

FAITH^{AND} VICTORY

Church of God Servant



Volume 42, No. 6

50th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35c Per Year

December, 1972

GLORY TO GOD!



"Glory to God in the highest!"

Glory to God for the Gift of His Son!
Praise to Jehovah, who sent heaven's best,
That in this earth God's will should be done.

"Glory to God in the highest!—

Peace on earth, goodwill toward men."
For Christ descended in righteousness,
For to save our souls from sin.

Came from on high to be born in a manger,
Thus came our Savior from heaven above.
Thirty-three years Jesus walked as a stranger,
Showing the pathway to peace and to love.

Infinite love Jesus showed unto us,
Infinite mercy to all of mankind;
Gave us a chance to serve God and be righteous
Making us free from the powers that bind.

"God with us"—what a wonderful story!

When I was saved, what a wonderful day!
Into my heart Jesus came with His glory,
And with His blood all my sins washed away.

Wonderful Savior, so precious to me,
Thrilling my soul with His marvelous love;
And when I'm passing through death's lonely valley,
He'll lead my soul to those mansions above.

—Philip A. Matthews

We are to be filled with all the fullness of God. Self is to be cleansed out of our hearts until not a trace of it remains. God is to have the whole heart to Himself. Self is to be slain so utterly that there is not a single selfish impulse. It is not to be restrained or drugged into insensibility, but crucified. We are not answering whole-heartedly to the requirements of Christianity until this is our experience.

—C. E. Orr

The Mind of Christ



"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Beginning with these words of Paul to the Philippian church, I would like to share a little lesson. Paul's teaching here was and is for all those who know Christ as their Savior. What was the mind of Christ? How did He "feel" about this or that?

Let us think of some of the ways in which the mind of Christ is revealed in the Gospel.

1. Christ's mind is full of love. John 3:16 and Romans 5:8.

2. He felt the importance of service. Even when a child He said, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" Luke 2:49.

3. Christ felt that He should be baptized by John in the Jordan River, thus giving us the example and also a symbol of His own death on the cross and resurrection. He expressed His desire to obey without a murmur when He said: "O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done." Matthew 26:42.

4. Christ felt compassion, for He said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. And He also said in the last verse of this book: "... And lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

5. Christ had a mind to forgive, for He said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34. And He forgave me of my trespasses also. Praise Him!

Paul exhorted the brethren of Philippi that they should try to find the mind of Christ. And this comes about by a "renewing of your mind," Romans 12:2. Paul didn't teach "his own mind," or the "mind of another," but only the "mind of Christ." What was in the mind of Christ was and is put into action. So if we have the mind to love, serve, obey, be compassionate and forgiving, we will act more like Christ. People will then see Christ in us because we have the mind of Christ. Having the mind of Christ will help us to overcome all the things that would hinder our

Christian walk. Having the mind of Christ will cause us to have love for the lost, and also more love for our brethren in the faith. Let us pray for those who don't seem to have this Christ-like mind. Let us show the mind of Christ to others, as there are so many that need this salvation and eternal life.

—Miguel Angel Gaspar, Mexican missionary

The Last Free Exit

The highway was long and wide, and the car sped smoothly along past towns, farms and big cities, carrying us on to our destination. The quiet was unbroken except for the roar of the engine and the whistle of the wind as it whipped through the slightly open window. It was one of those times when the traffic was scarce and thoughts were free to wander as they will; and as we had committed our way unto the Lord, our thoughts were already established in their wanderings to the love of our blessed Redeemer. (Proverbs 16:3). Bits and pieces of song burst forth occasionally from our lips as expressions of joy and praise to God, for does not the Bible say that "with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation"? (Isaiah 12:3).

Suddenly, a sign came into our view, and automatically, it seemed, the car slowed as we read the words, "Last free exit before turnpike." If we wanted to stay on that beautiful, smooth road, we were going to have to pay! Up until now, we had traveled free, for the State had seen to it that the highway was paid for, but this road ahead was not. We could take this last exit, and not have to pay a dime, but from where we could see, that road looked narrow and was probably rough up ahead. Why should we take what surely would be a rougher, longer road to travel when the one we were on was so nice? Well, we will just pay; and with that thought, we raced on past the last free exit. For a while it looked as though there would be no turnpike after all, and I had just turned to my companion with the comment that maybe we wouldn't have to take it after all, when we topped a hill, and there was the toll gate. It was too late! We must enter the gate. And once inside the gate, we would have to pay.

The Lord spoke to my heart, and what He let me know laid a burden on me for poor lost souls in sin. For up ahead is the toll gate, and the price you have to pay for that road is too great to pay through all eternity. How many souls are nearing the last free exit? Could it be you? Are you ready? Do you know that Jesus has already paid for not only your road but also your lodging when you reach the end? The song says: "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe." Why should you pay the greatest price a soul can ever possibly conceive of, when the debt is already paid in full? On the free highway, the State had paid for the blacktop, labor, and all other expenses needed for the job, but Jesus has paid for more than that. "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chas-

tisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:5. This payment covers healing for our bodies, inner peace while we are on this earth, forgiveness for our sins, and passage into eternal paradise when we die. Then He has promised to send us the Comforter, or Holy Spirit, to help guide us along the Way—"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." John 14:16, 17.

So, sinner friend, consider well the facts: do you want to take the free road, or the costly turnpike? Remember the rich man and Lazarus? "But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented." Luke 16:25. "For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?" Luke 9:25.

Are you nearing the last free exit?

—Carol Lasiter

"Escape For Thy Life"

There was a man who received a message that the city of Sodom was going to be destroyed. He begged, pleaded and interceded with his family to leave that wicked city, but they would not heed his warnings. It was hard for him to leave them.

Sodom was like many cities today. This city was full of homosexuals. (Read Genesis 19:5; Romans 1:24.) It is reported by a published account that there are over 70,000 homosexuals in one of our big western cities. It seems to me that it is another Sodom. The Bible says, "And [God] delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds:) The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise governments [or dominion]." 2 Peter 2:7-10. To the pure, clean-minded child of God, these things are so obnoxious. Our very soul hates that kind of wickedness, but yet our heart goes out to those who are under the spirit of evil and desire them to be delivered before it's too late. In this day and age, adulterous, unclean, filthy spirits are loose and are being accepted by the general public. These unclean spirits no longer have to go under cover or hide. They can now work openly. Surely our world is wicked. It is ripening for destruction.

This unclean, adulterous spirit gets hold of people. It divides homes, causes heartaches and brings sorrow to children and loved ones. This spirit is binding and forceful. I happened to hear on the

radio about a minister (and he had followers) who thought he was right in his living openly with another man. He had children and a wife. It is such a horrible thing and God's Word is against such things. Anyone who will yield to such a thought and doing the act is under the displeasure of God. Young people need to be warned never to give in to such wickedness. Small children need to be taught by their parents about such things. Their body is the "temple of God" and they must not defile it. 1 Cor. 3:17. "He that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." 1 Cor. 6:18-20. Our bodies and all of their functions are pure, clean, and God-ordained. Nothing God has made is impure. Our children need to be taught this; yet there are certain God-given desires that need to be kept under subjection and granted only in marriage. Paul says, "I keep under my body and bring it into subjection: lest . . . I myself be a castaway." 1 Cor. 9:27. He was talking about running in this race for heaven, and obtaining "an incorruptible" crown. He said he did not run "uncertainly" nor as "one that beateth the air." He knew what was the most important thing in life, and that was to live according to God's laws, be clean, pure and holy, so he could enter heaven.

