

FAITH AND VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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Dwelling in God's House

Oh, blessed is the man who dwells
Throughout his mortal days
Securely sheltered in God's House
According to His praise.

Blest entrance found in Christ, the Door,
Who bled upon the tree
To give us life forever more,
Is ours so full and free.

The House of God, O sacred thought!
How sweet and safe to know
That by His blood our souls were bought,
Washed whiter than the snow.

For in God's House is holiness—
No stain of sin is found,
And all is perfect peace and rest,
And filled with joyful sound.

A shelter from earth's raging storms
Beneath God's gracious care,
And comfort in His loving arms
Is always waiting there.

So glad am I to enter in,
My soul to satisfy,
Escaping all this world of sin,
No more to weep and sigh.

His love and grace to follow me
Each day I live below,
And in God's House forever more
I'll dwell with Him, I know.

Though death will come, I will not fear,
For in God's House I find
Assurance and a hope so dear,
To keep my heart and mind;—

For in eternal glory lands,
And to their utmost bound,
God's House not made by human hands
Will surely there be found.

—Leslie Busbee

The Divinity of the Church

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—D. S. Warner

THE CONSCIENCE

One of the great marvels in the human body is the fact that inside of every brain God has placed a little instrument called conscience to enable us to detect right from wrong! Even a little child knows if he is telling a lie!

If we listen to the dictates of the conscience and follow them, the conscience stays sensitive and tender and can show us what is right. But if we continually ignore those dictates and follow our own way, the conscience will soon be rendered insensitive and be of no use.

—Selected

Does Making Resolutions Work?

"It occurred to me that my last and only hope [to live right] would be to bind myself under an oath . . . I secured a number of horseshoes, then placed a cheap ring on my finger, and with them in sight, I bowed with uplifted hand, taking a vow that henceforth I would live right, and that as my eyes fell upon any of these it was to remind me that I was to do right. I then placed the horseshoes in conspicuous places, such as at the well where I watered the stock, another on the barn door, one at the gate, others on the fence near my work. . . . It is useless to tell you that all was utter failure, for sin had dominion over me."

Bro. John L. Green, an early pioneer minister, continues to tell his experiences in sin and how God dealt with him. After breaking this vow, he went deeper in sin. For six years he added "sin to sin." One night he returned from a "place of dancing and revelry" and the Lord talked to him. The devil fought his desire to be saved. He became so confused that the devil suggested that he drown himself, and he longed to do so, but he writes, "I said, oh, that I knew there was no immortal soul in man, and no future state, then death would be a relief, but I had read of the terrible fate of those who die in sin. I knew therefore that death would not be a relief, from the sorrows of my soul, but with all hope passed, I must spend eternity with the lost. As the Scriptures hath said, 'The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.' Psa. 9:17.

"It was in the fall of 1890, during a revival meeting, that my mother, Bro. and Sis. Cole and others spent a day in fasting and prayer that I might be saved . . . I attended the meeting that night with no feeling of conviction so far as I recall, until near the time of the meeting to close. . . . All at once God spoke in clearer than audible tones to my soul, 'Son, why do you treat Me so; I loved you and gave my Son for you, and He died in love for you.' It was enough. The deep of my heart was broken up. Tears flowed . . . No sooner had I reached the floor, on my knees, than all the wrong things of my life rushed before my soul, as if to say, will you forgive, will you confess, will you ask forgiveness, will you restore, etc., to which my only response was, yes, yes, yes, and as swiftly as they passed on a sweet heavenly peace flooded my soul, and I arose, saying, the Lord saves my soul from sin and condemnation tonight. . . . I began at once to correct my past, which meant something to me. The first was with a young man with whom I had had serious trouble. . . . Satan whispered, . . . 'He will knock you down.' I went to him in the name of the Lord . . . I had not expected to do more than ask forgiveness and offer to shake hands, but I fell upon his neck and asked his forgiveness weeping. He also broke down and asked my forgiveness, and we wept together. I went to a very wicked man and handed him some money that I won from him on a race, telling him I had given my heart to God and did not feel free to keep the money. It had a great effect on him. I had a number of such experiences by which I made friends, won the confidence of those I had wronged, and cleared my conscience of every stain." The Bible says, "If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he hath robbed, he shall surely live." Ezek. 33:15.

We can learn from this experience that resolutions will fail, but when one has godly sorrow and falls upon his face before God, pleading for forgiveness and accepting the blood of Jesus Christ as a covering for his soul, then he can live each day acceptable in the sight of God. This does not mean that one will not be tempted by the devil, but God gives us power to resist that temptation. The devil brings the evil thoughts and the feelings of oppression against us, but by the power of God, through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, we can overcome him and live a victorious life.

—Written and edited by M. Miles

THE SLEEP OF DEATH

Oh grave, how cold and heartless is thy hand,
To wave against the millions of our land.
Thy voice is silent to declare the day,
When soul departs, thy hand receives the clay.

Thou hast received the young and old in years,
Leaving marks of sorrow in flowing tears.
Yet all the earth must claim thy silent bed,
As life departs, thou must receive the dead.

Oh sin, how cold and heartless is thy hand,
To wave against the millions of our land.
When thy sting has stilled life's lovely song,
The life of purity and innocence is gone.

Dead while living, worldly pleasure sought,
The sinner doomed, is to the judgment brought.
Awake! Oh man, decide what you will choose.
Will it be heaven gained, a world to lose?

Dead, but hope is calling, calling still;
Her voice is beckoning at thy stubborn will.
Awake! Arise! and claim thy day of grace,
Soon thy time will end life's solemn race.

Death will come to halt thy life's short span,
Repent, and God will bless thy latter end.
And when the grave receives thy earthly clay,
Thy soul will sing one long eternal day.

—Donald W. Sharp

WHAT DID HE HAVE TO LOSE?

A youth was stopped for a traffic violation. The public safety official recognized the odor in the violator's car and it was found that he had a few "joints" with him. He was convicted of a marijuana possession, an automatic felony, and received a suspended sentence. Maybe you think that is a pretty light sentence and something he could take in stride and that he didn't lose much.

Well, all he lost was his right to vote, to own a gun and the right to run for public office.

He also lost the chance to ever be a certified public accountant, engineer, architect, realtor, schoolteacher, barber, funeral director or stockbroker.

He can never get a job where he has to be bonded or licensed.

He can't work for the city, county, state, or federal government. That's what he lost. —Sel.

