

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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Would You Have the Victory?

Would you have the victory over doubt and sin?
Step out on the promise of God's written Word.
Would you have sweet peace abiding deep within?
Obey the message of your loving Lord.

There is a way an overcomer to be;
And one must pursue it with vigilance true.
Faith and obedience bring the victory—
Fear not but trust in God; He'll take you through.

Seek not for some way to glide along with ease,
In faith gird up your loins as a soldier strong;
Because from such ones the enemy flees—
Cry out and shout and sing the victor's song.

Would you make progress and gain the fair height?
It is not won by careless indifferent toil;
Those who succeed must pray both day and night,
Lest the foe should in some way their efforts foil.

Do not attempt in your own strength alone
To fight the battles that confront you each day;
Trust Him who bore the cross for sin to atone;
He's ready to help you all of the way.

Then all will be well, and your soul can rejoice
To know above all things that God is with thee;
So yielding to Him, let His will be your choice,
For this is the way to have sweet victory.

—Ulysses Phillips

Decision is not salvation. Decision is merely the first step toward obtaining salvation. It is an act, or conclusion, by man himself. Should such a decision save one, then he would have become his own saviour. Christ is the one who saves. "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." (2 Cor. 5:17.) Christ still creates, as well as re-creates. Jesus said, "Ye must be born again." "That ye put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Eph. 4:24. Don't try to live for God with just a change of mind, but it must be a change of heart and mind.

—Sel.

The Governor's Pardon

There was a young man one time who lived in the western states. He had never done anything very wrong. But one day he was playing a game of cards and he lost his temper. Picking up a revolver, he shot his opponent and killed him. He was arrested and tried. Finally he was sentenced to hang.

But because of the wonderful life he had lived previously, his relatives and friends prepared a petition for him. It seemed as though everyone wanted to sign it. Before long other towns and villages heard about it, and people all over the state eagerly signed the petition.

At last it was taken to the governor, who happened to be a Christian, and tears came to his eyes as he looked at the large baskets filled with petitions. He decided to pardon the young man and so, writing out the pardon, he put it in his pocket, and then, dressed in the garb of a clergyman, he made his way to the prison.

As he approached the death cell, the young man sprang to the bars.

"Get out of here," he cried. "I don't want to see you. I have had seven of your kind already. I had enough religion at home."

"But," said the governor, "wait a moment, young man, I have something for you. Let me talk to you."

"Listen," exclaimed the young man in anger, "if you don't get out of here at once, I'll call the guard and have you put out."

"But, young man," exclaimed the governor, "I have news for you, the very best. Won't you let me tell you about it?"

"You heard what I said," responded the young man, "and if you don't leave immediately, I'll call the warden."

"Very well," replied the governor, and with a sad heart he turned away and left.

In a few moments the warden approached.

"Well, young man," he said, "I see you have had a visit from the governor."

"What!" cried the young man. "Was that man dressed in the garb of a clergyman the governor?"

"He was," replied the warden, "and he had a pardon in his pocket for you, but you wouldn't even listen to him."

"Get me a pen, get me ink, get me paper," cried the young man. And sitting down he wrote, "Dear Governor, I owe you an apology. I am sorry for the way I treated you . . ."

The governor received the letter, turned it over, and wrote on the back, "No longer interested in this case."

The day came for the young man to die.

"Is there anything you want to say before you die?" he was asked.

"Yes," the young man said. "Tell the young men of America that I am not dying because I am a murderer. The governor pardoned me. I could have lived. Tell them," he continued, "that I am dying because I did not accept the governor's pardon."

My friend, if you are lost, it will be because you will not accept the pardon that God offers you through His Son. For if you refuse Jesus Christ, what can God do? You are turning down your one and only hope of salvation. "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18). That, my friend, is the reason you are condemned.

You will never die because you are a murderer, for God can forgive murderers. You will never perish because you are a drunkard, a thief, or an adulterer. God can forgive drunkards, thieves, and adulterers. But there is one sin that even God Himself cannot forgive, and that is the rejection of His Son. You are condemned because of your sins and because you refuse God's offer of mercy. "He that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed." There is no other reason. If you are lost, it will be because you will not be saved. If you refuse to repent, and accept Jesus Christ's atoning sacrifice for your sins, if you turn down God's pardon, there is no hope for you. All that matters, therefore, is your relationship to Jesus Christ. What then are you going to do with Him? It is for you to decide. Your eternal destiny is at stake. If you repent and accept Him, you will be saved. If you reject Him, you will be lost. Repent of your sins and accept Him now!

—Selected by Thelma Sprague

Only One Way to Heaven

Yes, my friend, there is only one way to heaven, but there are many ways to hell. We read in Matt. 7:13 where Jesus said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat; because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." We also read in Isaiah 35:8 where the Lord said, "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for those, the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein."

Before you start out in your car to go some place where you have never been, the first thing you would do is get a road map and find the right way you should go. But if you turn off on some other road, you will soon find yourself lost. This I know to be true.

About thirty-five years ago I was in the strait and narrow way, but one day the devil came in and led me off on a side road. He never would let me get back on the main highway (God's Highway). Then I found myself completely lost. The devil had me going from one road to another. He had complete control of me. He had me drinking, smoking, gambling, running around with other women, married or unmarried, leaving my wife and three small children. Through all of this the devil still wasn't satisfied. He had me married to another woman, living in adultery.

Nowhere on God's Highway will you find a bowling alley, beer joint, night club, pool hall, gambling joint, any kind of amusement where you will find all kinds of worldly and sinful people, neither will you find a television set or a prescription counter to buy medicine.

My friend, you don't know what trouble is until the devil has complete control of you. You will do anything he wants you to do, and there is nothing you can do about it as long as you are serving him. The only way you can get loose from him is to humble yourself to God, repent of your sins, and completely give yourself over to Jesus Christ who died on the cross to save mankind from sin.

After I had lived about thirty-five years in awful sin, serving the devil, the good Lord said, "It is enough." Praise the dear Lord! In 2 Cor. 6:2 we read, "I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." Dear friend, it was a wonderful feeling when the devil released me and God took over. It was just as if a tight band had been fastened around me; and when the devil let loose, I had the most relaxing sensation I had experienced in many years.

I have only been saved about seven months now, but the dear Lord has surely been good to me. I don't think I could ever do anything to displease Him again. I desire the prayers of one and all that I will always live close to the dear Lord and be an example to all with whom I come in contact. —Dee Johnson

(Editor's Note:— This writer has known Bro. Dee Johnson more than forty years. As a young couple serving the Lord, he and his wife moved to Guthrie in the late 1920's and we were together in the Guthrie congregation. After Dee departed from the Lord, the saints, his parents, and other relatives prayed many prayers over the years for his salvation, and we rejoice with him and thank God for answered prayer—that the prodigal has returned to the Father's arms of love. His parents, who were ministers of the gospel, did not live to see their prayers answered, but other relatives have. His sister, Sister Margaret Eck, is now pastor of the church at Grubbs, Ark. Our exhortation to Bro. Dee is the same given to this writer by Bro. C. E. Orr when the latter

was on his death bed in 1933: ". . . be true and faithful to God at any cost. If you are not faithful, it were better for you that you had never been born."

Snare of the Devil

It is a common practice in some lands to fix a snare to catch animals, or even man. A deep hole is dug in a path and sharp-pointed sticks, which are called goads, are put in the bottom of this hole close together and firmly anchored. The hole is covered and the path so cleverly fixed that it can't be detected by man or beast. When they come along the path, they fall into this hole on these sharp-pointed sticks and are caught. They can't get out by themselves, and unless they are freed by someone else they will die.

Did you know that the devil works just the same way in the lives of many today? He cleverly covers the snare or trap that he has laid for their feet on the road of life. It is so well hidden that one cannot by himself detect just where it is. Only God is wiser than the devil. God is the only one who can make one know that he needs to change his course to miss that trap or snare.

It is so sad when God's children can discern by watching the lives of others that they are walking right into the trap of the devil. We might warn or try to help them, but they are so blinded that they are sure they know the right way. Then we weep with them when they are caught and try to help them out of that trap. We do not want to leave them there to die in that sad condition and lose their souls.

The Bible says, "Flee also youthful lusts; but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart . . . And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, [those in snares] apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves: if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." 2 Tim. 2:22-26.

These verses give instruction to those who are in the snare of the devil, and also those who help them out of this pit. It also tells how to keep out of that snare. One is to flee the wrong and follow the right. We know what is wrong by reading God's Word and obeying the leadings of His Spirit. We should value the advice of others who are on the outside looking on. You might be so close to something that you can't see it, but others can see it.

Young people, be careful in your choice of companions. Many times the choice determines your eternal destiny. It takes a deep determination and an experience with God to live with an unsaved companion and keep sweet in your soul. Not many are willing to pay the price or are willing enough to die out to self to do it. Your companion is the one who can touch your life the greatest. Many times the devil sets a snare for you in these things, not only for the young, but also for the older ones. One dear elderly sister I know, married a man she thought

was a holy man of God, but, oh, the heartaches she suffered when she found this not to be true. Don't think you can change a person after you marry him or her.

