

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

## Church of God Servant



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Guthrie, Oklahoma

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### *The Judgment*

Before the judgment seat of Christ  
We must all appear,  
And each receive a just reward  
For the life that we've lived here.

No matter how wise some folks may be,  
Nor yet how they may try;  
This is a divine appointment of God  
That no soul can get by.

God will bring all our works into judgment,  
Every secret, whether evil or good;  
And we will not get by God's all-seeing eye  
If our works haven't been as they should.

So when we stand to be judged of the Lord,  
If our works have been evil, dear friend,  
Eternal destruction in the lake of fire  
Will be the reward for sin.

But if our works have been holy and pure,  
When we stand to be judged of the Lord,  
A crown of life in heaven above  
Will be our great reward.

—Charles E. Taylor

### *Christ Is Coming Again As Judge*

The Scriptures tell us that God made all things, that He created man in His own image, male and female created He them, and God blessed them, and said unto them, be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth. God gave man dominion over the fish of the sea, over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth, and every tree yielding fruit and every green herb for meat, to man it was given. But there was one tree in the garden, God held in reserve; and the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat; but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of

it. For in the day thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die."

Man was really in a paradise, with everything necessary to make one happy, and of good health. But we find that through the subtlety of the serpent, Mother Eve, Adam's wife, yielded to the enchantment of the enemy, ate of the forbidden fruit, gave to her husband, and he did eat. They both died a spiritual death; afraid, fearful, banished from the garden, and placed under the curse of toil, sweat, and labor. The serpent was cursed above all cattle and God put enmity between the serpent and the seed of the woman. "It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Here we find the promise of Jesus, the Redeemer. 1 Tim. 2:13, "For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression."

The Scriptures teach us that "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, baptized in the river Jordan, by John the Baptist, preached the gospel of repentance, and came with healing in His wings. Matthew 4:23-25, "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of disease, and all manner of sickness among the people. And his fame went through out all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them. And there followed great multitudes of people from Galilee and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from beyond Jordan." Many believed on Him when they saw the miracles He did. But some went and told the Pharisees. The chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take Him by craftiness and put Him to death. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not, but to as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God." He was despised and rejected of men. He

reproved the world of sin. Therefore, He was hated and betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Jesus knew the chief priests and the Pharisees were intending to take His life. He told His disciples, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Ye believe in God, believe also in me. . . . I go to prepare a place for you. I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Jesus foreknew His death and suffering. Matt. 26:31, 32, "Then saith Jesus unto them, all ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee."

Matt. 27:1, 2, "When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: and when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate, the governor." Verse eleven, "And Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest." Verse 19, "When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him." When the chief priests persuaded the crowd to ask that Barabbas be released and Jesus be crucified, Pilate asked, "Why, what evil hath he done?" Seeing he could prevail nothing, he washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just person." John 18:28, "I find in him no fault at all." John 19:4, "I bring him forth to you that ye may know, that I find no fault in him." Pilate released Barabbas, and delivered Jesus to be crucified. He was scourged, thorn-crowned, spit upon, slapped in the face, mocked and led away to be crucified. He died between two thieves. He suffered there on the cross. 1 Peter 3:18, "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit."

His death was an atonement for our sin. Jesus told the penitent thief on the cross in answer to his request, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom, 'Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.'" Christ died to save sinners. On the cross He cried, "It is finished." He bowed His head, gave up the ghost, and died. To make sure He was dead, one of the Roman soldiers pierced His side with a spear. Out came blood and water. The fountain of life was opened. Christ's body was taken from the cross and wrapped in fine linen cloth. He was buried in another man's tomb. The third day, He arose from the dead, as He had said. He walked around on this earth among His disciples forty days after His resurrection, speaking of things pertaining to the kingdom of God, and renewed to them the promise of the Holy Ghost, after which they had received, they would have power to witness for Him throughout Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the

utmost parts of the earth. After He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven, two men stood by them in white apparel, which said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

Dear reader, just as the prophecies have been fulfilled pertaining to His first advent in the world, just so will His second coming be accordingly. He is coming back again. The Bible teaches us in 1 Cor. 15:20, "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept; for since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead." Matt. 27:52 also tells us that after Christ's resurrection, "And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many." Paul, to the Thessalonians (1 Thess. 4:14), wrote: "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord, shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, comfort one another with these words." 2 Peter 3:10 says, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, and the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God, Wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot and blameless." **Jesus is coming again! Are you ready?** —Ulysses Phillips

(Bro. Ulysses Phillips of San Bernardino, Calif. observed his 85th birthday on Feb. 6, 1972. We wish him many more years in the service of the Lord. —Editor).

"Water baptism is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. But we may have the outward sign without the inward grace."

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## The Value of Sanctification

"Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." Acts 1:8.

Sanctification is the crowning work in the plan and the experience of salvation; it completes and perfects the graces begun in justification, by the removal of native depravity and by the bestowal of divine power.

That man was originally pure, we have learned from the Scriptures. Redemption in its highest sense means the restoration of moral purity. Thus, sanctification restores to us that valuable treasure, moral perfection, lost through the sin of our foreparents. Sanctification brings us back morally to Eden and makes us to partake of the tree of eternal life, for Christ brought life and immortality to light through the gospel (2 Tim. 1:10).

Sanctification not only frees us from the innate depravity of the race, but also endows us with divine power. Jesus said to His disciples, "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." Who of us has not, while in the justified experience, felt the need of this endowment with power? It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that we can truly succeed in our struggle against sin and in our service to God. Loss of Eden and of the divine image robbed man of moral power and enslaved him to sin. Salvation releases man from bondage, restores the divine image, and endows him with power from on high. This power of the Holy Spirit not only imparts the power to live holy, but inspires us in preaching the gospel of deliverance to others. "Unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven." (1 Pet. 1:12).

In addition to purifying us from depravity and imparting to us divine power, the experience of sanctification brings us into possession of the Holy Spirit, who is our divine Guide. "The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26). "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of Truth is come, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13).

In neglecting the doctrine and experience of sanctification, some pastors have failed to bring their members to an established experience of purity, power, and divine guidance. The question has been asked by the earnest inquirer and urged by the observant critic, Why do so many persons make a failure of the Christian life? The answer to this question is not far to seek. The justified believer is very often not led on to the state of perfection in sanctification. After the first glow of conversion has been dimmed by trials and temptations, very often the newly converted, tempted by Satan as well as by the world, and impelled by his own depravity, falls back into the sinful life. The deeper consecration in the sanctified life, the purity of heart and the endowment with power belonging to that experi-

ence, are the seal and preservation of a Christian experience, the crown and glory of redemption.

—D. O. Teasley

## Tunnels on God's Railroad

In Italy, there is a range of mountains called the Apennines. In this area, there are numerous industrial factories which causes much travel. In the Apennines, there is a great railroad. This railroad passes through forty-three tunnels in less than seventy miles. Why are there tunnels? The tunnels were built to take the traveler to his destination by the shortest and safest way. The tunnels are not very enjoyable, yet in a range of mountains there are many beautiful scenes. The sunbeams playing upon the rocks bring out such beautiful colors. The shadows, made by the lovely pines, lying far out upon the shrub, being interlaced with wild flowers, touches something deep within a person. The blue sky above, the birds singing their notes of praise to their Maker, bring a peace and joy that comforts one's heart. Just as you are rejoicing in such a lovely view, then you pass into another tunnel. The sunlight is shut off and the view is darkened to only bleak walls. You look at what is in the coach. There is the conductor and other fellow-travelers. You long for another beautiful view.

How much this is like our Christian life in this world. Doesn't God lead us through tunnels? Sometimes they are long ones, and other times, they are short tunnels. We like the times when we can bask in the sunlight and enjoy the glorious view and the fresh air of the mountains, but God sees that the tunnels are necessary. In the tunnel, we learn to appreciate the blessings of the sunlight. In the tunnel we, by faith, look forward to the end of it, knowing that on God's railroad we are sure to come out safely. God is the Engineer. He is One who will never fail us. He will bring us safely through. Christ is the Conductor and He is ever near to see to our comfort. He has many instructions to give to us. He can answer our questions. He can lift the disappointment and give us power to rebuke depression of mind. While in the tunnels of trouble, we find that we are leaning upon Jesus in a greater measure. When He comforts us, we see our love deepen and grow for Him. We pray to Him more; we praise Him more.

