

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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On the Homeward Way

I am on my way to heaven
Where glad anthems roll:
"How," you ask, "comes such assurance?"
By having heaven in my soul.

In the early morning's dawning,
Or in evening's twilight smile,
I, by faith, mount up to heaven,
Walk the gold-paved streets awhile.

Or stroll beside the crystal river,
Where there blooms life's verdant tree;
Sit awhile with soul enraptured,
As its branches spread o'er me.

Things of earth have no attraction;
O'er me they have no control:
All within me clings to Jesus;
He's the magnet of my soul.

What care I for earthly treasures?
They continue but a day:
Oh, give me those richer treasures,
Which will never pass away!

Yes, I'm on my way to heaven
There's a home up there for me.
"How," you ask, "comes such assurance?"
Its bright jasper walls I see.

Every day I'm drawing nearer
To that city of pure gold:
To my heart how glad the moment,
When the pearly gates unfold.

—C. E. Orr

Salvation makes one a member of the Church. The Church of God contains in its membership all the saved of earth, as well as the ransomed in paradise—"the whole family in heaven and earth." Read Eph. 3:15.

Has America Forgotten God?

"But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matt. 24:36-39.

"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the Word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 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." 2 Peter 3:3-7.

America has been known around the world as a Christian nation—a nation that has practiced, "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." When our fathers wrote the Constitution and the laws of our country, they wrote them in harmony with the Word of God and the Ten Commandments. For this reason God has prospered our nation, and exalted it above all other nations of the world. God honors righteousness. (Doing what is right.) "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." Prov. 14:34. "Riches profit not in the day of wrath: [God's wrath] but righteousness delivereth from death. The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness." Prov. 11:4, 5. God has delivered our nation out of every war, even when the odds were against us. "For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted." Isa. 60:12.

Now those who do not believe this, take a good look at nations around the world that have had this gospel before our nation was even known, but have

rejected it and Christ for their idols and superstitions. For instance, look at India who had Christ preached to them before this country was discovered, but would not accept it. They have all kinds of gods. Even animals are sacred to them and they will not kill them for food, even while starving to death. India will not kill rats because their superstitions teach that animal life is sacred because it may contain the reincarnation of their ancestors. Their religion forbids their destroying the rodents. Imagine the food they eat, not to mention the diseases they carry.

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring." Luke 21:25. This scripture is being fulfilled around the world. This is one of the signs that Jesus said would come to pass in the last days. Now who can solve the problem of India? This country sends India wheat, but the rats eat it. Who has the solution to the problem of war in Vietnam? Most all nations are having their problems and man doesn't know how to solve them. They have left God out. They try to work out their problems according to man's wisdom and have left off the old-fashioned way of faith in God and obedience to His Word.

Our modern rulers have a feeling of superiority over our fore-fathers. Knowledge or education puffeth up. A man that is well educated has a feeling that he knows more than the average man, therefore gets exalted and is hard to convince of his errors. But education alone does not make the man. Education is good if they take Christ as their Guide. It is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps. Jer. 10:23. Some of our most learned men are atheists. When a man gets much learning, he feels he doesn't need God to help him. The same is true of a man who has much money. He doesn't call upon God every day to supply his needs. He feels he has everything he wants and does not need God. For this reason our nation is headed for the dump heap. They talk against communism on one hand, but encourage it on the other.

We will use just one example here, although there are many more. Our courts took the Bible out of our schools. There are many thousands in our country who do not read the Bible, neither do they teach their children anything about God. The only education this class would receive concerning the Word of God would be in the school room, which would not be much, but it would help in making decisions of right or wrong. Now this is one of the first things that communism does, to destroy all faith in God. They know they cannot take an older person and change his views regarding his religious beliefs, so they destroy this faith in the youth. When this is accomplished in this generation, it will not be hard for the communists to poison their minds with their doctrine. Then the older generation that is left will be put into prison or killed. Take a look at Cuba which is only about ninety miles from our coast. All churches are ruled by the communists. Pastors, to be able to preach, must have a license granted by the government. No religious activities are allowed outside the church.

Any type of religious propaganda, including the sale of Bibles to the public, is prohibited. No one under 18 years of age may become a member of a church. The churches must report all members to the government. Pastors must visit only those whose names appear on the list given to the department. This is a bird's eye view of Communism.

There is an old saying, "The child will be no better than its parents." In most cases he will be worse. A rotten apple in a barrel will never get better, but if left alone, will spoil the whole barrel. We teach our children about the lives of famous men. Why not teach them about Christ? This is the only thing that will save our country. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12. I am not quoting words of famous men, but God's Word because it is eternal. We are all going to stand before the throne of God and be judged by His Word.

I understand by what I read that our government has committed itself to a position of neutrality on the issue of the Bible in our schools. I would like to inform you that there is no such thing as being neutral in regard to the things of God. God's Word tells us as follows: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." Rev. 3:15, 16. God will not accept a neutral position. We are on one side or the other—only two roads and we are on one of them. It is impossible to be in the middle.

God made two of everything—male and female, positive and negative, etc. The choice is up to us. God gave us this freedom to choose whom we will serve. Choose Christ and we have an uphill climb, with plenty of resistance from those that are not on the upward road. Choose the devil and his ways, and you can coast down hill as fast as you want to go. Any dead fish can float downstream but it takes a live one to swim up against the current.

Now I think every honest citizen of our country would like to see our nation prosper and keep on being the greatest nation in the world. There is only one solution. Seek after righteousness. Exalt God and His Son Jesus Christ and make Him a part of your life. Keep His Words and He will continue to exalt our nation. If we do not heed the warning, judgment is sure to come and God will let our enemies destroy us. Noah tried to warn the people in his day that God was going to send a flood. They would not heed and all perished but eight souls. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah, including Lot's own sons-in-law, thought he was mocking them when he told them that God was going to destroy that place. It was destroyed by fire. I hope our nation will take warning and repent. Nevertheless, God's will be done, and it is He who will put in our ruler's heart what to do to fulfill His will.

—Earl B. Bliss

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When one sells principle for popularity, he is soon bankrupt.

Non-Essentials

As pertaining to the Bible, the word "non-essential" is one of the most overworked and least understood words in our vocabulary. According to Webster, the three basic definitions of "essential" are: "vital, fundamental, necessary."

What is the Bible? Is it a book of optional laws and precepts out of which we may choose the particular ones that appeal to us and correspond with our desired mode of living? Or is it God's will to mankind expressed in writing? The Bible is the deposit of divine revelation—it contains the prescriptions and prohibitions by which pious believers seek to regulate their lives. (Britannica)

I believe that man shall live by EVERY word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. In 1604, at the request of Puritan John Rainolds, our most popular translation of the Bible was started. Fifty-four theologians and linguists of unquestioned merit labored for seven long years, and finally in 1611 the monumental task was completed and dedicated to King James I of England. I firmly believe that the Holy Ghost not only inspired the original writings, but also was instrumental in the preservation and selection of the contents. I believe the Bible to be God's inspired word because of its life, spirit, adaptability, harmony, power, accuracy, completeness, effect; and Satan's intense hatred of it. From the scores of available manuscripts, only the most authentic and the clearest, time-proven writings (the cream of the crop, so to speak) were selected to chart man's path from earth to heaven. This being the case, it will be difficult to convince me that the commandments contained therein are neither vital, fundamental, nor necessary. To human reasoning many of the scriptures might seem to fall in that category; but if so, what approved workman are we to implicitly trust to rightly divide the essential from the non-essential?

To Bishop James Pike, the ultra-liberal spokesman of the modernistic groups, belief in the virgin birth, divinely inspired word, the Holy Trinity, the second coming of Christ and many other age-old fundamentals of Christianity, is non-essential. Billy Graham, according to one of his recent tracts, implies that it is a delusion to believe that "revealing" wearing apparel, bobbed hair, jewelry, make-up, shorts, etc. constitute worldliness. So if Billy is to be our guide, we must ignore 1 Cor. 11:15, 1 Timothy 2:9, 1 Peter 3:3, Isaiah 3 and Jeremiah 4:30.

Other folks say, "I know individuals who indulge in such things and they still carry 'the fire.'" Well, I'm a Missourian, and will have to be shown the "fire." But assuming this to be true, let us follow this FALSE reasoning a little farther and see where it leads us. Madame Guyon, the devout Christian of yesteryear, attended Catholic confessional; is it therefore permissible for us? Tradition tells us Martin Luther drank a little beer; so let's accept beer drinkers. Spurgeon smoked a pipe during a portion of his ministry; so abstinence from the use of tobacco is non-

essential. Many souls have been gloriously saved without the mourner's bench; so, exit the mourners' bench. The dying thief was saved in spite of the fact that he never attended church, never made any restitution, never visited the sick, never gave to the cause of Christ, and never took the Sacrament; so according to that reasoning, all these are optional. Even if some of God's Word might not be primarily fundamental to obtaining salvation, it is definitely vital and necessary to keeping the experience of salvation when light shines on one's pathway. The pardoned malefactor would eventually have learned this had he not died so quickly.