There are many snares of the devil. The devil will tell you that a certain group of false religious people are sincere and are doing much good, and you could be led into that trap. "Deceitful workers transforming themselves into apostles of Christ." When once inside, you are caught and you then see the many evils that have been covered up by a false front. One couple, led into a false movement, had many heartaches. The husband left his wife, still professing, and went off with another woman. And I could tell you of the opposite happening. The devil had set a trap and snare. They never intended this to be. Many get filled with false spirits and are deceived and lose their souls. At times they long to be as they once were, but are so entangled that they can't get out. They have "opposed themselves." They need someone who can instruct them with meekness "if God peradventure will give them repentance . . . and they can recover themselves out of the snare of the devil." All of these have been "taken captive by him [the devil] at his will." He set the snare and they fell in.

The devil is more than a match for you. He is greater and stronger than man. He is the "prince of the power of the air." Without God you cannot overcome the devil, nor get out of his traps, once in. You are helpless "at his will." But, praise God, we who have been delivered, can say with the Psalmist David, "He . . . heard my cry. He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, . . . and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God." Psalm 40:1-4.

—Sister A. Marie Miles

GOD'S PROMISE

"And the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that He hath raised up Jesus again." Acts 13:32, 33. "Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Unto you first God having raised up His Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities." Acts 3:25, 26.

Oh, how unsearchable are the ways of God in bringing about His glorious plan! "The promise was made unto the fathers." God Almighty, the Lord and Creator of the ends of the earth, called Abraham from the land of Chaldees and directed him to the land of Canaan. At the age of 99 years, the promise was made to him of a son in whom the everlasting covenant would be established. The promise made to Abraham when he was called was this: "I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make

(Continued on Page Fourteen)

"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, and we omit an issue that month to attend campmeetings) by Lawrence D. Pruitt, assisted by Marie Miles and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

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

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the promulgation and restoration of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the 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.

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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 282-1479 Home Phone 282-2262

EDITORIALS

Spring time has arrived again with budding trees, fresh beautiful flowers, green grass and vegetation. The poet says:

"Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold."

Another poet, C. E. Orr, writes:

"Alone in some secure retreat,
The sky o'er-shadows me;
All nature smiles so soft and sweet,
I'm thinking, Lord, of Thee."

These thoughts agree with the Psalmist David who wrote: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world." Psa. 19:1-4. Mankind is without excuse for not knowing God, "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead." Rom. 1:20. We understand the greatness of the invisible God by the visible things—things which He has created. All these things speak of His infinite wisdom and knowledge. Yet "the things which are seen are temporal [transitory—just for a short time], but the things which are not seen are eternal [everlasting]." The secret of continuous victory for the child of God is being able at all times by the eye of faith to see those unseen eternal values. They are just as real as the seen things, for we walk by faith and not by sight. The Apostle Paul wrote by inspiration: "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen." 2 Cor. 4:17, 18. The key to this text is in the last clause. Whether the adverse conditions we meet are working for or against us is determined by what we are looking at—the seen or the unseen. Seeing the unseen spiritual realm is the grand privilege of every child of God, and this experience will bring joy, peace, and rest in the midst of trouble.

On one occasion the prophet Elisha and his servant was in the city of Dothan which was surrounded by a great host that had come to capture him. The servant was troubled and asked, "Alas, my master! how shall we do?" Elisha answered, "Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them." Elisha prayed and said, "Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." 2 Kings 6:14-17. Elisha had already seen God's protection and was at rest, but the young man's spiritual eyes had not been opened. He could not see the unseen until God opened his eyes. May God open our eyes and keep them open.

Seeing the unseen is the secret of victory and contentment.

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Another campmeeting season is upon us, and Lord willing, the Oklahoma State meeting here at Guthrie will be the first in session. It will be held May 29 to June 7. Not too warm, the weather should be ideal at that time, but above all we are expecting an outpouring of the presence and power of God. Ministers and saints from east, west, north, and south indicate they plan to attend. Come praying, and enjoy a ten-day feast at Father's table.

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Bro. Mart Samons held meeting here at the Guthrie chapel from March 26 over Easter Sunday morning. The preached Word was truly edifying and uplifting to all the saints. From here, Bro. Samons went to Enid, Okla., where he held a revival meeting until April 12. The Holy Spirit anointed for the preaching of the Word clear and definite. The saints rejoiced in the truth. New people attended the services and conviction rested on the unsaved.

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Excellent Booklets Just Off The Press

"Was The Devil Ever in Heaven?" by Bro. O. B. Wilson is paper-bound in 32 pages. Price, 15c each, or 10 copies for \$1.00, postpaid.

"How To Resist The Devil" by F. J. Perryman is a booklet every believer should read. 48 pages bound in heavy paper cover. Price, 25c each, or 5 copies for \$1.00, postpaid.

Order a supply of each of these booklets to give or loan to the many who need to know these truths.

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Bro. and Sister Ira Stover of Tulsa, Okla., were with the Guthrie congregation on Sunday, April 19, at both the morning and night services. The messages of truth which the Lord gave Bro. Stover were very beneficial. Our former pastor is always welcome in our midst.

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Bro. T. H. Coffey, pastor at Hammond, La., began a meeting here at Guthrie on Monday night, April 20 and is continuing this week. Heart-searching messages are going forth each evening and the saints are having their pure minds stirred up by way of remembrance.

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History Book Wanted

If anyone has for sale the book, "A History of the Church," by H. C. Wickersham, please contact Bro. T. H. Coffey, P. O. Box 1177, Hammond, La. 70401, stating condition and price.

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Bro. Curtis Williams, one of the Lord's evangelists, is in the process of building a home for himself and his family at Clearfield, Ky. At present they are busy with the finish work on the inside which necessitates much labor and expense. Bro. Burditt of Okla. City and others from Oklahoma and elsewhere have been working on the building. If the

Lord provides the means, Bro. Williams hopes to have the home finished by June 1, so they will have room for all those who desire to attend the evangelistic tent meeting scheduled to begin near his home on June 14. Pray for the success of this coming meeting, and if the Lord leads you to help with the expense of finishing the building, please send your free-will offering directly to Bro. Curtis Williams, P. O. Box 60, Clearfield, Ky. 40313.

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Another very good out-of-print book is now in the process of being reprinted, entitled "The Holy Spirit and Other Spirits" by D. O. Teasley. It will contain about 175 pages of timely Biblical instructions and warnings. The publication date will be announced in the next issue.

As the Lord opens the way, other out-of-print books on vital subjects by pioneer Church of God writers will be reprinted.

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During the month of April the Lord has enabled us to print and mail 20,000 Efik language tracts to various mission stations in the southeastern state of Nigeria, besides many pounds of English tracts and books for free distribution. Some of the native gospel workers had lost their personal books during the civil war. Books to replace them have been sent from this office. More than 1,000 "Faith and Victory" papers are mailed each month to the foreign fields for free distribution. Much more gospel literature is urgently needed world-wide. The challenge to get the the gospel to the unreached millions is so great, but let us all be faithful at our post of duty, realizing that one soul is worth more than the whole world. What we do for souls must be done quickly. Soon the door of mercy will be closed forever with no hope for another chance to be saved. —L. D. Pruitt

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Campmeeting Dates for 1970

Following are the Church of God campmeeting dates for 1970, and more complete announcements will appear in this and later issues:

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, Oklahoma—May 29 to June 7, 1970.

Holly Hill, S. Carolina—June 5 to 14, 1970.

La Mision, Mexico—June 26 to July 5, 1970.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 26 to July 5, 1970.

General Southern at Hammond, Louisiana—June 26 to July 5, 1970.

Akron, Ohio—July 10 to 19, 1970.

National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri—July 24 to Aug. 2, 1970.

Bakersfield, Calif.—July 31 to Aug. 9, 1970.

Missouri State at Myrtle, Mo.—Aug. 7 to 16, 1970.

Boley, Oklahoma—Aug. 7 to 16, 1970.

California State at Pacoima, Cal.—Aug. 14 to 23, 1970

Dover, Okla.—Aug. 18 to 23, 1970, held only six days.

Fresno, Calif.—Sept. 11 to 20, 1970. (Note this date has been changed).

Campmeeting Notices

OKLAHOMA CAMPMEETING AT GUTHRIE, OKLA.

The Oklahoma State Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, on May 29 to June 7, 1970, on the corner of Sixth and W. Warner Streets, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this 36th annual campmeeting on these grounds. Provisions will be made to care for all who come. Dining hall and dormitories are on the grounds. Expenses will be met by free-will offerings. Come praying for a profitable meeting—the salvation of souls, sanctification for believers, and the divine healing of bodies.

Contributions of money or food may be sent directly to the treasurer, Sister Frances Deforth, Rt. 5, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.
—L. D. Pruitt, Trustee

HOLLY HILL, S. CAROLINA CAMPMEETING

The annual campmeeting of the Church of God here at Holly Hill, S. Carolina, will be held June 5 to 14, 1970. Everyone is invited to come. Please pray for this meeting that the Lord will send ministers of His choosing.

