

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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What Then?

(John 2:16; Malachi 4:1)

When all the great plants of our cities
Have turned out their last finished work;
When our merchants have sold their last yard of silk,
And dismissed the last tired clerk;
When our banks have raked in their last dollar,
And paid the last dividend;
When the Judge of the earth says, "Close for the night,"

And asks for the balance—

WHAT THEN?

When the choir has sung its last anthem,
And the preacher has made his last prayer,
When the people have heard their last sermon,
And the sound has died out in the air;
When the Bible lies closed on the altar
And the pews are all empty of men;
When each one stands facing his record,
And the great Book is opened—

WHAT THEN?

When the actors have played their last drama,
And the mimic has made his last fun;
When the film has flashed its last picture
And the billboard displayed its last run;
When the crowds seeking pleasure have vanished,
And gone out in the darkness again;
When the trumpet of ages is sounded,
And we stand up before Him—

WHAT THEN?

When the bugle's call sinks into silence,
And the long marching columns stand still;
When the captain repeats his last orders,
And they've captured the last fort and hill,
When the flag has been hauled from the masthead,
And the wounded afield are checked in,
And a world that rejected its Savior
Is asked for a reason—

WHAT THEN?

WHAT IS SALVATION?

We hear much about the alarming increase of sin, but less as to what to do about it. Sin is a transgression of God's law which separates man from fellowship with God. Eternal separation will follow if man continues in sin until physical death finds him.

Salvation means deliverance from sin, being redeemed back to God. God, in His Word, teaches a plain simple way unto salvation and why we need to be saved. Jesus taught that those who die in their sins, where He is, they cannot come. John 8:21. Jesus went to heaven. (Acts 1:11) Seldom do we find anyone who does not want to go to heaven when he dies. Therefore, if sin will keep one out of heaven, what then is sin? James 4:17, "To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin." 1 John 3:4, "Sin is the [known] transgression of the law." James 1:15, "When lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth SIN." Also 1 John 5:17, "All unrighteousness is SIN." Why then do folks transgress God's law, sin against His holy name and forfeit their hope of heaven?

Gen. 1:17, "God created man in his own image, [pure, holy, undefiled] in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Gen. 2:15-17, "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. . . . God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." But the serpent appeared, beguiled and deceived them, and they transgressed God's commandment, which is SIN, and God drove them from the garden. (See the third chapter of Genesis.) Thus, by their sin, they lost the moral image of God's purity out of their hearts and lives, died a spiritual death, and plunged the whole human race into sin. Their posterity were born with that fallen, or depraved nature in their hearts, inherited from their sinful parents. From generation to generation, this seed of sin or sin principle has been passed along.

—Selected

Cain, the son of Adam and Eve, was the first murderer. He rose up and slew his brother, Abel. "And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous." 1 John 3:12. Sin was in his heart. It is sin in the hearts of mankind today that causes them to commit murder, because the unregenerated heart is filled with hatred, malice, lust, adultery, envy, jealousy, disregard for God and man.

God has always loved his creation and devised a plan whereby all could be saved. After the Hebrew nation was in Egyptian bondage in that land 430 years, God sent His servant Moses to deliver them. They were commanded to slay a choice lamb and sprinkle its blood on the doorposts of each dwelling. That night, when the death angel passed through the land of Egypt and slew the first-born in every Egyptian home, there were no deaths among God's people who had the blood on their doorposts, for the Destroyer had respect to the sacrificial lamb, passed over them, and they were saved from physical death by the blood. Read the twelfth chapter of Exodus. In Heb. 9:22 we read, "Almost all things are by the Law purged with blood, and without shedding of blood is no remission [of sins]."

Please read the fifth chapter of Revelation. Here, the Apostle John, while on the Isle of Patmos, being in the Spirit on the Lord's day saw many unique visions concerning the past, present, and future of the Church. He said there that he saw a Book written within and on the back side, sealed with seven seals. (This book contained the plan of salvation.) No man in heaven nor in earth, neither under the earth was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. This was sad, indeed, and John said he wept much. Then he was shown a Lamb (the Son of God) as it had been slain in the midst of the throne, and He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him that sat upon the throne. And they sang a new song saying, "THOU art worthy to take the Book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, tongue, and people, and nation." Praise God for redeeming grace! Heb. 9:26. "For then must he [Jesus] often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

In St. John, chapter 19, is the account of their false accusations against Jesus, his trial, suffering, and how the angry mob cried out, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" After He was scourged, Pilate delivered Jesus to the soldiers who led Him to Calvary and crucified Him there, nailing Him to the cross—God's only begotten Son. Verse 30, "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head and gave up the ghost." A soldier then pierced His side with a spear and forthwith there came out blood and water. (A sure sign of death.) The plan of salvation was indeed now finished. The perfect sacrifice was now slain, His innocent blood spilled, the Lamb of God which taketh

away the sins of the world. But God raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead the third day—He who was delivered for our offenses and raised again for our justification. (Romans 4:24, 25.)

During his ministry Jesus taught, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matt. 11:28, 29. This invitation is still held out to every soul. Among all nations of people today there is a great unrest, both temporally and spiritually. The carnal weapons of warfare can never bring rest and salvation to the human soul. But praise God, He has made a way. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

Today there is much unbelief and disrespect for God and His Word. Few people are being saved. Both John the Baptist and Jesus preached repentance, the way of salvation, meaning to regret or feel sorry for sin, to realize one's lost condition and become willing to turn from sin to God with a broken and contrite heart. Acts 3:19, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted that your sins may be blotted out. . ." Heb. 7:25, "Wherefore he [Jesus] is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." Also Acts 4:11, "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name given among men whereby we must be saved."

When a soul becomes sick and tired of the sinful life, becomes hungry for God—a hunger which nothing of the world can satisfy—then turns to God with a broken and contrite heart, complying with God's terms to be saved, God will blot out every sin through faith in the shed blood of Jesus and fill the soul with joy and happiness which no words can express. That soul then feels His presence within and sweet rest to the soul. Paul said, "Old things pass away, and behold, all things become new." There is a sweet communion and fellowship with God.

Such an experience we earnestly desire to retain, although Peter gives a warning in 1 Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant, [watchful]: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. . ." When Jesus sent the seventy out to preach, He said, "I give you power. . ." Luke 10:19. Knowing that He must leave them, and that they would need power to be overcomers, He said before His ascension, to His disciples, "Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high." Acts 24:49. Read also the second chapter. The disciples (120 of them) were assembled together in the upper room, waiting for that promise. Suddenly the Holy Ghost came and they were all filled, and manifested this power by speaking in other languages and in preaching the gospel. Remember that Peter, during Jesus' trial, denied his Lord because of fear, but now being filled with the Holy Ghost and power, he boldly

preached to the multitude, "Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Zacharias, filled with the Holy Ghost, prophesied, saying, "... that he [God] would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life." Luke 2:67-74. Praise God for complete salvation!

Many are being taught to join the church of their choice, and thereafter they are ready for heaven. How sad! God's Word does not teach "church joining," but deliverance from sin and to be filled with the Holy Ghost, which eradicates the "sin principle" and fills the heart with divine love. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world."

Reader, if you are not saved, seek the Lord for salvation and be ready to meet Him when He calls for you. —Mrs. S. E. Abbott

"I Am The Door"

"I am the door! by me if any man enter in he shall be saved" (John 10:9).

"Any man" includes the reader of this page and excludes none. Christ alone is God's door of hope for any sinner on earth. The man of few sins, or of many sins, drunkards, blasphemers, swearers, the scums, dregs, and refuse of society are here embraced in this rich offer of mercy. Salvation for any man is here wrapped up in fifteen words.

