saints as they are God's chosen people. I remember dear Sister (Floyd) Schmidke telling how, in 1918 when the flu was raging and many were dying, that she stood on the promise given in Psa. 91:10, 11, ". . . neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling." She said she helped care for others who were ill, but her family kept well. God is as able to keep us well as He is to heal us when we are sick. Several years ago a girl came to me and asked if I would pray that the Lord not let her take the scarletina that the family had. God honored her faith and she kept well. God is a wonderful God to those who have faith in Him.

"Now faith . . . evidence of things not seen." Heb. 11:1. We do not see it, but it is ours. We do not feel it, nor can touch it, but it is ours. We have the evidence because God has spoken to us through His word. This old world will "pass away, but my word will not pass away." What more do we want? Take courage, dear ones. We walk by faith, and not by sight, nor feelings. Hold your faith steady in God. He will not fail you. Healing and feeling will come.

We thank the Lord for all He has done for our dear Sister Jessie Taylor. She has been able to drive the car and went on a little trip. It is a miracle what God has done for her. She has held her faith in God, yet she said the devil would even try to mock her for it. But God has blessed her. She was able to attend much of the Assembly meeting. The Lord is blessing others who have been looking to Him. Sister Lillian Meek is slowly improving, and we are expecting complete healing for her.

We need to pray for Sister Ruby Stover. She gets better and then does more than she should and her heart bothers her again.

We want to take Ruthie Gaines (age 6) of Mo. upon our hearts. If she were our child or grandchild, we would want others to be agreed in prayer for her. At times she seems to get better, yet still far from well, and then she gets worse again. We know God is abundantly able to

heal her completely. Her parents both have been sick, and their burdens have been very heavy. If you would like to send her a card, address it to us and we will forward it.

—Sister Marie Miles

From the Mail Box

W. Va.—Dear Sirs: Many thanks for the person that sent us your paper, "Faith and Victory." I am interested in several of your books and I am ordering some of them at this time. . . . The paper I received is in great demand since Church of God people are quite interested in the reading material you have offered. On my next order I will subscribe to your paper for three years. Will you please send the following at this time . . . and find check enclosed.

My husband and his mother are well acquainted with Sister Beatrice Spaur who had a news item in your paper.

If you have extra copies of the January paper, would you please send them to the following [20] addresses? . . .

Thank you.

—Mrs. Blenda McElwain

Idaho—Dear Sir: Please send me the little magazine, "Faith and Victory," for three years. Enclosed you will find the money. I do not know when the paper [special three months] I now receive will expire, but just extend the subscription for three more years.

—Elmer Gieszelmann

Canada—Dear Brothers: From a friend of mine I received a copy of your publication, "Faith and Victory." I am very much impressed by this wonderful paper, and would like to take this opportunity to subscribe to it.

I would also like to order these two books: "Birth of a Reformation," and "The Cleansing of the Sanctuary." I am enclosing a money order for . . . hoping this will cover the expenses of my order.

In Christian love,

—E. Krebs

Ky.—Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ: My wife and I enjoy the paper very much. May God's richest blessings be yours in your most humble effort to reach the lost and encourage and challenge the Christian to get more involved for the Master.

I wish to order some books. . . . Enclosed you will find my check for the amount stated in the paper.

Thank you very much,

—Dave Middleton

Neb.—Christian Friend: Enclosed is \$1.00 for the special offer. Please send the paper to these names if you can. I know I am late but I want to do what I can to help precious souls be saved. I enjoy the "Faith and Victory" paper and want my friends to receive this very fine paper, praying that the Lord will cause someone to get saved from reading it.

If you can, send us some of your free tracts. Thank you kindly. Your co-worker,

—Elder Alice E. Britt

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to do good as well as to receive good. We are to mold and shape the things around us as well as to be molded and shaped by the good. Life should be a series of efforts to accomplish the salvation of immortal souls; not simply an idle waiting through the continuous roll of years for the inevitable end. There is work to do, noble work for everyone, and opportunity will soon be gone.

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



(The following letter and testimony is from Bro. Earl Bliss of Anderson, Ind., who has been going through a trial of affliction and unable to work since last June. Continue to pray for his complete recovery. —Editor.)

Ind.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: I am glad to greet you once again in Jesus' dear name. I received your kind letter today. . . . I surely do appreciate your kindness . . . and thank you and the Lord for all. . . . After reading your letter I got down on my knees and prayed for you and the [Assembly] meeting. I have been praying for the meeting all along. I surely was glad to hear of so many new readers getting the "Faith and Victory" this year. I hope and pray that God will continue to bless and multiply His Word.

Bro. Lawrence, I appreciate your offer to come and stay out there, but at present I don't see how I could. . . .

