

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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New Year—1974

Once more the bells are tolling out
The old year passed and gone;
Its rays of hope, its shades of doubt
On fleeting wings have flown.

While rock the worldly to and fro
In drunken night of sin,
We face a future full of woe,
The nations sink within.

Another year! What will it be?
For better or for worse?
What will the stream of history
To future man rehearse?

Oh, shall we sink in dark despair?
But wait! in yonder skies
A star of hope does now appear
Before our wond'ring eyes!

The star that shone on Bethl'em's plain
The Christ-child to reveal,
Becomes the Light of hope and gain,
Our troubled hearts to heal.

Yet shining in our human sky,
A Light to never cease;
Beams of a Love that will not die,
It shows the way of peace.

And in the light of truth and grace
Our souls fresh courage take.
We see our Father's smiling face,
And with His Son partake.

Thus in this New Year coming forth,
Bright prospects do we see
Of great accomplishment and worth
For all eternity.

Ring out the bells, the New Year greet
With hearty hand and voice;
Make straight the pathway of your feet,
Good Christian men, Rejoice!

—Leslie Busbee

The Divinity of the Church

The Church is of divine origin. Her inception co-existed in the mind of God with that of the plan of salvation. Her origin, being the immediate result of redemption, was inseparable from it. And since, therefore in the counsel and good purpose of God, Christ was a "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev. 13:8), the church, redeemed through His blood, also stood before the divine mind parallel with the gift of His Son. Of that holy institution, we have seen, He cast a beautiful shadow upon the earth, in the form of the temple and all its contents. And, after "Moses verily was faithful in all his house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after," in due time, "Christ, as a son over his own house" appeared, and He built this beautiful church of the living God. He adorned her foundations and walls with the precious stones of His graces and gifts. He adorned her pillars with the robes of His righteousness, and in her He sheds the light of His own glory. She is from heaven, and all her members are born of God. Along with Christ, her life and head, she is the gift of infinite love. She is "God's building," chosen of Him for His own dwelling place; and where He spreads a continual feast of love for all His heaven-born children. The divine Son purchased her with His own blood. Acts 20:28. Yea, He "gave himself" for her to be His own bride (Eph. 5:25); built her upon the rock. Matt. 16:18. As the "true tabernacle" of the present divine testimony, the Lord pitched her and not man. Hebrews 8:2. As the house of God, He that buildeth all things in her is God. Hebrews 3:4. As the beloved city, she "hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11:10. Her foundation is Jesus Christ the divine Savior. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." Her life and light is the "eternal Spirit."

Her creed is the pure Word of God. Thus spake God by the mouth of His servant, Moses: "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command

him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him." Deut. 18:18, 19.

This is fulfilled in His Son as the apostle testifies. Acts 3:22, 23. God here announces that He would put His words in the mouth of this prophet; and when He came, He testified, saying, "The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works." John 14:10. Therefore, "God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son." Heb. 1:1, 2. This adorable Christ came into the world and delivered the perfect laws of His kingdom, and when about to finish His mission on earth He said, "I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them." John 17:8. And when He sent forth His ministers to preach His gospel to every creature, He commissioned them to make disciples in all nations, "baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19, 20.

Thus we see that Christ Jesus spoke all the words that the Father "put into his mouth," and all that He had commanded Him to speak; and the Son likewise commissioned His apostles to publish all that, and only that, which He gave them. Therefore, "All Scripture divinely inspired, is indeed profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for that discipline which is in righteousness; so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly fitted for every good work." 2 Tim. 3:16, 17, *Emphatic Diaglott*. God, the Father, is then the source of this new covenant, Jesus Christ the mediator of the same. Its object is the "conviction" of men in sin, and the teaching, correction in discipline in righteousness, of all the saints of God, and the result is, by means of it they are perfected. As divinely inspired discipline, it corrects every error, and teaches every obligation of righteousness in all our relations to God and to man.

By means of this perfect law, the man of God—every man of God—may be perfect, and thoroughly furnished in all that pertains to a life of righteousness; and fully instructed in every good work. So, if the Scriptures of divine truth are unsuited, or insufficient, as a discipline for any people, it would indeed appear that such are not men of God. The creeds that men have multiplied in the earth testify against themselves and in favor of this divine Book of discipline. They very generally confess the Word of God is the only inspired and infallible rule of faith and practice: "So that whatever cannot be read therein, nor proved thereby it is not necessary to receive or believe," so they say. Yet, they impose upon their unwary joiners heaps of forms, traditions, and rules having no place in the inspired discipline of the divine church. God's church is a "spiritual house," and to her was given a spiritual law; but earth-born associations, even though called churches, are earthly in their tendency, therefore cannot be governed by a spiritual law; hence, they have made their own laws,

and amend them to their own option. But the divine and heavenly law of the Lord is well suited, yea, perfect in all its doctrines and ordinances, as the discipline of the church that is indeed of God is adapted to all the conditions of the saved, and is perfect in all ages of this dispensation.

Her government is divine, not only in the legislative, as we have just seen, but likewise, in its judicial and executive departments. "The government shall be upon his shoulder." Isa. 9:6. "And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion." Micah 4:8. "He is the head of the body, the church, . . . that in all things he might have the pre-eminence." Col. 1:18. A divine government in the highest sense and a theocracy not only appointed by, but administered of God. Even "one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Eph. 4:6. "It is the same God which worketh all in all." 1 Cor. 12:6. He chooses men for elders, and deacons, as "governments" and "helps," but these, as well as all the members of the body, have no right or power to act, except as "it is God that worketh in them." If, therefore, they teach or exhort, it is by His Spirit dwelling in them. If through them judgment is dealt out, it is not "man's judgment," but His that dwelleth in them. So her government is indeed all divine; yea, it is indeed a government of God, working all things in all the members.

Her walls are salvation. Isa. 26:1; 60:18. "Behold, God is my salvation." Isa. 12:2. Therefore her walls are also divine. She has a divine door, even Jesus Christ, Himself. John 10:7, 9.

The church, having been purchased, founded and built of God, He claims in her the exclusive right of proprietorship. She is not "our church," but "God's building," divinely owned, and His glory He will not give to another.

Her members are all the sons of God and bear His holy image. The Lord is her everlasting light, and God, Himself, the glory in the midst of her.

She is even divinely named: "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." Eph. 3:14, 15. And let not men or devils presume to characterize her by names of blasphemy which they invent. Behold, she is all divine.

—D. S. Warner

"Bringing into captivity every thought." (2 Cor. 10:5) There is a world of truth here that most Christians have entirely over-looked. They give their spirit and heart to the Lord and they keep their head to themselves. Our intellect must be sanctified by being slain and replaced by the mind of Christ. The only remedy for bad thoughts is to stop thinking all our own thoughts, . . . and to be delivered from the natural mind as well as the natural heart.

All souls have more or less of strong and ardent desires, except those whose will is lost in the will of God.

—Sel.

Walk While Ye Have the Light

Jesus said on one occasion when the people were inquiring about Him: "Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light." John 12:35, 36. Light and knowledge have come into the world so that men are without excuse. The convicting Spirit of God and the light of the gospel have shined into the darkness of this world. But the serious thing about this light is that it is not going to wait very long for man to become willing to walk in its rays. "Yet a little while is the light with you." Man should be able to sense his darkness and should be yearning for the light. When the light comes, man ought to respond eagerly and walk in its life-giving blessings.

Solomon counsels the youth: "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not. . . ." He then follows with a description of times that will come in later life that will render the mind, nerves, and body, and soul in a poor condition to receive the light from heaven. How sad that so many young people waste the strength and vigor of their youth in vain pursuits of pleasure and covetousness. Right while the opportunity of the grace of God is being offered to them Sunday after Sunday, their foolish minds are enraptured with the things of time and sense. As they get older and become more involved with the cares of life and obligations of the world, they begin to sense their great mistake. But they find it not so easy then to seek the Lord, and very few are able and willing to pay the great price that it takes to turn from their ways to accept the Lord. Perhaps they long for those better days and golden hours of carefree youth to return, but, alas, they are gone forever! If then they attempt to find the Lord, the seeds of sin have grown to such a tangled mass over their hearts that faith and courage are smothered out and it seems much easier to drift along in their downward path.

Such can be avoided if one will pursue the grace of God when first it breaks upon their view. Listen to these words: "For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 Corinthians 6:2. Now is the accepted time. It is a great mistake to put off seeking the Lord. To say, "Oh, I can be saved whenever I get ready, for the Lord will always be ready to take me in," is a dangerous risk of being lost forever. Don't forget that Jesus said, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him." John 6:44. Take that for what it is worth, for it does give us to know that one cannot be truly saved and brought to Christ unless he or she be drawn with the cords of divine love.

