

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

## Church of God Servant



Volume 53, No. 11

53rd Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35¢ Per Year

February, 1976

### *Be Renewed in the Spirit of Your Mind*

(Eph. 4:23)

There is a truth to be pursued

By all who seek God's grace to find:

"Put off the old man, be renewed  
Within the spirit of your mind."

Oh, let the spirit of your mind

The knowledge of the Lord receive;

Be open hearted, you will find  
What carnal man cannot conceive.

Be taught of Him, the Wise and Kind,

Who searches all perfection's deep,

He'll write His laws upon your mind  
And let His knowledge o'er you sweep.

For He hath said, "Come unto me,

And I will give you holy rest,

Oh, take my yoke, and learn of me,  
For I am meek and lowly blest."

Oh, learn of Him, oh, hear His voice,

He speaketh yet just as of yore

To counsel those who make their choice  
To love and serve Him evermore.

Oh, be transformed from error's night

By the renewing of your mind;

Let sin and self dissolve from sight  
And to God's will be all resigned.

Consider Him who lives above,

And let thy mind on Him be stayed;

What things are pure and bright with love—  
By these thy thoughts be overlaid.

Be not of doubtful mind, but trust:

He cares for you so tenderly;

He knows your frame is naught but dust—  
His grace is thine abundantly.

For God hath given not to men

Dark fear their hearts and souls to blind,

But love and power over sin:

The spirit of a sober mind.

—Leslie Busbee

### *Being Renewed in the Spirit of Your Mind*

Along with putting off the old man and putting on the new man, Paul exhorts us in Ephesians 4:23 to "be renewed in the spirit of your mind." In Romans 12:1, 2, in beseeching us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, he also said, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." To be renewed in the spirit of your mind is a very vital and important part of our spiritual well-being. Satan knows this, too. His work is to blind the minds of those that believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 2 Cor. 4:4. A blinded mind is a mind filled with wrong thoughts about God and His truth. When a person comes to the Lord seeking mercy and the heavenly life, it is so important that he or she forsake their own thoughts. Isa. 55:7. We need to realize our great need of learning and being taught of God. Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me." This is being renewed in the spirit of our mind.

God gave to man a mind. This mind, or capacity of thought, enables him to think, ponder, study, meditate, consider, weigh, plan, count, and speculate. It is the intelligence that enables man to make choices and decisions. God and Satan both can make their approach to man through the avenue of the mind. The mind, therefore, is a highly important part of the man. "As he thinketh in his heart, so is he." Proverbs 23:7. How careful we should be with what we allow to settle in our minds. In this wicked world many ideas and attitudes and thoughts infest the atmosphere around us. People's minds can think just about anything imaginable. The mind can be grieved, sorrowful, doubtful, shaken, chafed, evil affected, weary, and faint. There is (what the Bible calls) the wicked mind, the reprobate mind, the carnal mind; also there is the high mind, earthly

mind, blinded mind, corrupted mind, defiled mind, fleshly mind, double mind, and the desires of the mind. People with minds like these are separated from God and cannot serve God. Can you not see how serious it is? People with minds like these are capable of producing wickedness of the darkest and bloodiest sort.

Satan got Mother Eve to go his way by filling her mind with wrong thoughts. When he got her mind in the wrong channels of thought, it was easy for her to yield to him. It is just that way now. Satan is making a direct approach to the mind. He will allure, accuse, oppress, and deceive. Most people who do not serve God are in this condition because of wrong thoughts that fill their mind. And yet, they are unconscious of this situation. They do not realize that their condition is the fruit of something within themselves. They usually have another reason for their spiritual failure. And, oh, how ideas, thoughts, and attitudes of the mind can be strongholds of the devil! These are the forces that the gospel must overcome in dealing with the sons of men. And in our own hearts and minds, we must war a continual warfare to gain and hold mastery of the mind. The greatest battle ever fought is waged in the human mind. Christ knew this. He knew that carnal weapons and literal warfare would never accomplish the purpose of God. Paul knew this, too. Thus he said in 2 Cor. 10:4, 5: "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God, to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations [reasonings of the mind], and every high thing that exalteth itself [in the mind] against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." Oh, it is a warfare all right, and sometimes the battle wages sore. But Christ is our Captain, and He overcame the devil who sought to put wrong thoughts in His mind.

What is the mind that the Lord wants us to have? Let us notice a list of mind-attitudes gleaned from the Scriptures that are according to God's will. There is the willing mind. In Nehemiah's time the people had a mind to work. Think of these: Ready mind, humble mind, one mind, like-mindedness, the mind of Christ, a persuaded mind, fervent mind, willing mind, lowly mind, a sound mind, a girt-up (controlled) mind, mind of wisdom, steadfast mind, spiritual mind, sober mind, and a pure mind. Paul instructs us in Phil. 2:5: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Oh, this is the most challenging thought of all: The mind of Christ. That is what the Bible and the gospel are for. It is to show us the Mind of Christ, and for us to be like Him. The renewing of your mind requires action, discipline, decision, and effort on your part. God is not going to make you serve Him. He wants you to use and exercise the mind that He has given you. He will help you, but you must bear the responsibility that is given you. Take heed therefore, to your mind.

—Leslie Busbee

## THE LAST CALL



The phone bell pealed again and again. It's ring echoed through the house, but no one heard it. The caller had a most important message to deliver, and it was needful for the occupant of that house to answer that call, but the call went unheeded. At last the bell stopped ringing, the call was over, and it was too late to answer — the connection had been broken. When there is an emergency, the caller will try again and again to get his call through. After so long a time, when there is no answer, the receiver is put down and the connection is broken.

God has been making calls throughout the years to every soul. There is an emergency. Every soul who refuses God's call is standing in the greatest danger. God calls many times. The call comes to one asleep, through the numbness of slumber, the realization comes that the phone is ringing, so that soul stumbles through the darkness and picks up the receiver. The message, a warning of impending danger, doesn't come through clearly. The soul doesn't understand because it is groggy with sleep. The receiver is replaced on the hook and the sleeper returns to his dreams. Again the phone peals, and again the sleeper arises. This time he is a little more alert. The call sends a terror through his soul. It causes him to be so uncomfortable.

"Oh, if I can just go back to sleep! I don't want to think about this call. It has made me so uneasy." How foolish to think that danger can be delayed or put away, just by not thinking about it!

The danger is so great the caller keeps dialing the number, hoping this time that the soul will be awakened and take heed and flee from the destruction to come. At last the caller perceives the call isn't going to be answered and breaks the connection. Perhaps the sleeper suddenly awakens to his danger, he grabs the phone and calls, "Hello, hello, are you there?" But there is no answer, the connection has been severed. There is nothing but the hum of dial-tone, an empty mockery that the call was answered too late.

There are many kinds of calls made, and many kinds of callers. Most calls are answered if the occupant is at home. Many of the calls are frivolous and without any real, lasting value. Much time is taken up with these calls. In fact, too many people spend a lot of time chatting about nothing in particular. When that important call needs to come through, the caller only gets a "busy" signal. There is no opportunity to reach the soul with the important message that means life if it is heeded or death if it is not.

How about you, dear reader? Are you too busy with the affairs of this life to accept God's call? Is your line always busy? Do you dislike being awakened out of sleep? Conviction always gives a most uncomfortable feeling, for it isn't pleasant to feel afraid. Conviction sends a great uneasiness to your heart. God is trying to awaken your heart to your great need and danger. It is so important for you to wake up and take the necessary steps to save your soul. Don't go back to sleep; if you do, the phone will peal unheeded and God's call go unanswered. This call, ringing in your soul, could be THE LAST CALL. Oh, answer it now!

Prov. 1:24-32 reads, "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; when your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: for that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: they would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them."

Let us consider these words. "Because I have called" — God is "long-suffering, not willing that any should perish," but many are going to perish, not because God didn't call, for He calls every soul. God is a righteous and just God, He has made the way for every soul to be saved through the death of His son, and He has sent forth the call. "Whosoever will, let him come." God has sent his servants out into the highways and hedges to give the invitation, the Spirit and the bride say, "Come." God is stretching out His hand today, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matt 11:28-29.

"No man regarded" — the call was not accepted, or it was not valued. No one was concerned about it — it seemed very unimportant at the time. Life stretched out ahead, and there was the dazzle and glitter and promise of the pleasures of this world. He felt no need for his soul, "No man regarded."

"But ye have set at nought" — counted of no value. "I have plenty of time to get saved, I'll wait, there's other things for me to do now."

"All my counsel" — counsel gives the thought of wise instruction. God counsels you to "prepare to meet thy God", for there are two important appointments you will have to keep. "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Heb. 9:27.

"And would none of my reproof" — God sends the Holy Spirit to reprove the world of sin, and righteousness and judgment. John 16:8. It was the Spirit of God reproving me that caused me to realize I was a sinner and needed salvation. That knowledge led me to seek God.

"I will also laugh at your calamity" — sin brings calamity, going on in your own way, waiting for your own time to get saved, will bring calamity. "Today, if ye will hear His voice, harden not your heart!" Today is the day, tomorrow could be too late! The connections may be broken.