I know the saints have been praying for me as I have felt a touch from heaven many times. I am getting better, but this thing hurts me when I sit in the car and drive very long. It stays sore right behind my left lung. . . . I am gradually feeling better but we are not going by feelings alone but by faith in our God. He has promised to heal all our afflictions, for which I can say from experience, He surely has been wonderful to me. I truly appreciate all God has done for me and the way He works through those that will let Him.

I want to get all the Lord has for me. I have a sermon here on tape by Bro. Ostis Wilson and he said, "Some people go through a trial and pay for a thing but never get anything out of it." I surely don't want to be one of those. I pray always that God will show me what He wants me to learn. He has shown me many things since my affliction. One was by a dream, but it was so real it seemed I was there. I dreamed I was standing on a little mound, like a cinder pile alongside a railroad track. Behind me was a little station and I was facing south. The tracks were to my right and beyond the tracks were houses and people out in their yards working. On my left was a road running north and south just like the tracks. Before me was a man, but he was some distance ahead of me. The other side of the road to my left was darkness. I couldn't see anything beyond the road. All at once I saw in the heavens toward the southwest a big explosion. At first I thought it was a jet that had exploded, and I was beginning to feel sorry for its occupants. But the explosions kept getting worse with a great noise. It sounded like thunder and rockets traveling at high speed. The fire was spreading fast toward the east, and streaks of fire like rockets spread toward the north. The black smoke was rolling in the heavens like huge gasoline explosions. I looked over at the houses to my right and the people were not paying any attention to what was going on in the sky. They were looking at something in the north, with their backs toward the fire in the heavens. The man in front of me some distance was looking north also, with his back to all that was happening. I began to shout and jump and point at the heavens, but he could not hear me. I began to jump and wave my arms. Finally he looked at me, and I began to point up to the heavens behind him, but he tried to get me to look behind me toward the north. I don't know what he saw, but I was so fascinated by what I was seeing that I kept pointing behind him and shouting until finally he did turn around to look. It was shooting big streaks of fire above our heads with terrific noise. Then this man ducked in terror and threw both hands and arms over his head, and I

woke up. I looked over the room for a moment as I felt I was seeing this for real. Then I began to think, why did I dream such a dream as that? I had been praying for a closer walk with God. I had been asking God to help me to get more serious in the things of God. I began to think on these things, and all at once my mind took me to 2 Peter 3:7, 10-12. "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?" Now, I have wished I could have a picture of what I saw in the heavens. It might be good to show it to some that don't believe. Some question whether the heavens could burn or not. I do not question God's power to destroy what He has made. There are gases and oxygen in the heavens which are very explosive if enough heat is applied. But God is able to supply the right amount of oxygen and gases to burn even the air. The man I saw is an example of the people of this world. They are turning their backs on God and His Word and are taken up with everything in this world. That way they are blinded to what is happening all around them—the signs of Jesus' coming. It will happen to them as the Word says, as a thief in the night, when they least expect it. Then they will cry for the rocks and mountains to fall on them to hide them from His face. May God help us to do what we can while it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work.

Note of Appreciation

I want to write a note of appreciation to all those who have so wonderfully helped me in this time of need. God has promised to supply all our needs and not our wants. I had been praying God to do this for me as I couldn't see how I was going to meet my rent, or pay for my fuel oil. But I believe God's Word and I haven't missed paying my rent on time in the past ten years I have lived here. I have good credit and could borrow money, but that would not solve the problem. I would still owe the money to someone. God has surely supplied my needs beyond all my expectation. I truly feel indebted to all those that have been so kind in giving to my needs. I want everyone to know that I surely appreciate what you have done, and I am praying for everyone that God will greatly reward each one who gave.

Keep holding me up to the throne of God, that I will get all that He has for me in this trial.

Your Brother in Christ, —Earl B. Bliss

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Calif.—Dear Ones in Christ, greetings of love: Phil. 2:12, 13, "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; For it is God which worketh in you, both to will and to do of His good pleasure."

I am thanking the dear Lord for saving my soul, sanctifying my nature and accepting my life for His service. There is nothing between me and my Saviour. There is nothing in this world as great as salvation. It will keep one in this life and be his entrance into the portals of Glory. How careful and obedient should I be to my dear Lord!

Thank the Lord, "My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed." Psa. 57:7. My soul feels more and more like pressing on in this wonderful way of salvation. My soul panteth hard after thee, O God, endeavoring to work out my salvation with fear and trembling. When the Holy Spirit is abiding in our heart, it has the ruling power of our entire life's journey from time to eternity. I have decided to let the Holy Spirit have possession. This battle is not to the swift or strong, but to those who continue to the end.

These are truly evil days. I am asking the Lord to keep my mind pure and concentrated on eternal things that all I do will be to the glory of God. A pure mind keeps one's meditation in tune with the Spirit of God.