"I am the door," says Christ. He does not say, "I am a door" as if there could be another. There is no other door to salvation. Just look at the titles on many of the doors. There is one having written across it in bold letters: works. Not one has ever found salvation through that. Crowds are flocking in that direction. But the voice of the Apostle warns us: "Not of works of righteousness which we have done but according to His mercy He saved us" (Titus 3:5).

On another door is the word "Church," and it seems to attract immense numbers. Its cry is: "No salvation outside our church;" yet Peter declares of Jesus: "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Ah! that name of Salvation—the name of Jesus Christ whereby WE—Romanists, Protestants, Jews, and sinners of all sorts and conditions—must be saved. No, your church is not the door—Christ is; and when you get in Him, you are in His BODY, the true CHURCH, or family of God. There abide and bear the fruits of the Spirit.

"By me if any man enter in"—Christ is everything to the exclusion of all else. "By ME"—not by feelings, prayers, or doing the best you can. "Any

man" is good news for the despairing sinner. Christ, the door, offers salvation from sin to the greatest sinner on earth. "Enter in"—the door is open, enter in freely and fully. "Shall be saved" is said of all who enter by Christ. What a glorious declaration for all who will enter in through God's one and only door, Christ.

"Shall be lost" is the sure result for all who enter by any door besides the right one, which is Christ. Sinner, let Christ save you and join the ransomed host—nothing else will do. Keep away from and enter not those doors which cannot save you.

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." Acts 17:30.

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3. —Sel.

What Is Entire Sanctification?

Entire sanctification is a work wrought by the blood of Jesus, applied by the Holy Spirit to the heart of a truly converted person.

It is subsequent to conversion, and as separate and distinct from it as Calvary is from Pentecost. It is bestowed upon believers in the meeting of the conditions of self-crucifixion (Rom. 6:6), earnest prayer (Acts 1:14), and present, appropriating faith (Acts 15:9).

It is not "for the world," but for those who have been called out of the world (John 17:9).

It is given in response to our Saviour's prayer (John 17:17), His promise in Acts 1:8, His command (Matt. 5:48), and His atonement (Heb. 13:12).

Like conversion, it is an instantaneous work (Acts 2:2, 4).

It is for all believers (1 Thess. 4:3; 5:23).

It is a Divine work, wrought by the "God of peace" (1 Thess. 5:23) through the blood of Jesus (1 John 1:1, 9) by the instrumentality of the Word (John 17:17), applied by the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:2) to obedient believers (Heb. 4:3; 1 Peter 1:22).

It is a work to be confessed (Rev. 12:11).

It is not the birth of the Spirit, but the baptism with the Spirit; as distinct from regeneration as a baptism from a birth (Matt. 3:11).

It does not exempt from temptation, but gives victory over it.

It does not eliminate humanity, but carnality.

It does not destroy free agency, making man a machine, but causes him to gladly choose the whole will of God.

It does not exempt from mistakes, "sins of ignorance," but from inbred sin and sinning against light.

It does not give a perfect head, but a pure heart full of perfect love.

If you find a pink or blue subscription envelope with your paper, please fill it out, enclose remittance, and mail promptly, so you will not miss any forthcoming issues.

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

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

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

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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EDITORIALS

To all of the thousands of our new readers who have been receiving this paper for the past two months, we extend a very special invitation to SUBSCRIBE AT ONCE and become a regular reader. Your friend who had these trial issues sent to you would like for you to continue to receive a copy each month. He believes that these Bible truths will be a spiritual benefit and blessing to you. For the convenience of those whose subscriptions are EXPIRING WITH THIS ISSUE, we are enclosing a handy pink or blue SUBSCRIPTION REMITTANCE ENVELOPE. Just fill in the printed blank form with your name and address, enclose \$1.00, stamp and mail, and you will receive this paper each month (except August) for the next three years. Please do this NOW lest you forget it and miss the forthcoming issues which will contain messages of truth essential to your soul's welfare. May God bless every reader with heaven's richest benefits.

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With the continued blessings of the Lord, this March issue of the "Faith and Victory" paper marks the beginning of the 46th year of publication. Now, as always, this periodical stands committed to the vital Bible truths which brought forth this "evening light" restoration movement of the Church of God in fulfillment of Bible prophecy—those same truths which were taught and practiced prior to the "landslide apostasy" of 1910-1914. As servants of the Church of God, contending "for the faith once delivered to the saints," the publishers and this literature ministry have weathered many storms by the help and grace of God. More difficulties and obstacles are expected in the future, but our faith is anchored in the Captain of our salvation who is not limited nor restricted by circumstances. The Apostle John affirms: ". . . this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." 1 John 5:4. Our Father, whom we serve, will and does take care of His own.

In giving the Commission to His Church, Jesus' vision was world-wide. He said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Again he said, "The gospel must first be published among all nations." To reach the unreached in the "regions beyond" is the purpose of this gospel literature ministry which is primarily and essentially a work by faith in God. Without His blessings it could not continue. This institution operates under a charter from the State of Oklahoma as a non-profit religious and charitable corporation, and no one connected with it receives any personal profit. All proceeds from offerings and sales above the actual operating expenses are kept in the work to expand and increase the output of gospel literature. All who work here have volunteered their services as unto the Lord with no promise of remuneration other than that in God's Word, and His Word has not failed.

As "workers together" with the Lord we are delighted in His service, and we appreciate all those who have and are faithfully supporting this gospel

literature ministry by your prayers and finance. Your treasures are being laid up in heaven. Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matt. 6:21. What you have sown for Christ and souls, you will reap in everlasting happiness.

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For a history of this gospel publishing work, write for your FREE copy of the book, "God's Gracious Dealings," a 240-page autobiography of the life and labors of the late Fred Pruitt. This FREE offer is good only until April 1, so rush your order. If convenient, include stamps for postage. This record of trials and triumphs of faith will increase your confidence in God.

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Out-of-Print Book Wanted

A reader would like to purchase the out-of-print book entitled, "1913 Campmeeting Sermons," and is willing to pay as much as \$5.00 for a copy in fair condition. If anyone has this book for sale, please write to this office, stating condition and price.

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Bro. and Sister Darius Gibson, who remained here after the Guthrie Assembly meeting, returned to their home at Seymour, Mo. on February 11. Their son came and drove their car for them. Bro. Gibson is very weak. Some days he feels better, and other days much worse. His faith is firm and steady. Continue to remember them at the throne of mercy.

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The publication date of April 1 is tentatively set for the new book, "Divine Physical Healing, Past and Present." This will be a large faith-inspiring volume, and is a "must" for the sick and afflicted. Watch for further announcement in the April issue.

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Bro. T. H. Coffey, pastor at Hammond, La., reports that Bro. Mart Samons held a week's meeting there—Feb. 4 to 11. Messages were to the church.

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As this issue goes to press, we have not received a communication this month from Bro. Titus Enu, the native pastor formerly at Benin City, Nigeria, who was forced to leave his post on account of the current civil war. Pray for him and all the believers in Nigeria, and that peace will be restored.

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The ecumenical (union) movement, spearheaded by the World Council of Churches, appeals to many

people who think it is answering Jesus' prayer for the unity of believers. On the contrary, the confederation of all these false religions is merely increasing the size and strength of the gigantic apostate religious system—MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT—in opposition to the true Church of God, the "woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars." In the book of Revelation is portrayed in symbolical language the conflict between the true and false church, and the final destruction of the false in flaming fire at the end of the world when Jesus Christ comes again to receive His victorious church to Himself forever.

The message for this age is: "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." To God's people the call comes from heaven: "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." There is no fellowship between light and darkness, between truth and error, and every honest soul should heed the warning, flee from every false way lest he be a partaker of her sins and receive of her plagues. We are not opposing people as such, but only want to expose the false systems and foul spirits, so that honest souls can escape and find fellowship in the true fold of God.

