

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

## Church of God Servant



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### *Abraham, Father of the Faithful*



Think of Abraham your father,  
Called alone of God to be  
For a blessing, being faithful  
On the stream of history.

Worshipped he the God of Heaven  
In the midst of idols vain,  
Revelations to him given  
Of a promised land to gain.

When as yet his wife was barren,  
While as yet he had no seed,  
He went forth from out to Haran  
Guidance from the Lord to plead.

In the doorway was he standing  
When three men approached him there,  
One of whom was God, commanding  
That his wife a son would bear.

And according to that promise  
In due time his son was born,  
Called him Isaac, which means "laughter,"  
He and Sarah had so worn.

But, 'twas true, the promise given  
Staggered not his steadfast heart,  
Knowing that the God of heaven  
Would not fail to do His part.

For in Isaac future treasures  
Of the love and grace of God  
Would be sent in bounteous measures  
Far and wide, at home, abroad.

Thus his faith so greatly proven  
Did become a goodly seed,  
Carried on the winds of heaven  
Everywhere for mortals' need.

And today his children faring  
Are we now if we believe  
On the Lord who for us caring  
All our worship will receive.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### *Building on The Rock*



"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt. 16:18.

Some teach that Christ built His church on Peter, but this is a false interpretation. All through the Word of God, Christ is referred to as "the Rock." So, Christ was teaching that He was "that Rock," and the Church was built upon the doctrine of Christ — that rock-like confession which Peter made to Jesus, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matt. 16:16.

We sing a song, "Are you building on the Rock Eternal? Are you building on the sinking sand?" What kind of foundation are you building upon? Everyone is building on some kind of foundation, whether you realize it or not. The kind of foundation you are building upon is the most important thing in your life. Jesus laid a sure foundation over nineteen hundred years ago for us to build upon. He did not consult the wise men of His day as to how to build this foundation. But He built this foundation in obedience to His Father in heaven. For He said, "And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him." John 8:29. He didn't come to please Himself, but to please the Father that sent Him. He was that Rock of offence and the Stone of stumbling that the builders rejected. Folks are still rejecting Him today.

There are several kinds of material which you can use to build your structure — even earthly materials such as gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, and stubble. But these materials are all as stubble, and will be "burned up" when Jesus comes.

Jesus tells us of a rich man who built on material prosperity and lost his soul. He said, "The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: and he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there I will bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall these things be, which thou hast provided?" Luke 12:16-20.

The world says it doesn't hurt to make a lot of money, have a new home and a new car, as long as you don't have your heart set on these things. But Jesus said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matt. 6:19-21.

Young people, take note: Some of our young people meet other young people that are not raised up among the saints. The Bible teaches us not to marry out of the faith, but some go ahead and marry out of the faith, thinking they will work out their problems after they are married. No, you won't. After you are married you are hooked, and generally they will drag you down to their level. Solomon was a very wise man, to whom God had appeared twice. He married "outlandish women," whom God had commanded the Israelites not to marry, and those wives dragged him down to their standard, and he lost out with God; and his son, who was heir to the kingdom, ended up with but one tribe because of God's promise to David. Jesus said, "If a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand." Mark 3:25. You cannot change folks to your way of thinking. Only God can do that, and He doesn't do this against people's will. So, young people, take warning from Solomon's experience. Build your marriage on a holy and firm foundation, and have the approval of God upon you, and you will save yourself much heartache, grief and sorrow.

We have of many cults springing up in our land, even more witchcraft, star-gazing, devil worship and all kinds of evil spirits. Folks want to be left alone to do as they please. They don't want the public or the government to reprove them of their evil deeds. They call this their "private lives." But none of us lives to himself in this world nor do we die to ourselves. We are all responsible to God, and all will stand before Him and give an account of the deeds done in the flesh, whether good or bad. The Word says, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day [judgment day] shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is." 1 Cor. 3:11,10b,13.

The devil has always tried to mimic God. When Pharaoh called in his magicians, they did in like manner as Aaron. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods, showing that God was the supreme power. The devil is still deceiving folks today by his slick and slimy ways. Folks don't like this way that Jesus instructed us to follow. They are still rejecting the Christ that God sent. God gave them over to their enemies who destroyed their temple and their city, and they were carried captives throughout all nations, because they rejected that prophet that Moses told them God would send unto them, and said, "Him ye shall hear." But they would not hear Him. When the Jews had Stephen before the council, he was telling them all the mighty things that God had done for them, and how they had refused to follow the law of Moses, had killed the

prophets, even when it was given them by the dispensation of angels. Then he said, "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye." Acts 7:51. So God gave them up and gave this Foundation to the Gentiles. "And in his name shall the Gentiles trust." Matt. 12:21. When Jesus was telling the Jews of the signs of the times, He said, "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled." Luke 21:24.