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“FAITH AND VICTORY”

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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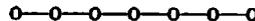
EDITORIALS



TO ONE AND ALL of the thousands of NEW readers who have been receiving this paper for the past two months, we extend a very special invitation to **SUBSCRIBE AT ONCE** and become a regular reader. Your friend, who had these trial issues sent to you, would like for you to continue receiving a copy each month. He believes that these Bible truths will be a spiritual benefit and blessing to you and your family. For the convenience of those whose subscriptions are **EXPIRING WITH THIS ISSUE**, we are enclosing a handy **BLUE SUBSCRIPTION REMITTANCE ENVELOPE**. Just fill in the blank form with your name and address, enclose one dollar, stamp and mail, and you will receive this paper each month (except August) for the next three years. Please do this NOW, lest you forget it and miss the forthcoming issues which will contain messages of truth essential to your soul's welfare. May God bless each reader with heaven's richest benefits.

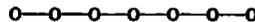


If any of our regular subscribers receives an expiration envelope in your paper this month, please disregard the expiration notice and pass the extra copy to someone else. Just consider that perhaps a friend had the paper sent to you on this special trial offer, not knowing that you were already receiving it.



This monthly gospel paper is going into many homes in this country as well as foreign nations. More than 15,500 copies of this issue will be printed, and we pray that the Holy Spirit will accompany every "white-winged" messenger and impress this graphic Bible truth upon the mind and heart of every reader. Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Thank God for the precious freedom from sin and condemnation that we have found in believing and obeying the truth.

My sinner friend, our God is no respecter of persons, and He has the same experience for you. Won't you hear and heed the Saviour's gracious invitation? He has already paid the ransom price for your soul, and now He is calling you with outstretched hands, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden [with sin], and I will give you rest."

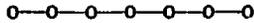


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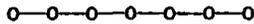


Bro. Max Williamson, formerly of Hammond, La., has been the pastor of the Church of God in Baton Rouge, La., for a number of years. Recently, Bro. and Sister Williamson and their son David, moved to Baton Rouge. Their new address is 11525 St. Paul Street, Baton Rouge, La. 70811, phone number 504—

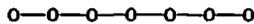
778-0531. They welcome the saints, which includes the ministers, to stop with them any time. Also, please pray earnestly for Bro. Williamson as he needs a well body to minister to the congregation.



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.

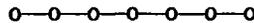


Recently we reprinted an edition of the German-language book, "The More Abundant Life" by C. E. Orr, for the German brethren in Canada. This book is being used in mission work in a German colony in Mexico.

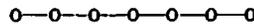


Response Is Encouraging

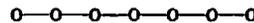
Thank the Lord and the saints for the encouraging financial response to the proposition of paying the round-trip plane fares for two native ministers from Nigeria and one from the Philippines to come to the U. S. to attend the campmeetings this summer. If the response continues, it appears that the fares will be supplied for them. The next problem may be in getting their visas at the proper time. Let us continue to pray the Lord to open the way. May we also continue our financial support of this worthy cause as the Lord directs.



Our sincere sympathy is extended to Bro. Otis Hill of Oklahoma City whose wife departed this life rather suddenly with a heart attack on Feb. 14. She was a member of the Episcopal Church. May the Lord comfort Bro. Hill and the relatives in their loss.

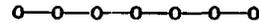


That Christ will come and reign as a king over an earthly kingdom for a thousand years is a popular teaching in the religious world today. But this writer challenges anyone to produce one Scripture from the Bible that teaches such a theory. Search your Bible and send it in if possible. How can people build such a doctrine on mere implication or speculation? This false teaching was carried over from ancient Judaism, and it is accepted by the masses of nominal Christians because it appeals to the carnal mind. Yet the Scriptures in fact give no time, place or need for a millennium in God's divine plan for mankind.

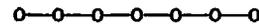


The scheduled coming campmeeting on July 9 to 18 southeast of Muncie, Indiana, will be our first campmeeting in that area for many years. Pray that every hindrance will be removed, that the Holy Spirit will do His office work, and that this meeting will redound to the glory of God. A campground with dining hall and dormitories had to be rented, and the total expense of rent and operation for the ten days will be considerable. We would encourage the saints to attend and support this effort in a special way.

Send your free-will offerings and request for more information directly to Bro. Egbert Allen, Norwood, Mo. 65717, phone 417-746-2840. Please state specifically in your letter what the offering is for.



This editor solemnly warns every soul to beware of this anti-cleansing heresy which holds that there is no cleansing in sanctification. That false teaching strikes at the very foundation of the gospel of Christ. It denies the primary purpose for which Jesus came to this world. That purpose was to "destroy the works of the devil." 1 John 3:8. In Heb. 6:1 the Apostle Paul urges the believers "to go on unto perfection." The blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin, but Christ offered Himself without spot to God to purge or cleanse the conscience of the believer from dead works to serve the living God. Heb. 9:14. The blood sprinkled on the golden altar in the most holy place of the Mosaic tabernacle typified the cleansing element in sanctification. The anti-cleansing heresy has no basis in the Scriptures, and consequently it has never been accepted in God's Church or by the "saints in light."



In observance of the Golden (50th) Wedding Anniversary of Bro. Elmer and Sister Edna Blacksher of Springfield, Mo., an open house for their friends and relatives will be held on March 28, 1976, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., at their home on Route 8, Box 338, Springfield, Mo. 65807.

They were married in Salem, Ark., on March 25, 1926. In 1931, they were saved in the Church of God and attended services at the chapel in Springfield, Missouri, where Bro. Robert M. Porter was the pastor at that time. They are still attending there, and Bro. Murphy Allen is the present pastor.



This March issue marks the beginning of the 54th year of publication. The publishers and co-workers pause again in retrospect to thank God for His many blessings and answers to prayer in behalf of this gospel literature ministry during the past half century. Now we are in the second half century with a strong faith in God's omnipotent hand to care for His own.

Your continued prayers and co-operation in the gospel publishing work for worldwide evangelism will certainly be appreciated. —L. D. Pruitt



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Available at this office are four records of songs by the Bakersfield Evening Light Singers. Each of these 33 RPM records has from 10 to 12 songs. These records are designated by number—No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4. Specify the record you want by the number. The price is \$5.00 each. This office receives no part of the profit from the sales, and the singers use the proceeds in the work of the Lord.

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Campmeeting Dates for 1976

Following are the Church of God campmeeting dates for 1976, and more complete announcements of each will appear in later issues:—

- Goulds, Florida—April 18 to 15.
- Oklahoma State at Guthrie, Okla.—May 28 to June 6.
- Holly Hill, South Carolina—June 4 to 13.
- Tulsa, Oklahoma—June 11 to 20.
- Jefferson, Oregon—June 11 to 20.
- Green Bank, West Virginia—June 18 to 27.
- Oakland, California—June 18 to 27.
- General Southern at Hammond, La.—June 25 to July 4.
- Akron, Ohio—July 2 to 11.
- Muncie, Indiana—July 9 to 18.
- Fresno, California—July 9 to 18.
- National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo.—July 23 to August 1.
- Missouri State at Myrtle, Mo.—August 4 to 11.
- Bakersfield, California—August 6 to 15.
- Blackford, Kentucky—August 13 to 22.
- Boley, Oklahoma—August 20 to 29.
- California State at Pacoima, Calif.—August 20 to 29.