In the Apennines, the railroad stops at a station. If the traveler decided to get off and strike out through the mountains to find other paths because he didn't like the tunnels, he would almost be sure to get lost and starve to death. That is what would happen to us if we decided to get off the heavenly railroad because we did not like the tunnels through which God takes us. We would be sure to be lost in eternity's night and damnation. There is no safer way to go in this life than God's way.

(Continued on Page Six)

**"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.

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

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

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

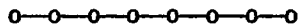
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**EDITORIALS**

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



This monthly gospel paper is going into many homes in this country as well as foreign nations. More than 14,000 copies of this issue will be printed, and we pray that the Holy Spirit will accompany every "white-winged" messenger and impress the Bible truth upon the mind and heart of every reader. Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Thank God for the precious freedom from sin and condemnation that we have found in believing and obeying the truth. My sinner friend, our God is no respecter of persons, and He has the same experience for you. Won't you hear and heed the Saviour's gracious invitation?



"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us" is the inscription on another "Ebenezer" stone which we have set up to designate the completion of another year in the publication of the old-time Bible truth. This March issue of the "Faith and Victory" paper marks the beginning of the 50th year of publication. The first issue, dated March, 1923, was published under very meager and humble circumstances at 611 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla., which is in the same block where the Church of God chapel is now located. With the blessings of the Lord in miraculous ways, this gospel publishing operation was moved in 1926 to a new building in its present location at 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, where it has continued and expanded over the years in the production of urgently-needed gospel literature. Now, as always, this periodical stands committed to the vital Bible truths which brought forth this "evening light" restoration movement of the Church of God in fulfillment of Bible prophecy—those same truths which were taught and practiced prior to the "landslide apostasy" of 1910-1917. As servants of the Church of God, contending "for the faith once delivered to the saints," the publishers and this literature ministry have met and weathered many spiritual storms by the help and

grace of God. More difficulties and obstacles are expected in the future, but our faith is still anchored in the Captain of our salvation who is not limited nor restricted by circumstances. The Apostle John affirms: "... this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." The publishers and co-workers pause in retrospect to thank the Lord for the manifold blessings of the past years, and now face the future with confidence in the never-failing promises of God.

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

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We are grateful for the help rendered to the Lord in His Printshop by Bros. George Hammond and Tom Melot. They are adapting very well to the work, and may God reward them richly in temporal and spiritual blessings.

Since Sister Janice Allen has returned to her home in Missouri, the vacancy needs to be filled with an unencumbered young lady, or older sister, who can use the typewriter and work in the mailing department. Pray about this urgent need, and anyone burdened of the Lord to fill it may write us.

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In stock at this office are more than 350 different titles of gospel tracts to be sent free in limited quantities for careful and prayerful free distribution. Where prices are quoted, they are at cost or below. Write for a FREE 4-ounce sample to read and pass on, or enclose in your letters. One gospel tract may result in the salvation of many precious souls.

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Sisters Opal Kelly and Carrie Sheppard have been laboring together at the mission station in Ojos Negros, Mexico. About mid-January, Sister Sheppard was called home to Baton Rouge, La. to care

for her sister. Sister Kelly came with her as far as San Antonio, Texas; then on to Okla. City by bus. She was at the office and in this area about two weeks, and arrived back at Ojos Negros, Mexico, on Feb. 8. Since she returned to her station, she has requested special prayer for some unspoken requests.

Sister Edith Cole, whose mission station is at Patzcuaro, Mexico, has been home with her parents in Missouri for some time, and had repair work done on her pickup truck. On Feb. 8 she left Missouri, driving back to Patzcuaro, and arrived safely and without trouble on Feb. 11, for which we thank the Lord. Pray for the mission work and workers in Mexico and around the world.

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The paper-bound, 160-page book entitled, "The Sabbath and the Lord's Day" by H. M. Riggle, has just been reprinted and is in stock again. Price, 60¢ each, or two for \$1.00, postpaid.

Just recently off the press in a limited edition is a reprint of the excellent book, "The Christian Church: Its Rise and Progress" by H. M. Riggle. It contains 488 pages in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$4.00 each, postpaid. Order your copy TODAY!

Write for a price list of other choice books, many of which were written by the pioneer ministers of the Reformation. More of these old out-of-print books of vital truth will be reprinted as the Lord provides time, means and printers. Watch for the publication dates of other reprints in future issues of this paper.

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Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Sister J. I. Rambo of Indiana whose husband passed away on Jan. 20, 1972. May the Lord comfort her and her children in this time of sorrow.

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About the year of 1880 A. D. Bro. D. S. Warner and a few other ministers received a revelation of the true Church of God separate and distinct from all sect confusion. Accordingly, they stepped out and declared themselves free from all the creeds of men. These reformers were bound together in the one Body of Christ by the love of God which was sufficient. Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit they began to restore to the Church those Bible principles and truths which were lost during the "dark and cloudy days" of Catholicism and Protestantism. They taught two works of grace—justification and sanctification, and the preaching of the Word was confirmed with signs following. Miracles were performed, devils were cast out, and the sick were healed by the prayer of faith. Multitudes dedicated their lives and possessions to carry this "evening light" truth, and the pure gospel spread rapidly over the United States and into several foreign countries.

During the thirty years from 1880 to 1910 the ministers of the Church of God exposed the evils of sectarian systems with the call to God's people to come out. Among many other truths, they taught against God-called men and women attending semi-

naires to learn to preach, against a salaried ministry, against the use of honorary titles as Rev., D. D., etc., against the use of musical instruments in the worship of God, against the use of tobacco, tea and coffee, against worldliness in dress, such as the necktie and all articles of dress worn for adornment, jewelry and make-up, against shows, fairs, ball games and all worldly entertainments, against the use of medicine, and against divorce and re-marriage.

The saints of the Church of God still teach against all these detrimental practices, not only from the negative side but also from the positive Bible standpoint, setting forth the holy life we must live and the strict account we must give in that last great day. The question then is, Who has left the reformation? Is it not all those so-called Church of God groups who have repudiated or departed from any of these Bible truths? Would the pioneer ministers be welcome to preach these truths in the congregation where you attend? We appeal to all honest saints, all who love the old-time truths of this reformation, to join us in endeavoring to preserve the simplicity and purity of this glorious reform.

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

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In mid-February, Bro. and Sister Sam Abbott of Dayton, Ohio, were holding a meeting at Hammond, La. Reports tell of good messages of truth going forth for the edification of the church.

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Bro. Curtis Williams is in Tucson, Ariz. A letter from him today (Feb. 19) informs us that he is doing much better physically, and busy working for the Lord, passing out much gospel literature in personal contacts. He hopes, if possible, to get a meeting started. Let us continue to pray for Bro. Williams that his labors there will be effectual, and that the Lord will heal him completely of the lung trouble so he can be out again full time in the evangelistic work. Anyone in that area may contact him at 3404E N. Romero Street, Tucson, Ariz. 85705.

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This writer, your servant, is still holding on to the promise, "With His stripes we are healed," regardless of sight or feelings. Up to the present the Lord has enabled me to work long hours (10 to 12

each day) in the office and shop to help keep up the essential work. Your continued prayers and co-operation in the cause of Christ are certainly appreciated.

—Lawrence D. Pruitt

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## TUNNELS ON GOD'S RAILROAD

(Continued from Page Three)

Tunnels are necessary for us. The Bible says, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, [a tunnel] ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ; Whom having not seen, ye love . . . believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable." 1 Peter 1:6-8. The beauties of what you see and enjoy when you come out of the tunnels are very precious. Tunnels make those beauties greater. Be encouraged, dear fellow-traveler, some day this train will pull into that heavenly station and we will be welcomed by the angels in heaven. There will not be tunnels in heaven. We will enjoy the beauties there forever more. At that time, we will be glad we stayed on the gospel train, received and obeyed the instructions from the Conductor, Jesus Christ.