It is so important to be swift to respond to the dealings of the Lord. Listen to the prophet in Psalm

2:12: "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him." Christ has triumphed over sin, death, and the grave, and rendered Satan a defeated foe. He reigns as the King of kings and Lord of lords. We should recognize this and be greatly affected herewith. "When his wrath is kindled but a little." It does not take very much indifference and unbelief to incur the displeasure and wrath of this triumphant Christ. Paul doubtless recognized this when Christ struck him down, for he quickly said, "Lord, what would you have me to do?" And then he got right up and started doing it.

While it is called "Today," after so long a time of the forbearance of God, we ought to bow ourselves before the Lord, accept His pardoning love, and walk in the light of His Word. Lest darkness come upon us, and the night of sin and deception fall about us, we should be stepping into the light and be rejoicing in His care. We ought to turn from our dark and evil ways, and repent and confess before Him who will soon be our Judge. Then of us it will be fulfilled as the Psalmist declared in Psalm 89:15, 16: "Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted." —Leslie Busbee

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The Devil's Best Tool

It was once announced that the devil was going out of business and would offer all his tools for sale to whoever would pay his price. On the night of the sale they were all attractively displayed, and a bad-looking lot they were. Malice, hatred, envy, jealousy, sensuality, and deceit, and all the other implements of evil were spread out, each marked with its price. Apart from the rest lay a harmless-looking wedge-shaped tool, much worn and priced higher than any of the rest.

Someone asked the devil what it was. "That's discouragement," was the reply. "Well, why do you have it priced so high?" "Because," replied the devil, "it is more useful to me than any of the others. I can pry open and get inside a man's consciousness with that when I could not get near him with any of the others and when once inside I can use him in whatever way suits me best. It is so much worn because I use it with nearly everybody, as very few people yet know it belongs to me."

It hardly need be added that the devil's price for discouragement was so high that it was never sold. He still owns it and is still using it.

The devil would, if it were possible, rob Jesus of His royal family, but the seal of the Holy Ghost is upon them. What is so very sad and crucifies our Lord afresh and puts Him to open shame is the disobedience of the professing children of God. It robs them of their rewards.

Beware of the devil's power to deceive. —Sel.

"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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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

At the dawn of this New Year of 1974 we extend Christian greetings and best wishes to all our readers who, with this issue, include several thousand who are receiving this full gospel paper for their first time and will also receive it for the months of February and March. If you are a new reader, it is likely that a kind friend of yours has subscribed for you for these three months with the hope and earnest prayer that the contents of these issues will prove to be a special spiritual benefit to you and your family. (These trial issues are coming to you without charge, and you will not receive a bill or statement.) Please read these copies carefully with an open heart and mind, and compare the teachings with the Bible. We hope that you will become a regular subscriber at the end of these trial issues.

If any of our regular readers receive an extra copy during these months, just consider that perhaps someone had it sent to you, not knowing that you were already receiving a copy. Please pass the extra copy to someone else to read.

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We thank the Lord and our readers for about 6,000 new names who will receive this issue of the paper, as well as the issues for the months of February and March. May God bless and reward every one who had a part in this gospel extension effort. Pray that the Holy Spirit will carry the truth to the heart of every reader. There is transforming power in believing the gospel.

We are sorry that some persons, for whom this paper was intended, will not receive their copies because the addresses were not correct, complete or legible, or perhaps they moved in the meantime. The postoffice charges us ten cents for each notification of a change of address, so if you move, please advise us at once, giving old and new address and zip code.

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This January issue (over 16,000 to be printed) will go to press, Lord willing, near the beginning of the 67th annual Oklahoma Assembly meeting held here at Guthrie, Okla., on Dec. 21 to 30, 1973. We anticipate the mighty presence and power of God in showers of blessings for the saved and unsaved.

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Now available are books in heavy paper binding of the eleven issues of the "Faith and Victory" paper for 1973 at \$1.00 each, postpaid. Ready also are the 1973 "Beautiful Way" books for juniors (52 papers for the year) at \$1.00 each, postpaid. Bound books of various prior years are priced at 50c each, postpaid.

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

Many of our readers would like to know the dates of the Church of God campmeetings for 1974 so they can pre-arrange their vacations to attend these meetings. Those who have this information, please send in the campmeeting dates by Feb. 15, 1974, so we can publish the entire list in the March issue.

The Oklahoma State Campmeeting here at Guthrie, Okla., will be held, Lord willing, from **May 24 to June 2, 1974**. The date for the National campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo., is **July 19 to 28, 1974**.

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By the last of January we expect to have in stock a reprint of the 1914 edition of the excellent book, **"What the Bible Teaches"** by F. G. Smith. It contains 576 pages in a nice cloth binding. The price is \$5.00 each, postpaid to you. Order your copy from this limited edition and we will mail it as soon as it is ready.

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Another reprint edition of the book, **"Birth of a Reformation"** by A. L. Byers, is expected to be available in March, 1974. Bound in nice cloth cover, it contains 496 pages. The price is \$4.50 each, postpaid. You may place your order now with remittance, and it will be filled when the books are completed in March.

Write for our price list of Bibles, books, and cards. Listed in our book stock are many of those excellent old books written by the pioneer ministers of the Church of God Reformation which have been out of print for many years. More of these old books of vital truth will be reprinted and added to our stock as time, means, and help permit. Watch for publication dates in future issues of this paper.

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We are sorry that we could not find and have in stock a suitable Scripture Text Calendar for 1974.

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During Thanksgiving week, my wife and I were permitted to attend and enjoy the annual Assembly meeting on the old General Southern campgrounds at Hammond, La. While there, we enjoyed our stay and visit in the home of our son, Byron, and his wife, Clarice, and their daughter, Genece, who live near Hammond.

Again, the Lord met with His people, and a feast of good spiritual food was enjoyed at Father's table by the many saints from different states, which included a number of out-of-state and in-state ministers. The weather was good, and many times the chapel was filled to capacity. The Holy Spirit anointed the preaching of His Word. A number of souls were saved and baptized.

Enroute to and from Hammond, we visited our old friends, Bro. and Sister Lee Whitley, at Marshall, Texas. Though Sister Whitley has been very ill for

quite some time, we found her with less intense, constant suffering, but she still needs much more healing from the Lord. Continue to pray and believe for her complete restoration.

On our return trip we brought Sister Della Perry to her apartment on the grounds of the Golden Rule Home at Shawnee, Okla. Enroute, we stayed overnight at Shreveport, La., in the home of Brother and Sister Hartley Spinks, whose son, Mark, is one of our co-workers here in the publishing work. We certainly appreciated their kindness and hospitality. Also, we were privileged to be in Wednesday night prayer-meeting with the Shreveport saints who are making plans to build a new chapel.

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Lord willing, Sister Bonnie Matthews, our co-worker, will be married to Bro. Jackie Riley here on Dec. 28, 1973. After that date, they will be at home at 10845 S. W. 221st St., Goulds, Fla. 33170.

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The paper shortage is still critical—both the brown wrapping paper and the printing paper for this and other periodicals, books and tracts. An order for 5,000 pounds of printing paper was scheduled for delivery on Nov. 1st, but it has not arrived on this date of Dec. 17. The paper that we hope to get must be cut to a smaller size to use on our periodicals and books with a waste of 5½ pounds of paper to each ream of 500 sheets. Please agree with us in prayer that sufficient paper will be provided so that the production of gospel literature will not be curtailed.

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This writer has accepted divine physical healing on the authority of God's precious promises. Please agree in prayer that the imposition of symptoms will be rebuked and the work completed speedily. Thank you for your prayers and concern in this fight of faith.

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As we cross the threshold of the new year of 1974, we face the unknown and untried future. Yet, in looking back upon the "Ebenezer" stone which we set up at the end of 1973, we can boldly say, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us," and with courage and confidence in Him we can move forward to meet the unknown challenges and problems of the new year. We know not what the future holds, but thank God, we know He holds the future in His hand. If the Lord delays His coming and spares our lives, Jesus' Great Commission to His Church to carry the gospel to "every creature" is still a challenge to each of us. Even though the world will become more wicked every day, it is God's plan that every person should hear the gospel message. Then they will be without excuse. One of the best means is by the printed page—the "white-winged" gospel messenger—which can go into the nooks and corners of the earth where a missionary may never set foot. Let us resolve by the grace of God in this new year to dedicate our lives more fully to spreading the soul-saving gospel of Christ by precept and example, that when the Master returns, if at morning, noon, or night, He may find us faithful at our post of duty.

—Lawrence Pruitt

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OBITUARIES



Sister Jessie H. Houck was born February 14, 1909, and departed this life on Nov. 20, 1973, at Spartanburg, South Carolina.

In regard to Sister Houck's last days on earth, see Bro. Curtis Williams' report on page 8 of this issue.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. Curtis Williams, and interment was in the Greenwood Cemetery, Belmont, N. C.

Vance Audie Sorrell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Audie Junior Sorrell, was born on Nov. 14, 1973, at Salem, Ark., and departed this life the same day, having lived seven hours.

The graveside services were conducted by Brother Richard Madden.