"I will mock when your fear cometh" — the fear you feel WILL come to pass! "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God", Heb. 10:31. God is a holy God; you will not be able to stand before Him with sin on your soul. Only the righteousness of Jesus Christ can save you.

"When your fear cometh as desolation" (ruin). Sin corrupts and ruins and destroys. Have you ever seen desolation? Look at an old man or an old woman, or a young man or girl who has given their life over to sin —

there you will see desolation! Every good thing is destroyed in their lives with no hope for the future, and only a bleak, dark, death awaiting them.

"Your destruction as a whirlwind" — how swiftly and unexpectedly a tornado strikes! Men are helpless before a tornado. So shall the destruction of sin strike, men shall awaken to find themselves lost forever!

"Distress and anguish" — "Too late, too late! I should have answered the call when it came." Nothing but the sighs and moans of the lost will I hear in eternity.

"Then shall they call . . . I will not answer." There comes a time when it is too late to pray. "My Spirit shall not always strive with man. Today is the day of salvation."

" . . . Hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord." Do you know what the Bible says about the "fear of the Lord"? Prov. 9:10, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." Prov. 8:13, "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil", and "The fear of the Lord prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened." Prov. 10:27. Also read Ecc. 8:11-13. Prov. 1:7 reads, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

"Therefore shall they eat the fruit of their own way and be filled with their own devices." "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Gal. 6:7,8. You cannot sow lettuce seed and reap watermelons. You cannot sow to sin and reap good things.

"For the turning away of the simple shall slay them" — because you refuse instruction and reproof, you will be lost!

"The prosperity of fools shall destroy them" — because they feel so secure and self-sufficient, they feel no need for God, and will perish.

Thank God for the 33rd verse of the first chapter of Proverbs. "But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil." Read also Prov. 2:1-5. These are promises for you, dear reader, if you will hearken to the call of God. Do not wait for the LAST CALL, you might fail to answer and be lost forever!

—Thelma Sprague

#### AT HOME WITH GOD

At home with God, earth's trials forever ended,  
No more to grieve, my weary heart at rest,  
Where I in peace shall dwell through countless ages,  
Safe, safe at last, at home among the blest.  
At home with God, oh, wondrous contemplation!  
To think that I at last shall see His face!  
Where death and sin will be unknown forever,  
And I shall share the glories of His grace.  
At home with God, though from the body absent,  
To be with Christ is better far, I know.  
He bled, He died that I might live forever  
At home with God, safe sheltered from all woe.  
At home with God, no heartache and no sorrow,  
My tears at last forever wiped away,  
No sickness there, no pain, no thought of dying;  
Eternal life, where night is turned to day.

—Oswald J. Smith

**"FAITH AND VICTORY"****16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY**

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

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

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

Notice to subscribers: Whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your Zip Code number. The post office charges 10c to notify us of each change of address.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

Single copy, one year .....\$ .35  
Single copy, three years .....\$1.00  
Roll of 4 papers to one address, one year ....\$1.00

Write for prices on larger quantities.

Subscribe to "The Beautiful Way," a weekly six-page paper for children, edited by Mrs. Marie Miles and published quarterly. Suitable for use in primary and junior Sunday school classes.

Single set for one year (52 papers) .....80c

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.

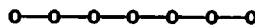
In order to comply with the Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

**FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE**

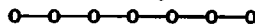
P. O. Box 518, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044  
Office Phone 282-1479 Home Phone 282-2262

**EDITORIALS**

**GREETINGS** and best wishes to all our readers, which includes several thousand new recipients of this paper made possible through gift subscriptions from their friends. In this new year of 1976, may our heavenly Father bring you many temporal and spiritual blessings, and make you a channel of blessing to every soul you may contact. Soon time will end in eternity, and only what is done for Christ and precious souls will last.



We are pleased to report to those readers who so faithfully co-operated in mailing to us the special three-month's subscriptions that a number of the new readers have already written expressing their appreciation for their first copy. Some have subscribed for a year or three years. Be encouraged to know that your labors of love are bearing fruit. If you sow the gospel seed "beside all waters," surely some will germinate and grow in honest hearts. We will never know in this world what is the final yield. Our prayer is that many will be saved and inducted into the Kingdom of God now, and then at the coming of our Lord and Master find an abundant entrance into the eternal Glory World above.



This February issue marks the completion of 53 years of publication of this monthly paper in the interest of Christ and His Church. We humbly acknowledge the sustaining hand of God over this gospel publishing work ever since its beginning here in Guthrie in 1923 when this writer's parents, Fred and Mary Pruitt, and co-workers, were led of the Lord to continue publishing the gospel by the printed page. From that meager beginning more than half a century ago, the Lord has expanded the facilities and added more workers to help meet the increasing demand for gospel literature worldwide. To Him be all the praise and honor!

The calls are so urgent for more gospel literature in English as well as other languages, and we are endeavoring to use every means available to increase the production. By the blessings of the Lord, on January 19th we mailed, free of charge, another shipment of about 175 pounds of gospel tracts (approximately 35,000 copies) in the Illocano language to native missionaries in the Philippine Islands for free distribution. On file are requests for more tracts in the Efik language which they use in the Southeast State of Nigeria, West Africa. Time is swiftly passing, and what we are going to do to rescue the perishing must be done quickly.

For a number of years this office has carried in stock several titles of Spanish tracts for free distribution. Also, here in stock is a word edition of a Spanish hymn book. Since the Lord has called Sister Opal Kelly of Oklahoma City to launch out more extensively in the writing, translating, and publishing of Spanish gospel literature, we anticipate that eventually she and her co-workers will take over the re-

sponsibility of the Spanish phase of this literature ministry. The workers here at the Lord's Printshop will co-operate with Sister Kelly in this worthy endeavor to get the whole gospel to the Spanish-speaking people at home and abroad. Your prayers and co-operation will also be appreciated.

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

#### Another Profitable Winter Meeting at Guthrie . . .

The 69th annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting held here at Guthrie from Dec. 26 to Jan. 4, 1976, was very beneficial. It was well attended from this and other states, which included 25 or more ministers at various times. The Word was preached with the power and authority of the Holy Spirit. Conviction rested on the unsaved, and some responded to the gospel invitation. How sad to see many rejecting God's offered mercy! It is another sign of the last days even as it was in the days of Noah when those people refused to hear and heed the warning of that preacher of righteousness.

Heart-searching truth went forth, and the saints were instructed and edified in the holy way to heaven. The spirit of love and harmony prevailed for the advancement of the cause of Christ. The Guthrie congregation welcomes you to come again anytime and worship the Lord with us.

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

#### 1976 Scripture Calendar Still Available . . .

This 1976 Wall Calendar has beautiful nature scenes in color for each month with Scriptural emphasis. Size 7¼ by 13½ inches. Price \$1.00 each, postpaid to your address.

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

Now available are heavy paperbound books of the eleven issues of the "Faith and Victory" paper for 1975 at \$1.25 each, postpaid. Ready also are the 1975 "Beautiful Way" books for juniors (52 papers for the year) at \$1.25 each, postpaid. Bound books of various prior years are priced at 75c each, postpaid.

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

#### Have You Sent the 1976 Campmeeting Dates?

Those who have this information, please send in your campmeeting dates by Feb. 15, 1976, so we can publish the entire list in the March issue.

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

Congratulations to Brother Bob and Sister Irma Gayle Sallee on the birth of Robert Dale, their second child, on Jan. 8, 1976. (No doubt, René, their 21-months-old daughter, wonders who has invaded her world of undivided attention.) Bro. Sallee and family moved to Guthrie from Louisiana last August in response to God's call, and he has been faithfully giving his time and talent in publishing the gospel of Christ. May the Lord richly bless this couple and all our co-workers for their love and consecration to His service.

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

Sister Rosalie Johnston, who had been helping here in the office work for about two years, felt her burden lifted in this phase of God's work and went to W. Va. with Bro. and Sister Mart Samons when

they returned home from the recent Guthrie winter meeting. May the Lord bless and reward her for her service in His cause, and ever guide and direct her future life.

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

Write for our price lists of Bibles, books, cards and tracts. 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 Bible 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.

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

Sister Eldonna Rhoades of Myrtle, Mo., felt led to help in the office work, so she came with her parents, Brother and Sister Eldon Rhoades, to the Guthrie Assembly meeting in December, and remained to help in the publishing work, especially in the typing department. May the Lord reward her for answering His call.

Sister Doris Sorrell and her small son, Terry, of Myrtle, Mo., have moved to Guthrie recently, as well as Bro. Delmer and Sister Brenda Wilkins of Kalamazoo, Mich., and Bro. and Sister William McCoy of Dayton, Ohio. We welcome Sister Eldonna and all these to the Guthrie congregation. Due to the condition of Sister Evelyn McCoy's health and breathing problems, they moved to Guthrie. Now they are at home at 1205 West Warner, Guthrie, Okla., 73044. Their phone number is 405-282-5415.