Notice that there were 43 tunnels in less than 70 miles. The Bible says, "The days of our years are threescore years and ten: and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off and we fly away. . . . So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Psalms 90:10, 12. In comparing this to our life which could be 70 years, then 43 tunnels would not be too many. Remember, Jesus will be with us in the long tunnels and the short tunnels. So let us number our days and ask God for wisdom to live an acceptable life before Him and help us to be ready to meet Him.

—Sis. Marie Miles

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## OBITUARY



Bro. J. N. Davis was born Sept. 11, 1880 in Louisiana, and departed this life on Dec. 24, 1971 at Covington, La. at the age of 91 years, three months and thirteen days.

Bro. Davis' last testimony was, "I want to go and be with my blessed Lord." He also said he was just waiting for that time.

He leaves six daughters: Louise Davis, Mrs. Mildred Toney, Mrs. Catherine Keen, Mrs. Daisy Ullrech, all of Covington, La., Mrs. Ursula Adams, Baton Rouge, La., and Miss Helen Davis, Washington, D. C.; nine grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren.

The funeral services were conducted in the Brown Funeral Home chapel at Covington, La. by Bro. M. F. Williamson. A group of young saints from Hammond, La. sang the funeral hymns. Interment was in the Pilgrim Rest Cemetery about ten miles out from town.

## Campmeeting Dates for 1972

Following are the Church of God campmeeting dates for 1972, and more complete announcements of each will appear in later issues:—

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, Okla.—May 26 to June 4.

Holly Hill, South Carolina—June 2 to 11.

General Southern at Hammond, La.—June 23 to July 2, 1972.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 30 to July 9.

Akron, Ohio—July 7 to 16.

National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri—July 21 to 30.

Missouri State at Myrtle, Mo.—Aug. 4 to 13.

Bakersfield, Calif.—August 4 to 13.

Boley, Oklahoma—August 11 to 20.

California State at Pacolma, Calif.—August 25 to September 3.

Fresno, California—September 8 to 17.

Oakland, California—Annual meeting to begin on June 2 and continue ten days or as long as the Lord may lead. —Sister Velma Smith, Pastor

### LOS ANGELES SPRING MEETING

Our annual Spring meeting at Los Angeles, Calif. will convene on Friday night at 7:30, March 24, and continue nightly for ten days through April 2, Easter Sunday. There will be three services on Saturday, March 25, and Friday and Saturday, March 31 and April 1, as well as three services on each Sunday.

All are welcome. The chapel is located at 1381 East Walnut Street, phone 746-9474. For further information contact Bro. Alvin Lucas, 917 West 62nd Place, phone 759-3962, or Bro. T. R. Summers, 711 West 85th Street, phone 752-1135. —By Sister Leon Phillips

### WICHITA, KANSAS SPRING MEETING

The Spring meeting in Wichita, Kansas will be held, Lord willing, March 31 to April 9, 1972.

We extend a hearty welcome to everyone, saved and unsaved, to attend these services. The chapel is located at 1701 N. Ash.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Lewis Williams at 2643 N. Spruce, Wichita, Kansas. Phone number, 264-8481.

### GOSPEL SINGING AND ALL-DAY MEETING AT BOLEY, OKLA.

Lord willing, there will be gospel singing at Boley, Okla. on Saturday night, 7:45 p. m., March 25, 1972 and all-day services on Sunday, March 26.

We extend a warm welcome to all, to attend these services. Come praying that the Lord will anoint these services and that we will receive good to our souls.

With Christian love, —Katherine Williams

## Prayer Requests



Canada—"I would appreciate prayer on my behalf for complete healing of cancer. . . . The Lord has relieved me of a lot of suffering, but I have found another growth. . . . Pray for the salvation of my loved ones."

—Mrs. Mary Jacobson

Penn.—"I was going to Miami, Fla. on the bus. At the station, I picked up a "Faith and Victory" paper. It was very good reading. Send me one year's subscription. Have someone say a prayer for me. I am seventy years old and have eczema and shortness of breath."

—G. P. Holliday

Calif.—"I do suffer quite a lot with numbness and pain in both hands and knees. But God is so good to me. He doesn't let me suffer more than I can bear. I love Him with all of my heart."

—Sis. D. LeMelle

Mo.—"I have high blood pressure and heart trouble. . . . Pray that I will lose some weight."

—Lena K. Smith

Miss.—"Pray for our son who will be sent to Korea. He is supposed to be gone 13 months. His wife and children can't go."

—Rosa Watson

N. Car.—"Our baby was born Jan. 18th and has R. H. blood type. Pray for his healing."

—Bro. and Sis. J. McDonald

Ohio—"I was asked to visit a young man in Columbus, Ohio State Penitentiary who is in death row. He is to be executed April 12, 1972. He is only 26 years old, but a criminal from age 15. He told me his life, and it was so sad. He is a handsome-looking man, only marred by sin. He said he could not pray. His heart was hardened by sin. I laid my hands on him and pleaded to God to soften his heart. I was a stranger to him. When I told him we had driven 135 miles to see him who was a stranger and that I was concerned about his soul even if he was of another race, he was then touched. He said, 'Maybe, you are right. This might be my chance to find the Lord.' He asked us to keep praying for him.

"We had a service in the Women's State Penitentiary at Marysville, Ohio. Some of the Dayton, Ohio saints met us there. We had a wonderful service. Eight were saved and there were signs of others being touched. We have much to pray for."

—Sis. Hazel Clark

Ohio—"I desire all the saints' prayers for the healing of my body. God has healed me many times. I am trusting God to meet every need that I have."

—Sis. R. Musselwhite

Miss.—"My wife and I are suffering very much from arthritis and other afflictions in our body. We ask you and all the saints to please remember us in your prayers. Also, we have some unspoken requests."

—Harold Griffin

Va.—"Young Bro. McMahan is very sick from his nerves giving way. . . . Remember him in earnest prayer."

—Wm. J. Preston

Mo.—"I've been having foot trouble and need prayer."

—Ellen Wilson

There are many to pray for. So many souls of our loved ones need prayer and those in the world who are unsaved. We are thankful for the prayer warriors. They are valuable in the promotion of God's work in the land and for the blessings needed by the sick and afflicted. Recently, I visited at the Golden Rule Home in Shawnee, Okla. Sis. Perry assured me that when they hear of anyone in need of prayer, they remember



them at the Home in their daily devotions together. How wonderful that is! It's such a comfort to the saints to know this. We do want to pray about the problems at the Home. Bro. Smith faces some changes, which the government is requiring. This will be a great cost, but God is able to supply. We thank God for a Home for our dear aged saints. Some are bed-fast, but are able to trust God for their healing as they have for years. Dear, blind Bro. Crawley sang a song which spoke words to us. It was, "I've found a refuge now from every sorrow, Joy everlasting and peace." Not only does he have a refuge for his soul in Christ, but a refuge among saints who love and care for him. He did not remember me, but when he was asked if he remembered "Fred Pruitt" (my father), he brightened up. Bro. Crawley, as many of you know, is an aged minister.

We want to continue to remember Bro. Steve Henry of Baton Rouge, La. in prayer. He is still looking to the Lord for healing. Sis. Audrey, his wife, needs comfort and strength to face this trial with him. Bro. Dale and Sis. Dora Doolittle of Hammond, La. are still looking to the Lord for complete healing. We thank God for what He has done for them. Others are in need of prayer and we receive many requests here through the mail and otherwise. We are glad we can take them to God. Jesus has said, "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint."

Remember Sis. Effie Miller of Louisiana in prayer for the healing of her ankles. Sister Florence Sisk of Enid, Oklahoma is having trouble with her nerves after having a severe sickness which the Lord healed her of. She needs prayer, and also Debbie Eck of Oklahoma City. Debbie is some better, but needs complete healing. Sis. McFarling of S. Dakota writes, "The growth on my face is increasing in size so rapidly; it threatens the sight of my one good eye. Satan is trying to accomplish this, but by the grace of God I am standing on God's promises." She is a dear child of God and needs our prayers.

—Sis. A. Marie Miles

### PLANS FOR SUMMER EVANGELISTIC TENT ITINERARY

Dear saints scattered abroad: We greet you in Jesus' dear name. We are thankful to report victory in our souls today. Truly the Lord has been gracious to us since we last came into your homes through the means of the "Faith and Victory" paper. In times of affliction He has been our Healer, in sorrow He has been our comfort. We recommend Him to every one. There is no friend like Jesus.