OBITUARIES

Augustus William Buffington, the son of Ernest and Saphronia Buffington, was born on Nov. 11, 1900, in Vinita, Okla., and departed this life on Feb. 4, 1976, at Tulsa, Okla.

In June, 1972, he moved to Tulsa, Okla., where he met the saints, heard and embraced the truth and got saved. He loved the Lord and supported His church. He had a strong testimony with a desire to grow stronger for God. Until his health failed in October, 1975, he was faithful in attendance at the church services. Through his suffering he manifested a good spirit, always pleasant and willing to trust God all the way to the end.

Survivors include three brothers: Albert Buffington of Tulsa, Okla., Ernest Buffington of Seattle, Wash., and Herman Buffington of Vinita, Okla.; one sister, Jewel Wicliff of Vinita, Okla.; other relatives, many friends and saints.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. M. D. Gaines, assisted by Bros. Lewis Williams and Woodrow Warren, at the Church of God chapel in Tulsa. Interment was in the Crown Hill Cemetery, Tulsa.

Bro. Herman Solid was born in Whiting, Iowa, on April 5, 1897, and departed this life on December 30, 1975, at the Golden Rule Home in Shawnee, Okla., at the age of 78 years, eight months, and 25 days.

He was united in holy matrimony to Susie Anna Dewey in March, 1921. To this union four children were born. His wife preceded him in death in February, 1954. He later married Sis. Edith (Gibson) Parrell. She preceded him in death in January, 1960.

Left to mourn his passing are his two sons: Charles, of Anderson, Ind., and David, of Hankinson, North Dakota; two daughters, Mary Alice (Mrs. Lyle Kassube) of Bertha, Minn., and Cora Carol (Mrs. Junior Mathis) of Eudora, Mo.; one foster daughter, Mary Lou Moss (Mrs. Charles Best) of Pomona, Calif.; one step-daughter, Eleanor Parrell (Mrs. Kenneth Suites) of Huntsville, Ala.; one sister, Mrs. Clara Bromander of Ulen, Minn.; twelve grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, seven foster grandchildren, five foster great-grandchildren, other relatives, and friends.

Memorial services for Bro. Solid were conducted at the Church of God chapel in Shawnee, Okla., with Bro. Cecil Carver and Bro. Charles Smith officiating. His body was flown to Bertha, Minn., for services and burial. Interment was in the Zion Cemetery at Bertha, Minn., beside his first wife.

PRAYER AND CONSOLATION

From sin and disease Jesus died to set us free.
Lord, help us not to stop until we gain the victory.
If we die in the fight, the battle is not lost.
Let's fight the fight of faith, no matter what the cost.

—Effie Miller

Suffering is rough and hard to bear, but it hides beneath it discipline, education, and possibilities which not only leave us nobler, but perfect us to help others.

GOSPEL SINGING AND ALL-DAY EASTER MEETING AT PRATTSVILLE, ARK.

The Church of God at Prattsville, Ark., extends a warm welcome to all to attend their gospel singing on Saturday night, April 17, 1976, and remain for the all-day services on Easter Sunday, April 18. Come and worship the Lord together in song and praise, and hear God's Word.

For further information, contact Bro. Doug Walters, R. 2 Box 100M, Sheridan, Ark., phone 942-3321, or Bro. Clarence Bennings, R. 1, Prattsville, Ark., phone 699-4390.

SPRING MEETING IN OKLAHOMA CITY

The spring meeting at the Church of God chapel, 800 N. E. Third Street, Oklahoma City, Okla., will be held, Lord willing, on April 9 through April 18, 1976. If the Lord wills, Bro. E. J. Trotter of Fresno, Calif., will be in these services.

We are praying that God will richly anoint His preached Word and that precious souls will be blessed according to their need.

All are welcome to attend these services. For further information, phone the pastor, Bro. Herman Kelly, at number 405-427-7314.

ALL-DAY MEETINGS AT DAYTON, OHIO

The all-day services will be resumed on the second Sunday (14th) of March at the Church of God chapel in Dayton, Ohio, and continue on each second Sunday of April and May.

A hearty invitation is extended to all to come and worship the Lord in these services. The chapel is located at 622 Tyron Street.

For further information, contact John and Della Gutwein, 4008 Gardenview Dr., Dayton, Ohio 45431, phone 426-8159.

WICHITA, KANSAS, SPRING MEETING

The annual spring meeting at Wichita, Kansas, will be held, Lord willing, March 26 through April 4, 1976. We ask the saints everywhere to please be praying that the Lord will send the power and conviction from heaven that is needed to cause souls to tremble and yield to God.

Everyone who feels led to attend this meeting is welcome. We are asking God to send the ministers of His choice to deliver the Word that He sees is needed.

The chapel is located at 1701 North Ash Street. For further information, you can write the pastor, Bro. Lewis Williams, at 2643 North Spruce or phone him at 264-8481.

A man had contracted a fatal disease and was told by his doctor that he had only a year to live. He loved life and was greatly distressed. He wrote in his diary: "You have to be dying to understand the value of life!"

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

Tex.—"I have high blood pressure and arthritis . . . Please pray for me." —Lonnie F. Moyer

Canada—"Please pray especially for Bro. Lange, who has not been coming to church lately because he is so weak and cannot eat well. He is very much needed in church." —Bro. W. R. Froese

Kan.—"The place on my face and ear hasn't healed like I would like for it to, yet it is better . . . Keep praying." —Mrs. R. A. Tombleson

Ind.—"There is a place on my nose that has been there for nearly two years. I have just been told that it is cancer. Please pray for me. The Lord has promised to heal us." —Lettie West

Calif.—Remember Sis. Edith (Cole) Lara who has been very sick.

Tenn.—"We need your prayers . . . brought up in the Church of God . . . need salvation."

Nebr.—"Pray that the Lord will give me complete healing." —Sis. Alice Britt

Calif.—Bro. and Sis. Pat Huskey are not well in body.

Calif.—Sis. Ada Leach has trouble with her eye, stomach, and headaches.

Pa.—"Please pray for my left eye . . . I have a black spot in the pupil." —Elsie Christine

Ark.—"I am here caring for Sis. N. E. Adams. I plan to stay two weeks if things go well at home, but my dear husband (Bro. Albert Eck) called me this morning. He is not well, has a cold and cough. Coughing hurts his side so much, but we are praying the Lord to heal him. . . . Sis. Adams is very weak but encouraged to be faithful to the Lord. We are glad we can help her at this time. She can only be up a short time, then has to go back to bed as her side pains her more when she sits up than when she is lying down. She still desires your prayers for her." —Sis. Margaret Eck

Okla.—Remember Sis. Emma Dornhofer in prayer for her hearing. Due to a severe cold recently, she has lost over 50% of her hearing.