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

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Brother Robert Longley and relatives in the departure of his beloved wife, Lois (Taylor) Longley, on January 6, 1976, at Cambria, Calif., after a long illness. May our "God of all comfort" soothe and sustain them in this time of loss and sorrow.

Besides her husband of the home, survivors include three daughters, one son, several grandchildren and many other relatives. Brother Longley, a co-founder of this gospel publishing work in the early 1920's, writes: "Our loss is great, but Lois' gain is far greater, and we want to live to join her in the place Jesus has gone to prepare." His address is 1000 Warren Road, Cambria, Calif. 93428.

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

#### Gospel Work Increasing in the Philippines . . .

For a few years, we have been in correspondence with the Granil brothers in the Philippine Islands who were ministers in a sect. They got the light on the true Church and came out. Since then, three of them have been preaching all the Bible truth they know and endeavoring to raise up congregations of the true Church, of which Christ is the Founder and Head. Within the last two years we have sent them much gospel literature for their study and distribution. Many souls have been saved and baptized under their labors. Though they are doing gospel work by faith wherever doors open, they are also soliciting financial support from the saints in order to keep going in this mission work, to buy land and

build chapels for worship services. A recent letter from one of the brothers, Bro. Florencio T. Granil, expresses his urgent desire to come to this country to attend the campmeetings this summer. He does not have the funds with which to come. After praying about his desire, we feel it would be an avenue to reach many more souls with the truth if the saints would feel concerned to pay his round-trip plane fare to attend these campmeetings and become more established in the Bible doctrines.

Also, Bro. Tom Melot, who visited and preached at several mission stations in Nigeria, West Africa, last year, feels the urgent need for two native ministers to come from Nigeria to the U. S. to attend the campmeetings this summer, one from River State and the other from Midwest State in Nigeria. The visa from their government will require that they have a round-trip ticket before they leave their country. The travel agent says that for them to stay ninety days, the round-trip plane fare from Port Harcourt, Nigeria, would cost \$1240.00 for each person. For Bro. Granil, the round-trip plane fare from Manila, Philippines, will cost \$1500.00. Let the Church pray earnestly and consider these urgent propositions to advance the foreign mission work. In order for them to arrive in this country by May 25, they should make application for their passports and visas very soon. If you are concerned about bringing these native brethren to the U. S. to attend these campmeetings, please let us know what the Lord would have you to do in financing their transportation.

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

All the workers at this gospel publishing plant and office are sacrificing time and talents, accepting only a nominal allowance for living expenses, to advance the cause of Christ in the salvation of precious souls, but we are happy to have a part in paying "the debt that we owe"—the debt of the gospel light—to the unsaved world. All of us are laying up our treasures in heaven, along with all of you who are so faithfully sending your offerings and ordering gospel literature to help pay the much higher cost of paper, postage and operating expenses. It is a pleasure to be "workers together" with you and the Lord in His great cause. Let us "watch and pray always" that we may see the end of this Christian race with victory. —Lawrence Pruitt

Salvation by grace is not an experience that we grow into. Of course, we grow in grace after we have received grace. Salvation is an experience that comes in the twinkling of an eye. It is the gift of God; it is the divine miracle of the new birth that lifts man from sin and the love for worldly amusements and sinful habits and transforms him into the likeness of Christ. It comes through one definite, sweeping act as man forsakes all known wrong in his heart and life and calls upon Jesus Christ to forgive and save his soul. "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Cor. 5:17.

—Mary Kate Jack

## OBITUARIES



Lawrence F. Tapps, born Feb. 1, 1925, at Rockwell City, Iowa, passed away on Nov. 5, 1975, in the same city at the age of 50 years, nine months and four days.

Bro. Tapps was a loving husband, father, and born-again Christian.

Survivors include his wife, Patricia, of the home; three daughters, Cynthia of Marshalltown, Iowa, Deborah of Iowa City, Iowa, and Nancy of the home.

Funeral services were held at Rockwell City, Iowa, and burial was in the Rose Hill Cemetery, Rockwell City.

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

Russel M. Whitehouse, born July 22, 1889, departed this life on January 3, 1976, at the Golden Rule Home, Shawnee, Okla., at the age of 86 years, five months, and twelve days.

Bro. Whitehouse was associated with the Church of God for many years and spent his last eight months at the Golden Rule Home where, it is reported, that he ripened up for heaven.

Survivors include one daughter, four sons, and a brother, Irvin.

The funeral service was conducted at the Gaskill Funeral Chapel, Shawnee, Okla., by Bro. Charles Smith, and interment was in the Fairview Cemetery, Shawnee, Okla.

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

A letter from Bro. John Varghese of S. India, brought the sad news of the death of Bro. L. K. John, aged 65 years, on Jan. 2, 1976. In ill health for several months, he was the faithful pastor of the Church of God congregation at Calicut, India, and finished his course with victory. Bro. Varghese conducted the funeral service, and now the Calicut congregation is left in his care. Pray for the bereaved relatives, saints, and friends.

—Editor

o

### REPORT OF CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

We are very thankful to the dear Lord for how He wonderfully blessed the Assembly meeting at Pacoima, held Dec. 26 to Jan. 4, 1976. The Holy Spirit was faithful to anoint the Word of God and to convict precious souls.

The afternoon service of the last Sunday was especially precious. It began at 2:30 p. m., and then dismissed around 7:40 p. m. We had a special visitation from God. The outpouring of His Spirit was manifested throughout the service. Through the preaching and singing of the gospel, many souls received salvation and spiritual help.

The attendance was good throughout the meeting. Ministers were here from Oklahoma, Oregon, Louisiana, and Ohio. We thank the Lord for all who labored in the meeting to help make it a success.

—Sis. Patsy Fields, Sec.

o

Consecration is simply a matter of letting God have what He has paid for, or returning stolen property.

—Sel.

## PRAYER REQUESTS



Mo.—“I have a place on my cheek under my eye that won't heal. God healed it once and I am looking for Him to take it away again; also, the place on my wrist is getting larger. I still need healing for my knees. Many times I have been healed and I am not afraid to trust God for healing . . . I had a cold and couldn't see to do the work which needed to be done. I prayed . . . and He instantly healed me. I felt fine all that day. The devil tried to get me down the next day, but I just went to God again and He took it away. Oh, how I do thank Him for every thing that He does for me!” —Sis. Goldie Knapp

Mo.—“My sinus is bad . . . appreciate your prayers.”

—Pansy Golden

Illinois.—“Pray that God will heal me of hardening of the arteries in my neck . . . I was saved 44 years ago and have been healed of pneumonia, heart trouble, tumor and many other complaints . . . I have trusted God ever since I was saved. . . . Pray that God will heal me.”

—Sis. Rosalie Harris

Tex.—Sis. Carolyn Holland has been anointed and prayed for for a hurting in her lungs. But at times this will come back on her. She desires the saints to pray that she will have complete victory over this pain.

Md.—Sis. Janet Patrick loves the Lord. She has quit her medication and is trusting God to heal her of seizures, so earnestly pray God to heal her and also work out some other problems.

Ind.—“My eyes are swollen and red. I can hardly see.” —Lettie West

W. Va.—“I have high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart trouble. Please pray for me. Pray for my sister who has an affliction.” —Gracie Adkins

Illinois.—“I have helped to pay for our place, but my husband's children are causing us trouble. Please pray that they will leave us alone.” —Name withheld

Okl.—“The Savage family requests prayer for a Miss Viola Collins who has come down with a severe illness.” —Joe Savage

Ore.—“Please pray for me to be healed of colon trouble.” —Mrs. Wilma Jenkins

Calif.—Remember Alice Lockhart in prayer. She has an enlarged heart.

Mo.—Remember Bro. Willard Marler in prayer concerning a growth on his cheek. It has become quite large and is causing much discomfort. He is trusting the Lord for his healing.

The Lord is very gracious to us in our times of need. Recently, I took the flu and had a high fever with a terrible sore throat. But prayer was made by others as well as my looking to the Lord and fully trusting Him to heal me. God did not fail. After three days I was able to be at the office again. Oh, how precious the Lord is to us. In the night, while I was so sick, I dreamed that someone was walking behind me and I was to walk faster and faster to keep up. I became more and more tired. When I awakened, I was so weak that it seemed that my heart was barely beating. I called upon the Lord and He touched me. How precious it is to have the Lord with us at all times! —Sis. Marie Miles

## Fifty Years Ago . . .

(Names and Events Gleaned From F. & V. Files)

The annual Assembly meeting at Guthrie, Okla., was held Dec. 25, 1925 to Jan 3, 1926. Provisions for the meeting were sent to G. W. Winn, Fred Pruitt was the treasurer, and those who wanted more information about the meeting were directed to write to W. H. Shoot, Rt. 6, Guthrie, Okla. About twelve ministers from this and other states were present to preach the Word. Quite a number of souls were saved, some were sanctified, and others received definite healing of their bodies. On the last night of the meeting, the Lord used Bro. O. B. Wilson, Sr., of Shawnee, Okla., to bring a message to the unsaved. The altar was full of seekers, among whom was this writer, a lad of 14 years.