Sad to say, professed Church of God groups have departed from those precious truths which brought forth the true "evening light" restoration movement. Among them are many seemingly honest and sincere people, but the pathetic condition is that many do not know the teachings of the saints prior to the apostasy of 1910-14. That was long before their time, and then so many have become accustomed to and satisfied with the innovations that were brought in over the years. When those who have never known the old-time truth begin seeking and walking in the light, the saints will show them much forbearance, but fellowship is severed automatically when one who knows the real truth begins to depart from it and to walk in darkness. "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another." 1 John 1:7. There can be no basis for unity on a platform of compromise, yet one with little light and one with much light can walk hand in hand if both are walking in all the truth they know and have hearts open for more truth. The unity of the Spirit exists while they are coming to the unity of the faith. The break comes when one walks away from or rejects truth. When honest souls return to the "old paths" they will find sweet fellowship and oneness with God's holy remnant.

—L. D. Pruitt

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GOSPEL SINGING AT SPRINGFIELD, MO.

The Church of God saints at Springfield, Mo. invite you to attend a gospel service in song on Saturday evening, 7:45 p. m., March 30, followed by all-day services on Sunday, March 31. Come and expect a spiritual blessing. The chapel is located at 718 North Kansas.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

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OBITUARIES

Christopher Deric Bock, son of Christopher and Carolina Bock, was born July 1, 1884 at Kansas City, Kan., and departed this life at the home of his son near Tulsa, Okla. on Feb. 3, 1968 at 6:25 P. M. at the age of 83 years, seven months and two days.

He came to Oklahoma with his parents as a small child. He was united in marriage to Gladys A. Britt on July 15, 1925, who preceded him in death in 1957. To this union were born one daughter and three sons. He was a farmer and resided north of Guthrie many years.

He is survived by his four children, Kenneth W. Bock, Guthrie, Christine Eck, Meno, Okla., Ted J. Bock, Tulsa, Okla., and Ronnie L. Bock, also of Tulsa; one sister, Mrs. Dora Penrod, Guthrie, Okla., one brother, Adolph Bock, Soldier, Kansas; eight grandchildren and a host of friends and relatives.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Richard Madden at Guthrie, Okla., and interment was in the Lawrie Cemetery.

Bro. John W. Wilson was born March 29, 1884 in Dadeville, Mo. and departed this life January 23, 1968 at the age of 83 years, 9 months, and 25 days in the Golden Rule Home, Shawnee, Okla.

He homesteaded in Beaver County, Okla. in 1906 and lived there until 1917. Bro. Wilson heard and embraced the truth of the Evening Light at the age of 21 years. God called him into the evangelistic work and his labors were profitable for God. He was instrumental in winning many souls to the truth. In later years he accepted the pastorate at Springfield, Mo. and labored there for about twenty years.

Twenty-five years ago last August he and Sister Essie McDonald were united in holy matrimony and they labored beautifully together. Both of their ministries have been far-reaching. "Henceforth, saith the spirit, they cease from their labors, but their works do follow them."

Survivors include his wife, Sister Essie Wilson, now living in Glendale, Calif., four daughters, Mrs. Floy Woolery, Shawnee, Okla., Mrs. Fern Johnson, Guthrie, Okla., Mrs. Dovie Roland, Amarillo, Texas, and Mrs. Mary Manly, Redlands, Calif.; one step-son, Edwin Caudel, Overland Park, Kansas, and one step-daughter, Mrs. Ruth Turner, Glendale, Calif.; one sister, Mrs. Lucy Twentier, Dallas, Texas; three brothers, Arthur, Greenfield, Mo., Orville, Everton, Mo., and Fred, San Fernando, Calif.; a host of other relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were held in the Church of God chapel at Shawnee, Okla., with the burial in Fairview Cemetery with Bros. Charles R. Smith and Vada McMillian in charge.

Note of Appreciation

We appreciate the cards, flowers, love, and prayers for our loved one.

—The John W. Wilson family

Odie N. Belcher, son of Frazier W. and Susan E. Belcher, was born August 7, 1884 in Patoka, Ill. and departed this life January 12, 1968 at Pacoima, California at the age of 83 years, 5 months, and 5 days.

He was saved in a Methodist meeting when a young man. He was sanctified in a children's meeting in Shawnee, Okla. in 1934 and took his stand for the truth of the Church of God. He remained faithful and trusted the Lord for soul and body until his death.

Odie worshipped in the Church of God congregation first on Perlita Ave. in Los Angeles and then with the same congregation after it moved to the saints' campground in Pacoima for twenty-five years or more. He was always faithful to attend the services regularly. He loved the service of the Lord and is much missed in our midst now that his place is vacant.

He is survived by two brothers: Robert E. Belcher of Empire, Calif., and Willie B. Belcher of Shawnee, Okla., and one sister, Rada F. Watkins of Pacoima, Calif. where he made his home.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. I. C. Chandler, A. E. Harmon, and O. B. Wilson at the Noble Funeral Chapel in San Fernando, Calif. The 91st Psalm was read. The sermon text was Matt. 27:43, "He trusted in God. Let Him deliver him now, if He will have him." The body was then taken to Orland, Calif. where a service was conducted for him in the Saints' Chapel by Bros. H. P. Huskey and R. F. Wilson. The remains now rest in the cemetery at Orland, Calif.

Sister Beatrice Moanings, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Johnson, was born July 24, 1910 at Lima, Okla. and departed this life January 15, 1968.

She was married to D. D. Moanings in December, 1927. This union was blessed with eight children, two of whom preceded their mother in death.

Sister Moanings was hindered from attending church services regularly, but her presence at the Boley camp-meeting and her liberality in a temporal way will be greatly missed by the saints at Boley, Okla.

Survivors include her husband, D. D. Moanings of the home address, three daughters, Martha Hart and Rosetta Stuart of Phoenix, Arizona, Odessa Williamson of Okla. City; three sons, Isaac and Douglas of Port-

land, Oregon, Carl of Fort Polk, La., 30 grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral was held at the Boley, Okla. Church of God chapel, conducted by Bro. Woodrow Warren and Sister Katherine Williams. Text: Numbers 23:10. Interment was made near Bristow in the Newby Cemetery. There her body awaits the general resurrection.

IN MEMORY OF ROLAND TOMBLESON

This month (Jan.) a year ago, Daddy, you went away—The Lord no longer wished you here on earth to stay. Since no sadness is known where you are now dwelling, But chords of music may be constantly swelling; We would not ask for your return to us below, Even though you are still missed more than you'll ever know.

While you are sitting around the Great Throne of God, Does the Saviour explain the pathway you have trod? Are there any unanswered questions you have now About confusing earthly things of "why" or "how"? May you e'er walk and talk in the City of Gold, And many new and old acquaintances behold.

Does Gary hold to your hand as you walk along— And listen quietly as you sing Zion's song? May you continuously rejoice in the joys Of the reunion with Herbert and Floren, your boys. Tell them hello for the family left down here, And that they also are held in memory dear. January, 1968 —Elna Burns, his daughter.

Campmeeting Dates for 1968

Following are some of the campmeeting dates for the coming summer. Dates of others will be added as they come in. More complete notices of each will appear in later issues.

Holly Hill, S. Carolina—June 7 to 16.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 21 to 30.

General Southern at Hammond, La.—June 28 to July 7

California State at Pacoima, Calif.—July 5 to 14.

Akron, Ohio—July 5 to 14.

National Campmeeting at Neosho, Mo.

(Monark Springs)—July 19 to 28.

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, Okla.—August 2 to 11.

Boley, Okla.—August 16 to 25.

Myrtle, Mo.—August 16 to 25.

