

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



Volume 37, No. 9

46th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35c Per Year

December, 1968

Unto You Is Born a Saviour



To the lowly shepherds gathered
 'Round their flocks out on the plain
 Came the blessed songs of angels,
 Precious tidings to proclaim.
 And this message to the ages
 Peace and gladness does afford:
 "Unto you is born a Saviour
 Which is Jesus Christ, the Lord!"

"Up, away!" to one another
 Spoke the shepherds, "let us see
 Where in yonder blessed city
 Wrapped in swaddling clothes is He!"
 There they found Him in a manger,
 Blessed sleeping little Child,
 And in humble adoration
 Praised and worshipped, wept and smiled.

O'er the world the same sweet message
 Wings its way to hearts of men,
 Bearing grace and consolation,
 Freeing hearts from guilt and sin.
 As of yore, to hearts so humble
 Peace and gladness are restored:
 "Unto you is born a Saviour
 Which is Jesus Christ, the Lord!"

He is Lord, the Lord of glory,
 Lo! He sits at God's right Hand,
 Having conquered sin and Satan,
 Helping us to boldly stand
 In a world of sin and evil
 Wielding Truth and Wisdom's Sword;
 "Unto us is born a Saviour,
 Which is Jesus Christ, the Lord!"

—Leslie Busbee

"BLESSED be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David." Luke 1:68, 69.

Crowded Out!



"And she brought forth her firstborn son, ... and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7.

Did you ever sit on a bench where others kept crowding in and soon you had to get up and move? Have you ever stood in line for some time and seen others crowd in front of you in the line? Did your family increase until there was need for more room and you had to move at great expense? Crowded out! When you face being crowded out, it brings a feeling of concern and sometimes disappointment, or a sense of unfairness on someone's part. But the child of God has grace to face it or to forgive and bear it.

Jesus was crowded out at His birth. He was crowded out by the king, and He and His parents had to flee to Egypt. He was crowded out when He came to the Jews and they rejected Him. How He loved them, but they had no time for Him in their lives, nor in their hearts. Many times He would have blessed them but they crowded Him out because they sought to kill Him. Finally, they crowded Him out of the world and put Him on the cross. Through it all He loved them, forgave them, and finally died on the cross for their salvation. Thank God, He arose from the grave and ascended to heaven. There He was welcomed and is now sitting at the right hand of God.

Today Jesus is calling to you. He is standing, knocking at your heart's door. He wants to come in. "If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him and he with me." Rev. 3:20. Don't you have any room for Jesus in your life? Are you crowding Him out? Is your heart full of pride, sin, and selfish interests? Has the devil made you feel that you can't live for God and it is useless to try? Well, you can't, but if you turn to the Lord with all of your heart, He will make you a new creature and change your life and make you able to live saved. Please let Him come in. Make room for Jesus in your life. Don't crowd Him out any longer. Repent of your sins with godly sorrow and turn away from them with all of your heart and the King of glory will come in and live in your heart.

Jesus spoke to some about coming into their hearts and they were happy to have Him. But soon some persecutions arose and afflictions for the Word's sake and they were immediately offended and let those things crowd Him out of their hearts. They did not have time for Him any more. (Mark 2:16-20.) There were some who heard His knocking and they opened their heart and He came in. But soon "the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things" crowded Him out. Oh, how sad this is!

We are glad for those who have let Jesus come in. He is living within their hearts and blessing them. They have made room for Him. But we have to be careful that we treat Him right. He is our Guest. How do we treat our guests? We make them feel at home—talk to them and show our love and concern for them. What if we begin to ignore our guests? Maybe we would not even speak to them all day. I am sure they would soon feel they were unwanted and get ready to leave.

How are we treating Jesus who lives in our hearts? Are we mindful of Him and do we commune with Him often? Do we seek to know what pleases Him and consult with Him on any moves we make? If He does something special for us, are we careful to thank Him? Let us be careful that we do not make Him feel unwanted and let other things crowd Him out.

Jesus is coming in the clouds one of these days with a multitude of His angels. He is coming for those who belong to Him. If you have crowded Him out of this life, there will not be any room for you to return with Him to heaven. There is just enough room in heaven for all those who belong to Jesus, or those who have made room for Him here in this life. There is only room enough for those who are prepared to live in heaven. —Sister Marie Miles

Don't Deceive Yourself

Many people understand the truths of Christianity and profess a certain popular faith in Christ. They are seen in regular attendance at Church; they do certain acts of charity; their moral life is irreproachable, people of a kind disposition, very generous to the poor, and with all this they have never seriously asked themselves, "Am I truly a Christian?" They think themselves better than others, confessing God publicly and no one can accuse them of moral wrong. In consequence, their conscience is at rest; they have a very good opinion of themselves and they hope in the case that nothing more than strict morality is required of them to become good Christians sooner or later. They may believe they are such now.

No one can live in a more dangerous state than this; and the saddest part is that the man or woman is not in the least alarmed and glides smoothly along until they slip into eternal ruin. They think themselves on the road to heaven, and never realize their error until they fall into hell.

To live thus—"almost a Christian," and to die in this condition is to have your lot among the lost—for before God there are only two classes of people: those who are in Christ and those who are not.

Those who are in Christ are saved: but those who are not are lost.

When God sent His judgments on the earth in the days of Noah, each one was found in one of two places—either he was in the Ark or he was out of it; a man could be very near it, but if he was not IN the Ark, he was lost.

Also, when the judgments of God fell upon Egypt, all the inhabitants of the land were in one of two conditions—either under the blood of the lamb, (by which God chose to deliver them) or they were not. If the angel of death saw not the blood on door posts and the lintel, the judgment of death fell upon that house.

Now, dear friend, apply these examples to yourself. Are you still exposed to judgment? Are you in the ark of salvation, Christ Jesus, or out of the ark? It is absolutely certain you are in one place or the other. There is no half-way. There are no half-Christians, but one can believe in Christ as the Son of God without giving Him their confidence or their heart. One can hope to be a Christian some time in the distant future, but that time may never come.

To become a real Christian you will not be content with hope or an intention—you must have known your danger and have taken refuge in Christ.

And are you in Christ? You may ask, dear friend, how can I know? If you ask that question with the true desire of knowing the truth, here is your answer from God's Word:

First: A Christian is one who has peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom. 5:1.) He has learned what the nature of sin is; he knows that God is infinitely holy, and cannot lightly overlook evil; he knows that nothing unclean may stand before His presence; he knows that still a sinner, he cannot present himself to God as righteous. However, he knows himself guilty and casts himself into the arms of the Savior, "Whose blood cleanseth from all sin." (1 John 1:7.)

Second: The Christian loves God; he believes that God so loved him that He gave His Son to be the propitiation for his sins; so he loves God as his Father, and trusts Him as his Almighty and eternal Friend. (1 John 4:10.)

Third: The Christian loves the Lord Jesus Christ his Savior. When he thinks "Who loved me and gave Himself for me," (Gal. 2:29) his heart goes out to love Him in return. He tries to please Him in all his ways, in thanksgiving for His wonderful grace and forgiveness.

Fourth: The Christian is a man born of God (John 1:13); he is a new creature (2 Cor. 5:17); his soul is the dwelling place of a divine power that makes him hate sin and love holiness. He has new interests and new affections, and as he loves God, his Father, he is drawn toward the children of God because they

are His children. (1 John 5:1). His heart goes out to sinners, longing to bring them also to the loving Savior.

Reader, with this test, are you a Christian?

May this help you to see your true position before God. May He save you from deceiving yourself any longer about a question of such infinite importance and bring yourself to Him. —Selected

The Holy Remnant

"Are you of the holy remnant, gathered to the King of Peace?"

The word "remnant" comes to us from the Latin word "remanere": to stay, to remain. The remainder is a part of the whole, therefore, it must be the same in every respect as the original from which it was removed, except in size or numbers.

May we ask ourselves: Am I of the holy remnant? How do I compare with the saints of the early days of this last reformation? How do we as a gathered-out body of believers compare with the holy gathered-out ones of Bro. Warner's day? These are serious questions, and should not be passed off lightly. It is easy to say, "We are it." But it is not easy to come to the standard of the by-gone days. "Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do you see it now?" Haggai 2:3.

In order to have and to maintain great victory, peace and harmony must reign. Read Acts 2:1. "They were all with one accord in one place," when the Holy Spirit was given on the day of Pentecost. There were no dissenters among them; love and peace reigned. Dear brethren, this must be so today, if we are "of the holy remnant." All dissenters, trouble-makers, back-biters, all that hold a resentful attitude toward others must be dealt with according to the Holy Word. And if one does not repent of his evil deeds, we must "deliver such an one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus." 1 Cor. 5:5. If we pretend to fellowship those among us who do not manifest the Spirit of Christ, we greatly hinder them from seeing their faults and shortcomings; but if we obey the Scripture and let them know their true condition they will be made to understand that light cannot fellowship darkness. If we do our part by letting them know we love them, but cannot fellowship their evil deeds, they will have a chance to escape the deception that has overtaken them.