Bro. Robert Longley, minister and linotype operator at the Lord's Printshop, received a call from the Lord to do missionary work in the islands of the South Pacific.

Testimonies appeared from Annie Wiley of Hennessey, Okla., Lizzie Harper of Delaware, Mo., and K. V. Cherian, S. Malabar, India. —Editor

## OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO, REPORT

Dear Ones: Greetings of Christian love in Jesus' sweet name. My heart is overflowing with the love of Jesus. I am so very grateful for His care, and guiding us each day by His Spirit.

I'll try to tell in as few words as possible of His recent dealings with me. When I returned to Ojos Negros after my trip to the interior of Mexico, the Lord began to deal with me about leaving and going into another field of labor for Him. Though I'd been praying concerning this for some months through a suggestion from one of God's children, I had not, as yet, received any enlightenment as to leaving. While I had an infected ear and was not able to concentrate on translating or any intricate work, I began to straighten all papers so I could lay my hands on anything I needed, even in the dark. I began picking up one paper, then another, and without realizing it, was saying, I'll take this, I'll leave this," etc. On realization of what I was doing, I quit and went to prayer. This happened again and again. Finally, I asked the Lord that if He would have me to leave to please send someone to help and to leave in Ojos Negros over the flock. Bro. Tomas had already mentioned to me that Bro. Mayarino Escobar and his wife desired to come and help me for three or four days, so I asked the Lord to let them come voluntarily if He wanted them to stay there on my departure, but if He didn't want me to leave, to cause me to go and get them. I waited four weeks and they hadn't come. I decided to go get them on the following Monday, but was deterred by way of a former member of the congregation. I took her 100 miles to her home as she and her four small children had come by bus from there on Saturday in order to be in service on Sunday with us. I said an amen to the will of God, thinking the Lord didn't want me to leave. On my return to the house before starting to the valley for them, Panchita, the wife of this couple, came running out of the house. They had come voluntarily. I knew that day that the Lord wanted them to stay, but I didn't tell them. I desired that they be led of the Lord. They later



came to me and told me that the Lord had shown them to stay. Praise the dear Lord! He knows just how to work. This couple, although very young, is fully consecrated to do the whole will of God. They both have a real good testimony and it is marvelous the way the Lord has led them out into the light of the Gospel. He preaches under the full anointing of the Holy Spirit and lives like he preaches. She is as fully dedicated. She teaches the children and they love her. The entire congregation fully accepted them both. I feel they can do just what is needed there—water the Word which has been sown, and God will give the increase. Pray much for them, and if the Lord lays it on your heart to help financially, I'm sure it would be appreciated. They receive mail as follows: Senores Mayarino Escobar, Ap. Postal #284, Ensenada, B. Cfa. Mexico.

The Lord showed me He desired that I begin the printing of Spanish literature for distribution on a larger scale so that it will get into more hands and hearts. On a tentative basis, permission has been granted us to use the office machines at Faith Publishing House on after hours, from 5:00 o'clock each evening. This is, of course, after we have a working crew. By the help of the Lord, I will continue to print on the mimeograph He had provided me in Mexico until such time as we have a working crew. If you have a knowledge of Spanish, or/and printing, and the Lord lays a burden on your heart to help, He will bless you for your obedience to that call. Pray much for all the workers on the field, and for me in this new venture for the Lord.

Your Sister in Christ, —Sister Opal Kelly  
1006 N. W. 90, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73114

#### MISSION LETTER FROM INDIA

S. India (Dec. 20)—Dear Bro. Pruitt, the saints there and abroad: New Year greetings to all the dear saints in the lovely name of Jesus Christ whose Father "comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble. . . ." (2 Cor. 1:4).

Thank you very much for your good letter dated Dec. 1, 1975, and the enclosures were noted with many, many thanks. I appreciate the loving hearts of the saints in America towards the poor saints here in India. Also, thank you very much for your letter of invitation to my brother, Philip. He got the plane ticket from Bro. Hammond. He is trying to get his visa. If he gets it soon, he will reach there next month or soon after. May God oversee everything.

Looking to God, I have started to print a large song book of 300 songs in our Malayalam language under the title, "Evening Light Songs," to distribute to the saints during this camp meeting season. The prayer of faith never fails and God will supply the need of paper, etc., for it. The song book will be much benefit to the church.

There is little progress in the chapel building at Thevalappuram and Kalayapuram due to the lack of finance. We have already dug out a deep water well at Thevalappuram.

A special thanks is extended to Bro. Hargrave's congregation in Goulds, Fla., for supplying a bicycle to Bro. C. J. Varghese, one of our preachers.

With love and prayers, I am yours in the Lord's service,  
—John Varghese

#### LETTER FROM NIGERIAN MISSION

Southeast State, Nigeria (Dec. 19)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints everywhere: Greetings in the holy name of our Lord Jesus Christ who came down from heaven to redeem us from the bondage of Satan. Let us praise Him for the wonderful work He accomplished. Glory be to Him forever!

We are in receipt of your letter of Dec. 2, 1975, together with the enclosures, and we acknowledge them with much thanks. May the donors be greatly rewarded. The "Faith and Victory" of December helped to answer Scriptural questions.

It is our pleasure to salute you finally in the year of 1975 and to thank you immensely for your encouragement of all kind in the work of our Master in this part of the globe and say, may God bless you abundantly and reward you more than our mouth can tell.

We realize that each year brings the world closer to the end of time. What is the answer from each of us to the question: "What have I done to bring souls to Christ who died for all of us?" He gave up the glory with His Father to come to this sinful world to pay the price of redemption on our behalf. He went to Calvary and suffered on the cross for all of us. He arose from the grave and went back to heaven, consoling us with the promise that He will come back and take us to Himself, that where He is, there we may be also. Let us rejoice that our toils and persecutions in the year of 1975 were not in vain.

With our might we are taking the gospel light to those in darkness. We earnestly pray the Lord would cause the ministers there to come over and assist us in rescuing the lost. The door is open, but who is ready to enter?

Pray for us as we do for you.

Your younger Brother, —Nse Umanah

#### PROFITABLE MEETING IN NIGERIA

River State, Nigeria—A six-day outdoor evangelistic meeting was held in Diobu, Port Harcourt, from Dec. 16 to 22, 1975. On the first day, Bro. Onimite Alalibo, Sister Furo Godfrey and Sister Ikechi Tyger of the Tombia congregation went to Diobu with the Port Harcourt brethren, which included Bro. Fraide Igbaniho, to hold evangelistic outdoor meetings each evening during the following six days. During the day time they spent much time in prayer. At the first evening service, the Word was preached with convicting power on the subject of the true existence of hell and paradise. At the close they prayed for about 40 people who, in reponse to the call for salvation, came forward to be saved. In addition to the preaching, many booklets and tracts on the Word of God were distributed freely to the people. The preached Word continued each evening, and many souls sought for salvation. The free distribution of a large number of "Faith and Victory" papers, booklets and tracts followed each preaching service. On Saturday, Bro. Ben Taylor, pastor at Tombia, arrived, and at the Sunday morning service he taught the doctrine of divine physical healing and prayed for the sick.

They are requesting earnest prayer for the germination of the gospel seed that was sown during this evangelistic effort in Port Harcourt. The foregoing is a



summary of the report given by Bro. Onimite B. Alalibo in collaboration with Bro. Fraide Igbaniho and Bro. Ben Taylor. —Editor

## FROM THE MAIL BOX . . .

Mo.—Dear workers: We know you are all working hard. Never do we pick up the "Faith and Victory" paper or our "Bible Lesson" booklet without being amazed how you all ever do it. I am sure you, as well as many others, would enjoy relaxing more and taking more time for your families, or whatever else, but we realize you carry a great burden for the lost, and how we appreciate each and every one of you — even those we're not acquainted with there in the Printshop! . . . We pray God to be near and dear to all of you in every way. . . .

We request prayer for our grandchildren. Our heart goes out to all children who really need God's help. It certainly is sad, as there is so much wickedness, and the poor little ones need to know Jesus as their Saviour.

—Delmer and Anna Severs

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Wisc.—Dear saints: We still enjoy receiving the "Faith and Victory" paper. We love the Lord and love all of God's people everywhere. . . . Keep up the good work in the Lord. —Adolf and Martha Semmler

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Wisc.—Greetings and best wishes for a rich work in the Lord. We trust all are well in soul and body. As we looked back and thought what the old year brought, we checked to see if we had done the best we could for God. People so willingly are on the broad way and are trying to convince others that they are surely on the right road . . . May the Lord open their eyes before it's too late. . . .

The New Year has come and we need to trust and obey God more than we ever have before. May we follow Him in all things, who has called us out of darkness into the pure light of day. The enemy has prepared a new bag of tricks (old and new ones) to trip up souls and cause them to be unaware of what the price will be. They are just too busy to investigate what it's all about. . . .

May the blessing of the Lord be yours is my prayer.

—Sis. Florence Knoll

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ala.—Dear Sis. Marie and workers: Greetings in Jesus' name. I thank God for a new year in which to set our eyes upon, and to watch for Jesus' soon appearing. We want to do all in our power to reach the lost and also to search our own hearts and make sure there is nothing to hinder our testimony for Jesus.