For some time we have felt burdened to write to the saints to encourage every one to a greater burden for the missionary effort of the Church. We have been asking the Lord to help us to pray effectual prayers for the salvation of souls, and that His Spirit would visit the hearts of the lost and cause them to have a greater appetite for the gospel of their salvation.

It will soon be time to take the evangelistic tent out in the field, and Bro. Mart Samons of Danville, Ky. wrote us that he feels the burden to take it this summer. He has several places that desire a meeting.

We are thankful to have a tent top, but we are in need of new side curtains. We will be shopping for that in the near future. Also, our chairs need a lot of repairs. We want to check into this also.

We appreciate those who have supported the National Missionary Fund in the past. We are confident

the Lord has blessed you. Help us pray that many souls will be reached through this effort. Soon the doors may be closed and our opportunity lost if ye don't take advantage of it now. Our time is so precious; it is passing so swiftly.

"Do we well, my precious brethren? While they starve and die for bread,

We with heaven's richest blessing are so bountifully fed. If we tarry till the morning, mischief shall our souls befall.

Go and tell earth's dying millions, "There is bread enough for all."

Those of you who desire the tent to come your way, let us hear from you, and as to the time you desire a meeting. If you desire to have a part in this missionary effort, send your offerings to the undersigned.

Yours for the gospel, —Ralph M. and Inez Beisly  
407 Eldridge St., Coffeyville, Kansas 67337

(Editor's note: Bro. Ralph M. Beisly is the secretary and treasurer of the National Missionary Fund that sponsors the evangelistic tent activities through the summer months and aids home mission workers, to the extent of the fund, throughout the year. According to the New Testament scriptures you are exhorted to give liberally and cheerfully to spread the pure gospel in the highways and hedges.)

## Foreign Field Reports

### LETTER FROM MEXICAN MISSIONARY

Baja Cfa., Mexico (Jan. 30)—Very dear Bro. Pruitt and all that labor in the Printshop: May the peace of my God abide in your hearts.

Thanks to God for the salvation that He has given me. I remember that it was in the year of 1961 that God gave me this precious salvation. The years have gone by and God has kept me true until today. How great is His love! He not only saves us but also gives us power to live victorious, and to give a testimony to the world of His mercy and of His power to keep in the holy way those who confide in Him.

Brethren, I received your letter on the 25th of January. All here are well, thanks to God. For my part I am more encouraged in the work of my God. He is working in the hearts of the saints here in the Valley. This gives me more desire to keep on battling for the cause of Christ. We have more people coming to the services. The brethren are much encouraged, especially Bro. Antonio. He was a drug addict for many years. Please pray that all might have their own personal experience with Christ. Oh, what joy it gives me to see how my brethren are growing in the Lord, and how they do testify of their salvation. I raise my hands to the heavens and give thanks to God for His Son Jesus Christ because He loved us so much and He keeps on loving us.

Please keep on praying and I know that God will keep on touching the hearts of the people. Much thanks for your offerings. Because of this I am able to dedicate full time to the work of the Lord.

Pray for the services in Ejido Patzcuaro. I plan to be there the 12th and 13th of February, and would like to be there for services during holy week [Easter] if God permits. Receive salutations from all here. May God keep you in peace and holiness.

With love and prayers,

—Tomas Mendoza



**MISSION REPORT FROM INTERIOR MEXICO**

Michoacan, Mexico (Feb. 2)—Sister, we received your letter on Jan. 15 with the check. We give thanks to God for all that He does for us and each one of His children.

We are well. We have much work in these places in Michoacan. We are visiting one place that is named Chara Panaunos. Brethren, we have found many souls here who are interested in the things of God. We are praying to be able to visit there more often, but it is far away and the pickup truck we have is not very good. This last trip we had much troubles with it, but we are ready to suffer for love of those who look for this salvation.

Close to where we live we need to make personal visits to the homes of the brethren to teach them how they should teach their children to pray at home and how they should have reverence when we are in church services. There is much that we must do to help those who are learning to put their trust in God instead of themselves.

Every day we find the way more precious when we ask for directions from the Lord. The Holy Scriptures teach that Christ prayed always to His loving Father so that He could conquer all that surrounded Him. He did conquer all and ransomed us for Him.

Brethren, we ask that you pray for these needs and that we do the will of God in instructing those who choose to follow the Lord.

Your Brother missionary in Mexico, —Irineo Rama

**LETTER FROM NIGERIAN PASTOR**

Midwest Nigeria (Feb. 3)—Dear Bro. Pruitt, greetings in Jesus' precious name: Through this name the devil and his agents are subject unto us. What a happy people we are! Our great Creator became our Saviour, and in Him all God's fullness dwelleth.

We received your letter dated Jan. 6 and are thankful to God for the enclosures. We are grateful to be advised that the books requisitioned through Asana are in transit to us. . . . The rate of payment of U. S. dollars in our country would appear very much reduced and all due, no doubt, to the devaluation of your dollar. Our eyes can only be lifted up to the throne of grace for augmentation.

We are on the march to the land where there is no night, for Jesus is the light of that heavenly city bright. Open air services were held on Jan. 22 and 30, 1972 on Edemgon-Okwele and Ejakita-Umia streets in Abbi town. The meetings closed with victory with souls won for Christ.

We are still on our knees in prayer for the divine healing of your physical bodies. The blood of Jesus shall never lose its power, no, never!

Sincerely yours in Him, —Pastor Titus U. E. Enu

**REPORT FROM NIGERIAN MISSIONS**

Southeast State, Nigeria (Feb. 3)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints: I am thankful to God this day to send our love and greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

Thank you and the Lord for the draft which was cashed according to the new exchange rate. We have twenty-four congregations in three districts to see about, so pray much for us. Remember our appeal to you for more help sufficient to meet our increasing needs.

A New Year communion service was held at Three Towns Ikono for members in Section 3 (Uyo). Brother

Edet E. Udo taught the Sunday school on the subject: "Paul preaches before King Agrippa." The morning service was conducted by Bro. S. P. Akpan, and Bible verses were read by Bros. T. A. Ubo and A. Ibanga from Isa. 65:1-7 and Romans 1:20-25, respectively. Bro. E. B. Ubara delivered the sermon on "Holiness." Pastor J. U. Etuk administered the Lord's Supper to 309 souls after the observance of the New Testament ordinance of feet-washing.

Satan, it seems, has blocked the way for Bro. George Hammond's coming. Can't we seek another way to promote the work? The time is very short.

We wish God's continued blessings upon your soul, body and gospel publishing work. Pray for us and the gospel work here, too.

Yours in Him,

—Ben E. Udoka

**MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA**

S. India (Jan. 20)—Beloved Bro. Pruitt and the Church of God in America: Greetings again in holy Christian love and in the sweetest name of Jesus, the Author of eternal salvation. "They looked unto Him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed."

Thank you very much for your good letter dated Jan. 6, 1972, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude. The tracts and certain articles in the magazine are highly useful to my spiritual progress and Bible study.

With overflowing joy I wish to let you know that the marriage service and the sixth General Convention at Karikkom closed with great victory and with the gain of several souls toward Christ. My wife, Mrs. Saramma, is a great help to me for my gospel work. The quantity of work can be shared and as a result, the working speed can easily be doubled. "And the Lord said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." The same God selected an appropriate and suitable help meet for me also. Praise the Lord, His selections are always correct. We present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God.

Yes, the Lord blessed our Karikkom convention in a special way as He did your Oklahama meeting. It closed victoriously and profitably on the same date, Jan. 2. The attendance was larger this year than the previous years. The pandal (temporary flat roof) was full and many were forced to stand outside the pandal throughout the meeting. God willing, next year we wish to expand the pandal. The preached word through spirit-filled saints was so powerful and heart-searching that a number of souls found the joy of salvation. On Sunday morning five people were baptized, testifying for Christ publicly.

