

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup> VICTORY

## Church of God Servant



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### *Do You Hear Them Crying?*



Don't you hear the millions crying  
In their need across the sea,  
"Send the Gospel to us faster,  
Haste, oh, haste to set us free?"

They are dying in their anguish—  
Souls for whom the Saviour died.  
Oh, why don't you haste the message  
Of the Christ once crucified!

Jesus saw the teeming numbers  
Without shepherd, friend, or guide;  
And He wept with deepest sorrow  
For the throngs for whom He died.

There are lost ones all around you  
Who are sinking down to hell,  
Whom you've never said a word to,  
Of that Friend you love so well.

Oh, my dear one, let's be busy,  
There are millions that are lost;  
Jesus gave His life to save them  
At a most tremendous cost.

Can you say you tried to save them?  
They are passing to their doom;  
Every day brings millions nearer  
To eternal night and gloom.

Jesus gave us the Gospel,  
And their blood is on our hands;  
Their souls are worth far more than  
Houses, bank accounts and lands.

Help us spread the blessed story,  
Help us o'er lost souls to yearn,  
Winning souls to Jesus daily,  
Keeping true 'till His return.

—Author Unknown

Better never to have been born at all than never  
to have been "born again."

### *"Look On The Fields"*



Jesus said to His disciples, "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." John 4:35.

Sister Vera Forbes' children were almost grown and some had already left the home. She had always wanted to be a missionary, but it never opened up for her to go overseas. So now she felt an urge to fulfill her desire to work for the Lord in a greater way. She lifted up her eyes and looked "on the fields." (Oh, that more would do that today!) She saw a government housing project where people of all races lived. She took some good gospel tracts and papers with her and visited it. She talked to the children. She found them eager to hear her stories about Jesus. She learned that she could have children's meetings with them in the yard. So she began a work that lasted for 25 or 30 years. She would go to a group of houses and gather the children together and teach them about the Lord, and then from there to another group of houses. She would have four classes a day for four, and sometimes five, days a week. When it began to get cold, the mothers invited her into their homes. In this way she reached older people. Some of the older people were saved by this contact. She also visited the sick, gave of her money, and in many other ways she labored for God.

Today, dear Sister Vera Forbes, whom most of the children called "Aunt Vera," is 81 years old. She has a lot of happy memories of her labors for God. Many of those children are grown now and are teaching their children the things that she taught them. Only eternity will reveal all the good that our dear, precious Sister Vera Forbes has done. She didn't get to go overseas to teach those people, but she taught the gospel to Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Germans, Mexicans and many other races. How did she become such a blessing? She lifted up her eyes and saw the fields, and then went out to labor in those fields within her reach. There is still much work

for you to do. The Bible and the Spirit of God calls us to be workers in His vineyard. Each one of us must be busy for God.

"Look on the fields" around your home, and even "look on the field" in your home. Is there some way you can contact souls with the gospel within your reach? Mothers and fathers have a great responsibility in teaching their children. This is a big field. Take time to teach them the Bible stories when they are young. When they get older, ask them questions in the form of the one that answers gets to move up one place. Also, you can teach the older ones the doctrines of the Bible. Instill in them the truth, so they will not be "tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine." Eph. 4:14. Make the Bible truth a challenge to them. It takes courage from God to stand for the right. Encourage them to seek for that courage.

Gather the children and young people in your neighborhood and have Bible studies with them. "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields." There is something you can do. You can give out tracts and papers from door to door. Invite others to the church services. Visit the jails and hospitals, and leave a tract or a word of encouragement. There are many shut-ins in your town to whom you can give a word of cheer or a dish of food along with the gospel message. Write a letter with tracts enclosed, or send a card of cheer. The field is yours. Choose the field today where you will labor. Be busy for the Lord. He will richly bless you. "He that watereth shall be watered." Prov. 11:25.

Jesus told us, "Ye are my witnesses." We want to let others know by our words, deeds and actions that we truly are the Lord's. Be careful in your business dealings. By keeping your word and being honest, you are witnessing for the Lord. Support those who are out working on the field for God. Support the pastors, evangelists and missionaries. Help get the gospel out through the printed page. In all these ways you are looking on the fields and finding a place of labor. One of these days you will hear the words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant . . . , enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Matthew 25:21.

—Sister Marie Miles

### YOU CAN DO SOMETHING

"If you cannot be the watchman,  
Standing high on Zion's wall,  
Pointing out the path to heaven,  
Offering life and peace to all;  
With your prayers and with your bounties  
You can do what Heaven demands,  
You can be like Hur and Aaron,  
Holding up the prophet's hands."

"Some are asking, 'What are people who are living by faith going to do when money gets tight and depression comes?' The real question is, 'What are people who are not living by faith going to do?'"

## Why Do God's People Suffer?

I thank the Lord for every blessing that He lets come our way, and most of all, for sparing our life to let us see another year—1975. We don't know how long God will permit us to be here, but we want to redeem the time and do what we can for Him while we are here.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the saints who have prayed for me. God has wonderfully come to my rescue and healed whatever the condition was. Although I still need your prayers, I am certainly thankful for what God has done.

I felt led to write a little to the glory of God and for the benefit of those who do not understand all the workings of God in our lives. Not that I am an authority on the subject, as I feel I am the least among God's children, but with God's help I want to give a little of what God has given to me. I have been praying for several years that God would give me wisdom and understanding of His Word, and I believe that He has shown me the answer to the above question included in our topic.

It is not surprising that this question is asked by many. Maybe you have asked this question many times. If God is omnipotent, surely He could intervene and deliver His people from the suffering and persecution that they experience? Why then does He allow the constant trials and tribulations which beset them?

The mystery of suffering has been a problem to mankind down through the ages, and man has constantly sought a solution. Doctors spend years in studying how to keep man from suffering. They have found several drugs that will numb the pain until nature takes over and heals the cause. The easy and quick explanation to our question would be that all suffering and sorrow spring from the sin of our ancestors in the Garden of Eden. This may be theologically correct, but it is equally true that suffering is frequently the consequence of personal sin or disobedience to God, "for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Gal. 6:7). But this is not a satisfactory answer to every person suffering or in a deep trial. In the 12th chapter of Hebrews it indicates that such experiences are not always due to wrongdoing. Often, it is the most godly that suffer most.

Then what is the cause of our suffering and trouble? Jesus said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (Jno. 16:33). We see auto bumper signs that read, "God Loves You." Here is, I believe, the secret to our question. It seems evident then that suffering is more often an expression of the love of God toward us. The Apostle Paul explains it thus: "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he re-

ceiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons." (Heb. 12:5-8). For if our earthly fathers corrected us and we gave them honor, how much more ought we to be in subjection to our Father in heaven? For they corrected us for their pleasure, but God for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. For no chastening at the present time is joyous to us, but grievous: nevertheless, after it is over it will yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised by it.

We will give one Bible example for this, as these things were written "for our admonition." (1 Cor. 10:11).

In the first chapter of Job we are told that Job was perfect and upright, one who feared God and shunned evil. Now, Job was a wealthy man and had seven sons and three daughters, and was the greatest of all the men of the East. His sons went to feasting in their homes and invited their three sisters to eat and drink with them. But Job didn't partake of that kind of life, yet he turned to God and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning and offered a burnt offering for each one of his children, for he reasoned that it might be that they have sinned and cursed God in their hearts. This he did continually. Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. And the Lord asked Satan, where did you come from? Satan answered, From going to and fro through the earth, and walking up and down in it. Then the Lord asked Satan, Have you considered my servant Job? There is none like him in all the earth, a perfect and an upright man, who fears God and shuns evil. But Satan said, Does he fear God for nothing? Haven't you put a hedge around him and around his house and everything he has? You have blessed the works of his hands and increased his substance. But put forth your hand and touch all that he has and he will curse you to your face. So the Lord told Satan, All that he hath is in thy power, but don't touch his body. So Satan went out and destroyed all his children and all that Job owned. But Job tore his mantle, shaved his head and fell down upon the ground and worshipped God. And he said, Naked I came out of my mother's womb, and naked I shall return again. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this trouble, Job did not sin nor charge God foolishly.