The parents extend their thanks to the saints and friends for the flowers, cards, love and prayers during their time of need. Their hearts have said "Amen" to God's will.

REPORT OF HAMMOND, LA., MEETING

Praise the Lord for another good assembly meeting in Hammond, La., on the old General Southern campground during Thanksgiving week! The attendance was far better than expected and our hearts were made to rejoice as each one came in. We want everyone to know we were happy to have you come and we will be looking for you again.

The soul food was truly heaven-sent. We surely appreciate the Lord's ministers who labored so faithfully in the meeting. Seventy-two happy saints observed the ordinance services, and eight believers were baptized. About 25 or 30 were at the altar seeking salvation, sanctification or a closer walk with God.

My soul was blessed to hear my granddaughters tell what the Lord had done for them. We had a fine group of young people. It brings real joy to my heart to see the prospects of the church of tomorrow. Precious children, keep your hearts pure, cling to the Lord with all

your heart, seek His will in your life, and let Him have His way with you.

"He that endureth unto the end . . . shall be saved." Please pray for me. I do mean to continue faithful. In Christian love, —Gladys Cashio

DOVER, OKLA., MEETING REPORT

We are very thankful to the Lord for the glorious meeting He blessed us with at Dover, Okla., on Nov. 9 to 11, 1973. The attendance was very good. Thank the Lord!

It was a week-end meeting, but God's presence was felt in our midst from the beginning to the end. The Word of God was preached under the anointing of the Holy Ghost, and was precious to our souls. The altar service was profitable, and we thank the Lord for the souls He saved.

The singing on Saturday night was heavenly and anointed of the Lord. We appreciate all who came, especially the young saints who sang special songs and participated in the singing services. We were pleased to see them using their talents for God. The ordinance service of the Lord's House was also precious. Praise the Lord!

We thank the Lord for all the ministers and workers who came to help in the battle against sin. May the Lord bless and reward each one for his labor of love for Christ.

Yours in His great name, —Katherine Williams

ERECTION OF NEW BUILDING ON CAMPGROUND AT HOLLY HILL, S. CAROLINA

South Carolina—Greetings of love to each one: The brethren are building a new kitchen and dining room on the campground here at Holly Hill. The enclosed picture [not shown here] was taken on Nov. 10, as saints and sinners alike came for work. It was good to see them co-operating and working together on this project for the good of the cause and for the glory of God. More willing workers came and by mid-afternoon the walls were laid. Praise the Lord! Pray that this building will be completed before next campmeeting. Any additional help will be appreciated.

God blessed with a good day in the Lord on Sunday, November 11. Two souls sought God for salvation and claimed the victory. Pray for us and the cause of God here. Love and prayers, —Bro. Hudson Crummie

R. 1, Box 42, Holly Hill, S. C. 29059

REVIVAL AT BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.

The Bakersfield, Calif., winter revival will be held, Lord willing, from Friday night, Feb. 8 to Feb. 17, 1974. Tentative plans are for three services on Sat., Feb. 16, and on both Sundays, Feb. 10 and 17. If attendance and other conditions warrant it, there will possibly be a service at 1:00 p. m. on week days. Due to the scheduled day-light saving time change and uncertain weather conditions, congregations in California will be notified further when plans are completed.

All are cordially invited. We request your prayers, and are steadfastly looking to the Lord to mete out the needed blessings.

For further information contact: A. W. Sherman, 201 L St., phone 327-0124, Robert Mays, 245 N St., phone

325-2730 or Z. E. Francisco, 305 S. Owens St., phone 323-0747. The church address is 1802 Virginia Ave., phone 805—322-9314. —Robena Montgomery

ALL-DAY MEETING CHANGE

The Coffeyville, Kansas, congregation is joining with the Oklahoma congregations at Nowata and Miles in all-day meetings on the second Sunday of each month. Nowata will have the January meeting, Miles the February meeting, and Coffeyville will have the March meeting. Everyone is invited and welcomed to these all-day services. Come and worship the Lord together on the second Sunday of each month at these locations.

Prayer Requests

Calif.—Sister Opal Williams fell and broke her hip. She is suffering a lot of pain. Please remember her in prayer. She loves the Lord.

Miss.—“I am diligently requesting prayer for my head and nerves. It seems almost unbearable at times. It has been building up for years and I am almost to the breaking point. . . . I know Jesus knows and understands it all. . . . Will the saints agree, as they pray, for God to give me what I need most?” —Ethel Lowery

Oklahoma—“Pray for Sister Rosemary King who has cancer and Bro. Leonard Rodd who has a blood disease. Pray for my wife. . . . She is better one day and worse the next few days. Some days she has a light chill.”

—Bro. Alvan F. Foster

Mo.—“Sister Edith Torrance is very weak and needs our prayers. . . . She needs someone to live with her.”

—Sister Lena Bowman

Calif.—“I am growing numb from my feet to my waist. . . . The injuries are in my neck. . . . I know that Jesus is the same today as He was when He was here on earth.”

—Orville Mayo

Ind.—“Pray with me that I will be healed of these cancers on my face and neck. . . . Pray that I will be healed of arthritis.”

—Mrs. Emma Rigney

Ind.—“I know God touched my body. I can now eat food that I couldn't before without suffering. I am not so weak like I was. Thank God! . . . Still remember my loved ones that they will be saved.”

—Dessie Wilson

Ill.—“Continue to pray for my complete healing. My dear Lord comes and gives me help when I call you people and others for prayer. . . . Pray for the rash on my arms.”

—Mrs. Truman Pitts

Colo.—“I have been sick since August. . . . Pray for me.”

—A reader of the paper

Ind.—“Please pray for a baby (11 months old), that can't sit alone. The Christian mother is so patient. Pray that God will heal him completely.”

—Floy Snellenberger

Ark.—“Pray for a member of our family who is seriously ill and in need of prayer. . . . Pray that the Lord will spare her to help raise her little girl if it is His will.”

—Vera Dotson

Okla.—“I am hardly able to do my work.”

—Mrs. Iva Lebow

W. Va.—“Pray for me, Sister Marie. I am a sinner. I am 69 years old.”

—A reader

Va.—“Pray for me. . . . I am having so much bronchial trouble and colds.”

—Sister Crosswaite

Let us pray with faith and intercession, which means to “diligently seek Him,” for those things which we have need of. There is a difference between faith and worry. If you have faith, you are not worrying. Some might ask, if intercession, or diligently seeking God, isn't worry? There is a vast difference between the two. But many count it that being concerned is worrying. But that is not true. God does not want us to worry. Worry can kill a person. Worry means “to be anxious, troubled; a troubled state of mind; anxiety.” The Bible tells us to “Be careful [or anxious] for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God.” Phil. 4:6. Now let us look at this text. If we are being thankful, we are not worrying. If we are not being anxious about the situation, overly concerned, or worrying, we are obeying this scripture. We are bringing everything to God in prayer with earnestness and then thanking God for the answer. We can then realize the next verse being fulfilled in our hearts, minds and lives. “And [that means after the 6th verse is obeyed] the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Praise God for that peace! Worrying and peace do not mix. “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” Isa. 26:3. So with faith we tell the Lord about our problems, and then get off our knees and go about thanking Him for hearing, and our minds are at peace because we trust Him to take care of all of them.

—Sister Marie Miles

Foreign Field Reports

LETTER FROM NIGERIAN MISSIONARY

Western State, Nigeria (Nov. 4)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the saints in America: Greetings in Jesus' love which binds us in one family regardless of race or color.

I got the September paper on my arrival from Mid-west state. I visited Abbi where Bro. Titus Enu labored in the gospel work. The Church of God is functioning well from there to Asaka and Kwale. The congregation at Kwale is growing spiritually. I met with some of the brethren there, talked to them of their mission work and the need of more, pure, sound gospel. A brother in the Lord and I spent eight great days among the saints there.

Here at Ife Odan, the gospel work is progressing. The problem confronting us now is our chapel, the which we have worked very hard to complete. There is no money for more material. Will you pray to God for help? The drought hit our land. The farm crops never yielded for lack of rain at the right time. My little garden with which to feed my family didn't survive. Any help for our chapel and my family will be appreciated.

Yours in Christian love, —Sammy A. Elatuji

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Southeast State, Nigeria (Dec. 6)—Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ whose birthday we are to observe this month.

We received your letter of Nov. 3, together with the enclosure, with gratitude and pleasure in the Lord.

Next week (Dec. 13 to 16), it is hoped that hundreds of members will come from all of our mission stations to attend the 12th annual campmeeting which will last four days. May God's divine and holy hands uphold His children throughout the meetings, is our continued prayer.

God has continued to bless us both bodily and spiritually. The workers are faithfully spreading the Word and white-winged messengers go out to reach most of the people who will have no excuse to give when the Lord shall sit on the Judgment seat. We are doing the best we can to see that none is left untold about our Savior, Jesus, who is the channel to heaven. The question shall be left for each one to answer for himself. The Word says that neither the father, nor the mother, nor the son will answer for each other.