I do covet the prayers of God's people that I may be a vessel fit for the Master's use in reaching lost souls for Him. I especially want to reach my loved ones before it is too late.

Please remember me and mine in your prayers.

—Leora Frink

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ala.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the saints at the print shop: It's strange that I address you this way when I have not met you personally. It seems like I know you by reading the "Faith and Victory" paper. I do believe in the message it bears, and I am thankful that we still have people that don't shun to declare the whole truth of God's word. Praise His name! —Mollie R. Totty

Michigan—Greetings to you in the wonderful name of Jesus. I trust that each of you are well in body and spirit. What has happened last year is sealed forever. I thank God, as I look back over those twelve months, for the way He has blessed me and my family. Words cannot express what He has done for us, and how He has guided us into more light. He has answered many prayers, and kept us whole in body, soul, and mind.

When I look around in this "evening time," see the souls deceived, the sickness and sin on all sides, it drives me right to my knees. It causes me to thank God more each day that He led me into the blessed light. Thank God for His Son, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and His holy Word.

Yours in Christian love, —Bro. Robert Randolph

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ark.—Enclosed find two dollars for a year's subscription to your "Faith and Victory, also "The Beautiful Way." The little left over is an offering, so that it might help you in your wonderful work for the Lord. I enjoy your papers very much. —Mrs. F. S. Hepler

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear Sis. Marie: I'm still happy in the Lord. I thought of the words of the song, "Peace be still . . . Jesus is stilling the tempest and storm." How wonderful to trust in God!

I was at two funerals recently. Oh, how important it is to have peace with God! Also, I visit in the "Fairview Fellowship Home." So many precious souls there are nearing the end of the road. How good it is to speak a word to them that will bring cheer and comfort! I need wisdom from heaven to be what God wants me to be.

I find help from the heavenly Father in Heb. 13:20-21. My prayer is, "Make me perfect in every good work to do Thy will, work in me that which is well pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ; to Thee, Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever. Amen."

I was in the home of Bro. and Sis. Gail Kelly yesterday forenoon for Sunday school. It was a joy to me. All of us would like to be remembered in your prayers.

—Sis. Eva Penner

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ind.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: I am grateful to get the "Faith and Victory" paper. I do thank the dear Lord for His many blessings to my family and me, also to many other people. . . . May God bless each one at the Printshop. —Mrs. L. B. Hensley

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ind.—Dear Sis. Marie and workers: Greetings of love in Jesus' name. I truly enjoy the "Faith and Victory" paper. I thought it was especially good this month.

Christian love, —Sue Morrison

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ind.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings in the New Year. I pray you will have a happy and prosperous year in the Lord's work. We enjoy so much the good articles in the "Faith and Victory" paper. Every article is a spiritual uplift and gives us courage to press the battle on for God and souls. —J. J. and Myrtle Berryman

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Indiana—Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ: I am a babe in Christ, and I am glad to tell you that since Sept. 9, 1975, my life has been wonderful. I was introduced to your "Faith and Victory" paper by a dear Christian

friend and I really love it. I am writing to order a subscription for myself and for a few friends. . . . May the Lord richly bless you and the work you are doing.

In Christian love, —Marvin L. Harvey

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

Okla.—Dear saints: I am still serving the Lord. He has been so good to me, and I can't thank Him enough. I was 94 years old last August, 1975. I live alone and take care of myself. I love you folks and pray for you. Enclosed is a little offering to help in the publishing work. —Grandma Matthesen, Mrs. B. M. Matthesen

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

Kan.—Dear ones in Christ: Greetings in the love of Christ, our precious Redeemer.

This morning in my waking hour, a little story in a rhyme that we learned in the low German language came to me and I felt impressed to write down my thoughts and send them in. A few years ago this story came to my attention when I was meditating on the Church and its standard of holiness. Forgive me for writing this part in the language in which we learned it. "Chenna, chenna, komet na hoose," which means, "Children, children, come on home." The rest of it has a good thought involved. It goes on to say, "The children ask, 'Why should we come home?' The parent says, 'Because there is a wolf behind the hill.' The children ask, 'What is he doing?' The parent answers, 'He is sharpening his knives [devices].' The children ask, 'What for?' The parent answers, 'To kill you.' Then it ends with a call again, 'Chenna, chenna, komet na hoose.'"

We are living in a world of sin and the devil is sharpening his devices to destroy your soul. There is an evil spirit of the world which is against the spirit of holiness and righteousness. Our pastor, Bro. Orie Young, often brings out the need for us to have the Holy Spirit indwelling within us so that we might bring forth the fruit of righteousness which is not conforming to this spirit of the world, but is a transformation by the renewing of our mind. There is a spirit of the world which always says that the Bible doesn't speak against this or that, and the root of it is pride. There is a spirit of unrest in the world. People have to go here and there, and can't be satisfied with staying put. If we are not careful, that same spirit can get hold of us. We will be going just because it is us instead of the Lord sending. There is a spirit that says we must have some social activities to hold our young people, such as church parties of various kinds. That could come under "revellings and such like." Then there is the spirit of the world in fads, fashions, and trimmings in dress. Let us take heed, for the devil is sharpening his devices to kill you spiritually.

Hair seems to be quite a problem to our women. We exhort you, young and old, to seek the Lord on how He wants you to fix your long hair so it will become women professing godliness. Men, the spirit of the world is swaying you if you let your hair grow long and untidy. But if we are planted by the river of life, we will bring forth the fruit of righteousness in our lives.

"Now to the Holy City, the faithful gather home,  
To Zion's mount of glory, with songs of joy they come.  
Jerusalem the golden, Jerusalem the free,  
With joyful hearts and voices the ransomed come to thee."

Jerusalem, which is from above, is the mother of us all, and she is calling, "Children, children, come on home to Zion." The devil (wolf) is sharpening his devices to devour you. He is in the shadows waiting to ensnare your soul.

May the Lord bless each of you.

Yours in His service, —Sister Inez Beisly

o

## Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Ky.—Dear ones: We are thankful that we were permitted to attend part of the Guthrie winter meeting, as we received much help to our souls.

While we were at Bro. and Sister Ray's home in Guthrie, our 14-month-old son was playing and fell on the floor furnace. His hand was burned very badly and he cried very much. Much prayer was offered in his behalf, but it seemed no relief would come. Sister Ray called other saints, and Bro. Leslie Busbee and Bro. Gordon Humphrey and family came. Prayer again ascended for our suffering son, and he started playing and laughing. The redness went out of his hand immediately. As he had learned to shake hands, he would offer his burned hand with blisters, and from that time he acted as though nothing had ever happened to him. We are very thankful unto the Lord for His care in answering prayer.

I thought of this instance the night Sister Forbes spoke to the audience of how she got burned when she was a child and the terrible pain she experienced. I remember how our son cried, and would reach for me and call, Mamal! But nothing I could do eased the pain. Sis. Forbes was trying to get over to the people the awful pain and torment of hell. Oh, souls, if you could have heard the cry of this one baby for 2½ hours, truly you would think of the everlasting cry of the millions in hell fire. I urge all unsaved souls to please think of the constant cry of pain that awaits you ahead if you do not harken unto God's call.

We thank God also for how He blessed our oldest son. In our preparations to return home after the meeting from the Donald Eck home, Bill went out to start his car. It was very cold and his car wouldn't start. He came into the house, and the last he remembers was telling us his car wouldn't start. He blacked out and fell, striking his head on the arm of a chair, causing a knot to form. We offered prayer for him and he returned to consciousness, but was very weak for several days. His mind was also weakened for a few days. Thank the Lord, he seems more normal now. We do thank our Father for all the help and grace He supplies.

—The Charles Knight family

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

Fla.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings in the name of Jesus, who loved us when we were yet in sin, gave His life to save us, and saved us when we gave ourselves up unto Him. Praise His great name forever!

Thank the dear Lord for this love of God being shed abroad in my heart. It is true, as you wrote, that "Love is the guiding force in our lives, when we have God's love in our hearts." Oh, how good it is to be saved from sin! Oh, how I love Jesus, because He first loved me, as

the song goes. I'm so thankful for life, a portion of health and strength, food, raiment, shelter, and so many things. I'm thinking of these words, "In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." 1 Thess. 5:18. Without the love of God we can't do that. I believe that when we have God's love in our hearts we are able to love Him apart from the hope of reward or the fear of punishment. He is just every thing to us, even life itself. I believe I could just love and serve Him if there were no heaven to go to. Love drives out all jealousy. I'm so glad to see one prosper in the necessary things of this world.

The dear Lord has allowed me to live these many years for a purpose, I believe. Please agree with me in prayer that I will fulfill that purpose, whatever it is, for I surely mean to please Him if there were no heaven to go to and understand. I'm praying that God will teach me how to be a help and not a hindrance to His people while I am in this world.