In the beginning of this reformation the line of demarcation between those who served God and those who served him not, was drawn and strictly adhered to. This must be the rule today if we "are of the holy remnant." We must endeavor "to keep the unity of the Spirit, in the bond of peace, till we come to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Eph. 4:3, 13.

Brothers and sisters, do we have the same grace and wisdom that was manifested by the reformers of the early days of this century? Or do we hold the

wrong attitude toward others just because they do not agree with us on some minor point of a Scripture or the interpretation of a certain symbol? We must remember that light rates responsibility. We are in the greatest school of all the world, and some are not as far advanced in the deeper things of God as others. You may have a deeper knowledge of just what certain passages teach than your brother. Then again, he might be better versed than you are. We must endeavor "to keep the unity of the Spirit, in the bond of peace."

In less than thirty years this truth was planted in a large portion of the earth at the beginning of this precious "evening light" age. Do we have and manifest the same burning love for the lost as did they? Are we willing to leave home and loved ones in answer to the call, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"? Will we sacrifice gladly that others might be saved? Are we "of the holy remnant"? Are we just like them in every point? Or are we at ease in Zion? Remember, the remnant must be the same in every respect, except in size and numbers. Oh, am I "of the holy remnant"?

Your Brother in Him,

—H. P. Huskey

A World of Compromise

We are living in a world of compromise. In religion as in our government, there is a spirit of compromise. This spirit always leads downward, and never to a higher plane. We should accept God's standard and stick to that standard. Look around at the various so-called churches today and you will see a vast difference in what they were spiritually in years gone by and what they are today. They have compromised with the world, a little here and there until they have lost the power of God that they once had. It's the little things that we think unimportant that lead us downward. Then later the big things seem unimportant, also. We cannot love the things of the world and love Christ. Modernism is of the world. We cannot love God and mammon. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John 2:15. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 1:27. "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." John 14:23. God's spirit will not dwell with a person that will not obey His words. For this reason some say "God is dead." He is dead to those who will not obey and do His commandments. Regardless of our position or the way we believe in this world, every knee will bow to Him on an equal basis in the day of Judgment. —Earl B. Bliss

SCRIPTURE TEXT CHRISTMAS CARDS — Full color, beautiful Nativity parchment. Box of 18 cards for \$1.00, postpaid. **ORDER EARLY!**

"FAITH AND VICTORY"

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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

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

Notice to subscribers: Whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your Zip Code number. The post office charges 10c to notify us of each change of address.

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single copy, one year\$.35
Single copy, three years\$1.00
Roll of 4 papers to one address, one year\$1.00

Write for prices on larger quantities.

Subscribe to "The Beautiful Way," a weekly six-page paper for children, edited by Mrs. Marie Miles and published quarterly. Suitable for use in primary and junior Sunday school classes.
Single set for one year (52 papers).....80c

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 services 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.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 518, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044
Office Phone BUtler 2-1479 Home Phone BU 2-2262

EDITORIALS



THE SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS in the name of the Babe of Bethlehem, whose birth was announced that night to the humble shepherds on the Judean hills by the angel who was joined by the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14.

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

As this last issue for the year of 1968 goes to press, we are thankful to the Lord and our faithful readers for the hundreds of new names received through the special subscription offer, to whom we will be mailing this gospel paper for the first three months of the year of 1969. By the time you receive this December copy you should have a few days remaining before the expiration date of this special offer on Dec. 8 to send in more names—10 for \$1.00. With your special effort at this time we anticipate having several thousand new readers beginning with the January issue. Please rush in all the names possible by December 8, and the Lord will bless you for your sincere concern in spreading the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior, and reigning King.

Let us agree in prayer that the forth-coming gospel messages will penetrate the heart of every reader and glean out of darkness many precious souls.

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

In the fullness of time God sent His only begotten Son as the long-promised Messiah to redeem mankind from the bondage of sin. Jesus was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil out of men's hearts. He did not come to "condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved." Neither does He impose Himself upon anyone, but His offer of salvation is a free gift. Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Rev. 3:20. Jesus stands at your heart's door and knocks for admittance. Since the latch string is on the inside, you must willingly and gladly open the door and invite Him in. With the Apostle Paul we exclaim: "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." 2 Cor. 9:15.

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

Beware of the popular worldly Christmas spirit which hides the true meaning of the coming of the lowly Babe in Bethlehem's manger. Millions are missing the mark! Christ is a stumbling stone and a rock of offense to the multitudes, even though many profess to believe in Him.

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

Future Bible Lessons in Booklet Form—

After 36 years, this is likely the last issue to carry the Bible Lessons. This change will give more space in this publication for articles, etc. The Bible Lessons for adults and young people will be pub-

lished quarterly in booklet form, covering lessons for three months. The 13 lessons, one for each Sunday of the three months beginning with January, 1969, are now ready to print. Each lesson has been enlarged with added material to bring out additional truths. Some lessons carry comments especially for young people. The booklet will contain about 64 pages, bound in heavy paper cover, and reasonably priced at 35c per book, postpaid to you. If possible, please order by the year, and you will receive them every three months. Subscription price is \$1.40 per year for each student, postpaid. It would help us if one person would be responsible to order lesson booklets for all the adult and young people's classes in a congregation, so we could mail them to just one address. Will you please send your order and remittance promptly, so we can get the lesson booklets to you by the first Sunday in January, 1969?

In order to further publicize this new Bible Lessons booklet, we plan to mail copies of this first issue for the first quarter of 1969 free of charge to all those who have received rolls of papers for their Sunday schools, and to all other subscribers who will let us know promptly that they would like to have a free sample copy. For all those who have already subscribed for the Bible Lessons booklet, we will advance your expiration date so you will receive this first quarter free of cost.

The ancient prophet, looking forward to the Church, the new Jerusalem, in the gospel day, exclaimed: "Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken." Isa. 33:20. In this evil day there are those who would endeavor to remove the stakes of Zion, the Church, by condoning the innovations and compromise with this sinful world. Men may depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, but not one stake of Zion's eternal truth shall ever be removed. For instance, God's Word definitely condemns the use of the television because of its sinful influence, and in the year of 1959 the Church reaffirmed its stand for this truth when practically all the ministers signed a statement as follows: "We, the undersigned ministers of the Church of God, seeing the spiritual and moral detriment and sinful influence of the television, definitely believe and teach from the Scriptures that the use of the television is wrong and should have no place in the home. Scriptures: Psa. 101:2, 3; 1 John 2:15, 16; Gal. 5:19-21. Therefore, we warn everyone against its (television) use, and advise that anyone who has professed to be out in the clear light of God's truth and has begun using the television or bringing it into the home over which he has control (1 Tim. 3:4, 5), has lowered the standard and has disqualified himself as a pattern for the saints."

Brethren, this is still the position of the Church—not a cord has ever been broken. Now the Lord is no respecter of persons, even as He told us not to

be, neither is He influenced by personalities. Even though one does not have a television, if he condones him who has one, they are both alike guilty—having "pleasure in them that do them." Rom. 1:32. We are not opposing people as such, but the wrong thing that has ensnared them. Jesus said: "... if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican." Matt. 18:17. Brethren, according to this statement, you could not let a "television preacher" have liberty in your pulpit. A little leaven will leaven the whole lump, and instead of weakening the stakes it is time to heed the exhortation of the gospel prophet: "... strengthen thy stakes." Isa. 54:2. "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, ..." Isa. 58:1. God has set watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem who shall never hold their peace day nor night.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

A spirit of rebellion is sweeping the world. People in general are rebelling against their governments, against law and order. Children are rebelling against their parents, against authority in schools and colleges, and against state and federal laws. Anarchy is the rule rather than the exception.

This same independent spirit is endeavoring to rise up among the people of God, causing them to take the attitude that they do not have to listen to anyone. The Scriptures teach the contrary—humility and submissiveness. The Apostle Peter writes this injunction: "Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." 1 Peter 5:5. The Apostle Paul writes: "And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets." 1 Cor. 14:32. The Wise Man writes: "Only by pride cometh contention: ..." Prov. 13:10. One who contends for his own way exhibits pride—a trait that cannot exist in God's favor. One who is "born again" is not only a member of Christ, but also "members one of another" in His spiritual Body, the Church. One phase cannot exist without the other. God has designed that all His people speak the same thing that there would be "no schism in the body."