As long as the Gentile governments built upon this Foundation, God prospered those nations. England once had a true statement, "The sun never sets on British soil." But look where they are today. Going down, down, down. Our forefathers came over from England to America where they could worship God in freedom. Our laws were founded on the laws of God, and God has exalted this nation above all the nations of the world. We are about to observe two hundred years of this freedom that God gave to us, and the prosperity that went along with it. But now wicked men and seducers have taken our government, and have forgotten the God that gave us all these things, and the foundation that our nation was built upon, and are laying a new foundation of hay and stubble. This law of truth that God has trusted us with has been rejected and they are laying another foundation which will be burned with fire. God is no respecter of persons. What He let happen to the Jews, He will let happen to us. "God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

I feel the times of the Gentiles are being fulfilled when God is taking this freedom away from them and will give dominion to their enemies. Man is trying to run things without God. The end is very near. Jesus said, "For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." Luke 21:35,34.

"And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be in the days of the Son of man." Luke 17:26. We read in God's Word that violence filled the earth in Noah's day. What do we have in the whole earth now, but violence? Violence is everywhere, and folks are afraid to go out at night. I remember that a few years ago we didn't think of locking our doors at night, and no one bothered anything. We never had anything stolen. But now, folks have changed and the devil is turned loose. You can't go away and leave your home, or it will be broken into. They might break in while you are there. So we are living in those days that Jesus told us would come upon the whole earth.

But Jesus told us to watch for we know not the hour or the day when He will come. But He is surely coming—coming for His own. All the rest that know not God will be cast into the lake of fire with the devil and his angels, where the worm dieth not, where the pain and torment will never cease. Isn't this a sad thought! All your friends and loved ones that know not God will be separated from you forever in a devil's hell.

Our life is but a moment of time compared to eternity. What kind of a foundation are you building upon? Are you building on the Solid Rock? Are you building with gold, silver, hay, or stubble? These things are all going to be "burned up," and when you come to leave this world all these things will lose their value. If you have ever tasted of the love of God in your heart, nothing else will ever satisfy you. Won't you start building on this sure Foundation? Jesus said, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; . . . for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." John 15:14-15. Start reading your Bible today and find out for yourself what foundation Jesus told us to build upon.

—Earl B. Bliss

## My Father's Last Few Days



"That message was like a gentle rain," Mother Nettie Pruitt said to me as we drove home on Sunday, June 2, 1963, from Okeene, Oklahoma, where my father, Fred Pruitt, had preached that morning. He was over 81 years of age, yet his love for God and His work kept him going. For nine years, on Sundays, I drove for him and we went to three different places and had all-day services most of the time. He was in the office at his desk every day and kept the printing of the gospel going forth, except for a few times when he had the flu or was out in the gospel work. He was dedicated to that work and the work of the Lord everywhere that was possible for him to reach. He was ready to give a testimony of his love for the Lord. On the Wednesday night before that Sunday, he had testified at the Guthrie chapel about his longing to go to heaven, and about how wonderful it would be. He spoke of how we all needed to keep ready.

On Wednesday afternoon, the fifth of June, my nephew, who was painting outside, called to me in the office after hearing Mother Nettie call for me from their house next door to the office. I went right over, and my father was having a heart attack. The printshop workers gathered in and we prayed. Soon other saints came. The Lord touched him, and I left to fix supper for my husband. When my husband came in, I told him about my father, and he said that he must be all right because he saw him coming home in the car from the post office. Oh, it touched me so, as I knew he should not have taken the mail to the post office after having that attack, but knowing my father, I knew he had faith that God was taking care of him.

Before I started to prayer meeting, I went over to see him, and he was not feeling well, so I stayed. Lawrence and Frances also came by, and we stayed with him. We soon saw that he was having another attack, so we called for Bro. and Sis. Ira Stover and Willie Murphey to come. The Lord again undertook for him and he talked with all of us about the scriptures as he lay on the divan. His confidence was strong in the Lord and none of us even mentioned, nor thought about anything, but trusting God to take care of him. Everyone else left, but I stayed and rested on the divan until about four o'clock the next morning. I went in to see how he was and he said that he had not slept. He said that

something had happened inside, and he put his hand on his chest and he wondered what it was. I don't know why I spoke as I did, but I said, "Well, maybe it's just that your body is going back to dust." He said that he didn't mind that so much, as it meant going to heaven, but he said that he had suffered so severely. I spoke of how the Lord had touched him and that the Lord was going to take care of him. I asked him if he thought he would be all right and I would go home, as I would soon have to get breakfast for my husband. He agreed.