Continue to remember my brother, Lawrence Pruitt, in prayer. He has been having some pains which go through his head coming from that place under his ear. At times they are very severe. Our trust is still in the Lord for his healing. We do appreciate the saints' prayers and concern, but it will have to be God who does the healing, so let us continue to look to God in an agreement.

We want to keep a thankfulness in our hearts continually for what God does for us. We are to "let our requests be made known unto God" at all times with "supplication" and "with thanksgiving." Phil. 4:6. We read about the ten whom Jesus healed of leprosy, but only one came back to thank Him. Jesus asked the question, "Where are the nine?" Luke 17:11-18. There was such a small percentage of thankfulness in that group. We do not want to be among the nine, but may the Lord help us to continually thank and praise our God for the blessings He does bestow upon us, and I feel that it will touch Him in such a way that it will be a pleasure for Him to give us more blessings. Humility before God and thanksgiving bring the love and power of God flowing into our souls. —Sis. Marie Miles

MISSION LETTER FROM NIGERIA

Midwest State, Nigeria (Jan. 27)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus who became our Saviour and in whom all of God's fullness dwelleth. Praise Him forever!

Thank you for your letter dated Jan. 6th. Its contents were noted with many thanks. Truly, the mission field in Nigeria is white unto harvest, resulting in much demand for men of devotion and material. . . . What becomes of a child of God who is in a position to do, knows what to do, and fails to do it? One Brother said that time is running out, and we must rush to the rescue of perishing souls before God's wrath is poured out on this wicked world. What excuse will we have when we go to the Saviour empty-handed, without a soul with which to greet Him? By the grace of God, with support or no support, a royal welcome awaits this writer in the heavenly Kingdom if he endures to the end. Let us work for the Master from the dawn until the setting sun.

Pray for us for a steady adhesion to the commandments of God. We are determined and we need God's strength to go through to that final victory.

—Titus U. E. Enu, pastor

MISSION REPORT FROM OJOS NEGROS, MEX., AND SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

Dear ones: Greetings in Jesus' holy name. I received a letter from the young couple, Senores Mayarino Escobar and wife, in Ojos Negros, Mexico, who are carrying on the mission work and I will relate it to you as they did to me.

There is quite a bit of flu and illness there. They had both been ill, but the Lord made them able to carry on services, both there and in the Valley, helping Bro. Tomas Mendoza who is not well. They desire more literature and taped messages which, Lord willing, we will try to send as often as possible. Their desire is to consecrate themselves more fully to do the work of the Lord there, and also that we all pray much for them and the congregations. They send their greetings to all.

I am encouraged with the printing work in Spanish. Until such time as we have regular hours and a working crew, by the help of the Lord I am continuing to print on the mimeograph which the Lord provided for me in Mexico. The tape ministry and the condensations of messages are also coming along nicely.

I desire your prayers that I will be a vessel of honor unto the Lord in this new channel of work for Him.

The address of the missionary couple in Mexico is: Senores Mayarino Escobar, Ap. Postal No. 284, Ensenada, B. Cfa., Mexico.

Christian love,

—Sis. Opal Kelly

1006 N. W. 90th, Okla. City, Okla., 73114

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Jan. 21)—Dear Bro. Pruitt, co-workers, and saints abroad: Greetings to all in the precious name of Jesus Christ, "who hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the Spirit: for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life." (2 Cor. 3:6). "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth

us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place." (2 Cor. 2:14).

Thank you very much for your good letter dated Jan. 5, and the enclosures were noted with many thanks and gratitude. I am a little late to reply to your letter as I was busy with the general campmeeting here last week. We had a very blessed meeting this year at Karikkom. It was very successful when compared to previous years' meetings. Several were saved and the Church was encouraged by the wonderful messages. A very large crowd, including outsiders, attended the night services. Eight young people were baptized on the last day. The Evening Light songs, which we printed recently, were a blessing to the campmeeting. God supplied the temporal needs of the meeting, too. All praise to the good Lord!

Lord willing, we plan to conduct another campmeeting of the same type at Niranam during the last week of February. Your special prayers are requested for it.

Yes, brother, I shall wait until 1977 to come over there to attend campmeetings when Bro. Hammond will be free to take us to all places. Certainly, it is good fellowship to travel with him. . . .

The chapel building at Thevalappuram is progressing step by step. . . .

Yours in the Lord, —John Varghese

FROM THE MAIL BOX . . .

Idaho—Dear saints scattered abroad: Greetings today in the sweet and precious Name of Jesus. He has been so good to us and we want to thank each one for your prayers for us. We have felt His hand of love underneath us in a very special way. The pathway we have walked has been much different the last few months, as many of you dear ones have learned as you have walked this way, too.

Daddy fell the 13th of January and broke three ribs under his left arm as well as hurting his lip and head in the fall. Others, who have had much less of a tumble, have broken hips and other bones, so we know that the Lord was with him and was helping him. He tripped over a piece of frozen ice and fell on another piece which he struck with his ribs. He had to sit in Mamma's recliner for nine nights. However, he is now able to rest in bed, for which we are most grateful. We want to thank each one of you for your prayers, even though you might not have known why the burden. The Lord did, and you were faithful, for which we thank each one.

In Christian love, —Ruby Marken

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

Ohio—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings of love in the precious name of Jesus. We are so happy that Bro. and Sis. Wm. McCoy arrived there safely. We surely do miss them here in Dayton, but are happy they are both doing well.

I am glad to report the saints here are doing about the same. The Lord is still answering prayer for us all. We truly rejoice how the Lord healed Bro. Earl Sharp. Truly, we need every one, and desire your prayers that we prove true and faithful.

We pray for all of you and the work there. "Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ

will last." My prayer is, "Lord, what would you have me do?" I think of the song that says, "His service is my sweetest delight." I can sing this from the heart.

—Sis. Della Gutwein

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

Ohio—Dear Brothers and Sisters: I am sending another small order for books from you. I am surely glad that you have a vision of the message in these books, and are determined that this message is sent out. I remember when I was a small boy, seventy years ago, that the Anderson group cherished those messages. . . .

My mother was converted in the same meeting with Willis Brown in 1895. She married soon after that, and I was born in 1896. The minister was Willis Bunch from Oaktown, Ind. I heard Dr. Morgan preach soon after he was healed of T. B. You have a tract on his life and experience of his healing. —Herman Dale

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

W. Va.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: Greetings in Jesus' name. We trust all are well and encouraged to press on for the Lord. This leaves us pressing on.