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ruthie Gaines at Rest With the Lord

Freed from her long illness, Ruthie Gaines, seven-year-old daughter of Bro. and Sister Clayton Gaines, of Thayer, Mo., went to sleep in the arms of Jesus on November 12. God, in His infinite wisdom, saw best to transfer this rosebud to a better world. Our sincere sympathy is extended to the dear parents and relatives, with the earnest prayer that God will speak the words to soothe their aching hearts. Send your card or letter of sympathy to Clayton and Eva Lou Gaines, Rt. 2, Box 51, Thayer, Mo. 65574. Her obituary will appear in the next issue.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

During the one month of October 9,455 pounds (nearly five tons) of printing paper were purchased at a cost of \$1,610.18, with which to publish gospel literature in the form of books, papers, and tracts.

These "white-winged" gospel messengers are going out every day to places over the globe where an individual may never be able to witness. Be assured that your faithful financial support has made possible this literature ministry. Your co-operation is certainly appreciated, and may the Lord bless and reward you many fold.

—Lawrence Pruitt

Excellent Gift Suggestions

(ORDER EARLY)

Egermeier's Bible Story Book, 640 pages, colored pictures, the best in its field	\$ 4.95
Egermeier's Favorite Bible Stories, (ages 4-9) 33 full-page colored pictures, cloth-bound, 128 pages, size 6 1/4"x9 1/2". Price	2.95
Stories of Jesus' Followers, hard back, little folks' picture story book, size 5 1/2"x6 3/4", 26 pages. ....	.35
Stories of Long Ago. Same size and kind as above. Both ideal for teacher's gifts. ....	.35
"Little Folks" Bible Story Books.	
Order by number and title.	
No. 45. The Baby and the Princess.	
No. 46. In the Den of Lions.	
No. 47. Noah's Ark.	
No. 48. The Boy Who Gave Away His Dinner.	
No. 49. Paul's Shipwreck.	
No. 50. The General and the Slave Girl.	
Written and illustrated especially for children.	
4 7/8"x6", 16 pages. Price .....	.15
Rainbow Bible for children, stiff, printed cover	2.95
Rainbow Bible (ages 6-11) with zipper	3.95
Oxford Bible, approx. 5x8 1/2, con., 100,000 chain ref.	15.95
World Bible, approx. 5x8, con., ref., durable, black	16.50
Oxford Bible, 5x7 1/4"x7/8, con., 100,000 chain ref.	12.95
World Bible, approx. 5x8, con., ref., black, 5.00 &	9.50
World Bible, approx. 6 1/2"x9 1/2, large print, stiff back	6.00
World Bible, approx. 6 1/2"x9 1/2, large print with concordance and references, imitation leather,	8.50
Same as above only genuine leather	12.75
World Bible, approx. 5x7 1/2, con., maps, helps	2.95
New Testament with Psalms, large print, 5 1/2"x7 5/8 imitation leather	3.00
Pocket New Testaments, values from \$1.50 to.....	4.00
Cruden's Complete Concordance, 200,000 references	4.95
Smith's Bible Dictionary	4.50
Fox's Book of Martyrs	3.95
Pilgrim's Progress (Illustrated)	2.95
1968 "Faith and Victory" books, the 11 issues of the year 1968 bound in heavy paper cover	1.00
1968 "Beautiful Way" books, 52 papers of the year 1968 bound in heavy paper cover	1.00
Some F & V. and B. W. books of previous years are available, each .....	.50
The Ordinances of the New Testament by Wm. G. Schell, 67 pages, paper bound, each .....	.25
The Church of God by D. S. Warner, 32 pages, paper bound, 25c each, or six books for	1.00
How I Got Faith by Willis M. Brown, 199 pages, paper bound, 50c each or three for	1.00
Sanctification by J. W. Byers, 96 pages of clear sound teaching on this subject, paper bound, 40c each, or three books for	1.00
The Two Works of Grace by H. M. Riggle in 1900 56 pages with heavy paper binding .....	.35

Odors From Golden Vials by C. E. Orr, 78 pages, paper bound, 40c each or three books for	1.00
The Story of Joseph, 79 pages, paper bound. You will be blessed with this reading. 25c each, or five for	1.00
Salvation, Present, Perfect, Now or Never, by D. S. Warner, paper bound, 63 pages, 40c each, or three books for	1.00
Trials and Triumphs of Eva Grant by Effie M. Williams, 94 pages, paper bound. The story of a girl's life and how faith brought her through. Price .....	.45
The Corrupt Tree by Mrs. Anna Marie Miles, 40 pages, paper bound. Especially for young people. Corruptness exposed and a way out of it shown. Price .....	.25
Heavenly Life for Earthly Living by C. E. Orr Paper bound, 60 pages, 35c each or 3 copies for	1.00
How Do I Look? 32 pages, paper bound, 25c each, or five for	1.00
Life Sketches of Sarah Smith, 36 pages, paper bound, 25c each or five for	1.00
Past, Present, and Future of The Church by Fred Pruitt. A book of 72 pages, paper bound. Each .....	.30
The Secret of Salvation by E. E. Byrum. First published in 1896. Paper bound, 264 pages. 75c each, or three for	2.00
The Pilot's Voice by Isabel Byrum. Paper bound, 146 pages with pictures. A "must" for youth. 60c each or two for	1.00
Biblical Trace of the Church by Wm. G. Schell, in 1893. 173 pages, paper bound. Price .....	.60
The Man of His Counsel by Effie Williams. Paper bound, 112 pages. 50c each, or five copies for	2.00
Unraveling Revelation by A. Q. Bridwell. In paper cover, 36 pages. 20c each, or six copies for	1.00
Highways and Hedges—records the life and labors of the late Faith Stewart, a missionary who spent many years in India and Cuba. Cloth bound. 300 pages, plus pictures	2.15
Christian Conduct by C. E. Orr, 45 pages, paper bound, 35c each or four books for	1.00
The Plan of Salvation by Ostis B. Wilson. A new 64-page booklet clearly setting forth God's redemptive provision for mankind. Price, 25c each, or five copies for	1.00
A Religious Controversy by C. E. Orr, 80 pages, presents many Scriptural truths in an interesting manner, 40c each, or three books for	1.00
The Heavenly Footman by John Bunyan, author of "Pilgrim's Progress." 32 pages, paper bound ....	.20
Instruction of Youth in the Christian Life by C. E. Orr, 32 pages, paper bound, each .....	.25
The Kingdom of God and the One Thousand Years Reign by H. M. Riggle in 1899. 160 pages, with heavy paper binding, 50c each or three for	1.00
The Sabbath and the Lord's Day by H. M. Riggle, 160 pages, paper bound. Comprehensive coverage of the subject. Price 60c each, or two for	1.00
Helps to Holy Living, Books No. 1 and No. 2, by C. E. Orr, combined in 64 pages, paper bound, 40c each or three books for	1.00
Himnos de Gloria (Hymns of Glory)—a Spanish songbook in words only, 150 pages, paper bound, carries the Church of God message. Price .....	.50
Jesus Is Coming Again by H. M. Riggle. 111 pages paper bound. Price, 60c each, or two for	1.00
The Revival in Tin Town by Effie M. Williams. Paper bound, 84 pages, 40c each, or 3 for	1.00

- God's Gracious Dealings by the late Fred Pruitt, an autobiography of his life and labors. It will increase your faith. Sixth edition, 240 pages. .50
- Touching Incidents and Remarkable Answers to Prayer, compiled by S. B. Shaw, especially for children, 135 pages, many pictures, paper bound, 75c each, or three for 2.00
- The Life and Works of Flavius Josephus—a learned and respected Jewish historian. Written about A. D. 93. 1055 pages, cloth bound. Each 8.50
- The Gift of Tongues—What It Is And What It Is Not by G. E. Harmon. 20-page booklet. Bible truths that all should know. 15c each, 10 for 1.00
- The Deacon of Dobbinsville—a very interesting narrative by the late John A. Morrison, first published about 45 years ago. Paper binding, 64 pages. Price, each45
- Emma Bailey Seeks Truth by Mabel Hale. True experiences in "Pentecostalism." Paper bound, 24 pages. Price20
- Selected Articles and Editorials. Paperbound, 256 pages of the writings of the first editor, Fred Pruitt, over a period of 40 years. Price50
- The Infidel Doctor of Salem by Effie M. Williams. Paper bound, 52 pages. 30c each, or 4 for 1.00
- How We Got Our Bible by E. E. Byrum. Paper bound, 46 pages. 30c each, or four for 1.00
- The Hidden Life, or Walks With God by C. E. Orr 112 pages of soul food. Price40
- Christ's Triumphal Reign by H. M. Riggle. Reprinted booklet of 28 pages. 15c each or 10 for 1.00
- How to Live a Holy Life by C. E. Orr, 112 pages of soul food, paper bound, 40c each or three for 1.00
- Beautiful Way Songs book, in words only, of 37 favorite songs for juniors in heavy paper binding. Excellent for Sunday schools and children's meetings. Price10
- 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
- "Evening Light Songs" book, shaped notes 512 pages, cloth bound, the right songbook for the Church of God. Price per copy 1.80
- The New Testament Church and Its Symbols by Fred Pruitt, paper bound, 131 pages, price40
- 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. 83 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 Doctor's Experience of Divine Healing, 24 pages, paperbound, each15
- 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
- The Sin of Trifling, sponsored by Sister Sam Barton. 32 pages, paperbound. Carries a vital message for everyone, especially our young people in these perilous times of loose living. Price, 15c each, or 10 copies for 1.00
- Clarke's Commentary of the entire Bible. One of the best in its field. Set of six volumes..... 32.50
- Deluxe Bible Zipper Covers, black, padded, long-wearing. (Measure your Bible for size.)
No. 9 fits up to size 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ "x7 1/16", price 3.50
No. 10 fits up to size 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "x8 1/8", price 3.75
No. 11 fits up to size 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "x9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", price 4.00
- Clear Plastic Cover with snap for "Evening Light Songs" book. Price 1.00
- Birthday, Get-Well, All-Occasion, Sympathy Cards (Scripture text) each kind, per box 1.00
- Scripture Text Christmas Cards—Full color on Nativity parchment. Order early! Box of 18 for 1.00
- Christian Home Wall Calendar for 1969—Full color, daily Scripture texts for meditation. Each..... .50
- (All of the above items are postpaid at prices quoted.)
- FAITH PUB. HOUSE, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, Okla. 73044