God's Word is definitely against homosexuality. Romans 1:24-32 definitely describes it and expresses God's disapproval of it. To those who are determined to do so, it says, "God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves. . . . Men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another. . . . God gave them over to a reprobate mind. . . . Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

Now the message today is, "escape for thy life." Don't linger in this adulterous state. Flee from this spirit of the devil. "Oh," but you say, "I can't treat another person who has been so good to me in such a way." That adulterous spirit has a loveable way about it. It's a wicked, deceiving, cunning spirit. The one who has it will get real hurt, cry, beg, and plead for you to stay with it. It's such a persistent spirit. I have dealt with these spirits and know what I am talking about. Only God can deliver one from it, and clean up the mind and body of one who has yielded to such an evil spirit. I am glad God never let me get into such a condition, because from my childhood my mother taught me the right way and I appreciate it. That is the reason I am warning parents to teach their children about these things. Only God can help us to keep pure-minded and clean, but children need to be warned of the deceptive works of the devil.

Lot lingered, but "the Lord being merciful unto him . . . brought him forth." Later Lot said, "thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life." Genesis 19:17-19. Don't linger in your condition. Listen to the message, "Escape for thy life." Through Christ there is de-

liverance. Confess to Christ, seek forgiveness, and forsake your evil ways. Refuse to be held under bondage any longer. Jesus came to "set the captive free."
—Sister Marie Miles

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS!

The spirit of Christmas soon will be here, . . . Oh, saints be alert to this false Christmas cheer. . . . The spirits like frogs are turned loose in the air . . . to delude, and entice, and enslave in a snare . . . of false piety—worship of temporal things . . . and gains not a blessing for heavenly beings. . . . It's of pagan origin and not from above. . . . The lusts of the flesh are extolled for the love . . . of money for pockets filled only with greed! . . . Can this be the purpose our Savior did bleed? . . . What part can we have in this "mixed multitude"? . . . Will we take of the spirit of which it's endued? . . . Can we foster a lie to the children we raise? . . . Let carnality reign when our God we should praise? . . . This Santa Claus worship we should not instill . . . in the hearts of our youth where God's love should infill. . . . The customs of heathen to God are but vain. . . . We've a hell to shun and a heaven to gain. . . . "Come out now, My people, take not of her sin." . . . God warns us each one, take no part in this thing . . . that uses Christ only to further her gain . . . while the witnesses of God lie in the street slain. . . . Let us worship our Lord each day of our life . . . and leave to the world their idolatrous strife!
—G. Hammond

IN CHRIST'S STEPS

"The road is too rough," I said.

"Dear Lord, there are stones that hurt us so."
And He said, "Dear child, I understand—
I walked it long ago."

"But there's a cool green path," I said,
"Let me walk there for a time."

"No, child," He gently answered me,
"The green road does not climb."

"My burden," I said, "is far too great;
How can I bear it so?"

"My child," said He, "I remember its weight,
I carried my cross, you know."

"But," I said, "I wish there were friends with me
Who would make my way their own."

"Ah, yes," He said, "Gethsemane
Was hard to face alone."

And so I climbed the stony path,
Content at last to know,
That where my Master had not gone,
I would not need to go.

And strangely then I found new friends,
The burden grew less sore,
As I remembered—long ago
He went that way before!

—Selected by Lydia Jantz

Special Offer—Ten names for three months for \$1.00

"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.

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

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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

THE SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS in the precious name of the Holy Child Jesus who perfected the divine plan and offered to all mankind redemption from the bondage of sin. May your days be bright and happy with a personal experience of the essence of the good news announced so many centuries ago by the angel of the Lord to the shepherds of Judea: "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

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As this last issue for the year of 1972 goes to press, we are thankful to the Lord and our faithful readers for the hundreds of new names already received through the special subscription offer, to whom we will be mailing this gospel paper for the first three months of the year of 1973. By the time you receive this December copy you may have a few days remaining before the expiration date of this special offer on Dec. 8 to send in more names—10 for \$1.00. With your special effort at this time, we anticipate having several thousand new readers beginning with the January issue. **PLEASE** rush in all the names possible by December 8, and the Lord will bless you for your sincere concern in spreading the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ, our risen Saviour who reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Let us agree in prayer that the Spirit of God will cause the forthcoming issues of gospel messages to penetrate the heart of every reader and glean out of darkness many precious souls. The Spirit accompanying the Word is effectual in convicting the lost of their need of the Saviour and pointing them to the foot of the cross of Christ where they can find deliverance from sin and receive the joy and peace of salvation.

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The reprinting of the 512-page hymn book, "Evening Light Songs," has been delayed through the lack of a full-time pressman. We believe God has His hand on a consecrated printer-pressman to fill this vacancy very soon. However, it will be at least 90 days before the songbooks are available. Your orders will be accepted for future delivery.

The book, "Highways and Hedges" by Grace Henry, which records the life and missionary labors of the late Faith Stewart, is also out of stock. The author asked us to reprint this book, but with many other out-of-print books already scheduled for printing, we cannot make further commitments at this time.

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This writer is deeply grateful to everyone for the many lovely cards, letters, phone calls and offerings received in remembrance of his 61st birthday, Nov. 15. Please accept this message of heartfelt thanks in answer to your expressions of love on my birthday, as I may not be able to reply personally

to each one. Your fasting and prayers for my healing are also appreciated.

My day was a happy one in the Lord and His service. Many other prayer requests were written and phoned in to be remembered before the throne of mercy on the fast and prayer day of Wednesday, Nov. 15. A number of saints gathered at the Guthrie chapel. The many requests for prayer were submitted, and after scripture reading and exhortations on faith, many earnest prayers ascended to our great High Priest in behalf of each one. The presence of the Lord was real, and my faith was increased and inspired to take a stronger hold for my healing now regardless of sight or symptoms, as well as for definite answers to prayer for all those who sent in requests from near and far. Faith is the victory that overcomes all obstacles. Let us not be guilty of "limiting the Holy One of Israel" as did the Israelites of old. Pray that my faith will not fail. As we bear one another's burdens, we fulfill the law of Christ. Again I say, many thanks!

As this issue goes to press, the annual assembly meeting on the General Southern camp ground at Hammond, La. will be in progress (Nov. 19-26). We pray that the Holy Spirit will anoint richly for every service and that much spiritual benefit will be derived from the preached Word.

My nephew, Vernon Miles, who is Marie's son, lives in Guthrie and works at the printing trade in Oklahoma City. In his spare time he operates the Chief offset press here at the Printshop a few hours each week, reprinting the paperbound books as the need requires. We do appreciate his help in the Lord's work, and trust our Paymaster to reward him in a special way. Very soon we hope to start reprinting the large songbook on this press.

Sister Bonnie Matthews, one of our faithful co-workers, returned to Los Angeles on Nov. 17 to attend the wedding of her brother, Philip Matthews, to Sister Segatha Douglas, an event of Nov. 18. May the Lord bless this Christian young couple, and grant them a long and happy life together in the service of the Lord. Incidentally, Bro. Matthews is the author of the poem on the front page of this issue. Sister Bonnie expects to return to the office on November 27, Lord willing.

Good reports have come from the Jefferson, Oregon assembly meeting which closed on November 12. Sister Laverne Manuel, minister from Louisiana, was the only out-of-state minister there for the entire meeting. Bro. Otis Wilson is the pastor.

For many months Bro. Geo. Hammond has been helping here in the Printshop, printing, folding and wrapping tracts, and folding, compiling and stitching paperbound books. In his spare time, which involved many hours and days, he has been repairing the body of his Volkswagen camper truck which was

badly damaged in a mountain accident while he was on a missionary trip in Mexico last June. Now, with the blessings of the Lord, he has it in running condition again, and expects to make a trip back East very soon. His devotion and service to the Lord is much appreciated, and the Master will not forget his labor of love for Christ and precious souls.

