

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

## Church of God Servant



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### *Christ Is Reigning Now!*

On the throne of David, Christ is reigning now,  
King of kings and Lord of lords is He;  
At His feet in full submission let us bow,  
And His loyal subjects ever be.

In no future age will He return to earth,  
To establish here a kingdom vast;  
He will come to gather all of heav'nly birth,  
Take them to their happy Home at last.

Hail, all hail, the mighty Monarch! let His praise  
Echo till it reaches every land;  
With increasing volume fill the passing days,  
Till around His shining throne we stand.

Let the world behold His glory, bow the knee,  
Give Him honor for His works of love;  
Render ceaseless homage, let all voices be  
Joined to laud Him with the hosts above.

Heaven's ringing now with joyful song,  
Glory to our Savior, let His praises roll,  
Holy angels loud the strain prolong;  
He is reigning now from pole to pole.

—C. W. Naylor

### **Christ Now on David's Throne**

In order to sustain their position, those who hold to the millennial theory, claim that Christ is not now sitting on the throne of David in this dispensation, and that therefore there must be another age, a period of a thousand years, in which Christ will sit upon the throne of David. Some of them go so far as to say that the throne of David will be re-established in Jerusalem, and that Christ will reign there over literal Israel, when as a nation they will again be restored to their former glory.

To the natural mind, this is a very beautiful theory, and appeals to the uninformed; but those who

make a careful investigation of the truth of the Bible will clearly see that such theories are but the mere speculations of human minds, and in reality are not founded on Holy Writ.

In the first place, the literal throne of David can never be re-established. "Throne" can mean only sovereign power and dignity. Therefore, as David was exalted to this place of power and government in Israel, so the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the seed of David, would be raised up and exalted to a state and place of sovereign power, a King to rule in righteousness. This is all that can be meant by Christ's sitting upon the throne of David. If it can be shown that Christ now, during the present dispensation, fills this place; that Christ now occupies the very place and position that the prophets foretold, then the millennial contention will be refuted.

Open your Bible to 2 Sam. 7:12-16, "And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. . . . And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever." As before observed, if we find clear evidence that in this dispensation Christ sits upon David's throne, then why look for another age in which will be accomplished what is now being fulfilled in this present age? Note the above prophecy. It was God's promise to David. Primarily, it reached its fulfillment in Solomon, who sat upon David's throne; but in it is contained a clear reference to the government of the spiritual kingdom—the kingdom of the Messiah. "I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever." "Thy house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever." This refers to Christ and the spiritual kingdom He came to establish. The "house" in this prophecy refers to both the temple Solomon built in Jerusalem and to the church which Christ established; for this is declared to be "the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." Solomon's temple was a type of the New Testament church. The real burden

of the entire prophecy reaches its glorious fulfillment in Christ.

Now, let the reader observe that at the very time this kingdom and throne of David was to be established forever, it was said of David himself, "Thou shalt sleep with thy fathers." So instead of Christ's sitting on David's throne after the resurrection, as millennial teachers declare, this text proves that it would take place while David was still sleeping with his fathers. How beautifully this harmonizes with the New Testament declaration of Peter as recorded in Acts 2:29, 30: "Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne." Here we have the application of God's promise to David. It referred to Christ and reached its fulfillment at the time of Christ's resurrection from the dead. David himself refers to this promise in Ps. 132:11: "The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne." It is clear that the prophet was here speaking directly of Christ, when he said, "Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne." For this purpose Christ came into the world. Paul speaks: "Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; and declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead" (Rom. 1:3, 4).

Instead of pointing to a future age for the fulfillment of these prophecies, the apostles clearly understood that they were to be fulfilled in this dispensation; and certainly we are safe in accepting the apostles' interpretation rather than the fancied theories of men at this present time. The fulfillment of this Scripture as mentioned in the second chapter of Acts, clearly evinces the fact that in this dispensation Christ would sit upon David's throne.

We turn to Isa. 9:6, 7: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." This is an illustrative prophecy of the incarnation of Christ, with an enumeration of those characteristics in which He stands most nearly related to mankind as their Savior, and by which His infinite majesty and godhead are shown. He is called Wonderful; wonderful in His conception, birth, preaching, miracles, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension; wonderful in His person, and wonderful in His working. He is the Counselor that expounds the law, shows its origin, nature, and claims. He ever appears in the presence of God for

men. He is the mighty God—"God manifest in the flesh"; the everlasting Father—the origin of all things, the cause of existence, the Father of the spirits of all flesh; the Prince of Peace. The government rests on His shoulder, and upon His throne in His kingdom, He executes judgment and justice; and the increase of His government and peace shall continue for ever. To it there will be no end.

But when should all this be fulfilled? At the beginning of the Christian dispensation or at the beginning of a supposed millennial age? The answer is positive and clear. It was when a "child" was "born" unto us, when a "son" was "given." From this it is obvious that the reign of Jesus Christ on the throne of David began in the days of His incarnation. And this is settled beyond question by the angel's announcement to Mary, as recorded in Luke 1:30-33: "Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found favour with God, and behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father, David; and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there shall be no end." Now do we have presented in this prophecy two dispensations? Not by any means. The birth of Christ, His name, His throne, and reign, are all connected and must be in the same dispensation; that is, in the present one. This text refers to Him as the everlasting Head and Sovereign of His church. His government and kingdom shall be eternal. Revolutions may destroy kingdoms of the earth, but the powers of hell and death shall never be able to destroy nor to injure the kingdom of Christ. His is the only dominion that shall never have an end. Here we have the glory, extent, and perpetuity of the evangelical kingdom.

All these Scriptures clearly locate Christ's kingdom and reign as beginning at His first advent. It was when He was born into the world as a son that He became a king and established His kingdom. And this is identical with His sitting on the throne of David. The Jews well understood that Christ claimed to be the king of Israel, for while He was hanging on the cross in the throes of death, the scribes and elders said, "He saved others, himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him" (Matt. 27:42). All these texts confirm the fact that Christ began His reign on the throne of David, even during the days of His incarnation. Being born a King, and clothed with all the authority of heaven, He began to deliver and to execute the laws of His spiritual kingdom. His authority was supreme. The people were compelled to say, "Never man spake like this man," and that "he spake as one having authority, and not as the scribes." But in a much greater and more comprehensive sense are these prophecies fulfilled since Christ has risen from the dead, ascended into heaven, and sent forth the Holy Spirit as His personal representative on earth to execute His law and to point out the way of salvation.

This is clearly brought out by reference to Acts 2:29-36: "Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; he, seeing this before, spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell [Hades—unseen world of departed spirits], neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore, being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens; but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."

It would seem that this language is so clear that none could misunderstand it. Peter was preaching to the Jews, and assured them that the promise of God to David, sworn to, and confirmed by an oath, declared "that of the fruit of his loins according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne," that this Jesus "hath God raised up," yea, "let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God hath made this Jesus whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ." He is the supreme Governor of all things, and all persons, Jews and Gentiles, angels and men.

—H. M. Riggle

## Just Before Jesus Comes

Paul wrote to the Thessalonians that before the coming of our Lord there would be a falling away first. (2 Thess. 2:3). To Timothy he stated that evil men and seducers would wax worse and worse and that there would be perilous times in the last days. (2 Timothy 2:1-13). It would be noticed in the scriptures that the apostasy is not concerning education or fine buildings or able ministers or large congregations or the progress of intellectual and material prosperity, but it would be a breaking down of faith and a denial of the power of God in Holy Ghost experience. There is at present a well nigh universal landslide toward higher criticism which is lower infidelity. There is also a denial of the supernatural working of God in regeneration, definite answers to prayers, and the revelation of divine things to the soul by the Holy Spirit which make up the religion of the apostles and their successors.

We are then to expect great deceptions and delusions, deceiving, if it were possible, even the very elect. We may also expect great advances in forms of godliness in the last days. Faith will not become low through worldliness and the denial of the scriptures only, but also through the remarkable imitative faiths which will work on in their deceptive power.

These movements will become an unseen influence in the air around us and the atmosphere will be peopled with evil spirits and heavy with the depression of hell. These evil spirits will do their utmost to injure, mislead, confuse, and depress the children of God. Our bodies will be afflicted. It will press in on our minds and becloud our souls. All kinds of strange feelings and new and peculiar trials will come to us, a surprising lack of desire and energy God-ward, a spiritual deadness, a mental heaviness, a lethargy of soul; an alarming desire for forbidden things and a peculiar delight and fascination in any of the world's pleasures we dare to taste.