OBITUARIES

Edwin C. Tiemann Sr., retired accountant, aged 74, departed this life to be with the Lord on Sept. 7, 1968 at his residence in Hermosa Beach, Calif., after a short illness. A native of St. Louis, Mo., he had lived in Shreveport, La. for 24 years before moving to California thirteen years ago.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Lalaree Tiemann of the home; four sons, Elwood E. and William D., both of Shreveport, La., Edwin C. Jr. of San Francisco, Calif., and Paul D. of Los Angeles, Calif.; three daughters, Mrs. Howard Rose of Gibsonia, Pa.; Mrs. William McDonnell and Mrs. H. E. Robinson, both of Shreveport, La.; a brother, Henry Tiemann of Hot Springs, Mo., a sister, Mrs. Carrie Vogt of St. Louis, Mo.; 16 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

The funeral services were held Sept. 11, 1968 at the Rose-Neath Funeral Chapel in Shreveport, La. with Bro. Cecil Carver, pastor of Cedar Grove Church of God, officiating. Burial was in Forest Park, Shreveport.

Editor's Note: May the Lord comfort and sustain Sister Tiemann and the family in their loss, and guide them in the adjustments of life. For a number of years Sister Tiemann has sponsored and financed the publication of gospel tracts of different titles. The Lord is not unrighteous to forget her work of faith and labor of love in sending the truth to precious souls.

Lillie Mae (Cutrer) Miller was born Dec. 21, 1893, and departed this life Nov. 7, 1968, at the age of 74 years, 10 months, and 17 days.

She was married to George W. Cutrer April 14, 1913. To this union three children were born: George W., Jr., Lula Mae, and Myra Lea.

Her husband preceded her in death Oct. 6, 1942. She was married to Henry Carson Miller Jan. 1, 1948, who also preceded her in death.

In June, 1933 Sister Miller was born into the Church of God. She loved the Lord and the saints, and was

faithful in the service of the Lord. She trusted the Lord for both soul and body and was faithful to the end.

During her long illness, Sister Miller was an inspiration to all who visited her. She was patient and submissive to the will of God. Not once did she ever complain, and when she suffered she would have her daughter call for prayer. It was wonderful how the Lord came to her rescue and stopped the pain. Her faith was strong in the Lord.

She is survived by one son, G. W. Cutrer, of San Francisco, Calif.; two daughters, Mrs. Lula Mae Landrum and Mrs. Myra Lea Thomas of Bogalusa, La.; four brothers, I. N. Cutrer, Norris Cutrer, Roy Cutrer, Ivy Cutrer; one sister, Mrs. Lois Thomas, all of Bogalusa, La., three grandchildren, and other relatives.

Funeral services were conducted at Bogalusa, La. by Bro. T. H. Coffey, assisted by Bros. Max Williamson and Herbert Probst.

Scriptures used were 1 Pet. 4:12, 13; Job 23:10-12; 1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 2:1-4; 2 Tim. 4:7, 8.

Donald H. Bowman, son of Noah W. and Mary E. Bowman, of Modesto, Calif., passed away suddenly at his home in Fresno, Calif. on Oct. 13, 1968, at the age of 59 years, 6 months, and 27 days.

He leaves to mourn their loss his wife, one daughter, a step-son, 17 brothers and sisters, a host of friends and relatives. Burial was in the cemetery at Fresno, Calif., to await the return of the Lord. —Mrs. N. W. Bowman

WORK DAY AT MONARK SPRINGS, MO. CAMPGROUND

Weather permitting, there will be a work day on Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Monark Springs, Mo. campground. All who can, are asked to please come prepared to rake and burn leaves. They were falling in great numbers some time ago when Wife and I went there to winterize the facilities, and they should all be fallen by now. If the weather should be bad and wet on the first work day (Dec. 7), then plan to come the following Saturdays until the work is finished. Your help will certainly be appreciated. Thank you.

—Ralph M. Beisly

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 62nd annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting of the Church of God will be held, the Lord willing, at Guthrie, Okla. on Dec. 20 to 29, inclusive, during the Christmas holidays. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people.

The chapel is located on the corner of 6th Street and W. Warner Ave. The dining hall and dormitories are located in the same block for your convenience. All who come will be cared for. The expenses of the meeting will be met as usual by free-will offerings.

We are praying and expecting the Lord to send in Spirit-filled ministers to preach the Word with heaven's anointing. All hungry souls seeking light or spiritual help, come, and God will meet you here. If you are sick in body, come and be healed by faith in the Great Physician. Saints, come praying with a burden for the unsaved and all who need help in soul or body. These are perilous times and we need to be about our Father's business, doing what we can for lost souls.

Please send all contributions to retire the debt on the chapel or to support the coming State Assembly

meeting directly to the State Treasurer, Sister Frances Porter, Route 5, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

—Lawrence Pruitt, Trustee

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God (Evening Light Saints) will be held on the saints' campground located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, California, beginning December 27, and continuing through January 5, 1969, Lord willing.

Pacoima is a suburb of Los Angeles in the north-west part of the city and joins the city of San Fernando on the south.

We are expecting Holy Spirit-filled ministers to be present to preach the Word of God in its fullness and are expecting God to confirm His Word with signs following, that souls may be saved, believers sanctified, the sick healed, the church edified and that mighty signs and wonders may be done in the name of His holy Child, Jesus. Let us all pray and believe to this end. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

All who come to do good or to get good will find a welcome at this meeting and will find God waiting to be gracious and to bless you.

Our home phone number is 213-361-5671, and the Sunset Guest Home phone number on the campground is 213-899-2022.

We hope to see you at the Assembly Meeting.

Yours and His in the Master's Service, —Ostis Wilson

MISSION REPORTS FROM BIAFRA, THE SOUTHEASTERN STATE OF NIGERIA

On Oct. 16 this office received a mission report dated Oct. 9, 1968 from Bro. M. U. Ekpene, native pastor and mission worker, covering his mission activities among the mission stations in Biafra (the seceded region in southeastern Nigeria) ever since the Civil War began about one and one-half years ago. This report is rather detailed, but it can be summed up in his statement: "Though war affected the whole area, the Word of God is not bound."

On Oct. 14 a letter dated Sept. 30 was received from Bro. Jackson U. Etuk, native pastor at Ikot Esen Akpantuen in Biafra, in which he acknowledged receipt of my last communication dated June 23, 1968. Last year Bro. J. U. Etuk was held 81 days in a Biafran concentration camp, but since his return to the mission field he writes that "the work in the entire field is progressing and God is blessing in spite of the crises in the country." On Nov. 5 we received a 12-page detailed written report from Bro. J. Etuk relating his rough treatment in the detention camp and how God answered prayer and brought him out.

In this latest letter Bro. J. Etuk appeals for special prayer in these words: "Pray for the work here in Nigeria, and also pray for peace in the whole country, for we are suffering a lot. Biafra soldiers have spoiled our farms and destroyed our crops. Starvation and malnutrition have marked indelible lines on our faces. Death rate owing to hunger everywhere is so high, coupled with swelling of children, men and women. This is a very deadly disease, and in rare cases does one survive when it attacks. I am praying every day to God to remove this deadly sickness from among our people and restore normal peace according to His will. ... Hope to read from you before long."

We have been receiving some letters occasionally from Biafra, but regret that we cannot reply. For some time all our mail, letters and literature, addressed to Biafra (southeastern state of Nigeria) have been returned to us with the stamp, "Mail Suspended."