The Lord is wonderfully blessing the congregation here. Most everyone is growing in the Lord. . . . We want to build a chapel here as soon as we can find a suitable location. We desire your prayers for this effort. There were over forty in the service last Sunday, Feb. 8, and others who usually come were not there. We do need a chapel. A number around here seem to be interested in the truth.

I want to give you the dates of our coming summer meeting, and I thought we would call it a campmeeting this year. Lord willing, it will be held on June 18 to 27, 1976, at Green Bank.

Sister Myrtle Warner of Baltimore, Md., passed away on Feb. 1, 1976. The funeral was held in Baltimore with this writer in charge of the service. Sister Warner was a real saint. Though isolated, she left a good testimony for the Lord. She was the mother of Sister Buzzard here in the congregation. She had been getting the "Faith and Victory" paper for many years.

Remember us in prayer as we will do for you.

—Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons

P. O. Box 127, Green Bank, W. Va. 24944

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

Ark.—Dear friends at the Print Shop: I trust the blessings are flowing in, and certainly they are going out. We can only give out as the Lord gives to us. I am reminded of the Scripture, "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have, give I unto thee."

The Lord blesses in abundance every day in every way. My desire is to be an humble disciple of the Lord in little things.

We are prospering in the Lord, and each service with the saints brings a real blessing. Words just can't express the spiritual uplift we all received from Bro. Eddie Wilson's messages of truth that he brought us last fall. Oh, how good God is to us!

We desire your prayers, for some of us have some afflictions. We are trusting the Lord to consider us.

I enjoy the "Faith and Victory" paper and glad to share it. —Alalue Bray

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

Ark.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: Greetings of love to you and all the workers at the print shop. We here are so

thankful for the Divine love of God to us. Since we were there, the Lord has wonderfully upheld Clarence (Poodle) Bennings and his family during their time of sorrow. Only the Lord can be near enough to give the comfort needed in such times and He never fails those who seek Him. Also, the Lord protected Nellie Henderson and her boys in an accident. No one was hurt and their car received only minor scratches. We are so thankful to have put away the spirit of the world and received the "spirit, which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

We look forward to the beginning of each month for the arrival of the "Faith and Victory" paper. We enjoyed the article on "Being Renewed In The Spirit of Your Mind" [Feb. issue].

May the Lord continue to bless and keep each of you.

—Doug and Barbara Walters

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

Mich.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: We send greetings in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. We are all well and much encouraged to press on and live pleasing to the Lord.

We have so much to be thankful for. God has been real good to us. He has been everything to us that His Word says He will be. He is God and there is no other. Isa. 46:9. It is wonderful to know that He is the One and only true God. . . . Just think, what a terrible lot of confusion in a person's thinking there would be if there were two Gods. God's Word says in Eph. 4:5,6, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." No person needs to be confused. Thank God for His Word of truth!

We have been receiving the "Faith and Victory" paper and the Bible Lessons that you send. We thank you much.

The Lord is still causing Jamie's nose, throat, and hearing problems to heal up. He took a hearing test in school, some time ago, and was told he had no hearing problem. We are still trusting God to do a complete healing, in such a way that Jamie (who is twelve years old) will remember that it was God who did it.

Pray for us here when you think of us. We need the prayers of God's people. We will remember to pray for you and the work there.

—Bro. Milford and Sis. Dorothy Parsons

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Fla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in our precious Saviour! I am very thankful for the "Faith and Victory" paper. I am ever grateful for the truth that I have read. I want to be a better witness, also serving better in my community. I love the church and what it stands for. . . .

God bless you and all the staff that make the reading of the Word possible for me. "Faith and Victory" is a great paper and do keep up the good work.

—Alford J. Sanchez

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Minn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Great are His tender mercies. "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." So far He has supplied all my needs, and what is over I return to the Lord by way of "helps." I am still well and going on until He calls me home. I just passed my eighty-ninth birthday. I am still looking for His soon coming to take me out of this sin-cursed world. . . .

The Lord bless you all in the Print Shop and keep you in health and strength. —Bro. Andrew Senti

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Pa.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings in Jesus' precious Name, the only Name given whereby we can be saved.

Thank you for the nice letter. We truly know that we are living in the closing days of time and there is so much corruptness and dishonesty everywhere, even in our government. There are not many who are concerned about their souls. The Bible is true and it is now like it was in the days of Noah. They did not believe Noah when he warned them to get into the ark. They were alarmed when it was too late. Mercy's door is still open. Thank God! "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." If souls could only see this! It seems that the devil keeps them blinded to their need.

I enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory" paper. I especially enjoyed the article, "Boundary Line" by E. E. Byrum [Jan. issue].

Remember us all in prayer. We do remember you all and the work there. —Sis. Cora Silfer

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Okla.—Dear Sis. Marie: I truly want to keep heaven in view for I want to see God face to face. Feeling His presence is wonderful, but I want to see Him for myself... I'm still pressing on for my Lord. It seems such a little I can do to promote the cause anymore.

—Sis. Hettie J. Barton

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Okla.—Dear Bro. Lawrence, Sis. Maybelle, and Sis. Marie: Greetings to you in the love of Jesus. Today finds us encouraged in the way of the Lord, knowing that He knows what is best for us. Though He permits us to pass through some hard trials sometimes, yet He encourages our hearts with good thoughts from His Word and makes us to know that He only permits what is best for us. We have just been looking to Him to make of us what He wants us to be.

I [Lillian Eck] am improving from the injury, though it is slow, but so thankful for every bit of help the Lord gives me. We appreciate all the nice cards, letters and flowers, and most of all, your earnest prayers to God in our behalf. They have meant so much. . . .

May the Lord bless you each one as you labor to get the gospel to precious souls.

With Christian love,

—Bro. Edwin and Sis. Lillian Eck

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Ohio—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in Jesus' name. These lines leave me encouraged in my soul and seeking to walk closely to my Lord and Saviour.

I appreciate the prayers that were offered for me when I was sorely afflicted. God has done so much for me, and I know I am not worthy of all He has done. I mean to run this Christian race according to God's Word. . . . I have been back to work now two weeks. I didn't feel back to normal, but I looked to God and He gave me the strength for each day, and I feel so much better now. I surely praise Him for His love to me. . . .

In Christian love, —Bro. Earl Sharp

Okla.—Dear ones: I had a desire all of my life to be a true saint, but I did not know how to get saved until after I married. I always had to work, which I think was good for me, as my parents were poor and we all had to work to get by, as there was a large family of us children. I never was taught spiritual things, yet my parents were moral people.

After my second child was born, my husband attended a holiness meeting and really seemed to get saved. The folks who held the meeting left and he didn't get to go to a meeting like that any more. His folks, all except one brother and sister, opposed him, as they believed in a sin-you-must religion. After he got saved, we had prayer meeting in our home and around the neighborhood. I felt that the Lord forgave me in one of those meetings, but later my husband gave up the Lord. I wasn't strong enough to go on and I gave up, too.