Bro. L. K. John and his son from Calicut participated throughout the convention. Though his physical condition is very weak, God helped him very much to travel the long distance. He once again reminded us of the urgent need of a place to worship at Calicut. Bro. P. Mathew and a group from Avoor participated in the meeting from the beginning to the end. The poor believers also approached me with the urgent and inevitable need of a hall there for their worship. I could only advise them to lift up their eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh our help. Even today while I write this letter to you, a letter from Bro. Mathew at Avoor reached me describing that more and more members are being added to the church, but no space to sit for worship. Yes, it is really a sad condition. Anyway, I wish to

visit Avoor again next week to strengthen the believers. We must give first importance to Avoor.

Now brother, let me inform you of my desire to come over there to stay with you for a while, visiting our churches and brethren all over the U. S. A. I trust it will be a better chance for me to learn many things from you and at the same time I can give you a detailed description about the Lord's work throughout India. I hope it will be a new step in our spiritual relationship and fellowship. I wish to hear from you and to act accordingly. I request you to have a great vision about the work here. I believe prayer changes everything.

My wife and myself extend our warm and loving greetings to your wife, Sis. Marie Miles and everyone in the Printshop. Also, we pray continuously for your complete healing.

Your Younger Brother in Christ, —John Varghese

(Editor's note: As indicated above, Bro. John Varghese, who is a young native mission worker in India, desires to come to this country to become personally acquainted with the saints of the Church of God. No doubt his association with the various congregations in the States would prove a mutual benefit for the extension of the pure gospel to India's millions. Though the cost of his round trip and maintenance would be considerable, yet the Lord can open the way. Let us pray about this matter and look to the Lord to have His way. If anyone feels a similar burden, please contact this office.)

## From The Mail Box . . .

Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: We trust this finds you feeling well in body and enjoying God's best.

My last X-ray on Nov. 15 was reported as showing "no evidence of active tuberculosis," for which I fervently praise God.

I am placing an order for a few books. A check is enclosed. Use the extra as needed.

Your Brother in Christ, —R. F. Wilson

Mich.—Brothers and Sisters in Christ: I read one of your papers, "Faith and Victory." A brother in Christ gave me the February number. When I read it through, I shouted, praised God, wept, and thanked the good Lord for a people that loves our Maker like I do. I have been saved and sanctified wholly and no place to go to church. . . . I was saved 41 years ago on May 15 in that (Anderson) church when it was on fire for God. . . . I wish we had an old-time Church of God here. . . . I want to hear, "Well done, faithful servant, enter into the joys of the Lord."

I am sending you \$2.00. Please send me the paper for one year and use the rest to help wherever it is needed. My crippled daughter is with me. I don't have a companion, but I love my Lord and try to live what I profess.

May the good God of heaven bless your work is my prayer for you. I am too old to drive very far, so by the help of God I will meet you folks in heaven.

From your Brother who loves Father, Son and Holy Ghost, —A. J. Ellis

Illinois—Dear Bro. and Sister in Christ: I want to thank you for the good gospel paper. A good many years ago an unknown person subscribed to the "Faith and Victory" paper for me. To this day I don't know who it was, but I have thanked God over and over for

this gift. . . . Please renew it for three years and send the March issue to this new address. . . .

Use the \$2.00 where it is needed most. May God bless all of you and the work you are doing.

Yours in the One Body, —Hilda Romay

W. Va.—Sister Marie Miles: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. Your good letter was here when I arrived home (Jan. 29) from a trip to Cass, W. Va. where Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons held a meeting for several days. They came by after me and we arrived at Cass on Jan. 18. . . .

While we were there in meeting Sister Carmon H. Nichols took sick on Jan. 22 and passed away on Jan. 25 with a cerebral hemorrhage. She was ready to go. Bro. Samons conducted the funeral on Jan. 27, after which we started for my home, and stopped for an half hour with Sister Olive Keene. . . .

I am so glad the Lord is giving strength to your body, and I pray your brother will be completely healed to the glory of God.

Yours in Christ, —Flora Hinzman

Florida—Dear Brother: You will please find a check in the amount of one dollar, for which please list the subscriptions as follows: . . . I wish to renew my subscription.

I surely appreciate your little paper. I am of the old-time saints, such as, Bro. D. O. Teasley, Bro. and Sister Cheatham, G. P. Tasker, E. E. Byrum, B. E. Warren, Bro. and Sister H. M. Riggle, John L. Williams, C. E. Orr and J. Grant Anderson. A goodly number of them have been in our home. How I love the true gospel as it was preached then!

Your Sister in Christ, —Mrs C. H. Wilson

Penn.—Dear Sister Marie, greetings in Jesus' dear name! How wonderful is our Lord! He is my all in all. Without Him I couldn't go on, but I do praise Him for all of His many blessings from day to day and His keeping power. . . .

Mother is still the same. . . . We are glad to do all we can to help her gain some strength.

I pray for you each day that God will give you strength and help you as you work for Him. The lessons are so good in our booklet each Sunday. They challenge us to live a more Christ-like life. . . .

Your Sister in Him, —Eva Cox

## Testimonies and Answers To Prayer

Okla.—Greetings to the Saints in the precious name of our Savior and Redeemer. How precious it is to be among the saints! My soul has found a satisfaction that I have never known before. I searched for many years for this satisfaction in my soul and the Lord has been so kind to me. He kept leading me on until I found that which my soul needed. I intend to go on with His help until the battle here is done. There is nothing that moves heaven as the prayers of the saints. I know it was someone's prayers that brought me to the Lord and I am eternally grateful.

I was raised in a Free Methodist Church but never found salvation. I felt that religion was all right when you got married, but I didn't find salvation until 15 years after I was married. I was married in the Catholic church as I didn't think there was any difference in the religions. (Now I know there isn't.) I remained

there until my mother died in 1954. A godly minister who held her funeral helped me to know my need of salvation. I also saw one of my sisters who had been saved and I could see what a difference Christ had made in her life.

When we returned home, I told my wife that I was going to do something about my spiritual life as I could not see any hope in Catholicism. We found a little church in Reedsburg, Wisc. that was called "The Church of God" and started going there. I soon learned that at least they taught salvation and their teachings seemed to be in line with the strong desires of my heart. It wasn't long before I was saved and the Lord brought joy to my soul. I soon felt the need of going into active service and asked the minister if there were a training school that would help me. He said there was, but he did not want me to leave there. He took me down to Anderson, Ind. and tried to persuade the officials not to take me, but they did, so I sold our farm and moved to Anderson in 1955. We were ready to move with no job nor a place to live. We found a house a week before school started and the Lord had a job waiting there for eight months for me. God surely held to His promise in Matt. 6:25, 33, "Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body what ye shall put on . . . But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Praise His Name! He worked out everything in a marvelous manner. I had no trouble in meeting the requirements of college although I had been out of high school 25 years. After finishing college, I attended three years in a seminary and was then ready for the ministry. I took a pastorate with the Mission at Crow Agency, Montana and soon found how spiritually unprepared I was. I stayed there a year and then went to Kenosha, Wisc. Here I found a couple who had the nerve to leave the (Anderson) church after reading some of the truths the pioneer preachers taught and seeing what was practiced and believed now.

Little by little, the Lord began to reveal the truth to me. I found one group who had removed themselves from the Anderson group to renew the old ways, but they had also picked up another teaching I didn't know. I ran across a "Faith and Victory" paper and wrote to Bro. Pruitt. A couple of years ago I came down to Guthrie, Okla., and then to Monark Springs, Mo., and I found a sweet and humble spirit among the saints I had never found before, nor did I soon forget. I knew that the standards of the pioneer Church of God could not be upheld for so long without a very meek and humble spirit.

Pride has kept so many people from the blessings of full salvation. It is far better to have the blessings of God than all the respect and admiration of men. If what we have is not worth giving up a few of the trifles of this world, then what we have isn't worth very much! How could we be called "The Sons of God"? Glory to God! I don't care what worldly minded people think of me. I only seek the approval of God. I do not deserve anything better than sack-cloth and ashes. God has never allowed me to suffer any trial that He didn't see me through. Praise His name! He has abundantly supplied all my needs, physical and spiritual, and I intend to serve Him with all my heart, soul and mind.

I quit my job in Wisconsin the first of the year and my wife and I have moved to Guthrie to help in the Printshop until He leads me elsewhere.