Yours for lost souls,
Phone 496-5176
—O'Neal Pratt

JEFFERSON, OREGON CAMPMEETING

The campmeeting of the Church of God at Jefferson, Oregon will be held, Lord willing, on June 26 to July 5, 1970. All are invited and welcome to come.

This meeting will be supported on the free-will offering plan as usual. Cabins and bedding are furnished on the grounds. Meals are served in the dining hall.

God blessed here in our Easter meeting and we are looking to God for another feast at Father's table. We urge everyone to attend this meeting. We are looking to the Lord to send ministers of His choosing who will preach the Word of God under the anointing of His Holy Spirit without fear or favor.

For further information, write Sister Hilda Nielson, P. O. Box 34, Jefferson, Ore., phone 327-2564, or Sister Beatrice Spaur, P. O. Box 348, Jefferson, Oregon, phone 327-2855.

GENERAL SOUTHERN AT HAMMOND, LA.

The annual campmeeting of the Church of God will convene Friday, June 26, on the General Southern campgrounds at Hammond, La., and will continue through Sunday, July 5.

We are looking for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our midst with souls being saved and sick bodies healed. We are looking to the Lord to send in ministers of His choosing who will come with a burden upon their souls for the meeting.

As in the past, meals and lodging will be provided on the free-will offering plan. We urge everyone, who possibly can, to be here for this meeting.

For further information, write or call Bro. T. H. Coffey, P. O. Box 1177, Hammond, La. 70401. Telephone, area code 504—345-2412.

MANY SAVED IN MEXICALI CAMPMEETING

La Mision, Mexico (March 30)—Dear Sister Miles: We do thank you so much for the offering. Yes, it did

help get us to Mexicali and help in the campmeeting. The Lord was there. Many young people were saved. Around a hundred attended each night service. Many received help. The tent was full of children sometimes during the day. It lasted nine days, not counting Easter Sunday, three services a day. Bro. Tomas Mendoza was there five days. We came home Saturday and had an Easter sunrise service here in La Mision and good services during the day.

The campmeeting at La Mision, Mexico, will be held June 26 through July 5. Cool weather, by the river, close to the ocean, lots of trees. Bring tent or camper. We need helpers, young people, and praying people.

Yours in Him,
—James Huskey
P. O. Box 2262, San Ysidro, Calif. 92073.

WORK DAYS ON NATIONAL CAMPGROUND

If the Lord lays it upon your heart to help on the National campground here at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo., please note the following Saturdays on your calendar: May 9 and 23, June 6 and 20, and July 4.

As the Lord wills and good weather prevails, we expect to be on the grounds on these dates to do what we can in tree-trimming, painting, general maintenance and preparation work for the coming National campmeeting to be held July 24 to Aug. 2, 1970. Remember the dates and come. Your help will be appreciated and the Lord will reward you.

—H. A. McMillian
Rt. 5, Box 50, Neosho, Mo. 64850

FIRST REVIVAL IN NEW CHAPEL AT ANTHONY, KANSAS

A cordial invitation is extended to the saints and lovers of the truth to attend the revival meeting in Anthony, Kansas beginning Friday, May 1 and continuing through Sunday, May 10. Services at 7:30 each evening will be in the new Church of God chapel at the corner of Garfield and Penn. Streets in the northwest section of Anthony. Come praying and bring your friends. We are expecting Bro. Murphy Allen to come and other ministers as the Lord directs.

—Bro. Willie Murphey

BUILDING PROJECT AT GREEN PASTURES, OKLAHOMA

The saints at Green Pastures, Okla., a suburb of Oklahoma City, have purchased a partially-constructed church building on the corner of N. E. 57th and Denver Streets, which is one block west of Westminster Street on 57th Street.

A number of saints there and in this area are now working on this building to get it finished for services as soon as possible. The concrete block walls are up, the roof is on, but there is much finish work to be done inside. Many windows need the glass installed. Part of the cement floor was run on April 22. They plan to work most every Saturday, and if any others in this area feel burdened to come in and help, the consecrated services would be appreciated. There will also be much expense to finish the building, and your free-will offerings will be thankfully received. Please send your contributions or inquiry about the work schedule directly to Bro. Herman Kelly, 2304 N. Everest St., Okla. City, Oklahoma 73111.

SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PAPER—three years for \$1.00.

TULSA, OKLA. REVIVAL MEETING

The revival meeting at Tulsa, Okla. (Norfolk and Pine Place) will be held June 12 to 22, 1970. We desire the prayers of all the saints for the meeting. For further information, contact Bro. Lewis Williams, Pastor, 2643 North Spruce, Wichita, Kansas 67219, phone 264-8481, or Bro. M. D. Gaines, 2232 N. Lewis, Tulsa, Okla. 74106, phone 425-8946.

—Maple Littlejohn

Enlarging Project at Tulsa Chapel

The saints at Norfolk and Pine Place in Tulsa, Okla. are planning on enlarging our chapel with the help of the Lord. We believe in praying while planning that the Lord will help us. If you feel led within your heart, we will appreciate any contributions. The sec.-treasurer of the Building Fund is Mayetta West, 1135 E. Pine Place, Tulsa, Okla. 74106.

OBITUARIES



Sister Maggie (Powell) Freeman was born March 29, 1904 and departed this life March 10, 1970 at the age of 65 years, 11 months and nine days.

She leaves to mourn her passing: her husband, E. J. Freeman of Magnolia, Miss. to whom she was united in marriage on June 26, 1968; also three sisters, Mrs. Drucilla Quinn, Mrs. Ethel Forbes, and Mrs. Annie Mae Johnston; one brother, Phillip Powell, and many relatives and friends.

Sister Maggie had been saved for a number of years. She loved the Lord and was faithful in her service to Him.

For the past few years she had been afflicted. Though frail in body, her faith in God was strong. Many times she testified how the Lord had heard prayer and touched her. She was seriously ill only a few days when the Lord called her Home.

We miss her in our place of worship, but our loss is Heaven's gain.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Bob Forbes and Max Williamson. Interment was at Magnolia, Miss.

—Bob Forbes

John Shafter Souders was born on Jan. 2, 1901, at Morristown, Tenn., and departed this life on March 17, 1970, at Shawnee, Okla., at the age of 69 years, two months and fifteen days.

On Feb. 26, 1921, he was united in marriage to Velve D. Nicholas. To this union eight children were born, all of whom survive. His wife preceded him in death in June, 1957.

John Souders came to Pottawatomie County as a child with his parents in 1904. He had lived in the Johnson community since 1919. He attended the Church of God services.

Survivors include seven daughters, one son, three sisters, four brothers, 29 grandchildren, five great grandchildren, other relatives and many friends. A brother, Archie Souders, is pastor of the Church of God on N. E. 23rd St., Okla. City, where also a sister, Mrs. Tennie Bailey, is a member.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. Richard Madden at Shawnee, Okla., and interment was in the Johnson Cemetery.

"We cannot undo our wrong deeds, but God can keep them from undoing us."

OREGON EASTER MEETING REPORT

Our Easter meeting at Jefferson, Oregon was really enjoyed by all who came. Several came quite a distance. Bodies were healed and consecrations renewed. A sweet spirit of unity and love prevailed throughout the meeting.

Bro. Pat Huskey came and gave us some precious messages. Also, Bro. Charles Elwell came in the last part of the meeting and preached some precious truth. God is truly drawing His people closer together in a bond of love in these last days.

Now we are looking forward to our campmeeting which will begin June 26. We want to invite everyone to attend this meeting.

We are still very busy here as there is much to be done. Some saints are isolated and some are old. When they are not able to get out to services, some of the saints drive out to see them to read and pray with them. It brings comfort to them and causes us to rejoice.

May we ever watch and pray, keeping the love of God in our hearts. May the dear Lord stir our hearts to work while we can.

Your Sister, saved and sanctified, and kept by the power of God,

—Sister Bea Spaur, Pastor

—Written by Sister Grace Jones

REPORT FROM GOULDS, FLA. MEETING

Fla. (April 14)—Greetings from Goulds, Fla., in our dear Saviour's name: I am very thankful to the dear Lord for saving my soul when He did and keeping me saved daily. Praise the Lord!

Last night and today I am not so well in my body, but I am looking to the dear Lord to heal me completely, and desire your prayers. . . .

The Lord is blessing the meeting. Souls are getting saved and others helped. . . .

Sister Dora (Griffin) Johnson came down with me on the bus from Oklahoma City. She is such a comfort to me and is enjoying the meeting, as well as being a blessing in the services. . . . Bro. Louia Morgan and family from Decatur, Ill., were here. They left this morning. Bro. Eddie Johnston from Missouri is here.

Bro. and Sister Hargrave are doing fine. It seems they are overcoming their bereavement [in the recent loss of their new baby which lived only a few days].