The International Red Cross reports that between 8,000 and 10,000 persons are dying daily in Biafra, mostly from starvation. Pray that God will intervene some way to halt this civil strife and that food will be provided for these suffering people. —Editor

Bro. C. M. Varghese Called Home

S. India—(Oct. 23)—Dear Bro. Lawrence Pruitt and all associate workers: Thank you very much for your precious letter and contents dated October 8, which you sent to our father, Bro. C. M. Varghese.

With deep regret and sorrow I let you know that our father, Bro. C. M. Varghese, departed from this world to the breast of the Lord and entered the eternal peace of the Lord at 2 p. m. (Indian time) on October 19, 1968 with a sudden heart attack. Though it was quite unexpected for all of the hearers, he passed away peacefully and happily. While he breathed his last he was at home with us. The last words he spoke twice at the time of his death were: "I am leaning to the breast of my dear Lord." It gives us comfort and encouragement because we believe that we can meet him again.

During the first week of this month, without regard for his severe fever, he visited the brothers at Niranam, Mepal, etc., and had a very good fellowship with them. When he returned home from those places he was quite well. In the second week he conducted a three-day meeting at Karikkam chapel. Believers from distant places assembled at Karikkam in that meeting. Of course, it was a blessing to many souls there. The meeting ended at 10 p. m. on Sunday, Oct. 13, 1968 and the last message was given by my father. It was his last message to this world and in that speech he mainly pointed out the different aspects of death and that "it is appointed unto men once to die." (Heb. 9:27.)

After the meeting he took complete rest at home last week. He was 61 years old and very healthy. Last Saturday morning, after the breakfast, he called our mother and all of us beside him and said that he was feeling a slight pain in his heart. At that time he gave us the last advice as usual, "Children, all of you should be born again so that we can meet again in the heavenly land." He also compelled us not to cry or weep at his death.

Many saints and believers from different places rushed to Karikkam for his funeral and the interment was in our own cemetery at Karikkam. Many crowded to have a last glance of his face.

Dear brother, he had five sons and three daughters. Five of them are married. The names are given: mother, Chinamma Varghese; sons, Mathew Varghese, Jacob Varghese, Samuel Varghese, John Varghese, and Philip Varghese; daughters, Mary Varghese, Annamma Varghese, and Moly Varghese.

I am the fourth son, John Varghese, with whom you are familiar (by letter). My father gave me a very good education and advised me to accept the gospel work which is the most powerful work in the world. He trained me in that line from my childhood, so I could help him in his work. Often, and even just one hour before his death, he called me to his side and advised me

to be his successor and follower. He entrusted all the duties of the church in India with me.

Now brother, I remember what David said to his son, Solomon, at the time of his death, "Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon, his son, saying, I go the way of all the earth; be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man." (1 Kings 2:1, 2.) God had promised He would establish his kingdom and through Solomon this was to be done. Similarly, my father charged God's work that he started in India on me and other members of our family.

Yes, brother, though it was a great loss to our family, we are under the great hope that we can see our beloved father again in heaven. It is our duty to fulfill his sole aim, that is, to save and win many souls who are in the darkness of sin. He fought for it throughout his life. So once again I, with my brothers, promise to God that we will try our best to fulfill his aim.

Like the Apostle Paul, my father also had fought a good fight, had finished his course, and had kept the faith, and he has now gone to accept the crown of righteousness from the Lord. (2 Tim. 4:7.)

Dear brother, I appeal for and request the prayers of the saints of America for God to pour blessings to our bereaved family, especially to our mother. Also I request your prayers and encouragement for the furtherance and progress of God's work here.

Yours in the Body of Christ, —John Varghese

Editor's Note: Needless to say, the receipt of the foregoing letter on Oct. 29 telling of the sudden departure of Bro. C. M. Varghese, native missionary in India, was a shock to all of us, especially since we had corresponded with him regularly each month for several years. A reply was promptly mailed to the bereaved family, assuring them of the heartfelt sympathy and prayers of the Church at large in America. His monthly reports through this paper of the mission work in India will be missed. He is now at rest from his earthly labors, and his works do follow him. Let us pray earnestly for the members of the family on whom God may place the burden to continue the mission work in that needy field and that the pure gospel will yet be carried to India's millions. (Note that father and son spelled their name differently.)

Prayer Requests

Va.—"Please pray for God to heal me of kidney and stomach trouble ... other problems." —Bessie Grogan.

Ky.—"I have an awful hurting in my left side and back ... My husband said the Lord had healed the ulcer he had, as the soreness at that place is gone, but he suffers from an over-acid stomach and needs prayer." —Mrs. Wilbur Jarvis.

Miss.—"Need healing of eyes and ears and other afflictions. ... My brother drinks ... needs healing of soul and body." —Rosa Davis.

Ind.—"My son is going with a divorced woman ... other problems." —A Mother.

Ala.—"Thank you for prayer for my back ... much better ... my daughter is to have an operation ... another daughter is in hospital ... needs prayer badly." —Sister Levonia Cook.

Okla.—"Bro. Herman Kelley's grandmother is very low and has been for a few months. ... She fell during the summer and broke her hip and now gangrene has set in in her foot. She is about a hundred years old or more. ... She reared Bro. Kelley and is just like his own mother ... seems to be living to all she knows and is

leaning on Bro. Kelley's prayer. . . . Pray for her and her children." —Sister Odever Kelley.

Ill.—Remember Sister Lettie West in prayer. She fell and broke four ribs and suffered other bruises.

Miss.—"I have cataracts on both eyes." —Bessie Downs.

Maryland—"I've been ill for several years . . . agree with me in prayer for healing." —Sister Myrtle Warner.

Ala.—"Continue to pray for the healing of my mouth and throat as they are getting worse all the time. I know God heals." —Frances Everhart.

S. Car.—"My husband has heart trouble, sugar in his blood, losing his eyesight, but is trusting in God. Pray for him." —Mrs. Dan Harbeson.

Ill.—"I can tell I am not entirely healed up inside since my accident. . . . God has healed my ribs and muscles." —Vivian McClain.

Calif.—Sister Murtice Hurst needs prayer for her body.

Okla.—Sister Beatrice Eck is in need of prayer. She has to be in bed most of the time. She has high blood pressure and other afflictions.

Calif.—"I want to be healed to be a blessing to someone else. . . . I have very high blood pressure at times and not able to do my work." —Sis. Lida Hoffman.

Colo.—Bro. Fred Allen is suffering from an old injury and desires prayer for healing.

W. Va.—"Pray that the Lord will clear up my mother's speech and mind so she will know if she is right with the Lord before He takes her. . . . Pray for my brother who is sick and needs spiritual help. . . . Pray for me, too." —Mrs. Essie Carter.

We had a letter from a dear one who signed it, "Burdened Mother." She writes, "I am a Christian and trying to walk in the perfect will of God. There are some things concerning my life that some dear Christians feel are wrong for me, but I have prayed earnestly many times and it seems I can't get a permanent vision of what God would have me do. I think of what others would suffer through this. I feel a call to the work of the Lord, and if there is a change required, I am willing, but I do want to be sure I am pleasing the Lord. . . . My daughter needs salvation. Her children are going the ways of the world."

Sister Curtis Williams called and desires the saints to pray for Bro. Curtis. He has been to different places recently visiting a few saints here and there to encourage them. Some have been saved, too. Changing beds and climates is hard on a person. He has taken cold and she felt that he had pneumonia. We know that the Lord knows the sacrifices he has made to labor in His service and I feel we can bring him to the Lord with faith for his healing. Sister Williams also has a serious affliction that we need to pray the Lord to remove. I feel it is to the glory of God that He do this for our sister.

A grandmother writes for prayer for her granddaughter who is five years old but has developed far beyond her age; in some ways as much as a 12-year-old. She feels that her healing would be very much to the glory of God in many ways.

About the time the last paper went out and the saints were praying, Sister Jessie Taylor had a touch from the Lord. Her packed bowels were healed, and she has been here to the office since and out to meetings. She said to me, "I have lost some weight and the tumor is smaller and softer. I am still expecting complete victory. I appreciate all the saints' prayers."

The Lord healed Gary Eck and others. We are serving a God who heals and saves those who come to

Him with faith. Sister McKinney in Calif. writes: "The Lord has healed the nerve in my ear. Praise the Lord!"

Dear ones, keep looking up to the Lord. I thought about the Lord picking up the ear of the high priest's servant, that Peter cut off when they came to take Jesus to crucify Him. If Jesus cares for and heals His enemies, how much more He cares for His dear children. Keep holding on, and keep your heart open to any lesson the Lord might want to teach you. He loves us too much to let anything keep us out of heaven if we have an open and honest heart and are willing to obey Him.

—Sister Marie Miles

From The Mail Box . . .

Ark.—I enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory" paper. It has a variety of good reading and soul food. As I read, I feel very near to the writers. It seems they are my friends, brothers and sisters in Christ. I love all the saints everywhere. My prayer is that God will bless all of you there at the publishing plant and stand by you and assist in your efforts to build up His kingdom. Please pray for my dear unsaved loved ones.