It was eight years later when I got saved again. This time, I had a deep determination to go all the way with the Lord. Before I got saved the last time, I believed holiness, but I thought I could never accept divine healing. The Lord let me know that it was His will and I had to accept it, or be lost. I saw I needed the standing grace. The Lord sanctified me while at home. I have trusted Him for soul and body ever since that day.

The Lord led me to have family worship in my home. The Lord blessed me in all my undertakings for Him. He led me to go pray for the sick before I met the true saints, and He honored the efforts I put forth. Sometimes my husband would take me in the wagon, but most of the time I would walk. The Lord was good to heal me and my children when we would need a healing touch. I had a bad case of poison ivy. I did have quite a test, but the Lord did touch and heal me.

I was writing to Sis. Mary Pruitt at Guthrie, Okla. I asked if some of the saints were living down our way. If so, we would be glad to have them visit us. Soon Bro. Darius Gibson and family came. They were the first saints we had met that we knew of. What a blessing that was for them to come! Louie wasn't saved, but he was anxious for Bro. Darius to preach for us. I went with him to see about getting a place. Bro. Darius preached six nights and a very good crowd attended. Before we met the saints, I feel I helped two sisters accept the truth by giving them tracts and talking to them. One of these sisters was some older than me, but she seemed to like to read the tracts I gave her, also liked for me to visit her. I believe she got saved, sanctified and made it into Heaven. The other sister was younger than me. She is Effie Miller, now living at Loranger, La. She says I have been a blessing to her, but she has been a real blessing to me since she accepted the truth. She could understand me and help make the rough places smooth for me. . . .

My children started getting saved when Bro. and Sis. Pat Huskey were there. I was so happy about that. All my children got saved except one. Later, one got discouraged and gave up. That makes two that are out of the Ark of Safety, but I am holding on for their salvation before it is too late.

I am more determined to press the battle on for the Lord. He has been so good to me. I would not think about giving Him up now, because I know if I stay with Him, He will stay with me. He will never leave, nor

forsake me. He is so good to answer prayer and help in time of need. I can never thank and praise Him enough for what He has done and is doing for me in my declining days. I am so glad the Lord saved me when He did and brought me to the true saints. I am still here to do what I can for the Lord and work while it is day. I do love all the saints. I appreciate their prayers.

I remember Bro. Darius Gibson telling us we need to hold on to the Lord because we don't have much farther to go. That is true, especially if we live to be old. Our life is just like a vapor. All of our trials and tests will seem as nothing when we get to the end of the way.

I desire the saints' prayers for all my loved ones, the saved and the unsaved, also for all of my step-children. They are all very dear to my heart.

—Sis. Katie Gibson

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La.—Dear Sis. Marie: We appreciate all the prayers of the saints. We don't know what the trouble was with our son, Kevin, but we thank and praise the Lord for healing him. Kevin missed two weeks and one day of school. He yet tires easily. The Lord was faithful to comfort and encourage us through the dark hours. I felt like the disciples when Jesus asked them if they would go away, and Peter said, "To whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." I don't know what we would do if we couldn't go to the Lord.

—Sis. Vergie and Bro. Kenneth Flynn

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Ore.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and Sis. Marie: For about two years I have had a bad time with arthritis, and in January, 1975, it got so bad that I could not even sit in a chair without pain, nor turn over in bed. Bro. and Sis. O. B. Wilson came and prayed for me. It got so much better and I could sit in a chair, also could turn over in bed. But by April, my hands got so I couldn't handle a paring knife, or a pencil. I was helping a neighbor who had her leg amputated, so I had to have her peel the potatoes. During our last campmeeting I was anointed and prayed for. From that time to now, it has gradually gotten less and less until I am almost entirely free of it.

About a month ago I started having some trouble with my heart. It would flutter and skip beats, sometimes beat fast and hard for awhile. I was again anointed and prayed for. Once after that, it beat hard and fast for three and one half hours one night, but that was the last time I have had any trouble. I have felt better now for the last two weeks than I have for two years. I give God all the credit and praise for it, and I do thank Him over and over for what He has done.

—Hilda Nielsen

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Calif.—Dear Sis. Marie and workers: Greetings in the Lord. We just feel impressed to write a testimony of thanksgiving. The Lord has been so good to us over the past year of 1975. We first want to thank Him for keeping us saved through the trials of life. It is such a blessing to testify of being saved and sanctified. My dear mother, Sis. Ulysses Phillips, would boldly testify that she was saved and sanctified and kept by the mighty power of God. We can say the same.

We are thankful how the Lord spared the lives of our family while enroute to services one night. A confused driver had entered the freeway and turned the opposite

direction. This could have caused a tragic head-on collision, but through the mercies of God, we were spared from the accident. Isn't the Lord good to His children? We are thankful how the Lord protected our son's eyes when hot water from a radiator sprayed into his face. We are thankful for the Divine guidance of the Lord through the tests of life. He never fails us, even though sometimes it seems we can bear no more. He knows just when to answer. We are thankful for His goodness to our elderly ones here in the San Bernardino congregation. They are a blessing to us all.

There are so many things that we could write, but will refrain at this time. The Lord has been so good to us in more ways that we can tell.

—Sis. Olive Davenport

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Okla.—Dear Sister Marie and saints: Greetings of love in the name of the Lord. He has given me a healing touch to my body. I was real sick Sunday evening, February 8th. We called for prayer, and the Lord was good and would send relief, then I would get worse again. After church services, Ted, my husband, called and asked Bro. Richard Madden to come. As prayer was being offered, the Lord sent a healing touch to my body. I believe I must have felt like the woman in the Bible felt when she touched the hem of Jesus' garment and healing virtue went through her body. I was able to lie down and rest. The next day, I was able to be up and about my house work. It is just wonderful! It has been a real blessing to Ted and the children, too.

I want to thank the saints for your concern, prayers, cards and letters of encouragement. They have been such a blessing to us in this long battle with afflictions. Do continue to pray for us. The devil has been right here to try to discourage, but there is no doubt in my mind but that the Lord gave me healing to my body. I thank Him for it.

My heart is burdened for those who are suffering under afflictions. "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Be encouraged!

Again, we ask you to remember us in your prayers.

Christian love, —Alta Bock and family

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La.—Dear saints: Greetings in the sweet name of Jesus. Oh, the power in that name! How thankful we are that we can have access to that power when we come in the Name of Jesus.

We have been praying much that the money will be provided for the brethren to come to the United States from Africa and the Philippines. It staggers us when we think of the great cost, but thank God, we do not stagger at the power of God. We know that He holds the wealth of this world in His hands. All He has to do is speak the word and the money can be provided. As I was praying about this, I thought of Jesus sending Peter to take money from the mouth of a fish to pay taxes, so God has ways to do what He desires. We are sending a small offering to be divided for the fund to get the brethren here.