It will be very difficult to preach the Word in liberty and power. It will be very difficult to give attention to the Word when it is preached. It will be very difficult to get real earnest and continue in prayer. This is the atmosphere in which we must battle as the last days darken around us. Oh, let us be strong in the Lord, for Satan will, no doubt, bring a mysterious power to bear on our minds and wills which will make it exceedingly difficult to walk closely with God and very easy to live after the flesh.

We will be amazed at the power he can use against us, and it will become very hard to serve God faithfully and to pray earnestly, for it will seem as if everything without us and almost everything within us has conspired to keep us from following Christ all the way, and to influence us to compromise. We will be surrounded by a worldly atmosphere that will draw us away from God, that will render prayer half-hearted and that will deaden our spiritual senses to the realities of heavenly things and the glorious presence of our Lord. It will become very easy to slip out of communion with God, and harder than ever to keep communication open between our souls and heaven. Already we feel the beginning of the influence of the inrush of these things upon us. Worldliness in various forms weaves its ever-expanding power over many congregations. Things are not only allowed but are unblushingly organized, yes, organized now which would not have been possible a generation ago. The craze of the drama and the exciting round of pleasure is catered to in connection with many places of worship to the destroying of deep spirituality and bringing to an end of revivals and also the furtherance of the spirit of compromise with doubtful things and associations.

There is a terrible decline of faith and true religion all over the world at this moment. We do not deny that there may be here and there a few exceptions. But looking at Christendom as a whole, it presents a sad picture. Reviewing these matters, do they not constitute a loud call to the servants of Christ to arise and seek during the intervening short period to make the most of this the day of opportunity before their Lord and Master summons them to give an account of their labors at the Judgment Seat of Christ? —From a tract in stock at this office.

No circumstances can darken the soul of him who walks in the light of God's Word.

# "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.

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

### FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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## EDITORIALS



Very soon after this June issue goes into the mail, the Oklahoma State campmeeting (May 26 to June 4) will be in progress here at Guthrie. As usual, the Guthrie congregation and those over the State are making preparations for this annual meeting in which we are expecting the out-pouring of the presence of the Lord, the salvation of souls, the sanctification of believers, divine healing of bodies and the edification of the Church. New people seeking for the truth are expected to attend this meeting, and we certainly pray for the leadership of the Holy Spirit in every service. He is the pulpit committee and presiding officer in the Church of God.

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English tracts translated into the Efik language of Nigeria have been printed recently and will be mailed this month to the mission stations in Nigeria for free distribution. Much more urgently-needed gospel literature could be sent to earth's millions in the darkened corners of the earth if we had more consecrated printers and pressmen. It is a challenge to the Church to meet the demands of the Great Commission. What will our answer be when we stand before the Judgment bar?

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Brothers George Hammond and Tom Melot have been printing and folding many tract and book titles, and wrapping them to replenish the stock. Brother Hammond's wife, Ann, has been helping with the bindery work and preparing the noon meal for all the workers. Bro. Gene Beisly has been operating the linotype machine, setting type for the "Bible Lessons," "The Beautiful Way" and this June paper. Sister Dora Lela Beisly types many letters and helps in the mailing department. Sister Joan McIntosh sets type on the Justewriter machine for "The Beautiful Way" paper, reads proofs, and helps in the mailing department. Sister Carol Lasiter helps Sister McIntosh in the same kind of work that she does. Sister Marie Miles writes letters, supervises most of the correspondence, and edits the "Bible Lessons" and "The Beautiful Way" paper. This writer's good wife, Maybelle, takes care of the mailing lists for all the publications and does the bookkeeping. What is left to do, your servant tries to do in 10 to 12 hours each day. We appreciate each co-worker, and we know, for certain, that God is "not unrighteous to forget" their "work of faith and labor of love" for precious, immortal souls. May the Lord add His special blessing as each worker faithfully fills his or her place in this literature ministry.

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Sister LaVerne (Williamson) Manuel, pastor of the church at Pomona, Calif. for many years and whose husband passed away last September, recently (May 4) moved back to her native home community of Loranger, La. where her mother and many other relatives still reside. Without question, her presence and ministerial labors will be needed and appreciated

in that State. May the Lord bless and prosper her efforts in His great cause.

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Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family and relatives of Bro. Nona J. Wilson who departed this life to be with the Lord on April 25 at his home at Chehalis, Wash. May the "God of all comfort" sustain them in their loss. The obituary appears on another page in this issue.

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Bro. and Sister Roy Harmon, pastors of the church in the Kansas City area, were with the congregation of Enid, Okla. in their regular services and visiting in their homes from April 23 to May 7. Their labors and concern for that congregation were greatly appreciated.

While he was in this area, we were pleased to have Bro. Harmon here at Guthrie in a preaching service on Sunday night, April 23, as well as the time they spent with us here at the Printshop. Come again anytime!

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Our co-worker, Sister Joan McIntosh, was called to Springfield, Mo. on May 6 on account of the illness of her grandmother, Mrs. Lillie Filler, who passed away on May 11. The funeral was held on Saturday, May 13. May the Lord comfort and sustain the family and relatives in a very special way in their bereavement. Sister McIntosh returned to Guthrie on May 17.

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"So built we the wall . . ." (Nehemiah 4:6).

When the ancient Jews returned to Jerusalem from the land of captivity, they found the city and walls in a heap of rubbish. The prophet Nehemiah, after an humble prayer of repentance and with God's favor and approval, initiated the building of the walls of Jerusalem. This restoration of God's dwelling place among His ancient, chosen people is a type or shadow of the restoration to God's Church in this "evening time" of the gospel day of the New Testament truths which were lost or obscured during "the dark and cloudy day." God is refining and bringing His Church in this "evening time" to the pristine glory of the morning church of the first century. In fulfillment of Bible prophecy, Bro. D. S. Warner and his associates began this restoration movement about 1880 A. D. They boldly preached the New Testament visible church separate from the creeds of men, and called God's people back to their homeland on Mount Zion. The walls of "New Jerusalem" are restored with the New Testament truths that were hidden in the long apostasy by the dogmas of men.

Just as Nehemiah and the ancient Jews of their day were strongly opposed by Sanballat and Tobiah in rebuilding the walls of ancient Jerusalem, so are God's people opposed in this "evening time" in restoring the Bible truths to the "New Jerusalem." Adversaries to the whole truth are on every hand, using crafty means—mockery, flattery and deceit—to hinder God's restoration work. Thank God, we can

report with Nehemiah of old: "So built we the wall; . . . for the people had a mind to work." "Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined." (Psa. 50:2). Christ, the Head of the Church, is calling His people into "one fold" under one Shepherd, and His sheep are coming to the heights of Mount Zion with joy and gladness.

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The gospel is "good news" to whom?

The word "gospel" means "good news." Christ commanded His disciples, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel [good news] to every creature." It is intended, then, that it shall be "good news" to every creature. But we are faced with the stubborn fact that God's offer of eternal life through faith in His Son is not good news to the natural man—the common man in the street. Of course, it ought to be good news to the sinner, and it is good news to the one who is telling the gospel, but the good news must be that to the hearer, not merely to the herald. Since the gospel is not good news to every sinner, then there may be something wrong with the order of the presentation.

To the unregenerate, unconvicted sinners wallowing in their own selfishness, pride and lust, the sweet message of saving grace is worthless and unappreciated. The pre-requisite for bringing the sinner to esteem the gospel as "good news" is for him to realize his hopelessly lost condition in sin and guilt to the extent that it produces a stirring conviction and radical repentance toward God. Preaching must be continuous and unrelenting against sin until there is deep conviction. When the Holy Spirit has induced that conviction, followed by repentance, the acceptance of the grace of God in Christ is easy. The gospel is really "good news" only when the sinner is awakened and convicted by the Spirit of God with the preaching of the awfulness of sin and its penalty of everlasting punishment in the lake of fire. The sinner will not respond to the preaching of the love of God through Christ until he first sees his need of that love.

John the Baptist preached repentance and against sin. Jesus Christ went everywhere preaching, "Repent and believe the gospel." Paul preached to both Jews and Gentiles "Repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." This was the order of presentation until the modern age of evangelism.

Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost brought his hearers to deep conviction of their guilt and they cried out in agony, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Whereupon he called them to repentance. The solution was wonderful "good news."

The Philippian jailer, trembling with fear and conviction brought on by the mighty power of God in the earthquake, heard as a wonderful gospel, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house!" The worldling will be interested in the jailer's gospel only when he is in the jailer's condition! To bring a sinner to this condition is the indispensable pre-requisite of the offer of the

gospel cure. God has nothing good to offer to impenitent sinners.

"He hath filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he hath sent empty away." Luke 1:53. "Ho! Everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters . . ." Isaiah 55:1.