Then Satan came again before the Lord, and the Lord asked him again, Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in all the earth? But Satan said, Skin for skin, yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. (Satan knew this truth. When a man comes to die, all that he possesses loses its value.) But the Lord told Satan, Behold, he is in thy hand; but save his life. God wouldn't permit him to take his life. So Satan afflicted Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto the crown

of his head, and he sat in ashes, trying to get as low and humble before God as he could. His wife came to him and said, Do you still hold on to your integrity? curse God and die. But Job said to her, You speak as one of the foolish women. What? shall we receive good things from the hand of God, and shall we not also receive of the evil? In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

God prunes and purges His people that they may bring forth more fruit. (Jno. 15:2). Jesus said, "He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing." (Jno. 15:5).

In the morning time of the Church, persecution was great, but many signs and wonders were done by the followers of Christ, and the gospel spread like fire. Today we are living in a country of religious freedom and people are at ease. Persecution, trials, suffering and troubles separate the true from the false, and the Bible tells us that in the beginning: "And of the rest durst no man join himself to them." (Acts 5:13). Then all these things are needful that we might be able to stand in the great day of God's wrath. "Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish." (Matt. 18:14).

Let us get down to business with God, and redeem the time. Darkness is fast closing in on our country and the world. The devil is fast deceiving the professed people of God and scattering them in little groups, as it is told by the prophet Daniel, chapter 12, verse 7, "When he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished." There is power in unity and oneness. When God's people come together in unity and all are agreed, God is moved and will answer prayer and perform miracles. But when they are divided, He is grieved and will not do for us that which is His will to do. The devil knows this, and that is why he is working day and night to scatter the power of the holy people. So let us redeem the time while it is yet day, for as the darkness becomes greater, so will it be harder for you to get your prayers through to God. Pray for me that I will be found faithful when He calls me out of this wicked world. Amen.

"Today a cross has been placed on you;  
It's a burden almost too great to bear.  
Wear it well, be strong and courageous;  
Find comfort in our love and in prayer.  
Don't let bitterness flood over you—  
Don't say, "Why must it be me?"  
God has His reason of each event,  
And a pattern for each soul's destiny.  
Give to the world a smiling face;  
Be an inspiration to all whom you meet.  
Begin each day with the will to pray,  
And life again will be sweet."

—Earl B. Bliss

—o—  
"It has been said that our anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strength."

## "FAITH AND VICTORY"

### 16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend campmeetings) by Lawrence D. Pruitt, assisted by Marie Miles and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

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

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the services and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Co-operation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way the Bible and the Holy Spirit teaches you to do or stirs your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 25:2; 1st Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

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

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

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

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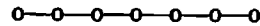
## EDITORIALS



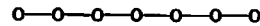
### God's Holy Arm—The Universal Witness . . .

The prophet Isaiah wrote: "The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God." Isa. 52:10. Isaiah is known as the gospel prophet, for he prophesied of the coming Messiah more than any other on record. In the above text the prophet wrote 700 years before Christ came as though the event had already come to pass. The glorious announcement of God making "bare His holy arm" refers to God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who came to this world as the Saviour and Redeemer of mankind. The arm denotes strength, so the mighty power of God was revealed to mortal man through His Son, Jesus, who dethroned Satan in the exalted place of man's heart. He is identified as the "Lion of the tribe of Judah," the only one who was able to open the sealed book—the plan of salvation—to mankind.

"The eyes of all the nations" beheld the appearance of Jesus Christ and felt His power over sin and Satan which altered the course of history. His life, teachings, death and resurrection were public knowledge, even as the Apostle Paul testified before King Agrippa, saying, "For this thing was not done in a corner." Thank God for the universal witness, and it is yet His will today that the good news of salvation through Christ be carried to every creature.

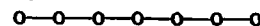


Our readers, no doubt, have noticed a new type face in the January and this February issue. Perhaps this new type face will be used more extensively. This type is produced by running punched tape from the Justewriter machine through the Varityper, which is a photo composition machine that forms the letters automatically on light sensitive Kodak paper at the speed of 20 lines per minute.



The Oklahoma State Campmeeting here at Guthrie, Okla., will be held, Lord willing, from May 23 to June 1, 1975. The date of the National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo., is July 18 to 27, 1975. Watch for other dates in the March issue.

If you want the dates for your campmeeting published in the March issue, please get those dates to us by Feb. 15, 1975.



### Bro. Tom Melot in Nigerian Mission Work . . .

Bro. Tom Melot arrived safely by plane in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, W. Africa, on Jan. 5, which was Sunday. On that day he spoke to a congregation in that city. The same day he wrote us a letter stating that the Lord had been abundantly helping him, and had brought many precious Scriptures and comforting thoughts to his heart, adding: "I know the Lord has sent me here." Then he requested prayer for success in his contacts with the twenty mission stations in that country. The next day he arrived at the main

mission station at Asana in the interior. The Nigerian mission letters on another page of this issue will give a further report of his welcome arrival.

Bro. Melot's six-weeks' visa will soon expire, and he will return, Lord willing, to Oklahoma about the middle of February. Pray that the Lord will continue to bless his gospel work in that needy foreign field, and return him safely to us at the appointed time.

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Following is the reprint of an editorial in the F. & V., dated May, 1967, by Lawrence Pruitt:—

The prophet Jeremiah wrote: "The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully." Jer. 23:28. All dreams are not from the Lord, but in the Bible are accounts where God frequently revealed His will or future events in dreams.

In the early morning of March 29, 1967, this writer had a dream, and now he records it as a dream. It seemed that I was with Bro. C. E. Orr, a pioneer minister of the Church of God with whom I had been well acquainted in his last years, but he had gone to Glory in September, 1933. In the dream I could see that familiar form kneeling in prayer and hear him praying very earnestly. He was greatly burdened for the unsaved world in general and for a number of souls in particular. In his earnest petition before the throne he uttered these words: "Lord, you know that in about twelve years something very tragic is coming to pass, . . ." With the hearing of these words I awoke instantly, and the dream was deeply impressed on my heart and mind. The meaning of this dream, if any, I do not know. Whether this tragic event about 1979 A. D. is another global war or the end of the world, I cannot say. Obviously, it is a warning of a great calamity that will overtake those who are unprepared to meet the Lord. The signs of the last days just prior to the coming of the Lord are being fulfilled very rapidly, and it is a normal, healthy spiritual attitude for every child of God to be looking for His appearance momentarily. Whether He calls one from this life or comes in fulfillment of His promised second advent, one must be prepared, for in either event his destiny is sealed. More than 1900 years ago, Jesus warned His disciples: "Watch therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matt. 24:42, 44. Though the skeptics may scoff, yet Jesus is coming again according to His eternal Word. That will be such a sad day for the wicked and a glad day for the saints. Jesus said, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28.

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Brother George Hammond has recently contacted several congregations in Oklahoma. His labors are appreciated in the home and foreign mission work, as well as his good help here in the Printshop in the printing process and the repair and maintenance of

equipment and buildings in connection with this literature ministry.

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### Coming or Going, Which?

Whether one is walking in the light of God's Word or away from it, determines whether or not he has fellowship with the Lord and His people. It is just that important. (1 John 1:7).

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Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the bereaved relatives of Sister Prudie Broaddus and Bro. Asa Gibson who recently departed this life—Sister Broaddus on Jan. 16 and Bro. Gibson on Jan. 11. We had known these two for many years. Their obituaries will be published when they are received.

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At press time the sad news was received of the sudden passing (Tuesday night, Jan. 21) of the husband of Sister Edith Wall of Dallas, Texas. May the Lord comfort and sustain Sister Wall, their son, Jim Wall of Tulsa, Okla., and all the other relatives in their time of sorrow.

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Again, we thank our readers for their prayers and concern about our tax problems. No additional word has been received from the IRS. It is our prayer and hope that no news means good news.