A Sister in Christ, —Belva L. Howard

Ohio—Dear Sirs: I am reading one of your books, which I had read many, many years ago. And I see you publish many of the books I read as a boy.

I read the "Gospel Trumpet" when it was printed in Moundsville, W. V., so you can see I am one of the old-timers.

Will you please send me a list of the books you publish? I am particularly interested in getting a book, which the Warner Press has long ago discontinued, about "Startling Experiences," either of or by E. E. Byrum. This book is a smaller one telling of healings and marvelous answers to prayer, and is a later book than the one, "Byrum's Travels."

Thank you. Yours in Him, —Raymond Gatten.

Ark.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: I am enclosing one dollar to renew the "Faith and Victory" paper. I enjoy the paper so much. I get a blessing every time I read one. It helps me so much. . . . Please pray for my eyesight. My gums are sore. . . . I am trusting for complete healing. —Mrs. Esther Null.

Miss.—. . . Enclosed find 10 names and renew my sub. I don't want it to stop. I have been taking this paper since 1958. . . . I desire to be in campmeeting, but being the age of 89 I can't get very far by myself. Please pray for me. Yours in Christ, —Mrs. Bettie Matthews.

Okla.—Holy greetings to all the beloved readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper. "See the mighty blood-washed throng, marching on with shout and song."

Let us give thanks and praise to our Lord for those who consecrate their lives and make the necessary sacrifices to publish this worthy paper. They are laying down the life of ease, comfort, pride, and fame for the joy of sending forth the gospel by means of the printed page. Think what this means—month by month, year after year, for forty years and more, over hill and dale, mountain and plain, homeland and abroad, in city, village and country-side, carrying the gospel and holding up the standard of the morning-time saints.

Now let us close our paper and look at the headlines on the front page and consider the title—"Faith and Victory." Few words carry more meaning than

these. Note the second name, "Church of God Servant." I feel safe in saying that no words can convey more Divine responsibility than these. Surely, we need to ponder these heaven-born words.

Adieu for now. Perhaps more later about this paper—its mission and our responsibility.

In Christian love, —Sister Ethel K. Miles

Minn.—Greetings in the holy and precious name of Jesus, our Redeemer: ... I am still well in soul and body, for which I thank the Lord. I often think how faithful you saints have been all these years toiling daily for the glory of God. Surely great will be your reward.

We have not been able to have meetings here for two weeks on account of sickness. Bro. and Sister Don Orttel are not well and Sister Amenda Price is now in a nursing home and is not able to come to meeting, so that leaves me alone. The Lord has said in His Word that where two or three are gathered together, there He would be in the midst. I go to the chapel each Sunday in case someone might come in, but there will be no meeting until the saints are healed, so pray for them. Sister Price is 84 years of age and has arthritis and other ailments.

I praise the Lord for His love and kindness to me. He supplies all my needs. I am happy in the Lord.

Thanks for being so faithful in sending me the tracts that I have ordered in the past.

Much love and prayers, —Bro. Andrew Senti

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Heard The "Evening Light" Truth 78 Years Ago

Mo.—(Nov. 3)—Dear Brother Pruitt and workers at the Print Shop: This is Bro. Charles E. Stites sending greetings in the name of Jesus. I first heard this "Evening Light" preached by Sis. Cornelia Sunderland 78 years ago at old Indian Springs school house about 12 or 14 miles south of Monark Springs, Mo. In that same spring in 1890, some time around the first of May, at the old Christopher log school house is where my dear father and mother got saved in this "Evening Light." Then three years later, in 1893 Sister Sunderland held a meeting in the old building called the "Chapel" at Aroma, Mo. Oh, what a meeting it was! I got saved and a number of my school mates, also. Then that summer in 1893 they had a wonderful campmeeting at Granby, Mo., and Bro. D. S. Warner was at this campmeeting to preach this beautiful "Evening Light" truth. Sister Sunderland's husband, Bro. Sammey, was the song leader at this meeting. Some of the soul-stirring messages that Bro. Warner brought would last for hours. They were brought under the power and unction of the Holy Ghost. People sat spell-bound as they heard the gospel of holiness in its fullness which was brought to them sharp and clear by the Word of God.

Bro. Warner was a very humble man of God. At the close of the meeting Sister Sunderland asked the people to come forward and shake hands with Bro. Warner, but he said, "No, Sister Sunderland, I had rather not do that. It would look like I was receiving honor from men. I will just walk out among the people and shake hands with them."

Bro. Warner was the editor of the Gospel Trumpet at that time. This paper brought the truth to many homes. My mother started taking it at that time and took it many years thereafter.

In 1917 at Galena, Kansas, (at that time I had been a backslider for ten long years, what a pity!) I took double pneumonia fever one night and within 48 hours I was given up to die by the doctor. He told my brother to get my folks there as quickly as possible. My brother phoned to Monark Springs, Mo. where my father and mother lived at that time. My mother arrived at Joplin on the train at midnight, and prayed the rest of the night in the depot at Joplin, and then came over to Galena, Kansas on the street car. Oh, I thank God for a praying mother! When she came to my brother's home in Galena, she found me sitting by the stove reading—a well man, saved and healed. Oh, I do believe in divine healing in the atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I will be 90 years old the 20th of this month (November), still saved and sanctified and enjoying this "Evening Light truth" all the time. I still enjoy good health. I am able to make a garden. I greatly enjoy the National campmeeting at Monark Springs, (Neosho) Mo. each summer. Lord willing, I shall go to the Assembly meeting at Guthrie, Oklahoma to be held December 20 to 29, 1968.

I still ask for the prayers of the saints of God. I love and enjoy the fellowship of all of them.

Yours in Christian love, —Charles E. Stites,
P. O. Box 19, Granby, Mo. 64844.

Editor's Note: Please make Bro. Stites happier with a greeting card or letter of encouragement in observance of his 90th birthday which was Nov. 20. Mail it to the above address, and the Lord will bless you.



Okl.—To all the saints and readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper, we greet you in Jesus' name: Oh, how our souls rejoice in His blessings from day to day! We are still in affliction's battle, but feel sure the dawn is at hand. However, God does decide our days, long or short. We expect to go through.

God is so wonderful to us. Husband says he preaches during the wakeful hours of the night, and he gains good to his soul from what the Lord gives him. I know the saints' prayers are not going unanswered. Every prayer not needed is put in lay-away, so pray on, saints, for much is done in prayer. I feel sure that prayers for others just come back to us in blessings.

I'm so glad to be a child of the King. We miss being active in the work of the Lord. We aren't able to attend church services at all, but we want to live a life that cannot be spotted. So pray God to give us the understanding of His will concerning our lives. Yea, how careful we must be and faithful all the way!

Thank you for all the lovely cards we receive, the floral offerings, letters and all other tokens of love.

—Brother and Sister Sam Barton



La.—Dear Sister Marie: We send our warm greetings of love to you this beautiful fall day. We are much encouraged in the Lord.

We surely have felt the saints' prayers for my mother. She seems contented for the first time in years. She is getting more helpless all along and is almost bedfast now. She is going down rapidly. We can't talk to her about her soul but we do see a change for the better and pray the Lord will help her to understand enough to get forgiveness.

We are writing to find out just what literature you have in the Spanish language. We have become acquainted with a Mexican family who are very dear to us. All speak English except the mother. She told me she was so hungry to "go to church" but couldn't go because

she couldn't understand the preaching. They are very strict with their children about morals, honesty, etc. They have seven children ranging in age from six years to twenty. . . . This family takes care of one of the chicken farms belonging to my husband's boss and seem to be quite fond of Bro. Goldsberry. We've been drawn to them and are anxious to get spiritual help to them. Please help us pray that God will help us reach them somehow with the truth. It is hard when we can hardly communicate with each other. They have lived in Louisiana thirteen or fourteen years and this dear lady had never visited in anyone's home because of the language barrier, but we insisted that the family bring her to visit us. She seemed to enjoy it very much.

We are building a new chapel and trust the Lord will bless us here in His work. May God bless you and all the workers there at the shop. —Sister Sybil Goldsberry

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

Kentucky—Dear Bro. Lawrence and workers, greetings in Jesus' precious name, the One who saved me from a life of sin and keeps me on the Rock, Christ Jesus: We are writing to tell the wondrous works from the Master's hand. I had an affliction on my body a few months ago. It looked like a growth and bothered me with pain sometimes. It got bigger each day. My wife and I were real concerned about it so we prayed. We requested prayer and got in earnest before the Lord and He touched me. It is all gone now. The Lord is still my helper and healer since I have been saved. He is our great Physician today. I have not taken any medicine since the Lord saved me. I have trusted Him all the way. Many things have happened since I have been saved, but the Lord has helped us.