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This writer is holding on to God's precious promises for complete healing, and we would appreciate your continued prayers until the answer comes. God has all things under His control and, by faith, we rest in Him.

—Lawrence Pruitt

## OBITUARY

Nona J. Wilson was born January 4, 1894, at Norwood, Missouri and departed this life to be with Jesus on April 25, 1972, at the age of 78 years, three months and 21 days.

He was united in marriage with Bonnie Kennedy and to this union was born five daughters and three sons. His wife, Bonnie, preceded him in death by about five months.

Nona and Bonnie made their home at Chehalis, Washington for the past 45 years and it was from his home that he went to live with Jesus.

Nona loved and served God and was associated with the saints in the Church of God for many years.

He is survived by five daughters: Mrs. Betty Hoffman and Mrs. Richard Ruth, both of Chehalis, Wash., Mrs. Blaine Watkins of Renton, Washington, Mrs. Larry McConnell of Onalaska, Wash. and Mrs. Lynn Kempf of Longview, Wash.; three sons: Nona, Jr., Clyde and James G., all of Chehalis, Wash.; five sisters: Mrs. Emma Busch, Scio, Ore., Mrs. Lona Davis and Mrs. Joe Kennedy, both of Salem, Oregon, Mrs. Lillie Wilson, Port Orchard, Wash., and Mrs. Jessie Gish, Fairbanks, Alaska; one brother, George Wilson of Salem, Ore.; 24 grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted in the Boone Funeral Chapel in Chehalis, Wash. by Ostis B. Wilson on Friday, April 28, 1972, with interment in the Salkum Cemetery.

## Mexico Care-A-Van Tour

Several inquiries have been received and interest expressed concerning the 20-day Mexico Care-A-Van Tour which leaves Guthrie, Okla. on June 29, 1972.

The fast, modern way of life, we believe, has caused many to lose a certain sense of "true values." We trust that this tour will help our young people to choose to serve the Lord's cause and not try to satisfy themselves with only earthly goods.

A brochure explaining the proposed itinerary of this Mexico tour will be mailed to you upon request.

Let us know as soon as possible if you want to go, or whether you can help someone else to go.

—James Huskey

R. 5, Box 491, Guthrie, Okla. 73044

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## Campmeeting Dates for 1972

Following are the remaining Church of God campmeeting dates for 1972, and more complete announcements of each will appear in this and the July issue.

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.

Ojos Negros, B. Cfa., Mexico—Begins on July 7, 1972.

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—Aug. 18 to 27. (Note this change to a new date)

California State at Pacoima, 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

### GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMPMEETING

The General Southern Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, June 23 to July 2, 1972, on the church campgrounds located on White Street, Hammond, La.

A cordial welcome is extended to all to attend this meeting. We are depending on the Lord to send the ministers of His choosing to preach the truth in its fullness. Provisions will be made to care for all who are able to come. A dining hall and dormitories are located on the grounds. As in the past, expenses will be met by free-will offerings. Come with a burden for souls and praying for a profitable meeting.

For more information or directions to the campground, contact Bro. Max Williamson, whose telephone number is, Area Code 504—345-4566. —Randall Flynn

### OREGON STATE CAMPMEETING

The Oregon State Campmeeting of the Church of God (Evening Light Saints) will convene in Jefferson, Oregon on June 30 and continue through July 9, Lord willing. Those who come by bus from either north or south should come to Albany, Oregon if traveling on an express bus. Some on the local schedules come through Jefferson. If you travel by train, get off at Salem as trains do not stop in Albany. When you arrive, phone 928-7223 or 327-2855 and someone will pick you up at the station.

The meeting is financed by free-will offerings only and the ministers who work in the meeting are supplied by the same means. We urge all saints and lovers of the truth throughout the Northwest to attend this meeting as it is the only campmeeting of the Evening Light Saints in this area. There are cabins and a dormitory available on the camp ground and also a limited number of places available in the saints' homes. All who come will be cared for.

We are expecting several ministers to be present who will be able to preach and teach God's Word with the inspiration and anointing of the Holy Spirit. The truth of the gospel will be expounded in a way that all souls may be enlightened, instructed, edified, built up and strengthened. Let every one come with a true purpose of heart to do good and to receive good.

We will be looking forward to seeing you at the campmeeting on Friday, June 30, and on through the meeting, Lord willing. Yours and His in the Master's service,

—Ostis B. and Evelyn Wilson  
6505 N. E. Sunset. Dr., Albany, Ore. 97321

### OHIO STATE CAMPMEETING

The annual Ohio campmeeting of the Church of God (Evening Light) will be held, Lord willing, July 7 to 16, 1972, at the chapel and grounds located at 419-421 West Thornton St., Akron, Ohio 44307.

All nations are welcome, and provisions will be made to care for all who attend. There will be camper and parking space available. When you arrive by bus or car, you may reach some of the saints by calling the chapel phone number 762-2286, or the parsonage number 762-4432. Everyone is invited to attend these services. Come for the salvation of your soul, for sanctification, or the healing of your body.

All expenses will be met by free-will offerings. For further information, contact any of the following: Bro. Darnell Abbage, 1436 Honodle Ave., Akron, Ohio 44306, phone 784-2884; Bro. Adolph Robinson, 1256 Romayne Dr., Akron, Ohio 44314, phone 836-6948, or Sister Hazel Clark, 555 Fernwood Dr., Akron, Ohio 44320, telephone 762-4432.

—Hazel Clark, Pastor

### 35th NATIONAL CAMPMEETING

The National Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held, the Lord willing, on the saints' campgrounds at Monark Springs (Neosho), Missouri, July 21 through July 30, 1972, inclusive.

We extend a very sincere and cordial invitation to all who read or hear about this campmeeting to attend, if at all possible. We need the Lord and each other more now than we ever have before.

The campground is located five miles east of Neosho, just off Highway No. 86 about three-fourths mile south.

As in previous years, meals and lodging will be furnished on the grounds. The usual fee of \$5.00 for camp tents and \$1.00 for cot and mattress will be charged. Also, space in dormitories will be \$2.50 per person. With the Lord's help we will try to provide for all who come. All who can, please bring bedding. It would be advisable to bring wraps, as the weather turns very cool at times. Meals will be served on the free-will offering plan.

We know God will send His Spirit-filled ministers to bring us His Word. Let us pray earnestly for the ministers and the meeting, that the power of the Holy Spirit will give fresh anointing for every service, convincing sinners of their need to turn to God, that believers will be sanctified, bodies healed, and for an overall upbuilding of the Church of God.

Four services will be held daily, in addition to children's meeting in the morning and young people's meeting in the early evening.

There will be an 11 p. m. curfew. All are expected to be in their tent, cabin, or dormitory at this time. Allowance is being given to ministers or those working at

the altar or praying for the sick. We appreciate the cooperation given and want to commend our precious young people for their consideration.

It will be necessary for those coming by bus or train to come to Neosho, and either take a taxi to the grounds, or call the campground number 472-6427, which is out of Granby, Mo., and someone will come after you.

We would appreciate receiving your orders for tent and dormitory space as soon as possible so we will have plenty of time to erect your tent and get cots set up in it before the meeting starts. Please send tent orders and offerings to Bro. Kenneth Probst, R. 1, Box 187-A, Vinita, Okla. 74301, who is the business manager. His home phone is number (area code 918) 256-5992.

—H. A. McMillian

### IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED ON NATIONAL CAMPGROUND

Greetings to all the Saints scattered abroad: "Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thess. 1:1).

The board of trustees for the National Campgrounds of the Church of God located at Monark Springs, Mo., met on the grounds Saturday, April 22, 1972, for their annual business meeting. Several needs were discussed at this time, and plans were made for getting the grounds in readiness for the 1972 campmeeting. After the discussions it was felt that it would be good to inform the general body of saints concerning the needs which came to the attention of the board, and the plans which were made accordingly.

As most of you are probably aware, it became necessary to remodel the dining hall and enlarge the kitchen area to meet the demands of increasing attendance. This project was undertaken last year as there was insufficient room to permit installation of the dishwashing equipment which had been purchased. There was considerable expense to a project of this nature, and although we are thankful to report that all improvements are paid for in full to this date, there are several related items which need attention before this year's meeting. Since the current balance is insufficient to cover the opening expenses of the meeting, it is difficult for the board to know how to plan the work schedule with no readily available means to cover the costs.

I will try briefly to cover the projects which are most pressing:—

1. An adequate hot water supply system to permit effective use of the dishwashing equipment.
2. Storage cabinets for foodstuffs, canned goods, pots, pans, kitchen and dining utensils.
3. Paint and lumber to clean up and repair the southwest exterior of the dining hall which fronts a frequently traveled public road.
4. Carts suitable for transporting large kettles of food and serving trays from the kitchen and dishwashing areas to the serving lines.