I covet the prayers of the saints and encourage the saints to hold fast to the truths once delivered. They will get us all Home to heaven. Praise the Lord forever! Your Brother in Christ, —George A. Hammond

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Calif.—Dear Saints: We feel so grateful for the goodness of the Lord and want to praise Him for His saving and healing power which has been manifested in our behalf.

Recently we have been encouraged by reading in the book of Matthew of the many works Jesus did while here on earth. Matt. 8:17 is especially encouraging, ". . . Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."

Some are heard to say that they have faith that Jesus will save their souls but cannot trust Him for the healing of their bodies. Jesus paid the price for both the saving of the soul and the healing of the body. 1 Peter 2:24 reads, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed."

Jesus speaking to the scribes asked the question, "For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise and walk?" Matt. 9:5. He wanted them to know that He had power to both forgive sins and to heal the sick. That power is still the same today.

We are still grateful to the Lord for the healings that we have experienced, especially, as has been mentioned before, how He came to our rescue when we suffered a severe attack with our side. Had we been trusting in man, we may have suffered an operation. God is so good!

May our faith be increased to trust the Lord for greater victories. —Olive A. Davenport

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Calif.—Dear Sister Miles and workers at the Printshop: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. How I thank the Lord for being one in this family of the Church of God.

I am so much better in my body since I wrote you for prayer. Truly I thank God for His goodness and mercy to me.

Please pray for my daughter, Irene Perkins, who has troubles with her left foot and ankle. Tell Bro. Lawrence that I am expecting the Lord to completely heal him.

Use this little offering as you see the most need. May God bless each one there.

Yours in the Lord, —Sister Hattie P. Burnett

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Okla.—Greetings to all the dear ones at the Printshop: This leaves me much encouraged in the Lord.

God has been so wonderful to our family. Praise His dear name! Surely we cannot praise Him enough. I would like for the dear ones all over the world to know how God so wonderfully blessed my son, Perry, Jr. On last Dec. 30, about 8 p. m., I got a call from Hillcrest Hospital in Tulsa letting me know my son had been in a car-train accident and was severely cut and bleeding. I notified the family, called for prayer and continued in meditation to God, sincerely believing He would take care of him. Some of the dear saints came to the hospital to stand by and pray. Word of the accident was sent to different congregations for prayer, and the Lord really undertook for him. He was severely cut on the face. His forehead was like one that had been scalped. He was about three hours in surgery and in intensive care two nights and days. Each

time I was permitted to see him, he said he was in no pain. I truly give God all the praise. In five days he was permitted to come home, and not one time has he ever complained of aches or pain.

I want to truly thank all the dear saints for their prayers, and I truly mean to live closer and do more for the dear Lord and His cause. Pray much for Perry. This is the third time he has come very close to death. I am sure God has a purpose in this, as I had been so burdened for him before this happened. I can never praise God enough for sparing his life.

Pray for me that I might ever keep in God's divine order and be the servant He is calling for me to be in these trying times.

Your Sister in the Faith, —Theresa Wright

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Kansas—Dear saints, greetings in the precious name of our dear Saviour Jesus Christ: I am praising the Lord for saving my soul and freeing me from the powers of hell. I can truly say that I have the victory over the devil and all his craft. When I was bound by the devil, I could hear him cursing in my ears and see him doing all kinds of evil things. Sometimes I really thought it was me doing this evil, yet I knew it was not my desire, and I was resisting with all the power that I had. I was so tied down that I could not sleep at night. I would pray and weep, but had no release. I would read "Pilgrim's Progress" where Christian had the same accusations. This would give me a little encouragement. I also got a letter from my dear sister-in-law. She told me to pray on, for the dear Lord had shown her that I would be saved if I would let the Lord do it. Oh, what a joy that letter brought to my heart!

Now I am free from the bog of sin—free, free indeed! I ask all the saints to rejoice with me, for I have found the pearl that was lost. I have left all the world behind.

Saints, please pray for me that I will have wisdom and grace to discern the devil's tricks and avoid them.

Yours in the army of the Lord, —Ben Phillips

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Michigan—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt and Sis. Marie: Greetings in our blessed Savior's lovely name. He is so good to us and has done so much for us. We could never repay Him for what He has done. But I do pray that we can do a little bit to show our appreciation to Him for His goodness and mercy to us. At our best compared to what He has done for us, it seems to amount to nothing.

We surely appreciate you good saints at the Printshop and we pray so much for the Lord to give you health to carry on. We don't know what we would do without the good Word you are putting out. We were so thankful when we heard of a people who were clinging to the Bible way. We couldn't go along with the way some were drifting away and giving up some truths they once embraced. I said, "God showed me the way, and I just can't give it up." Floyd said he couldn't either. But it was several years before we heard of you folk. Bro. Gibson saw a letter I wrote to the "Gospel Trumpet" and he wrote us and wanted to visit us. He and Sis. Gibson and Samuel came to visit us. Thank God that I ever wrote that letter. . . . We got in touch with the true people of God! Praise God!

Sister Marie, we hope and pray that you are in good health now and able to carry on with the work. I love to read your writings. They seem so spiritual and full of soul food. . . . Brother Pruitt made two phone calls.

When he called the first time, I asked to be remembered in prayer for my healing of sugar diabetes. The next day I felt so good, but in the night I awoke with an awful pain in my chest and head. It seemed I could hardly live. I just put my case in the hands of God. I had a battle of it. I was so weak and my limbs trembled so, I couldn't stand up long. I said, "They are praying for me at Guthrie, and I am, too, and this has got to go." I don't know whether it was a heart attack or if it was neuritis. I know God came to my rescue and removed whatever it was. It is so wonderful that we have a loving Savior who knows and cares. He is the "Great Physician."

We are praying for all who are in need of health and for Brother Pruitt's healing, too. There is so much sickness and suffering in the world. So many of our relatives and friends are sick, too. Our son-in-law is much better than he was, but still isn't well. We ask you to keep praying for him, especially that he will get saved, and also for our unsaved children.

May the Lord bless all of you and give you health and strength to carry on the good work.

In Christian love and prayers,

—Bro. and Sis. Floyd Hines

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

Calif.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Marie: Greetings in our dear Lord's name.

I am here in Bakersfield, Calif., in meeting. The Lord is blessing and working in the services. He is faithful in anointing His precious Word and our souls are surely being fed. Conviction has been in the meeting and souls have gotten saved. We are so thankful for what God is doing for us. Praise the Lord!

We miss Bro. Chandler greatly, but the Lord is comforting our hearts.

Yours in His service, —Sis. Katherine Williams

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

Calif.—Dear ones, greetings to all in Jesus' dear name: I'm thankful that in the name of Jesus, who gave His life's blood to redeem every soul, I have full salvation today. I didn't receive it just today, but over 65 years ago Jesus gave me peace in my soul, and as the years have come and gone He has helped me find ever-increasing joy and pleasure in serving Him.

Nearly 60 years ago I learned that Jesus is a Healer in Zion—His church, His people—for the body as well as for the soul. So I took Him as my Great Physician, and He still is to this day. I have found out, as the Psalmist said, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." Yes, He has done that for me. Even now I am blessed with health. Praise His dear name!

The young people sing, "Master, the tempest is raging, the billows are tossing high, . . . Carest Thou not that we perish? . . . O, waken and save, I pray." Yes, that is just what He wants us to do today, call on our blessed Master for help. When our sky is black with troubles and trials, "Whether the wrath of the storm-tossed sea, or demons, or men, or whatever it be,"—Jesus is waiting for us to feel our utter dependence on Him, and to know He is ready and able at all times to say, "Peace, be still." But we must have faith, for He said to His disciples, "Why are ye so fearful; how is it that ye have no faith?" So "faith is the victory." Praise His wonderful name!

God said to Joshua, "Be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to the law . . ." Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." We must observe, read God's Word,

learn and know all that Jesus wants us to do. Then we are ready for Jesus' promise in John 15:7. And the result will be like Isaiah told us in Isa. 40:31.

Let us pray for each other that in "simplicity and godly sincerity" we may be able to prove that "all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him, Amen, unto the glory of God."