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We are thankful for all our co-workers who are giving their time and talents to help spread the gospel by the printed page because they love the Lord and His precious truth and want to share it with others. God is not unrighteous to forget their work of faith and labor of love, as well as our many readers scattered abroad who co-operate in fervent prayer and the financial support of this gospel publishing work. May God reward each one. —Lawrence Pruitt

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**Annarena (Childs) Yantis**, the wife of Bro. Earle Yantis, was born March 8, 1904, and departed this life at Perrysburg, Ohio, on January 14, 1975, at the age of 70 years.

Bro. and Sister Yantis have been readers of the literature from the Faith Pub. House at Guthrie, Okla., for many years.

Survivors include her husband, V. Earle Yantis, of the home; two sons, Earl and Vernon; six daughters, Mrs. Edward (Lorena) Jenkins, Mrs. Cecil (Lovella) Foote, Mrs. Charles (Lena) Magrum, Mrs. Dorothy Snyder, Mrs. Williams (Margaret) Jenkins, and Mrs. Ronald (Pauline) Hartman; 36 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

The funeral services were held in Perrysburg, Ohio, and interment was in the Toledo Memorial Park.

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**Ted Russel Thomas**, son of Violet Marie and David T. Thomas, Jr., was born on July 10, 1958, and passed away on Jan. 9, 1975, at the age of 16½ years.

He gave his heart to the Lord during his illness, and showed the fruits of the Spirit during his remaining days.

He is survived by his mother and father; two sisters, Tina Marie and Teresia Fern; one brother, Tyler K. Thomas, all of the home; maternal grandfather, Morris Faust; paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. D. T. Thomas, Sr.; many other relatives and friends.

His earthly tabernacle was laid to rest in Woodline Cemetery at Puyallup, Wash.

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**Virgil Guy Joiner, Sr.**, aged 66, was born at Loranger, La., on Aug. 5, 1908, and departed this life on Dec. 22, 1974. He was a resident of Baton Rouge, La.

Bro. Virgil had been saved over twenty years and faithfully attended services in the little chapel in Baton Rouge, La. He attended services on Sunday morning before his death that evening. He is sadly missed by the saints.

He leaves his wife, Lucille Buford Joiner of the home; three daughters, Mrs. Mollie Lee Scardina of Baton Rouge, Mrs. Beverly Ann Witherspoon of California, Mrs. Virgie Clark of Baton Rouge; one son, Guy Joiner, Jr., of Baton Rouge; three brothers, Curtis, Homer, and Donald; two sisters, Eloise Joiner and Mrs. Frances Coffey; five grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by the writer in Baton Rouge, La. The scriptures used were: Romans 8:11-25; 2:7; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Heb. 12:1; 2 Cor. 5:1. Burial was in Greenoaks Memorial Park.

—Bro. Max F. Williamson

There are things which even God does not do for us unless He allows us to suffer. He cannot have the result of the process without the process. —Sel.

**CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY REPORT**

Our hearts are full of gratitude to our God for how He worked in our Assembly Meeting here in Pacoima, Calif. (Dec. 20-29). Even before the meeting began, souls were saved and seemed to have hit the rock, as their testimonies have a true ring. The Spirit was here to convince and convict of sin, bodies were healed and the saints edified.

We were blessed to have a number of out-of-state ministers and saints, among whom were Bro. and Sis. Dan Kroker of Oregon, Bro. and Sis. O. B. Wilson of Oregon, Bro. and Sis. Ira Stover of Oklahoma, and, Bro. Charles Chandler of Oklahoma. We did appreciate their presence and labors so very much.

—Sis. Patsy Fields

**REVIVAL AT BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.**

The saints at Bakersfield, Calif., extend a hearty welcome to all to attend the annual revival to be held, Lord willing, from Friday night, Feb. 14, through Sunday night, Feb. 21, 1975. Plans are for a daytime service at 1:00 o'clock on week days with three services on weekends. Please pray that the Lord will anoint with His Holy Spirit in this meeting.

The church address is 1802 Virginia Ave., phone (805) 322-9314.

For further information, contact Bro. Z. E. Francisco, 305 So. Owens St., phone 323-0747, or Bro. A. W. Sherman, 201 "L" St., phone 327-0411.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Canada—"I am still ill, but I am trusting God to bring me out. I ask for all your prayers." —Sis. Clare Smith

Pa.—"Pray for my sister-in-law who needs special help from the Lord. She is an epileptic and often is sick, yet she needs to work. She needs help in her soul." —V. Myers

Cal.—"I had the flu and it left me very weak. My blood pressure is high. Pray for me.... I need help in both soul and body."

—Mrs. Buny Conley

Mo.—"I need prayer for a rash on my body. I am a child of God.... I have been healed many times."

—Mary Connor

Ill.—"I lost my husband in July.... I really wore myself out almost. I thought I was adjusting well when I slipped into a nervous condition.... I can't sleep well at night.... I have a semi-invalid brother to care for.... I need healing.... Do pray for me!"

—Sis. Lillian Center

Ohio—Remember Sis. Mary Vice in prayer. She was in a car accident and broke her knee cap and cut her mouth. She also needs healing of her nerves.

Ky.—Remember Bro. Curtis Williams in prayer. He has not been able to be out in meetings after taking cold and it settling in his lungs. A letter of cheer would be appreciated, I am sure. Address: Rt. 1, Morehead, Ky. 40351

Okl.—Bro. L. D. Chrisman has an affliction on his body. He desires that the saints will pray that he be healed.

La.—Sis. Etta Williamson fell and broke her hip. She is a dear aged, faithful saint of God. Do pray for her. Her sister-in-law, Sis. Queenie Williamson still needs prayer. Bro. and Sis. Max Williamson have been faithfully caring for her. All of them need prayer.

We read in Matt. 8:16 that Jesus "cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick." He healed them with His WORD. Today we have His WORD. He spoke and it was recorded. Today we can be healed through faith in His WORD. We must believe His Word. "In him was life; and the



life was the light of men." John 1:4. When we believe His WORD, then we believe in Him and there is life for us. His Word becomes life to us. Praise God!

When the nobleman came to Jesus, asking him to heal his son, He said to him, "Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the WORD that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way." John 4:50. By believing Jesus, it touched the stream of healing power and it brought life and healing to the nobleman's son. There is power in just believing the WORD of Jesus. So, dear ones, let us believe Jesus' Word and be healed.

—Sis. Marie Miles

### LETTER FROM MEXICO MISSIONARY

Valle de Trinidad, Mexico, (Dec. 9)—Dear Ones: Greetings to all in the precious name of Jesus. We received your good letter and it encourages us to know that God still has a few people who are faithful to Him. We appreciate your counsel in every letter, especially in this time of many trials.

I thank the Lord that we have the privilege of being saved in this day and time. I know that the help of the Spirit is what it takes to keep us faithful.

Pray much for the work here in Mexico, that God will help us remain at the cross with more burden for souls. My heart is heavy for a young boy in the valley here who is ill. He is the son of Brother Antonio. He's 24 or 25 years of age. He has been a drug addict and now is having practically a nervous break. I desire the 'salvation of his soul as does his father. One son of his who was a drug addict got saved just before he died. He testified to being saved in the meeting on Thursday night and died Friday.

We hope that all are encouraged in the Lord. Give our greetings to all there, please. Pray much for us.

Christian love, —Tomas Mendoza

### REPORT FROM OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO

(Jan. 2)—Dear Ones: Greetings to one and all in the precious name of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

I'm much encouraged with the work in Ojos Negros. It seems that the attitude of each one in the congregation has been changed, thank the Lord, and in place of caring to gossip or have jealousy in their hearts, they desire to pray one for another and help each other in every way they can. How I thank the Lord for this change.

We, as a congregation, have selected two of the poorest and most deserving families to help throughout the year as the need arises. At the mere suggestion as to the poverty in India compared to here, they immediately decided to send all our offering to Bro. John Varghese for whatever need they have there.