A few days ago our little boy was stung by a wasp. We prayed and the Lord touched him and in less than an hour we couldn't tell which finger had been stung. Before prayer the finger had a white ring on it where it had been stung and was swelling. The Lord came on the scene and we do thank Him for this. We surely want to give God all the praise.

We have some burdens and problems, but we are waiting on the Lord to work them out. I know He will. We are here at Shelby City, Ky. trying to do what we can for the Lord. We surely need to work for the Lord while we can. Time is getting short and the devil is working hard to deceive souls and cast them down, but the Lord is stronger than the devil. We are still encouraged in the Lord and love all God's people. They are our people, too. May the Lord bless His saints richly.

We are waiting on the Lord for what He wants us to do for Him. Pray that we will be led by the Spirit of God and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. Surely we owe our whole life to God and mean to work for Him as long as He leaves us here and gives us the strength and breath. Pray for us.

Yours in the Lord, Bro. and Sis. Gordon Humphrey

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

Okla.—Dear Saints of God, holy greetings in Jesus' dear name: This leaves me still saved and encouraged more than ever to live for God. I am feeling fine after that spell of sickness the Lord allowed to come my way. I thank the Lord how He encouraged me to trust Him to heal me. I thank all the saints of God for their kindness, cards, calls, visits, and tokens of love shown to me. I do thank the Lord for healing me and showing Himself strong in my behalf.

While going through this affliction the Lord showed me one thing in my life I had to quit. That was watching television. We have one here, not my choice, but it is

here anyway, and it stayed on most all day every day and I just wasted too much time looking at it. Then I would sing the song, "Every hour for the Lord." There were some hours I was not spending for the Lord. The Lord forgave me, and I don't have a desire to look at television. Praise the Lord! I hope my testimony will be a help to someone who needs to get away from an evil thing. It may not be a TV set, but anything that takes our mind away from God.

I desire prayer for my husband who is unsaved and sick in body, and for my unsaved children.

May the Lord bless all the saints far and near is my prayer.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Amelia Lignons

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

Mo.—Dear Saints: I thank the Lord for His mercies to me. I desire a closer walk with Him. It seems I get busy and neglect to read and pray as I should. I know I need to read and pray more. Pray for me.

A few years ago I failed God. I prayed and asked His forgiveness, but it seemed I just didn't have the grace to ask the saints for forgiveness. Pray for me that I will have the grace I need to go through with the Lord and to make heaven my home. I have some other burdens and would like the saints to pray that the Lord will work them all out according to His will. —Sister Verba Holdt

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

S. Dak.—Dear Sister Marie, greetings of tender love to all in the sweet name of Jesus. It was such a blessing to be with the dear saints and to greet you at Monark Springs, Mo. campmeeting. I thank you very much for the good letter awaiting me on my return home.

My soul is feasting on the deep heart-searching truths of the soul-stirring Spirit-filled messages and testimonies given at the campmeeting. The water of life overflowed freely and abundantly to refresh our thirsty souls and give us new vision and clearer light on our pilgrim pathway, and a strong determination to stand true in these dark evil days, whatever the cost. I realize as never before the great need to keep close to the foot of the cross and spend much more time in beseeching, prevailing prayer for souls lost in darkness and sin. Is my light so shining that others may glorify the Father which is in heaven? Is it set on a hill, or is my candle hid under a bushel? "They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever and ever." Dan. 12:3. Is my pathway a "shining light" that others may safely follow? Paul made himself an ensample for others to follow. 2 Thess. 3:9. It is only in the sweet presence of our Saviour that we obtain power and patience to deny ourselves and bear our crosses in gentleness and humility, attracting other thirsty souls to the water of life. "And whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." Luke 4:15. Those are the words of Jesus, our precious Saviour. Would our cross be a cross if it did not signify pain, weariness, affliction, or self-denial to test our Christian patience and keep us clinging close to His pierced side? The thought that if we could get rid of our crosses by some self-effort our pathway to heaven would be all roses is a mistaken dream. "A better victory than freedom from the daily instrument of pain is to lose oneself in the ocean depths of the Christ-life when every trial can be borne as Jesus bore His." It is only by waiting on the Lord in much persevering prayer that we get on the triumphant side of every trial and the victory side of every cross, as expressed by a sister pilgrim.

What a courageous example was Paul! He was stoned, he was beaten and imprisoned. At Jerusalem all

the city was moved against him. He said, "I know not the things that may befall me, save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth that in every city bonds and afflictions abide me." Did Paul pray or ask the church to pray that these things be removed? Rather he said, "None of these things move me, neither count I my life dear that I might finish my course with joy." Paul was not concerned about the impediments in the way. His eyes were on the heavenly prize. And Paul further warns the church that no man should be moved by these afflictions: "for yourselves know we are appointed thereunto." 1 Thess. 3:3. And to the church at Colosse he wrote: "... to present you unblameable and unreprouvable in His sight, if ye continue in the faith grounded and settled and not moved away from the hope of the gospel."

The early church prayed not that these afflictions and persecutions be removed, but that they would be given more boldness to witness and stand true, counting it a privilege to suffer for the cause of Christ. I am reminded of a letter from my son undergoing strenuous training in the army. "Mother," he wrote, "don't pray that these things be removed, but that I will be given courage to take them." And we, as good soldiers for Jesus, ought we not pray thus and not to faint? "If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? And if in the land of peace wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?"

This last summer at the Monark Springs, Mo. campmeeting, my spirit was greatly encouraged by the appearance of Bro. Sam Barton in sickness and pain exhorting the church to courage and faithfulness to the end of the race. I have read that when John, the beloved disciple, was carried into the church service for the last time, his last message was, "Little children, love one another."

Do I have that tender compassion Jesus had when He prayed for the sick and afflicted? Do I have that burden for the lost that would melt hard hearts and move the heart of God for their salvation?

Moody, in one of his great revival meetings, noted a woman sitting in the front row, night after night, and at last she questioned him thus: "Why are other mother's children being saved, and my children are not?" His answer, "Because your eyes are too dry." Oh, for the tender love of Jesus! He wept over Jerusalem.

Do pray that I will be all that the Lord desires me to be and that my loved ones will find the true and living way.

May God keep you in His tender love and give you the desires of your hearts, and I pray "above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

Lovingly and prayerfully, —Sister C. A. McFarling

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

La.—Dear Friends: I would like to express my appreciation to you for your prayers during the recent illness of our baby, Jason. But most of all, I would like to give the Lord praise for his progress and for allowing us to keep him when hopes were dim that we would be able to. Another thing, I would like to openly thank God for the closer walk my husband and I have with the Lord as a result.

We have never seen any of you that we know of, but we feel that we have real Christian friends among you. It was wonderful to receive reports from Sister Sybil Goldsberry that Bro. Goldsberry and everyone else at campmeeting were praying for Jason. . . . We appreciate this very much, and hope that you will accept our apologies for not writing to you sooner.

Jason has begun to attempt to crawl. He has been smiling occasionally for over a week. Yesterday he chuckled out loud. . . .

Last March was the first spell of sickness Jason had. We had decided to trust God for our healing not long before that. Our pastor, Bro. Adriel Alexander, and a few others had influenced us by their lives. They never tried to talk us into it. It was entirely the Lord dealing with us. It was not until later that we really became acquainted with the Goldsberrys. They, too, have been a blessing to us.

During Jason's sickness he had the measles. A day or two after they went away he had a convulsion. In the next four days he had thirty-two convulsions. In between convulsions he would smile and act as if he were aware of everything. We were threatened by many friends and relatives. Even my husband, who was student-teaching just before graduating from college, was threatened by someone over him. It was suggested that he might fail student-teaching. The fourth day we rejoiced and sang songs when he ceased having convulsions. . . .

Later on, he began having spells again. For ten days he had them more often than before. I lost count of how many he had. We were criticized very cruelly this time and accused of allowing Jason's brain to be damaged. After that spell was over he acted as if he had forgotten everything he had learned. He had to learn to do everything all over again. Once, a couple of months later, he had a convulsion that lasted about an hour and a half. I became very frightened and felt bound and couldn't pray. There were some people here, unbelievers, and it seemed difficult, although my husband got down on his knees and prayed as if no one were here. Our friends didn't know what to think. In the midst of all this I persuaded Doyle, my husband, to take him in to the doctor as I felt the baby was dying, and I hoped he might get some relief. Through all this, there was something in my life I needed to settle with the Lord. It was not until July that it was revealed to me what I had to do. It is a personal matter, but I carried out God's will and have been at peace ever since.

In July I left my children with the Goldsberrys one day while my husband and I went to the hospital with my sister-in-law. Sister Goldsberry called and said Jason was having a convulsion. We rushed back right then. It was at this time that matters were straightened out in my life. When I told the Lord I would do what He wanted me to do, Jason's convulsion stopped. It had lasted for over an hour and a half, if I'm not mistaken. Well, he continued having convulsions for a month. (At the time I persuaded my husband to take the baby to the doctor, he tried four times to stop the convulsion with shots and other methods. He seemed puzzled why it wouldn't stop. I knew why. It was to show me it would have been better to have stayed at home and trusted God.)