The year is closing out and another is to come. We wish you a very happy Christmas and a very prosperous New Year in the Lord. Our prayers ascend to the throne of grace for all of you and the gospel work.

Yours in Him,

—Ben E. Udoka

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Nov. 21)—Beloved Brother Pruitt and the church in America: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus Christ, the Rose of Sharon and the Root of David. "Thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterwards receive me to glory." Psalm 73:24.

Thank you very much for your good letter dated November 3, 1973, and the enclosures were noted with overflowing gratitude. We are grateful to you to know that you are moved to prayer and sympathy for us in this time of severe famine, and that the church in America is taking our needs to the throne of mercy. The church in India is always thankful for your kind consideration of us. "He giveth food to all flesh, for his mercy endureth for ever."

Brother, we are busy with the preparations for the campmeetings at various stations from December onward. The church at Karikkom had to make many preparations for the National campmeeting which commences here on Jan. 2, 1974, and continues through Jan. 6. The increase of prices of all materials shall multiply the total expense this time. As usual, we expect much prayer for these meetings from the church in America. These are good places to distribute free booklets, tracts, and Bibles to the poor if the funds allow. We shall look above for everything. Sinners must be saved, backsliders must be restored and believers must be edified. . . . A printing press, monthly help for five more full-time pastors, a chapel at Avoor, and a few more stations are some of the essential needs of the church in India. . . .

Let us remember each other in daily prayer.

Your younger Brother in Christ, —John Varghese

LETTER FROM INTERIOR MEXICO STATION

Michoacan, Mexico—My dear brethren in the Lord: I answer your letter received the 19th of November. I thank you for your letter and for your love you showed to us in the letter. Praise be to God for the love of God which unites each of us. We need to pray much for each other.

It is near Christmas time and we start the New Year with new courage, and with the same spirit and confidence which we have to keep us going forward to the goal with Christ Jesus.

Your Brother in Christ,

—Irineo Rama

Saints have never yet reached the limit to the possibilities of prayer. Whatever has been attained or achieved has touched but the fringe of the garment of a prayer-hearing God.

—Sel.

MISSION REPORT FROM OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO

Sister Opal Kelly, who is at the mission station at Ojos Negros, Mexico, reports that the work is progressing there, though she is alone in the work most of the time. Instead of having all-day services on Sunday as formerly, she is now having private Bible studies with the women in the area. Recently two women were saved, and one is considering the ordinance of water baptism. She had a lesson with her on baptism until she fully understood its meaning.

Sister Kelly expresses her appreciation for the sermon tapes she receives from the congregations in the States. She says that a missionary is much like an isolated saint and needs the edification of the preached Word.

Pray for her and her mission work, as well as all the world-wide mission fields and the work of God in general. Her address is Ap. Postal 284, Ensenada, B. Cfa., Mexico. Her American address is P. O. Box 2860, San Ysidro, Calif. 92073.

—Editor

HEALED AND ON THE GO FOR GOD

Ky.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: We send greetings in Jesus' dear name. We have so much to be thankful for. For more than six years I did much suffering, having had pneumonia twice, and later I had infection in my right lung. But this morning I can report complete victory over it all. The Lord has healed my lungs. I have no symptoms left of the old trouble. I have had better health this year than I have had for more than six years. Thanks be unto God for His mercy and goodness to us!

We just returned from having services with the saints at Green Bank, W. Va., over Saturday and Sunday. There are some fine saints over there, and they have a hungering and thirsting for the truth. People who are hungry are easy to feed.

Sister Ruth Godshall told me on the phone that Jessie Houck in Spartanburg, S. Carolina, had been wanting a minister to come for a few months, but didn't have money to send for one. She asked if I would go. I told her it didn't matter if she didn't have any money, I would go. I drove until late that evening, spent the night and went on the next day. I arrived in front of the house in Spartanburg, S. C., at 4 p. m. The house was in a real state of neglect, and neglect was the condition I saw from there on. At the door I met a very frail old lady and her brother. They were looking for me since Sister Ruth Godshall told them I was on my way. I was shocked to see Jessie. . . . She then weighed only about 70 lbs. She looked at me and said, "Bro. Williams, I can hardly believe you are here." She had gotten so far away from God. . . . She had not eaten for more than three days. She said she wasn't going to eat any more until she got things settled between her and the Lord. I talked with her for a while and then realized that I was getting cold. I asked about the heat. Her sister said they had no heat. I asked, Why? And she said they had no oil, so, no heat. I went to the phone and called the police, and told them there was a real emergency condition here, etc. I asked for an emergency number so I could get oil delivered there that night. He gave me a number. I called and ordered 100 gallons of fuel oil, and they delivered it about 10 p. m. I lit the stove for us. While waiting for the oil, I talked to Jessie. She said she was doomed and wanted help, but God had rejected her because she had done so much wrong. I talked to her, and prayed with her. She cried, pleaded, and begged the Lord with all ear-

nestness to forgive her, yet she said, "I just can't believe the Lord will forgive me. There is no hope for me." I did all I knew to help her, and offered earnest prayer again and again. She kept on praying and begging for the Lord to forgive her. Finally, after much confession and pleading to God, she finally turned her face to the wall and wept bitterly. God heard her prayer, and she turned toward me with tears, and then a big smile came over her face. She said, "Bro. Williams, the Lord has forgiven me." My heart went out to God in thanksgiving and praise for hearing prayer and saving that soul. I believe it was truly a soul plucked out of the fire. She praised the Lord over and over during the evening for saving her and taking her back to Him. She said, "Now, Bro. Williams, what can we do about the things I have done?" I said, "Just commit them to the Lord and He will take care of them. . . ." [Bro. Williams knew her critical physical condition and gave this advice under those circumstances, but the Bible does require a convert to make restitution for his back life as soon as time and opportunity are afforded him. In this case, the will was taken for the restitutions which she wanted to make, as was expressed in the unprinted portion of this letter. —Editor] She said she wanted all the saints to forgive her for all she had done against them and for talking about them. Again she said, "Please, I want every one to forgive me."

I went to the phone and called Ed and Janice Johnston who live in Winston-Salem, N. Car. I said to Ed, "I need your help right this minute. . . ." Ed said, "We will pack and leave right away." They arrived some time before midnight. Jessie was bedfast. . . . Her sister was too frail to walk even one block to get food from the store. Their brother lived a distance away and could not come and care for them. I went to the store, got some food for them and gave Sister Jessie some broth, or mild soup, and warm milk. As she ate, she said with a smile, "It is so good, so good." It was a real case of neglect, and physical and spiritual poverty.

The next day, about 2 p. m., Jessie started talking out of her mind off and on, and grew weaker through the evening and night. The next day, she was even weaker, and about 6:30 p. m., she passed away. I preached her funeral two days later in S. Carolina and went on to N. Carolina for the graveside service.

This was a case where a soul had failed God and left the saints. She suffered greatly for it. Oh, how people need to help each other! There are many precious souls like Sister Jessie out there in need, and no one to care for their soul, it seems. Pray with us that the Lord will help us to reach and help those who are so much in need.

I just received another letter from one of the old-time saints. She is ill and wants us to come and anoint her for her healing. She wrote, "Brother, I can't give you an offering if you come." She lives several hundred miles away. Should I go? Yes, I must go, for it is Jesus who calls when souls are in need.

Pray for us. We need your prayers very much in a number of ways.

Our family is well at this time. Thank the Lord!

May God richly bless you, Bro. Lawrence and Sister Marie, and all the co-workers, for your faithfulness in His service in sending out the truth to lost souls.

—Bro. Curtis Williams

How many are satisfied to say, "Jesus is mine," who never go on to say, "I am His." One who takes this higher ground is bound to be careful what he does with property which belongs to another. —Sel.

Bible Proofs of a Second Cleansing

Sanctification for Disciples.—In Jesus' notable prayer for His disciples offered at the close of the last supper, on the eve of His betrayal and crucifixion, He prayed, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." (John 17:17). That this sanctification is important to His disciples is evident from the fact that He prayed for it on this solemn occasion, when the gloom of Gethsemane and the horrors of Calvary were so near. This was a cleansing of the heart and not of the life, it is certain, from the fact that it was to be done by the Father and not by themselves. . . . God's sanctification of men described in the New Testament is always a cleansing of the heart. . . . Also, it should be noted that this sanctification was in order that they might be "kept from the evil." (verse 15). It was a cause, and the holy living was the effect. Some have argued that this is a cleansing of the life because it was to be done by the "word"; but they seem to forget that we are said to be regenerated also by the "word." (1 Peter 1:23). Just as it is said, "Being born again, . . . by the word of God," so it is also said, "Sanctify them through thy truth."