"But," says another, "let's keep still about all these things and get folks saved first, and then we can teach them the requirements of Christian living." I disagree! In my thirty-six years of Christian experience I have observed that counting the cost first, rather than afterward is the better way and produces a more vibrant experience and much less backsliding. When signing a contract or legal document, it is better by far, to read the "fine print" first and affix the signature later. It generally saves much future trouble.

In all fairness, I realize that well-meaning but unwise and uncharitable folks have "hobby" or "pet" scriptures to the exclusion of the rest of God's Word and have caused irreparable damage to the cause of true holiness. Unfortunately, these conditions sometimes exist; nevertheless, the abuse of certain scriptures in no way affects the veracity of God's Word.

Friend, you may be satisfied to carelessly gamble with the destiny of your soul and let someone else chart your course for you, but I know a much safer PILOT. Jesus said, "Howbeit, when He the Spirit of Truth is come He will guide you into all truth." St. Paul said, "ALL Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. . ." (See 2 Timothy 3:16.)

My minister friend, if ALL the Word is profitable, why not preach ALL of it? Get busy and dig out that portion which you have hidden in the earth! Peel the napkin off it and begin using it, so that your soon-returning Master may say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." Then apply for your "dividends"!

—Clyde Gouge

HOW MUCH SHALL I GIVE?

Give as you would if an angel
 Awaited your gift at the door;
 Give as you would if tomorrow
 Found you where giving was o'er.
 Give as you would to the Master
 If you met His loving look;
 Give as you would of your substance
 If His hand the offering took.

The most important use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it. Prepare to meet thy God and enter into eternal life.

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

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

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

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

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

Greetings to all of our readers: As usual, this paper was not issued for August in order that our co-workers might have a few weeks off to return to their homes or attend campmeetings. However, the August Bible Study Lessons were printed and mailed to all those who receive rolls of papers for their Sunday schools, as well as to all others who requested them. Meanwhile, some of us have remained at the office to take care of the mail, fill the orders for gospel literature, answer letters and maintain necessary operations.

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This campmeeting season has certainly been a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. Reports coming from all directions—east, west, north, and south—indicate that very profitable and soul-saving meetings were held. Many more souls who heard the gospel message and felt God's convicting Spirit should have yielded but did not, and this may now be their lamentation: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20. God makes at least one call to every soul, and in His great mercy He often makes many calls, but there comes a time when the "line is crossed" between His mercy and His wrath. Another sad text is recorded by the Wise Man: "And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done." Eccl. 8:10.

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Wife and I were privileged to attend most of the General Southern campmeeting at Hammond, La. where Bro. T. H. Coffey is pastor. Also in attendance from Guthrie were Bro. and Sister Clifford Wilson and two daughters, and other saints. A number of out-of-state ministers were present, and the Word was preached clear and definite. Souls found help at the altar of prayer for soul and body. The church was edified, and our fellowship with the saints from various states was precious as we worshipped the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Of course, we also enjoyed being with our sons and families in that area.

During this meeting my sister, Marie Miles, remained at the office to take care of the mail. Sister Opal Kelly spent several weeks in Edmond, Okla. nursing a very ill aged lady.

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Many pounds of gospel tracts, booklets and papers were mailed or taken to various campmeetings for free distribution. Your faithful free-will contributions have made it possible. We pray and trust that the gospel seed sown will germinate and grow in many honest hearts.

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Good reports have also come from the campmeetings held at Holly Hill, S. C., Jefferson, Oregon, Akron, Ohio, Pacoima, Calif. and Bakersfield, Calif. The campmeetings at Myrtle, Mo., Boley, Okla. and Fresno, Calif. are now in session, and we are praying

that they all will result in the salvation of many souls and the edification of the church.

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The 31st National Campmeeting of the Church of God at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo., held July 19-28, was one of the best, as it has been our privilege to attend and observe every meeting since its beginning in 1938. On the first Sunday around 800 were present, a number unable to get a seat under the tabernacle. Many states were represented, as well as other countries, during the meeting. The Word was preached with the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit—the Third Person of the Trinity who was the Pulpit Committee. In service after service waves of conviction rolled over the audience and the long altars were filled with seekers time and again. Quite a number of converts followed the example of Jesus in water baptism in the nice spring-fed creek nearby, testifying to the world of the inward work of grace—buried with Christ in baptism and raised again to walk in newness of life. A large number of happy saints observed the ordinances of the Lord's House—feet-washing and the Lord's supper—as instituted by our Lord and Savior just prior to His betrayal and crucifixion.

The present five-acre campground is very congested during this annual meeting, and there is an urgent need for more parking space and cabin sites, as well as a larger tabernacle, kitchen and dining room to accommodate the increased attendance.

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The Oklahoma State campmeeting held here at Guthrie began on the first Friday in August, a date that has become a tradition, being the standing date for this state campmeeting for more than 40 years. The time of the meeting this year was unusually hot and dry. Even though the chapel was air-conditioned for the services, a decision was made to move the beginning date of the meeting next year to the month of May, ahead of the hot weather.

Even though the weather may have cut the attendance, the congregations from over the state were well represented. There were also present a number of saints and ministers from other states. The Word preached was "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." The saints were edified and encouraged. Notwithstanding the earnest preaching not many unsaved responded to the call. The convicting Spirit must be prayed down, but a lack of concern and attendance at the morning prayer meeting was noted. It is obvious that more travail in prayer is the key to victory.

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Bro. and Sister Clifford Wilson's oldest daughter, Patsy, was joined in marriage to Robert Cain on Sunday, July 28, at the Guthrie chapel. The vows were read by Bro. Charles Smith. Our best wishes are extended to this couple for a long and happy union.

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Last March Bro. and Sister Ira Stover moved from Guthrie to Tulsa, Okla., locating near their son

Bob and family. They attended all of the National campmeeting and the Guthrie, Okla. campmeeting, apparently feeling very well most of the time. Their address is 6304 S. 97 West Ave., Tulsa, Okla. 74107. They may be reached by phone AC 918 Hickory 6-7654.

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Sister Ruby Marken, our co-worker in the subscriptions and mailing department, returned to the office on August 14 from Twin Falls, Idaho where she had spent several weeks helping her parents. We are thankful for her safe return and may the Lord care for her parents in her absence from them.

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Bro. Gene and Sister Dora Lela Beisly and their two daughters have been in Missouri and Kansas the past few weeks. At present they are helping with preparations for the Myrtle, Mo. campmeeting. Sister Dora Lela will help with the cooking in the dining hall. Lord willing, they will return to Guthrie next week to get their two daughters enrolled in school and soon resume their work for the Lord here at the office and printing plant.

All our other co-workers, including Bro. Clifford and Sister Dorothy Wilson, Sister Opal Kelly, Sister Marie Miles, and my good wife, Maybelle Pruitt, are back in their respective departments of service for the Lord. Our God is not unrighteous to forget their work of faith and labor of love. May heaven's blessings rest upon all these faithful workers in Christ's great cause to rescue the perishing and care for the dying.

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Our sincere sympathy is extended to the relatives of Sammy Dutton who passed away on Aug. 7 at Galveston, Texas. May the Lord comfort and sustain them. His parents are Joe and Anecia Dutton of Odessa, Texas and the maternal grandparents are Bro. and Sister Lee Whitley of Marshall, Texas.

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At least two persons would like to purchase the out-of-print book, "A History of the Church" by Henry C. Wickersham. If you have a copy to sell, please write us, stating price and condition of book.

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Very few of the "Evening Light Songs" book remain in stock, and that will be the first book to be reprinted as soon as this September paper is in the mail. Other new books and tracts are also scheduled to be printed as soon as possible. There is no stopping place in printing and supplying the great need for clear Biblical literature in these perilous times to counteract the flood of false doctrine. We want to be found faithfully filling our place and calling in the Body of Christ. That is also the desire of each co-worker at this office.

The book, "Cleansing of the Sanctuary," is now out of stock. The supply is exhausted, but we are reluctant to reprint this large cloth-bound volume unless the demand would warrant it.

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Bro. Mart Samons, a faithful minister, needs a special Divine touch for the healing of a bad hernia

which has come on him in the last few weeks. Pray earnestly that he will be healed now, so he will not be hindered in the gospel work. Laborers are too few already.

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Your servant has been pressing before the Lord his desire for healing of a small scabbed growth on his neck, and also searching and seeking for the spiritual benefit that may be derived from this affliction. Saints have been agreeing in prayer, and I am claiming healing by faith and not by sight because God's Word has promised it and I believe it.