Bro. William and Sister Evelyn McCoy of Dayton, Ohio were with us in services on Wednesday, Nov. 8 and on Sunday, Nov. 12, when Bro. McCoy brought us a good message on how God appeared to various Bible characters. While in this area, they visited relatives and saints, and we were happy to have them visit us here at the office. Sister McCoy is a longtime friend, the former Evelyn (Davis) Gibson who grew up in the Guthrie congregation. They are devoted to spreading this truth, and we pray the Lord to prosper their labors wherever they go.

Plan to attend the Oklahoma State Assembly meeting here at Guthrie, Oklahoma from Dec. 22 to Dec. 31, 1972, during the Christmas holidays. Everyone is cordially invited. This will be the largest mid-winter gathering of God's people in the central area of the United States. A more complete notice appears on another page of this issue.

As this year of 1972 comes to a close, (and it has gone so swiftly) we want to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all those who have prayed for and co-operated with us, financially and otherwise, in printing and mailing out the "white-winged" silent gospel messengers around the world. Let us continue to be "workers together" with the Lord in this soul-saving rescue operation, for we "shall reap if we faint not."

—Lawrence Pruitt

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OBITUARIES



Brother Stephen E. Henry, born June 25, 1915, was married to Miss Audrey Forbes on August 31, 1941. Two children were added to the home after a few years. First, a boy, Stephen James, who was called to his reward on April 7, 1965, aged 16 1/2 years. Later, a little girl, Jeanine, who is now Mrs. Claude Ogden.

Brother Steve's coronation day was Nov. 9, 1972, at the age of 57. "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life." Rev. 2:10. His death was victorious as was his life. The courage, faith, patience, and zeal that he manifested in his affliction was an inspiration to all who saw him in his hour of trial.

Bro. Steve's father, mother, and one sister, Esther, preceded him in death. His mother was a dear saint,

Sister Dot Henry of California, who was Sister Vera Forbes' sister.

He leaves one sister, Mrs. Velma Wilson, DeRidder La.; three brothers, G. V., Joe, and Julius, all of Calif.

Bro. Henry was active in the work of the Lord at Hammond and Baton Rouge, La. He served on the camp ground committee at Hammond for many years. Our place of worship in Baton Rouge was obtained through the efforts and generosity of Bro. Steve and Sis. Audrey. Bro. Steve will be greatly missed by all who knew him, and especially in the area where he labored.

The poem, "My Bible And I," was read by Brother Herbert Probst, also scripture and comments. The sermon was delivered by his pastor, Bro. Max Williamson.

Scripture texts: 1 Corinthians 9:24-26; Heb. 6:19; Romans 8:18-24; 1 Corinthians 13:13.

A touching rendition of the song, "Beyond the Sunset," and the poem, "If You Go First," was carried out at the graveside by Bob and Dorall Forbes, assisted by others. Interment was in the Church of God Cemetery at Loranger, La.

—Bro. M. F. Williamson

If we've the faith to plant a seed
And know a flower will grow;
If we've the faith that rain will fall
And that the wind will blow. . . .

If we've the faith that spring will come
When winter-time is gone,
How can we doubt that life and love
Go ever on and on!

Vester Mae Ramey was born November 21, 1919, to Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler Ramey in Mt. Holly, Ark. and departed this life on Oct. 16, 1972, at the age of 52 years, 11 months and five days.

She moved to Fresno, Calif. in 1949 and remained there until her death.

She leaves to mourn her passing: her devoted mother, Mrs. Lizzie Reynolds; three sisters, and two brothers, a host of other relatives and friends.

Sister Vester Mae accepted the Lord in 1949 and kept a desire to serve the Lord with all her heart until death claimed her. She was faithful to attend services when she could. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother E. J. Trotter.

NOTE OF THANKS

Please accept this means of expressing our sincere and deepest appreciation for your phone calls, the offerings, cards and letters of encouragement that were sent to the family at the death of our beloved daughter and sister, Twila, on October 9, 1972. I plan to personally acknowledge them, but at present duties are pressing and I may be slow in acknowledging them.

The saints in Jefferson and Gladstone, Ore. stood with us in every way possible to help and comfort us, with their presence, the food, and all the little and big ways. Our neighbors were kind with food, offerings and cards. May God bless and repay each one for all their kindness and sympathy shown in this time of sorrow.

—W. J. and Violet Benson and son
—Margaret (Benson) Cable and family

OKMULGEE, OKLA. REVIVAL REPORT

God made another glorious visitation in a revival meeting (Oct. 16-22) in Okmulgee, Okla. The results were glorious. We had the privilege of seeing two daughters of a saint, who had gone to her reward, weep their way to the cross.

We are also thankful for all the help the Lord sent us. The singing was so inspiring. There was a reviving of souls and God was faithful to visit all. We solicit your prayers that we will ever let God lead us.

—Bro. Woodrow Warren, pastor
—Sister Herbert Henderson, secretary

WICHITA, KANSAS MEETING REPORT

The saints at Wichita, Kansas wish to report that we had a real good autumn meeting which closed on Nov. 5. Many prayers went up for the meeting. There was unity in prayer and the Lord did hear and answer. The Word was preached under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The first message was on "Clean Hands," and we heard a good one on "Uncontrolled Love." We were exhorted in one message to be more liberal with our gospel giving. There was also a soul-stirring message about how important it is not to become overcharged with surfeiting or cumbered with the cares of life. The final message asked what we were going to do with the Word we heard, and we were told to take heed lest we let it slip. We had some precious day services, including the ordinance service.

The Lord was faithful to send conviction in the meeting and we are glad to report that six sought the Lord for salvation and several of the saints went for special spiritual help. We are grateful for each out-of-town saint who came to be with us in the meeting, and truly appreciated the ministers who came. Bro. E. J. Trotter was with us throughout the entire meeting. We were glad that Sister Lillie Mae Chandler was able to be with us. It was also a special blessing to have Bro. Lawrence Pruitt and his wife with us the last day of the meeting. We do thank the Lord for His faithfulness.

—Shirley Knight

MEETING IN FT. LAUDERDALE, FLA.

Florida—Dear workers there at the Lord's Printshop, greetings of love in the name of our dear Lord who is everything to me. Praise the Lord!

I do appreciate the prayers of all the saints who prayed for my healing. The Lord so graciously came to my rescue when I seemed to be almost at death's door. . . . Thank the Lord, now I feel fine in my body and encouraged in my soul. . . . I do want to please Him with my life.

The planned meeting here at Ft. Lauderdale has been changed to start on December 10, 1972, and continue ten nights, Lord willing. Pray that the Lord will send Spirit-filled ministers and workers of His own choosing, that He will anoint for every phase of the services, and that lost souls will be saved, believers sanctified, the afflicted healed, and the church edified. Please help in this meeting anyway the Lord leads you to do so. An invitation is extended to all to come. . . .

For further information, contact Bro. H. Hargrave, 22345 S. W. 117th Place, Goulds, Florida, phone 305—247-4102, or Sis. Mattie B. Savage, 212F West Dixie Ct., Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., phone 305—524-0609.

Special Offer—Ten names for three months for \$1.00

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 66th annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting of the Church of God will be held, the Lord willing, at Guthrie, Okla. on Dec. 22 to Dec. 31, 1972, inclusive, during the Christmas holidays. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U. S. A.

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

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

Please send all contributions for the coming State Assembly meeting directly to the State Treasurer, Sister Frances Deforth, Route 5, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The annual California Assembly Meeting of the Church of God, located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, California, will convene, Lord willing, December 22 and continue through December 31, 1972. A most hearty welcome is extended to each one. We are looking to God to send Spirit-filled ministers of His choosing.