Christian love,

—Katherine Williams
905 N. E. 15th St., Okla. City, Okla. 73104

PROFITABLE MEETING IN LOS ANGELES

We wish to report that the Los Angeles, Calif. spring meeting, which was held March 20 through Easter Sunday, March 29, was indeed an outpouring of the Word and blessings of God. Souls were saved and baptized. The saints were renewed and encouraged. Bodies were healed as well as many encouraged in spirit.

—Sister Leon Phillips

Prayer Requests



Okla.—Dear Ones: Please don't forget to pray for us young people going to school in this day and time. We have many hard trials in which we need your prayer for help to overcome.

I want to tell you how the Lord helped me when we got our report cards this last nine-weeks period. In

the Math class there were some pupils who got angry at two of my girlfriends and me because we made a better grade than they thought we should. They really had it in for me. These girls sat in the Math class all one hour and called me bad names and made fun of my religious belief. They said that some day I would trip on my dresses because they were so long. The Lord just put the words in my mouth and I told them that at least I try to dress decently. They said they were going to jump me when class was over. I tried to ignore them, but when they said that, I really started praying. I was about to cry, but was praying that I wouldn't cry so they wouldn't get any satisfaction in calling me names. Just before the end of the class the Lord just spoke so tenderly and said, "I'll take care of you. I didn't let the Hebrew children burn when they were put in the furnace and I didn't let the lions eat Daniel when he was cast in the lions' den, did I? I take care of my children and I will take care of you if you have faith!" I had faith and the Lord did take care of me. The girls were waiting for me at the door of the classroom when class was over. I was just going to walk out calmly. As I started to walk out, another girl drew their attention and they went to talk to the other girl. Then later, when going to class, I had to pass through a group of girls that they were in. They didn't see me, but by the time I was about there, the Lord just made them to move and open a spot for me to walk through. I really thank the Lord for how He helped me.

I truly love the Lord and I always want to please Him in everything I do. Every time you pray please remember all those who are going to school because we meet many hard trials and truly need the prayers of each and everyone of you. May the Lord's richest blessings rest upon you. A young Christian, —Sharon Beisly

Pa.—Dear Sister Marie and all the dear saints everywhere: I desire prayer from the dear saints that I may go all the way with the Lord. Sometimes I seem so weak, but it is my desire to go all the way. Also, pray with me that the Lord will deal with my unsaved husband's heart. I am trusting that He will. Jesus said all things are possible to those who believe. It is my prayer that I can patiently wait on Him and be strong, true, and faithful to Him. Also pray for other unsaved loved ones. Love and prayers, —Virginia Myers

Ind.—"I have had a bad headache for five years." Problem to be worked out.—Eva Norris.

Iowa—"Frail daughter." —L. Flindt.

Mo.—Bro. Pat Cole was in an auto accident and still needs prayer for his body.

Ala.—"My daughter is better . . . thank the Lord and the saints for their prayers. . . . Remember my afflicted limbs when you pray and also my cousin." —L. Cook.

Mo.—Pray for Elma Smith who is very ill.

Okl.—Sister S. Williams desires prayer for her grandchild who has a knot on its wrist.

S. Car.—Bro. Utson Platt fell from a building and broke some ribs and sustained other injuries.

Calif.—"Unable to do my housework . . . painful arthritis for several months." —Melissa Greer.

Mo.—"My husband has cancer . . . my sister has ulcers—not able to keep food down . . . my unsaved boy drinks; needs Jesus." —Sister Rachel Smith.

Calif.—Sister Edith Wittenborn is not strong in body and the lump on her arm seems to be growing. She is a dear Sister and needs a touch from the Lord.

Ohio.—"I'm crippled with arthritis and my nerves are bad. I thank the Lord for everything He has done for me, especially that I know Him as my personal Saviour. I do pray that if it isn't His will to heal me that He will give me grace to bear it and that I will always do His will. Please pray for my family, as none of them are saved." —Mrs. L. J. Roush.

As I read about Jesus at the pool of Bethesda asking the sick man, whom He saw lying near the pool, "Wilt thou be made whole?" I thought how interested He was in those who were sick. There were many near the pool who were afflicted. Why did He pick out this certain man? I am sure Jesus could then, as He does today, see what is in the heart and mind. He knows whether we have faith or not. Just as soon as Jesus said, "Rise, take up thy bed and walk . . . immediately the man was made whole and he took up his bed and walked." John 5:6-9. Thank the Lord! This thrills my soul! The faith in the man touched the offered healing power of Jesus and he was made whole. Jesus is offering healing to you today. Let your faith touch it. —Sister Marie Miles

REPORT FROM INTERIOR OF MEXICO

Mexico—Esteemed Sister: We greet you in the precious love of Christ. First, we want to offer thanks for all that has been done for the missionary work here in Mexico. Please tell all my brethren that we have been using the offerings to visit the brethren in places that are hard to reach. There have been times when we haven't been able to visit them because our economical resources didn't permit. We are praying much to be able to continue visiting these souls who are hungry for the things of God, and it is our obligation now that Christ has given us this privilege of announcing His Word. Jesus said, "I will make you fishers of men." Thus we have the understanding that Jesus has sealed us. It is for this that He gave us salvation for His glory. We also find in the Scriptures that Jesus said to Simon Barjona, "If you love me, feed my sheep."

Also, we have been visiting the hospital in Uruapan where some sick ones are ready to accept Christ, and we must pray much for all of these.

Our children have been very sick, but thank the Lord, they are now well. They themselves are able to pray when they are sick. They are praying for you.

The Lord saved my father on the 11th day of April. I give thanks to God that he was able to receive Christ in spite of the fact that he was strongly Catholic. But for Christ there is nothing impossible.

Your Brother in the Faith, —Irineo Rama

MESSAGE FROM MEXICO MISSIONARY

Valle De La Trinidad, Mexico (April 6)—Dear brethren: By means of this letter I want to greet you, trusting in my God that you are continuing encouraged in your souls. Today we thank God for peace in our souls and for victory through grace. Dear brethren, I want this letter to be an encouragement to souls. The Lord has been blessing souls, to the glory of God, here where we have been working.

I want to tell you that this month I am thinking of making a trip to southern Mexico for the purpose of extending and propagating the gospel of Christ. God has given us another worker, and I think for this reason it is the will of God to make this trip in order to open more missions in this country. This new worker is a Sister who is already having services in her home with

her children, and now her husband, too, is wanting to serve God. Her name is Josephine and her husband is Juan. They have eight children and they are all serving God. They all pray for the salvation of others and are very encouraged in their souls.

Bro. David is also thinking of going south, if God so wills. Pray for all these brethren that they might work for God. This trip that we hope to make with Bro. James Huskey is to prepare a place for these brethren. Pray for our trip. All that we desire is to teach the truth of God in all its fullness. And pray for me that I always have more compassion in my heart for souls. God has continued adding to the church those that will be saved, and He will continue faithful to His promises.

Greetings from all the saints in Mexico.

—Tomas Mendoza

NIGERIAN PASTOR'S REPORT

Midwest Nigeria (April 3)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the name of the Lamb without blemish. God's love for us brought Jesus to earth as our Saviour.

Thank you for your letter dated March 9, 1970. Your letters strengthen faith and make me to keep my affections on things above. The contents of your letter under reference were noted with many thanks.

As expected, Sister Uponi, former treasurer of Abbi congregation, departed this land of shadows into the brightness of the day on February 6 to remain eternally with the Lord. She was about 74 years old and is survived by a son, a daughter and grandchildren. Brother Joseph E. Encheli conducted the burial service. Of a truth, she will not be a stranger in the City.

Realizing that the end of time is soon to close, Satan redoubles his efforts to fasten souls in his snare. But thank God who gives us the power to labor that attention should be called to eternal things and make souls to inquire, "What must I do to be saved?" We are daily giving them the answer. Satan is not happy as we expose his deceptive plans and so he works unsuccessfully to counteract the influence of the Holy Spirit on the new believers. Pray for the Word of God to reign supreme in their hearts. Jesus Christ is the victor.

Faithfully yours in Him, —Titus U. E. Enu

LETTER FROM NIGERIAN MISSIONS

Southeast State, Nigeria (April 4)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and others: Very sincere greetings to you through Christ Jesus our wonderful Saviour. . . .

Thank you for yours of March 9, and the F. and V. for March. Also, much thanks for the draft . . . to help the labourers in the field. May God bless you and the donors seven fold is our prayer. . . .

Rolls of "Faith and Victory" and "Beautiful Way" papers are pouring in now, some very old issues of years ago held up by the war. Efik tracts of titles, "Nso Ke Ndinam" and "Urua Kiet Ebighi Akaha" came last week. Four packets of other literature arrived. For all these we acknowledge immense thanks and pray for God to unfold His blessings to you and all concerned in the gospel publishing.

Enclosed you will find the secretary's report for March by Bro. Nse Umanah and the paysheet in respect of Dec. 9, 1969 draft which was cashed just recently.

The need for a missionary is very great and we must petition to the Throne to send one before it is too late—like when Moses delayed to return to the Israelites the

people went astray. It is mostly expected that a foreign missionary should be here before the next dry season.