Lawrence came down early to see about him, and at eight o'clock he had another heart attack. He suffered severely, but kept asking for prayer. We children and co-workers kept praying and called Bro. Stover, the pastor, and others to come. The Lord again touched him. Lawrence went to town to get the mail and Frances went to town to get him another billfold as Mother Nettie had accidentally put his billfold in the washing machine. I stayed with him. It was not long after everyone had gone, and only Mother Nettie and I were there, that he had another attack and went suddenly. It was a shock to me. I began to call for someone to come, as I said, "Papa is leaving us." Bro. Leslie Busbee and someone else were just coming up to the house at that time. Oh, the grief of his leaving us was so hard to bear! Even though I knew he was ready, and was where he wanted to be, yet, oh, we would never see him here in this life again. We had been so close and I loved him so much. We had worked together in the office work, prayed together and worked together in the gospel work. I knew I had lost one of my best friends here in this world. His life had been a great inspiration to me. In times of trouble he knew just the right words to say to help me. But most of all, he encouraged me to keep my contact with God. Only by being careful to watch my attitudes, words and deeds could I do that. The Word of God was my guide, and the Holy Spirit my power to obey it.

Today, his words follow him. Many tell me of things that he said and of how he had been a blessing to them through the words that God gave him to speak. Many have mentioned how the Lord used him to pray the prayer of faith for their healing. Many have spoken of his humble attitude, and yet of his boldness to stand for the truth. Surely, today he is at rest, and that always comforts me when I think of him. We need more fathers today like him. He was a good father to his children and a good father to those in the church.

—Sis. A. Marie (Pruitt) Miles

## NOTE OF THANKS

(See obituary on Page 7)

We appreciate the precious saints more than ever . . . for the prayers that went to the throne of grace in behalf of our loved one, for the phone calls, letters, cards, beautiful flowers and love offerings. They meant so much. The presence of the saints at the funeral was a great comfort to us, and we pray God to bless each one richly. We ask that you will pray for the unsaved in our family that they will begin to see their sad condition and seek God. —The Edward Atnip Family

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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.

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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  
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## EDITORIALS



**THIS JUNE ISSUE** is going to press and in the mail just prior to the beginning date, May 28, of the Oklahoma State campmeeting here at Guthrie. The first service will start at 10:30 a. m. on Friday, the 28th day of May. A large attendance is expected, including a number of people coming for their first time. A writer of old joyfully declared: "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together: whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord. For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever." Psalms 122:1-7; 125:1. Praise God for Mount Zion, the Church, which is the pillar and ground of the truth!

Let us be as steadfast to remain with God's people as faithful Ruth of old when she said to Naomi, her mother-in-law: "For whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."

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Father's Day is observed in the month of June, which reminds this writer that his beloved father, Fred Pruitt, co-founder of this gospel publishing institution, finished his course and ceased his earthly labors on June 6, 1963 — thirteen years ago — after proclaiming the gospel of Christ from the pulpit and press for 47 years. "He being dead, yet speaketh." His life and example of holy living and sacrifice still lives on in the memory of many people far and near.

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Bro. Bob Forbes, pastor at Hammond, La., reported that through the week following Easter, Bro. Willie Murphey began and Bro. Curtis Williams finished a revival meeting at their chapel, and the Lord anointed for the preaching of His Word in a special way. From 15 to 20 souls sought help at the altar of prayer.

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### Missionary Trip to Mexico . . . .

Bro. Tom Melot secured a bus, and in company with Bro. and Sister Delmar Craddock, their two children, Bro. and Sister Wayne Murphey, and Sister Patricia Huskey, left Guthrie, Okla., on May 9th on a missionary trip to Mexico. Crossing into Mexico at Brownsville, Texas, they held services at various villages and ranches, and passed out much Spanish literature. Some souls were saved. Driving about 225 miles into Mexico, they arrived at the home of Bro. Efrain Huerta, a zealous, young native missionary, who was much encouraged by their fellowship and aid in the gospel work. After an eventful trip, the company returned safely to Guthrie on May 18,

except that the bus was left at a garage in Texas for repairs; and Bro. Melot returned to Louisiana.