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Forty years ago, on Sept. 4, 1928, Bro. C. E. Orr wrote in this writer's autograph book the following lines:

"Bro. Lawrence:—

Take the blessed Savior with you,
Trust Him night and day.
To His holy Book be faithful,
Walk the narrow way.

Yours in prayer, —C. E. Orr"

Bro. C. E. Orr, a pioneer minister associated with D. S. Warner in bringing out this "evening light" reformation, was one of the most devout and godly men I have ever known. His source of victory was his constant prayer and holy meditation. His sober devout conduct was a rebuke to the frivolous. Jestings, joking, and foolishness could not continue in his presence. May many more follow his holy example.

The above instructions and our close association with this holy man of God in our youthful formative years have stamped upon our heart and mind the ideal pattern of Bible holiness which the intervening years have not been able to erase. May God help us to pass on this heavenly vision of Bible truth to others by way of the literature from this office. Though we helped to carry his earthly house to its resting place near Guthrie, Okla. 35 years ago, yet the text used by my father, Fred Pruitt, at Bro. Orr's funeral service still holds true: "... their works do follow them." Rev. 14:13. May that heavenly influence continue until time reaches the shores of eternity.

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The Lord has answered your prayer, and we are thankful to report that He has solved some of the problems confronting the publishing work. Other obstacles remain, for which we ask your earnest prayer.

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We certainly appreciate all our faithful readers and correspondents who have been standing by the Lord's publishing work here through the summer months with your prayers, offerings, additional subscriptions and orders for gospel literature. May the Lord bless and reward each one abundantly in soul and body. Our aim is to get out much more good literature to the world while this short time shall last. We do solicit your continued prayers and co-operation as we endeavor to extend the light and truth of God's Word.

—Lawrence Pruitt

Recent Books Off The Press

(Write for our complete list of books)

- The Poorhouse Waif and His Divine Teacher by Isabel Byrum. Paper bound, 223 pages, price..... 1.00
- Divine Physical Healing, Past and Present. Faith building volume just off the press. 272 pages in heavy paper binding. Price reduced to \$1.25 per copy. In cloth binding, per copy 2.00
- Around Old Bethany by R. L. Berry is just off the press. It is a true-to-life narrative setting forth salvation and other Bible doctrines. 88 pages in heavy paper cover. Price, 40c each or three copies for 1.00
- Pasha (Greasy) Tichomirow, the Converted Robber, translated from German by Charles Lukesh. This fascinating true story of a converted robber in Siberia consists of 32 pages, paper bound. Price, 15c each or eight copies for 1.00
- Availing Prayer by Fay C. Martin is one of the best books on the subject of prayer. You will certainly be benefitted by reading it. 120 pages in heavy paper binding. Price, 60c each or 2 for 1.00
- A True Story in Allegory by Lottie L. Jarvis, missionary to India. First published about 1920, this booklet of 30 pages describes how the subtle spirit of compromise works to accomplish its purpose. Price, 15c each, or eight for 1.00
- Bible Chain of Truth by A. Marie Miles. Bible doctrines made plain for youth. Paper bound, 168 pages. Price 60c each or 2 for 1.00
- (All of the above items are postpaid at prices quoted.)

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

OBITUARIES



Bro. John Nusz, born in Russia, departed this life on Aug. 6, 1968 at Enid, Okla. at the age of 81 years.

In 1914 he was married to Sarah Penner and they lived in Orienta, Okla. To this union 12 children were born, one son preceding him in death.

Survivors include his widow, Sarah, of the home; five daughters, six sons, 31 grandchildren, a great granddaughter, five sisters, two brothers, many other relatives and friends.

A number of years ago Bro. Nusz embraced the teachings of the Church of God (Evening Light Saints) and rejoiced in the precious truth which he had found.

The funeral service was conducted in Enid, Okla., assisted by Bro. Willie Murphey, and interment was in the cemetery near Fairview, Okla.

Clarence C. Breckenridge was born at Okeene, Okla. on Feb. 10, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Breckenridge, and departed this life June 1, 1968 at Cleveland, Ohio, following a long illness.

Clarence graduated from Hall's High School, Hennessey, Okla. in 1937. He worked as an equipment mechanic at Brecksville Hospital, Akron, Ohio.

Clarence was converted at an early age. Later during his illness he renewed his faith in the Lord and was ready and willing to go. He bore his sickness with much patience. He was greatly respected by those who knew him.

In 1962 he was married to Sallye Ellis of Chicago, Ill., and they made their home in Akron, Ohio. There his wife and two daughters reside.

Clarence was a devoted husband and faithful father. He leaves to mourn his passing: a loving wife, two daughters of the home; two sons, Oscar, of the U. S. Navy in Vietnam, Ronald of U. S. Air Force, Puerto Rico; father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Breckenridge, Okeene, Okla.; four sisters, Mrs. Arlene Thompson, Chicago, Ill., Mrs. Ruth Wiley, Mrs. Novella Ford, Mrs. Donna Ford, all of Los Angeles, Calif.; two brothers, Harold L., Colo. Springs, Colo., Charles M., Chicago, Ill.; a host of other relatives, neighbors, and friends.

Funeral services were held at the Memorial Hall at Hennessey, Okla. Interment was in Morrison Cemetery West. Ministers taking part in the services: Sister Marie Miles, Bro. Lewis Williams, and Bro. Isaac Chandler.

A light from our household is gone,
A voice I loved is stilled,
A place is vacant in our home
Which never can be filled.
We have to mourn the loss of one
We did our best to save;
Beloved on earth, regretted still,
Remembered in the grave.
'Twas hard to part with one so dear;
We little thought the time was near,
Farewell, dear one, your life is past.
Our love for you to the end will last.

Card of Thanks

We wish to thank everyone for your prayers, words of comfort, sympathy, flowers, telegrams, cards, and every act of kindness shown during the illness and passing of our loved one, C. C. Breckenridge, Akron, Ohio. May the Lord bless you. It was greatly appreciated.

—Mrs. Sallye Breckenridge and family, and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Breckenridge and family.

Gwendolyn Rose Smith was born Nov. 10, 1895 in Chattanooga, Tenn. to James L. and Mary Colbaugh and departed this life in Okla. City, Okla. on July 18, 1968, at the age of 72 years, 8 months, and 8 days.

In July, 1910, she was united in holy matrimony to Wilbur W. Smith and to this union five sons were born.

She heard and embraced the teachings of the Church of God some forty years ago, and followed close to her convictions until God called her from time to eternity. The example she set in life is reflected in this poem, which she often recited to her five sons:

"True worth is in being, not seeming—
In doing each day that goes by
Some little deed of kindness,
Not in dreaming of great things to do by and by,
For whatever men say in their blindness,
Whatever the fancies of youth,
Nothing is so kingly as kindness,
And nothing so royal as truth."

She leaves to mourn her passing her husband, Wilbur W. Smith, Shawnee, Okla.; five sons, Harold W., Indianapolis, Ind., Leo D., Duluth, Minn., Willard L., Ardmore, Okla., P. Paul, Okla. City, Okla., and Gary A., Lawton, Okla.; two brothers, two sisters, nine grandchildren, a host of other relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Charles R. Smith in Bethany, Okla. and interment was in Chapel Hill Cemetery.

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REPORT OF JEFFERSON, ORE. CAMPMEETING

The Jefferson, Oregon campmeeting has come and gone. This was a wonderful meeting and God's Spirit prevailed and blessed our souls. We were fed from our Father's table as the Bread of Life was presented. It is well-known that God is now preparing His saints for that last day when Jesus will come through the sky to gather up His own. There are still precious souls to be gleaned.

Every message was anointed and timely. We had much rejoicing as the Word of God went forth. We are more responsible, as indeed we heard the truth preached.

We had Bro. Curtis Williams from Kentucky, who came with Bro. and Sister Chrisman and son from Okla., Bro. Ray Key and Bro. and Sister Ralph Wilkins and children from Michigan, Bro. and Sister Murphy Allen and children from Missouri, Sister Ruth Murphey from Missouri and Sister Frances Perkins from Oklahoma, Bro. Francis Doolittle, Bro. Pat Huskey, Sister Greer, Sister E. M. Zinn, and Sister Loretta Miles from Calif., and Bro. and Sister Christianson from Missouri. We appreciate all the saints who came from far and near, and also the home congregation. Bro. Gene Harmon was present with us again and it was wonderful how the Lord blessed him. Last campmeeting the pastor, Sister Spaur, was at death's door, and this time the Lord kept her well.

Instead of the attendance decreasing, it kept increasing until on the last Sunday we had a large crowd.

—Sister Bea Spaur, Pastor, By Margaret Cable

DOVER, OKLAHOMA CAMPMEETING

The Dover, Okla. campmeeting will be held from August 30 through Sept. 8. You are cordially invited. For further information contact Bro. Henry Caldwell, Rt. 1, Dover, Okla. 73734. —Henry Caldwell, Secretary.