I want to thank you folks for the anointed handkerchief which you sent me some time ago. I've really been in the furnace of affliction the past ten months, and nearly always have that handkerchief on my body. The Lord has wonderfully blessed me. Some of

the afflictions are better, and I'm holding on for complete healing. I still have so much pain and several knots in my right breast. One night, a few nights ago, I was not able to sleep or rest, the pain was almost more than I could bear. I got the anointed cloth and applied it with prayer. I told the Lord that I knew that you dear ones had prayed as earnestly as you knew how for my healing and I claimed His promise. After awhile the pain eased and I could sleep. I've had victory over that affliction for three days now.

I want to tell how the Lord blessed me in getting my birth certificate. The I. R. S. informed us last July that I must have a Social Security number as well as my husband. In order to obtain one, I had to have a birth certificate (which I had never had). I started in July trying to obtain one and filled out so many forms. I had my sister in Oklahoma to go before the notary public and fill out a form and still I couldn't get my birth certificate. This went on until December. I went before the Lord in earnest prayer about it. In less than two weeks I had it. If I would have prayed about it in the first place, no doubt I would have obtained it much sooner — so I learned a precious lesson.

We pray always for each of you and the work of the Lord you are doing. —Sis. Sybil Goldsberry

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Okla.—Dear saints in the Lord's Print Shop, all other saints, and friends whom I wish were saints, too: I am thankful to the dear Lord for the "Faith and Victory" paper. It is food for my soul. I enjoy the good testimonies. I read in the February paper the article, "Why Trust God for Healing?" Though the good article has many scriptures, it just challenges my soul to tell why I have trusted God for sixty-two years for healing — and some of the results.

From the age of two weeks, I was in church services; also brought up in a home with family altar devotions, where we were all taught to pray, sing, and read the blessed Bible. When I was seven years old, I had a severe case of diphtheria. Soon after that, I had a bad case of whooping cough. The effects of these afflictions caused me to be a sickly child. Though my parents were devout Christians, they had not learned about trusting God for the divine healing of the body. Consequently, I had to take lots of medicine, sometimes three times a day. I hated that awful medicine and would say, "When I get to be my own boss, I'll not take medicine." I believe God heard me say those words and had a better plan for me.

When I became sixteen, my tonsils were so badly infected that I became rheumatic, and I was unable to walk across the room without help. The doctor said my tonsils had to come out. That operation was not so common at that time, and I expect the doctor did the best he knew. He told me that one tonsil was so embedded that he didn't get it all out and it might grow in again and give me trouble.

When I was eighteen I had a nervous breakdown, and was not able to return to school. Later, I got a job that relieved that condition somewhat. About a year later I was married. Of course, I always went to church as usual. One night after young people's service, my husband suggested we visit at a little downtown mission where his mother and sisters attended. There I met some

very friendly people, and a different kind of service and preaching. We attended several times, and I heard about trusting God for the healing of the body. Soon afterward, I had a severe case of mumps. (Everything went hard with me.) The doctor gave me a prescription. One day, two sisters from that little mission called to see me. Before they left they asked if they might pray. Of course, I was willing. I can't remember the prayer, but it deeply affected me, and I saw that praying to God to heal me was the answer to "Taking no medicine when I became my own boss." I looked at that bottle of medicine, then looked in prayer to God. I said, "Lord, if you will heal me, I'll take no more medicine." Immediately, He gave me the assurance in my soul that He would be my Healer. Praise His name! Soon my husband came home. I said, "Erle, take that bottle of medicine out to the alley and throw it in the trash can." He looked at me very puzzled and asked, "Why?" I said, "Because I've taken my last drop of medicine." That was March, 1914. I have kept my promise and decision firm until this day, February 11, 1976. I've been sick many times, been in accidents, unconscious with ptomaine poisoning and three hours with a heart attack.

When I was thirty years of age, I had a bad case of scarlet fever. That one tonsil completely closed my throat and I could not swallow, and I was in a coma. Brother and Sister George Harmon came, even though I was quarantined, prayed the prayer of faith and I was healed. Oh, praise God! "He is the same yesterday, and today and forever." I could tell so much more — but will say God has never failed me yet, and I am eighty-two years of age. I am happy today in His love and care.

My husband faithfully trusted God. Together, we trusted God to heal our four children and none of them had any medicine while in our care.

Why trust God for healing? One reason is that God said, "I am the Lord that healeth thee." I have proved Him to be true to His promises, and divine healing is for soul and body. —Sis. Vera Forbes

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La.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt and saints abroad: The devil doesn't want me to write this testimony for the paper, and I have put it off too long already in listening to him. I can testify that I am saved today, and the Lord has surely blessed me down through life in so many ways, both physically and spiritually. Sorry to say, I haven't lived victoriously at all times and have made many failures and blunders, but I am so glad that we have a forgiving Lord and He has proved His love to us over and over. He looks on our heart, when man looks only on the outward appearance. I am glad my name is recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life.

I just want to live closer to the Lord and do more for Him than I have ever done, as He leads, for I know He has spared me for some purpose. The doctors once told my parents I couldn't live until I was thirteen years of age, as my heart was so bad, but I will be fifty-two in May, 1976, and it has been a miracle how the Lord has given me strength and help even after I married. I guess there have been very few times that my husband has had to wait on me from sickness, and that is a miracle. My parents could testify how sickly I was all through my

childhood days. Even after I graduated from school, I began having heart attacks, and only through prayer I was spared. My Grandmother Doolittle was a woman of great faith, and I have always felt that it was mainly through her holding on to God for me, that the Lord spared my life. Of course, many others were praying, too, including my parents, but I was with my grandmother at that time in California, and she just stayed with me and held on for me until the Lord heard prayer. Bro. G. E. Harmon, Sr., and other ministers anointed and prayed for me, and one asked the Lord to give me a new heart. Surely, He must have done just that. To God I give all the praise! And then there was another miracle when the Lord healed me of tumor, after I was married. I guess all of us could go on and on, and tell of God's goodness. Isn't it wonderful to be able to commit ourselves, body and soul, to this wonderful God?

I hear the world talking of specialists. I am so glad we have a very great Specialist; One who never makes a mistake; One who made our bodies and knows exactly what to do for us. And if He doesn't see fit to heal us, He just takes us on to be with Him in that beautiful mansion He has prepared for us. Who could ask for more than this in life?

And it is so wonderful to know that even though our God is so great, He condescends to listen to our little petty trials and the things that others would think very small, but yet mean very much to us. Doesn't it thrill our hearts when we pray for some daily need that no one else knows anything about, and then the Lord answers in such a miraculous way? We know that He was listening to just my supplication and it thrills us to know that He was noticing "little me."