Some time ago I had a little trial all to myself. An article was out of place, as I thought. It took my time, patience, plus worry, to try to find it. My better judgment said to commit it in the hand of the Lord. I told the Lord that if He would let me find it, I would testify to it, or send my testimony. The enemy tried to cause me to neglect it. It is the little things we neglect that eat away our power to keep the victory day by day. I am learning more and more how to serve my Maker.

We had a good prayer meeting last night, on Jan. 11 of this new year. Truly, the dear Lord blessed our service. Three of us very elderly grandmothers were there and our souls were, and are, burning with the sweet love of God within. Amen. —Sister Ella V. Phillips

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Ark.—Dear Workers in the Lord's Print Shop: May the blessings of the Lord be with you and your labors for His glory and for the salvation of lost souls.

I want to tell what the Lord has done for me in the last few weeks. A severe cold came on me on Monday. I would rebuke it. My eyes would water and I did not have much sleep at night. My head ached and I felt cold and would cough. That went on for three days. I kept resisting it in the name of the Lord. There weren't any saints near to call for prayer, but the promise is: "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you," and that was my promise. Late Wednesday afternoon the song came to my mind, "I am healed, I am healed, He is just the same today. He would not have healed the leper, and now turn me away." Praise the Lord, the more I would sing it, the more real it was for me. I claimed the promise and, thank God, He healed me right there. I slept well that night. That has been about four weeks ago and I am still healed. Oh, what a mighty God we serve! He is mine and I am His. Oh, it is so blessed and peaceful to trust in the Lord, to have victory over the enemy, doubts and fears, and just to rest in the care of our loving heavenly Father. Praise His great name forever!

On Saturday evening before New Year's Day, I got a phone call that dear Sister Ruth Murphey was sick, and she asked if it would be all right for her to come and be with me for awhile. I told her to come on. It was dark when they brought her to my home. She was real sick so we prayed and put her to bed. I kept praying and she went to sleep, and I went to bed. On Sunday she felt better. She stayed with me all week. She sewed, made quilt blocks and pot holders for campmeeting. Last Sunday morning she returned to her home in Neosho, Mo. All glory be to the true and living God who healed her.

I hope to be a blessing to some in this new year. Jesus has done so much for me. I want to be true and serve Him as long as He leaves me here. He has healed me all these 54 years, and I love Him more because I know Him better.

I pray God to put a stir in the hearts of all His dear people to be more alive for Him. Love and prayers to all.
Your Sister in the Lord,
—Mrs. N. E. Adams

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La.—Dear Brother Pruitt: Greetings of love to you and all the saints. I am happy that the Lord does grant me this opportunity to write to all my brothers and sisters in Christ, and I am glad to report that victory is still within my heart in the name of Jesus.

First of all, I would like to express my most heartfelt thanks to all who sent cards and gifts over the holiday season. So many of you wrote letters along with your cards and I can't tell you enough how much it meant to hear from you. To be quite frank, I would like to say that in my position the enemy will oftentimes press me down with the feeling of being all alone. To read of the camp meetings and other activities through the "Faith and Victory" paper and not be able to attend, as well as to have my correspondence restricted to only one female friend and two male friends, makes it seem quite like I'm really shut away from things. So your letters were that much more encouraging simply because I was able to hear from you and feel a part of things. For this I thank you—a thank you of words written on a piece of paper, but sincerely meant with all my heart. May God bless you all.

Since last I wrote you, there have been a few changes made in my position here at the prison. Two years ago when I came here I was assigned to work with the Chaplain at his office in the Reception Center. This meant working with all the new men who came in each day. And for two years I held this position at the office at R. C. Then around the middle of December, Chaplain Cox felt the need to ask for my services at his main office on the main compound of the prison. This necessitated my being moved to what is known here at the prison as the "Big Yard," and to taking over the running of the office which deals with ninety per cent of the religious program here at the prison. My duties now are a lot more, as well as a greater variety than what I was associated with at R. C. Usually we have some kind of program going on every night of the week—from Bible classes to Sunday Schools, from choir practices to committee meetings to plan different programs. On top of this, I have taken over the finances and bookkeeping for the different organizations throughout our religious program. And also the management of an ice cream and popcorn concession stand in the visiting room that provides funds to these different organizations to sponsor their group programs, some of which are the providing of funds to keep a Korean war orphan, and funds to different orphanages here in the state. So as you can see, I am kept busy. But I do enjoy the work, and I trust that I can bring something to it to the glory of God. I am associated with many, many more men here on the Big Yard than I was at R. C. and this responsibility weighs heavily upon me because I realize the position I am in and the example that I must be to each man that I come in contact with. I just pray that the Lord will bless the work to His glory. And I ask that you all pray for this prison—the men, the religious program, and those who each day work among the men in the name of Jesus. I want very much to be all that the Lord would have me to be, and to serve Him with all my heart evermore.