—Katherine Williams, Pastor.

JEFFERSON, ORE. ASSEMBLY MEETING

The annual Assembly Meeting at Jefferson, Oregon will be held, Lord willing, on Nov. 8 to 17, 1968. You are urged to note these dates and plan to attend these services. For further information, contact the pastor, Sis. Beatrice Spaur, P. O. Box 368, Jefferson, Ore. 97352.

GOSPEL SINGING AT WEBB CITY, MISSOURI

A gospel singing will be held at 420 S. Devon, Church of God chapel in Webb City, Mo. on Saturday night, September 21, at 8:00 o'clock. Bring your song books, come and enjoy a good time in the Lord.

—The Webb City Congregation

EVANGELISTIC TENT MEETING REPORT

Danville, Ky. (Aug. 13)—Dear Bro. Lawrence and workers, once again we greet you in Jesus' precious name: We are thankful that we can yet report victory. We are very tired and weary in body, but feel good in our souls.

We arrived home this morning about 4:00 a. m. from Cass, W. Va. We are thankful to report a very successful tent meeting there. I believe it was the best we've had yet with the tent. The tent was almost full every night. There was real conviction resting upon the people. Quite a number came forward to be saved. There were between 30 and 40 at the altar. Only the Lord knows how many were saved, but quite a few got real salvation. Now we are burdened for them to be fed. They are in the process

of getting a building in which to have regular services. Bro. James White feels led to go on with Sunday school and prayer meeting until the Lord works out something else. Pray much for them.

The Lord blessed Bro. Curtis Williams' father in body so that Bro. Curtis was able to be with us. Also Bro. Kenneth Probst and family were with us and all were a real blessing in the meeting. We are much encouraged about the way the Lord is working there.

Lord willing, we want to go to the Myrtle, Mo. campmeeting for a few days. The tent meeting at Decatur, Ill. will start Friday, Aug. 23. Anyone wanting more information should contact Bro. Louis Morgan, 997 N. Wilder, Decatur, Ill. 62522, phone 423-8845.

Also, I would like for you folks to remember me in prayer. I have a very bad hernia. I'm trusting and waiting for the Lord to heal it.

Once again we say we appreciate the work you folks are doing, and what you stand for. We are back of you with our prayers. Pray for us.

Your Brother in the One Body, —Mart Samons
Rt. 2, Box 156, Danville, Ky. 40422

EXPANSION OF NATIONAL CAMPGROUND

The National campmeeting which just closed on July 28 at Neosho (Monark Springs) Mo. demonstrated again the urgent need for additional parking area and cabin sites on the campground. Last year a plan was instituted to purchase adjoining land by receiving contributions of \$100 for each lot on the proposed ground. A number of lots were sold, but not enough funds were received to deal with the landowners. At the business meeting this year the plan was continued and much more interest was generated which resulted in the contribution for lots in the total amount of \$7,200 by the end of the meeting. However, many more lot contributions will be needed to purchase the land. Some contacts and offers have been made to adjoining landowners, and now is the time to not only donate funds, but also to pray God to move upon the hearts of those contacted. The funds will be kept in a savings account until the land purchase is made or until further agreement with the donors. In case of a refund to the donors the accrued interest will be included. Please send your contribution of \$100 for each lot directly to the secretary, Bro. Bob Stover, 6304 S. 97th West Ave., Tulsa, Okla. 74107.

REPORT ON RUTHIE GAINES

Mo.—Dear Sister Marie and all the saints, greetings of love: Ruth had a happy birthday on August 1. She was seven years old. Ruth woke up smiling. She received several cards early and four balloons with one card. David blew them up for her and she laughed. Around 10:00 o'clock I decided she had smiled and laughed so much that we should be quiet and let her go to sleep so she would be rested as we were having a birthday cake and her gifts that afternoon. Even though we were real quiet, Ruth didn't go to sleep for a while. She just lay there and seemed happy all morning. I just don't know how to put it in words but it was such a blessing to me to see her so happy. I wish that somehow everyone could have looked in Ruth's room. Sometimes a pain would hit her and she'd cry for a minute and then she would laugh again. After she awoke everyone sang "Happy Birthday," to her and she laughed some more. Ruth takes nothing by mouth, so she didn't eat any cake. When the evening shift of nurses came on around 3:30 they all

sang to Ruth and gave her a rocking chair. The night shift of nurses gave her some gifts, too.

The children at Monark Springs campmeeting gave money to buy Ruth a big teddy bear. Linda bought a real big pink stuffed dog instead. I make it do tricks for Ruth and she laughs. Thank you, children, very much. We want you children to keep praying for Ruth. We believe the Lord is going to heal her.

Ruth received a total of 99 cards. Several had money with them, besides many other gifts. May the Lord bless each one who helped make Ruth's birthday a wonderful day.

Ruth became ill and started vomiting around the 10th of December, 1967. She has been bedfast almost eight months. She hasn't had one bed sore, for which we thank the Lord. [The authorities put her in a hospital.]

We appreciate the prayers of all. Keep praying for us.

Christian love,

—Clayton and Eva Lou Gaines
Rt. 2, Box 51, Thayer, Mo. 65791

Prayer Requests

Miss.—"Wife and I both need help in our bodies. My brother had a heart attack, is in the hospital, very serious, needs prayer." —Harold Griffin.

Mo.—"My husband needs prayer. He feels his affliction is very serious. I need help in my body." —Sister Thelma Holbrook.

Texas—"My father had a heart attack. He needs spiritual help, also." —Carolyn Holland.

Okla.—"I have some urgent unspoken requests." —Lizzie Jordan.

Ala.—"I have an ulcer in my mouth, and also sugar diabetes. Pray also that I find regular work. I cannot believe the Lord will fail me in my old age." —Mrs. Frances S. Everhart.

Pa.—"Mother had been very ill but the Lord touched her. We do pray that she will stay true to God and not let the devil take away from her here at the last what she has always stood for all her life. Pray for my mother-in-law. She fell, needs help for both soul and body." —Eva Cox.

Tenn.—"I fell, sprained my wrist and it pains me very much. Pray for my hearing in my left ear." —Mrs. Lora Dillinger.

N. Car.—Pray for dear Sister E. J. Biddix. She is very ill.

Ark.—"We have several different needs for prayer in our community. Some are sick and some of our boys may have to go to Vietnam. I know we each one are concerned about our lost loved ones." —Sis. Wanda Evans.

Okla.—Bro. Earl Bowden, who just recently arrived at the Golden Rule Home from Mitchell, Ind., has crippling arthritis. Please pray for his healing.

Ohio.—Bro. L. Hassinger is aged, infirm, and about passed the point of caring for himself. He desires to know God's will in making a change of residence.

Minn.—Bro. E. J. Kirchner desires continued earnest prayer for soul and body.

Pray for two mothers who are facing the problem of having their children taken away from them. One of the mothers needs salvation and is very despondent.

Calif.—". . . The Lord has recently healed me of a serious kidney condition and spared my life to rear my four children . . . I have had a serious scalp condition for several years. I have been fasting and praying about this disease. I feel I need the help of the saints." —Sister Lula Stephens.

Let us remember the different ones among the saints who are afflicted but who are standing true to the Word of God and refusing to turn to the arm of flesh for help in their afflictions. God knows about them and we appreciate their firm stand. The Lord has not failed them, but we must wait with patience, trust and refuse to look any other way but to Jesus.

We visited the dear aged saints at the Golden Rule Home recently. The Lord has blessed some who had been ill and they are up and going again. Others are still in need of prayer. It is a miracle how the Lord blesses dear Bro. Ernest Mitchell. If he were trusting man, he would be taking different kinds of pills, including pain pills, but he has his trust in the Lord who keeps him from severe pain. In fact, while we were there, he was asleep. Oh, it is such a blessing to trust the Lord! I count it a great privilege.

I can testify to the healing power of God for me. He has healed me of high blood pressure and a heart condition. It is wonderful to trust Him. It has been a number of months since I have had any trouble with my heart. Praises be unto our Lord, Saviour, Keeper, and Healer.

Saints, be encouraged to look to God for the healing of your bodies. If you have obeyed God's Word and been anointed, just keep a rebuke against the devil and any symptoms that he might try to impose upon you. He may try to bring it back, but on the authority of God's Word, you are healed. —Sister Marie Miles

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (July 20)—Dear Bro. Lawrence Pruitt and all saints in America and elsewhere, warm greetings in the precious Name of the blessed Lord which hath not turned away my prayer nor His mercy from me: Thank you for your letter dated July 8, and I acknowledge receipt of the contents with thanks and praises to God.

The monsoon rains this time were horrible. Floods, landslips, collapsing houses, and heavy storms have killed hundreds in India and rendered thousands, nay, ten thousands homeless, especially in Kerala State. . . .