Since meeting time is swiftly approaching, the board of trustees thought it wise to proceed with these projects by faith, trusting God to provide the financial needs. Individual board members have assumed the responsibility of overseeing these projects and will be in need of physical assistance to accomplish these goals. Especially needed will be the service of some who can help with the building of cabinets and shelving, etc. There will be work scheduled from now until meeting time, with July 4 being general clean up day as usual. If you can



come at any time, please contact the business manager, or Bro. Austin McMillian who lives near the grounds, and we will keep you informed of the work which needs to be done, and make the arrangements for materials and tools as required.

The board of trustees is very desirous of handling the temporal affairs of the church in a manner that will glorify God and bring about the salvation of souls. We have therefore taken this opportunity to help involve you with an awareness of the work and expense which go on behind the scenes which make a meeting such as this possible.

Since we feel the value of this meeting cannot be enumerated in dollars and cents, and we are unable to place an estimate of costs on the projects which are before us at this time, we are asking you to pray and consider these needs, asking God to direct your minds in regard to these matters. If the Lord should stir up your heart to assist in these endeavors with physical or financial support, please contact someone at the addresses noted below. All contributions from individuals or congregations will be duly acknowledged and receipted. Let us all be in earnest prayer for the success of this campmeeting as well as all the meetings everywhere this summer and let us do what we can to see that all can be in readiness for the meetings. May God bless and reward each of you for your sacrifice toward the work of the Lord.

—By Bro. Kenneth Probst, business manager  
R. 1 Box 187-A  
Vinita, Okla. 74301 phone 918—256-5992  
Bro. Austin McMillian, asst. business mgr.  
R. 5 Box 50  
Neosho, Mo. 64850 phone 417—451-3962

#### Board of Trustees:

Brother Ted Bock, Bro. Glen Inman, Bro. Herman Kelley, Bro. Austin McMillian, Bro. Amos Porter, Bro. Bob Stover, and Bro. Woodrow Warren.

### HOLLY HILL, S. CAROLINA CAMPMEETING

The annual campmeeting of the Church of God at Holly Hill, S. Carolina will be held, Lord willing, June 2 to 11, 1972. Everyone is heartily welcomed to come, hear the Word of God and enjoy the blessings of the Lord.

For further information, contact Brother Hudson Crummie, R. 1 Box 42, Holly Hill, S. C. 29059. Telephone number 803—496-5231.

Your Brother in Christ, —Bro. Hudson Crummie

### OKLAHOMA CITY REVIVAL MEETING

All are invited to come and be with us in worshipping the Lord. Come praying the Lord to bless, or come with an open heart, seeking for any needed spiritual and physical help. Our meeting will be held, Lord willing, June 23 through July 2. The Chapel is located on the corner of Third and Phillips, Oklahoma City.

—Bro. Herman Kelley, Pastor

### OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO CAMPMEETING

Starting July 7, a campmeeting of the Church of God will be held at Ojos Negros, B. Cfa., Mexico, which is the mission station where Sister Opal Kelly is laboring. The Lord blessed in the campmeeting there last summer in the salvation of souls, and another precious

meeting is expected. Pray that every spiritual and temporal need will be supplied. For further information, write Sister Opal Kelly, Ap. Postal No. 525, Ensenada, B. Cfa., Mexico.

### EVANGELISTIC TENT MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Bro. Mart Samons, whose new address is General Delivery, Junction City, Ky. 40440, has, at this time, announced the following meetings:

The tent meeting at Junction City, Ky., which is four miles south of Danville on Route 127, will start on the 9th of June.

The tent meeting at Arbovale, W. Va., which is on Route 28 about thirty miles north of Marlinton, W. Va., will start on the 20th of June.

Everyone is invited to these meetings, and places to stay will be provided for all who come. The saints are urged to pray earnestly for all these tent meetings as the efforts are put forth to glean out a few more souls before Jesus comes. Bro. Bobby Forbes of Kentwood, La. plans to work with Bro. Samons in the tent meetings this summer.

Bro. Samons expressed his thanks to the Lord for sending Bro. Eddie Wilson, formerly of Oklahoma City, to be their pastor at Junction City, Ky. Bro. Wilson and family are getting settled in his first pastorate. May the Lord continue to prosper his ministry.

Bro. Samons will start a meeting at Ridgeville, S. C. on May 20, which will be in progress as this issue goes to press.

Note this new address: Bro. and Sister Mart Samons, General Delivery, Junction City, Ky. 40440. Phone 606—854-6617.

—Editor

We acknowledge our thankfulness to God and His people for the response given to the evangelistic tent effort. The new side curtains cost \$260, and the chair and truck repairs were minor. All this expense has been met and Bro. Samons has picked up the equipment.

—Ralph Beisly, Sec.-Treas. of National Missionary Fund  
407 Eldridge, Coffeyville, Kansas 67337

### AKRON, OHIO REVIVAL MEETING REPORT

Bro. and Sister Mart Samons of Danville, Ky. held a revival here at Akron, Ohio from April 16 to 23. Every message was anointed and went forth with power. Much good was accomplished, though it was not so much visible at the time, but now the results are still being manifested—a deepening down in humility and lives becoming more of a living sacrifice among the congregation. As Bro. Paul wrote in Romans 12:1, it is only a "reasonable service."

These are perilous times in these last days when the adversary of our souls, as a roaring lion, is walking about seeking whom he may devour. This means that we must be in constant communion with our Lord that we may be able to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

We are thankful for other ministering servants who joined in the battle against sin and deception: Bro. and Sister Ray Key of Springfield, Ohio, Bro. and Sister Wm. McCoy of Dayton, Ohio, other faithful saints from Cass and Webster Springs, W. Va., Pittsburg, Pa., Dalton, Ohio and others. We appreciate all as workers together for our Master.

—Hazel Clark, Pastor



## Prayer Requests

Okla.—"I still have the ulcer on my foot. It is now 7½ months since it first started. . . . I desire to be healed to God's glory." —Sis. Virginia Wittenborn

Mo.—"Pray for my son, Ray Brown. He is in the hospital. . . . Pray that he will be ready if God calls him; but He is able to spare him." —Becky Barnes

Calif.—"Pray for my son. He is suffering. . . . Have all the saints to pray." —Opal Williams

Mo.—"My grand-dad fell. . . . He had a stroke Sunday. . . . Saturday morning, he knelt down by his bed and cried out for mercy, and he said, 'Something happened to me.' He said he didn't know what it was, but something surely happened. . . . He broke down in tears when he told me about it. . . . I was glad for his testimony that he gave. . . . He is 93 years old. . . . Remember him." —Jim Broker

La.—"I still need your prayers for complete healing of this allergy. My eyes water, my nose runs and I have a cough. . . . I am crippled in my back and knees. I called different ones for prayer. The Lord has been rich to my soul. This is the third week of this agony. My face looks better, but my eye is still bad. Two weeks ago my vision cleared up and I could read without my glasses. I am expecting, when this water quits running, my vision will be clear. I have been tried by fire, yet I have gained ground. The dross has been removed and my faith increased. The glow from the fire lingers with me. I'm on the winning side. I'm expecting complete victory over this." —Sis. Gladys Cashio

Ohio—"I am thanking the Lord for all He has done for me. For about a week, I was not able to be out of bed, nor care for my children. I feel I have rheumatic fever. My arms, legs and ankles hurt so much. My ankles are still swollen, but I can get around slowly and care for my children. I can't kneel, but pray with me that God will completely heal me and take away all the pain.

"We desire the saints' prayers concerning our son, Jeffrey. . . . The Lord has wonderfully answered prayer for him many times. It will soon be time for him to start to school and we feel that he is a hyperactive child. . . . At times it's hard to reason with him or discipline him. We feel it will be hard for him to sit still in school. We desire prayer that God will calm him and help us to be understanding, also give us wisdom. He is a precious child and has learned many Bible verses." —Della Gutwein

Mo.—"My eyes are failing fast." Other requests. —Norma Allen

Colo.—"Pray for Mrs. Donna Cribari and son, Jimmie; also her folks, Mr. and Mrs. Grant Hanks, also for me. The Lord still answers prayer today. Praise His name." —Mrs. G. M. Young

Mich.—"Have been having a severe test in my body. I don't know what it is. It might be a tumor or ulcer, but our trust is in God." —Sis. Anaita Corteway

Calif.—Let us pray God to comfort the hearts of Sis. Edith Reavis and family. She writes, "We lost our precious daughter (28 years old) on March 20. She told us before she passed on that God had forgiven her. She said, 'Heaven is so beautiful. Why should I fight so hard to live?' Oh, our hearts are broken. . . . I am sure God had a purpose in this. . . . Thank you for your prayers, and for the prayers of others. She died with cancer. . . .