The past year has seen many heartaches and blessings. But this is nothing new for the Christian, and I am thankful that from this body of flesh the Lord does find some value of service to Him. Last night in meditation, I, for the first time that I can really testify to, found a very real expression of joy in the things that have brought heartache to my soul. So often I have questioned within

myself how a person can feel joy over sorrow, and even now I cannot give you a plausible explanation of what brings this about except to say that it is through the grace of God. He says to give thanks for all things, even the sorrows we suffer. When we give thanks then He will supply the joy. How wonderful it is to learn these lessons from the Lord. May we ever put them to use in our lives and service to Him.

I was not able to see my son, Gerald, this past year, nor does it look as though I will be able to see him any time in the near future. It is a situation that pains me, but I am willing to trust the Lord to work it out. I ask that you remember him when you pray.

My mother was not able to come down for a visit this past year. Illness has prevented her from making any traveling plans, so much so that the first part of December saw her in the hospital for about ten days. But the last word I had from her stated that she was much better, for which I thank the Lord. I am in hopes that this spring will see her able to travel once again, and I request your prayers toward this end, as well as for her well-being and the well-being of my grandmother.

I mentioned earlier that my correspondence was severely restricted by the prison, so let me now give a brief explanation. I am allowed to write only two letters a week, and these must go to those approved by the prison authorities. I am allowed to write and visit my mother, my pastor, and one friend. Besides this, I am allowed to correspond with only two male friends. That is the reason why some of you have your letters returned during the year. I just am not allowed to receive them. Only at Christmas time are the rules relaxed to allow me to send and receive cards from those not on my approved prison list. Through the kindness of the Chaplain, though, I am allowed to write through the "Faith and Victory." Add to this, the kindness of Brother Pruitt in printing my letters for you to read.

My heart is full of things to say and I could write for hours yet. But I feel I have over-extended myself already. Therefore, I will bring this to a close by again saying thank you for your remembrances at Christmas time, your prayers and concern, and for your faithfulness to the Lord. The road sometimes seems rough and rocky to the point of weariness. And how wonderful the thought of eternal rest in Jesus our Saviour. But there is work to be done, fields to be cultivated, souls to be harvested. Let us not lay down on the job, but let us move forward each day. As the song says, "We're almost there." Pray for me, as I will be praying for you. And may God bless you each and every one.

Your Brother in Christ, —Wayne Turner

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

Idaho—Dear Sister Marie and all at the print shop, greetings: We want to thank the Lord for His goodness to us and for the way that He has protected us in all affairs of life. We do need Him daily and we are confident that if we will live under the spout where the blessings come out that He will take care of all that we are not able to do. We are trying to learn to accept all we cannot change, and change all we have power to change. Do remember us in prayer.

We want to express our thanks to you dear ones there for letting Ruby come home to help us move. We know it was a great sacrifice at this busy season of the year and much more work has fallen on your shoulders than would have been if she had been there. We want you to know how much we appreciate it.

I want to tell you what the Lord did for me last summer when Bro. and Sister Darius Gibson were here visiting us. When I was a child I must have got a piece of pencil

lead in my forehead just above the right eyebrow. It began to grow and caused me pain and a burning sensation. While they were here I asked them to anoint me and pray for me, which they did. That day I could feel a change. It stopped growing. I do not know if the black spot is in my forehead now or not. Our God did that for me and I feel so unworthy of what He has done.

I do want to thank all of the dear saints for their prayers. However, at this time I am having another battle with high blood pressure. It has come about with the heavy load of moving which has been more than I could do at my age.

We trust that the Lord will prosper His work there in getting the printed page to the lost before time shall be no more.

Husband is doing very well, and has some work to do this winter. He just is not content in not having something to do.

Still remember us in prayer. —Sister Anna Marken

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

Okla.—Dear Readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper: I feel I should write and tell of something the Lord did for me just a few weeks ago. It is easy for us to put things off that we need to do for the Lord, but sometimes we want His help and feel we need it real soon. He is so good to us.

I was sick a few weeks ago and it seemed to cause some trouble in my back afterward. My back would get such a sore feeling that it would hurt me to move about. This would be after I had worked some during the day. My back was hurting one night after work and I talked to the Lord about it. He surely came to my rescue and healed my back. It quit giving me trouble like it had been. I thank the dear Lord for this and many other blessings. Yours for the truth,

—Leona Green

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

Florida—Dear Saints: Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus. I feel that I should write my testimony through the "Faith and Victory" paper for the glory of God.

I took sick some time before the Hammond, La. assembly meeting. I didn't know what it was, but as it got worse, the pain felt like it did when I had shingles about 25 years ago, only worse. I wasn't broke out, so I did wonder if it was shingles. I have a friend who is a nurse. She called me and I told her about it. She said it didn't always break out, but the pain would be worse. Well, we called Hammond for prayer, and then Bro. and Sister Amos Davis left the meeting and came to pray for me. I wasn't healed at once, but claimed the healing and just kept trusting God. The pain was so bad that I didn't get much rest day or night. But God did heal. After the testing time, the pain kept getting less and less. The shingles are almost always a long drawn-out affair. Before, when I had them, I went to the doctor and he said it was purely a case of nerves and they lasted nearly three months. This time it only lasted about five weeks, so I know God healed it as I never took any medicine.