Pray much for this meeting that there will be another harvesting of souls as God so graciously granted to us in our campmeeting. Also, during our singingspiration, on Saturday (Oct. 28) before the 5th Sunday, souls came to an altar of prayer and were helped.

For further information, contact Brother Robert Sherman, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif., phone 213-899-2022, or Brother James Pierro, 11316 Glenoaks Blvd., Pacoima, Calif., phone 213-896-7771.

—Anneta Luehring, Sec.

Prayer Requests



Kentucky—Dear folks at the Printshop: Just a line to say we are glad when the "Faith and Victory" paper comes because it contains the truth of God's Word. . . .

Remember us in your prayers. I have a nervous condition. Also, I request prayer of the saints for my oldest son, Howard, who is not saved and not well in body. Call his name in prayer. God is able to heal and save. Christian love to all, —Mrs. Frank Dunaway

Indiana—"I haven't been well for a long time. . . . I feel tired and exhausted all the time. . . . Don't forget to pray for me." —Ione Strebig

Ohio—Remember Sister Evelyn McCoy in prayer. She has some places on her head that God needs to heal.

Oklahoma—"Pray for the healing of my body."

—Sister Etta Simmons

California—"I've written before and the Lord has touched and healed me. Praise His dear name! I need healing of arthritis in my left arm. . . . My daughter is

about to have a nervous breakdown. Her husband drinks heavily and their home is about to be broken up. They have three darling children all under nine years of age. . . . I have the care of a mentally retarded brother, and this other problem makes it more than I can bear. . . . Please pray earnestly for the Lord to undertake for us."

—Name withheld by request

Mo.—"I am having trouble with my ear, and the affliction is serious. I am trusting the Lord. I have sugar diabetes also."

—Eddie J. Lee

Kansas—Do remember our dear Mother Willa J. Williams who is a faithful saint of God. She is up in years now, very feeble, and at her daughter's home in Wichita, Kansas. Remember those who are caring for her also.

Okla.—Pray for Sister Hattie Hines. She is "suffering in body," and is another one of our dear elderly saints. We thank God for our saints who have fought the battle against sin and evil down through the years. Dear Sister Sam Barton needs prayer. She is precious in the Lord. Remember all of our elderly saints. The devil works hard against them. If he can trip them up in their last days, he has gained a victory. "He that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved," Jesus has told us.

Calif.—"Pray for my nerves and eyes." (Also pray for her unsaved loved ones.)

—Ada Leach

A sister desires the saints to pray earnestly for her that she will have victory in prayer. "I need help so badly. Please pray earnestly for me, saints."

La.—"Remember my uncle and his wife in prayer. He has hardening of the arteries."

—N. P. Futch

La.—Let us remember Sister Juanita Williamson who is fighting the good fight of faith. She has been under the hand of affliction for some time although we thank God for the many times He has touched her. She is precious in the Lord and loves God.

Texas—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings of love in Jesus' sweet name. I am always so glad to get the "Faith and Victory" paper. I am so thankful to read the precious truths that are in it. I'm living my best for Jesus every day. I am glad I had Christian parents who reared me in the real truth. My father was a saint, Church of God country preacher like old Brother (Fred) Pruitt. . . . They reared 14 children and only had three children to a doctor. . . . They lived in Russia. . . .

The Lord has heard and answered my prayers many times. This last time I didn't expect to live, after suffering over a year, but all at once He answered my prayer and the saints'. . . . I feel well and strong, but after I eat, a bitter taste comes up into my throat. . . . I know that the Lord can help me, so request prayer of the saints for me.

Christian love,

—Sister Sarah Hoffman

We receive letters from different ones who are burdened for their unsaved loved ones. The devil is getting souls entangled in sin and the devil never helps anyone to do the right. If they would only seek God and be willing to go His way, He would help them out of sin, but they are not willing to quit their sins. The Judgment Day will come and find them unprepared. How sad that will be! Some mothers are weeping over their sons and daughters who are entangled with dope. Wives and husbands are bowed down with grief over their companions leaving them. Children are hurt, and disappointed over their parents' problems. Parents are

weeping over the problems of their children and the devil is laughing and leading souls downward. Oh, dear saints, let us be on our guard and be watchful. The devil is no respecter of persons. He knows where he can hit us the hardest to get us to stumble and fall. The devil knows our weakest points as well as God knows them. Let us also know where they are and work on them, yielding to God and being strong in the Lord.

It is God's plan to heal His children. Many times the Lord does heal, but the devil will take it away through a lack of faith. So let us hold our faith steady in the Lord.
—Sister Marie Miles

Foreign Field Reports

LETTER FROM NIGERIAN MISSION

Southeast Nigeria (Oct. 9)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints near and far: We greet each one in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Thank you very much for your kind letter of September 4 with the draft to aid us in the work of God. Prayers ascend to the Father's throne to bless and reward the donors a hundred fold. We distributed the funds to the gospel workers as Brother Umanah's pay sheet can speak.

Brethren in our midst are eagerly desiring to see one of our brethren from the Church of God in America. As it appears our Government refuses to grant visas to missionaries to enter its doors for longer stays, we pray that you will send one from there for a casual visit of one week. Your visit would be a great encouragement to our brethren. There is no need to think that the expenses would be useless.

Last month I was able to reach Minya Ntak and Ikot Esen Akpan Ntuen. On Oct. 1 I visited Ikot Ntuen, and on Oct. 8 I worshipped at my hometown congregation. I thank God for His blessings because of His unchanging promises. The sick are healed through prayer.

Remember that we are having our year's annual convention in December from the 14th to the 17th. It would be very appropriate for someone to come for this convention.

We lack Efik tracts at this office. You need to reprint the translated copies at the Lord's Printshop and send for distribution to the nation. We wish you God's abundant blessings.

Yours in the Master's service, —Pastor B. E. Udoka

FROM MEXICAN MISSIONARY

Valle de la Trinidad, Mexico (Nov. 5)—Bro. Pruitt and Sister Miles: Thanks be to God for the love which He had for all the human race to forgive all our sins and to give us an eternal inheritance in His heavenly country. All of us here are very joyful for having believed the truth of the gospel.

Please remember Bro. Antonio in your prayers. We are praying much for Bro. Pruitt in all our services, and we pray for all those who work in the Printshop that God would give you the strength that you need every day.

I am very grateful for all you and the saints abroad have done for the gospel work in Mexico. I give thanks to God for all of you.

I left here the 28th of October for Tijuana with the purpose of having the Jeep fixed, because lots of water

had passed into the oil. I was there three days and the repairs cost me about \$60.00, and then I was left without money. I returned to San Ysidro, praying to God that He would help me. Upon arriving at the post-office, I found the letter from you with the check from Bro. George Hammond, and a letter from a Sister with 25 cents. With this money I was able to buy food to bring to my family. Thanks be to God for His love for all those who trust in Him. Truly, He alone is faithful and moves the hearts of His children. Glory to God for His love!

May God richly bless each one. —Tomas Mendoza

OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO REPORT

Okla. (Nov. 6)—Dear ones: Although I've been delayed in my return to Ojos Negros, Brother Juan Cruz Blanco and his family of La Mision are taking good care of the mission work at Ojos Negros and I have received a good report from there. They have been doing quite a lot of personal visitation and through this, one man has gotten saved and another one is showing special interest. Some are asking for special prayer that have not shown much interest in the work until now.