When the family would gather around her, she would say over and over, 'I love you.' "

Tenn.—"Please pray that the Lord will touch my body. I have trouble with my heart and other parts of my body." —Mrs. Walter Carroll

Mo.—"Sis. Eula Adams has really been in a battle [of affliction]. We are standing on the promises. Continue to remember her." —Sis. Evodna Marler

Mo.—"Please remember us in prayer. We are both in need. . . ." —Bro. and Sis. E. C. Tombleson

(Let us remember these dear soldiers of the cross. They are getting up in years. We thank God for them.)

Oregon—Remember Sis. Dolly Locker in prayer. She had a stroke and went into unconsciousness. It was a serious time with her all of one day. That night, the Lord brought her out of it and she is improving now.

The following are parts of a letter from a precious young mother who desperately needs prayer:—

"Your story about the spider and the fly [in the May issue] reminds me of a saying, 'What a wicked web we weave, when first we practice to deceive.' I'm in that web and it becomes so much tighter as the years go by. It seems like just yesterday, and oh, if only it were. . . . The summer before, I had come to Monark Springs campmeeting. [Neosho, Mo.] . . . I heard that the way I was living was not right. I rebelled. . . . I spent the next whole year (studying), trying to convince myself that what I had been introduced to at Monark was wrong. The next summer I went to campmeeting. . . . If I have ever been saved, it was at that meeting, but from that time on, my path has gone steadily down and the web has woven so tightly around me that the choking, smothering feeling is a constant reality, and reminds me daily that my efforts are in vain! . . . I wanted to work in the Printshop." (Some well-meaning folks hindered her in obeying God.)

From this point, the story she wrote to me was one of heartache upon heartache. Her marriage is a failure, she feels. Her husband desperately needs God and a deliverance from sin. She longs to be a good mother to her children. Her heart is broken and she says her life is miserable.

"Sister Marie, I cannot stand it, no, really, I can't stand it. What this whole lengthy thing is—is a desperate cry for prayer. Surely, God can help me—some way, somehow. I think back to what I dreamed of; marrying a saved husband and living a saved life on this earth. We spend such a short time here. . . . I don't even know how to pray. I do try, but I just can't. I need help. . . . Do remember me, please." —Name withheld

Dear prayer warriors, do pray earnestly for this dear young woman. God can save her, take her out of the web of sin and put joy in her heart. God doesn't have to change her circumstances to do this, but He can change her and give her grace to face the circumstances. Pray for her and her husband. Young people, take warning and put God first in your life. Do not reject truth. Obey the leadings of the Spirit.

We thank God for the prayer warriors. Different ones write us that they pray earnestly for the requests in the paper. God is answering your prayers. Pray until you know in your heart that God has worked. Some can't get out in active work for God, but they can pray. It is so needful. The workers on the field need God so much to help them. They face many, many problems. The "watchmen on the wall" are doing all they can to warn the flock of impending dangers from the enemy of all souls.

There are many requests that come into the office that we do feel it best not to print. Some homes need restoring. Some parents are so burdened for their children as they see the enemy leading them astray. We want you to bundle them together and ask God to answer prayer for those who write their requests.

There is a Sister who is in the valley of decision about a proposal of marriage. This is a very important decision for anyone to make and one surely needs to know the Lord's will in it. As one minister said, "Many times, a person's marriage determines his eternal destiny." Pray that this dear Sister will know beyond a shadow of a doubt, the Lord's will in this. She does not want to make a mistake. She desires your prayers.

"Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." 1 John 3:21, 22. Praise the Lord, there is a condition we can be in that gives us confidence to come to the Lord and let our requests be made known. If you are in need today, and your heart does not condemn you, then you can ask and receive what you have need of. Have faith that God will do as He has promised. —Sister A. Marie Miles

## Foreign Field Reports

### BAJA CFA., MEXICO MISSION REPORT

Valle de la Trinidad, Mexico (April 24)—Dear Sis. Miles and Bro. Pruitt, and all the saints that labor at the Printshop: May the peace of God abide in your hearts. Thanks be to God that He has given us the opportunity of working for Him in this world. I, with all my heart, give thanks because He has saved me from my sins and because He has given me love for the souls that are in darkness. I rejoice so much in remembering that Jesus, my Saviour, said, "If any would serve me, let him follow me." I want to follow Him all the days of my life and influence others to follow Jesus.

The other day, the Lord saved another soul here by His mercy—a new Sister. Pray that her husband and family will get saved soon. Her husband was in the services yesterday and the Lord blessed us in giving the message. Oh, do pray for souls here! I have a great burden for them. Pray that God will call them to repentance.

We give thanks for your valuable co-laborers in the work here in Mexico. The prayers and offerings of the saints in the States have made it possible that the people here may come to know the Lord. May my God whom I serve recompense each one that has had a part in the preaching of the gospel here. Continue to pray much for the work of the Lord in all of Mexico.

With love and prayers always for those that love the truth, I am your washed and sanctified Brother,

—Tomas Mendoza

### INTERIOR MEXICO MISSION REPORT

Michoacan, Mexico (May 2)—Dear Sister Marie and Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are answering your letter that we received. We have hope in the rich blessings of God that He will give us the strength to keep fighting against the wrong. God has manifested His holy power in keeping us true until today with joy and trusting in His promises.

We give thanks to God for two more souls. Pray for them, and also for a group of young men that visit us from time to time.

We received the check for . . . Thanks be to God and to the brethren that sustain this work for Christ. Pray for us.

Your Brother,

—Irineo Rama

### NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Southeast State, Nigeria (May 1)—Bro. Pruitt and saints: Warm greetings from all of us to everyone there in the name of our wonderful Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We report that a very good meeting closed yesterday. The campmeeting scheduled at Minya Ntak came and went with honor to God, for which we all thank Him. All mission stations were represented throughout the period of April 27 to 30. The Word of truth was set forth by the ministers and the attendance was encouraging. During the open air services at four squares, Pastors A. J. Ubaha, M. U. Ekpo, J. U. Etuk and Elder E. U. Etuk delivered sermons on vital Bible subjects. As a result, a total of 86 souls knelt for prayer. In the divine healing service the sick were prayed for and received answers. Praise the Lord! On Sunday, April 30, Pastor B. E. Udoka delivered a soul-searching sermon on "Pretending Christians and True Christians."

We feel much encouraged, for the Lord is very near to us and soon the end of this sinful world will come when He will take us Home to His everlasting kingdom where there will be joy eternally. The mission activities are going on with great success, and we are thankful to God for His grace.

We pray for you and the work there.

Yours in the Lord's service,

—Nse B. Umanah, Field Secretary

### MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

South India (April 24)—Beloved Bro. Pruitt and all other faithful saints throughout America: Greetings in the mighty name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Highest.

Thank you very much for your good letter dated April 6 which I read when I reached home safely from my Andhra trip. Its enclosures were noted with much gratitude. . . .

The success and blessings that I experienced on the Andhra trip were beyond expectation. One of our workers, Bro. C. M. Iyyukuty, and I started the journey April 12, by train, and returned home on April 20, having a very profitable trip. . . . Praise the Lord, He showed us great and mighty things which we knew not in Andhra. Now I am preparing a complete report, which I shall mail to you, and from which you can understand and hear the real "Macedonian call."

Everything here is going fine, though we are still waiting for the supply of several urgent needs which I mentioned to you earlier. The Scriptures teach us that we can inherit the promises only through faith and patience. The Hebrew writer tells us how Abraham, after having received the promises, had patiently endured with unwavering faith until he saw their fulfillment. He was patient in his faith in God and His Word. As a result, he obtained the promises. So we are still waiting for the supply of our every need, patiently, with great faith in His promises.

Thank you for the help that you sent for the convention at Calicut. God willing, after next week, I plan

to go over to Calicut to make the necessary arrangements for the convention. Prayer is essential for its success. Next week we wish to have the Lord's supper and foot-washing at Karikkom Bethel chapel. May the Lord pour out His blessings on that service also. May God help us to work in His field as the ministers of Christ and good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

With reference to my visit to the U. S. A., I have not yet received my passport, and so I am very sorry that I will not be able to participate in your campmeeting in May, which you suggested. May God open the way for it miraculously if it is His will. Let us remember each other in prayer always.

Your younger Brother in Christ, —John Varghese

(Editor's note: More than \$100 have already been contributed to a special fund which is designated to help Bro. Varghese to visit the church in the U.S.A. If others feel burdened for this cause, you may send your offering to this office, specifying that it is for this purpose. His coming here to visit all the congregations would, no doubt, be a mutual benefit to the saints here and the mission work in India.)