Then a few days ago I had something wrong with my stomach. The pain got real bad all through me and it was hard to breathe. I was here alone, so I called Guthrie and Bro. Lawrence answered. I was surely glad to hear his voice. He said they would have prayer right away. I hung up the phone, leaned back in my chair and began to pray, too, and in less than 15 minutes the pain was all gone. I have not been bothered since. Praise the Lord! To whom would we go, but to the Lord? He surely is a helper in every time of trouble.

Then we had another trial. I felt it was a real serious thing and I took it to the Lord. Before the week was

out He answered prayer. Oh, I do thank Him for all His goodness to us. Being isolated from the saints surely makes us depend on the Lord more. But we do thank the Lord for the saints and thank all of you, far and near, for your prayers.

Clifford, my husband, just got back from Michigan and someone up there told him that there are no saints in the world anymore. But we know there are some precious saints. Some glad day there won't be any saints on this earth. They will all have been taken up to be with Jesus and the world will be burned up. Praise God, I want to be among that number that will meet Him in the air. Pray for us.

—Sister Marie Lindner

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

Kansas—Dear Brothers and Sisters everywhere: I am glad to report victory in my soul. As you know, Bro. Samons from Kentucky came to Webb City, Mo. and preached for one week in November. My heart was hungry to hear the Word declared again under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. My soul was satisfied in Jesus' love and mercy.

In our prayers we are remembering those who write, print, and publish the true gospel, and especially those of you at Guthrie. Pray for me.

Yours in Jesus,

—Homer W. Fee

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

Oregon—Dear Sister Anna Marie: I am thanking and praising God for His goodness to me this past year. Looking back over it, I can see many prayers answered and many blessings too numerous to mention. . . . Do remember me when you pray. I know you do remember all the dear saints and there are many requests. You folks receive some sad stories and have a heavy load of responsibility on your shoulders. It is a lot of work to get this little paper out each month. I know as I have helped. Those who have never worked in a publishing house have no idea how much work is involved in setting all the type and many other details. . . . I do pray for all of you there and look forward to the paper each month. I left copies of it along the way as I went to Union, Ore. to see my mother, O. K. Myers at Christmas time.

May God bless and prosper you this new year.

Much Christian love to all,

—Sister Grace Jones

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

Ohio—Dear Sister Marie: I am enjoying the January edition of "Faith and Victory." There are so many good things in it. I always feel very much encouraged after reading it. I am enclosing an offering. I am sorry I have so neglected sending a little offering. I am passed my 92nd year and neglect things, but my prayers are with all of you. I pray you will keep the good paper going.

Bro. Ray Key is my step-son and I always read the items to him when he visits us. My prayers are with you, my dear. Pray that I do God's will at all times.

Your Sister in Him,

—Mrs. Flora Key

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

Okla.—Dear Saints scattered abroad, greetings in Jesus' precious and holy name: I am praising the dear Lord for all He has done for me. I want to testify to His healing power. For two nights I couldn't sleep. My husband and I prayed and the Lord gave me a little relief. I was soon awake again with my foot hurting more than ever and it hurt all that day. We kept holding on to the Lord. It was still bad when night came. About two o'clock in the morning I got up and sat in a chair and cried and prayed the best I could, putting all my trust in the dear Lord. I told Him I had done all I could. I believed and put it all in His care, then I got easy. I lay down about four o'clock and went to sleep. It was 8:30

o'clock before I woke up that morning. I praise and thank the dear Lord. From that time until now it has not hurt any more. What a mighty God we serve and put our trust in! We do love Him.

We have been thinking of all the suffering our dear boys in Vietnam are going through. We have two grandsons just now going to Vietnam. It hurts to think of all the suffering there. Pray for all the boys and for the rulers of the lands. God knows all about it and will help.

—Sister Oliver Lovelace

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

Mo.—Dear Ones: I feel impressed to write and tell of the Lord's goodness to me through the past year. Surely He has been wonderful!

I have had many trials and temptations, but the Lord has always brought me through. He has never failed to encourage me in times when I have needed His encouragement. Recently I was very sick and had some severe pains. I knew that if the Lord didn't help me, I couldn't bear it much longer. But He came to my rescue and healed me. Truly I am so thankful for the many times He has healed me!

I desire your prayers that through this new year I will keep encouraged and draw closer to the Lord. I want to be a true example for Him.

Christian love,

—Jeanie Allen

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

Texas—Dear Sister Marie: We send greetings of much love to you this dreary cold morning. Everything is covered with ice and snow outside. But we have a fire in our fireplace and the fire of God's love burning in our soul. If we can keep all these troubles outside and keep our hearts filled with love, all will be well with our souls.