BOLEY, OKLA. SPRING MEETING

The annual Church of God spring revival meeting at Boley, Okla. will be held, Lord willing, on April 19 to 28. We are looking to the Lord to send workers of His own choosing to this place. The harvest is great and the laborers are few.

—Sister Katherine Williams, Pastor
905 N. E. 15th St., Okla. City, Okla.

JEFFERSON, ORE. EASTER MEETING

The annual Easter meeting at Jefferson, Oregon will be held on April 5 to 14, 1968. You are cordially invited to attend these services of the Church of God in the Northwest. For further information, contact the pastor, Sister Beatrice Spaur, P. O. Box 254, Jefferson, Oregon 97352.

SPRING MEETING AT WICHITA, KANSAS

The Wichita, Kansas spring meeting will begin on the 22nd of March and it will continue 10 days. We are looking for the Lord to send us ministerial help for this meeting. There will be all-day services on each Sunday with dinner served. On other days there will be one evening service.

We desire the prayers of everyone who knows the worth of prayer that souls will be saved and the saints will be sanctified and settled in the truth and that sin-sick souls and the ones who are sick in body can come believing and go home well. All are welcome. The chapel is at 1701 N. Ash St.

—Lewis Williams, Pastor

1536 Piatt St., Phone AM 4-8481

Prayer Requests



Calif.—Bro. Lawrence Taylor has suffered much from a carbuncle on his neck. He needs urgent prayer for complete recovery.

Ind.—"Vertebra trouble, high blood pressure, hard of hearing." Nathan Mobley.

Okla.—"... ears, eyes, other afflictions . . . husband needs prayer." —Alean Brooks.

Tenn.—"I would appreciate prayer for my body so I can do my work better for God and others." —Ella Runion.

Okla.—"... very much crippled." —C. S. Harding.

Ala.—"... special requests." —Sister Silas Whitson.

Okla.—"I've been in ill health for three years."

Has some unspoken requests. —Lorene Payne.

Ill.—"My feet (especially toes) have had numbness in them for months; now it is centering in my large toe. . . . have some sugar in blood . . . nervous condition. Despite of it all, I know God heals. I desire the prayers of the saints." —Mrs. A. Reineking.

Mo.—"My head hurts . . . my husband can't eat any solid food . . . afflicted." —Becky Barnes.

Ky.—Sister Jarvis' sister needs healing to her body.

Miss.—"... pains in body." —D. Bridges.

Okla.—Sister Carrie Woods stays very weak from having the flu a few weeks ago.

Ill.—"High blood pressure, pain in eyes . . . youngest son has eye trouble." —Mrs. Truman Pitts.

Texas—Arthritis in feet. —Mrs. L. Speed.

Mo.—Sister Pearl Logan needs healing to her body.

Miss.—"... high blood pressure . . . our mentally retarded child is bedfast, sores, . . . 20 years old." —Mrs. C. E. Pugh.

Calif.—Our dear Mother Georgia Zinn in Calif. has fallen and broken some ribs and sustained bruises. She is surely worthy of our prayers.

Okla.—Remember Bro. Marion Melot of Guthrie who broke his arm. He was recently saved and this is a real test for him.

Kentucky—Please pray for Sister Belva Montress who has cancer on her nose and it is spreading on her face, also her sinuses are becoming badly infected. She has been faithful to pray for each prayer request.

La.—Bro. Coffey writes that Sister Lillie Miller of Bogalusa, La. is much in need of prayer. She has been having great pain in her face, but the Lord relieves it when prayer is offered.

Bro. Harland Smith, who is active and burdened for the Mexico mission work, needs special prayer for healing of bursitis or arthritis in his body. He goes on in spite of much pain, but needs a well body to work for the Lord.

Sister Dessie LeMelle of Pacoima, Calif. has written an urgent prayer request for her healing. She has been suffering greatly with ulcers of the varicose veins on her limb, and desires earnest prayer for definite healing. She testifies that her faith and trust are fully in God.

Sister Lillian Meek, a co-worker here at the office, suffered a paralysis attack last November. The Lord undertook for her, and she has been improving. At present she is with her son Troy and family in Ft. Worth, Texas. She sent word that she still has a soreness around her heart and an uneasiness in her head, for which she desires fervent prayer for complete healing. Also she wanted to express her thanks and appreciation to all the saints for their prayers, love, concern, and every favor shown her in this trial of affliction.

There are many of the saints' children who are lost and need awakening to their condition; also many others who do not have anyone to pray for them. Let us carry a soul burden at all times.

Many other requests have come in to the office. Some need prayer for their homes to be restored that are broken, and problems of various kinds worked out, but our God is able to do all things. Do not give up, nor quit praying. Jesus has said, "Men ought always to pray and not to faint."

Healing is for those who will exercise faith. Do not get faith and feelings mixed. "Faith rests not upon feelings, nor upon mental comprehension, nor upon impressions, but upon the sure Word of God. Faith does not question. Faith sees, and depends wholly upon Him who is invisible, but who in a most satisfying way communicates to the believer knowledge of His will and power and the consciousness of His sacred presence."

We should believe and stand firmly upon the Word which says, "Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." Doubts, fears, and questions do not come from God. They need to be rebuked and all of our thoughts brought to dwell on the sure Word of God.

—Sister Marie Miles

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Jan. 22)—Dear Bro. Lawrence Pruitt: Greetings of faith, hope and charity in the gracious name of Jesus Christ in this new year. We once again set up our Ebenezer stone and launch out in the new year of 1968 with fresh vigor, increased faith, and joy in the Lord who is our strength.

Your good letter dated Jan. 6 reached me duly. Thank you very much for the contents. We are not the least disheartened by the dark clouds of obstacles hovering on the horizon. We are not looking at the terrors of the adversaries of the gospel, but we are looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. The Captain of our salvation will take us through without fail. As Paul says, "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." Just as Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself, so also we have resolved in our hearts to take a firm stand for the honor and glory of God. Come what may, we know we will be persecuted some day in the near future. Paul has rightly said, "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

Yes, our convention at Karikam was a glorious victory above all we asked or thought. Glory to His name! Saints came from far away places. Several souls responded to the altar call. Our hearts were lifted up to the Lord with praises on our lips as we saw the overflowing eager crowds,

streams of men and women flowing into the pandal, the flat roof. We had to enlarge and yet a good number had to stand outside to listen to the words of grace. There was a good amplifier attached which helped them to listen and hear clearly from outside. Several responded to the altar call and surrendered their lives to the Lord. Your prayers have blessed and brought them to the feet of the Master. In the open air meetings also we gave forth the challenge of faith to the souls. We were amazed to see men and women coming forward from the crowds, asking for prayer. We exhorted them and showed them the way of peace and joy in their souls. On the spot they confessed their sins and found peace that passeth understanding.

We are again putting forth our united effort to hold another convention in another place by the second week of February. One brother has very much felt the need of a convention and we are marching on to his place. Please pray for these conventions that sinners may be convicted and saved. You know we have favorable weather until the end of March, suitable for conducting conventions. We expect great things for God. We attempt great things for Him.

Yours in His grace,

—C. M. Verghese

MEXICO (BAJA) MISSIONS REPORT

(Feb. 12)—Dear Co-laborers at the Print Shop and all readers of the "Faith and Victory": (Surely faith and victory go hand in hand, and each is a gift of God. See Eph. 2:8; 1 Cor. 15:57; 1 John 5:4.)

Christian greetings once again from down Mexico way. We rejoice in what the Lord has done since last month's report. Four weeks ago on Saturday night Bro. Tomas Mendoza reported that four young people had been saved in one service in Valle de La Trinidad. Two weeks ago Bro. Tomas said, "If the Lord continues to bless as He is, the family will have to move out of the combined chapel-living quarters to make more room for the services." Praise His holy name!