## From The Mail Box . . .

Jamaica, W. Indies—Dear Bro. Pruitt and co-workers: Greetings of Christian love. We thank God that we are still engaged in the battle of right against wrong, and still have the mind not to give in, but to fight until the final victory is won. . . .

Bro. Pruitt, we certainly enjoyed reading your letter and appreciate your efforts to uphold the old-time truth of the Church of God. We shared the contents of your letter with the assembly here by reading it to them. Enclosed please find, again from the assembly, the sum of . . . . You may use it to help in the Printshop or as the Lord directs you.

What a blessing it would be to us to attend one of your campmeetings! This may not be possible, but it is possible for us to live so that we all can meet in heaven. This, by God's grace, we are endeavoring to do.

Yours for Christ and His only Church,

—Israel and Olga Smalling

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie and all the dear ones there: Find enclosed . . . . Please send me a bunch of tracts, "Marvelously Healed" and a few others. Use the rest wherever you see the need.

We do pray that dear Brother Lawrence is better. I am doing very well for an 88-year-old woman. Thank the dear Lord!

Love to all,

—Sister Essie Wilson

(Editor's note: Sister Wilson, who, in the above titled tract, wrote of her wonderful healing experience at the age of 18, observed her 88th birthday on April 1, 1972. May God grant her continued health. Her address is 419 W. California, Glendale, Calif. 91203.)

Okla.—Dear Sister Anna Marie, greetings again in Jesus' dear name: I trust all there are doing all right. We are all fine.

I received the "Faith and Victory" yesterday and really enjoyed the different articles in it.

I wrote you some time ago about my grandfather. He is bedfast now, and not able to turn himself, according to my aunt. He had his 96th birthday last month. The last time I saw him, he wanted me to pray for him

before we left. I just pray that everything is all right between him and God. He was telling the boys he had read the Bible through, I think he said, forty-some times. I couldn't understand him very well.

The saints in Tulsa, Okla. are really working on their chapel. It looks like it's going to be nice.

I'm so thankful that you are reprinting the "Revelation Explained." I have been wanting one of those books for years.

I'm sending some money to be used as needed. I wish it could be more. Pray for me.

Christian love,

—Daisy Harris

La.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt and all at the Printshop, greetings in the name of our Lord: I hope this finds you well and pressing on in the cause of Christ. We are all as well as we usually are. We are thankful for the Lord's blessings to us.

I am enclosing . . . check for the printing work or wherever needed, and . . . for the missionary work in Mexico. May God bless every effort of His saints in this great harvest field that the lost may be brought in before it is too late.

Our love and prayers, —Bro. and Sis. G. A. Nichols

Kansas—Bro. Lawrence: We trust all are well there. The Lord is so good to us. We just can't thank Him enough.

We enjoyed being at the Printshop and with all the saints.

We still have some heavy burdens, but we are sure the Lord will work them out in due time. Pray for us as we pray for all of you.

Christian love,

—Virginia and Roy Harmon

Missouri—Dear Brothers and Sisters at the Printshop and all over the world: I am sending a small offering for your work and to renew my subscription to the "Faith and Victory" magazine. I do get a lot of good from it and pass them on to friends. . . .

Please pray for God to have His way and use us for His glory.

Yours in Christ,

—Albert J. Shelby

Kentucky—Dear Brother: Please find enclosed \$1.00 to pay for the renewal of the "Faith and Victory" paper for three years. I do not want to miss as much as one copy of it, for I think it is one of the best papers that comes off any press. You all surely print the truth.

Your Brother in Christ,

—L. J. Ruggles

Missouri—Dear Bro. Pruitt and co-laborers at the Printshop: We greet you in the loving name of Jesus which means so much to us all who have been born again of His great loving Spirit.

We are sending an offering for the work of the Lord. Use it as seems good to the Lord.

Please remember us in prayer, as we are both in need of help. I have an affliction on my body which is committed unto the Lord. We are praying for you daily, so keep looking up.

Your Bro. and Sister in the One Fold,

—E. C. Tombleson

Mont.—Dear saints, greetings in Jesus' dear name: We appreciate you, and pray the dear Lord to bless and reward you in your work for Him. We are so thankful for the good soul-food in the "Faith and Victory" each month. We are glad so many of the trial subscriptions

have found those who want the truth. It is appreciated next to the Bible in our home.

Find enclosed some of the Lord's money for . . . We need and appreciate the prayers of the saints.

Christian love, —Sister Betty Davis and daughter

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Calif.—Dear Bro. Lawrence, greetings in Jesus' name: We received your letter.

We are fairly well, and have been enjoying our new home [an old house fixed up]. It is getting warm now, and I don't know how the summer will affect us, as it gets hot here. I don't know if we will get any place this summer other than Pacoima, Calif. campmeeting. . . . We have had many trials, but are trusting God.

Yours in Him, —A. E. Harmon

507 "A" St., Orland, Calif. 95963

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Illinois—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt: Greetings in the name of our blessed Lord who redeemed us at such a great cost. Praise His dear name! I am so glad He sought and found me 57 years ago last October 11. I wish I had known this truth then. . . .

Enclosed please find my check for . . . , for which send me the book . . . and tracts . . . , and use the remainder as an offering where needed.

We will be praying for your healing, and thanks for your prayers.

Your Brother in Christian love, —Alvan F. Foster

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

Okla.—Dear Sister Marie, greetings again: Jesus is good to us. I'm learning to thank Him for everything, even in things we don't understand. Life is more enjoyable like this.

Milton hasn't felt very well, but I am thankful he is improving.

We surely have been enjoying reading the book, "Divine Physical Healing." Thanks so much for printing it. . . .

Find a check enclosed for . . . . We enjoyed the May issue of "Faith and Victory."

We surely would appreciate your prayers for a very good friend of ours. The Lord understands the need.

Sincerely, —Johnnye Lee Johnson

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## Testimonies and Answers To Prayer



Okla.—Dear Sister Marie and saints: I am thanking the Lord for looking down in tender mercy and saving me from a devil's hell. I'm also thanking and praising Him for the saints of Zion and for the wonderful songs we sing when at home and when we assemble ourselves together. I only wish I could express it as I feel it. When we sing in the Spirit, the Lord plays upon our heart strings and lets the wonderful music roll out.

I went to the little chapel in Hoffman, Okla. with no intention of getting saved. I was even outside the building, probably sitting in the car, but when I heard a beautiful song, it touched my heart, causing me to get up, go inside and give my heart to God. I am so thankful I acted then and did not procrastinate. It has kept me out of many wrong things. Though I didn't keep the victory from that day, yet I came back and kept on trying until the good Lord got me established.

I am praying for the young people to give their hearts to God while they are young before the evil days draw near. Someone prayed for me.

Dear saints, I think we should have more singing groups meeting together. As our pastor often says, "There's a message in every song." Who knows whether or not a song will touch someone's heart and he will get saved? What it did for me, it may also do for others.

Remember in prayer my unsaved companion and children. Pray that I may keep the victory, also my youngest daughter who is saved.

Love and prayers, —Vera Mae Hawkins

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Calif.—I would like to thank the Lord through the "Faith and Victory" paper for what God has done for me.

I am saved and very much encouraged to live for the Lord. Truly, He has taught me some precious lessons. Three and one-half years ago, I had an affliction on my body. I suffered quite a bit—not in bed but not feeling like working. I sought the Lord for healing which did not come. I was anointed and prayed for several times, yet no change. So I submitted myself to the Lord, and said, "Lord, I resign all to you; I am willing to suffer as long as You see fit." One day the Lord began to talk to me and showed me a great need I had in my spiritual life. I began to cry out to God to forgive my shortcoming and promised Him, by His grace, that I would move up. The Lord showed me I had been in a "wheel chair," spiritually speaking, and had folks pushing me around, when all I needed was to get down in the depths of humility. I tell you, when I got the help I needed in my soul, God healed my body. Thank God for that affliction, for I surely got much help I really needed.

I find that God knows what we need. If any problems, sickness, or trouble of any kind comes, God wants to promote us, and He will if we will let Him. I have resigned my all to His will. I am no more my own. I am bought with a price and mean, by God's help, to let Him work out His purpose in my life. Pray for me that I ever prove faithful.

Your Sister, —Naomi Jennings

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Ark.—Dear Sister Marie and all the saints at the Printshop and everywhere: Greetings of love in Jesus' wonderful name. I do thank and praise the dear Lord for saving me before these evil days came. I am so glad that I heeded the Lord's warning. I thank the dear Lord for strength and patience to endure hardness as a good soldier and to go through my trials and tests.