On April 24 through 26 we will be at Ikot Akpan Eda for campmeeting. Pray for us as we do for you.

This leaves us with much happiness in the Lord and victory over the devil.

Yours in the Lord,

—B. U. Etuk

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (April 1)—Beloved Bro. Pruitt and other saints abroad: Warm loving greetings again in the sweet and precious name of our Lord, "The Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Root of David." He is the risen Savior, and of whom I can very well say with Job, "For I know that my redeemer liveth." Those of us who are His at His second coming will ever reign eternally with Him. Praise the Lord!

Thank you for your good letter dated March 9, 1970 with the valuable contents. All of your letters really give encouragement to me and they inject diligence, zeal and vehement desire in me. Of course, it is the work of God through His Spirit. In the book of Nehemiah we read, "So they strengthened their hands [each other] for this good work." It is this strength that made them say to the rebel group of Sanballat and Tobiah, "Therefore we, His servants, will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial in Jerusalem." Neh. 2:18-20. Similarly, we brethren of today can strengthen each other through encouraging letters and through other means.

The series of articles on the subject, "Was The Devil Ever in Heaven?" by Bro. O. B. Wilson, which was concluded in the March issue, is very profitable and highly useful. It is a subject of which the majority are unaware because they studied and understood it in the wrong way. The literal interpretation of the prophecies by false teachers is the main reason for the spreading of the falsehood among Christians. But Paul said to the Corinthians, "God hath made us able ministers of the New Testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life." (2 Cor. 3:6).

Last week God directed me to visit the small congregation at Kalayapuram and returned after attending their assembly on Sunday. Their spiritual happiness, girded and sober-minded, reveals their hope of the grace that is to be brought unto them at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:13).

Youngsters and other believers at Karikkom are progressing with Bible classes, house visitings, tract distributions, open air meetings and house to house prayer meetings "according to the good hand of our God upon us."

Recently I got a letter from Bro. L. K. John showing their determination to conduct a three-day convention at Calicut from April 17. This is another chance for me to visit Calicut again and also the believers at the other northern parts as Trichur, Porkulam, Challiserry, etc.

Please extend our most loving greetings to all who are under busy labour in the Print Shop. As Paul claimed, we shall also "rejoice in the day of Christ that we have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain."

Your younger Brother in Christ, —John Varghese

"Whatever happens, tell it to the saints—they can pray it away." —Bro. Effinger.

"God is always for the underdog, the one that is being run over. God is never for the one that is running over others." —Leslie Busbee

From The Mail Box . . .

Kansas—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour. May He ever "bless thee and keep thee." It is so good to receive the paper, tracts, Bible lessons, and other books I have received from the Print Shop. I have several books and I certainly enjoy them. I am now reading "The Cleansing of the Sanctuary" for the third time. I have learned so much from "Past, Present and Future of the Church," "The New Testament Church and Its Symbols," "Bible Chain of Truth," "Biblical Trace of the Church," and a number of others. Some I have read and re-read. These books contain truths I had always sought for and was never able to find taught in any other group until I found the body of Christ, the true Church of God. How true the saying that the Bible is a spiritual book and must be revealed by the Spirit. . . .

Christian love,

—Sister Naomi Hiebert

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

Wash.—Dear Sister Marie and all: Greetings of love in our dear Saviour's name. We trust everyone there is well and enjoying the good things of the Lord. My family and I are well at present. Some have had the flu, but are over it now. The Lord has been good to us so far and I haven't had the flu. . . . I can't thank the Lord enough for His goodness and mercy to me. We had to have wisdom from above this winter to help us with some problems and He surely came to our rescue. It is wonderful to trust Him. He says He is a very present help in time of need. Praise the Lord from whom all blessings flow! I could not begin to thank Him enough for all He has done for me, but I try.

I am sending . . . for the work of the Lord and would like for you to send me [books and tracts].

May the dear Lord bless your labors of love.

Christian love,

—Sister D. T. Thomas

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

S. Carolina—Dear Brother Lawrence: I am still enjoying this good salvation and still standing for the one Church of God. I do love the "Faith and Victory" paper because there are so many good thoughts in it which help me in this Christian race. I am trying to get them in homes where people don't know God, so you keep sending them. If I get to where I can't get around with them I will let you know. I am going on 76 years so don't know just how long I will be here, but I want to be doing something for Jesus when He returns for His faithful few. . . . I received the tracts you mailed to me and pray the Lord that they will help someone to seek the Lord before it is too late.

Pray much for me.

Your Brother in the One Body, —Eddie Driggers

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

Minn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt, The love of God passeth all understanding. He has been so good to me. I cannot praise Him enough. . . .

We are having nice weather now, so I can get out and distribute the tracts. I distribute them prayerfully, and God will give the increase. I hope that when I get Home in the Glory World I will meet someone who found Christ Jesus through our efforts. I am in good health at this time and I give God the glory.

Much Christian love and prayers in the One Body,

—Bro. Andrew Senti

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

La.—Dear Sister Marie: We send greetings in Jesus' dear name. I trust this finds all there feeling well. We appreciate the efforts put forth in sending the gospel out by the printed page. If there ever was a time that people

need to know the truth, it is now. Time is swiftly coming to a close and many precious souls are yet going on in sin, seemingly unconcerned. This is really a heavy burden to me.

We love the Lord and have much to thank Him for. He heals us when we are sick and helps us in our problems and burdens. Even when we feel others don't understand, we can know God does. He has never failed us and I know He never will as long as we keep our faith and confidence in Him.

The congregation here is doing about as well as usual. Kenneth's parents are about the same. They need much strength and help each day.

Enclosed is an offering to help in the work. We enjoy the "Faith and Victory" and the Sunday School papers. We wouldn't want to miss getting them.

Pray for us that we continue on in the way of the Lord and do those things that please Him. He has proven many times that His way is best.

Christian love,

—Virgie and Kenneth Flynn

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

Ohio—Dear Bro. Lawrence and workers in the Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' dear and precious name who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. I am glad His mercy is still extended and He is still working and moving to accomplish this very thing for everyone who will hear His voice. Praise the dear Lord!

I have moved into my daughter's home. . . . I have a good comfortable place here to stay for which I am grateful. My address is 2146 Falmouth Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45406.

I am so glad and thankful for the peace of God in my soul, and for His love and tender care to me. Please find a check for . . . to use as the need may be. . . . I trust you are better in body. We are praying for you . . .

—Bro. Wm. McCoy

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

Mo.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Wife has just been reading in your father's book [God's Gracious Dealings] of his early childhood, when he got saved and the hardships he endured, and I tell you I had many tears as she read it. It is inspiring. I was 81 years old on March 22, 1970. You know, I obeyed my parents in the Lord as I grew up. I stayed with my father until I was 21 and then told him I wanted to go. He sold some hogs and gave me \$45.00, and I went to Joplin, Mo., and started going to business college. While at home I made a good hand for my father, and I never had a horse and buggy, or even a bicycle, but money was, as the saying is, hard to come by then. My folks did all right by me.

I hope to see you at Monark campmeeting this summer, the Lord permitting, and I hope He does.

—Frank H. Shimp

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

Calif.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt: Holy greetings to you in the precious name of our dear Lord. Grace, mercy, and love be with you dear ones who are laboring there with all that is within you to do all the will of God and to hold up the banner of salvation in this evil time.

I am sending \$20.00 to you to send to India and to Nigeria—ten dollars each—in money or in literature, use your own judgment.

I became so interested in that years ago when I went with my father to Liberia, Africa, to live and work for the Lord. This did not come to pass. I came back to America with two of my family. All those conditions of

the heathen nations have lingered in my mind during my old age. My heart was turned toward the sad end of those heathen people. I got busy making quilt tops for sale. I made four tops which were recently purchased for twenty dollars, and I trust when you receive it you will know how to use it. May the dear Lord bless you and all the dear ones there. You are on our daily prayer list for the world-wide spread of the gospel.

—Ella V. Phillips

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

Ind.—Dear servants of God: I received a copy of your magazine, and I am interested in what it contains. Many years ago while I was in my teens at home with my father and mother, a party came to our town preaching this same doctrine as you are now. My father and mother embraced their teachings and remained in it until their deaths forty years ago. Mother lived a year and four months after Father died. Now I will be 92 years old in November, and I have seen many changes in that time. And the Church of God, as I know it now, has conformed to the world a lot from what it was then. I did not come out of the church I belonged to and it grieved my father, Thomas Clifton, for he was a preacher, but I could not do without medicine, although I prayed to God and He healed my children and myself. . . . I haven't belonged to any sect for over 60 years, but I used to go to churches of different faiths. I told them I belonged to the church that Jesus built. . . . I have been a shut-in for several years and live alone, yet not alone for Jesus is with me, and I am well cared for by my children. . . .

I am sending \$1.00 for one year's subscription to your paper for myself and one year each to two other addresses.