I have been sick with a cold since I came home from the Guthrie meeting. It got in my bronchial tubes and caused me to cough real hard for several days. I am thankful the Lord stood by me.

We enjoyed seeing the saints at the meeting. The addition to the chapel is nice. We do appreciate all this. That was the most wonderful meeting I was ever in. It meant much to me. . . .

Remember us when you pray. We need each others' prayers. It is my desire to be more like the Lord each day. Thank you for all you have done for me.

Love and prayers,

—Edith Wall

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

Miss.—Dear Saints at the Print Shop and everywhere: I can't ever remember writing to the "Faith and Victory" paper before, although I look forward to receiving it each month. It is a real blessing to our souls. May God bless you in this great work.

I would like to say how much we appreciated the prayers of the saints during our mother's sickness and death. [Sister Katie Freeman's obituary appears in this issue.] About two months before she passed away she said she wasn't ready to meet the Lord. We had been praying for her soul and the dear saints were praying, too. Thank the Lord, He heard our prayers and sweetly saved her soul about three weeks before she left us. She had been under the doctor's care and, oh, the terrible pain and suffering she endured! The medicine didn't seem to do much good. The doctors told us it would get to the point where the tablets wouldn't ease her and she would have to be taken back to the hospital and have shots before the end. But they must not have met our God and learned what He can do! When He saved her soul, she got rid of the medicine and said, "From here on I'll trust the Lord, live or die." When she would suffer

she asked for prayer and the Lord heard every time and she would just go to sleep and rest. Isn't God good! A little while before she died, she prayed, "Lord, please take me Home." She was conscious almost to the end. Oh, how we miss her! But God comforts our hearts in feeling she was ready to meet Him in peace.

Saints, pray for us. We want to make heaven our home. It will be wonderful there.

A child of God,

—Nora Reeves

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

Mo.—Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord: We send greetings of love to each one of you. We are thankful for all that God has done for us, and for being able to press the battle on. Praise the Lord! Surely we always want to keep in the will and order of God.

We were so thankful to be able to attend a portion of the Guthrie, Okla. assembly meeting. I know I got a lot of help to my soul. I found myself short in some places, but by the grace of God I am doing my best at this time to move up closer to God. . . .

I'm thankful for the good messages, as I would rather that the Word of God find me out now than to come down to the end of life's journey and be lost in a devil's hell. Surely that would be a terrible thing. I'm thankful for the true saints of God and what they mean to me. I appreciate each one from the very depths of my heart. I appreciate the ministers for the way they preach the Word as God lays it on their hearts.

May the God of heaven bless each one of His people is my constant prayer. I love the Lord and want to do His will at any cost. Pray for me that I will always be true and faithful to my blessed Lord.

Yours for the cause of Christ, —Bro. Don McIntosh

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

Calif.—Dear Saints: I want to testify to the Lord's goodness and mercy to me. My prayer is that He will help me to love and serve Him better.

One night recently I was driving a large truckload of furniture from San Bernardino to Pomona. I was driving out on Foothill Blvd. in a sparsely settled area when the truck stopped. I had my two small nephews with me and didn't want to leave the truck to go for help. There were no phones around so I worked and tried everything I knew to fix it. The boys and I had prayer. I told the Lord if He would help us get the truck started I would write my testimony for the "Faith and Victory" paper and tell what He did for me. When we finished praying I noticed a handle on the floor, and I turned it, put the truck in gear and stepped on the starter. The truck jumped a little and started. Later I realized the boys must have turned the gas off from the tank. I had tried everything I knew, and not until we prayed did the Lord show me the handle.

I thank Him for the many times He has answered prayer. I need your continued prayers. —Bill Elwell

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

La.—Greetings to all the dear Saints: I would like to tell of God's goodness to me. Last spring I was going out to start mowing with a new tractor-type lawn mower. I was in a hurry to load it in the pickup and I wasn't careful enough. I laid boards from the ground to the bed of the pickup and started driving the tractor up the boards. The front tractor wheels were going into the pickup all right. Then the mower hung against the bed of the truck. It scared me, and I froze in the seat. I knew the tractor could fall and crush me. But the Lord just took over and as the whole load fell to the ground, it fell upright with me still in the seat. I know it was God's goodness and I do praise Him.

At this writing I am sick with the flu. I desire your prayers that the Lord will completely heal me. My intention is to be faithful to Him.

Your Brother in Christ, —Lester L. Gordon

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Oklahoma.—Dear Saints scattered abroad: Greetings in the precious name of our Redeemer, Saviour, Friend, and Keeper. I am so glad that I ever found the saints and that I am not disappointed in what I found; it is all my soul craved. I am glad to report victory in my soul and a greater hunger to do all that He shows me to do that I might live with Him forever. There isn't much hunger for truth anymore and I am glad that He is still blessing me with it.