These disciples, for whose cleansing Jesus prayed, were already justified, as is evident from several expressions in the same chapter as well as from other texts. They belonged to God and were obedient to His word (John 17:6), were not of the world (verses 9, 14, 16), were kept from sin (verses 11, 12, 15), had been sent to preach (Matt. 10:7), and their names were written in heaven (Luke 10:20). It has been objected that they were justified, but had not been regenerated and that this was the sanctification for which Jesus prayed. But that they were regenerated, or converted, can also be shown. . . . It is that which makes one "not of the world" or it is a being "crucified to the world." It is that which, from its very nature, keeps from sin (Ezek. 36:25, 27), and these men were "kept," and were obedient to or kept God's Word. (John 17:6). Can any one believe that these men, sent to preach the kingdom of God, were themselves strangers to it through the lack of regeneration, without which one "cannot see the kingdom of God"? (John 3:3). These men had believed on Christ (Matt. 16:16), which is the necessary condition for regeneration, as is shown in these words, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born . . . of God." (John 1:11-13). This is conclusive. But let us notice another proof that they were regenerated at this time.

Regeneration makes one a member of the church. The kingdom and the church are practically identical, so regeneration is essential to entrance into the kingdom of God. (John 3:3). "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." (Luke 16:16). Therefore, men were regenerated from the time John began to preach, or from the time the law dispensation ended and the gospel dispensation began.

The disciples had believed (Matt. 16:16), and were in Christ (John 15:2-4), therefore, were born again, for "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." (2 Cor. 5:17). Christ's kingdom or church existed before Pentecost, but not until after the Holy Ghost came was it fully organized. Jesus' prayer for the sanctification of His disciples is undeniable proof of a cleansing of the regenerated.

Sanctification for the Church.—"Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it [the church] with the washing of water by the word." (Eph. 5:25, 26). Here is described a sanctification, not of sinners, but of the church, or of those already saved. That this sanctification is a cleansing is evident from the argument already given in this writing that in the New Testament the sanctification done for man by God is always a cleansing of the heart. It is not consecration. Also, it may be stated here that cleansing is always the end sought in the use of sanctification or consecration of men or things in the Old Testament. [Meditate on this thought.]

That this sanctification is of the church and not for the purpose of constituting her, the church, is not only clear from the reading of the common version, but is even more definitely stated in the Revised Version, which is also borne out by the original where the Greek participle is used in the aorist tense. And this cleansing of the church here described by Paul is in perfect harmony with Jesus' prayer for the sanctification of those who have already become His disciples.

An Entire Sanctification.—"The very God of peace sanctify you wholly [entirely]; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thess. 5:23). This text teaches a sanctification to be done by God, therefore, a sanctification of the heart. . . . The keeping them blameless in the latter part of the verse is the keeping from evil in John 17. It is an entire sanctification, which may reasonably be taken to imply that there is a sanctification that is not entire. Also, it is to be done for those who were a church "in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess. 1:1), those who were "brethren" (verse 4), a very spiritual church, who a short time before this letter was written were converted through Paul's labors, and from whom he was driven by persecution, and to whom he now wrote praying for their entire sanctification. Read the account of their conversion in Acts 17.

Sanctification Contemporary With Holy Ghost Baptism

Our purpose is to show that a second cleansing is accomplished at the time of Holy Ghost baptism and then to show that this baptism is subsequent to conversion. It is said of Cornelius before Peter came to him that he was devout, feared God, gave much alms, prayed always (Acts 10:2), that his prayers were heard (verse 4), and that he was a just man (verse 22). There can be little doubt about his being a truly saved man. Some would object that he was justified, but not regenerated. To this it may be an-

swered that the work of justification and regeneration . . . are contemporary, and the baptism of the Spirit is subsequent. There is no proof that Cornelius' experience was abnormal, and from the fruits of his life that are mentioned we have reason to believe he was born again. . . .

After Cornelius had received the Holy Spirit baptism through Peter's ministry and Peter had returned to Jerusalem, the apostle was called in question for going to these Gentiles. In his defense he said, "God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, **purifying their hearts by faith.**" (Acts 15:8, 9). That Peter is talking about what occurred when he was there is evident. He states that God gave them the Spirit and purified their hearts. This must be sanctification as a second cleansing. He said it was "even as he did unto us," the apostles on Pentecost. Therefore, they received a heart-cleansing at Pentecost which agrees with Jesus' prayer for their sanctification in John 17:17.

Sin exists in two forms; one form is overcome in the first work of grace, while depravity still remains in the hearts of the regenerated. Native depravity cannot be regarded as something minor or unimportant; for both Scripture and human experience testify that sin in the heart is the main cause of sin in life; hence, salvation cannot be said to be complete until sin in both forms is overcome.

It is evident that sin in the life is not overcome by some indefinite process or by a gradual evolution in human character; for according to the teaching of Jesus, it is accomplished only by a sudden revolution in the moral nature, a revolution produced by the Spirit of God in the new birth. And if sin in the life can be overcome only by a definite act of God's grace, it is not to be expected that that sin which is basic in depraved human nature will gradually fade away and disappear. If it is to be overcome at all, it will have to be done by the power of God, and there will also have to be a definite time when it is done. In this case also, the remedy will have to be equal to the disease, and nothing short of a definite, sin-killing act of God's grace can dispose of this inward malady.

Since it is a fact, as already shown, that native depravity does remain in the heart of the converted, a subsequent cleansing is necessary. There is no Scriptural proof of any time or place where depravity is removed except at the time of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Since receiving Christ in the first work of grace has a negative phase, deliverance from the guilt and power of sins committed, as well as the introduction of a new life in Jesus—thus disposing of one form of sin—it is only reasonable to suppose that the personal coming of the Spirit to the individual believer will also have its negative result, disposing of the second form of sin, as a necessary preparation for the indwelling and special work of the Comforter.

The Scripture text already cited, Acts 15:8, 9, identifies heart-cleansing with the baptism of the Spirit. Hence, the Spirit baptism provides a definite remedy for a very definite need. To this agrees also

the words of Paul in Titus 3:5, 6, where the apostle affirms that Christ "saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly." Salvation is therefore twofold, because there is a twofold need, occasioned by the two forms of sin. It is not complete until the baptism of the Spirit is received. In Matt. 3:11, 12, Jesus also associates a purging, destructive work with the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

This also agrees with the Old Testament types. The coming of the Holy Spirit is described as being an anointing. The anointing of Aaron and his sons for the priesthood was typical of this anointing of the Holy Ghost which prepares us for God's service today. And it is remarkable that after the sin-offering was offered, the oil with which those ancient priests were anointed was mingled with the blood of a second offering from the altar and sprinkled upon them, thus beautifully typifying a cleansing from depravity at the time of the Holy Ghost anointing. (See Exodus 29:21, 22.) Also, it is worthy of mention here that the coming of God's presence always hallows (Lev. 22:32; 1 Kings 9:3), but cleansing always precedes and prepares for God's presence. (See Exodus 19:10, 11; 29:1, 21.) Whether or not critics are pleased to allow that Romans 15:16 teaches it, yet the fact remains that we are "sanctified by the Holy Ghost."

Many examples of the Holy Ghost baptism after conversion might be given. We have already shown that the apostles and Cornelius were first converted, then received the Spirit. The Samaritans were converted under the ministry of Philip (Acts 8:8, 12), and later, at least some days, received the Holy Ghost at the hands of Peter and John. (verses 15, 16). The Ephesians were disciples and had believed (Acts 19:1, 2), and when Paul came to them later they received the Holy Spirit. (verse 6). Paul was converted on the road to Damascus and was there called to preach (Acts 26:18), prayed (Acts 9:11), was the chosen vessel (verse 15), and was addressed by Ananias as brother (verse 17), after which he received the Holy Spirit.

—R. R. Byrum

Man's Long Home

"Man goeth to his long home." Eccl. 12:5. This home of man is not on the shores of time, for the Bible calls nothing long that is connected with time. Here is a home spoken of which the Bible calls long. These words were spoken of where a man goes when he dies, but it is a fact that all men are on their way to that long home. Every day brings each one nearer to their home which the Bible calls long. As finite creatures, we speak of some things here as being "long." Some, we say, have lived a long time, others have suffered a long time, but when we once look out into eternity we will never again call anything of time "long." Eternity is long. Somewhere in eternity man's "long home" shall be.

Here we are all travelers. All are approaching our long home. Now we are away from home. We are strangers here. We are not going to stay here

long. Some day we will go to that place where we shall stay forever. Where shall it be? It will be one of two places, for in eternity there are only two places. All mankind are going to have their "long home" in one of these two places. Now as we are traveling across the wilderness of time, we have the power of choice. We can choose where our "long home" in eternity shall be. Choose we must. To refuse to choose is to choose [the downward way].