Three weeks ago in La Huerta where this writer has been serving on Sunday mornings, God blessed in a wonderful way. Requests have been given to the saints for some time for those indicating (by raised hands) a desire to be saved. Many of the saints have been praying earnestly for them. (I trust you have been, also.) Four weeks ago when the question was asked, "How many here have been experiencing a visitation from God, dealing with your souls?" about ten hands went up. The following Wednesday night, request for continued prayer was given in prayer meeting in Pomona. The following Sunday, which was three weeks ago, the service in La Huerta was blessed with God's holy presence. There was liberty in singing, praying, and preaching. The service was ended (supposedly), the benediction offered—at that point the preacher felt a strong urge to give space for anyone who might want to pray. A bench was placed out in front and without any singing or begging, five souls came to seek salvation—two teen-age girls, a woman of fifty, a woman in her seventies, and a girl, eight or nine, bowed on the dirt floor of the "ramada" as prayer ascended to heaven in their behalf. Dear ones, that scene alone was worth many times over and above the dollars and miles that have been spent these past ten years in Mexico.

Two weeks ago while passing through the town of Ensenada, I saw the government official who is the delegado to Ojos Negros, La Huerta, and vicinity, standing in front of his home. It offered a long-awaited opportunity to ask about a permit to build the chapel in Ojos Negros. When the truck stopped, he got in, shook hands,

and said, "Senor Smith, I have been wanting to talk to you for some time." (Now what has he got on his mind?) He continued, "You people have the chapel up in La Huerta, right?" "Right." "Well, I am wondering if you have someone who might be able to live there and be the school professor as well as the minister?" He went on to say that the government couldn't seem to keep a teacher there, which is true of most rural areas. About that time I wished I could be half a dozen people. Think of it, saints, the open doors to carry this gospel, not only to a village, but also able to teach the school and influence the children for God while doing it! There are many opportunities like that—Santa Catarina, El Alamo, and who knows how many more! Let us pray that God will raise up, qualify, burden, and send workers into His vineyard. Amen!

God has wonderfully answered prayer in behalf of Bro. David Rosas, who is now in Alamo conducting services regularly. He desires to sell his parcel of land in Valle de La Trinidad so he can be cut loose and free to work for the Lord. Continue to hold him up in prayer. He needs better transportation to get to all the ranches and bring the people to meeting.

In Rosarito Sister Carrie Sheppard is still praising God for His blessings on the work there. Some families that had not come for some time are coming back and desiring fellowship with us, having discovered "a wrong spirit over at the other place." Some are confessing a deeper spiritual need. Ramona Esquer is proving a real blessing to Sister Carrie and the work there. She (Ramona) goes with Sister Carrie visiting, praying, inviting, testifying, and whatever the need may be. She spends much time in prayer and fasting to know the mind and will of God. She is now teaching a children's class on Saturdays. Attendance is high. Ramona is worthy of the saints' prayers and support. She has laid all down for the gospel's sake.

Last week Sister Carrie and Sister Ramona were out in the Lord's work and the car suffered some damage in a collision with another vehicle which started to pass just as Sister Carrie was making a turn. She willingly uses her car in the Lord's work.

Sister Edith Cole is "on foot" now. The old '51 Chevrolet has transmission trouble. The V. W. is down in Valle de La Trinidad with a broken piston or rod. I mention these things for your prayers and consideration. The workers never murmur nor complain for themselves. They feel badly because they feel they are a burden on the saints. No one takes pleasure in mentioning needs. However, sometimes it seems needful in order that folks may know of these things.

This weekend in Ojos Negros the building site was staked out and grades established to begin the foundation. Rock, sand, and cement were ordered and the camper set down on the lot to accommodate workers. While Bro. Bill Hite helped lay out the building, Sister Geneva Hite conducted a service for a group which had walked out to the site and desired to have services then. They sat on blocks and boards and sang, prayed, and listened to the Word while a crisp breeze blew. The chapel will be 34 feet by 52 feet, plus an 8'x12' vestibule.

We appreciate those who responded last month and sent offerings to help alleviate the financial burden. We appreciate everyone who is standing by the work with their prayers and letters of encouragement.

I truly love the Lord, His church, each brother and sister, and do thank God for a soul burden. Pray for all the workers all the time everywhere.

—Harland Smith for all the workers in Mexico
817 E. Cucamonga, Claremont, Calif. 91711

From the Mail Box . . .

Oregon—Gentlemen: Enclosed you will find a check for . . . to cover the price of the tracts of the different titles I have ordered. Whatever is left over after taking out for the tracts, use for free distribution of other tracts.

May the Lord bless you in your good work for Him in spreading the truth.

Yours for the salvation of souls, —Ernest Heath

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

Canada—Dear Friends: We are very happy with the paper, "Faith and Victory." We find it both encouraging and enlightening.

Please send me two copies of the book, "Cleansing of the Sanctuary," for which find a check enclosed.

Thank you kindly, —Harvey and Eleanor Elke

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

Tenn.—Dear Ones: I don't know when my paper will expire, but I don't want to miss a copy. I am sending a dollar for the next three years. I surely enjoy the paper very much. It blesses my soul.

Pray for me that I will ever stay true to my blessed Jesus.

Yours in Christ, —Mrs. Lora Dellinger

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

Mo.—Dear Friends in Christ: As I am receiving your paper, "Faith and Victory," I want to let you know how much I enjoy it. I have lived here at Monark Springs all my life and know some of your good people that come to your campmeetings and some that live here.

I know some dear one sent it [the paper] to me. I am enclosing \$2.00 to help you to send it to someone else.

Your friend in Christ, —Mr. Sibyl Piercy

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

—o—o—o—

Calif.—To all the saints scattered abroad: I am so thankful for rest, peace, joy, happiness, and satisfaction in my soul, brought about through the love of God shed abroad in my heart by the Holy Ghost. It is so wonderful we can keep an acquaintance with the Lord through faith in Him, love for Him, and obedience to Him, and by walking IN the light, and not BACK of light. He is a great Teacher, and is teaching me how to commit, trust, and wait for Him to bring to pass His works. Praise His precious name!

I appreciated the little notice in the paper requesting prayer for my husband, and he did, too. God has shown great mercy in answer to prayers. Praise Him forever! My husband was badly affected mentally for about five days and nights. The doctors yet don't know the cause of the trouble. He is completely rational now. After coming home from L. A. Hospital, for a couple of weeks, he then took sick, seemingly with flu and had fever. He has been in Pomona Valley Hospital since last week, but is better and hopes to soon be home again. God is working, and he does appreciate the prayers and interest of the saints. He has talked freely with me lately of his desires and love for the truth, saints, etc.

Luke 18:1, "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray and not to faint." Gal. 6:9, "And let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." Praise His holy name forever! Psalms 103:1, "Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name." I surely will appreciate your continued prayers for my dear husband's salvation, and I earnestly desire your prayers for myself—soul, mind, and body; also for the

work of God in the little congregation here in Pomona. God does meet with us in our gathering together and blesses our souls.

May God bless and stir everyone of His children to realize his responsibility to the Lord, to the church, and to the world. We are living in perilous times. We see the Word being fulfilled in some "falling away and departing from the faith." May God help each one of the children of God to carefully obey 1 Timothy 4:16 in sincerity, and may His richest blessings rest upon each one is my prayer.

Love in Him, —LaVern Manuel

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

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints abroad: This leaves me weak in body but still encouraged to press the battle on. Jesus brought me up and out of a horrible pit and established my goings. I mean to go right on until the crown is won. I am still encouraged to go all the way with the Lord.

Pray for me that I may be able to see again.