After recovering from my hard trial of affliction in December, I am out on the battlefield for our precious Lord, fighting sin and Satan with the Word of God and prayer. Please pray that the Lord will hold me up in health.

Find enclosed a token of love to be used wherever it is needed.

Yours in Christ, —Sister Cherry R. Alba

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Oregon—Dear Sister Marie, greetings in Jesus' dear name: I do thank the Lord for salvation and all He has done for me. He healed that terrible suffering I had last summer and fall.

Red spots now come on my limbs from my knees down. They come and go. Not a one opened, but they are so sore. . . . For the last two weeks my eyes have bothered me. At times I see two objects when there is only one. . . .

Do you remember my brother, Nona J. Wilson, and his wife who were at the Jefferson, Ore. campmeeting last summer? She passed away last November 29, and

he departed this life on April 25, so both of them are gone. He hadn't been well for years, but he was up and going to the last. . . . It was surely a shock to all of us, and especially hard on the children to give him up so soon after their mother died. . . .

May the Lord bless all of you. Pray for me.

Love and prayers, —Sister Emma Busch

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Ark.—Dear Sister Marie and all the dear ones at the Printshop: Greetings in Jesus' blessed and holy name. Oh, how wonderful the Lord is and greatly to be praised! Let us love, trust and praise Him more and more.

The Lord has touched this body again, giving me rest and strength. Oh, how wonderful it is just to let Him have His way in everything, to trust and not be afraid, nor doubt! This blessed peace that Jesus gives is worth more than all the world can offer. Praise the Lord forever!

I can do some outside work now, and I put up seven quarts of strawberries today. I received so many lovely cards and encouraging letters. I pray the Lord to bless each one for remembering me in prayer, too. How good and precious are the saints—the wonderful family of God!

An offering is enclosed to help in the gospel work. So few are laboring in the field and many more are needed.

Lovingly,

—Sister N. E. Adams

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Oklahoma.—Dear saints: I feel it time to tell of God's great mercy to me. After being bound by the things of this world for the past several years, on April 3, 1972, God reached down in tender love and set me free! Praise His name!

Oh, dear ones, the devil is so sly and quick to deceive. First, he will make a small thing seem so inviting and innocent, then before you know it, you are trapped deeper and deeper into sin until one day you wake up and are shocked to realize just how far you have gone. It is so dangerous to give in even just a little to the devil. He can cause your conscience to become so seared that nothing you do seems to be wrong. I remember making the comment once that I felt ashamed of something I had done, and one of my so-called "friends" told me in all seriousness never to feel ashamed for anything I did. He said, "Shame only brings guilt, and if you feel guilty you can't be happy." This was nothing but a trick of the devil to draw my soul deeper into sin.

When God saved me, He also broke several habits that I had tried several times to break on my own power. Every time I would try to stop smoking, for example, I would become quite ill from nerves until I would be right back to my three packs of cigarettes a day. But praise God, for the first time I was able to throw them away and to this day, I have not touched them; nor have I had a drink or a nerve pill! What a great God we serve!

For quite some time I had been under the treatment of several specialists for afflictions caused from some of these very habits, but when God freed me from the habits, He also healed these afflictions! The doctors had told me that within six months, which would be about now, I would have to have a major operation. Thank God, I don't need that operation now, because God has healed me and this thing gives me no trouble whatsoever!

Satan is such a hard taskmaster. He tried to wreck my health, my mind, and doom my soul. He broke up my Christian home and took nearly every earthly possession I had. He caused me nothing but grief, turmoil

and heartache. Then my Saviour answered my plea for mercy and blessed peace flooded my soul! Is it any wonder why I love Him so much today? "Therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed." Isaiah 50:7. By the grace of God, I intend to fight the devil every inch of the way and make heaven my home.

Christian love,

—Carol Lasiter

(Editor's note: Sister Carol Lasiter prayed through to victory here at the office on April 3, and we praise God for her wonderful deliverance. She now has a fixed decision to serve the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Since that "birthday" she has remained here at the office with her four-year-old son, Darryl, to help in the publication of gospel literature, and her consecrated services unto the Lord are certainly appreciated.)

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Missouri.—Dear Bro. Lawrence, greetings once again in that glorious name of Jesus to whom every knee shall bow: I am ever thankful to our Father that He allowed such an unworthy subject as I have been to see such wondrous, heavenly things and bow to Him in this life, being admitted by the new birth into His glorious family of re-created human souls. . . . Praise God for this earthly paradise that Jesus opened to us by His own blood! . . .

Things looked rather discouraging this past winter, as not many folks showed an interest in services in this area and we didn't get to have any services until the last Sunday in March, but we have missed only one since that time, and, praise the Lord, there seems to be renewed interest now. One great victory that the Lord has wrought here is the salvation of Bro. Johnny Sinkhorn of Fairfax, Mo. (a nephew of Bro. Donald Sharp) who came to the altar while Bro. Sharp was here about a month ago. Bro. Johnny seems to be bubbling over with love and zeal for the Lord and drives down here for almost every meeting we have. He requests prayer for himself and his family. He says he knows he has a lot to learn yet, but really wants to live pleasing to the Lord. . . .

There is one more testimony for the Lord. Sister Blanche Noland was very sick during the past week, but didn't let me know until Sunday morning about 10 a. m. While getting ready for work that morning, I felt directed to take my oil vial with me. I didn't see any reason, but just felt that I should take it and that I would see the reason later. I did, and when Sis. Noland called, there was my reason. That built my faith, and also hers when I told her. She said, "Well, I'm ready," and she believed that God would do what He said. Praise His holy name, God healed her instantly and she went to meeting that night and testified to these things. She said that she had also testified to a neighbor lady who has eye trouble and now that lady wants prayer for her eyes. . . .

Pray for us all as we pray for you and your work for the Father. Amen.

Christian love,

—Bro. Jim Broker

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"There are two days we need not worry about. Yesterday and Tomorrow. Yesterday is gone forever and Tomorrow may not come."

"If we believe with our heart we shall be saved. 'For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness.'" (Read Romans 10:9, 10). —D. Chancey

## Channels of Love

The greatest need in the world today is love! Therefore, it is the duty of every Christian to be the channels of this love that God has commanded us to be! First, we must understand what this word means.

The Greeks had three words for what we commonly translate "love". The word "agape," which is used almost exclusively in the New Testament, is a "concerned" love for someone else. This is the love that God puts within our hearts to change the selfish nature of our natural self. The word "charity," as used in the thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians in the King James Bible, is of this nature.

The second word the Greeks used to describe this emotion was "eros". This is the kind we commonly think of as "love" which is played up in movies, novels, etc. It might be called the "romantic" or "erotic" love which is based on physical attraction.

The third word the Greeks used was the word, "philia," which was the "family" type love—parents for children, and children for parents.

There are three ways that we are commanded by God to channel this "agape" love, and a fourth that we are to be very careful not to spend this love on.

The first channel for our love is toward God! In Matt. 22:36, a lawyer asked Jesus what was the great commandment in the law. Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."

To love God with our whole heart is to love nothing in comparison! He is the center of our life. He is the object of our deepest affections! There is nothing that we wouldn't give up, suffer, or do with joy for Him.

We love Him with all our soul! We give our life, our comforts, our welfare: all the ability of our heart, soul, and mind in His service. When a follower had rejected Christ under torture during the persecutions, he told Chrysostom that he wanted to live. Chrysostom looked at him and said, "Must you live?" Jesus said, "He that findeth his life shall lose it, and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." The saints may be called to put their lives on the line before many years as did the early martyrs. Will we be able to stand the test?

We love him with all our mind! "He shall rest in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee." All sensuality, foolishness, vainglory, self-exaltation—all have no part of the life of the saints! Only to know God and His will and receive with humility, submission, gratitude and pleasure all sacred truths God reveals to us! This is the command of God to be obeyed first!

In Deut. 10:12 Moses said, "And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul." We are the "Israel of

God" and if we love Him and expect to make heaven our home we must obey Him! "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous." 1 John 5:3.

"We love him because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19. "He that loveth not, knoweth not God, for God is love." 1 John 4:8.

In the tenth chapter of Luke the Bible tells us of the visit of Jesus at the home of Mary and Martha. Martha was much disturbed that Mary sat down at Jesus' feet and listened to Him and did not give her any help with preparation of the meal. Jesus admonished Martha for her anxiety over the meal and said, "One thing is needful; and Mary hath chosen that good part . . ." Too often we are too concerned about looking good in the eyes of the world or keeping up appearances when we should be at Jesus' feet!