—Mrs. Ida Stevens

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

Tenn.—Dear friends in Christ: I have been reading your paper, "Faith and Victory," for a few months now, having been introduced to it by Bro. Charles Williams. It reminds me of the "Gospel Trumpet" of years ago. . . . My mother-in-law was a member of the old-time Church of God. I enjoyed reading Lettie West's article. I surely believe God's people are a peculiar people. I was just wondering, were it possible for Bro. Warner and the older saints to see the world conditions today and the standard lowered so low, what would their remarks be? Oh, for the people to come back to the blessed old Bible and its teaching!

I feel that I can call you brothers and sisters. I have a request for prayer for my sister who had surgery for cancer in June. . . . I know God can heal her. . . . Please pray that God will touch her body. . . .

Yours in His service, —Ottie Powell

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

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie and workers at the Print Shop: It is with a thankful heart I can report victory in my soul and a deeper desire to go forward. The Lord has been good to me in material ways, but the greatest blessings I have been receiving have been to my soul. I have been learning how to really submit things to the Lord and rest. Just today the Lord reminded me of a need I once had and how, without my realizing it, God had helped me to overcome. Praise the Lord!

I am praying God to continue to bless all you dear ones at the Print Shop.

Your Sister in Christ, —Laverne Moles

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

Fla.—Dear Ones: Greetings in Jesus' name. We want to thank everyone for their prayers in behalf of Bro. Clifford Lindner. On April 7, he got home from a funeral in Michigan. He was tired, but otherwise felt

fairly well. After supper his right hand started to get numb and it wasn't long before he could not talk or see, and his whole right side was affected by a stroke. The Bible says to call for the elders of the church, so we did, and Bro. and Sis. Amos Davis came over. Of course, we had already called on our doctor, the Great Healer, who not only healed on the shores of Galilee, but also does heal in this present day and time. In a short time he began to get better. He sat up with our help, but still couldn't see much, or talk or swallow. Little by little he got so he could move his foot. This was all on the right side. We finally got him to bed and he then could talk a little, but not much. The next morning he could walk some. The Lord hasn't healed him instantly as He has sometimes, but we believe He will in His own good time. If he had, our neighbors would never know and witness the whole power of our great Physician. But praise God, he is improving and we expect he will be well by the time you get this letter. We do give God all the glory for His goodness unto us.

Two of our daughter's children were very sick with pink eye in both eyes and strep throat with temperature of 104. They are all well now. Thank the Lord!

—Bro. Clifford and Sister Marie Lindner,
205 Aquila St., Nokomis, Fla. 33555

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

Calif.—Dear Ones at the Print Shop: This morning finds me very much encouraged, and happy in my soul. I know the devil would like to keep all of God's children so burdened down with troubles, worries, heartaches, and afflictions that we would not be able to enjoy the blessings of the Lord and keep happy in our hearts and souls. I surely believe the Lord wants us to carry a burden for each other and for the unsaved, but not to be so burdened that we can't enjoy the blessings of the Lord.

I do thank and praise the Lord for the way He blesses and takes care of His children. I thank Him so much for the ones who are true and faithful to Him. It makes us sad to see our loved ones who have been taught the truth keep going on in sin. . . . It seems there is so little I can do, but I know I can pray if I can't do anything else.

The "Faith and Victory" and "Mission Trail" papers mean much to me and encourage me. I feel all God's children the world over should surely be stirred in their hearts for daily drawing closer to the Lord and being a real example to this old sinful world.

I am sending a little offering to be sent to the most needful place in the Nigerian missions. I am sure we can't realize what those dear people have gone through.

Saints, no matter how dark things may look, how impossible it may seem, for our loved ones to be saved, or healed, there is nothing too small or too big for God to work out. My faith is great in God for all things.

Do keep praying for me and my unsaved family. I am doing the same for God's children everywhere.

With Christian love to all, —Hazel Savage

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La.—Dear Workers at the Print Shop and to all the Christian people: I surely do enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory" and the "Mission Trail" papers. It makes me feel good to know there are still praying people who are living for God in this sinful world. I mean to live as close to my Lord as I can and be where He will hear and answer my prayers as long as He sees fit to leave me here. I enjoy living for God. I am glad to know when I go to sleep He is watching over me.

It makes my heart ache to know so many people are in sin and many will be lost. Please pray for my loved ones who are in sin.

Husband and I are in need of prayer for our bodies. I have a bladder infection, also something wrong with my foot. God has reached down so many times when we needed Him so much. I am expecting help from Him again this time.

Yours in Christ Jesus, —Alex and Beulah Johnson

Testimonies and Answers To Prayer

Baja, Mexico—My beloved Brethren: By means of this letter I want to give my testimony of salvation. I lived in sin for 53 years. I was an unpardoned sinner. I used many drugs, and thus I lived until the Lord saved me, and sanctified me. Today I am living for Him.

One day my wife was very sick. I had already been told many times that she needed an operation. She was very seriously sick and we were all very sad. It was at this time that Bro. Tomas Mendoza and his wife arrived. They spoke of the love of God and they showed us all what He had done to save me from my sins. They prayed for my wife and God heard them, and my wife was healed, but I continued on in my sins and my heart was very hard. Thus passed a year, then I became very sick. The doctor gave me many shots and could not heal my sickness. I continued worse each day. Then Bro. Tomas came and spoke to me of the hardness of my heart, and made it very clear to me that I was a vile sinner, but even with all my sins God loved me and that God's Son had died for me on the cross. Then I knew that my heart was very dirty and I began to cry, and Bro. Tomas began to pray. I asked God to forgive all my sins and He forgave me, and more—He healed me at the same time. Glory to my God for His love to me! Today I live only for Him.

I ask your prayers. I want to work for my God that others like myself might give glory to Him. Pray also for my children that they might be saved, and my wife.

Your Brother that loves you with an unpretended love in Christ Jesus, who died on the cross for me and saved me,

—Antonio Aginiga

Okla.—Greetings to my dear isolated sisters and brothers in the Lord, wherever you may be: There is no such thing as spiritual isolation from the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, unless we will to live in sin. We can have sweet unbroken fellowship with the blessed Three-In-One; even though we should live in a desert place, far away from what the world calls civilized life, and even if destitute of many things, and somewhat ill in body. The Lord is there, and the sure word of promise to meet every need. And that precious command, pray one for another, encourages every weary lonely traveler to press on the upward way. The Scriptures (Luke 16:16 and Phil. 3:14) bid us all to "press on." —Little Mother Ethel K. Miles

La.—Dear Bro. Lawrence, Sister Maybelle and Sister Marie: Greetings in Jesus' dear name to you dear saints at the Print Shop. Our dear Savior has been so good to us and all His dear saints who hold their faith and trust in God, our heavenly Father and His precious Son, Jesus Christ. May God help us in these last days to hold faith and obedience like dear faithful Abraham of the Old Testament.

I was very pleasantly surprised at hearing from you with a birthday greeting. . . . Thank you . . . We also appreciate and love all of God's dear saints here in southern Louisiana and elsewhere. God is blessing His people

and we do thank God for the testimonies of answered prayers and of those progressing spiritually here and wherever His people are.

God was good to Wife and me when visiting our son Donald and his wife in California. We appreciated all the prayers of the saints when I was down in the valley of the shadow of death while there in early December. God was merciful to me to extend life a while longer or I don't believe I would be here today. Pray that I keep humble, low down at Jesus' feet, consecrated and doing God's will at any cost.

We love our dear Lord and His truth that is gathering all of His children together in the one fold, the beautiful, one and only Church of God, the Bride of Christ. . . .

We love you and the workers at the Print Shop, and may God continue to bless and guide you with His divine wisdom. Bro. Lawrence, we pray God will completely heal you to His glory. . . .

Your Bro. in the One Body, —Herbert Probst

Okla.—Sister Miles and Saints: Greetings. I love the Lord with all my heart and I am more determined than ever to live for Him. I have been saved for over twenty-four years and the Lord has been my Healer and Keeper. I fully trust the Lord without medical aid. The Lord healed me of a tumor which at times caused such sickness that it seemed death was near. In 1957 He completely healed me of the tumor.

On January 2 of this year, during the time of ice and snow, I slipped and fell on some cement steps and broke my limb just below my ankle. This was very painful. After prayer the Lord took the severe pain away. The faithful saints here were by my side with their prayers and help. The doctor put a cast on, but he did not mention medicine, as he knew our faith. By the help of the Lord and the prayers of the saints, I didn't lose one night's sleep. I can say as the song says, "I feel like traveling on down the gospel road, Jesus walks beside me and carries my heaviest load."

I want to thank all the saints for their prayers, cards, love tokens, also the good singing of the Tulsa saints. The Lord has healed me; there is only some soreness in my limb.

—Sister Laura Warren

Georgia: Greetings to the saints at the Print Shop and everywhere: I am so thankful to let you know that I am again in McRae, Ga. I left here five years ago and went to Bakersfield, Calif. I had been very ill out there. I suffered a heart attack, but the good Lord healed me through the prayers of the saints, together with my faith. Praise His dear name!

I thank you for your prayers in the deliverance of my grandson from the mental hospital. Now he is as normal as any other young man. Praise the Lord! What a mighty God we serve!