Your Brother in Christ, —W. W. Crawley

Rt. 4, Box 104, Okemah, Okla.

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

Kentucky—Dear Bro. Lawrence and saints everywhere, we greet you in Jesus' dear name. "And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted." Isa. 12:4.

It has been ten years since I have sent a personal testimony to the paper, though I have made some reports. It was right after I was saved that I sent my testimony. It would be impossible to tell all that God has done for us these last ten years, but I feel impressed of the Lord to tell of some of His doings for us.

The most wonderful thing is that He has kept us saved. I am glad that I can report that I am enjoying my salvation. My desire grows greater every day to please Him. I thank Him for the love He has put in my heart for all the truth. I love it more each day. By His help and grace I intend to live by it as long as I stay in this world. It was the truth that set me free. I know it will take the truth to keep me free.

I have enjoyed almost perfect health for ten years now. That might not mean much to some, but to one who was sick the better part of his life, it means much to me. In fact, I had been under the doctor's care for three years when the Lord saved me, but God did a complete work for soul and body. I put my trust in Him. For over ten years now I have not taken a drop of medicine, neither have my wife nor my children had any. No wonder the writer said, "Praise the Lord!"

I would like to tell of some of His doings for us in the last year. As we prayed for the Lord to direct us, in the spring He directed us to take a trip out west. We told the Lord our car was about worn out. He said He would take care of that. So in March, in answer to prayer, the Lord gave us a nice new car. We surely thank the Lord and His dear people.

In early June we went to Mission, S. Dak. on the Sioux Indian reservation where we had a meeting. We had some wonderful experiences there, too numerous to mention. One outstanding instance was that of a dear Indian man who was near death. The mercy of the Lord was extended to him. He got saved one night, and died the next.

From there we went to the Jefferson, Oregon campmeeting and enjoyed being with the saints there very much. We were also at the Calif. campmeeting. It was such a blessing to meet saints we hadn't met before. We were down in Old Mexico at the mission stations for

one day. Then we came back to the Monark Springs, Mo. National campmeeting. In all these meetings we could see the Spirit of God working, saving, sanctifying, and healing; also warning His saints to be ready when He comes again.

After the National campmeeting we felt led to take the tent to Kentucky with a number of good helpers. We were there for seventeen days in the tent meeting. The Lord blessed, and a number of folks showed an interest in the old-time truth. Some have taken their stand for it, leaving old cold "Babylon" behind. If you are still out there, God is calling you to "come out of her." After the meeting the Lord appeared in a dream and let us know He wanted us to move to Kentucky, as we were living in Ohio at that time. We moved. Since then, we have leased an old chapel in Shelby City, Ky. and are having regular services with the help of Bro. and Sis. S. E. Abbott. The Lord is wonderfully blessing.

We traveled between forty and fifty thousand miles last year. The Lord protected us, and supplied our every need. We do have much to praise Him for.

We are here in Hammond, La. now (Feb. 8) in a real good meeting, and are looking forward to greater things in the Lord this year. We are much encouraged, and just lately the Lord has been stirring our hearts for deeper things.

We desire the prayers of all God's people that we will be faithful and fill the little place He has called us to fill. Christian love, —Mart Samons

Rt. 2, Box 156, Danville, Ky. 40422

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

Calif.—Dear Saints of God everywhere: In Jesus' dear name, I greet you. I thank you everyone for your love and prayers. May God bless you for your many nice cards and other favors in the loss of my dear husband, Bro. John Wilson. I could never answer all of them, or hardly any of them, as I had the third attack of the flu. I am not well yet, but I am counting on your prayers and looking to the dear Lord for strength.

I cannot find words to express my gratitude to the many who came to see us at the Golden Rule Home. This we enjoyed, especially on Sunday. Thank you for the many beautiful flowers and many comforting words to me and our dear children. All of us, the children and our brothers and sisters in the flesh, thank you for everything.

It is hard to go on without my dear husband. We worked so close together for the good Lord for over 25 years, but I know God's way is best, and I say God's will be done. I know he is happy.

I am making my home with my daughter, Sister Ruth Turner, 419 West California, Glendale, Calif. 91203.

—Sister Essie Wilson

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

Wash.—Dear Sister Marie Miles and all the dear saints: Thank you so much for your letter. I enjoyed it very much. I want to be of some help in the Master's service, but I am not able to do much. I love the Lord and I want to help in His service. I use my phone to encourage the old and shut-in folks as much as possible, and to help the good work along.

You will find a check of . . . which I have enclosed for the Lord's work. I have been healed many times, and so have my children when they were growing up. I thank the dear Lord for it all.

Please pray for me and my husband, as we are both getting old and cannot get out much. We do watch and pray for the day of the Lord's coming in these perilous times. May God bless you in His service.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Lula Mae Gustafson

Mo.—Dear Saints: I would like to testify to the goodness of our dear Lord. For several weeks I had the flu. As I am an asthmatic, I had to sit up night after night and got very little rest. My lungs hurt me greatly. I began to be discouraged, but still trusted God for my healing. I would get relief, then another attack, more severe than the last one would come on me. Then one night, I began to think I wasn't going to get well. While praying, it seemed like someone entered the room and such sweet peace and joy came over me! From that time I have been improving. I am still thanking the Lord for what He has done for me.

Please remember my body in your prayers.

In Christian love,

—Myrtle Porter

La.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus. We were happy to hear from you and to know how the Lord is blessing you and the workers in His work. We appreciate each effort that is put forth to help precious souls. When we realize how fast we are coming to the Judgment, it puts a heavy burden on us because of the many yet out in sin and darkness. How we desire to help them somehow to awaken before it is too late! We thank the Lord for His love and mercy in extending life that everyone who will can be saved. If it weren't for His great mercy, many would be cut off without even having a chance.

I can see how the Lord was long suffering with me, giving me a chance to see His great love until I finally yielded my heart to Him. Oh, I can never thank Him enough for salvation! It is the best thing that anyone can have in this old world. I have no desire at all for anything back in sin. Our goal is heaven and we know by His help and grace we can go there.

Our son, now two years old, says his prayers each time in worship if he hasn't already gone to sleep. I pray the Lord will always keep his heart tender and he will grow up to love and serve the Lord.

Sister Lillie Miller of Bogalusa wanted someone to come and sing for her last Sunday evening, so a car load from here and one from Hammond went over. She enjoyed it so much and rejoiced. It touched my heart to see how pitiful she is—can't read or write either one now. She really loves the Lord and that is a comforting thought. . . .

Pray for us.

—Virgie and Kenneth Flynn

Mich.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. We are still saved and pressing on toward that heavenly goal. Sometimes we get discouraged, but we realize there is nothing to turn back for. We love the Lord and mean to serve Him all the rest of our days.

We have been afflicted with warts in our family. I promised the Lord if He would heal them that I would testify and give Him the glory. Our youngest daughter got one on her finger which she had for quite a while before the Lord saw fit to heal it. Then another daughter got one on her foot. After we prayed, it was less than a week when it began to heal. I got one on my index finger. It was very painful to use that finger to take hold of anything. I had it for about three months before the Lord touched it. I had requested prayer and was anointed and prayed for. After it started to heal it was just a short time until it was completely healed. Then our oldest daughter got three warts on her feet. The Lord healed two of them, and we are trusting that He will heal the other, also. The Lord has healed one on our oldest son's foot, which he had for two years or more. Different ones have told us that the only

way to get rid of Planters' warts is by having them cut out, but we know that we have a Physician who can heal without any cutting. We have been truly blessed in many things. Praise His holy name!

Pray for us.