I thank the Lord that they are growing in the Lord in other ways, too. One lady, when I presented to her the idea of teaching the children, immediately said she had wanted to for some time. This is a great help to me as until now, I've been teaching everyone together in one class, and before service is over, the children get tired.

We want to thank each and every one who has had any part in sending clothing, etc., to Mexico. I'm glad to report that with the help of two ladies in the congregation here we have divided all into three parts, one for each mission station, all being sorted and ready for distribution, 73 boxes in all. All for Ojos Negros has been distributed. The Lord performed several miracles in getting me across the line with huge loads as they have gotten very strict there. We also want to thank each one who sent a special offering to buy personal things for the women, for the 18 doors which will be a great improvement to each mission station and others, too. We trust that as you give these many things, you will also continue to carry a burden for souls in Mexico and

pray much for them and us. It is a pressing time. Let us all be faithful in that which the Lord has given us to do.

Your Sis. in Christ, —Opal Kelly

P. O. Box 3770, San Ysidro, Calif. 92173

### MISSION LETTER FROM INDIA

S. India (Dec. 26)—My dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt and other dear ones in America: A very cheerful New Year greeting to all of you in the glorious name of Jesus Christ, the Keeper of spiritual Israel who shall neither slumber nor sleep. The year of 1974 was successful, and God helped us to get the victory over many Satanic works in that year. Especially it was an unforgettable year for me because God helped me to visit the U.S.A. and to meet many dear saints there. We are all thankful to God that He preserved our body and soul from all harm and evil last year, and preserved our going out and coming in. Praise the Lord!

Lord willing, we wish to give new life and new shape to our activities in the field of Jesus Christ in the new year of 1975. I am sure that 1975 will be full of testings and trials for us, and so we pray God to supply us and to multiply our spiritual strength. We request your continued prayers for other campmeetings in various places. I have already printed Malayalam songbooks and tracts to distribute at these meetings.

May God be with Bro. Tom Melot during his trip and activities in Nigeria.

The construction of the chapel at Avoor and the parsonage at Thrikkannamangal are almost completed, but the roof is not yet thatched due to the lack of money to buy the tile. We wish, the Lord willing, to start services in that chapel this January. . . . God has been so good to us so far and He will be our guide even unto death. Praise the Lord!

My wife and all the saints here send their New Year greetings to each and everyone there. We always appreciate your ardent love and prayers for us.

With love and prayers, your Brother in Christ,

—John Varghese

### LETTERS FROM NIGERIAN MISSION

Southeast State, Nigeria (Dec. 31)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints everywhere: Greetings to you and all in the name of our Lord and Saviour.

We received yours of Dec. 9, together with the enclosures, and acknowledge thanks to God and the saints for the kind gesture because of Christ. These will be used as directed and in the interest of saving souls. We all join to send much thanks to you for your care, spiritually and temporally, for us and the gospel work throughout the year ending, and pray the Master to repay you a hundred fold.

We held the 13th annual campmeeting on Dec. 12 to 15, 1974. It was a wonderful meeting, and attendants came from all the mission stations. Two brethren came from Midwestern State, and we all joined together to sing glory to God. The Bible truths were preached, the sick were healed, and the Church was edified. On the last day 79 converts followed Christ in water baptism with Bro. J. U. Etuk officiating. The Lord's Supper was also observed. . . .

Later Letter After Bro. Melot Had Arrived . . .

(Jan. 11)—Dear Bro. Pruitt, co-workers and saints everywhere: We are real happy this week that, after

our long desire for brethren from there to visit us and the field at large, God in His own way safely brought Bro. Tommy Melot to us. It was a very surprising moment when he arrived on the evening of Jan. 6, 1975. We went down on our knees to give thanks to God for granting our desire.

Today we held a welcoming service in his honour and a number of brothers and sisters from every mission station attended this occasion. Bro. Melot is loved by all, and even the village chiefs here attended the welcoming service.

From now onward, Bro. Melot will be engaged in visiting all the mission stations in this State, and finally he will go to Rivers State to visit the Church there and then board the airplane homeward. We are sorry that this country's visa will not permit a longer stay. Anyway, a return visit is expected in no distant future.

He is taking every precaution to keep free from any disease attack. We are handing him over to the Owner of the vineyard to protect him. Under His blood he remains, and nothing can touch him, we believe. He feels fine and well. Praise God! We have found him to be of much help to the work here, and the saints appreciate the good tidings which he brings to us. However, transportation is a great problem here.

We covet your prayers for him, his gospel work here and ourselves. We wish you God's untold blessings.

Yours in the Master's service, —Nse B. Umanah

Letter From Bro. Tom Melot in Nigeria:—

(Jan. 10)—Dear Brother Lawrence and co-workers: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am happy to report victory over all sin, disease and the devil. I have been here in Nigeria about six days, and already I am seeing the great needs of these people. According to Brother Umanah, about one-third of the people of this village of Asana are suffering starvation. I see much evidence of bloated bellies and thin bodies. Most of the sick come to be prayed for early in the morning. Yesterday the Lord touched two, I heard later. This morning a woman came with pain in her back and stomach. We feel as Jesus must have felt—great compassion. She said she was starving. I gave her milk to drink, and a quart and a box of rice to take home. I explain Scriptures and pray for them.

Yesterday many gospel workers came and visited me, and also to get the schedule of our visits. The Lord provided a motorcycle for me to rent. . . . I am thankful for how the Lord is helping me. . . . After today I will be busy every day until Feb. 8, visiting every congregation and meeting with the leaders. Pray for the success of these meetings. I am teaching more about the operations of the New Testament Church. . . .

I am planning, Lord willing, to go to Spain about Feb. 10 and look for possibilities for the gospel there. Pray for me. —Tom Melot

Divine charity makes great allowances for the weaknesses of others, bears with them, and treats them with gentleness. . . . It is never over-hasty in its proceeding. The less we have of self-love, the more easily we accommodate ourselves to the imperfections of others, in order to cure them patiently, when the right season arrives for it. Imperfect virtue is apt to be sour, severe, hard to please. Perfect virtue is meek, affable, and compassionate. It thinks of nothing but doing good, bearing others' burdens. —Fenelon

## FROM THE MAIL BOX . . .

Iowa—Dear Saints of God: Greetings in Jesus' precious name in this new year. You dear people of God have been so faithful in sending the "Faith and Victory" paper to us. . . . It has some wonderful stories of things that have happened to people, etc., also the nice testimonies, prayer requests, answers to prayer, reports from different places, poems and the "mailbox" letters. It's just a wonderful little Christian paper. . . .

I've always been a housewife, and since I've married, I never worked out in the public. My husband never wanted me to work away from home, as he was working. We raised two sons. . . .

My husband and I both have sugar diabetes and he has other ailments. . . . I've been sick this winter. I guess I had the flu. My mouth was so sore that I couldn't wear my dentures and couldn't eat right. I just read my Bible and prayed, and now I am lots better. I desire your prayers. . . . May God bless all of you.

As always, —Mrs. George W. Stump

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La.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings in Jesus' sweet name. We do love Him and mean, by His help and grace, to live to please Him all the days of our life. He is so good to us, supplies all our needs, heals us and keeps us encouraged to press the battle on. He has done more for us than we had ever expected. Praise His dear name! I do thank and praise the dear Lord for saving my soul and sanctifying my nature. . . .

Oh, I think of so many out in sin, traveling the downward road to destruction, while the dear Saviour is pleading for them to come unto Him and be saved! It is not His will that any perish, or be lost, but that all would come to repentance.

We were glad to receive your good encouraging letter, and to know how the dear Lord is blessing in so many ways. We do pray for you, Bro. Lawrence, and all the workers there in the Lord's printshop, that each one will be blessed and the work go forward in the future, as it has in the past. We are praying the Lord to work out all the problems, and rebuke the enemy that tries to hinder the Lord's work in any way. . . .

Remember some requests I have before the Lord. Also, remember my unsaved children that they will be saved before it is too late. Pray for me that I'll always do and say just what is pleasing unto the Lord. To do His will is my highest aim.