The dear Lord graciously healed my mouth. I had a fall, and my chest hit on the bathtub. The saints prayed and God undertook and gave the glorious healing touch to my body. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

On this road to heaven, there are many thorns on the rose bush before the blossoms come out or unfold, but sweet is the smell of the roses. Now I think of the Scripture, "But we glory in tribulation also, knowing that tribulation worketh patience, and patience; experience; and experience, hope; and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Rom. 5:3-5.

I do trust each of the children of God who is laboring there at the print shop in getting out the everlasting gospel for the saving of souls is well in body and encouraged in the Lord.

Do pray for me, both soul and body. I mean to make it in at heaven's gate. Amen. —Sis. Mattie B. Savage

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

Calif.—Dear ones: I am so glad God saved me and taught me His way. I thank our Lord for His ministers who bring us the true gospel, direct from the mouth of God. I thank my Lord for giving me an ear that is not dull of hearing. I thank my Saviour for working on my stubborn heart when He did, so I could hear the voice of the Lord and mend my ways. The Lord started awakening me when He took my daughter, Vester Mae, in 1972. From then on, the Lord just kept on, little by little. He would put me down with sickness, but it seemed like that did not stir me too much, because I would go to the doctor and get a shot, and that would quiet me for a while. Jesus said to throw that medication away and take Me, so I did throw the medicine away, but to my surprise, shortly after I had thrown my medicine away I got back down in a worse condition than I ever was before. Dear ones, I knew my Jesus was able to heal the sick, but I did not know how to get hold of faith. As the Lord would have it, one night in 1975 the Brother preached on trusting in God. He said, "The Lord can do anything but fail." From that Sunday on, I commenced getting more awakened in my heart. The devil worked and it seemed like he was determined to destroy me. He almost made me break my vow to God about not taking any more medicine. I had promised God that I was going to take Him for my Saviour, Healer, and my all. But on the 20th of

November, 1975, I was in so much pain until I went to my medicine cabinet and took my medicine down and read the label. Had I taken it that night, I am afraid I would have been as the prodigal son in Luke 15, but instead, I just leaned my head on the wall by the medicine cabinet and cried. I went to Jesus like a little child would go to its mother or father. I said, "Father, I have gone as far as I can go by myself. Father, I can't go any farther by myself," and, dear ones, the good Lord heard my cry and He said, "Psalms 9:12."

Oh, dear saints, I thank my Jesus for teaching me His way. I say this to the glory and honor of God. I have been learning more about the good Lord and His way up to this 8th day of 1976. Please pray for me that I will be all the Lord would have me to be.

—Lizzie Reynolds

### OKLAHOMA STATE CAMPMEEETING RELOCATION PROGRESS REPORT

At the Annual Oklahoma Assembly Meeting of the Church of God in Guthrie, the matter of relocating the Campgrounds on account of the past flood problems, was again discussed at length. There has been no progress made in any direction other than that more support to the proposal of relocating the Campground was voiced. Again, realizing the problems of the present inflationary prices and the soaring costs of materials and property, much prayer is solicited for the help and guidance of the Lord in this matter. This should be a matter of concern especially for the saints in Oklahoma.

There was pretty good agreement that we should look for at least 10 acres, and it will be expected to cost from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for the land alone. Everyone was urged to cooperate and to be on the look-out for possible land to be purchased. Much prayer and financial support is encouraged. There is already a fund started for this great project. Offerings can be sent to either the treasurer of the local congregation, Sis. Bertha Miles, 10 Magnolia Ct., Guthrie, Okla., 73044, or to the treasurer of the Oklahoma State meetings, Sister Frances Deforth, Rt. 2 Box 34, Guthrie, Okla., 73044, and specify what the offering is for.

—Bro. Leslie C. Busbee

### OBSCENITY

Can you define obscenity? If you can, that is more than the Supreme Court can do, which is supposed to be the highest court in our land. What a sad condition that our nation has fallen into! My soul is so troubled, and concern fills my very being. What is obscenity? The dictionary says it means, "[obscenus (Latin), filthy, repulsive.] 1. offensive to modesty or decency; lewd. 2. disgusting; repulsive." So the law is that if any community defines any certain thing as obscene, then that community can pass laws to govern it. What has this done to our nation? It has turned loose the vilest and the most filthy magazines, strip-tease dancing, nakedness and filthy sex-murder movies that have ever been in our United States. Some might ask, how do you know? Have you seen it? One cannot help seeing some of it for this reason: you can't walk into very many stores

without this filthiness staring you in the face from a row of magazines. While riding on the bus, I saw a man two seats up and across the aisle, thumbing through a magazine, and even with a few glances my soul was filled with grief, embarrassment and disgust. Also, you hear about it on the news and even read in the newspapers about the rest of the evils already named above. I recently was told that the latest movie is to be about a sex-murder. The one who mentioned it said that the reason movies, magazines and all pornography are becoming more violent and degrading is that it is an addiction. Sexual evils and the worst filthiness calls for something even more vile than what has been seen before. People's sensibilities become numb and each movie has to be worse than the one before. So pornography becomes an addiction. It has broken up homes. Someone said that the father of a home brought in so many of those magazines that it corrupted the teenagers, and finally the wife could not take any more of his filthy-minded demands in life, that it brought about a separation when it was laid down that he or the magazines leave. How terrible conditions can become when a person gives himself over to the devil!

The Bible says, "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened . . . Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves; . . . Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication . . . , who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." Rom. 1:21, 24, 29a, 32. So not only those who do such unclean things will be punished, but it says also those who "have pleasure in them that do them." Those who watch or look at wickedness being done, and enjoy it or take pleasure in it, will be punished.

One of the things that the Communists have in their planned takeover of the United States is to corrupt the morals of the people. We plainly see it working and we also see the people helping it work — seemingly from the Supreme Court on down.

In history we read that one of the things that caused the downfall of nations was the decay of their morals. How grieved God must be as He looks down upon this corrupted world. Surely, this world is ripening up for the judgment. It is doomed as Sodom and Gomorrah was in ancient Bible times. God destroyed the world by water because "every imagination of the thought of his [man's] heart was only evil continually." Gen. 6:5.

Recently the principal of the high school called the girls together and told them to tell the boys to keep their hands off them and if they didn't tell them, then he would know they liked it. Some boys had to be expelled for unseemly actions. One Christian girl said she walked out of her way to go down the halls in high school to keep away from groups of boys that would try to put their hands on her. What a shame! Oh, how we need to implore God to have mercy upon this corrupted nation.

Oh, young people, keep your minds and lives pure and clean. How beautiful is the face and life of a young person who has pure and clean thoughts! They stand out in this wicked and polluted nation. Guard your

thoughts and your mind, and keep them pure, and then your life will be pure. Refuse to look at this pornography that is displayed on the magazine rack. Don't fill your mind with such filth.

Parents, guard your children from seeing these things. Don't let them go to the corner store and linger there where it is displayed. Teach them that God has made everything pure and holy. Only man has degraded it and brought it down to unholiness. God has laws, and there is a proper way to conduct one's self in this life.

"Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled." Titus 1:15.

My heart has been so broken and burdened about these things that I do pray that God will stir every child of God to cry out against these things and impress our younger ones of the need of keeping their minds pure and clean.

—Sis. Marie Miles

## A Voice From Hell

Scripture Basis, Luke 16:27, 28

Eternity bound soul, on your hurried march to the grave, hear me! As you are, so I was. As I am, you will be. Yesterday, under the sun, I planned, I worked, I hoped. All was vanity, Eccl. 1:2. I ate, drank and was merry, Luke 12:19. I sought pleasures. I gratified passion. I set my heart on riches, ambition spurred me on. This also was vanity. My place under the sun another occupies. What I gathered another scatters. My love, my hate, my mirth, my desires, my interests have all perished. My portion in anything under the sun has gone forever. Eccl. 9:6. How foolish I was and ignorant, Psalm 73:22. I was a mad man. The sinner is spiritually dead and morally insane. I lived as if eternity would never arrive and time would never end. I traveled the road to hell. Too soon I arrived. I lived as a fool, and I died as a fool, 2 Sam. 3:33. I labored and planned only for time. I built bird's nests. I spurned eternal life for worldly folly. How the memory of it mocks me now! Death cured me, but too late. You have guessed it, I am a lost soul. I wasted salvation's day, 2 Cor. 6:2. I have missed it, Heb. 2:3. Probation is past, Rev. 22:11. My destiny is unalterably fixed. I must reap the sad fate of my choice, Gal. 6:7. Eternal remorse and eternal fire are my portion, Mark 9:43. My sun of hope has set forever.

I was too busy to prepare for death, but I was not too busy to die. Death, the inevitable, certainly came, Heb. 9:27. He came too soon. Had I only been prepared, Amos 4:12. The scales dropped from my eyes. Indifference vanished forever, Mark 8:36. Oh! for more time! Too late, I thought of my poor soul, Luke 12:20. Oh! could the living know and feel what the dead know and feel, none would come to this dread place. Unprepared, unwilling to die, I could not hold the dread monster off. I could not resist his icy breath. Pitilessly and irresistibly he struck with his dart. Now I know the world is the devil's vanity-fair where he barter's worthless baubles for the souls of men; where Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage; and Judas sold his Lord for thirty pieces of silver. Oh! for what trifles men damn their priceless souls. With siren voices, the world, the

flesh, and the devil bid for your soul. They will give you pleasure, riches, whatever you desire; all in exchange for your soul.