—Sister Dorothy Parsons

Calif.—Dear Marie and workers: This is my testimony of my healing of high blood pressure. I've had a hard fight of faith with it, but praise the Lord, He has delivered me from it. I was over at the Home in Pacoima during the Christmas assembly meeting. I was very sick. Bro. Charles Smith's son, Merrill, came to my room to pray for me. When he came in, he asked me, "Sister McKinney, how is your faith?" I answered, "My faith is strong in the Lord. He has healed me of all my sicknesses and I know He can heal me now." After prayer Bro. Merrill said, "Sister McKinney, accept your healing." After he left, I kept repeating, "I do; I do accept your healing, Lord!" That's when God touched my body with showers of blessings. A wonderful, warm feeling came over me and I could feel His presence in my room. I began to shout for joy, got up from my bed, grabbed my sweater and went over to the chapel, praising the Lord all the way. I testified to the whole congregation that the Lord had healed me of my high blood pressure. I couldn't wait until the meeting was over. I went right in while the preaching was going on, raised my hand, saying, "I am healed!"

Since I've come home I've had some trouble with my ears. They say it is caused by a nervous condition that goes along with my age. Please pray with me that God will take care of this just as He healed me of the high blood pressure. I know He can do that, too. Praise His dear name!

—Sister Annie McKinney

(Following is a part of a letter from Bro. and Sister Clayton Gaines, written as they waited at the hospital. These parents were trusting the Lord fully with their six-year-old daughter, Ruth, when the county and state officers came to their home and took the child to the University of Missouri Hospital at Columbia, Mo. After tests and surgery, the doctors discovered that they could not remove the tumor because it was too close to the base of the brain. Now they are giving her radiation treatments which at best can give only temporary relief. She cannot talk, as it seems her throat and left side are paralyzed. Let us daily hold up the parents in our prayers to the throne of grace. You may address your letter or card of encouragement to Clayton and Eva Lou Gaines, c/o Don McIntosh, Rt. 5, Columbia, Mo. 65201.)

Missouri—Greetings of love to the Saints. Surely the Lord is good to give grace, courage, and comfort to our hearts. Many times when circumstances look dark the Lord has brought scriptures to our minds that were just what we needed. Surely it has been the Lord who has brought little Ruth through all these long weeks. She is being fed through a tube in her nose. She breathes through a tube in her windpipe. Her stomach swells and she isn't rational much of the time.

We can only see her ten minutes of each hour. As we talked with one of the doctors, she said if it would be of any comfort to us, she would inform us that if they did Ruth any good now she would live only two years at the longest. She said our judgment in trusting the Lord wasn't so bad after all and perhaps it was even kinder since they can't remove the tumor on her brain.

It was necessary for Clayton to go home for a few days. During that time the Lord sent two sisters to

visit me. Other saints have come to encourage us. Some have written letters, sent cards and offerings in time of need. We feel unworthy of your love and shall look to the Lord to help us to so live that we might be a help to others in need.

The Lord supplies our needs in every way. It was wonderful how He worked for us to stay in the dormitory almost two weeks. The people at the desk kept saying Ruth was only allowed one escort (parent) but the doctor kept signing for both of us to stay. They did not want us to have the same room but the Lord worked that out, too. We are waiting for the Lord to work out His purpose and glorify His name.

Pray for us and our child.

—Bro. Clayton and Sister Eva Lou Gaines

N. Carolina—Dear Sister Marie and all, I greet you in Jesus' precious name. I am glad I am saved from sin with a mind to follow Jesus all the way.

I wrote to you last fall to pray for my little two-year-old granddaughter who had fallen and broken a small bone under her front teeth. My daughter took her to the dentist, and he told her he probably would have to pull her front teeth. I then wrote for prayer and she got all right. The bones healed and she started eating. I give all the praise to God. Continue to pray for us.

Yours in Christ, —Mrs. Bernice Hope

La.—Dear Sister Marie and saints everywhere: I feel like sending in my testimony of what the Lord has done for me. For a number of years I had a tiny mole on my face near my upper lip. Two or three years ago it started growing and was pink and sensitive. It looked like a blister and different ones began to notice it. Last year at the Hammond, La. campmeeting I was anointed and prayed for. In my heart I prayed that the mole wouldn't grow any larger or get sore, but Sister Ruth Murphey prayed that the Lord would just smite it and take it away. Since that time it has gradually flattened out until it is almost smooth with my face and isn't tender any more. Truly the Lord is good to us and we thank Him for answering prayer.

Pray for me that I will always be humble and be what the Lord would have me to be.

With Christian love to all, —Sister Veva Myers

Calif.—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. How wonderful is our God unto us in all His ways. It is He who giveth us richly all things to enjoy, and I am enjoying His blessings. Brethren, we have a big task before us. We must never look too long at the conditions of things as they exist today. Jesus endured hard, difficult conditions, but never did He allow them to dominate his thinking. We are called to be His ambassadors, therefore let us not forget to keep the right goals before us. Things may not look so good around us, but we are not to look at things, but to God. We must not forget our mission to the lost and our love for all mankind.

—Bro. Charles Reynolds

Tenn.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings of love in Jesus' name, the name above all others in heaven or earth. I'm so glad my trust is in Him today, as I've often said I believe that He is the answer to all our problems and needs.

I trust you are encouraged in the work. . . . In your last letter you mentioned how the Lord brought me to your mind, and you felt I needed help. Truly, I did and I am thankful for your prayers. Sometimes Satan can almost make us think we are all alone, that no one cares, but

we know better. The Lord says, "Casting all of your care upon him, for he careth for you," and truly His children care for each other. We can help bear each other's burdens.

Remember us in prayer. We have unsaved loved ones and the lost all about us. Remember our grandson. He is out of the casts, but we won't know how he is doing for a while. Christian love and prayers, —Mrs. Sue Shell

Okla.—Dear Saints, greetings in Jesus' name: I thank the Lord for this great salvation and for all the blessings we have received from His bountiful hand.

One of our three boys was very sick with flu several years ago. He could not keep anything on his stomach and had a high fever. It looked like we might lose him, but we looked to the Lord in earnest prayer and the Lord wonderfully came to our rescue and broke the fever and healed him. Then as the flu was raging this winter, the rest of our family took it, but the Lord protected him from having the flu in answer to prayer. Thank the Lord!

I had a severe acid mouth for several years. It was very painful at times and I didn't know what was causing it. Finally when the Lord saw fit, He helped me to realize that the soreness and pain was caused from eating acid foods. I thank the Lord very much for taking the trouble and pain away.

Many times the dear Lord in love and mercy has come to our rescue and healed us, one by one, and we praise Him for it today.

We have a burden before the Lord. Please help us pray that He will work in this behalf and help us to always live with His approval upon our souls.

A Sister, —Aquila Benson

"The Church of the Living God, the Pillar and Ground of the Truth"

(I Timothy 3:15)

Jesus said, "I am the vine; ye are the branches." John 15:5. In verse 1 Jesus states, "I am the true vine." This statement implies there are false vines.

The "true vine" represents Christ and His spiritual Body—the Church. We understand that Christ is the "head over all things to the church, which is his body." Eph. 1:22, 23. The true vine—Christ—came from heaven, originated in heaven. All false vines (man-made churches) originate on earth, are of the earth. It is true that their foundation may contain some truth; but what truth they teach from God's Word is mixed with their own doctrines and traditions, conceived and originating in their own minds.

The Word of God to men came from heaven, originated in heaven. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God." John 1:1, 2. Christ Jesus is the Word, the revealed Word. Words are expressed thoughts. Christ expresses and reveals the mind of God to us; therefore He is the Word of God revealed, incarnated in the flesh.