A few of our believers have written me pathetic words about the general disruption and disaster and they thank God for the wonderful way our God preserved their lives though they had to leave their houses and everything which is still under water. Of course, I have shared already with the little I have as I am deeply concerned about their distress. . . . By God's grace, my home is situated on a hill where no rivers flow and hence no flood, . . . though we had sustained some loss of our crops. We solicit the prayers of the saints for the flood victims.

I am very glad to know that you are busy with the campmeetings. Yes, I know you will be away from your press and printing and pressing on with the campmeetings. May God bless those meetings. May He shower on you His choicest gift and blessings as you distribute your printed leaflets among the people.

I had been praying for a public address system for a long time. God answered our prayers in a wonderful way. A Hindu friend owned a public address system which cost him nearly \$250.00. Our God moved his heart toward our work and he sent word to us offering to sell it to us at a reduced price. He promised to deduct \$50.00 so I prayed with a longing to purchase it. My son gave me a donation, encouraging me to buy it. The Lord encouraged me to buy it and now we have it. Praise the Lord! I had to run into a debt in order to buy it. But I trust the Lord will help me to clear it very soon. This is very

useful for our meetings and public conventions. Every evening we preach through the mike.

Kindly pray for the work of God and His church. I hear and see wonderful prospects and new ways opened for the progress of the work. Your prayers are of much avail. Our prayers are for you all and hope you will have much concern and feelings for us—the members of the same Body and co-workers in the same vineyard.

Yours with a passion for souls, —C. M. Verghese

LETTER FROM MAIN MISSION STATION IN SOUTHEASTERN NIGERIA

Southeastern Nigeria, West Africa (July 6)—Dear Bro. Pruitt, every worker and member in the church of God in America, greetings in Jesus' name—sent to you by the entire church of God in this country of Nigeria. We have today risen up, as the Lord permits, to jointly notify you of our continued existence, even though there had been war causing our communications to halt.

Will you please share with us the happiness that we are LIVING through the LOVE OF GOD. This is not because of anything but the answer to prayers, for which we jointly thank and greet each one of you.

We however narrate to you that two important workers in the field have passed since the silence, in the persons of:

First, late Evangelist Paul Matthew Unroh of Ikot Ebak departed on Jan. 27, 1968. Funeral services officiated by Pastors B. E. Udoka and J. U. Etuk.

Second, late Pastor Stephen Udo Akpan of Minya Ntak departed on June 17, 1968 with Pastors J. U. Etuk and B. E. Udoka conducting the funeral.

Again, we let you know that Bro. B. E. A. Inyang who is the Sunday School Superintendent fell sick of palsy on May 3 and in the same week Bro. B. U. Etuk, the Field Superintendent, fell sick once more of the same sickness he suffered before. Bro. Inyang is affected on the left side, while Bro. Etuk is this time on both sides. There has been no improvement in the condition of either of them. We so much appeal for prayers in their particular cases.

There have been some passings in some congregations which are not at all caused by the war in the country, but deaths by natural causes. There are very many sick bodies which we think to be caused by poor conditions of living, i. e., nothing to eat and no means to buy food. But let us be glad and grateful to God that we are spared.

Because of the illness of Bro. B. U. Etuk, causing his absence in the meeting, the congregation has elected Elder Hanson Unroh of Ikot Ntuen Church to act as the chairman to write this letter.

The way is now open for letters, so we are looking forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

May God richly bless everyone of you. Amen.

Yours in Christ Jesus, —Elder Hanson Unroh

Editor's note: The two letters received on June 17 and printed in the July issue from Bros. Jackson Etuk and Nse Umanah of Eastern Nigeria were answered on June 23 by air mail. However, up to this date of Aug. 15 no replies to these letters have been received, which indicates that the mail is not going through as regularly as before to the Eastern region. Also, we have not received a reply to our letter and draft mailed on July 8 to Bro. Titus Enu who is doing gospel work in Midwest Nigeria. We hope to hear from him very soon.

The people of Eastern Nigeria (Biafra Republic) are suffering and starving for lack of food because of the blockade imposed by the Federal Nigerian government on

this seceded section. Many of our 20 mission stations are located in this region, and no doubt the believers are also in urgent need of food as indicated by the above letter. Relief experts estimate that a million more will die of starvation unless many tons of food are gotten through the blockade promptly. The U. S. government and Red Cross are trying to get a corridor opened in the blockade to funnel relief to these starving people. Let us pray that these lives will be spared, that the civil war will end in an honorable peace, and that the soul-saving gospel of Christ will be carried quickly to every hungry heart.

BAJA, MEXICO MISSIONS REPORT

Dear Readers of "Faith and Victory": Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus. The 6th annual campmeeting held at El Alamo, Mexico on July 5, 6 and 7 was truly blessed of God and worth all the effort put forth. We had an added blessing by the presence of the Gene Beisly family from Guthrie, Okla. and Bro. Leslie Busbee from Springfield, Mo. The latter was used in preaching through an interpreter with real effectiveness on Sunday morning. Bro. Beisly gave a real good testimony in Spanish. . . .

The roof is going on the new chapel in Ojos Negros at last. All the townspeople and surrounding farmers are watching with anticipation for the day when it will be ready for services. We trust that many souls will be saved there as a result of your prayers and support.

Interest remains high in La Huerta, the Indian reservation just ten miles from Ojos Negros. As the pick-up comes over the hill in view of the "ramada" or patio where services are conducted, children can be seen jumping and clapping their hands, running to tell others, "The brother is here!" An adult or two will arrange the benches while another may look up and down the road to see if the neighbors are outside and aware that there will be "service." (Well, this may not mean much to some readers, but seeing people so eager to sing the songs of the church and hear God's Word just fans the fire in my soul.) It is marvelous how the Word illuminates the minds and souls of those who a few years ago were in gross darkness—then to see them quickened (or made alive) by the gospel!

This past Sunday the presence of the Lord was so prevalent that this writer felt as Peter must have felt at the transfiguration—let's build a tabernacle and just stay.

The family of Bro. Tomas Mendoza is well again after a siege of the whooping cough.

The need is still great for workers to pastor these congregations after they are established. At present there are seven stations without resident workers. David Rosas, a native Mexican we have spoken about several times, assured me last Saturday that by God's help he expects to take up residence in El Alamo soon. That will still leave six stations needing resident workers. Are you praying that the Lord of the harvest will send laborers into the harvest? Are you listening to hear God ask, "Will you go?" Are you willing to say as Isaiah did, "Here am I, send me?"

The prayers and support of the saints and all the friends who have stood together in the Mexico missionary work are greatly appreciated. Please continue to hold the work and workers up in prayer.

Your Brother in His service, —Harland H. Smith,
317 E. Cucamonga, Claremont, Calif. 91711

"The gospel must first be published among all nations."

From The Mail Box

Ind.—"Thank you for your prayers . . . daughter-in-law and brother getting along well . . . thank you for the good tracts you sent." —Sister Mae Hill.

N. Mex.—"Dear Sister Marie and co-workers publishing the truth in the 'Faith and Victory' paper . . . Thank you for your kind letter and the tracts. . . . I do praise God for all His goodness, tender love, and care shown to all of us." —Sister Ruth Doolittle.

Mo.—"Dear Sister Marie: . . . I am happy in the Lord. . . . I am just a little member in the body of Christ. . . . It is just a short while longer until the race is over and then we will go before our great Judge and Creator." —Sister Pearl Logan.

Calif.—". . . this leaves us still feeling as well as can be expected for our ages. My husband is 88 and I am 84. The dear Lord has blessed us. We still love Him with all our hearts. . . . I am still trusting Him for soul and body. . . ." —Sister Elizabeth Lima.

Neb.—"The Lord has been so good to me. He has been my Saviour, my Helper, Physician and my Strength since 1927 when He saved and healed me. . . . He has healed me many times since and I did not have a doctor. . . . Please send me the following books . . . May God bless you and this work forevermore is my prayer." —Katie Priem.

Calif.—". . . Thank God for the 'victory that overcomes the world.' I can say I do thank God for every trial that has made me stronger in Him. I do love the Lord and mean to serve Him with all my heart faithfully as I receive understanding from Him. . . . There was surely some close preaching during the Pacoima (Calif. State) campmeeting. I do believe it will take some close living to get to heaven. Just hearing close preaching won't get us to heaven, but we must live it. . . . I attended the opening service (July 28) in their new chapel at San Bernardino, Calif. . . . good service." —Sister LaVern Manuel.

Ind.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the workers at the Print Shop: You folks surely are doing a wonderful work for the Lord in these last days of time. I want to help all I can to get this wonderful truth out to the people. I love it. I feel like I am one of you. This truth is what I have stood for ever since I was saved, but never found a people that believed it until about four years ago. A man gave me a "Faith and Victory" paper, and I surely thank the Lord for that. But most of all I thank Him for saving and sanctifying me. Praise His dear name!