I mean to go right on until the crown is won. I mean to fight the fight of faith until life on earth is done, then go Home and live with the Lord in eternity.

—Sister E. B. McNair

Ohio—Dear Sister Anna Marie, we greet you in Jesus' dear name and trust all is well there with you dear saints:

We thank the Lord that all is well here with our family. God is still manifesting His love to us by expression of His kind healing hand. Our daughter Margie called from Dayton, Ohio, where she works and lives through the week, and said something had happened to her toe. She had no knowledge of when or how the cut

place had happened to her toe. The toe became infected and a red streak moved from the toe on up onto her ankle. We brought her home and prayed to God for mercy to check the red streak and heal her toe. The next morning after we had prayed that night the red streak had faded away. We gave in a prayer request for the saints to pray for the Lord to clear up the trouble and heal the toe. Our gracious Lord did just that. How our hearts are encouraged to trust and serve Him!

The greatest wealth I know is the experience of Christ reigning in the human heart. No thrill can compare to the victories we experience as we journey with the Lord. I am looking forward to that crown laid up for the faithful at the end of the way.

Once again we want to ask you to please send a shipment of song books to the Island people in Roatan, Honduras. They are a people who dearly love to praise God in song and we do want to see them have song books. . . . This time we will order 50 books, for which remittance is enclosed.

Much love, —The Sallee Family

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La.—Dear Ones everywhere: Praise to the Lord for amazing grace for years past, but especially for the past month of severe suffering. I have improved the last few days, so maybe God has something yet for me to do, even though I wanted to go and several times I was almost just at heaven's door. I still can't turn or get up without help. My palsy is very hard, but I am depending on God to give the needed grace.

I want to thank everyone who has been so gracious to give their help for my care, and for the offerings and cards.

Pray for God to hold Wife up. She has arthritis in her feet very bad. Also pray for others physically that are helping me.

Pray very earnestly for my complete healing.

Yours in Christ, Bro. E. B. Pinkerton
102 White St., Hammond, La. 70401

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Mich.—Dear Sis. Marie and Bro. Lawrence: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. We are still in the strait and narrow way, and though at times we grow weary we mean to press right on to that heavenly goal.

The Lord has been blessing us every day. Our son who had trouble breathing at night is much better, but not completely healed. We believe it is caused from enlarged tonsils and adenoids. He had a pre-school physical examination and a hearing test. He didn't pass the hearing test. The doctor said it was because of his tonsils and that he needed an operation. They sent a health nurse out to try to talk us into it, but we put our trust in the Lord. When they gave him a hearing test later in school, he passed it. We believe the Lord improved his hearing even if his tonsils are still enlarged. Praise His holy name! We are trusting the Lord will heal that in time, too.

Remember Sister Elsie Aungst of Mt. Pleasant, Mich., in prayer. She is all crippled up with arthritis and in pain most of the time.

Enclosed is an offering to use in the Lord's work wherever it is needed. Pray for us as we pray for you.

—Bro. and Sis. Milford Parsons

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N. Carolina.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I am writing because I promised I would send in my testimony so that the Lord would get the glory that He so rightly deserves for healing my body. I had heard of divine healing and believed in it,

but I had never seen it for myself. Thanks be to God, I am now a witness. One night about two weeks ago I became very ill. I had had the flu about two days. I was so hot with fever that I felt like I was in an oven. My face felt like it was getting bigger and bigger and so did my chest. I got up and told my husband I could not stand any more. I became afraid I would not live until morning. I was very distressed as I thought about my dear husband and our six little children trying to go on without me. He asked me if I wanted prayer, and I said, yes. We got down on our knees and prayed for God to heal my body. I don't know how long we stayed there, but I could feel the fever leaving my body and I told my husband. He touched me and said I was cooler. I hope this experience will help those who doubt that God can heal all our sickness. Praise His sweet name!

I want you and all the saints to pray that my family and I will always serve Him all the rest of our days, and that we might help others find Him, also.

Your Sister in Christ, —Sister Genevieve Lattahall

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Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and Saints: I am saved and very much encouraged to live for the Lord. I am in the Fresno, Calif., congregation and Bro. E. J. Trotter is my pastor.

I would like to testify of a great healing the Lord performed on my body. I feel it might help someone else.

In 1964, while employed by the S. P. Railroad Co., I ruptured myself. I don't know when or how. Later several men were laid off and I was one of them. Some months later they called me back to work and I had to have a complete physical examination and the doctor discovered the rupture and would not let me go back to work until I had this taken care of by an operation. This I would not do because I knew God could heal me. The rupture kept getting worse, and so large that my clothes could not hide it. The condition got so bad I could not sit comfortably. I felt the Lord had to help me. I talked to my pastor about this condition and he anointed and prayed for me. He had anointed and prayed for me before, but my faith didn't take it in. The next day or so my body was as normal as before the rupture. Praise the Lord! I claimed my healing and meant to hold fast to it, expecting a fight from the devil. The test came, and I mean I have never been tested so severely. But oh, the great blessing and experience I received from it! Dear saints, all the gold in the world would not compare with what I received from this trial of faith. I surely praise the Lord for it all.

After I claimed healing, I testified to it and the condition came right back within hours. I held firmly to my healing and the victory was mine. My body was normal for about three weeks. I testified in young people's meeting to my healing and the devil really got angry. My condition got so bad that I had to go to bed. I called the pastor for prayer. The Lord blessed. The size went down some to where I could walk. I was determined to hold on to my healing. After getting out of bed the pain was severe for a week. I mean I was hurting every hour I was awake. My condition had at no time ever been this bad until I claimed healing. This encouraged my heart because that is the way the devil does when he is contesting your faith. I never doubted my healing after I claimed it. Today, March 21, 1970, I am well and healthy.

I don't believe I could have made it without the saints' prayers. I surely thank the saints here, and especially my pastor, for their prayers. I give all the praise and honor for my healing to the Lord. —Charles R. Parrish

La.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: We send greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to you and all the dear ones there at the Office. We trust this letter finds all of you well in body and happy in the Lord.

We are glad that we can report victory in our soul over Satan and all his opposing power; while standing firm in the Lord Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, in Whom we can be more than conquerors over all sin. We are determined, by the grace of God, to make heaven our home, and have settled it within our heart to go all the way with our Lord, no matter what the cost might be.

We count it a privilege to serve the Lord and put our faith and trust in Him, and have found Him a very present help in time of need. We can say as the Apostle Paul said in 2 Tim. 1:12, "For I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day," and also as in Acts 17:28, "For in Him we live, and move, and have our being." We find the blessings of the Lord rich and abundant, and are beyond "that which we are able to ask or think."

We want to testify to the healing power of God. About a month ago our baby girl, Cheryl, took what we thought to be the flu. She was real sick; and at times, especially two nights, so congested in her chest, throat, and nose, that she could hardly breathe at all. This one particular night, as I held her up on my shoulder, it seemed that each breath would be her last. It seemed that we prayed down each breath she took for a while. All the while the devil was painting dark pictures to us, but we resisted him in the name of the Lord and were able to commit our baby into God's hands for Him to have His way. As we prayed, it seemed that the glory of the Lord flooded our soul, and we received the assurance that she would be healed. She was soon able to breathe easy enough to sleep, and from that time began to improve, except for a strangling spell which she had on the Wednesday afternoon after we had returned from Sister Maggie Freeman's funeral. Some of the saints had stopped by to visit with us at that time, and we anointed her and prayed that the Lord would completely heal her; which He did. Thank the Lord! We are serving a God that is the same TODAY as He has always been, and will continue to be THE SAME until the end of time.

We appreciated the Lord sending Bro. Murphy Allen to be with us in a few nights' meeting the latter part of March. We had been looking to the Lord to send the minister of His choosing with the right messages for a meeting, and He answered prayer. We do appreciate the truth of God's Word and His true ministers who preach the gospel and live the gospel. The meeting was a blessing to the little congregation here at Kentwood, La., and those who came to be with us from Hammond and Loranger.

May the Lord bless you all in both soul and body, and the work you are doing in His service.

Yours in Christ, —Bob and Dorall Forbes

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Calif.—To the dear Saints everywhere: I would like to take this opportunity to testify to God's saving grace. Truly it was a miracle in my case. Perhaps some of you will remember me. My name is Robert L. Jones and I am originally from Akron, Ohio. I was saved in 1955, and a few years after that I felt the call to preach the Word. God blessed my labors and some were saved, some were healed, and some were sanctified, but I grew careless and stopped watching and praying as the Bible instructs us to, and allowed the oil of salvation to leak out of my

soul. Instead of playing the hypocrite, I went out into open sin, thus bringing a reproach upon God and His church, for which I have asked God's forgiveness and now ask the saints' forgiveness.

I tried several times in the ensuing years to get saved again and hold an experience, but I couldn't seem to hold it. It took the death of my mother and father, two sisters and a brother before I could be willing to cut everything loose and hit the rock. Sometimes it takes the deaths of loved ones before we can see our lost and undone condition and be willing to take any kind of treatment or fare to get into God's heaven.