With Christian love,

—Vera Forbes

### A MIRACULOUS HEALING

Oklahoma.—Dear saints and fellow-laborers in the Gospel: I am thankful that God has blessed us to witness another new year. It's our desire to be a better servant for Him. I need your prayers.

We are so thankful the Lord permitted us to attend the Guthrie, Oklahoma, Assembly meeting and to be with the dear saints. Oh, how our hearts did rejoice as the Word of God went forth under the anointing of the Holy Ghost, and Zion's songs rang out, and to see souls weep their way to the cross! Praise God! It was wonderful! On Friday night, the last night of 1971, the Lord especially anointed the service. The singing was most precious, so was the reading of the Word. The Lord's presence was "so near and so dear!" Oh, bless the Lord!

I had an experience with the Lord that I believe He would be pleased with me sharing with you. One morning after I had mailed in my "Report from the Field" for the January issue, I was reading the second chapter of Mark, where Jesus healed the man with palsy. I was reading and thinking how it took four people to bring the sick man on his bed to Jesus, and then Jesus saith to the sick of the palsy, "Arise and take up thy bed and go thy way into thine house, and immediately he arose, took up the bed and went forth before them all." I thought, "Oh, what a miraculous healing!"

Then the Lord reminded me how sick I was in Spruce Pine, N. C. (which I was) and how He miraculously healed my body. I surely thank the Lord for it. I can say with the poet, "Jesus has been so good to me, no other friend so kind could be."

I stopped with Bro. and Sister David Lottahall and family while in Spruce Pine. On Monday morning, Nov. 15, 1971, I took suddenly ill. Severe, sharp pains began in the upper part of my stomach. The pains were drawing my body double, so to speak. I called Sis. Lottahall to come in my room and pray for me. She was surprised to find me suffering as I was. She prayed for me. The Lord gave me relief, but these pains would come back. When it came time to go to meeting Monday night, I was still sick, but I dressed to go, looking to the Lord to help me. The family got in the car. I put on my coat, and started to the door and had another sick spell. I got on my knees and told the Lord, "I am Yours, and the service is Yours, and I am looking to You to take care of it all." Then I got in the car and we went to meeting. I told the saints how sick I had been that day and requested prayer for my body. The saints went down in earnest prayer before the Lord in our behalf, and the Lord heard their cry. Thank the Lord! "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and His ears are open unto their cry." Psalms 34:15. When it came time for the Word, I heard these solemn words, "Time for the Word." I have heard these words many times, but that time it seemed more solemn than ever. Though very weak, I arose from my seat and pressed my way to the pulpit, leaning hard on God and the prayers of the saints. I opened the Bible and began to read the precious Word of God. The more I read, the better I felt. By the time I had read the last scripture the Lord

had given, the Lord had miraculously healed my body! Oh, bless the Lord! What a mighty God we serve! "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever." Heb. 13:8. Yes, He is just the same today! Praise the Lord!

The reason I say it was a miracle is because the Lord has made known to my heart since I returned home that it was more serious than I realized. I do not know what the illness was, but one thing I do know—the Lord healed my body and I give Him all the honor and praise, and thank the saints for their prayers. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

I desire the prayers of the saints that I will ever be faithful to the dear Lord.

With Christian love and prayers, —Katherine Williams

### Praying Through

My heart is burdened for those souls in need of praying through. By the Lord's grace and help, I want to point out some great truths and promises about praying through.

We find where Jonah failed the Lord. "Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fish's belly, and said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord and he heard me. The waters compassed me about even to my soul, the depths closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord, and my prayer came unto thee. The Lord spake unto the fish and it vomited out Jonah upon dry land."

If we find we have failed the Lord, we can find the Lord when we realize, like Jonah, our helpless condition. Come to the Lord in humility like David, in Psalms 22:6, as a worm, so to speak, before God. Psalms 34:18 says, "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." Meditate on His works; thirst after God. (Psalms 14:5, 6).

Jesus' promises to answer those prayers are found in Matt. 5:6, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." Mark 11:24, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them." Believe God's promises. Faith in God is a "must."

Now to the church we have examples of praying through. Acts 4:24, "They lifted up their voices to God in one accord. . . ." Acts 4:31, "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost." The two main things here to note are (1) unity, and (2) being filled with the Holy Ghost. Unity comes naturally when individuals are filled with the Holy Ghost. So in order to get good results there has to be Holy Ghost unity in group praying. This is what the early church taught, and also our pioneer ministers in this "evening light" restoration of New Testament truths.

We read in Acts 12:5, "Peter, therefore, was kept in prison, but prayer was made without ceasing

of the church unto God for him." When Peter was delivered by the angel from the prison and had come to himself, he came to the house "where many were gathered together praying." So we find the third important thing for us individually and the church collectively is to pray without ceasing. These are the keys to victory.

One more thing I want to note is: We can pray through and get the victory before we get the actual results. I know I have prayed through and gotten the victory and still had not seen the final results. The day we pray through God has the responsibility of the matter then. Jesus prayed through in the Garden of Gethsemane and gained the victory over that cruel cross, yet He submitted to it to bring about redemption for you and me. Luke 22:40-46 shows how He was in agony while praying. Oh, let us suffer willingly like Christ. He is our supreme and perfect example. Amen.

—Tom Melot

### A Message From a Boomer

I was a boomer, car herder or shock, (of course, you railroad men know what I'm talking about) but now my booming days are over and my hair has turned to gray. In days gone by, we didn't find yardmasters quite so tough. They always wanted the boomer to stay because he could switch box cars in an unusual way.

But now, may God bless you, old boys. I'm interested in your eternity-bound soul. Where are you going to spend eternity? There are only two places; heaven or hell. May God have mercy on you if you are an unbeliever. If you do believe you will have to go the strait and narrow way. Jesus gave us a waybill, the New Testament, our book of rules. Its written word is our time table and special instructions. Say, boys, you know when we were called to run our train, we did our best to be on time so our train would not be delayed, but what are we doing now? Are we ready to board the gospel train that runs on the Highway of Holiness? Say, dear ones, if we don't get ready to board this train, it won't be delayed. It will be on time, because Jesus Christ Himself is the Conductor and the Holy Spirit is the Engineer and she will never be late. She will pull into the Grand Central Station in the Portals of Heaven on time! Are you ready? Let's not kid ourselves. Jesus has given us our orders and these orders must be fulfilled; they cannot be superseded or annulled.

Here is the order, "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again," St. John 3:3, 7. Now these orders are positive, as I said, they cannot be superseded or annulled. They must be fulfilled. Praise God, we can fulfill them. So may God bless every one of you, and let each coupling in the train be links of love. This great Dispatcher, Jesus, will give us a

right-of-way over all foes, and a "clear block" from earth to heaven, if we will only accept it.

A number of years ago I gave up all the world to follow Jesus and as I near the end of my journey the sweeter and brighter the way becomes. So those of you who know Jesus as your own Saviour, may God bless you and give you grace that you may stay in the center of the strait and narrow way, the main line, so to speak, and beware of the side lines that lead off the main line; because some have gotten into blind sidings. Then you will have to come back out the way you went in, because there is only one switch to a blind siding. In doing this, you might be delayed and die on the siding and miss the portals of Heaven.

Dear ones, as I said before, I gave up all the worldly things of this world for Jesus, praise His holy name forever, and if I will be a faithful laborer and obey the instructions He gave me, when I am pulling the last mile of the way, He will say, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you." Thank God forever!

I retired from active duty on the railroad on November 25, 1953. Now I am getting ready to move into a mansion our Lord Jesus has gone to prepare. The Gospel train that I am going on has a "meet" with King Jesus in the air. Are you ready to be caught up in the clouds to meet our Lord? I'll be looking for you. "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." 1 Thess. 4:17, 18.

From an old Boomer Rail and Brother in Christ Jesus.

—A. L. Bright, Princeton, W. Va.

[He went to the Glory World on Dec. 22, 1971.]

### To Us Who Believe

In Ephesians 1:17, Paul is telling the brethren at Ephesus how he was praying for them. A part of this prayer was, "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling . . . and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places." Eph. 1:18-20. The God whom we serve is a mighty, powerful God who manifested some of His mighty power when He raised up Jesus from the dead and set Him at His own right hand. However, according to this petition to God in behalf of these brethren, the exceeding greatness of His power is to us-ward who believe. Our faith is the key which unlocks the mighty "store-house" of God in our behalf. Although God has all power, that power benefits us only as we believe and to the extent which we believe.