I promised the Lord I would testify to this instance if He would hear and answer prayer. We had had three cows missing for quite some time and were beginning to worry about them. We have "open range" here and the cows can go miles in any direction through the woods to hunt grass, but they usually come home every few days in the summer and about every night in the winter. But this instance was a few weeks ago, and we knew these cows needed some extra feeding. Merrill, my husband, rode through some of the woods on his horse, but the vegetation was grown up so that it was impossible to find the cows. So we just prayed about it, and one evening, as we were coming home from Alexandria, and at a point about 2½ miles from our home, there stood all three cows just inside the fence by the road, and Merrill was able to bring them in with the horse a little later. I really believe the Lord led them there just at that time so we could see them. They were needing extra feed, and no doubt we would have lost all of them if we hadn't found them. That isn't the first time the Lord has caused the cows to come home when we would pray about it. We are in the process of fencing our land to keep them in most of the time, but the Lord has had mercy on us and heard prayer many times. This may sound foolish to some, but I promised the Lord I would tell it, and the devil has tried to make me keep putting it off. These experiences prove that we can take everything to God in prayer. As Sis. Opal Wilson used to say, "Every anxiety of the heart should be a call to prayer." Pray for us that we keep true unto the end. —Mrs. Merrill Williamson

The World In Confusion

"For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work." James 3:16.

We are living in a world of confusion and deceitfulness on every hand. Not only is this true in the religious world, but also is true in almost all branches of advertising of wares. The commercial world has professional men to do this for them, and each one uses words to deceive the public in trying to make them believe their product is better than the other fellow's. A lot of folks are deceived by high advertising. Big corporations know that their sales depend on advertising. And the men who write the ads for them stress a point to make the public believe this product is better. In order for them to keep the business of advertising for the corporation, they use all the tricks of the trade. They are not interested so much in the product, but are interested in keeping the account of their customer.

This seems to hold true in the religious world also. In the beginning of this century, the Church cried out loudly against "Babylon" and her evils. They preached, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Rev. 18:4. It seems now that the fire has just about burned out. Yes, it brought persecution. God's truth always brings persecution. But it also brought results and many came out of Babylon. Where there is no fire, there is not much excitement. God manifested Himself in mighty ways, in casting out devils and healing the sick and crippled. Yes, and in opening the eyes of the blind and raising the dead. These things were manifested to the world and large crowds came to see the wonderful workings of God. But those same ministers that God used spent much time in fasting and prayer. This is the secret of all great men of God.

Today the religious world has gone modern, they call it. I call it backslidden. In order to have a big crowd, they give them what the world uses to draw a big crowd—entertainment. So those that do not agree with this sort of thing depart and start another "church." Some get big ambitions and want to make a big name for themselves. They get together some accomplished musicians, maybe begin making records, and go to the cities and rent a large auditorium. They do a lot of advertising on the radio and in the newspapers, so as to get a large crowd to help them pay for all of this. They tell the people that it cost a lot of money to come to their city and rent this building, and to pay for the radio and TV time, and they tell folks that they don't get a dime of it, that it all goes to the Lord's work. Folks begin to write checks and they get a large offering. This is the way they have in keeping on the radio and making a big name for themselves. Many are deceived in following these preachers. Jesus said, "Many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." Mark 13:6. Others are so-called "divine healers," and deceive many this way. Maybe they don't deceive many that are in good health, but those that are afflicted and "grabbing at straws" flock to them by the thousands. The reason for a lot of this is that folks do not take time to read their Bible any more. So they take the easy way, listen to the preacher and believe what he says. But Jesus asked, "How can one enter into a strong man's

house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man?" Matt. 12:29. Again Jesus said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3. First, we have to repent and then be baptized. The Apostle Peter said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you. . . ." "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." John 12:24.

"For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together." Matt. 24:28. Where those dead deceivers are gathered, there you will find the eagles devouring their doctrine. "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect [or chosen of God]" Matt. 24:24. "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit." Matt. 7:13,14,16,17.

I remember reading of a people that wanted to make a great name for themselves. They said, "Let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name . . ." But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower. And the Lord confounded their speech, so they could not understand one another. So the Lord scattered them upon the face of the earth. Therefore is the name of it called Babel. Gen. 11:4,9. This same spirit is in men today. They want to make a big name for themselves and become famous, using the name of Christ and religion. This is confusing to the sinner. He does not know who is right and who is wrong. Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." Matt. 12:30.

Many think this old world is getting out of hand, and the Communists will soon be taking over our government. "They that plow iniquity and sow wickedness, reap the same." Job 4:8. God is still on His throne looking down on the sins of men. We will reap what we sow. Men have turned their back on God and His commandments, and have made new laws and become liberal in their thinking, contrary to God's laws, so we all will have to suffer. Folks have no time for God, but are all wrapped up in the "idiot box" or TV. If the children "get in their hair," they just set them in front of the TV and it becomes the baby sitter. But God commanded His chosen people in ancient times not to take up with those nations that He put out before them nor serve their gods. "Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing." Deut. 7:26. The TV is an abomination in the sight of God, and it is a cursed thing. It is not only destroying family ties and marriages, but is destroying the youth of our nation. Crime has increased by 55% in the last year, until our government doesn't know how to cope with it. People are not safe at home or in public anymore, and I say the TV is the cause of much of it. Folks are looking for the politicians to save them. They

thought Nixon was the man and elected him by a landslide, only to find out he was a big disappointment, and he resigned under the threat of impeachment. What a disgrace to a nation that was known as a Christian nation! There is no hope for our nation only in God. And the only thing that will appease God's wrath is for men every where to repent, turn to the Almighty Father, and beg forgiveness, or be destroyed. We are at His mercy.

May God's Spirit deal with each soul, and His mercy be upon each one, is my prayer. —Earl Bliss

Have Faith In God

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." —John 15:7.

But it must be according to His will.

"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us. And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." —I John 5:14-15.

Upon conditions that we obey Him.

"And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." —I John 3:22.

Ask of the Father in the name of Jesus.

"That whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." —John 15:16.

"If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." —John 14:14.

Do not ask for a selfish purpose.

"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." —Jas. 4:3.

Ask and doubt not.

"For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith." —Mark 11:23.

Believe that you do receive.

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." —Matt. 21:22.

"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them." —Mark 11:24.

You must have faith.

"Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you." —Matt. 9:29.

"If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." —Matt. 17:20.

You must obey, and act on your faith.

"There was a man which had his hand withered. Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth: and it was restored whole, like as the other." —Matt. 12:10,13.

"In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." —Acts 3:6.

"Thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague." —Mark 5:34.

Be sure you are right with God; learn His will; and then do not be afraid to trust Him. —Sel.