I am sending for some tracts and giving a small offering to be used where you need it most.

Your Brother in the service of our blessed Lord and King,
—Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Mobley

Ore.—". . . The Lord has done much for me in my body and I do praise His dear Name . . . Last night was prayer meeting. Bro. Charles Reynolds and son who had been to the Monark Springs, Mo. campmeeting were there. We had a good meeting. . . . I like the part in the July 'Faith and Victory' which said, 'If a person goes down because he sees a failure in another person, the devil has gained two souls instead of one.' How true this is! We should look to the Lord for our own soul and not fail,

and then pray for the one who has failed. . . . Pray for us and the work here in Jefferson. . . ." —Sis. Emma Busch

Ky.—". . . I can never repay the debt that I owe Jesus, but by His grace and help, I'll try. . . . I received the tracts today and was so glad for them as I wanted to give them out along the way to Myrtle, Mo. to attend the campmeeting. Thanks ever so much. . . . My good Sam said this morning that he felt his eye was getting better. Praise our God. . . . Our hearts are there in the Guthrie campmeeting." —Sister Armilda Abbott

Ore.—". . . I am still making baby booties. Isn't it wonderful how the Lord let's me do this to have money for the Lord's work? How He does bless me! We should keep busy. Time is going so fast and the end of this old world is fast closing up. We will all be standing at the Judgment Bar of God to give an account of ourselves. Every soul will be there. Oh, what it will mean to answer for what we have done! He will not make one mistake. I want to hear, 'She hath done what she could, enter into the courts of heaven.' . . ." —Sister O. K. Myers.

Ohio—Dear Brethren: I cannot tell you how thrilled I am to have found a Publishing House that still believes in the truth of our early reformers. My heart has longed to read more and more of these early reformers. I have searched often and everywhere for books concerning them. I have been able to borrow some books and have rejoiced in my soul as I have read how God worked through their holy lives.

Please tell me more about your Publishing House . . . I have been with the church some eleven years now. I was saved at Springfield, Ohio. . . .

May God continue to bless your efforts for Him. Sincerely in Christ, —Mrs. D. E. Trovato

FIELD REPORT FROM THE GENE BEISLYS

Dear Saints everywhere: We send our greetings to each of you. We thank the Lord for victory over the devil who is a defeated foe. As long as we stay on the Lord's side and claim our victory, he cannot overwhelm us. Our victory surely comes by faith and not by feelings.

During the short summer, we have had a chance to learn many lessons through many different experiences. Some have been along the line of faith, and some along the line of humility. Others have taught us the need of watching our thoughts, our tongue and our actions. We are convinced of the need for a greater soul-burden that will cause us to use every possible opportunity to witness for Christ. There are those about us in darkness, hungering for Truth. Surely we need to be busy about our Father's business. Some whom we think would be the least interested and hardest to reach may in reality be hungry and tender toward salvation.

We are thankful the Lord made it possible for us to make the trip to Mexico campmeeting in particular, as well as to the Pacoima, Calif., the Monark Springs, Mo. and now the Myrtle, Mo. campmeeting which, at this writing, is soon to start.

When we first arrived in California we set up our camper at the home of Bro. and Sister Byron Wittenborn who live in Montclair. We enjoyed visiting with them and other saints in the area of Pomona for a few days.

The meeting at the Mission on Skid Row in Los Angeles was interesting. The young people at Pomona drive about 130 miles, round trip, twice a month now to hold these services. Many times little or no interest

is indicated but the Scripture says, "He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap." Eccl. 11:4. We must continue to work whether we see results or not. I am sure the Lord has blessed them many times for their continuing efforts over the past years that they have been going to this den of sin.

Soon we began our trip to the Mexican campmeeting. At Patzcuaro, where Edith Cole is laboring, we found a precious congregation. We were not in meeting there, but met several of the group and were happy to see the good fruits of the labors there. Edith surely needs prayer and help. Without a car she is greatly hindered in her visiting which she wants and needs to do. Since this is the only station that has electricity and because it is so terribly hot there, she does have an air-conditioner. However, she can't use it now because it is broken down. Without it, even the more moderately hot weather there is unbearable for her.

We made our way to Valle de Trinidad where Bro. Tomas lives. It is our understanding that he makes regular trips up in the higher mountains to preach the Word. One time Bro. Tomas was very ill but felt impressed to make this rugged trip up to visit this group. Because it was not his regular appointment at that time and he felt so badly in body, he almost turned back toward home a time or two. He kept feeling the urgency of the Spirit leading him to go on, and on arriving he found a young man on his death bed. The young man got saved that day and soon passed away. We have real solid confidence in Bro. Tomas and family.

The campmeeting at El Alamo was well attended. Of the approximate 125 in attendance, there were several who expressed an interest in prayer for their souls. The preaching was simple and powerful, plain and satisfying—real food for the soul. Sin was called sin, and sin was named out according to the Bible, so there was no question on what is right and what is wrong. We found in Bro. David Rosas a quiet spirit but one that we honestly believe will do much in humble service for the Lord. He gave at least two, or maybe three, short messages or exhortations while we were there.

It happened to be very late at night when we passed the station at Ojos Negros.

Six or eight Mexican men rode to Ensenada with Bro. James Huskey after the campmeeting. They were looking for work in the tomato fields. Many are in poorer than usual circumstances because boll weevil infestation has caused destruction of so much cotton and there are just not enough jobs for all who want to work.

We were sorry to find sickness in Bro. J. Huskey's home when we arrived at La Mision. Sister Charlotte was so sick she could hardly be up at all, then had the sick children to care for besides. We trust the Lord has blessed them for their hospitality to us. Their home is well built and livable as it is, but needs a water pressure tank, a water heater and many other finishing touches. It is built of adobe brick for durable yet low cost type of construction.

Sister Carrie Sheppard was visiting at her home in Louisiana when we went through Rosarito, so we didn't stop there. We were traveling by ourselves at the time and thought we might lose our way if we looked up the mission station, so we stayed on the main highway, going right on to the Pacoima, Calif. campmeeting which was then in progress.

We do not intend to elevate some above others in our mentioning of certain names in this report. We do not intend to minimize others or their labors of the present or past in failing to mention them. Time and space would

hardly permit recounting the early labors of Sister Opal Wilson, already gone to her reward. The many miles driven and many days spent in Mexico by Bro. and Sister Wittenborn have been noted by the Lord. The sacrifice of health, time and money spent by Bro. Harland Smith has been great. Bro. and Sister Hite spend much time and money working in the field week after week. There are others who have labored in Mexico in the past who are now living elsewhere but still working to translate material for use in the missions. Others help Bro. Smith in physical labor on the chapels whom we had the pleasure of meeting for the first time this year. We are thankful that God Himself is the great Paymaster. He sees all that is done for Him and will reward accordingly and will not fail. Thank the Lord!

We desire your prayers that we may ever be all the Lord desires us to be. —The Gene Beislys

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Ensenada, Mexico—Dear Sister Marie: I want to write my testimony to tell what the Lord has done for me.

Not long ago I had a boil in my ear and it hurt so badly I couldn't stand anything to touch it. One night I was alone, as the girl who stays with me when my husband is gone didn't come. I asked the Lord if He would let it break as I had no one there to pray for me, and in a few minutes it broke and all ran out. I soon went to sleep. Then about a week later another one came, but it was further back in my ear and was more painful than the first one. It felt like there was a tub in my ear. One side of my face did not have any feelings and I could hardly hear anything. Everyone had to shout for me to hear. I said, "Lord, if You will take it all away, I'll write my testimony for You," and in just a few minutes the bad feeling started going away. That was about noon, and about dark it had just a tiny funny feeling and I was able to hear again. Now it is completely normal. I thank the Lord very much for His love to me.

—Mrs. Gonzales



La.—Dear Saints of God: It is such an inspiration and encouragement to us to have enjoyed such a great victory over the power of Satan as we experienced. Nothing quite so wonderful has ever happened to me before.

At 11:00 o'clock on Saturday night (winter, 1968) I yawned and my jaws locked open. My jaw had slipped forward and my chin protruded about an inch and my mouth was drawn to the right side. This had happened several times before but I had always been able to pull it back into place, but this time my right jaw locked, not to be moved until God saw fit to unlock it.

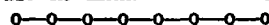
Several of the saints prayed for me that night and tried to force my jaws back into place but could not. They asked me if I wanted to go to a doctor and "just let him snap them back into place." But I knew that there would be no snapping them back into place until God did it and I didn't think He needed any help when He decided it was the right time. After praying and working with my jaws until 2:30 a. m., we decided to try to get some rest. I could not rest much because my jaws were getting tired and stiff and would hurt when I lay down. The first thing the next morning I decided to go home to Jonesboro where I could be with my parents and dear grandmother, Mama Minnie. It seemed that my faith could be stronger just to be there and have them to pray for me. So my daddy flew down to Westlake with my uncle in his airplane and took me home.