The Lord has wonderfully blessed me to purchase another pickup truck, (a 1967 model) since the Ford pickup has over 100,000 miles on it. The Brother who is selling to me is awaiting his new one, so Lord willing, as soon as his comes, I can have mine and be on my way.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each one who has contributed to this purchase, also offerings to keep the mission work going during my absence. I know the Lord has done it all as no one but He knew I was buying the pickup. May the Lord richly bless each one whom He chose to use.

Keep praying for the Mexico mission work and workers. Your Sister in Christ, —Opal Kelly

Excerpt From Letter to James Huskey

Mexico (Nov. 1)—Dear Brother James: I have been working about 60 miles from home in the grape harvest and coming home on week-ends to take care of the services here in La Mision. My wife, Alicia, conducts mid-week services. I soon will have our bills paid, and then I expect to make another trip to preach the Word in those remote places where they are calling and are so hungry to hear the gospel. Our new baby is three months old, and her name is Raquel (Rachel). The other children are well and four are in school. Alicia is gaining strength.

We salute all the brethren. "Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you." Phil. 4:21. Pray for us and the work of God here.

—Miguel Angel Gasper, native missionary in Baja, Cfa., Mexico

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

South India (Oct. 23)—Beloved Bro. Pruitt and other dear saints in the U. S. A.: Greetings again in the name of Jesus Christ, who said, "I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."

Thank you very much for your good letter dated Oct. 2, 1972, which you sent by registered post. The enclosures were noted with overflowing gratitude, and praise to the Lord for His wonderful ways to His children.

Next week, God willing, myself and my wife will start to Calicut with other believers to participate in the convention there. On the way we shall visit all the churches on the northern side. After this trip I wish to go to another place by the name of Kumali which is a forested area. I got a special call from God to visit a few isolated saints there who are in need of spiritual help. "And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert." Kumali is a place where the spoken language is Tamil. Last week one believer from Kumali came to invite me to that area. God willing, I wish to go. Your valuable prayers are requested.

As I mentioned in the last letter, our convention season starts by next month at various places for which all kinds of help are necessary, which we expect from Heaven. May God direct us to conduct all the conventions with a real vision for lost souls. We continue to lift up our eyes to get the means to build a small chapel at Avoor, and also to help Brother Rao in Andhra State. I am getting letters from Bro. Rao, one after another, pleading for help. But what can I do except to pray? A work has been started there in the name of Church of God, but Bro. Rao wrote that he is without money even for bus fare to go to near places. So I am appealing to the Author and Finisher of our faith. Your prayers are essential.

I was very glad to note that somebody wanted to know the prices of bicycles for our workers here. May God work in the hearts of the saints for the progress and promotion of the work in India. Yes, men ought always to pray, and not to faint.

In my secret prayers every day and in other prayers in the fellowship, I earnestly pray for your complete healing. My prayers are always for you, your wife and family, and for all faithful workers there at the Faith Publishing House and abroad.

Your younger Brother in Christ, —John Varghese

NEW MISSION STATION IN INDIA

South India (Nov. 4)—Dear Brother Pruitt: Through the literature sent me from your publishing house the Lord helped me to see the truth of the Church of God, which name is also Scriptural. According to your advice, I invited Bro. John Varghese and he held meetings here. I got myself separated from denominational connections, strictly adhering to the teachings of the Church of God. Although we depend upon the Lord and His promises to make my ministry easy from worries, Bro. John Varghese encouraged me to stand fast, assuring me that the Church in the States will not forget my commitments, such as house rent \$20.00 per month, and help for the sustenance of my family. I am young and weak in the life of faith. It will help if the Church in America can help me to strengthen my work. I could have spread this truth to several villages if I would have had the necessary encouragement.

I am enclosing a picture of our recent meetings. It is only a small one at my residence. There is a great stir, and several young preachers of the denominations are getting interested in the Church. Please pray for me and my work. In one of the issues of your paper you published a picture in which Bro. John Varghese' name was mentioned. That picture was taken at my home, and I am the first person from the left. May God bless you. Yours in Jesus, —K. Sudarsana Rao

From The Mail Box . . .

Oklahoma.—Dear Bro. Lawrence, Sister Maybelle, and Sister Marie, greetings in the name of Jesus: We are thankful for salvation and the many blessings the dear Lord bestows on us each day. He's been so good to us through our life. I'm so thankful we have Him to depend upon. It's such a blessing just to be able to take all to Him in prayer, knowing that He cares and understands just how to help us. . . .

May the Lord bless you as you endeavor to get the gospel to precious souls. We may not have much longer to work. We want to be faithful unto the dear Lord until He calls for us.

Christian love, —Edwin and Lillian Eck, and family

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

La.—Dear Sister Marie, greetings of love in the name of Jesus: I am glad to be saved and a member of the Body of Christ. Jesus loved us so much that He gave His young life to bring us this great love.

I received your letter, books, and the "Faith and Victory" paper. I enjoyed reading them. We are praying that the Lord will continue to bless all of you there at the printshop, and that He will give you added strength and wisdom to keep the pure gospel going out by the printed page. You will never know what good has been done until at the Judgment. I remember back in the 1930's, during the depression, how hard it was to get 25c to send for the paper. Once I sewed all day in my spare time and the lady paid me 25c, so I sent it for the "Faith and Victory" paper. Those were hard times, but I feel they were profitable times for me, as they made me feel my need of God and helped me to pray more and get closer to the Lord than ever before. The dear Lord has been so good to me. I am so thankful He didn't cut me off before I found this true and holy way. Praise His name!

I hope to see you or some of you at our Hammond assembly meeting, Lord willing. Pray that I will get to attend most of the meeting. Continue to pray for us.

Lots of love,

—Effie Miller

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

Virginia.—Dear Bro. Pruitt, greetings in the name of our marvelous Christ: Thanks for your good letter.

I am saved and on the victory side. I love the Church of God and the dear saints that constitute it. I am happy to be separated from sectism, and the world with all its pomp and pleasure. . . .

I have sold out here, and I want to locate near a congregation of saints so I can be in their services.

Pray for me, and still remember my son in the Air Force.

Much love,

—Wm. J. Preston

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

Kansas.—Dear Sister Marie: I'm sending you the ten names, plus the missionary check. . . .

It is nice to have time, when the "Faith and Victory" comes, to sit down and read it. I truly enjoy it and it is food for my soul. . . .

I'm planning to go to all-day services at Coffeyville, Kansas next Sunday (Nov. 12) if it be the good Lord's will. I am always glad to get to go and happy to see others come, too. . . .

I remember the Printshop workers in my prayers, and pray God to help each one of you. Please remember me.

With love,

—Mamie Norcutt

Montana—Greetings of love and appreciation once again from Montana with some of the Lord's money to be used in the work for lost souls. . . .

Sister Marie, please continue to remember us with your prayers, as we feel our need of the saints' prayers.

May the dear Lord bless and encourage you and all His workers there.

—Sisters Betty Davis and Edith Boyer

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

Indiana—Dear Bro. Pruitt, greetings to you and all the saints everywhere: I hope all is well and everything is moving for God at the printshop and you are much improved in body. He surely is a great Healer of body and soul.

A few days ago I was pretty sick in body. I could hardly get about and I went to the Lord in prayer. I told Him that He said if we abide in Him and His words abide in us, we could ask what we would and it shall be done unto us. John 15:7. I began getting better right then, praise His holy name, and have been feeling better ever since.

Wife and I were at the Myrtle, Mo. campmeeting and had a wonderful time in the Lord. We got to meet quite a number of the saints and our brothers and sisters [in the Lord] that we didn't know we had. We are looking forward to the next meeting in 1973. . . .

Your Brother in the service of our King,

—Nathan Mobley

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

W. Va.—Dear Sister Marie: You will find enclosed . . . to use in your work there. May the Lord bless you all is my prayer.