Now I know the devil blinded my spiritual vision with world dust, 2 Cor. 4:3, 4. Too late, I opened my eyes in hell, Luke 16:23. What a revelator death is! Hell is truth seen too late. Heaven is in the open sight of hell, Luke 16:23. Hell is the vision of a lost Christ, a lost heaven and a lost soul. Now I know hell is more than a jest and a by-word; but a real world. Oh, if the grave were only the end. Alas, it is but the beginning, Matt. 10:28. My mortal body died, 2 Cor. 5:1. My immortal soul lives on. My identity survives. I think, I feel, I remember, Luke 16:25. I am in hell and in torment, Luke 16:23. My eternal wail has begun. Had I only heeded God's Word, Luke 16:31. Now I know there is a heaven to gain, a hell to shun, and a never-dying soul to save. My former life on earth is a dream. Alas! I will never wake from this. Hell is an eternal nightmare. I must spend eternity a lost soul. Alas! it will never be spent. Eternity has no end: else it would not be eternity. Hell prays, but never an answer. The mercy we spurned has fled forever. The conviction for sin we stifled has turned into the never-dying worm of endless remorse. Nevermore an offer of redeeming grace. Our damnation is irremediable. Saddest of all, what might have been, now never can be.

I was a worldling. I loved the world, 1 John 2:15. Foolishly I yielded to its lure. I preferred earthly things to heavenly. My heart was in the world and God was not in my thoughts. The movies, the card tables, the wine cup, the tobacco-god, and the dance floor are open doors to hell. Worldly dissipation crowded out love for God. I wanted a good time. Away with scruples. Away with restraint. Warning and rebuke fell on deaf ears. I did not want to be awakened from my fool's paradise. Where's the harm? Let me go on and enjoy myself, was the foolish cry of my poor, deceived soul, Luke 12:19. I sealed my own doom, Gal. 6:7. I made my bed in hell, Ps. 139:8. I now reap what I sowed, Rom. 6:23. My good times are gone forever, Luke 16:25. The light has gone out. The broad way (worldliness) has an end. Its end is death, Matt. 7:13. Worldliness damned my soul. You can't walk with God and run with the world, 2 Tim. 4:10. You can't go to heaven from the haunts of sin. Friendship of the world is enmity with God, James 4:4. I loved pleasure more than God, 2 Tim. 3:4.

I was no infidel. I joined a worldly church on profession of faith, but I never experienced salvation. No change was wrought in my heart or life. My worldliness continued unchecked. The church I joined was a popular church, liberal in its views and walked hand in hand with the world, John 17:14. There was no fanaticism, no cranks, only safe and sane preaching according to hell's verdict. Our preacher was a fine mixer and very tactful. Nothing spiritual or sanctimonious ever disturbed or embarrassed us, worldly as we were. He never offended or meddled. He left us contented in our sins and undisturbed in our worldliness. Worldly churches and worldly church members delight the devil. They give respectability to institutions that are damning souls, and thereby lose their own souls. Hell laughs at the sight. If church members would cease patronizing and supporting movies, dancing, tobacco and

drink, these things would soon be outlawed and cease to exist.

What church I joined, matters not. I now know that no church saves, only personal faith in Jesus, Acts 4:12. One can go religiously to hell, Prov. 16:25. Denominational distinctions never go beyond the grave. When you die, you cease being Protestant, Catholic, or Jew. You are only a saved or a lost soul. Nominal church membership is not a passport to heaven. The true Church of which Christ is the head, Col. 1:18, is spiritual, composed of the first-born, whose names are written in heaven, Heb. 12:23. Only born-again persons possess eternal life. Professing religion without experiencing salvation is a snare and a delusion. I never expected to be lost. I was moral according to my standards. I was no saint; yet I thought I was too good to be damned. Now I know my morality was only a form of self-righteousness, in which I took secret pride, Luke 18:11. How blind I was. Our worldly preachers could not help us. Their gospel was merely a social gospel, that hell scorned and heaven lamented over, Jer. 6:14. Real sin was never denounced, Isa. 58:1. Holiness was despised and ignored, 1 Thess. 4:7,8. They never taught us the Bible teaching on holiness, 1 Pet. 1:16; Heb. 12:14. They were not sent of God, Jer. 23:21. Instead of the bread of life, they gave us stones of formality. We never got blessed in our souls. It was human religion only and nothing Divine. We paid them well to damn our souls, 2 Pet. 2:3. They baptized us, gave us communion, married, and buried us. They gave us beautiful services, aesthetic sermons, but they did not give us the joy of sins forgiven, the Spirit's witness, and the sweet peace of God. How could they? The husbandman must be first partaker of the fruits, 2 Tim. 2:6. A worldly preacher is a tool of the devil. A worldly church is a sleeper to hell. How blind I was. Jesus was right. If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch, Matt. 15:14.

To whomever may read: destiny awaits you. There is but a step between you and death, 1 Sam. 20:3. Prepare to meet thy God, Amos 4:12. Where will you be in eternity? Tomorrow may be too late, 2 Cor. 6:2. God's Word sets before you life or death, Deut. 30:15, heaven or hell, Christ or the world, holiness or sin. Which will it be? Joel 3:14. As for me, the harvest is past, summer is ended, Jer. 8:20. My soul is lost. I have missed my greatest opportunity. I am suffering my greatest loss, nevermore rest or peace for me. Only weeping and gnashing of teeth abide, Matt. 13:42. There is a way to keep out of hell, Matt. 3:7. There is a way out of sin. Today grace pleads, "Turn ye . . . why will ye die?" God wills it not, 2 Pet. 3:9. Fly in penitence to the cross and to Him who hung thereon. All other roads lead to hell. Luke 19:10. —A. A. Ronshausen

#### Little Things God Takes Note Of

He bottles our tears. —Psa. 56:8.

The hairs of our head are numbered. —Matt. 10:30.

He knows our uprising and our downsit. —Psa. 139:2.

He knows the things that come into your mind, every one of them. —Ezk. 11:5b.

He sees the sparrow that falls. —Matt. 10:29.

—Effie Miller

## Christian Baptism



Baptism as administered in the church of God today is not "John's baptism," but is a rite instituted by Christ himself. John's ministry and baptism were a preparatory work and peculiarly belonged to him. His baptism properly began with him, and it ended with him. The design of Christian baptism is different from that of John's. "John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus." Acts 19:4,5. From this it appears that John's disciples were rebaptized, or received Christian baptism after having been baptized with the baptism of John. John baptized in the name of a Savior to come, while Christian baptism is administered in the name of a Christ who has appeared — in the name of a crucified and resurrected Savior.

The term Christian baptism is very proper when it is made clear that Christ established this institution. "After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized." John 3:22. "And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him." Verse 26. "John answered and said, . . . He must increase, but I must decrease." Verses 27-30. "Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John. (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples.)" John 4:1,2. The reader will observe that Jesus came into the same country where John had baptized, and began making disciples and baptizing them. All men began to flock to His baptism. John's following from that time began to decrease, while that of Jesus increased. He made and baptized more than John. Water baptism, then, was instituted by the Savior himself, hence is a Christian rite.

This great ordinance which He established, He commanded to be administered to disciples to the end of the world. His great commission, which is binding upon the ministry and the church till the consummation of time, reads: "Go ye therefore, and teach 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: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matt. 28:19,20.

The apostles understood the commission in a literal sense; for in fulfilling it in their ministry, they preached to the people and administered water baptism to their converts. A careful, unprejudiced study of the book of Acts will show that the apostles both preached and practised water baptism; and they did this in obedience to the commission. There is no way under heaven to evade the overwhelming testimony of the last great commission, which makes water baptism a Christian institution obligatory upon all of God's people to the end of the world.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter, who was filled with the Holy Ghost, commanded the people to be baptized. "Be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ." Verse 38. In obedience to the solemn charge

of the holy apostle "they that gladly received his word were baptized." Verse 41. This was on the very day when the church was organized — the time of pure pristine Christianity. The apostle who commanded the people to be baptized and those who administered baptism were under the direct inspiration and leading of the Holy Ghost. Their example and teaching, then, is certainly safe to follow.

—H. M. Riggle

## Sacrificing and Giving— The Difference



What sacrifice have I made for the Lord's work, is a question that is easy to ask—but, how about the answer? I fear there are many people, who, should they ask themselves the above question, would be put to some trouble searching for the sacrifice they thought they had made. A gift means much; a sacrifice means more. There are not many people who do as much giving as they ought, to say nothing of sacrificing. A woman once told a minister that she had in her meat house some hogs' jaws that she was intending to throw away since her family did not like them and would not use them, besides, said she, "We do not need them, but you may get them if you can use them." As the minister could of course use them, he went and got one of them. Afterward, he heard her telling another person of the sacrifice she was making for the support of the Lord's work, adding, "I have opened the door of my meat house and told Brother \_\_\_\_\_ to help himself." But, what to? A nice ham? No. A shoulder? No. A middling? No, but instead, to a jaw, after it had been refused. There may be many people today who are making just such sacrifices (?). Be careful, dear reader, that it is not you.