I wish to tell of an experience that happened and how God took care of it, causing me to marvel and stand in amazement.

I felt that the Lord would be pleased for me to go home (Twin Falls, Idaho) this past fall and help my parents move, so I told Him that I would go if He made the way. For nearly a year I prayed about it, always telling Him I'd be willing to do what He showed me to do. When I saw He was working it out in such a way that I could go, I began to reason with human reasoning, not considering Him at all in the matter. I was having trouble with my eyes, and I reasoned that it would be better for me to get my new glasses at home and use the same frames I had as they are almost like new. The Lord knew that I did not know what I was undertaking, so He protected me in my ignorance. I have found it necessary, in the close work that I do, to use both pairs of glasses. He knew I would need them both and I thank Him for His love shown to me in preparing ahead for me.

Anyway, I started for home, and as all know who have travelled by bus, one does not look presentable after sleeping on the bus. When we got to Denver, Colo., my hair was unkempt. I went to the lounge to comb it, and, of course, it was necessary to remove my glasses. We boarded the bus again, and had ridden about three hours when we made another meal stop. In trying to check the menu, I realized I had left my glasses in Denver in the lounge. I procured the phone number and called the bus station, but no glasses had been turned in, and in my haste I failed to give them my home address. This was a part of God's plan, for He could have reminded me in Denver while I waited, but He didn't.

I was so ashamed of what I had done that no one at home knew that such a thing had happened. I was at home nearly two weeks before I could get my eyes checked and when the optometrist spoke to me about my glasses, I told him I had had an accident.

I had made up my mind that trifocal glasses would be better than bi-focals, and the Lord knew that it would cause me trouble to make this change, and He preserved the old ones for me.

I had prayed about the Lord taking care of my glasses which I had left in Denver, but it seemed that I didn't have too much faith that I would get them. Someone else must have been burdened for me, for it was wonderful what the Lord did.

On the return trip, when I got to Grand Junction, Colo., I learned that I could take another bus and go right through to Wichita, Kansas with no lay-overs, yet I felt I must go through Denver. When we arrived in Denver, I went directly to the ticket office and asked if there had been any eyeglasses brought from the lounge. The man there asked me on what day they had been left, and I told him November 23 in the evening. He opened the door and there were my glasses with a note written with these

words: "Found in the Lady's Lounge the evening of the 23rd of November." He looked at me and said, "That sounds as if it might mean something." I recognized the glasses, but told him I would have to check, and if I could read with them, they were surely mine. He said, "Lady, you are lucky." I knew it wasn't luck, for luck just does not fit God's children. God was taking care of me and my things, and teaching me that I was as helpless as a baby in a basket and I could not do one thing for myself without His help. I do praise the Lord for His goodness to me, and I had a campmeeting from there to Lamar, Colo. The joy is still bubbling over yet today.

Your Sister in Christ, —Ruby Marken

THE FAITHFUL FEW

The Lord depends on the faithful few
The work of the needy world to do.

They, like the sun, from the narrow way
Of the path of duty never stray;

And they keep right on while others sigh
Without the courage and will to try.

What on earth would we ever do
Without the help of the faithful few?

—William Walter De Bolt

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February 4, 1968

THE WITNESS OF CHRIST'S HEALING

Printed Portion John 4:46-50a; 5:2-9a, 17, 18

John 4:46 So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.

47 When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.

48 Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

49 The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.

50a Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. John 5:2 Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.

3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.

4 For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.

6 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

7 The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.

8 Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

9a And immediately the man was made whole.

17 But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his father, making himself equal with God.

Memory Verse: But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. John 5:36.

Practical Truth: Obeying Jesus' words brings faith for healing.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Some want to teach that healing is done away and not for us today. The prophet Isaiah prophesied of Jesus' coming and told us, "With his stripes we are healed." Isa. 53:5. In our lesson we find Jesus healing before he bore those stripes and how much more would healing be for us after he bore those stripes! Jesus has all power in heaven and in earth. Nothing is impossible with him. Jesus has told us, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24. That means healing also for the body.

We read in Matt. 27:26, "When he had scourged Jesus he delivered him to be crucified." Matt. 27:26. In Smith's Bible Dictionary we read about the method in those days of scourging. "The punishment of scourging was common among the Jews. The instrument of punishment in ancient Egypt, as it is also in modern times generally in the East, was usually the stick, applied to the soles of the feet-bastinado. Under the Roman method the culprit was stripped, stretched with cords or thongs on a frame and beaten with rods. (Another form of scourge consisted of a handle with three lashes or thongs of leather or cord, sometimes with pieces of metal fastened to them. Roman citizens were exempt by their law from scourging.)" Oh, how terrible the suffering must have been! Why was He suffering this? It was for the healing of our bodies. Should we not then believe He is moved with compassion today when we call upon Him? We thank God for the many witnesses we have today of Jesus' healing.