Thanks for your prayers for me. My spine is completely well—no pain any more. Praise the Lord for His blessings! I love Him with all of my heart.

Remember me in all of your prayers. I wish I were where I could go to your meetings.

Love to all,

—Bertha Roberts

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

Oregon—Dear relatives in the family of God (Eph. 3:14, 15), the church that is a "world without end." (Eph. 3:21).

I found that money order that I asked you to pray with me to find. [It was dated Sept. 15, 1971.] You can use it to help spread the gospel in whatever way you see it is needed.

Your older Sister will be 85 years old if I can live on until January 22, 1973, so I may not be able to do much more for the Lord. Goodbye and may God bless you.

—Rose Babcock

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

Alabama—Dear Sister Marie: I trust the Lord is blessing there at the Print Shop. I have a great concern and love for all there who have dedicated their lives so fully to the Lord. Although I seldom write, my thoughts and prayers for the work and dear ones there are unending.

I have certainly felt the blessings of God in my life since attending the Monark campmeeting in the summer. Maybe it was the dedication of my life through sanctification that brought these blessings. I can't exactly understand what happened, only I know that God has given me grace that I didn't know He had for me. . . .

I have several unspoken requests I would like for the saints there to remember in prayer. Not long ago, I was pondering on the thought of prayers that have not yet been answered and the Lord led me to the verse, "Wait on the Lord, be of good courage and He shall

strengthen thine heart; wait, I say, on the Lord." Often now, when I have little trials or prayers that are seemingly unanswered, I'm reminded of that verse and my faith seems to grow stronger. . . .

May God bless you,

—Sandra Whitson

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



N. Carolina (Oct. 31)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints everywhere: I send greetings of Christian love in the precious name of Jesus. I felt impressed to send a few lines of testimony while I am yet a single man. I'm sure that some of the young people look toward marriage and think it would be easy to live for God if they were married. I just want to say that during the 3½ years since I have been saved the Lord has marvelously blessed me. When I first started out I had grievous trials with doubts and accusations, but as I have learned more about the ways of the devil and how to walk by faith, I am much steadier spiritually.

One lesson I have learned of late is that God wants us to be 100 percent dependent upon Him. If we think we can do this or that in our own strength, we are ready for a fall.

The Lord has led me by His Holy Spirit in so many different manners. It's wonderful to have the consolation that "as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." I thank all the saints for their prayers from time to time.

As Janice Allen and I enter married life, we desire to be a godly example to those around us, and also to be a help, an encouragement and a blessing to all those with whom we come in contact. We realize we can do nothing without the Lord. Please continue to pray for us.

Your Brother in Christ,

—Ed Johnston

(Editor's note: Bro. Ed Johnston and Sister Janice Allen were united in marriage on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 4, 1972, on the church campground at Myrtle, Mo., with Bro. Murphy Allen, the father of the bride, officiating. The weather was nice for the outside wedding, and many saints and friends attended from several states. Our prayer is that God may grant this Christian couple a long and happy life together in the service of their Master. They will make their home at Rt. 3, Shiloh Church Road, Winston-Salem, N. C. 27105.)

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

Oklahoma—Dear saints scattered abroad, greetings in Jesus' dear name: Today as I travel along the memory lane of life I'm made to rejoice in God's holy love. The past 2½ years have brought a real change in my life. I have missed my dear companion and daughter so much. As I spend so much of my time alone, I'm made to appreciate God's presence.

This past year has been so different than I expected. It seemed the winter months dragged by so slowly, as I felt like I was in a cage, for I couldn't get outside because of the danger of falling. So I prayed, "Please, Lord, make me able to get outdoors when it warms up, so I can enjoy the sunshine."

On June 2 the Lord did answer prayer, and before I realized it, I was going on a trip which far exceeded anything I had ever thought of. Sister Ruth Murphey thought her car would make the trip, so the four of us, including Sister Frances Perkins, left in her car heavily

loaded. We traveled through Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia to the South Carolina campmeeting at Holly Hill. There I spent hours in the sunshine, even ate my meals outside. We went to Charleston, S. C. to see the deep-sea port. From there we went up into the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina, and it was such a beautiful sight. Bro. and Sister Biddix took us on a tour to see the lovely mountain flowers. From there we came through the Great Smokey Mountains and the Cumberland Mountains and to Danville, Ky. to a meeting at the Samons' home. We enjoyed the saints so much, as we also did at the Holly Hill meeting. Leaving there we visited in the Bro. Curtis Williams' home, then on to Green Bank, West Virginia. Here we met some more new faces, and enjoyed being with them. It seemed we fit together like a big family. We attended a meeting there and met some dear ones from many places, some as far away as Pennsylvania. I did enjoy the fellowship of these dear ones.

From West Virginia we came home through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri arriving on June 29. Later I went to the Monark Springs and Myrtle, Mo. campmeetings, and had only two sick spells which lasted only a few hours, for God did heal me. We went on to Blackford, Ky. and there we met some more precious saints. God was there and we had a good meeting. The baptizing was in the Ohio River. Back in 1912 I heard the saints talk about the wonderful meeting at Blackford. I surely enjoyed my stay there.

Do pray for me,
—Sister Sam Barton
7415 E. 34th St. North, Tulsa, Ok. 74115

Kentucky—Dear Sister Marie, and all the saints, greetings in the precious name of Jesus: The Lord has been so good to us in both soul and body. I can never thank Him enough for all He has done for us in so many ways.

As some of you know, some months ago my husband was healed of ulcers. But later, other trouble set in with an over-acid stomach and much pain in the upper part of his stomach, different from where his ulcer had been. On Wednesday, Sept. 27, at prayer meeting he was anointed and prayed for, and got so much better. But on Friday morning, Sept. 29, about 4 o'clock, he was taken suddenly with something which was, no doubt, a light stroke. Whatever it was, God knows. He suddenly gave out a real loud cry. I got up, turned on the light and rushed to him. He was shaking violently all over for a while, then he lay perfectly still with eyes wide open, not blinking an eye and staring with a wild look. He could neither move, nor talk. I was all alone with him, but I never once thought of a doctor, or taking him to a hospital, for our trust is in God and God alone. I called Bro. and Sister Mart Samons and asked them to come at once, that I thought Wilbur was dying. They came very soon. Earnest prayers were offered for him, and after some time he began to show signs of life, gradually improving. Bro. and Sister Samons stayed with me the rest of the night. He was greatly improved, so they left, after getting one of our daughters to come and stay with me. I called our other children in from different states, telling them of their father's condition. All seven came except two, that were unable to come at that time. But before they got here, the same day between 5:00 and 6:00 p. m. Wilbur screamed out again just as before, and in the same way as before he became apparently lifeless. I was home alone with him then also, and again I called for Bro. and Sister Samons.

They were not long in getting here, and again held on to the Lord in earnest prayer. We really despaired of his life.

Our dear pastor, Bro. Ed Wilson and family, were in Oklahoma at the time, but when he got word of Wilbur's illness, he called me and said he would start right home. I knew we had his prayers also before he got here. How we do appreciate the prayers and interest of the dear saints in times of trouble! Many prayers were going up in Wilbur's behalf, and he improved greatly. Praise the dear Lord, He has spared his life and has restored him to almost perfect health again. On Oct. 15 he was able to attend services at the chapel, both morning and night, and again he went to prayer meeting last Wednesday night. Ever since he was healed, he has been getting stronger. He has a good appetite, something he didn't have before. He is free from all pain in his stomach, and is able to do some of his outdoor farm work.