—Sister Effie Miller

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Minn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and co-workers: Greetings in the blessed and holy Name of Jesus, who has done so much for us. We can never repay Him. It is my desire to walk in the way that the Lord would have me to walk, and live a holy life in this time world.

I am in good health and strength, at this time, for which I thank the Lord. . . . I received the Bible lessons, for which I thank you. May the Lord bless and keep you in health and strength.

—Bro. Andrew Senti

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New Mexico—Dear Sis. Marie and co-workers: Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. I trust everyone is well in 1975. . . .

We thank God for all of His many blessings, for hearing and answering prayer. It is so good to trust Him for soul and body.

May God bless and supply every need in the Lord's printshop. I love to read all the good books, tracts, and the "Faith and Victory" paper. They are so helpful to me.

—Sister Ruth Doolittle

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

La.—Dear Bro. Lawrence, Sis. Marie, and co-workers: Greetings in the name of Jesus this 11th day of the new year. Time is taking us all nearer to eternity and so few people are giving any, or much heed. There are only two places, and if they don't prepare for heaven, it will have to be the lake of fire. Oh, how sad!

I know you are so much in need of help at the printshop, as well as at the Golden Rule Home, and other places need workers for the work of the Lord. There is a need for financial help, and I'm fully persuaded if saints or others, would listen to the Spirit of God, and be willing to deny self, there would be plenty of help and no lack for money....

I'm enclosing a check for an offering from the Loranger, La., congregation to the Mexico mission work. The young people here have sent offerings to Bro. John Varghese the last two months for the support of a couple of ministers in India....

We pray that someone will hear the call and go to help in the work there.

—Sis. Myrtis and Bro. Angus Flynn

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Ark.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings of Christian love to you, all at the printshop and to all the saints abroad. I have many temptations, but none of them stop me. They just make me pray more and inch closer to our Lord, who gives more strength, courage and helps me on my way.

I pray for all of God's children. I love them because the Lord loves them. I am isolated from the true saints....

May the Lord bless everyone. —Cherry R. Alba

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Wisc.—Dearly beloved at the printshop: Greetings! Another year has come and gone. We wonder about those who have been called away. Have we (or I) done our part to warn people of the future? We are wondering too late to look backward, but it is high time to look ahead. How we ought to search our individual life!

The enemy is working hard to keep souls from opening their heart's door to our soul-saving God, but we keep going on and trust His will and ways.

May the Lord bless and keep each one there at the printshop in His care always, is my prayer. Remember us also, and those outside of His fold, who are so interested in this world.

—Mrs. Florence Knoll

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La.—Dear Sis. Marie: Grace, and peace be multiplied to you through God's mercy that is so great towards mankind and especially those who love and serve Him. He said, "But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him,...." Psa. 103:17....

We look forward to the "Faith and Victory" paper. We trust that the enemy is defeated on all lines and the paper can continue to be printed. It is a great help to souls.... We are living in such a critical age of time. I feel according to God's Word, as a whole, that it won't get any better, but wax worse and worse. Surely, it is up to us all, as individuals, to run for our lives. As we surely don't know what 1975 will bring to any of us. But thank God for His promises that cannot fail, though the howling storms of doubts and fears assail us, but by the living Word of God we shall prevail. It surely means everything to keep walking in the light in these days when the earth is covered with darkness. The sad truth is that Jesus said once, "Men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil." John 3:19. I am often reminded of the great warning Jesus gave in Matt. 6:23, "If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness." It seems that the greatest darkness can be to once have the light, see the will and the way of God, and then lose the vision. That becomes great darkness, yet many go on calling it light. God said, "Woe unto them" that do such things. Isa. 5:20. Oh, how it makes our hearts sad to see such a condition. Blindness, physically, is a sad condition, but how much more sad is spiritual blindness—blind to self, blind to the vision and light. How sad to never see the light of truth again!

Then we ask, what causes such a condition? It comes by not receiving or maintaining a love for the truth, way and will of God, and His Word. Disobedience, and failing to walk in the light, automatically brings darkness. I pray God to daily keep my soul stirred, and daily denying self, taking up the cross (as

we all have a cross) and following the Lord. I am not only concerned and pray for my own soul, but others. Yes, others, as we see much carelessness and lukewarmness to the things of the Lord today. I fear that many have left their first love. That will also automatically cause a spiritual darkness. I surely don't mean to be critical or hard, but my soul is in heaviness for these conditions existing today. I realize more and more that time is closing in for all mankind. We need to live carefully....

—Sis. LaVern Manuel

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Mich.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt and co-workers: Greetings in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We hope and pray that all are well there. We are about the same as we were the last time you heard from us.... How good it is to lean on the everlasting arms of our dear Lord! We do know He does take care of His dear children, if we put our whole trust and confidence in Him. By His grace, we hope to fight the battle to the victorious end of our journey here on earth.

Your Bro. in the Lord, —Floyd Hines

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Okla.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings in Jesus' name. I trust this new year of 1975 finds you well in body and strong in the Lord, who giveth strength. Sometimes it seems I can hardly go, but I know God's word is true, as in Psalms 37:5 it says, "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." Thank the good Lord, He is "the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Heb. 13:8.

How sad to see people so dissatisfied, going to and fro, seeking to satisfy their own lust. They are never satisfied, because they don't want the truth or to hear it. They are joining churches to cover up their sins. Parents, who don't have time for their children, go to bars, dances and clubs. When the children and young people get into trouble, they wonder why. How sad! If the parents would straighten up their lives, then the young folks would have something to look to. We just don't have enough praying Christian mothers and fathers. God help them, is my prayer. Oh, if God would shake them over the burning hell they would then wake up.

The "Faith and Victory" paper is better all the time. May God bless each one who has a part in this wonderful work. I pray that the good Lord will keep this work going until the end of time. I pray the Lord will completely heal you and Bro. Pruitt. We all need you. I do enjoy your letters. I get so much good out of everything you write. I received so much good out of the "Bible Chain of Truth". My son in Calif. is reading it. I hope you write another one soon.

—Sis. Nola Wells

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Ky.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings of love to all of you there in the name of our Father. We praise Him this day for the help He gives unto His people.

Our family is now reading some of the good books written by some of the old saints, that are much encouragement to us. God truly did hear the prayers of those dear workers. We are thankful today He can do the same for us. It's sad to say that many of His people today aren't as consecrated as those saints of bygone days were. Our people of today need to draw nearer unto God. We can hear our ministers preach that more fasting and prayer is needed among our people during our meetings, but the enemy takes advantage and the saints are so busy going here and there until no time for prayer is found. Oh, Lord, help our people to see this need and take heed to the work of God. Time is closing in for all of us. I feel this very much myself.

We are thankful we were able to attend the Assembly meeting there at Guthrie. We received much help in soul to enable us to face the trials of this new year. We thank each one for their help and concern for us while there.

Some of the children were sick while there due to our poor traveling means. A prayer request was put in for us to have

better traveling means back home. That prayer request was answered by a very dear Brother. We truly do thank God for this answer. This Brother took money and time of his own and fixed a heater in the back of our truck so the children could have heat. We praise the Lord for His loving Spirit that works for His people.

Christian love, —The Charles Knight family

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Kansas—Dear Bro. Lawrence and workers for Christ: Greetings in the Name of the One who fulfilled the blessings of David, when he proclaimed, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's." Psalms 103:2-5.

Today finds us encouraged and satisfied in God's ways. For we have learned that the only way to happiness is to be content to satisfy God.

I am recovering from the flu; the hardest I have had for years. Wife and the girls have severe head colds. So far, our boy Donnie hasn't taken it.

Thank God, we can sing from experience: "I know on whom my faith is fixed, His mercy has set me free; I know that he will safely keep, and His love is sweet to me." You and the work there have been on our heart and mind heavier of late, Bro. Lawrence. We sent gratitude to God for answering and lifting the heavy burden you folks carried. It only proves, "God is still on the throne, and He will remember His own. His promise is true, He will not forget you, God is still on the throne." We are still praying for your affliction to be healed.