The second channel for our love is toward our neighbor! In Matt. 22:39, Jesus said the second commandment was like unto the first: "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." We are to have a real concern (love) for our neighbor. Who is our neighbor? In Luke 10, Jesus gave us a parable of the Good Samaritan to help us understand what He expects of us and with whom He expects us to share the love He has given us. This "agape" love springs only from God Himself!

In Ephesians 5:2 Paul tells us to "walk in love." It is a way of life! Let the world know that God is love! To love is to act! John says in First John 3:17, 18, "Whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." We are the living epistles of Christ!

In Romans 13:8-10, Paul says "Owe no man anything, but to love one another, [his neighbor]: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law . . . and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."

One of the biggest problems in the world today is getting along with other people! One and a half million people change jobs each year in this country—not because they don't like their job or can't do it—but because they can't get along with those with whom they have to work!

The third channel for our love is for the brethren! We not only love the brethren but we can enjoy fellowship with them. We have the privilege of a special relationship within the Christian fellowship! It was ordained of God for our benefit! It is our foretaste of heaven! Jesus, speaking to His disciples, said in John 13:34, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another." This is a new commandment unto us—that we love one another! John said in 1 John 2:9-11, "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even unto now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."

It is told of John, the Beloved, that when he was too old to preach in the meetings he would just stand up and say, "Brethren, love one another." In 1 John 3:14, 15, John again says, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him."

How are all men to know that we are the disciples of Jesus? In John 13:35 Jesus said the world would know if we "have love one to another." In 1 John 3:16, John says, "We ought to lay down our lives for the brethren"! The saints love one another! They help each other! They feel for and comfort each other! They support each other! They are willing to lay down their lives for each other!

Paul said in Phil. 2:2, 3, "Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." When love reigns in the camp of the saints there is light, life, peace, joy, and power in the Holy Ghost!

The one way we are NOT to channel our love is—to the world! John says in 1 John 2:15, "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."

The pride of life seems to be the greatest weapon of Satan today against the saints. He strikes hardest at our youth! That is our weak spot, too. We want to make it easy for our young people if we can. But, saints, there is no easy way to heaven! We all must go the same way! It is far better for our children to learn the truth and not shelter their pride through ways of the world. All things that are not of benefit to us spiritually or physically should be left off! Styles followed by the world in clothing and hair-styling are an abomination to God! If we are more interested in any way in pleasing the world rather than God, we are not worthy to be called children of God, nor to have an inheritance in heaven!

This is why we need the second work of grace! To be sanctified means—to be set apart from the world; to be separate from the worldly, sinful ways. We are dedicated to God for His service. "One thing is needful, Martha, and Mary hath chosen that good part!"

James 4:3, 4, says, "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

We are married to the Lord. To put our affections upon anything of the world is to commit spiritual adultery! The Bible plainly tells us there will be no adulterers in heaven! Could this be why many prayers never reach heaven? God does not hear the prayers of the unrighteous (John 9:31), unless they are prayers of contrition and repentance.

"And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed, by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Rom. 12:2. What shall it profit a man if he shall "gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" Matt. 16:26. "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself . . ." Matt. 16:24.

Should we need any more admonition to keep our affections upon the Lord? He is worthy of all our love and devotion. The time is short! We must live for Him while it is yet light! "Surely, I come quickly!"

—George Hammond

### "They Cast Him Out"

A man was blind from his birth. One day, Jesus healed him. This enraged the Jews, and they found fault with Jesus and questioned the man. They tried to make the healed man agree with them that Jesus was a sinner and that he should not confess that it was He who had healed him. This poor man felt the pressure. He felt the extreme hatred that the Jews had for Jesus. He knew that if he confessed Jesus he would be "cast out" of their circle and their so-called church. He would be an outcast from all his friends and family. He was in a close place. He loved his family. He loved those with whom he had grown up.

Let us hear his conclusion about the matter. The Jews asked him again about his healing. The man said, "I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples? Then they reviled him. . . . And they cast him out." John 9:27, 28a, 34c.

Have you been "cast out"? Have you refused to bow to the demands of the fashion and fads of the days? Are you considered "out of step" with the times? Have you refused to go with friends or relatives to the dance, clubs, cocktail lounges, ball-games, beer parties, movies, and all such worldly affairs? Have you been "cast out" because you have chosen to be a disciple of Jesus? Have you been considered as being dull and "having no spark" because you refuse to laugh at the filthy jokes that are told? They cast you out and draw themselves together in groups with those of kindred spirit. You feel the pressure. You would like to be with your friends or those whom you have known and loved. Have you taken your stand for truth and rejected error? Have they, with whom you once had fellowship in the Spirit, changed and accepted error, and "cast you out" because you will not follow them? Have you felt the coldness where there once was love and concern for your welfare? Do you often long for their love?



Do you battle grief, heartache and longing for their companionship? Do you pray, fast and seek God to give you grace and to have mercy upon those who have "cast you out" from their circle of love and companionship? Are you willing to be a "separate" person? Oh, I know you long for them and desire their once cherished love, yet you must follow Jesus to be His disciple.

The blind man who was healed was "cast out" but some One took note. Some One was watching. Some One was caring. Some One had His ears open to this poor man's cry. Jesus sought him out. "Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and . . . he . . . found him." John 9:35. How precious! Jesus found him to comfort him. He asked him to believe on Him, the One who had healed him and given him his eyesight, the One who had blessed his life, the One who had brought hope and cheer to his weary heart and gave him a chance to care for himself. The man's love knew no bounds. He had found his true Friend. No longer did he feel the sting of the pressure from the crowd of professed friends because he had found the One who had filled every longing of his heart. He cried out with love and adoration for Jesus, "And he worshipped him." He loved Him and believed Him to be the Son of God. He believed Him to be the One who could fill his life with a blessing and fill the vacancy that had been made by his being "cast out." No longer did he need to fear, nor yield to loneliness. He had found a Friend who would soon go away and send him His Spirit to dwell within him. He felt the comfort of his precious Friend. Jesus said, ". . . My peace I give unto you, . . . Let not your heart be troubled." John 14:27.

There is joy in believing. There is joy in that hope of life beyond the grave. There is joy in those hours when you are alone with your own thoughts, because your Friend, Jesus, is there with you to fill your life with His presence and comfort your heart with a comfort that the world knows nothing about. Have you been "cast out"? Then don't feel sad. Rejoice in your Saviour's presence. "In his presence is fulness of joy." Praise our God from whom all blessings flow!

Look up, dear fellow Christian, and, as the Apostle John calls us, my "companions in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ," take courage. Jesus has promised never to leave us nor forsake us, but to keep us with victory to the end. Some day we will be in heaven. We will never be "cast out" of the presence of those over there, but we will enjoy the glories that God has prepared for those who are willing to be a separate, holy people in this world. God has told us, "Be ye separate," and we find this to be our lot. But remember, Jesus is with us and gives us that comfort and blessings which far surpass anything the world can offer to us.

—Marie Miles

"In the religious world today there is much deadness, coldness, etc. The love of many is waxing cold. To serve God acceptably is to be fervent in spirit."

## Consider the Gift of God

In Adam, we lost our righteous estate, but, praise God, through Jesus' precious blood we have been bought back. Sin cast us down, but Christ raised us up again. Jesus gave His all that He might bring eternal life to all who believe. We read in St. John 10:10, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." These were the precious words of Jesus. Love drew Him down from heaven and His great, loving heart would not leave us helpless. He was willing to give. This was an unselfish gift, and included within it were all of the fruits of the Spirit which are, "Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such, there is no law."

Many years after Adam plunged the world into sin, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments written on tables of stone. But under the law age they knew nothing of the gift of the Spirit. It was more or less an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But Jesus under the new covenant came teaching love and compassion, forgiveness and mercy, and wrote the precious law of grace on the fleshly table of our heart. When we are under the blood of Jesus, we do not seek revenge. Although you should take the life of my brother whom I love dearly, Jesus' love in me would keep me from bloodthirstiness. I would not desire to kill your brother, but rather go about to win both you and your brother to Christ. When I think of what my soul cost my Saviour, it makes me more than willing to go the second mile.

The enemy of our souls will lie by telling us that there are great things out there in sin to enjoy. I have never committed a sin but what it cost me far more grief than enjoyment. The devil will steal one's virtue, then leave him to suffer alone. He will destroy grace and truth from the heart and leave only grief and emptiness for their reward. But thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift! Again the Saviour's love reaches down in the gutter of sin, and with loving, tender care raises them up.

Yes, thank God, He does it again and again. His name is worthy to be praised! "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world; looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:11-14.

Though I may be weak in body, I pray my Lord to help me to grow stronger in the Spirit every day—that I will be a blessing to the weak, and that my life will blend with the precious saints of God.

Yours, with a love for the truth,

—Gladys Cashio