February 11, 1968

THE TRUE BREAD FROM HEAVEN

Printed Portion John 6:35-44, 48

John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

36 But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.

37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

41 The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.

42 And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?

43 Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves.

44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

48 I am the bread of life.

Memory Verse: And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. John 6:35.

Practical Truth: Christ is that bread that will satisfy all who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

There is a physical hunger of the body and a spiritual hunger of the soul. Jesus will be bread to the soul as natural bread is to the body. The body cannot get help from bread unless an effort is made to get it and eat it. Our lesson tells us that "no man can come to me, except the Father . . . draw him." As the Spirit of God begins to deal with a soul and draws him to Christ that person must do something himself about it. He must believe that Jesus is truly the bread of life to the soul and that He died to take away sins and that He can satisfy every longing. He must yield to that drawing and come to Jesus accepting him as his personal Saviour, confessing his sins from his heart and turn away from them. He must completely yield himself to the Spirit of God and accept Him into his heart. That is eating the bread (Christ) which gives eternal life to the soul. That deep longing of the soul is satisfied and will continually be satisfied as long as that person continues to yield to Jesus, believe and live by His Words and do them. We must take Jesus for an example. He said he did not come to do his will "but the will of him that sent me." We must not want to do as we please, satisfy our wills and fleshly desires but crucify them and do the will of God which is plainly told us. As we read the New Testament and are willing to obey it we are then eating the bread of life and it is working out in our lives, just like bread to the physical body gives strength to the body to move about. Thank God, in the end, when Jesus comes bursting through the clouds, the graves will burst open and we will arise to be with him in eternity. 1 Thess. 4:16. We have Christ in our hearts, which is the bread of life, and that will be like a magnet drawing us to Christ in the clouds.

February 18, 1968

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Printed Portion John 9:1-7; 35-41

John 9:1 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

6 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with clay.

7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent). He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

36 And he answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?

37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

39 And Jesus said, For judgment I am come unto this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.

40 And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also?

41 Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin; but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.

Memory Verse: Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. John 8:12.

Practical Truth: It is much worse to be spiritually blind than physically blind.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Mary gave the table a few quick swipes, let out her dishwater, and ran out to play. Later Mother asked her why she did not wipe the table. She said she had. When Mother showed her the crumbs she said, "I didn't see all of that!" Well, she may not have seen it, but why didn't she? She was not blind. The truth is she was not interested and did not look nor take time to do the job well. Do you not know that many people are doing such as that today? The facts are before everyone that hell is their doom if they do not get rid of their sins through the blood of Jesus Christ. Why aren't people getting saved? They go on seemingly blinded to the facts before them. I feel most of them are like Mary. They are carelessly turning away from them and running out to partake of the things of the world around them. They are merely playing and wasting their time, but one of these days death will overtake them and they will be eternally lost. How sad! It will pay to stop, look, and listen to what Jesus has to tell us now while we are in good health and have the right use of our minds.

Our lesson teaches us about two kinds of blindness—natural and spiritual. God is able to heal both. When Jesus was here he was the light of the world but now since he is gone Jesus wants us to live a life like his so others can be convinced that there is a reality in salvation and others will come to Jesus and be saved. Notice the blind man obeyed and came seeing.

February 25, 1968

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Printed Portion John 10:7-18

John 10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

9 I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture.

10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Memory Verse: My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. John 10:27, 28.

Practical Truth: We should give Jesus, our great Shepherd, our all since he gave his all to save his sheep.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We notice in the teachings of Jesus that He used every means possible to teach simple, yet very important, truths concerning God's great love for mankind and how man can come to God and be saved eternally. Jesus looked at the shepherd and the sheep and he compared it to his love for mankind as the shepherd loves his sheep and cares for them. The shepherd knew all of his sheep by name, called each one and tenderly cared for them. They were the shepherd's constant companions and many days, perhaps months, he never saw anyone but lived with his sheep. Jesus wanted to teach us about his great care for us. He compared the wolf to Satan who has come to take the souls of men to hell but Jesus stands between us and the wolf. He was willing to lay down his life for our sins so that Satan would not have any claim on us. Our sins can be washed away in His precious blood if we will run to Jesus and not run to Satan. He plainly tells us that "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again." How precious is the love of our good Shepherd to us! He used the power given to him from the Father to go through cruel treatment for our sins. If we could get the impact of this precious fact I believe our love for him would be increased daily. There are depths in the love of our Good Shepherd that we need to meditate upon and it would cause us to love him and others more. Jesus is the door to the sheepfold, which is the church. Some are trying to climb up some other way but they are thieves and robbers and we know they will never get to heaven. We must face facts and come the Bible way or we will never get into God's church nor enter heaven in the end.

—Sister Marie Miles