In Elisha's last illness, the King of Israel visited him. Elisha instructed the king to take a bow and



arrows and open an east window. Then he told him to put his hand upon the bow and Elisha put his hands on the king's hands as he shot an arrow. Elisha explained that it was the Lord's arrow of deliverance from the Syrians. He added, "For thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed them." Again he instructed, "Take the arrows. Smite upon the ground." The king smote the ground three times and stopped. Elisha was wroth and told him that he should have smitten five or six times, then he would have consumed them, but now he would only smite them three times. Evidently, smiting the ground but three times revealed a weakness of the king's faith, and as his faith was, to that extent he received help from God.

Another incident reveals a mighty faith. A centurion came to Jesus and told Him about his sick servant. Jesus replied, "I will come and heal him." The centurion acknowledged that he wasn't worthy for Jesus to come under his roof, but his faith took in that Jesus needed only to speak the word, and his servant would be healed. Jesus commended his great faith and spoke the word which brought healing. Matt. 8:5-13.

A woman which had an issue of blood 12 years had this faith, "If I may but touch his clothes, I shall be made whole." As she touched, she received healing. Her faith was the means of bringing some of the "exceeding greatness of his power" to benefit her in her great need. Mark 5:25-34.

Again and again, Jesus revealed the great importance of faith in bringing the mighty power of God to us-ward; "Thy faith hath made thee whole," "Be not afraid, only believe," "According to your faith, so be it unto you," "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."

When Jesus went back to His own country, after having done some mighty works elsewhere, it is recorded, "And there he could do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief." Mark 6:5, 6a. It wasn't because God had lost any power. The unbelief hindered them from receiving the benefit that they could have received if they would only have believed. Only a few received benefit.

When God told the children of Israel His plan to deliver them from Egypt, He also revealed that He would take them to a land flowing with milk and honey. Then He showed them the exceeding greatness of His power by the plagues upon the Egyptians, then delivering them out of Egypt, opening up the Red Sea for them to cross over, then drowning their enemies. In the wilderness, He continued to show them the exceeding greatness of His power by meeting every need; furnishing manna and quails for food, sweetening bitter waters, bringing water out of a rock and giving them victory over their enemies in battle. One of God's purposes in this was to strengthen their faith, but what happened? When it was time for them to enter the land, the report of giants in the land hindered their

faith and they entered not in because of unbelief. All the good things were there prepared for them and it was God's will for them to possess the land, but their unbelief hindered them from receiving the benefit. Then God turned them back into the wilderness.

How many souls today have been turned back into the wilderness in their Christian experience because of unbelief! God's will was for them to go in and "possess the land," consecrate their lives a living sacrifice and receive the Holy Spirit. They feared the "giants" and entered not in because of unbelief. "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it." Heb. 4:1, 2.

Our faith is so important in receiving any benefits from God in our Christian experience, also in moving forward in our experience. We may hear the Word preached with anointing of the Spirit, or read it from the Bible ourselves, but unless we believe it and act upon it, we will not receive the benefit from it.

We may read the scripture, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world: if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1 John 2:15, 16. The Spirit may point out some of the world in the life. Perhaps the dress is too short, the hair worn in a worldly fashion, or it may be some unnecessary article of adornment. If we believe the Scripture, and have willing hearts, we will act upon it and receive benefit. Satan will come with different tactics to hinder faith if we will let him. He may point to someone else who is not a good example.

We may hear exhortations on different lines—to pray more, to fast, to deny self, to have more fervent love, but unless we believe and accept the fact that we need to do those things, then act upon it, we will not benefit in our lives. Also, the increase of the power of God in our lives will not come as we fail to believe and walk in each ray of light. Sometimes, things that may appear small in our lives are more important than we think, and believing and taking that seemingly small step brings us into a place of greater power and victory.

Jesus gave many reproofs because of unbelief. After Jesus had multiplied the loaves and fishes twice, He and the disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee. The disciples had forgotten to take bread. Jesus said, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees." The disciples failed to understand what He meant. They reasoned among themselves saying, "It is because we have taken no bread." When Jesus perceived it, He said, "O, ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves because ye have brought no bread?" Then He reminded them



of the two different times that He had multiplied a few loaves and fishes to feed a great company and there had been fragments left over. He wanted their hearts to be so inspired by those miracles they had seen that they wouldn't be anxious any time about their necessary bread being supplied.

After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to the disciples, but Thomas was not with them. The other disciples reported to Thomas, "We have seen the Lord." Thomas refused to believe it until he had seen Jesus for himself. Then when Jesus again appeared, Thomas being with them, Jesus spoke directly to Thomas, "Reach hither thy finger and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless but believing." Then He added, "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they which have not seen, and yet have believed." May the Lord help us to keep our hearts in a soft, receptive condition, walking in obedience to His Word that it will be easy for our faith to take hold that we may receive the benefit in our lives of the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward.

—Fern Stubblefield

## The Acceptable Year of the Lord

When Jesus returned to Galilee after being baptized and spending forty days in the wilderness being tempted of the devil, He went to Nazareth where He had been brought up. As His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. "And there was delivered unto Him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Luke 4:14-19.

It brings great joy to our hearts to know that Christ came to declare and preach the acceptable year of the Lord! The prophet Isaiah in another place said, "Thus saith the Lord, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee." Isa. 49:8. God is extending to us the opportunity of being accepted and helped of Him. God desires to bless and help every person. He wants them to be no more separated from His embrace by sin and wickedness and unbelief. Whoever gives heed and seeks the Lord after a godly fashion with a true repentant heart can and will be accepted of Him. Christ has come to open the door of God's acceptance and is willing to save us from sin and its consequences.

This acceptance with God was a costly gift. God's wrath had to be appeased and fully satisfied. Sin had to be justly recompensed, and in the offering up of the meek and lowly Man of Galilee upon

the horrible suffering of the cross and death was found the atonement. One said of old, "If there be a messenger with him, an interpreter, one among a thousand, to shew unto man his uprightness: then He is gracious unto Him, and saith, Deliver Him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom." Job 33:23, 24. Yes, there is a messenger, and an interpreter, one among a thousand (as one said, chiefest among ten thousand) who can show true uprightness to man. Through the innocent blood of the Lamb of God the sin of the world is erased from before the face of the Almighty God. God is willing to forget about our sins against His holy law, if we will but turn and humble our hearts and confess our need as saith the writer farther in Job: "He looketh upon men, and if any say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profiteth me not; He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light. Lo, all these things worketh God oftentimes with man to bring back his soul from the pit, to be enlightened with light of the living."

Yes, this is the acceptable year of the Lord. I have heard it said that certain giant enterprises and corporations are not open always to the public for sale of stock. Occasionally, however, the opportunity is announced for a limited time that the stock is open for sale to the public. There is always, of course, a mad scramble on such occasions as stock watchers rush to get in on the offer of acceptance. The door of acceptance with God seemingly was closed to the nations for a time, for the Jews alone were singled out as blessed and in His favor. But when Christ made His appearance, the door of acceptance was opened to all men. It was hard for those raised under the Jewish law to realize this, but one of Christ's disciples became conscious of this when the Lord sent him to the house of Cornelius, an Italian soldier. As he came in and beheld a host of hungry souls waiting to hear the message from heaven, he said, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted of Him." Acts 10:34, 35. Peter preached the acceptable year of the Lord to those people and they believed. When he later rehearsed what had happened to the elders at Jerusalem, it said that they "held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life."

And so has the gospel wound its way through the centuries. It caught Martin Luther in his effort of penance and gaining favor with God by works with the declaration, "The just shall live by faith." It caught John Wesley on the stormy seas afraid to die and made him to know that salvation is a work of faith in Christ. Thank God for those who have taken advantage of the Lord's acceptable year.

While you have time and opportunity, my friend, make sure that you turn from your sins and evil ways of life and take advantage of this great offer, the acceptable year of the Lord. —Leslie Busbee