Jesus opened a way for us all to have a home eternal in the heavens. To refuse to take this way is to choose the only other way. We are choosing every day. If you, my dear reader, are on your way to heaven, it is because you choose to be there, and if you are on the way to hell, it is because you choose to be there. Time is carrying us all onward. How swiftly we are hastening on! Soon we will be gone from "Time" and be seen here no more. We are hurrying swiftly onward toward heaven or hell. Some say that they do not believe there is a hell. What they believe will not change things. The Bible speaks of one as well as the other. It may be today, tonight, tomorrow, that you will arrive at your "long home." It will be heaven or hell, and it will be at your own choosing. If your "long home" be with the devil and his angels, it will be because you refused to choose to be with Christ—you just kept on in the way that leads to hell. We exhort you to accept Jesus today, now; tomorrow may be too late.

—C. E. Orr

The Snow-Flower

We saw the beautiful snow-flower in the mountains of the Sequoia National Park. It is a beautiful, long cluster of bright red flowers, which is a beautiful sight to behold. It is amazing to think of how it can bloom in such a cold place. We also read about another snow-flower called the soldanelle plant. They bloom in the Alpine hollows. We read that in the summer, it spreads its leaves close to the ground and the sun's rays penetrate deep into its roots, which store up their warmth through the winter. When spring comes, the warmth begins to move upward. In a strange manner, the warmth thaws the snow and forms a dome of warmth around the plant as it forms a bud on its push upward through the thawing snow. When it reaches the top of the snow and breaks through, the sun's rays cause the bud to bloom. I am sure it is a beautiful little plant and is appreciated by those who have endured many months of seeing only snow.

Dear child of God, we are living in a cold, harsh, world. The Spirit of Christ within us and the spirit of the world do not blend. We do not expect them to blend. Jesus has said, "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." John 15:19. If we thought only about the hate, the scorn, the separation, the injustice that we receive, we would become discouraged, but let us know that we are like the

little snow-flower. There is the warmth of God that surrounds our souls as we "fight the good fight of faith." We can say with the Apostle John, "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness." 1 John 5:18, 19. Praise God for that safe place in God! The devil can't get through to our souls as we face a cold, sinful world. The love and warmth of God keep our souls alive and we can be victorious. The love of God will melt the bitterness that otherwise would harm our souls when we are mistreated in various ways. Praise God for the victory that He gives us! God is the God of the impossible. He makes all things possible. When others would fall and stumble in the trials of life, the Lord will help us cling to Him. We can feel the warmth of the love of God stirring in our souls and this comforts our hearts.

The Apostle Peter knew something about the things that would touch us in this life. He exhorts us to look away from the coldness and the snow that surround us. He wants us to look at the power of God. He tells us that we "are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time, wherein ye greatly rejoice though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:5-8. Yes, we want to bloom in Glory. We want to be found in "praise, honour and glory" when Jesus comes through the clouds to take His children Home. Jesus will have pleasure in us as we keep pressing on through the trying scenes of life toward that celestial Home prepared for the faithful few. —Sister Marie Miles

Is the Church in the World Today?

The Church of God includes all the truly "born again" believers in Christ, and excludes all the sinners. Christ is the door of the Church, and He keeps the membership record in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Jesus' last prayer for the Church of God is fulfilled now as the Father keeps it in His own name. John 17:11. The Church of God is now practicing the unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed. John 17:11, 12; Eph. 4:4, 5. In the Church of God, they all speak the same thing. 1 Corinthians 1:10. The Body of Christ has been cleansed and sanctified by the blood, the Spirit, and the water, which is the Word of God. Eph. 5:26; John 3:5-8; John 7:37, 38; John 4:14. The children of God do not get their teaching from higher learning, such as colleges and seminaries, but they get it from the Word of God—the Bible—and from the Holy Spirit out of heaven. 1 Cor. 2:4-16.

Part of the church is in paradise and part of it is on earth today. Eph. 3:15. Wherever there is a body of God's true children, it is a part of Christ's

spiritual body—the Church. If there are two or three, or even one isolated saint, who continues to eat of Christ's flesh and drink of His blood, God dwelleth in him and he in God. Matt. 18:20; Eph. 5:26. Sometimes the isolated saint travels many miles to be in services with the true Body of Christ. When they can't go, they have services in their homes rather than to go to a so-called church. The Bible tells us to "come out from among them" and to assemble together with the true people of God as often as we can. 2 Cor. 6:17; Heb. 10:25.

The saints of God are obeying God's Word by not wasting their time and money on worldly pleasures such as sitting before the television. In Psalm 101:3 we read, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes." They are obeying the Word of God by not following the styles and fashions of this sinful world. 1 Peter 3:3, 4; 1 Timothy 2:9, 10.

The family of God looks to God for the healing of their bodies. James 5:14, 15. The saints have love one to another. John 13:35. They are now enjoying the love, joy and peace in their souls that the world knows nothing about. They are now building up their faith, praying in the Holy Ghost. Jude 20.

The saints of God are now fighting the last great battle, which is spiritual, called the battle of Armageddon. Rev. 16:14; Eph. 6:12-17. Christ is now reigning in the hearts of His true people. He is now King of kings and Lord of lords in their lives. They are waiting for Christ's coming to meet Him in the air to ever be with the Lord. The Church of God is now proclaiming the whole gospel to the world in obedience to Jesus' command. Mark 16:15, 16.

—Sister Pearlene Whitson

"Evening Time"

Lesson II Peace and Rest—Now!

At this season of the year nominal church members, and even sinners, are singing, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come." But of whom are they thinking, and to whom are they looking as they go about their Christmas plans?

Also, saints are singing, "There is peace and joy in the Lord today; more than all in this world of sin;" and many, like the five wise virgins, realize the depth of those words as they busy themselves with the season's activities.

Long, long ago, the angels sang, "Glory to God . . . , and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Peace, peace—where can it be found? Only in the Lord, in the valley of decision, when we forsake all to follow the Lord. Jesus says, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. Ephesians 2:14 informs us that, "He is our peace." So by coming to Jesus, we find both peace and rest, and according to the Word, the time is now! —Ethel K. Miles

If the soul does not keep the body under, the body will keep the soul under. —C. E. Orr

From The Mail Box . . .

Ohio—Greetings in Jesus' dear name: This leaves us pressing on in the strait and narrow way.

We just got moved on Nov. 24. Our new address is 619 Tyron Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45404. Our phone number is 513-236-5903. We are just across the street from the chapel, the next door south of where we lived two years ago. We are so thankful to be this close to the chapel again. We have two bedrooms, so we can still have our loved ones, friends and dear saints come and stay with us. We are so glad to have them. Rom. 12:13; 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8; 1 Peter 4:8-10.

Please pray for both of us that our labors will not be in vain in the Lord. We are working for that great reward. Psalms 19:8-11. Pray that we may stand true, and that the last days of our lives will be acceptable with the Lord. —Bro. William and Sister Evelyn McCoy
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Calif.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and Sister Marie: Greetings in Jesus' name. I am thankful to learn through the "Faith and Victory" paper that you both are better. I am sure you have been sorely tried. All of God's people are being tried these days. Both defective sight and hearing are among my aged problems at this time. I have had to pray in order to see enough to write this letter.

For the last few months I have had a special burden to pick up the mantle that "Mother" Carrie Winn dropped when she left this world, and do what little I can along that line, especially encouraging the saints by visiting in their homes, sharing with them love, sympathy and earnest prayer.

To my precious brethren far away, may my pen bring a ray of light and a crumb of comfort to you. So I greatly need the prayers of all God's people for both my physical and spiritual well-being. . . .

With much Christian love, I am your "Mother in Israel," —Ethel K. Miles

835 Brooks Ave., Pasadena, Calif. 91103
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Virginia—Greetings once again in Jesus' name: I am enclosing a small gift, trusting that the Lord will continue to provide for you that you can keep up the good work. May the Lord bless each of you.

Christian love, —Della Naff
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

La.—To the Faith Publishing House: Enclosed find \$. . . for your work in any way you see fit.

I would like to express our love and great admiration for Bro. and Sister Cecil Carver of Shreveport, La., . . . for their all-giving, all-concern for the sick and troubled, and for the hundreds of miles they travel to help people. I am sure you know all this, but it is just that sometimes we tend to take for granted the good works of others, and I would just like to speak for the many who have benefited from their prayers.

Yours truly, —Gretchen and Sam Sutton
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Minn.—Dear saints at the publishing house: Greetings of love in Jesus' holy name. . . . This leaves me well both in soul and body, for which I thank the Lord.

May God's richest blessings be upon all of you until He comes to take us Home forever.

Your Brother in the One Body, —Andrew Senti
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Kentucky—Dear Brother: You will find enclosed thirty names to whom I want the good paper sent. I wish I were able to have it sent to every home in the U. S. A.

I think it is one of the best papers coming off the presses today. . . . My grandmother took the good old "Gospel Trumpet" when I was just a small boy, and it was really a good paper in those days. . . . I will be 80 years old my next birthday, and I want the "Faith and Victory" to come to my home until Jesus calls for me, for I just love to read it.