Pray for us as we begin a new year. We endeavor to serve the Lord more fully as we walk the last few miles of the way. We appreciate the "Faith and Victory" paper. Thank God, the truth still marches on.

—Bro. and Sis. Donald Sharp and family

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La.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings once again in Jesus' dear Name. We want to always be thankful for His goodness and love shown to us each day. The Lord blessed and protected me this past week on the trip to Missouri and back. Things could have been much different. I love the Lord because of His great love and tender mercies to me.

We are so happy for the way the Lord is working in behalf of the publishing work there. We appreciate the work, and we know it has proven a real blessing to many, many souls down through the years. We are praying for you each one there, and for all the efforts put forth in saving souls. We have heavy burdens for our unsaved loved ones and for all the unsaved.

Some here are sick with the flu.

Aunt Etta Williamson fell and broke her hip. We have appreciated her love for the Lord and her faithfulness since we've known her. We are thankful, too, for how the Lord has helped our own dear mother, (Sis. Katie Gibson)....

—Sis. Kenneth Flynn

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Kansas—Dear Bro. Pruitt and workers: Greetings in this new year in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Another year has gone into history, and can we say we were faithful to God and used our time wisely? This new year is already swiftly moving on. I trust that every saint of God made a new consecration of their whole body and life to God.

It is such a serious and fearful thought about the ten virgins—five wise and five foolish. I have heard ministers say that they felt it meant that only half of the people professing to be saints will actually make heaven. Oh, saints, let us search and take inventory and see whether we have given up all. Let us examine ourselves and see if we are dying daily to self, or are we keeping self alive and doing things the way we want them done? Let us all beware about saying and thinking, "It seems to me." The Bible says, "There is a way which seemeth right unto

a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 14:12. Are we doing what thus saith the Word of God? Are we asking for the old paths, or are we getting itching ears and wanting to hear easy things so we can become modern and sophisticated? God's way is strait, narrow, plain, common, lowly and simple! If we are not careful, we may overlook the true way because we want something worldly-educated, so the people of the world won't look down on us as seeming ignorant. May the Lord help us to be willing to yield ourselves completely over to Him, and then let Him mold us just like He wants us and use us to please and glorify Him.

I am afraid that too many people are losing sight of the old paths and making paths of their own, but that will not work. Man's wisdom can get him to the moon, but it will not take him to heaven. God's ways are as high above ours as the heaven is above the earth. Lord, please, help us to humble ourselves so we can walk with Thee!

The Lord has been helping me get a deeper understanding of the Church of God and what we have to do and how to live to be a member of the spotless, wrinkle-free Church. Where is the power of the early morning Church? We are supposed to have it, so let us get busy, seeking God so He can tell us what we are going to have to do to get what He wants us to have. It is reserved and waiting for us if we pay the correct price and make the proper consecration.

This year of 1975 may hold some hard things for the Church. Are we ready, saints? Will we stand firm and be victorious or will we be shaken off? Think about that, and "let us go back to our Father's praying ground."

From one determined to make it in, —Shirley Knight

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## Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Okla.—Dear Saints and Readers of the Faith and Victory: In the wee hours of this morning (Jan. 14, 1975) I was awakened with the words of the song: "Heaven came down and glory filled my soul." Over and over the words rang in my ears. I said, "Yes, Lord, it is so true!" And tears started running down my cheeks and wet my pillow and my kleenex was not sufficient. I said, "Yes, Christ is real, so real in my heart!" Then I quoted Psalm 103: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: [How could I ever forget?] Who forgiveth all thy iniquities; [Yes, thank God, they are all under the blood] Who healeth all thy diseases; [Yes, praise God, I've learned that the Great Physician I used to sing about when just a girl really is a Healer in Zion for He has healed my body so many, many times of light ills and very serious afflictions] Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; [Yes, from physical destruction] Who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; [though so unworthy, yet by grace He has done that for me] Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's." Yes, Lord, although I am 81 I am enjoying good health, eyesight, hearing, and my mind isn't too bad, thank God! Oh, yes, heaven has come down and glory fills my soul!

When very young I enjoyed the songs and Bible lessons at the daily family altar. I also have always loved Sunday School. When I was 17, the Sunday School lesson had the verse: "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect". Matthew 5:48. Our teacher asked if we thought anyone was perfect or could be. I said that I had never heard it taught, and that I could not say. The other girls all said, "No." The teacher said, "Do you think Jesus would tell us to do something we could not do?" That summer while visiting my sister on a big ranch, I could not go to Sunday School or church services, so I read the New Testament and Psalms through. And I read in 1 Peter 1:16: "Be ye holy; for I am holy." And there were other things I could not understand.

After I was married at the age of 20, I was introduced to some Church of God people. We attended some of their services. The Bible truths were explained so clearly by Brother George Harmon. I never missed my own morning church services and young people's meeting but I attended the Church of God services at night. I became quite ill with the mumps, and no one from my church called to know why I missed services. But little Mother Harmon (which I learned to call her) and another Sister from the Church of God came to see me. They asked if they might pray, and, of course, I was glad for them to, but not expecting any special results for my healing when they prayed. After they left, I began to think of how that most all my life I had been quite frail in body and had to take medicine at least three times a day. I remembered how I had said that when I became my own "boss" I would not take medicine. But now I had a bottle on my bed table. I thought of the prayer that had been prayed for me, and I said, "Lord, if you'll heal me, I will trust you."

About that time my husband came home from work. I said, "Earle, please take that bottle of medicine out to the trash can in the alley." He looked at me so surprised, and asked why. I said, "Because I have taken my last drop of medicine—I am going to trust the Lord the rest of my life." So he took it out. That was in March, 1914. I have kept my word and have not taken another drop, and I am now 81. And the good Lord has never failed me yet, bless His holy and wonderful Name!

As to the being perfect and holy, I also learned that we may not be perfect in knowledge; but God does require us to have a perfect heart toward Him, and to obey His words--the gospel truths that Jesus taught and gave to the apostles to preach and to teach. But I know you will say, "But it is just in me to do and to say things, and I cannot help it." Yes, that's the trouble. When Adam transgressed God's law and did what God told him not to do, God pronounced a curse upon all his posterity and descendants which came down to you and to me. So we are born with that inherited sin, which makes us do evil or commit sin. But through the blood of Jesus on the cross we have been given the privilege to tell God how sorry we are, and to ask Him to forgive us, which He is glad to do. And if we believe that He does freely forgive us,—that very second we become a new creature, and we have been born again. This is a spiritual birth, not of the body, but of the soul, and you have become a child of God in His family.

But we have a very strong enemy, the devil. Jesus says in John 8:44 that he (the devil) is a liar and the father of lies. He doesn't want anyone to live for God. So he works all kinds of ways to get us to say or do evil again. In fact, he is the cause of that inherited nature that is still in the heart. In John 14:16,17,26 and in 16:13 Jesus said when He left the disciples that He would send us the Holy Spirit, or Holy Ghost, to teach, to guide, and to comfort us. Receiving the Holy Spirit is not something weird to cause one to be disorderly. The Holy Spirit comes into the heart when we realize our need and seek to be cleansed from that inherited sin, and He cleanses or purifies the heart. Sometimes, we cannot clean a pot or pan with water and soap. So we have to use a cleanser powder. Well, it is that way with our heart. The sins are washed away by the blood of the Lamb. But the Holy Spirit is the Cleanser to purify or sanctify the heart to make it holy for service to God.

Sometimes one thinks the Holy Spirit does everything, but no: we have to consecrate, or give ourselves entirely to God after our actual sins are forgiven. We have to put ourselves on an altar, so to speak, or in other words, die to self and wanting our own way. We must give up completely for God to direct our lives. It is just the completing transaction of making the heart pure for God's Holy Spirit to dwell in. The Holy Spirit then dwells within to help us day by day to have power to overcome the trials and temptations that come to us hourly and daily along life's way.