Someone decided to turn us in to the authorities. We were shown a summons to court by a juvenile officer, and along with the welfare lady, they made an appointment for the baby. The welfare department was to take the baby from us and place it in a foster home so he could receive medical attention. If we agreed to do what we were ordered to do he would be left in our custody. We stood a chance of having both our children taken from us. . . . We were recommended to a pediatric-neurologist. An appointment was made for us and we went. A brain-wave test was run in the hospital which showed nothing. . . . The doctors still have not found the trouble. We know that Jason will

not be completely healed without God. We know God will have to do the healing. . . . We don't have to go back for another month, but we are hoping and praying that the doctor will release him. We don't believe they will ever do our baby any good, because we have decided to trust God and we want God to get the glory out of this in some way.

Please pray for us as we are still not as strong spiritually as we should be. We are thankful that we were shown the light on divine healing. God has healed us of many little things. Most of all, we have grown in the Lord.

With our love, —Doyle and Carolyn Arender

Scripture Text CHRISTMAS CARDS—Box of 18 for \$1.00
Scripture Text WALL CALENDAR for 1969. A Scripture each day for meditation. Price, 50c each.

CLARKE'S COMMENTARY of the entire Bible—one of the best in its field. Set of six volumes for \$32.50.

All the above are postpaid. Order from—

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

BIBLE STUDY

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

December 1, 1968

FALSE PROPHETS

Printed Portion 1 John 4:1-6; 2 John 7-9

1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

2 John 7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

Memory Verse: Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1.

Practical Truth: Not every spirit that claims to be of God is of God. We should be careful what we follow.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

As it was in the days when the Apostle John wrote, just so it is today. There are many false prophets in the world today. The spirit of error is working hard in this

day to convince souls that Jesus was not born of a virgin, thereby denying that He is the Son of God. This is the antichrist spirit. Today we can try the spirits by the Word of God and see their false teachings. The Word of God and the Spirit of God agree. Any spirit or false prophet that teaches anything contrary to the Word of God is from the devil. Some will pose as being very sincere, but people who are deceived are sincere in their belief. The spirit of error has control of them and they are convinced they are right. How sad! Dear ones, we need to be careful and not yield to any spirit of error or we will become deceived. A true prophet of God will live a clean life and will teach those things that are in the Bible, God's written Word. This is the test. False prophets will come in sheep's clothing. Jesus warned us to beware of them. (Matt. 7:15.) The Apostle Paul tells us they will come as "angels of light."

Hold fast to the doctrines of God's Word, which is from Christ. "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have" gained. We do want to receive a "full reward" here and in the end when we rest from our labors.

December 8, 1968

CHRIST SPEAKS TO THE CHURCHES

Printed Portion Revelation 1:9-11; 3:7-13

Rev. 1:9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it; for thou hast a little strength and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Memory Verse: Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. Rev. 3:20.

Practical Truth: Christ will reward all of his faithful followers, though they be few in number.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The Roman Emperor put John on the island of Patmos about 95 A. D. He spoke of himself as being a "companion in tribulation." We need to accept it for a fact that we are going to suffer many things in this life for Jesus Christ, but we are not alone in this.

John was "in the spirit on the Lord's day." (Sunday, the first day of the week, Acts 20:7; John 20:26.) No doubt he was praying or meditating on the wonderful things of God and the Lord revealed to him the things that are written in the book of Revelation. The first verse of Revelation tells us what the book of Revelation is for—"to show his servants things which must shortly come to pass." Revelation is written mostly in symbols. It takes the Spirit of God to reveal it to us.

John writes the messages that are given to him for the seven churches in Asia. Our lesson today is the message to the church which was at the town of Philadelphia. The message is to the angel or minister of this church. The message is from Christ, who opens and shuts doors, and none can hinder. We get into the church of God through Christ, the door. John 10:9. Jesus, in the parable of the virgins, tells us that the five wise went in and the door was shut. Matt. 25:10. In Luke 13:25 Jesus said some would stand without and knock, saying, "Lord, open unto us" but He would say, "I never knew you."

The door was still open for the ones at Philadelphia who had not denied His name, though they were weak and faltering, possibly because of persecutions or the influence of false prophets. He told them that He would keep them in the hour of temptation. (James 1:12, 15.) He encouraged them to hold fast and He would make them pillars (Gal. 2:9) and establish them in the faith.

December 15, 1968

BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD

Printed Portion Revelation 7:9-17

Rev. 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Memory Verse: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever. Amen.

Practical Truth: Only the pure and holy can be in that number that no man can number.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Some interpreters want to take the 144,000 mentioned in the verses preceding our lesson as meaning that only that number would be saved, but since the vision is symbolical, we must consider the numbers given as symbolical. The definite number from each tribe shows that the church of God is complete and perfect. "If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Gal. 3:29. This is the first scene.

Now in our lesson we have the second vision, which is at the close of time and concerning those who were ready to meet God. This scene is laid in heaven. There was a great multitude which no man could number out of every nation, kindred, people, and tongue. What a glorious meeting that will be of the redeemed in heaven! I want to be in that number, don't you? There they stood, dressed in the robes of righteousness, waving palms of victory, praising God and rejoicing. They were now safe from their persecutors and the enemy of their souls, the devil. They would not know heartaches, sorrows, nor troubles any more. All is bliss beyond their fondest imagination. They had washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and had come through with victory. Jesus was there to feed them and lead them unto living fountains of waters.

They were uniting in the songs of praise and the heavens echoed with the songs of the angels. What a glorious day that will be when the redeemed meet around the throne of God!

December 22, 1968

WE SAW JESUS

Printed Portion 1 John 1:1; Luke 2:25-33; 36-39

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled of the Word of life;

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.

27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation.

31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

37 And she was a widow of about four-score and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

39 And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

Memory Verse: The word was made flesh, and dwelt among us; (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father.) John 1:14.

Practical Truth: Jesus brought man and God together with joy to both.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

God, by His Spirit, witnessed to different ones that Jesus was truly the Son of God. John tells us that he handled Him and saw Him and heard Him speak. Simeon was ready to die after he had seen our Lord and Saviour. He said, "My eyes have seen thy salvation" through Christ. Anna the prophetess gave thanks when she saw Him, and told all who looked for the redemption that He had truly come. Now these were people like people of our day who had to be convinced by the Spirit of God and the things that they witnessed. We are glad that they wrote of Him. Today we are rejoicing because Jesus did come. We know by experience that He can change the hearts of sinners and cause them to love His ways. How we marvel at the miracle that takes place in the lives of those who have been truly "born again"! Man is born in sin, but Jesus came to forgive and wash away all the stain of volitional sin and to cleanse him of that sin. Praise the Lord for His great love to all mankind.

The multitudes saw Him and then we have a record of 500 who saw Him at one time after He had arisen from the grave. Some day we will see Him "face to face," but now we see Him through the Spirit.

December 29, 1968

THE NEW JERUSALEM

Printed Portion Revelation 21:3-8; 22-27; 22:17

Rev. 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and

idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

24 And the nations of them which are saved walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Rev. 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Memory Verse: And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of water of life freely. Revelation 21:6.

Practical Truth: We want to have a grand entry into our eternal home.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The first verse in chapter 21 belongs to the preceding chapter. The second verse tells us that John saw the New Jerusalem, the holy city, which is the church of God, coming down from God out of heaven. "Jerusalem ... is the mother of us all." Gal. 4:26. Jesus came down from heaven and brought salvation to us. Salvation makes us a member of the New Jerusalem, which is the Church of God. The church is the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22, 23) in the world today, and is named after the Father, God, (Eph. 3:14, 15). The church is the bride of Christ. (2 Cor. 11:2) Verse 3 tells us that God will dwell with men and they shall be His people. Verse 4 tells us what He will do for us. When we are saved we do not have any tears of condemnation for sin. We won't sorrow any more because of the evil things we have done. We need not fear eternal death in hell. All former things have passed away and all things become new. We drink of the eternal fountain forever.

Now the same will apply to us when we are in heaven. The church is eternal. Eternal life begins here in our souls when we are "born again" and abides as long as we are God's. It continues in heaven, although over there we do not have physical bodies which suffer pain, nor will there be physical death.

Verse 8 tells us what will happen to the wicked. The second death is eternal lake of fire. The same voice that utters the promises tells us about the punishment of the wicked. Verses 9-27 describe our eternal home—heaven. It is all written in symbolic language. We have no way of knowing exactly how it will look. But God has taken the things of this world and tried to help us to understand, in part, just how great and glorious heaven will be. The last verse is an invitation to all to come and go to heaven with us. The Spirit and the bride (church of God) say come. We trust that all who hear and are thirsting after eternal life will come and go to heaven with us.

—M. Miles