Many people heard of my condition and prayed for me, but I remained the same. By Sunday night the soreness was beginning to leave and my jaws were getting used to being in that position, so the devil tried to make me believe that if I didn't go have something done I would remain like that for the rest of my life. I could have lived a long time in that condition because my jaws were close enough together that I could swallow liquids and soft foods, but thank God, He didn't intend for me to stay that way. I was able to rest better Sunday night, and Monday morning I was feeling fine except my jaws were still out of place.

The saints in Westlake called and said they were fasting and praying and were to meet at the chapel at 2 o'clock for special prayer in my behalf. At 2 o'clock we all agreed in prayer, but nothing happened.

I had prayed through to victory that morning and had told my little sister before she left to go to school that I believed I would be healed by the time she got home that afternoon. Mother left to make the school run at 2:35 p. m. The first thing my sister asked when she got on the bus was "How is Kathy?" Mother told her that when she left I was in the same condition. My little sister went on down town to our place of business to help Daddy. She had intended to go home if I had been healed because she knew I would be leaving, going back to work. But she thought that since I wasn't healed I would stay at home until I was, so she decided to go and help Daddy. But when she got to the store (3:15 p. m.) I had already phoned Daddy and told him the wonderful news that God had healed me. We just had a wonderful time in the Lord. We called many who had been concerned and praying, and there was more praising God. My jaws had just unlocked and slipped back into place without any pain at all.

It was undoubtedly the most marvelous experience I have ever had. I love to tell it, so that others can see how well my jaws work now and haven't given me a bit of trouble since. But writing it is the next best thing to telling it. I trust that this will be an inspiration to many. God can do the seemingly impossible if we put our complete trust in Him. —Kathy Alexander



Calif.—Dear Saints at the Office and abroad, greetings in Jesus' dear name: This leaves me with victory in my soul and a greater desire than ever to follow such a mighty God. Words can never tell what a great and precious God we are serving. I have proved Him again and again, and have found Him faithful when conditions are met as revealed to us. . . .

As I said before, He has shown Himself strong in my behalf many times in the nine years I have lived here, but this past July 5, He revealed His power and the power of His Word to me as never before. We had taken the children camping in the mountains, and while there cooked out. We tried to keep everything perishable on ice. The morning of the 5th our baby (16 months old) was fed some ham before it had been reheated. About 9:30, or somewhere around that time, he became deathly ill, with violent vomiting. I noticed in a little while he could not sit up. My husband was helping him, but I felt I should take him, so when I picked him up I saw he was lifeless and his eyes were set. I sat at a table and his little body was cold. I called for clothes and a blanket to help warm him, but they were no help. Death had its hand on him. In a few minutes I saw he was really dying. It seemed up to that time I could not grasp the fact that he was really so low. I told my husband the baby was dying. He started to pray, but I couldn't even hear him. All I could do, was to pray in my heart

for grace to stand whatever the Lord had in store for me. I love my children so dearly that I would never stand in their way of heaven. If God's way is to take them as little innocent children, I say amen. So I was praying earnestly for grace. I could see the baby had stopped breathing. I tried to find a heart beat or pulse, but all signs of life were gone. He was dead, dear ones, and I was ready to lay him out.

While I was wondering in my mind where we could get someone to help us, as my older sons had gone further into the mountains to fish and we were alone, the Lord spoke to me and said, "Rebuke death." I began to pray within my heart. At this time I was in such a state of shock that my mind was slow. The Lord spoke again and said, "Rebuke death audibly." I began to rebuke death in Jesus' Name, the One who said He had all power in heaven and in earth, the mighty Conqueror over death. I promised the Lord by His grace I would claim the victory and not yield to the devil one instant. He had commanded me to rebuke death and I was obeying His word. The baby gasped faintly and began to show signs of life. I caught myself watching his breathing, so I said, "Lord I won't even watch for a sign of life. I have done as You told me to and I know he will live, and even if he stops breathing again I will not give up, neither will I allow myself to watch anymore," or something on that order. In such times of distress, we pray from the heart as the Spirit gives us utterance. I meant by God's grace to stand on His Word. While I was meditating and holding on to God, the devil was putting up a fight, but the Lord gave me this Scripture to encourage my heart. Mark 16:18, "And these signs shall follow them that believe," and one of the signs was, "If they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them." When Jesus healed one person, it said he began to amend from that hour. Praise the Lord! I held to that. His Word is so powerful that just a portion can sustain us. Praise God! By morning the Lord had completely healed our boy. He was so weak he could hardly walk, but he was ready to play and able to eat.

There is much more I would like to tell, but space will not permit. This I do want to say: I was so thankful I was measured up to ALL I knew and understood at the time. I had only the Sunday night before consecrated more to God, requested the saints to remember that I would go through anything the Lord would bring my way. How precious was the blessing now! If I had had to ask forgiveness for something or had to fix myself up in any way, my boy would have been gone. I didn't have time. Dear saints, it behooves us all to stay up to date with God. . . .

Pray for me, as I have burdens and desires before God, but am more confident than ever He is more than able to help and deliver.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Lavern Moles

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Illinois—Dear Saints of God: I know God's church is a holy church composed of His people.

Praise God for the truth of His Word, for holiness, for His bountiful love and mercy. The good Lord has truly blessed my son, Timmy, and me. He has led us through trials and temptations. He has protected us from many dangers. He saved our lives different times. We turned over in our car which landed on its top. We walked from the wrecked car unharmed except for minor bruises. God is still on the throne, I know.

I pray God will show me what He would have me to do to help lost souls prepare for eternity.

Thank God for the fellowship of the true saints of God.

—Oma Jean Hugo Fairchild

Wash.—Dear Friends: I received the book on "Divine Healing" a few weeks ago. . . . I intend to read and re-read it. The dear Lord has healed me of arthritis. I had it about one and a half years, but now it is gone. Praise the dear Lord! I have never forgotten the preaching on divine healing I heard while down at Jefferson, Oregon. The dear Lord is blessing me, and I can't thank Him enough for healing me of arthritis. There is a sister here who has arthritis which crippled her right hand. She needs healing.

I talk much to my little grandchildren about the dear Lord. Pray for them and my children. I am well and happy in the dear Lord.

—Sister Greenway

BE STILL

Be still! Yes, we read in Psalms 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." He knew we would need to get still to get acquainted with Him. Some may say it is impossible to get still in this world of turmoil and trouble, but I do not think God would ask us to do things impossible. He will give us grace to do what He asks us to do.

We are thinking of the children of Israel when they were escaping the bondage of Egypt. They came to the Red Sea with mountains on both sides of them and the Egyptian army was behind them. They were pinned in on all sides, but God spoke to Moses and told him to speak to them these words which we read in Exodus 14:13, "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord. . . ." So God made a way through the Red Sea and they walked through on dry ground. God took care of the seeming impossibility.

Now we think of Job who lost all his possessions, and his children, and was sorely afflicted. Even his wife turned against him and told him to curse God and die. But through all this Job got still enough for God to talk to him. In Job 4:16 it says, ". . . there was silence, and I heard a voice . . ." God does not always speak in thundering tones, but He is mild, meek, and gentle, so we have to be silent to hear Him.

In Matthew 6:6, Jesus tells us to enter our closet and shut the door when we pray so it will be quiet and still, so He can talk to us. This means we must shut our heart's door against our surroundings that would detract our minds. In I Thessalonians 4:11 Paul tells us to "study to be quiet," and in Isaiah 30:15 we read, "In quietness and confidence shall be your strength." So we see that quietness is very essential to our drawing spiritual strength from the Lord.

"Our first text says, 'Be still and know that I am God.' Thus it is when our spirits drink in the life of our risen Lord. We can go forth to life's conflicts and duties like a flower that has drunk in through the shades of night the cool and crystal drops of dew. But as the dew never falls on a stormy night, so the dew of God's grace never comes to a restless soul."

So we see by these Scriptures, and no doubt many more, that we must get quiet and still. While there is silence God can talk to us, whether in the night season or in the day. —Sister Flossie Atha

BIBLE STUDY

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September 1, 1968

NEHEMIAH REBUILDS THE WALLS

Printed Portion—Nehemiah 2:17, 18; 4:15-20; 6:1-3, 15, 16

Neh. 2:17 Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach.

18 Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.

Neh. 4:15 And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work.

16 And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah.

17 They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.

18 For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me.

19 And I said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, The work is great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another.

20 In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.

Neh. 6:1 Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;)

2 That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief.

3 And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?

15 So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days.

16 And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God.

Memory Verse: The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build. Neh. 2:20.