So I thank the Lord for giving me understanding concerning justification, sanctification, and divine healing. May the Lord

bless all who read this and enlighten your hearts concerning these wonderful truths.

Sincerely yours in Christ, —Sister Vera Forbes

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Ind.—"And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." It was some thirty years ago I began to feel the need of something in my soul. For several months I went on, not knowing what to do. I had a good friend that had a mission. I seemed led to go to that mission, and there I got saved. I soon felt the call to preach the gospel. I felt there was something wrong with so many different beliefs. I tried the Baptists and Wesleyans, and they both firmly turned me down. I never once thought of turning back. I knew that God has a church, so I kept preaching all the truth and the people liked it. Praise God forever!

When I came to Terre Haute I found a man with a "Faith and Victory" paper. I got the address and subscribed for it. I have never missed a paper since then, that I know of. Thank God forever! I had found the Body of Christ. I had been looking for it for years. I am sure happy in the Lord. I believe Jesus has but one Church, one Body, and one Bride.

This world is full of false prophets and false teachers. Jesus said, "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thornes, or figs of thistles?" Matt. 7:14-16. This is an evil day and we need to put on the whole armor of God.

—Nathan Mobley

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Ark.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and co-workers: Greetings in the Lord. We are thankful for the goodness of the Lord to us, during the past year, and are looking to Him for strength and grace to see us through this year of 1975. Reading in Col. 2:10, we see that we are complete in Christ. This is so true, for we remember ourselves before we knew the Lord. No matter how much we accomplished or how much material things we gained, we always had a deep inner longing, an emptiness unfilled without our Lord. We desire more of the Lord in our lives that more of His light may shine through us to others who are not complete in Christ.

While talking to a man at work a few weeks ago, he asked me, "Do you think there are nothing but saints in your church?" I can't tell you how joyful I was to tell him, "Yes!" Praise the Lord for His church and His saints!

We feel sure that the recent Assembly meeting in Guthrie was good, for we haven't been to a meeting of the saints anywhere that wasn't a blessing to us. . . .

We try to always remember in prayer the needs there at the Printshop. Remember our little group when you pray.

—Doug and Barbara Walters

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Mo.—Dear saints: What a precious Lord we are serving! He's always at our side when we need Him and never leaves us. I want to testify how the Lord healed my left eye when I burned it while welding. I was chipping some slag off to see how good the weld was, and some of it went into my eyes. I didn't notice that it had burned my left eye until late that evening, while I was milking. It started hurting and watering. I believe it happened on Dec. 2nd. It got worse the next two days. I could hardly see. I called Bro. Atnip to come and pray for me. The next day my teacher called to see how I was. Some of the students and teachers told me to go to an eye doctor to get some medicine so it wouldn't get infected. On Sunday night I thought I would go and see if I still had any metal in my eye. But on Monday morning, while I was praying, the Lord showed me to have faith, so that's what I did. When Daddy asked me if I was ready to go, I told him that I wasn't

going, because I didn't want to weaken my faith in the Lord. Right after I told Daddy I wasn't going and took a stand against the devil, the Lord took all of the pain from my eye and it was healed that very minute. It hasn't bothered me since then. He will never fail us if we will have faith and believe He will heal us. I just praise Him for it, and many other blessings throughout the year of 1974. Pray for me that I'll be whatever the Lord wants me to be.

Christian love, —Dwane Sorrell

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Okla.—Dear Saints: Holy greetings, in Jesus' dear name. I am still saved and mean to go to heaven at any cost. I really thank my dear Jesus for letting me live to see this new year with a very deep desire to live to please my Maker. Truly, God is wonderful. He is so very good to His trusting children. I realize I am not my own. I was bought with a price. Jesus shed His life's blood for my salvation. I am glad I found Him and accepted Him as my Saviour over 24 years ago, and I am still trusting Him. He is all and all to me. I truly love the Lord with my whole heart, soul, mind and strength. Truly, I can say from the bottom of my heart, that to do His will is my highest aim. I thank God for everything He has done and is still doing for me....

I thank the dear Lord for healing an affliction that I had for a number of years. I also thank the Lord for the saints of God and their prayers. I love every saint of God everywhere....

I think about the verse, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33. I know it to be true. If we put God first in our lives and live to please Him, all these things shall be added unto us. He will not fail those who put their whole heart in serving the Lord. Saints, "I have given up all to my Saviour so dear, and His praises I ever will sing; I've received such great light. I will walk in this light by day and by night." No matter where I go I mean to please my Lord. By the help of our great God I mean to go right on until the crown is won. I am determined that nothing shall separate me from the God of heaven and His love. Saints, pray for me.

Your Sister in Christ, —Sis. Clara Barnett

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Okla.—To all the workers at the Faith Publishing House, and all saints everywhere: Greetings in the Name of our blessed Lord. Thanks to all who sent me a belated birthday card for my 77th birthday. We truly thank God for all the years of our life. Though we have had many battles in this Christian race, the victories have been great.

We surely thank every one of you for your prayers in our battles of afflictions. We are better, though we haven't gained any weight. We are eating some better.

The Lord is very near and His divine presence is wonderful. We have the old "Select Hymn" song book and the Bible by our side. We do get such a great inspiration from them. The songs: "Ever Keep Heaven In View, Abide With Me, All The Way, He Paid It All, and I Need Thee, Lord," have lifted me up with shouts of praise and rejoicing in my soul! Heaven will surely be worth it all! I'm sure it is with most of us that when the time for our crossing over is near, we look back and see where we could have done some things differently or better. I'm not trying to cover up any of my faults, but I am really laying all at Jesus' feet. I am praying much for the covering of His precious blood, that my blessed Lord can see nothing but His own image in me.

I'm so glad I found the Lord in my young life. It makes me feel grateful when I see how wicked this world is getting. We need to pray much for our young people today.

In closing, I can say from the depth of my heart that I love everybody and can look God in the face and see His smiles of approval that I have no ill feelings in my heart against anyone. Thank God! I do praise His name forever!

Your Bro. in Christ with much love, —W. C. McMakin

Va.—Dear Sis. Marie and all: Greetings to you in the name of our precious Lord and Saviour.

I would like to thank the Lord for healing me of hemorrhoids. I have been bothered with them for over two years. I was anointed and prayed for some time ago at a meeting at Green Bank, W. Va. I felt that the Lord touched me, even though the symptoms remained. Karen Lambert loaned me the book, "Divine Physical Healing, Past and Present." It helped to inspire my faith, and thank the Lord, I have no more symptoms of hemorrhoids. I believe the Lord is still healing today. Because he promised, I believe. I love Him and desire to go all the way Home.

Pray for me. I need more grace to face the trials of life. Remember my little boys. We have been remembering the work out there.

—Sis. Nancy Wagoner

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Ala.—Dear Bro. Pruitt, and all at the Printshop: Greetings in the name of our precious Lord. I have not known about the "Faith and Victory" paper very long. But I feel like you are my brothers and sisters in the Lord. I enjoy the paper very much. I don't know very many of the saints.

I would like to witness how the Lord healed me of colitis. I ordered some books from the Printshop and wrote a letter of thanks for the paper and tracts you sent me. You published the letter. Sister Pearlene Whitson, who lives here, noticed my letter. She called me on the phone. Bless her heart! We visited. Praise the Lord, for that visit. She invited Bro. Mart Samons to Jasper, Ala., to hold a tent meeting, which is about forty miles from our home. My neighbor, Sister Christine Collins, and I went to the meeting. I felt he was a man of God and had lots of faith. I was sick at this time. I asked for prayer, but did not explain my condition, nor was I anointed at the meeting. I kept on getting worse.... I went to the doctor and he put me in the hospital for ten days. I was not any better when I came home, but kept getting worse all the time. The doctor said I would have to live with it the rest of my life. In the meantime, something said, "Write to Bro. Samons, and let him pray for you." I did not know then it was the Holy Spirit. I thought it was just my thinking. But the voice kept saying over and over to write to Bro. Samons. I could not put it out of my mind.... The voice was stronger all the time. I finally said, "Lord, if this is what you want me to do, I will." This was on Monday. I wrote the letter Monday night and mailed it Tuesday morning. I was healed Thursday of that week. Praise His precious Name forever! Pray for me.