Oh, what a mighty God we serve! Some say that the day of miracles is past, but truly that is not so. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. Praise His dear name!

I have two brothers that desperately need salvation. Both are up in years. Please remember them in your prayers.

Yours in Christ, —Sister Wilbur F. Jarvis

Texas—Dear Sister Marie and all, greetings in Jesus' dear name: I want to testify to the goodness of our Lord and Saviour. I had sciatic rheumatism in all my limbs, and could hardly do anything. One night they hurt so bad that I just could not sleep. I was praying and the scripture came to me, "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry." Then the Lord gave me a healing touch, for which I thank Him. Although it is not completely well, I believe He will heal me.

I was praying for Bro. Lawrence, and the joys of the Lord just flooded my soul. It seemed like he was going to be completely healed. . . .

Christian love and prayers, —Sister Nellie Lovell

Oklahoma—Greetings to the readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper: For some time I have felt I should write my testimony, as the dear Lord has been so good to me.

For some months last year I wasn't well at all. I didn't even feel like sitting up very long, and sometimes, not at all. Oh, how I do thank the Lord for His blessing of healing! I can now do my housework, and I have been working at a part-time job most of this year, and also working some in the yard.

I don't feel that the Lord needs any help, such as medicines, to make these bodies well, but we need to stand firm against the afflictions in order to get the victory. The devil likes for God's people to be sick. I desire to stand out against him more.

I had a car accident in June of this year which made me quite nervous. I thought I would be sore in body the next day, but wasn't much, if any. I thank the Lord for blessing me through that accident. I could not see any good at the time in my car being torn up, but I knew the Bible teaches that all things work together for good to those who love the Lord. Oh, I desire to love Him more and live before the world like He would have me to. How watchful we need to be in living for the Lord!

If I had been as watchful as I could have been in driving, I believe I could have avoided that car accident. I feel more dependent upon the Lord to help me in driving.

I had to be without my car for some time as it was quite a while before one part came in, which was a trial to me, as I was working part time and felt I needed my car to go to work and back. I thought of the Scripture that says: "In your patience possess ye your souls." Luke 21:19. I hope I got all the good out of this that I needed, as I surely want to have all the patience I need. I desire to live to please the Lord. Pray for me.

Yours for all the truth, —Leona Green

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

S. Carolina—Dear Bro. Lawrence and all the saints, greetings in Jesus' dear name: Today I am much encouraged in the dear Lord.

After reading the wonderful testimonies in the "Faith and Victory" paper today it makes me more determined to trust God to the end of this life. I hear and read about so many afflictions among the saints, but praise God, He can and will heal them every one if we will just trust in Him. I have had many afflictions on my body. God healed me of arthritis which I had so bad that, when I would sit down in a chair for an afternoon, I could not get up and walk. I had to crawl from the chair to the couch or bed. Then when I got there, someone would have to pick me up and set me on the bed or couch. Then I was anointed and prayed for, and praise God, I was healed almost immediately. I am healed yet of arthritis, and that was seven years ago. God has healed me many times of other afflictions since then. Praise God, my determination is to trust Him until I die. The suffering here can't compare with the joy and peace in heaven. May God richly bless each one of His children.

In your prayers please remember all the folks here at Holly Hill that we will be all God is calling us to be as a perfect example before our fellowmen.

Your Sister in Christ, —Sister Edna Crummie

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

Calif.—I am writing this letter to tell of God's mercy to me. I thank Him that I am saved and very much encouraged to live for Him, for the peace He has given me.

In April, 1972, a huge knot came in my right breast. It caused severe pain and suffering, and was very hot with fever. It was uncomfortable to move at all, especially my right arm. When I suffered greatly, my husband would pray and God would ease the suffering. When we needed extra help, we would call our pastor, Bro. Trotter, for prayer. God never failed to ease the pain. We surely thank God for His mercy.

I can testify today that God has healed this condition. I tell the saints in Fresno that God performed surgery on me. Four holes opened and drained blood and yellow matter for three weeks. It is now cleared up and healed real good, except for a slight tenderness. There is no pain at all, for which I am very grateful to God. It surely pays to trust God in and for all things.

I desire your prayers for a severe affliction in my stomach, which causes great suffering at times. I am trusting God to take care of it. When we are able to submit to God, live or die, God is able to work in our behalf. I just want to live closer to Him. Pray for me.

Your Sister in Christ, —Wilma Parrish

Continuation In Grace

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as he is pure." 1 John 3:2, 3.

Some have held the idea that everyone is a son or daughter of God since all physical creation was by Him. Others have taken an opposite view, that one does not become a child of God in this life, but if one does, he cannot have a positive knowledge of it.

Our texts tell us in unequivocal language that some of us are sons and daughters of God here and now. No doubt some of you will say, "I would give anything to have such assurance." If you really mean that, God will, without the least doubt, give you this peace. Perhaps, though, if you will ask the Holy Ghost to search you, you will discover you are not willing to give anything and everything.

God not only gives the certain knowledge of initial salvation and perfected holiness, but also showers upon His children that which accompanies such a relationship to Him. See 1 John 5:10; Romans 8:16; Acts 15:8, 9; Hebrews 10:15; 1 Cor. 2:9.

The two men, presumably angels, mentioned in Acts 1:10, 11 stated that Jesus would come again in the same visible manner that He went away. At least a part, and a very important part, of the Christian's hope is the second coming of Christ. Christ's second coming is a powerful stimulation and incentive to hope. Not knowing the day or hour of our Savior's return, and being impelled by the love of God within, the honest, sincere saint of God exercises great carefulness to be pure, as Christ is pure. Attention to holy living is a definite mark of every one who is born again.

On the other side, to take the position the Lord delays His coming, that God is too good to punish the wicked, or that He will let those who are "in Christ(?)" into heaven in spite of their sins, tends to careless living. Seeing the earth shall be dissolved and its works burned up, and that the elements shall melt with fervent heat, we are instructed to be holy in conversation (manner of life). 1 Peter 3:10, 11.

Salvation frees us from condemnation. "But if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God." 1 John 3:21. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Rom. 8:1. Sin brings guilt. It logically and Scripturally follows that anyone guilty of sin, whether or not claiming to be a Christian, or a Christian who falls into thoughtful, known, willful transgression, is not in Christ Jesus. We are free from condemnation only when we have confessed our sins to God up to date, have turned from all that we presently know is wrong as well as all that God shall ever show us to be sin, and cleared all differences between us and others, forgiving and asking forgiveness.

There is no escape from, or gainsaying of God's Word. It says plainly and without qualification, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezekiel 18:4, 20. One phase of this death is immediate. All manner of sins shall be forgiven except blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, so one may be raised from soul-death to newness of life. Praise the Lord! There is a "second death" of final and eternal significance. This doom of the soul is irretrievable.

Jesus said of His sheep, He gives to them eternal life, they shall never perish, and "no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." Just before saying this in John 10:28, 29, He also said, "My sheep follow me." (verse 27). What is taught and emphasized in these verses is the keeping power of God. To teach otherwise is to do violence to the many other Scriptures dealing with this subject. The heart of the Gospel is salvation from all acquired and inherited sin, and power to keep us from falling.

In the epistle of First John 3:15 we are told, "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." Probably most folks, if not everyone, have experienced hatred toward one or more persons. Again many, if not all, who have lapsed into sin after having at some time been made a Christian by God's saving grace, have experienced hatred within. When this is done, the soul is "without eternal life." Murderers along with idolators will be "without," while those who keep God's commandments have a right to the tree of life, and shall enter through the gates into the City of God, or heaven. Revelation 22:14, 15.