I am very thankful for God's mercy extended unto me. I cannot account for it. I was honest and sincere in every attempt to get back and perhaps God honored that sincerity and gave me another chance. I have decided that I am going to make it into heaven if I have to be beaten, mistreated, abused, reviled, or whatever else it will take to get rid of all traits about me that God cannot use.

I thank God for the godly parents with whom I was blessed. Oh, how important it is for parents to rear their children in the fear of God! The Bible is certainly true when it says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." I have children of my own now, some of them teenagers, and those years when they were impressionable I was unsaved and I asked them and God to forgive me for failing them as a parent. By the help and grace of God with the little time I have left, I will give them the necessary training for a foundation for them when they become adults and are on their own.

I desire the prayers of all of you as my companion is unsaved and things are not always pleasant in the home. Pray much for her and my children for their salvation, and for me that I may be an example to them every day of my life. —Robert L. Jones

GOD'S PROMISE

(Continued from Page Three)

thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." Gen. 12:2, 3. In Isaac, who was born according to promise of God unto Abraham and Sarah who were both past the normal time of life for bearing children, was his seed called who would bless the earth. Thus we see that the means of obtaining this blessing was through no power or virtue of Abraham, but according to the promise and the quickening power of God. Abraham was blessed of God, not for what he was of himself, but because he believed the promise of God. "And Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." Genesis 15:6.

In connection with this, it would be good to note the fact that the land of Canaan was promised of God to Abraham and to his seed. "And He [God] gave him none inheritance in it, no not so much as to set his foot on: yet He promised that He would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child." Acts 7:5. "By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles [tents] with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: for he looked

for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Although Abraham all his lifetime was not permitted to possess the land of Canaan, yet it was his by promise, and by his faith in that promise the land truly belonged to him. But we will see that the fulfillment of the promise to Abraham was to mean much more than just literal possession of the land of Canaan.

"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ." Here we have the term "seed" applied directly to Jesus Christ. "And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise." Four hundred and thirty years after the promise was made of Christ as being the Blessor of the ends of the earth, God bestowed upon Israel His statutes and judgments. This law was not given to justify, but on the contrary, it was given to reveal the sin in their lives. The promise was already given and the covenant already confirmed. "Wherefore then serveth the Law?" Why did God give the law? "It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it [the law] was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator [a go-between]. Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is One." A mediator is usually a means of uniting two things, but this mediator [the Law of Moses] united God in Abraham and God in Christ. Although God was deeply concerned with the nature of sin that was in man's heart, yet He wanted to establish the fact that redemption is of His mercy and grace rather than man's ability to live up to His laws. Gal. 3:16-20.

This promise that God gave to Abraham to which was added the Law given by Moses was completely fulfilled by means of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead. Let us now get the connection as to what this promise means to us today. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." Gal. 3:15, 16. Here we see the receiving of the Holy Spirit being labeled as the blessing of Abraham. In speaking of the Spirit, Jesus said to His disciples: "Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you." Luke 24:49. Peter told the multitudes to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and "ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Acts 2:38, 39. Paul spoke of the Ephesians, after believing, to have been sealed with "that Holy Spirit of promise." Thus we see that the receiving of the Holy Spirit by the regenerated in Christ has much to do with the promise given through Abraham. This is truly evident, for it was the death, burial and resur-

rection of Jesus Christ, and His ascension to the right hand of God that purchased for us this blessing. The Holy Ghost was not given until Christ was glorified. See John 7:39. The Holy Spirit was termed in Paul's writing as the "earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory." Eph. 1:13, 14. The word "earnest" here means pledge or token. Thus the Holy Spirit in one's life is an assurance and source of hope of the real inheritance which will be received in the last day, the day of the resurrection of the dead. "For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God." "Ourselves also which have the first fruits of the Spirit, . . . groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." Romans 8:19-23. The Spirit-filled life is the only passport to being resurrected from the dead unto eternal life. "If the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you." Rom. 8:11. "Christ in us, the hope of the glory" is the mystery of the gospel. Col. 1:27. "To be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith" was the prayer of Paul. Eph. 3:16, 17.

We have not yet reached the full extent of the promise. "And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life." 1 John 2:25. "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Pet. 3:13. "For unto angels hath He not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak." Heb. 2:5. Unto Christ hath been given the subjection and rule of the world to come. "Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." Psalm 2:8. Christ will not inherit this present earth, but that which is to come. We who follow Him and receive the promise of the Spirit will share with Him that blessed eternal state. We cannot fully tell or explain just how it will all be, but we know that we shall live forever with Christ in a world "wherein dwelleth righteousness." "For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith." Rom. 4:13. The promise of God to Abraham that he should inherit the land of Canaan was not restricted to the literal boundaries of the land of Palestine. The fulfillment of this promise extends throughout all the ages of time even unto the resurrection of the dead. This is the only way that Abraham could inherit the promise. He was not allowed to literally possess the land, but the substance of it was the promise. And this promise is now applied by the New Testament writers to Christ and His eternal inheritance in the saints.

When Moses sought to take the children of Israel into Canaan they were turned back because of their unbelief. The children of Israel even under Joshua were not able to possess Canaan as God really wanted them to. Their existence in the promised land became one sad tale of woe and dishonor to God. In the writ-

ings of David the Holy Ghost made another great appeal to the people, urging them to hear the voice of God and harden not their hearts as they did under Moses. The writer of the book of Hebrews used this to illustrate the thought that God was pointing them to a rest and an inheritance beyond Canaan, that of spiritual life and grace in Christ Jesus. "Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, Today, after so long a time; as it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus [this refers only to Joshua, whose name is synonymous with Jesus, that is, the name Jesus and Joshua are from the same Hebrew word] had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God." Heb. 4:7-9. God spoke of Canaan as His rest. In connection with this term rest, the writer in this 4th chapter of Hebrews mentions the sabbath rest. Since he mentions two different rests, we must know that he is really referring to the New Testament rest which is to us ceasing from our own works and letting God work in us through His Spirit. And this all is the substance of the promise of eternal life. Oh, how blessed to be the children of the promise, and receive through faith forgiveness of sins, sanctification of the Spirit, and the hope of eternal glory with Christ in the world to come!

In conclusion, let us notice what Peter said in one of our first texts: "Unto you first God, having raised up His Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one from his iniquities." The promised blessing was that of being turned from one's sins to serve the living God. Without being turned from transgression and iniquity, we cannot hope to win the promise of eternal life. But it is part of the promise that God has made to save us from all sin. "There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: for this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins." Rom. 11:26, 27. "I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more." Heb. 10:16, 17. And, as Zecharias spake at the birth of John: "To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember His holy covenant; the oath which He sware to our father Abraham, that He would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him, all the days of our life." Luke 1:68-75. —Leslie Busbee

May We Assist?

Today as we look about us and see our country torn and disrupted by riots and strikes, we understand that what we are seeing and hearing is but a manifestation of carnality—the unconverted human nature trying to take care of itself without help from our all-wise Creator.

We, as Christians, are concerned about this utter disregard of the laws of God. We understand that these things were prophesied for our time in the

Holy Scriptures, but how to deal with them from a practical standpoint is something on which many of us may desire guidance as we go about our schooling or employment. It is likely that some of us will be pressured to participate in some of these events by fellow employees or classmates. Usually they were made to sound like harmless displays of dissent, and argued that this is an American heritage, the freedom of speech, etc. They claim that you will be letting down your fellow-man if you do not help him to improve his lot. Sorrowfully, we hear of many professed Christians and even ministers of some groups taking part in these demonstrations and marches.

Now what should concern us most is whether or not this is permissible in the eyes of God for us to take part here. We know that to please Him is life, and to violate His commandments is death and eternal punishment. The only place to discern His will on this matter is the instruction book which He has given us—the Holy Bible.

Let us examine and consider some of the applicable Scriptures: Luke 3:14, "... do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely, and be content with your wages." 1 Tim. 6:8, "And having food and raiment, let us be therewith content." Col. 3:22, 23, "Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing God. And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as to the Lord and not unto men." Col. 4:1, "Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a master in heaven." Read also Matt. 6:24-34 and Heb. 13:5. It is an easy matter to conclude from these and many other Scriptures that a Christian must not take part in any of these demonstrations no matter how much they may appear to be in the public interest. It is not God's way of doing things.

There is going on now within a few miles of my home, what started as a peaceful picket line, but has turned into a display of shooting, burning and destruction of each other's property. We see how easy it is for the devil to lead a person rapidly deeper and deeper into sin when once he gets them to commit a small one and thereby gains a hold on them. Certainly we need to resist the devil and flee the lusts of the flesh which war against the soul.

This does not mean that we cannot desire better conditions, but there is a right way and a wrong way to do things. The right way to accomplish our desires is primarily through earnest prayer to Him who controls the universe. I know I have obtained many things this way, and our Father is no respecter of persons. What He does for one He will do for another if we meet the conditions and He sees that what we desire would be good for us. Jesus has promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us. Let us lift up our eyes and trust in Him for our needs and not in what man hopes to bring about by argument or violence. —J. F. Broker