Yours in the Lord, —Mollie R. Totty

## RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

Rivers of living water,  
From the living water's fount,  
Flow through man to man  
From Christ ascended from the Mount.  
Rivers of living water,  
Waters of hope and help and life and love,  
Flow through us to all mankind  
From our great God above.  
And as a river rushing  
To its chartered destiny,  
Let us press on with Christ's good news  
And never idle be.  
For there are those that wait  
Beside the barren banks  
For the flood of living water  
That they may, too, give thanks.  
So let us be—those that know  
The blessing of Christ the Son—  
Channels of the Father's love  
That we—and all mankind—may be as one.

—Priscilla Armitage

## Thanksgiving Christmas



Thanksgiving Christmas? This is not a bit out of line;  
For we know our blessed Saviour is worthy of thanks all  
the time.

I'm thankful for the new-born King who did not a baby  
remain,

But lived and died and rose again; we, too, with Him shall  
reign.

I'm thankful for His saving power; no other can we know!  
Though my sins were red as crimson, He has made them  
whiter than snow.

Though beset by affliction severe, courageous and true  
I'll bravely stand.

Praise God! He brings deliverance by the power of His  
healing hand.

Though in the valley I suffer long, yet He tells me I  
need not fear,

For according to His blessed Word, He is always near.  
And when facing a major crisis, the enemy tempts me to  
fret,

Then Jesus gently whispers, "Have I failed you yet?"  
I'm thankful for friends and neighbors who help to ease  
the load,

By bestowing kindness upon us as we travel this pilgrim  
road.

I'm thankful for the precious saints, so full of love and  
care;

God has blessed so many times in answer to their prayer.  
In the trials of life when we are faced with some dire  
need,

Thank God for the faithful saints who love in word and  
deed.

The youth is one of the burdens and joys of my heart:  
How enraptured is my happy soul when from evil one  
doth part.

I'm thankful for a loving family who stands true during  
the test.

Just keep on doing your part, and surely Jesus will do  
the rest.

Our family head is a dedicated father who taught us the  
Christmas story;

Who at age 82 is full of good deeds; his gray head is a  
crown of glory.

I do give thanks for a believing son who faithfully serves  
by day and night.

Dear Lord, reward him justly, and ever keep him in the  
path of right.

These are just a few things for which I'm thankful; there  
are many more.

As they come overflowing my heart, my cup of gladness  
runneth o'er.

And should my days be lengthened, or if they few shall  
be,

I'm thankful to the blessed Lord that all is well with me.  
So this is my Thanksgiving Christmas, and all my days  
shall be:

"Thank Thee, O heavenly Father, Thou hast blessed so  
abundantly."

—Robena Montgomery

## Now I'm A Saint, Too



I was wandering in sin and worldly strife,  
Not knowing how to live for Him a godly life;  
But He had mercy on me and with my heart did deal,  
And, O praise the Lord, He broke my stubborn will.

### CHORUS:

O praise the Lord, He broke my stubborn will.  
He removed all sin and now my heart does fill.  
O praise the Lord, He's showing me the way,  
And He helps me to stay in it each and every day.

I was going down the road each sinner goes;  
I didn't want to wear those modest saintly clothes.  
I thought the dress indeed was very, very strange,  
But, O praise the Lord, my poor heart now has changed.

I thought my hair indeed looked best when curled and short,  
And I thought those ol' saints were odd and out of sorts;  
But Jesus came along and changed my worldly view,  
And, O praise the Lord, now I'm an ol' saint, too.

I thought the saints were plain and their life was "Ho-Hum";  
They didn't do the things that I must do for fun.  
They sat around and read the Bible—O how dull,  
But, O praise the Lord, he came and changed it all.

I thought it quite alright to wear the pearls and gold,  
The Bible says "not so", I was plainly told.  
I thought well now at last, "They've gone quite overboard"  
But, O praise the Lord, it's in His precious Word.

I no longer try to find some fault in them,  
I just ask my Lord to help me follow Him  
He helps me every day to live by God's own Word,  
And, O praise the Lord, He's freed me from this world.  
—Sharon Fowler

## DRIVE THE LITTLE DOUBT AWAY

When you read the blessed Bible  
With a deep desire to find  
Truth within its sacred pages  
That you need for soul and mind;  
Then a little doubt approaches  
And it quietly whispers, "Nay,"  
But by prayer and supplication,  
Drive the little doubt away.

Little doubts are very cunning  
As they seek to enter in  
Where you keep your faith that's precious  
And the grace by which you win;  
So it's very, very needful,  
Let me deeply, truly say,  
That a Christian, seeking heaven,  
Drive the little doubts away.

Oh, a doubt may seem so harmless  
As it whispers to your soul,  
But if you could see its purpose—  
It is out to gain control;  
So you're only safe, dear pilgrim,  
When you watch and guard and pray,  
And by mighty resolution  
Drive the little doubt away!

—Walter E. Isenhour



## The Word of the Lord

David said, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psa. 119:105. Verse 107 reads, "I am afflicted very much: quicken me, O Lord, according unto thy word." "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little." Isa. 28:10, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31. David waited upon the Lord, the Lord heard his cry, and delivered him out of all his afflictions. "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray." That is normal, to pray in the time of affliction or trouble, call on the Lord for help. He goes on to say, "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit." James 5:14-18.

There have been many people delivered from sickness and affliction through the medium of faith, after being anointed with oil in the name of the Lord. God's Word is true. Jesus told the disciples to have faith in God. No faith, no answer. Prayer without faith is blank. "And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us. And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. And their eyes were opened;"

At this time, there comes to my mind the case of a woman whose faith would not be denied, though she faced seeming defeat. We read, "Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word." What do you think of that? And what else? His disciples came not to join in and plead for the woman. But they besought Jesus to send the poor woman away, "for she crieth after us." Jesus answered and said, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then came the woman and worshipped him, saying, "Lord, help me," drawing a little closer, but what answer did she receive? "It is not meet to take the children's bread, and cast it to the dogs." How heavy, how humiliating, but she stayed right in there with no backing up. This woman had such love for her daughter, and such faith in the ability of Jesus to grant her request that she said, "Truth,

Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt." This story is written in Matt., the 15th chapter.

Jesus said on one occasion, "Ye believe in God, believe also in me." Jesus still has power to heal today. Before He ascended into heaven, He told the disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, and He gave them power to heal the sick, cast out devils, and to raise the dead. The prophet said, "By his stripes we are healed." There is yet power in the atoning blood of Jesus, but we must be yielded to His will. He taught them to pray, "Thy will be done." Jesus, when His work was finished, prayed, "Not as I will, but as thou wilt."

It is once appointed unto man to die. If all the people that have been anointed and prayed for would still be living today, the population would be so great, there would not be living room, but another place has been provided. Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you.... that where I am, there ye may be also." Jesus has gone before us. He led the way. He is faithful that promised.

The Word of the Lord also says that several of the saints had been restored to life by the power of God, through faith and prayer. A young man fell from the third loft, and was taken up dead. Paul went down and embraced him and they brought the young man alive. Peter prayed for a woman that had died, and presented her alive to the saints. When Christ was here, he raised the widow's son, when he was carried on the way to be buried.

The Word of the Lord says, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Heb. 9:27. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Rev. 2:10. "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:9-11.

We know we are serving an all-wise God. God's way is best all the time. We have seen and have had sorrow, grief, heavy hearts, sighs, and groans, when the Lord has taken some of our fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, dear friends, and loved ones through the valley and shadow of death. We read of one or two that were so loved and blessed of God that He took them to Himself without going through the dark valley. Enoch walked with God over three hundred years, and God took him Home. By faith, Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found...before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." "And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven." 2 Kings 2:11. "Why art thou cast down, O my soul...hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him...." Psa. 42:5 —Ulysses Phillips

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