At another time a brother went to a certain city and held a meeting. At the close of the meeting, a brother (?) who seemed to love him very much, took him around over the city showing him the sights. When the ride was over and they were about to separate, the brother (?) fingered in his pocketbook, found a twenty-five cent piece, and handing it to the visiting brother he said, "God bless you, and supply you in every way. We hope you will be able to come back and hold another meeting soon." The question that came to the mind of the preacher was, "How can I ever come back? Such sacrifices as this will not pay my car fare, saying nothing of rent, groceries, and other expenses of the family at home."

A sacrifice is not just simply giving away what you do not need or cannot use; in fact, that is no sacrifice at all—it is simply getting rid of something you do not need. A man who is worth ten thousand dollars and gives away one thousand dollars has made no sacrifice. He simply gave to the Lord's work one thousand dollars. He still has nine thousand dollars left. He has therefore, made no sacrifice. Two notable sacrifices are recorded in the Bible. One was the widow; the other was the sacrifice of the Lamb. The first was indeed a sacrifice, so was the second. The first, of her poverty, gave all she possessed. It was this noble sacrifice that caused Christ to say, "She hath put

in more than they all." Perhaps others were putting in talents of gold and talents of silver. She put in two mites. Theirs was not a sacrifice, for of their "abundance" they gave. Hers was truly a sacrifice, for, of her penury, she gave all her earnings.

How many of us have done as this widow? Alas! If the church had more widows, what would the result be?

One brother wrote me, saying, "Brother, you have made a great sacrifice in going to Trinidad, but Christ did more." Yes, Christ did more. He truly made a sacrifice. He left the riches of glory, His Father's bosom, the companionship of angels. What for? To preach? No. To die? Yes, He made a sacrifice. Today He sits on the throne of His glory, crowned forevermore. Will you and I sit with Him? Then we must sacrifice and suffer for Him. As yet, I have made no sacrifice. I am only rendering to my Saviour my reasonable service—and hardly that. In view of what Christ has done for me I do not feel like saying that ever in my life I made a real sacrifice. I have a home, clothes, food to eat, and a pillow for my head. Is that sacrificing? By the grace of God I will do my best—my very best—for my loving Saviour while I have life and strength. —E. N. R.

## Why Trust God for Healing?

1. God is our Father. It is both natural and reasonable that children always trust in worthy parents for every need. God's care toward us is even greater than the care of earthly parents toward their children. "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him." "When my father and mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up."

2. God, being our Creator, He, better than any one else, understands how to heal us. When we are ill, He knows just what is the trouble. A doctor may not understand my case and therefore may be unable to help me.

3. Many doctors are quacks or frauds and care for nothing else than their fees. The Lord is righteous, and He will do the right thing, for He careth for us. (1 Pet. 5:7). It is safer to "trust God than to put confidence in man" (Psa. 118:8).

4. God wants us to trust Him for our healing, and tells us what to do in case of sickness (Jas. 5:14, 15).

5. He promises to heal us through the prayer of faith if we will call for the elders of the church and be anointed with oil in the name of the Lord (Jas. 5:15, 16).

6. Divine healing for the body is not a new doctrine that was lately set on foot by a few "religious cranks"; it is as old as the Bible and as age-lasting as the earth with its sin and sickness.

7. God promised the Israelites that if they would keep all His commandments, He would be their healer. More than four hundred years later David declared that the Lord forgave iniquities and healed diseases (Psa. 103:3). Seven hundred and eighty-one years after God's promise was made to heal His people, King Hezekiah put the Lord's word to the test by a holy life, prayer, and tears, and God healed him (2 Kings 20:1-6). We may do likewise.

8. Some tried false gods, physicians, etc., and were not healed (2 Kings 1:2-4; 2 Chron. 16:12-14).

9. Others, after they had suffered many things of many physicians, after they had spent all their living, and had been "nothing bettered," but had rather grown worse, quit them, put their faith in Jesus, and received complete healing (Mark 5:25-29).

10. Though physicians have existed from of old, the Bible nowhere advises God's people to resort to them for healing.

11. There are thousands of living witnesses of God's mighty power to heal. If He has healed others, He will heal us.

12. God's Word does not prescribe drugs as medicines, but provides a better system of healing.

13. Many of the wisest and most experienced physicians and medical men of Europe and America have honestly confessed that materia medica is, for the most part, a humbug, a fraud imposed upon disease-smitten humanity.

14. God commands us to have faith in Him (Mark 11:22). He tells us that "without faith it is impossible to please him" (Heb. 11:6). "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). All who hear God's Word are expected to believe it. No one can deny that it teaches healing for the body.

15. Jesus said to some, "Thy faith hath made thee whole." The same kind of faith that made people whole in A. D. 30-33 or at any other date will, if exercised, make us whole today.

16. Healing for the body is provided for through the atonement; hence is a blood-bought privilege for all. Sickness, disease, and infirmity are hinderances and many times are direct oppressions of the devil. [It is God's will to heal until He makes known otherwise in individual cases.]

17. By being under physicians' care patients often learn to use opiates, strychnine, quinine, alcoholic drinks, etc., and become enslaved to these extremely injurious drugs.

18. By trusting the Lord for healing we not only avoid these evils but also form the good habit of relying upon God, a habit which is essential to Christian life. When a person trusts in doctors and recovers, the doctors or medicines get the praise, instead of God.

19. If we trust Jesus Christ for the healing of our bodies, we receive a spiritual blessing, which medical aid cannot give.

20. Trusting God for healing helps us to be more spiritual. We realize that we must live close to God if we expect Him to heal us. Trusting in medicine does not increase our faith, but on the contrary, has a tendency to draw us away from God.

21. Many have spent for medical aid hundreds of dollars that otherwise could have been spent to the glory of God in helping the cause of Christ, the poor, the orphans, or the widows.

22. The Lord heals all kinds of diseases, even those that are beyond medical or surgical skill.

23. The Lord is "a very present help in trouble," and we have more ready access to Him than to a physician. Doctors are sometimes miles away.

24. The Lord is the best one to go to for help and the most reliable. Patients in all parts of the world have given testimonies of His healing. Many of these have



employed Him for years and they heartily recommend Him to all who are in need of healing.

25. The Lord invites us to come to Him for healing.  
—Sel.

## Better Things

As we begin this writing, a message comes back to my mind which was preached at Guthrie, Okla., in a night service a few years ago. The Brother's thought was: A Better Way. His text was I Cor. 12:31, if I remember correctly. It was a precious message.

In Heb 11:39-40, we read, "And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect." Notice also in Heb. 9:8-10, "The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation."

Thank God for the "evening light" reformation which led God's people back to the old path, the good way, and the Holy Ghost-filled life of the morning time church. It didn't lead to the wild fire and strange tongues that we note in the land today, but to the divine fire that was present on the day of Pentecost, which gave power to the apostles, and to all who received the Holy Ghost, to witness and suffer for Jesus' sake and rejoice in it. They rejoiced, knowing that the power which raised up Jesus from the dead was able to keep and preserve the life which was working effectually in them by the Holy Ghost. They were made to partake of that "Better Thing" which was provided for them and for all, even to as many as the Lord our God shall call. For the promises were made to Abraham and his seed. "He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ." Gal. 3:16.

In Romans 5:1-5 we read: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Oh, thank God for His unspeakable gift! Only those who receive this gift can know the joy and power it gives in the soul. (Read Rev. 2:17.)

God is looking down upon His little ones and desiring to give them better things than they now enjoy, and the better things are in this "better thing" — the Holy Ghost. For ye are complete in Him.

We hear our beloved Brother Paul saying in I Cor. 3:2, "I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto you were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able." So the devil would say that you may as well

give up and go back. Oh, No, No! God so much desires, while you have peace with Him by faith through the Lord Jesus Christ, that you go on into the good land where there are good things: honey, figs, grapes, milk, and many other good things abounding, which symbolize love, joy, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, peace, and soul rest in general.

Let us note some Scripture found in Psalms 144:10-15, and we will see why God said in I Thess. 4:3, "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification." "It is he that giveth salvation unto kings: who delivereth David his servant from the hurtful sword. Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood: That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace: that our garners may be full, affording all manner of store: that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets: that our oxen may be strong to labour: that there be no breaking in, nor going out; that there be no complaining in our streets. Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord." Think also of Psalms 51:6-13, "Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou has broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee."

Listen to this blessed truth found in Heb. 12:22-24, "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, [Oh, thank God!] and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."

Isa. 25:6, "And in this mountain [God's church] shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined."

I Cor. 2:9-10, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." —H. A. McMillian

Humility is a great aid to faith. The humbler you are, the more active will be your faith. Humility will enable you to put yourself wholly in God's care and keep your hands off. —R. L. Berry

**SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PAPER — 3 years for \$1.00.**