Your Brother in Christ, —Leonard J. Ruggles
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Ohio—Dear brethren: Enclosed find my remittance for the renewal subscription to the periodical, "Faith and Victory," and for one "Evening Light Songs" book. I love the old-time Church of God songs. I enjoyed and am still enjoying the same truth that brought the church to light under Bro. Warner and others.

Your Bro. in Christ, —George S. Oiler
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Pa.—Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus. We enjoy the "Faith and Victory" paper, and may the dear Lord bless you with strength and health to keep up the Lord's work.

I am sending a few names and a dollar for each, so you can send them the gospel paper. Also, I am sending money to be used where it is most needed for the glory of God. . . . Please keep the paper coming to us.

We would appreciate your prayers.

Yours in Christ, —Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Lewis, Sr.
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Indiana—Dear friends in Christ: Some time ago, I sent for some tracts, especially the one, "Women's Undress." Since then you have been sending me your little paper, "Faith and Victory." I enjoy it very much. . . . But what I especially like about your literature is that you seem to be strict on dress, etc.

I have lived in Akron 26 years, but was saved in a small country church near Kokomo, Ind. When I started going to this church in Akron, Bro. D. L. Slaybaugh was the pastor. At that time we knelt to pray and one heard many amens, etc., but there is none of that now. . . . I have a deep burden for this church and want you to pray for it. I hate to see our young people brought up without any standards. . . .

Yours in Christ, —Mrs. Fred McBroom
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Oklahoma—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the saints at the Printshop: I want to thank the dear Lord for salvation and the love for His truth in this day and age. I pray to God to ever lead me by His Spirit, and keep me in the center of His will.

Please accept the love offering to help in the Lord's work. —Sarah Hoffman
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Florida—Dear saints: Truly, I am thankful for this opportunity to express my appreciation for the wonderful "Faith and Victory" paper. I have read this paper for the last 36 years. Thank you so very much for all your labor and love to get the paper out.

—C. E. Mitchell
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Ohio—Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ: First, I would like to let you know that I know Christ as my Savior. Then, I would like to tell you my experience in receiving the "Faith and Victory" paper. A Sister in Christ named Tressie Adkins gave me a paper back in May, 1973, to read and see what I thought of it. I read it and told her it was all right. This lady was converted in the church where we go sometimes. She invited my family to go to a church where her sister in the flesh goes sometimes. (Her sister's name is Mrs. Carter in

Kentucky.) It was at the Church of God in Dayton, Ohio, where Bro. Wm. A. McCoy is the pastor. They had an all-day meeting there on the second Sunday in November. I surely enjoyed myself that day. I got fed two ways—spiritually and naturally. Bro. Mart Samons preached that day. After service, Bro. Samons gave me the November "Faith and Victory" paper which I surely enjoyed reading. After hearing Bro. Samons and seeing so much love in the church, we felt right at home. The modesty of the people in the way they were dressed in that little body made them look like Christians. I can say, praise the Lord, for the modesty I saw in the Christians there. I wish I could express in words the thoughts that go through my mind.

I have become very interested in getting the "Faith and Victory" paper to the people I work with and to my neighbors. I have set a goal, if it be the Lord's will, to get it into 100 homes as a ministry on my part of getting the good news to the people in and around the Columbus and Pataskala, Ohio, area. . . .

Yours truly, —Rufus Perry and family

Okla.—Dear Sister Marie and Bro. Lawrence: We greet you once again as we near the time when we commemorate the birthday of Him whose name we adore. While many worship only the Babe in the manger, we are grateful that He shed His precious blood for our redemption and arose from the grave triumphantly. Thank the Lord that He is now sitting at the right hand of God ever making intercession for us. . . .

May the Lord continue to bless your labors in getting out the printed Word, and supply the needs from time to time.

We hope to be able to attend the Assembly meeting [in Guthrie]. . . . Whichever way the Lord wills, we wish all of you the joys of Christmas and a happy New Year in the Lord. —Henry and Emma Dornhofer

Arkansas—Dear Bro. Lawrence: We send greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am truly thankful for the mercy and love of God that has made me to be a partaker of His wonderful salvation. It is so good to enjoy day by day the precious realities of His truth.

The Lord has been blessing in our little gathering together from time to time, and encouraging our hearts to keep pressing on with our eyes upon the Lord, remembering it is the ones who endure unto the end that will receive the reward.

Bro. Lawrence, we are still praying the dear Lord to complete the work of healing upon your body. We trust the Lord is blessing the faithful workers there at the Printshop. It is our desire to see the truth sent forth through the printed page. We are sending an offering to be used where needed.

With much Christian love, —E. A. Loftis

Georgia—Dear Sister Marie, Bro. Pruitt and helpers in the Printshop: I greet you in the lovely name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God who came to this world to save His people from their sins. (Matt. 1:21). Jesus came into this world in an humble way, He lived an humble life, and He died an humble death. Praise Him forever!

I am glad I have faith to trust the God of heaven for my healing and not the arm of flesh. . . . The Sunday school lessons and the "Faith and Victory" are wonderful.

We three are doing nicely with the work of God here. We are keeping encouraged in the Lord, believing

the Lord will add souls to the Church, such as will be saved, in His own time. We are looking forward to our early Christmas morning service, Lord willing.

Pray for me as I am doing for you.

In Christian love,

—Sister P. R. Bowers

Okla.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings in Jesus' name, the most precious name on earth.

I am doing better in body, for which I thank the Lord. I hope you and all the rest are doing well. . . .

Our blessed, loving Jesus is so merciful to this old wicked, ungodly world to hold it together that a few more souls might get ready for heaven. . . . I'm sending a little offering to be used wherever needed.

Love and prayers,

—B. Rumpf

Testimonies and Answers To Prayer

Texas—Greetings in Jesus' name to all my brothers and sisters in Christ: I feel led to write a letter of my experiences.

I was saved in the Methodist church under a brush arbor in Arkansas, joined that church and was baptized. Later we came to Texas where there wasn't a Methodist denomination, so I joined the Missionary Baptist denomination. I was a Baptist for about 22 years. As Brother Paul wrote, I prospered in my religion as much as anyone. I was the church clerk for a while. But the Lord pled for me to come out, and the Scripture would appear before me: "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." 2 Cor. 6:17, 18. So I came out, and then joined the Pentecostal denomination, for they were the only ones I knew that preached anything about the Holy Ghost, but I found that they did not have Him. I got what they had and talked in tongues, but it didn't help my soul any. I was still hungry and thirsting after righteousness, and I read where the Word said, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism." Eph. 4:6. I read in Eph. 3:14, 15 that the whole family in heaven and earth was named after the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Father's name is God, so the name is the Church of God which Jesus purchased with His own blood. Acts 20:28.

I received a tract on the Church of God, and the Holy Spirit said for me to write to that address. So I wrote a letter to the late Bro. Fred Pruitt at Guthrie, Okla., and asked if he could come and hold a meeting. His time was taken up with pastoral and publishing work, so he answered that he would write to Bro. Cecil Carver at Shreveport, Louisiana. I had gotten the school house for the meeting, and I had talked to a Pentecostal preacher about holding it. But in the meantime, I prayed to the Lord that if He had just one church, for Him to send a preacher of His church, and if the Pentecostal wasn't it, don't let that preacher come. The Pentecostal preacher didn't come, but Bro. C. C. Carver, wife and children came without writing. My husband ran them off. Then later Bro. Carver dreamed there was an empty, four-room house near us. He came and held a meeting there. He stood and preached from the porch to the congregation in the yard. My husband hid behind the fence and bushes and heard the first sermon, then he went every night. He helped cut blocks to put planks on for seats. I received the Holy Ghost while in a pea patch picking peas. I came out of Babylon and didn't bring a Babel stone. I

found the only true Church of God and left all the old things behind. I saw the Church of God in all her beauty of holiness. As Bro. Curtis Williams says, "If you ever see the Church of God, you will be spoiled for anything else." Praise the Lord for the pure, holy, spotless, blameless church that Jesus purchased with His own blood.

Christian love and prayers, —Sister Nellie Lovell

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

Ill.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus.

I, too, went to prayer as you said [on the phone] that you would have prayer right away, and soon the discomfort left. If I got a jar or jolt, I could feel tenderness, but soon that left and my stomach began to feel all right. Praise the Lord! I have trouble with my head or ears ringing, so I trust you will go to prayer for complete deliverance for me, including the trouble in my nose and throat.

Thank you for your prayers. —Mrs. Nina Champion

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

Ark.—Dear Sister Marie and all the saints at the Print Shop: I've meant to write you for some time, but just neglected it. I've been so busy all summer and fall. We live on a farm and there is always something to do.

I called you in the spring for prayer for my son. He stayed in the hospital for seven weeks. He has been working all summer and fall, and is doing real well now, for which I thank the Lord. He was real bad for a while. I thank each one of the saints for their prayers. They mean so much to me. . . .

I am sending \$1.00 for a three-year renewal subscription to the "Faith and Victory" paper. I do enjoy reading it.

Please remember me and my family when you pray. I'm praying that the Lord will bless each one of you in sending out the gospel.