The test of our love to Christ is, "that we keep his commandments." This, the one in earnest to please the Lord, gladly does, and he finds His commandments are not grievous. Being a disciple is dependent upon our "continuing" in Christ's Word. John 8:31.

There is a sharp, and very visible difference between a Christian and one who is not. There is absolutely no excuse for not noting this dissimilarity. Those doing not righteousness are not of God, but of the devil. 1 John 3:10. On the negative side, he that loveth not his brother is not of God. He that committeth sin is of the devil. (verse 8). Jesus told the self-righteous Pharisees, "Ye are of your father, the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do." John 8:44a. "Ye do the deeds of your father." (verse 41).

While abiding in Christ, we bear fruit. John 15:4. If we do not abide in Him, we shall not bear the fruit of the Spirit or have the witness of the Spirit with our spirit that we are a child of God. God the Father is glorified when we bear much fruit. John 15:8. "Every branch [in Christ] that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." John 15:2. The man that does not "abide" in Christ is cast forth or out, a withered branch, and is burned. (verse 6, and Matt. 13:30).

Quite a lot is said in the Bible about enduring. In the parable of the sower, Jesus sets before us the fact that the Word of God sown on stony-ground souls is received with gladness. Having no root in themselves, however, they endure but for a rather short time. These cannot stand affliction and persecution which come to them because of the Word, but are offended. Paul wrote to the Galatians that they did well for awhile, but allowed themselves to be hindered. Galatians 5:7. Peter asks who can harm (hinder) you if you really mean to do right. We have Christ's promise that if we endure unto the end, we shall be saved. Matthew 24:13; Mark 13:13. This is perseverance.

Sinners and backsliders do not have the Spirit with them, much less in them. They do not have the Spirit of Christ. Romans 8:9. No man can know his spiritual condition, but by the Holy Ghost. John 16:8. Unless, or until, a soul does eternal despite to the Spirit of grace, the Spirit continues to convict of sin, of righteousness, and judgment. It is the Spirit who leads the willing soul into the regenerated, or new-birth, experience. Without the Spirit of Christ, we are not His, no matter what one's relation to Him has been in the past. It is only in the sense of the drawing of, and persuasion of, the Spirit that He dwells with the sinner and backslider. Dear soul, do not let the devil, the enemy of your soul put you to sleep in a security of some sort, falsely so-called. As you value your soul, flee to Christ now in repentance and faith.

We may not always know whether another person is a child of God by spiritual regeneration or not. Certainly we have no right, according to God's Word to even think a soul is not saved unless God shows us it has intentionally yielded to sin. In a general sense, the witness and fruit of the Holy Spirit with our spirit is proof of our being accepted by God. The fruit of the Spirit, according to two statements by our Lord and Savior, is seen in our love to other Christians. Of course, this is far more than just saying we love. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:35. "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren." 1 John 3:14. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Every saved person has the grace of God working in practical living, giving power and victory over temptation. The unsaved and the backslidden do not have grace working in a direct and experiential way in them. Their will does not co-operate and submit to God and His grace. Sinners and backsliders do not have the love of God as a divinely bestowed gift. They are estranged from God. Fruit has to do also with obedience to God. Matthew 7:16, 20.

The way with God is the way of the "cross" and, "self-denial." Unless one really means business about living for God, taking this way just does not seem inviting. Moreover, often the soul actually opposes such a rugged course. Sinners, and believers

who have lapsed into sin, will not, and do not, submit to self-denial and cross-bearing.

God has raised a pertinent "if." The blood-cleansing, as a present enjoyment, is dependent upon our walking in the light right now. But "if" we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, "cleanseth" us from all sin. Those who do not "walk in the light," the blood of Christ does not cleanse. Without this cleansing, we are not in a condition to go to heaven.

You and I are either for Christ, or against Him. Awful as it is to be against Christ, many are. Unless we continue being for Christ, working with Christ in gathering lost souls, and gathering in constructive efforts for His Kingdom, we will "scatter" and destroy. Matthew 12:30.

In Galatians 5:4, Paul wrote about those who are justified (or seek to be) by the law. The first verse, and the entire context, reveals that those addressed had found "liberty" and "freedom" in Christ. These Galatians were counseled not to become entangled again with the yoke of bondage. After having had Christ as a personal Savior, and then depending on circumcision, "Christ profits nothing." (verse 2). Christ becomes of no effect to the one hoping to get or keep God's favor through the law. The law was not given for that purpose. Though these people "did run well" before, as those who are transformed by grace do, Paul asks who has hindered them. He tells them they are no more a servant, but a son. Galatians 4:7. Yet, if and when they turn to the weak and beggarly elements (Galatians 4:9), they will go into bondage, and will be fallen from grace. Falling from grace is impossible except when grace has been previously experienced. The soul who has fallen from grace has been "bewitched" into disobeying the truth, seeking to be made perfect by the flesh or going some other than God's way. Galatians 3:1. Those who have had the Spirit of His Son in their hearts crying, Abba Father (Galatians 4:6), may fall from their steadfastness. 2 Peter 3:17. Make no mistake, unconfessed and unforsaken sin or sins will not go unpunished in eternity. Wrongs not righted and unforgiveness toward anyone will positively disqualify us from meeting the Judge of all the earth in peace. Genesis 18:25; Hebrews 12:3.

Some very wonderful and noteworthy principles and propositions are laid down in Paul's Holy Ghost-inspired letter to the Hebrews. In this gospel age God speaks unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things. Hebrews 1:2. Special attention should be given to God's message to the Hebrews, and us. Hebrews 2:1. Failure to "heed" may result in the message that we have heard slipping away. God's Word is unchanging. Every transgression receives a just reward when it is known disobedience. (verse 2). If we even neglect this great salvation that we have received we shall not escape. (verse 3).

The Bible speaks many times on the subject of backsliding. The consequences of backsliding are

shown to be horrible, and there is grave danger that the backslider may either not choose to return to the Lord, or may not have the opportunity. Except the soul is guilty of eternally insulting the Holy Ghost, however, there is a possibility of restoration to God's favor and approval. There is such a thing as apostasy. This is different in degree and nature from ordinary backsliding. One prominent cause for backsliding is a contentedness to remain a spiritual baby. To fail to go on to the deep things of God may lead one to a complete and eternal rejection of Christ and a "falling away." Those once enlightened, who have tasted of the heavenly gift, and have been partakers of the Holy Ghost, are not mere professors of salvation. They have received the Lord and it has been precious. The power of God has been felt. After falling away completely, or taking an eternal stand against God, all hope of restoration is forever gone. What may have started in backsliding has ended in apostasy and a certain "fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour adversaries." Hebrews 10:27.

While we are not saying that the interpretation of the passage of Scripture we are about to refer to is the foremost one, you will readily see, I believe, that it is a very important one. "If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there shall it lie." Ecclesiastes 11:3. The Bible is a spiritual Book, and concerns itself with spiritual needs and destinies. It is obvious that when a wicked man dies, whether he be a backslider or one who has never been a Christian, his life and record will continue to be what it was at death. God will then deal with that soul accordingly. It is so necessary that we "die the death of the righteous, and our last end be like his." This is the only way to have assurance that all is well when we leave this world.

To those who "overcome" God makes great promises. No where in Sacred Writ does God make a promise of eternal bliss to the lawless and disobedient. To have an abundant entrance into the Kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we must overcome. This is possible only through the grace of God. An inheritance of everything that is good, (Revelation 21:7) and a sharing of God's glory is for the overcomer. Revelation 3:21. The tree of life in God's paradise is granted to the overcomer. Revelation 2:7.

Dear soul, do not depend on any opinions of men who say that because you were once saved, you are eternally secure. Ask God to teach you, and He will.

—R. F. Wilson

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