God wanted the children of men to come to an understanding of His divine nature. Therefore He sent His only begotten Son into the world in order that He might reveal His tender thoughts to us, His children. God's thoughts of us are full of compassion and love. He is not willing that any should perish. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

The Church of God is "the pillar and ground of the truth," built upon the revealed Word of God which has entered into the hearts of human beings. We are told to "receive with meekness the engrafted Word, which is able to save your souls." James 1:21. The Word must be engrafted into our inmost being, become a part of us. When the Word becomes a part of us it gives us a definite, positive, ringing testimony that no one, not even Satan himself, can gain-say.

The Church of God is made up of these visible bodies of men and women who possess an overcoming testimony. "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony." Revelation 12:11.

Flesh and blood did not reveal the fact unto the Apostle Peter that Christ was the Son of the living God. This truth came from the Father, giving Peter a testimony that was as solid as a rock. Therefore, Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt. 16:18. This truth was made plainer to us than ever before while a fellow-minister, Bro. A. E. Harmon, was expounding the Word. A body of believers having the New Testament laws written in their hearts and minds by the Holy Spirit compose a solid institution which cannot be overcome by all the powers of hell. Their testimony will ring out with such a convincing force that all who hear will be bound to confess, "These have been with Jesus."

Your Brother, —H. P. Huskey

BIBLE STUDY

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

March 3, 1968

THE LORD OF LIFE AND DEATH

Printed Portion John 11:20-27, 38-44

John 11:20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.

21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord, I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

38 Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they might believe that thou hast sent me.

43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

Memory Verse: Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? John 11:25, 26.

Practical Truth: If we do not meet Jesus here in this life as our Saviour, we will meet Him in the judgment as our Judge.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In the verses preceding our lesson Jesus said that Lazarus' sickness was "for the glory of God that the Son of God might be glorified thereby." Could that be true today in our sicknesses sometimes? We read in Luke 13:11-16 about one woman who had an affliction from Satan.

Jesus had great love, care, and concern for this family. He wept with them because He was touched with their suffering. Jesus assured Martha that He is the resurrection and the life. He taught her of His great power and His Sonship. Any resurrection must depend upon Him. Verse 25 is one of the most powerful affirmations of Jesus' deity. In verse 26 Jesus, in saying that those who believe in Him would never die, means they would never die spiritually, or be cast into hell which is the second death. Martha did not seem to understand this, but she assured Jesus that she believed him to be "the Christ, the Son of God which was to come into the world."

It seemed that Martha's faith was tested when Jesus wanted the stone rolled away, but Jesus reminded her that if she would only believe she would "see the glory of God." Faith brings the "glory of God" to us today. When we see that glory and look back we wonder why we ever entertained any thought of defeat.

Someone once said that if Jesus had not called Lazarus by name that everyone in the graves would have come forth.

March 10, 1968

CHRIST, THE HUMBLE SERVANT

Printed Portion John 13:1-15

John 13:1 Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart

out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God:

4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel and girded himself.

5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

9 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

10 Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

11 For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.

12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

Memory Verse: For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth. Luke 22:27.

Practical Truth: It brings joy to our hearts when we from the heart obey his commands.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Jesus knew that it would not be long until he would be crucified and have to leave His disciples. He wanted to prove to them His great love and concern for them. He also wanted them to follow His example of love and humility to others. How could He best let them know what was in His heart? He chose the act of taking water and washing each one's feet. This showed His willingness and desire to serve, rather than to be served. Peter let Jesus know of his disapproval. How could he let his Lord and Master, the Saviour, do such a humble deed? But when Jesus told Peter that if he did not allow it, he would have no part with Him, Peter wholeheartedly agreed. He surely did want a "part" with Jesus. Dear ones, this lesson is important for us today. Do we want a part with Jesus? He has taught us plainly that He left us an "example that ye should do as I have done." He emphatically said, "Ye ought to wash one another's feet." How glad we are that the Church of God teaches and observes this ordinance that brings a blessing to the hearts of Jesus' humble believers! Those who are humble will do this, for it takes humility from the heart and not just in actions. God looks upon the heart. All things are done in decency and order, however. The sisters wash each others' feet and the brothers wash the brothers' feet.

March 17, 1968

THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT

Printed Portion John 14:15-26

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;

17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

25 These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.

26 But the Comforter which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Memory Verse: And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever. John 14:16.

Practical Truth: To love Jesus is to obey him.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The disciples were grieving because Jesus was going away. He said, "Let not your hearts be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." John 14:1. Today we can be comforted in the times of distress because we believe in God. What a wonderful promise Jesus made to His disciples when He told them whom the Father would send into the world to live in the hearts of all true believers! As they kept the commandments of God, He sent them the Comforter, the Holy Spirit. Notice that Jesus, in speaking of the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter, uses the pronoun "He." The Holy Spirit is a person, the third person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit could not live in their hearts as long as Jesus was with them. Notice what our lesson says is the work of the Holy Spirit. First, Jesus insisted that the disciples show their love to Him by obeying His words and as they did this, they received the Holy Spirit into their hearts to "bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." How precious it is when we are in trial or perplexity that the Holy Spirit will bring to our minds just the right scripture that we need. Surely we need to study the Word of God and store it up in our minds so the Holy Spirit can do this for us.

On the day of Pentecost when God sent the Holy Spirit into the hearts of the 120 disciples, they received power. No longer was Peter backward in telling whom he loved

and where he stood. "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." Acts 1:8.

March 24, 1968

ABIDING IN CHRIST

Printed Portion John 15:1-12

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

Memory Verse: I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing. John 15:5.

Practical Truth: It is important to keep abiding in the Vine (Christ) so we can bear heavenly fruit.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We notice that Jesus says, "I am the true vine." This would signify that there are false vines. The false vines are those that grow up from the earth, but the true vine is the vine that comes down from heaven into the world. The earthly vines will be burned up, but God's true vine and branches will be sustained and kept by God's power in that last day and be drawn up into heaven to forever be with Him. We want to be sure that we are a branch on the true vine. Love, joy, longsuffering, forgiveness, peace, faith, and many other virtues come down through the vine (Christ) into the branches (true believers) from God. How precious it is to draw from heaven the things that we need! We are then abiding in Jesus and we have the promise that we "can ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." The Father is glorified in this world by all those who are true believers bearing good fruit.

It seems sad to think of "withered branches." Why did they wither? I have a plant that I repotted but every day it looks more withered. Today some of the leaves have fallen off and a branch is hanging limp. The soil is not right or something is hindering. Dear ones, that is our lot if we do not keep watchful and prayerful. Little by little we lose our contact with God and wither away. What does our lesson tell us will be done with withered branches?

March 31, 1968

FOR WHOM JESUS PRAYED

Printed Portion John 17:1, 6-10, 20-24

John 17:1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

7 Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.

8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovest me before the foundation of the world.

Memory Verse: And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one. John 17:22.

Central Thought: We should talk to God about ourselves and others, also.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Prayer is a wonderful privilege. How we need God in this world full of trouble and heartache, also joy and many good things. We need someone to share them with us. We need someone who is greater and more powerful than man to help us. How wonderful it is that we can have God with us and to know He hears our feeble cries! In the storm He is there. In the new-found joy or happiness, God is there to share it with us. He loves our praises as well as our requests. He wants to be our personal Friend, Helper, and Guide.

The 17th chapter of John is Jesus' prayer. As He faced the cross, He prayed to the Father for strength. He not only prayed for Himself, but for His disciples also. He included you and me in that prayer, as we believe on Him through the disciples' word. What a wonderful comfort that knowledge is!

Jesus has told us that "Men ought always to pray and not to faint." Many prayers and answers are recorded in the Bible. There are long prayers and short prayers. Prayer has been made in different postures and places; in the lions' den, on the mountain top and in the valley, in the fiery furnace, in jail, and on the housetop. Now Jesus is at the right hand of God interceding for you and me as we look to Him with a sincere heart. —Sis. Marie Miles