Your Sister in Christ, —Jewell Russell

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

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie and all my Brothers and Sisters: I can testify that God touched my body in answer to prayer. I read the book, "Divine Physical Healing," and God brought to my mind something I had read. I told Him, when my nerves were so bad, that if He would heal me I would write it in the "Faith and Victory" paper. God wants us to tell of His goodness to us. As you know, we called for prayer. I believe that if God had not heard His children, I would have lost my mind. I got in such a bad shape.

The Lord showed me He wanted me to teach the primary class in the Sunday school here. I told the Lord, if He wanted me to teach the class, to heal my eye, and He did. It doesn't pay to take things in our own hands.

I still need prayer for my lips. They itch so bad. I am hard of hearing also. I know God can heal that, too. I have other requests and burdens, so pray for me.

Your Sister in Christ, —Ada Leach

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

Pa.—Dear saints everywhere: I surely want to give God the praise and glory that is His. We can't praise Him enough for His goodness to us. Often in morning prayer, I ask the Lord to help me glorify Him in some way, either by word, thought or deed, and truly this is my purpose in writing my testimony.

My little girl fell from what we call a monkey swing which is a rope swinging from a tall tree hanging over an embankment. She was knocked unconscious and does not remember being carried to the house. We believe she had a concussion. She had a very large lump on her temple. I began to call on the Lord immediately. I was

not able to keep her awake, as we had always been told to keep a person awake after a fall on the head. I would wake her, and she would have such terrible pains in her head. She cried with it so much. But the dear Lord answered prayer, and allowed her to go back to sleep each time she awoke. For about two hours I watched over her—praying much. After that time, she arose and said, "Mommy, let's go shopping," as we had planned on going grocery shopping that evening, but had given it up.

Two neighbors pleaded for me to take her to the hospital, as they also thought she had had a concussion. Later, I told the one neighbor that she was all right, and she asked, "Well, who healed her?" I told her that the Lord did.

This was a real trial of faith for me, but my trust was in God. I know He is a big God who can do all things, according to our faith. He doesn't need man's help.

This Scripture came to my mind while in prayer, "They shall call on my name and I will hear them. I will say, It is my people, and they shall say, The Lord is my God." Zech. 13:9. Surely, He is my God!

Dear saints, join me in prayer that the Lord will send some gospel worker here in the East to labor in the Lord's work. Surely, He hasn't forgotten this populated area. Let's earnestly pray for this cause. I do believe there are hungry souls here. I have several on my heart.

Pray that I may be what the Lord would have me to be, and use my talents to His glory.

Christian love, —Sister Virginia Myers

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

Okla.—Dear saints of God: We send greetings to each of you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and King. We are happy that we can report victory over the enemy of our soul. It is truly wonderful what the Lord has done! As each day passes, we realize more and more how thankful we should be for being saved and sanctified. As we look out in this sin-darkened world and see how the devil has taken advantage of the millions of souls, it makes us feel so unworthy to think that the mercy of God has been so graciously extended to us. Surely, we should not fail to thank Him for His kind and gracious dealings with our heart. May we each one keep our hearts tender and our spiritual ears trained to hear the faintest whispers of our Master.

It has been quite some time since we have written our testimony in the "Faith and Victory" paper. Over a year ago the Lord began dealing with us concerning the work at the Lord's printshop here in Guthrie. The enemy tried to paint some dark pictures and discourage us in this move, but the Lord gave us Matt. 6:25-34. After we made the decision to make the move, we had several months of waiting to sell our place in Hammond, La. During this time we kept seeking the Lord's will concerning this move and just left it all in His hands. In early December we closed the sale of our place, and by the middle of the month we were loading our furniture for the move. It was hard to leave as that had been our home for nearly all our life. The Lord wonderfully blessed us in making the trip. I would like to say that we did not feel lonely in our move, because we knew the Lord was with us and that part of His great family was here. Thank the Lord for His saints! They are not strangers because His Holy Spirit binds us together. We do love the saints here and feel right at home. We thank the Lord so much how He helped us to find a suitable place to buy this summer and how He has blessed us in making necessary repairs and getting moved.

We have had some trials and battles in this year, but, oh, we do thank the Lord for the victories. In August, we had just started moving into our home. One Wednesday afternoon, my wife was helping me move a table saw when one of the legs struck her quite hard on the top of her foot. Later in the afternoon, she went home to rest as her foot was bothering her some. When she started to get up, she could not walk on it and it was hurting a great deal. She sent across the street for Sis. Bonnie Matthews, and after prayer was offered the suffering eased some, but still she could hardly walk. By prayer meeting time, she could not walk at all and was suffering severely. We called Bro. Leslie Busbee, and he and Bro. James Huskey came by on their way to prayer meeting. When prayer was offered, the Lord instantly took away the pain. When we came home from prayer meeting, we found she was up, walking around and felt no pain. Although her foot was sore for several weeks, she was able to keep going and help move, and it never did hurt any more.

We also want to thank the Lord for how He protected our little girl, Brenda, last winter. One Sunday afternoon she was playing in her bedroom when all at once she started screaming. We rushed to one of the doors to her room as she went out the other one. We saw fire coming out of the space heater and blazing up about a foot above it. She had accidently stepped on the brass heater-connector and broken it off, and the fire in the heater caught the gas on fire that was escaping out of the open pipe. When we saw what had happened, we were nearly afraid to look at her. Her hair, eyebrows, and eyelashes were singed, but she was not injured in any other way. Oh, how we did thank the Lord for His protecting hand!

It is our heart's desire to be faithful to the Lord unto the end. We realize time is fast running out and the forces of evil are pressing harder against the saints, but may each of us keep our eyes on the Lord, knowing that He will be with us to the end. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Psalm 23:4. We covet your prayers.

Christian love, —Randall and June Flynn

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

La.—Dear ones: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. We trust this finds each of you encouraged to press on in your labors for the Lord.

We want to testify to what the Lord has done for our little girl, Cheryl. We are thanking and praising Him for healing her nose. Many of the saints remember the many times that we have requested prayer for her. We want to say the Lord has healed her and removed all of the offensive odor. Oh, how we do thank Him for this great blessing! We tell of this blessing to others that we may all be encouraged to hold on and keep our faith anchored in the Lord. Our God does hear and answer prayer.

Keep looking up, Bro. Lawrence. Our God is able to deliver you.

Sister Anna Marie, we do appreciate you and your labors for the Lord. May God bless you, strengthen and keep you.

May each of you have great peace and joy at this season and in the New Year.

Christian love, —Bro. Bob and Sister Dorall Forbes

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

Indiana—Dear Sister Miles: Your letter was so encouraging to me. I do thank you and all who have prayed for me. I am so much better. My heart has just been filled with praise to Jesus, the Great Physician, and for

His dear people. You are so right—there is no people like God's people. I think I felt just like Jacob when he awakened out of sleep and said, "Surely, the Lord is in this place." I awakened late in the night, and it just seemed like heaven had come down and filled my soul with glory. It was so wonderful. I didn't want to make a move. I have just been praising the Lord night and day. . . . My love and prayers, —Lone Strebig

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

Mich.—Dear Sister Marie, all the saints at the Printshop and everywhere: Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. I enjoy reading my "Faith and Victory" paper so much. It seems it gets better all the time.

I am thankful for all blessings. God has been so gracious to us, to love and value our souls so much that He sent His precious, only begotten Son to redeem us from sin and heal us of our infirmities.

I desire to be all that my dear loving Saviour wants me to be, nothing more and nothing less. Today finds me yet saved and on the highway of holiness. Praise His dear name! . . .

Pray for me and my loved one.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Lela Stewart

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

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings in the Lord. I am grateful for salvation and the goodness of the Lord. He is ever mindful of His creation.

I do want to give thanks for His blessings in behalf of my eyes. Recently, I had suffered severe eye-strain and a sensitiveness to light which caused severe pain in one of them. I had an obligation that required reading. Feeling that it was the will of the Lord to fill this obligation, by faith I began. At times the pain was quite severe, but I kept looking to the Lord, reminding Him that I had used my eyes to His glory even from my youth up. Thank the Lord, He came to my rescue.

Enclosed is a check of . . . for the tracts selected. We trust and know they will help someone along the way of life. Christian love, —Olive A. Davenport

o

Come to the Mercy Seat

Approach, my soul, the mercy seat

Where Jesus answers prayer;
There humbly fall before His feet,
For none can perish there.

Thy promise is my only plea;
With this I venture nigh.
Thou callest burdened souls to Thee,
And such, O Lord, am I.

Bowed down beneath a load of sin,
By Satan sorely pressed,
By war without and fear within,
I come to Thee for rest.

Be Thou my shield and hiding place—
That shelter near Thy side,
That I may my accuser face
And tell him that Jesus died.

O wondrous love to bleed and die,
To bear the cross and shame,
That guilty sinners such as I
Might plead Thy gracious name.

—Selected