Practical Truth: If we do our part, God will do His. He has told us to resist the devil and then God will make him flee from us.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Nehemiah became distressed while in captivity as he worked as cupbearer to the king of Persia because the walls of Jerusalem were broken down. After much

prayer and fasting, he got a vision of a work for God. He asked the king for permission to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the walls. When he arrived, he called the leaders together and addressed them with the words recorded in the first verse of our lesson. He reminded them that the broken walls were a reproach to the work of God and they left the people open to attack. We notice in the unprinted portion of our lesson that the people did "rise up" and build the walls but they met opposition. They were scorned and ridiculed. Nehemiah heard about a planned surprise attack. He put his men in positions along the wall to defend it and "God brought their counsel to naught." They kept prepared for an open attack which is recorded in our lesson.

Historians tell us that Sanballat was an Egyptian governor of Samaria. Tobiah and Geshem were in similar positions in other countries, yet all were subjects of the same king that Nehemiah was.

We must never forget that the enemy will try to hinder anything done for God. He will use different tactics to come against that work. We notice that first the enemies tried to make a surprise attack, then an open attack, and then a settlement. Just anything to hinder the work of God.

Nehemiah had a vision and others cooperated with him and all worked together with God to accomplish His purpose.

When there is a work to be done for God and we are sure it is from God, let us all cooperate and not drag our feet as some children will do when one is trying to pull the wagon uphill.

September 8, 1968

CONFESSION AND PROMISE

Printed Portion Nehemiah 8:1, 8; 9:32-38

Neh. 8:1 And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel.

8 So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.

Neh. 9:32 Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who keepest covenant and mercy, let not all the trouble seem little before thee, that hath come upon us, on our kings, on our princes, and on our priests, and on our prophets, and on our fathers, and on all thy people, since the time of the kings of Assyria unto this day.

33 Howbeit thou art just in all that is brought upon us; for thou hast done right, but we have done wickedly:

34 Neither have our kings, our princes, our priests, nor our fathers, kept thy law, nor hearkened unto thy commandments and thy testimonies, wherewith thou didst testify against them.

35 For they have not served thee in their kingdom, and in thy great goodness that thou gavest them, and in the large and fat land which thou gavest before them, neither turned they from their wicked works.

36 Behold, we are servants this day, and for the land that thou gavest unto our fathers to eat the fruit thereof and the good thereof, behold, we are servants in it:

37 And it yieldeth much increase unto the kings whom thou hast set over us because of our sins: also they have dominion over our bodies, and over our cattle, at their pleasure, and we are in great distress.

38 And because of all this we made a sure covenant, and write it; and our princes, Levites, and priests, seal unto it.

Memory Verse: Ezra prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments. Ezra 7:10.

Practical Truth: It is better to clear up than to cover up wrongs.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

After Nehemiah rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem, Ezra came back to Jerusalem and the people asked him to read to them the Word of the Lord. We notice that Ezra explained the reading as he read so they could understand it. The great love and devotion that Ezra had for God was transmitted to the people and they desired to obey God's Words. In portions of the Scripture not printed in our lesson we can read where they put into action what they heard. They were sorry they had not kept the law and wept, but Jeremiah told them not to mourn, "for the joy of the Lord is your strength." God forgave them and they rejoiced as they obeyed the Word and from day to day heard it read. They kept the Feast of the Tabernacles.

The first part of chapter nine tells us they read in the book of the law a fourth part of the day and they confessed and worshipped the Lord another fourth. Then in verses 4 and 5 we read where the Levites called for the people to bless the Lord and they began a prayer to God. In the prayer a general account of God's kindness and forbearance was acknowledged to Him and before the people, also His mercies and judgments. Our lesson begins again with the closing of that prayer. (9:32.)

The word "terrible" here would mean God was held in wondrous awe, who is faithful in His mercy and judgments. The people did not try to cover up their wrongs but openly confessed them, acknowledged God's ways were right and theirs were wicked. Because of their wickedness, verse 36 tells us how they were servants to a foreign power and the Persian monarchs reaped what should have been theirs. They acknowledged their distress and made a covenant with the Lord.

September 15, 1968

ESTHER SAVES HER PEOPLE

Printed Portion Esther 4:8; 13-16; 7:1-7

Esther 4:8 Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people.

13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,

16 Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

Esther 7:1 So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen.

2 And the king said again unto Esther on the second day of the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom.

3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:

4 For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage.

5 Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?

6 And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.

7 The king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make a request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.

Memory Verse: Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this? Esther 4:14.

Practical Truth: By God's help we can face danger with courage and wisdom.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The book of Esther is about a woman of courage who regarded not her personal welfare, but was concerned about her people. Again we see how God works to bring to pass His plans. The king did not know she was a Jewess when he chose her as queen. Mordecai was her uncle and he received a copy of the decree that Haman had made that the Jews of the land were to be destroyed. Our first verse tells us that Mordecai sent the copy to Esther asking her to plead for her life and the lives of the people. She asked the people to fast and pray, because if she went in before the king unbidden, and he did not hold out his sceptre or rod to her, she would be killed. God was with her and she found favor in the eyes of the king. She asked him and Haman to dine with her and on the second day that they dined together, she let the king know what Haman had planned. The people were spared and Haman was hanged on the gallows he had made for Mordecai.

We may never have heard of Esther if she had not done what she did. God may have a plan for us but we can never carry out that plan unless we are willing to suffer for Him. We must be like Esther and say, "If I perish, I perish." We think of Moses, of Joseph, of Daniel, and of the three Hebrew children and how they were willing to step out in the face of danger and cling to God through what seemed to be reverses. "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:23.

September 22, 1968

JONAH GOES TO NINEVEH

Printed Portion Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 4:1-4, 11

Jonah 3:1 And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time, saying,

2 Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.

3 So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.

4 And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

10 And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

Jonah 4:1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.

2 And he prayed unto the Lord, and said, I pray thee, O Lord, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

3 Therefore now, O Lord, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.

4 Then said the Lord, doest thou well to be angry?

11 And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?

Memory Verse: I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness. Jonah 4:2.

Practical Truth: We should have as great a love for all peoples of the world as God teaches us to have.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson begins with the words of the Lord coming to Jonah after he had been cast out on the land by the "great fish" God had prepared to swallow him. For Jonah to be able to breathe in the fish's stomach was as great a miracle as for him to be swallowed and cast out on land again. In the stomach of the fish he humbled himself and saw God's mercies to him. He was willing to obey the Lord by delivering the message to the Ninevites. Why does God have to deal severely with His people at times to make them humble enough to obey Him? Truly He is a kind heavenly Father, who is trying every way He can to prepare us for heaven.

The king of Nineveh called a fast and God saw their sorrow and repentance. One definition for repentance is to change. This is the kind of repentance that is meant when it says, "God repented." He changed His purpose or attitude toward the Ninevites when they changed and repented of their sins.

Jonah still needed the Lord to teach him some more so he could see His great mercy. Jonah was displeased because the city had been spared, but God gave him an object lesson. Jonah had felt compassion for the gourd vine that the worm had caused to die although he had not planted it nor was it in his care. Surely men deserved more concern than a gourd vine. How patiently God dealt with the Ninevites and also with Jonah. Are we thinking today more of our own personal comfort, well-being, and pleasure than the souls of mankind? If we are, then we can't criticize Jonah for being more concerned about his gourd vine than the souls of 120,000 people.

September 29, 1968

LIVING IN HOPE

Printed Portion Isaiah 61:1, 2, 8-11; Luke 2:25, 26

Isa. 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

8 For I the Lord love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

9 And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the Lord hath blessed.

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

Luke 2:25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Memory Verse: In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began. Titus 1:2.

Practical Truth: Through Jesus there is hope for all that are cast down.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We have studied about the downfall of Judah, her exile and return and rebuilding of the temple as recorded in the Old Testament. The first verses of our lesson tell us of their hope and the glimpse God gave the prophet Isaiah of Jesus' coming. Isaiah is called the "gospel prophet," because he prophesied hundreds of years before it happened many things that our Saviour went through and of His coming.

On the Sabbath Day Jesus stood up to read. He opened the book of Isaiah and read these same verses that are in our lesson. He then told them that "this day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." (Luke 4:21.) Today we can have this great salvation. Jesus came to bring good tidings and to give liberty to those who are in the bondage of sin. He came to heal the brokenhearted and to comfort all that mourn. He came to bring salvation to all those who will confess their sins and repent. Oh, what a wonderful Saviour He is! He will make those who are deep in sin beautiful if they will turn to Him. He will clothe them with the robes of salvation. They will be as beautiful as the bride who is ready for her marriage and as the bridegroom who goes forth to meet her. Praises will spring forth from those who love Him.

After Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took Him up to the temple. Simeon, through the Holy Spirit, knew that Jesus was the Saviour, the Messiah, that Israel looked for. He now felt he was ready to die. From the closing of the Old Testament until the New Testament there was a period of 400 years. That was a long time for the people to live in hope.

—M. Miles