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Beginning on Wednesday, May 5, Brother Curtis Williams of Morehead, Ky., held a week's revival meeting here at Guthrie, Okla. Our pastor, Brother Leslie Busbee, and the saints felt that this meeting was an answer to prayer, as we had been praying for it. The anointed Word was preached clear and definite night after night. Some souls responded and received definite help, but all were left without an excuse before God. Bro. and Sister Mart Samons of W. Va., were also with us in a few of these services just after they had closed a profitable tent meeting near Vinita, Okla.

"God is sweeping through the nations  
With an awful searching eye;  
Every spot of imperfection  
Must be purged, or hope must die.  
Hear the angel loudly crying,  
Standing in the blazing sun,  
Wake, O man! while time is flying,  
For the judgment has begun."

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Bro. Enu of Nigeria Arrived on May 23 . . .

Bro. Titus Enu, native minister in Nigeria, West Africa, arrived by plane in Oklahoma City on Sunday, May 23, to attend the campmeetings through the summer, the first of which will be the Guthrie campmeeting beginning on May 28. We are looking to the Lord to supply a volunteer to take him by car to the campmeetings in other states.

At press time, no word has come from Brother Florencio Granil of the Philippines that he had ever gotten his visa to come to the U. S. for the campmeetings. He has the plane ticket to leave Manila as soon as he gets his visa. Pray that the visa will be secured promptly if the Lord wants him to come.

Bro. Philip Varghese, a younger brother of John Varghese, in India is also waiting for his visa to come to the U. S. with a plane ticket available. Pray also for him that the way will be opened for his coming if it is God's will.

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Write for a full price list of Bibles, books, cards, and other items. Listed in our book stock are many of those excellent old books written by the pioneer ministers of the Church of God Reformation which had 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.

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

Land for Chapel and Campground Relocation . . .

On May 17, after many months, much prayer and searching, a contract was signed to purchase ten acres of land just outside the Guthrie city limits on the south side, which is one-half mile east of Hwy. 77 on Industrial Road. This land where natural gas, electricity, and city water are available was needed on which to relocate the present Guthrie chapel and Oklahoma state campground which for many years have suffered damage from recurring floods in that area of West Guthrie. In comparison to other land, this seems to be the most suitable location at a reasonable price considering the inflation of land prices. We gratefully acknowledge God's hand of direction at the right time in this matter of serious concern to His people. The total cash price is \$12,000.00, and the closing of this purchase must be made on June 10, 1976. As this is the new Oklahoma state campground, we would especially appeal to the saints of this state for a speedy and concerted effort to contribute to the fund to pay for the land and construct buildings and facilities sufficient for the annual Oklahoma summer and winter meetings which have been held in Guthrie for the past 42 years. Contributions from any of our readers out-of-state would also certainly be appreciated. Please send your free-will offerings directly to the state treasurer, Sis. Frances Deforth, Rt. 2, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044.

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Word was received of the passing on May 12 of Bro. Royal Taylor of Eagle Creek, Ore., whom we had known for many years. Our sincere sympathy and prayers are extended to and for his wife, Sister Virginia, of the home, and his son, Lawrence, Kingsburg, Calif., and all the bereaved relatives and friends.

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Co-founder's Grandson Hears The Call . . .

Our nephew, Bro. Wayne Murphey, the younger son of Bro. Willie and Sis. Frances (Pruitt) Murphey, has answered the Lord's call to help in this gospel publishing work. Wayne, the grandson of the late Fred Pruitt, recently resigned his position as offset pressman for the "Guthrie Daily Leader" newspaper in Guthrie, and began work here at the Lord's Printshop on May 19. Last fall he was married to our co-worker, Sister Mary Sprague. We pray the Lord to bless this young couple in a special way for their dedication and sacrifice to advance the cause of the Lord through this literature ministry. "Only one life, 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last." Their mailing address is P. O. Box 314, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044.

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Divine healing is strongly questioned on every hand, not so much on the general doctrine, but on the extent of actual practice in trusting God for healing. Many holiness groups teach healing as a doctrine, but when it comes to the practice in the real test, they often fail and turn to the arm of flesh.

Even though the Lord does continue to give this writer strength to labor long hours each day in the

office, yet he is coming again and again before our great High Priest for complete healing even as the poor widow did before the unjust judge in the account that Jesus related. Surely, He will note our impotency and avenge us speedily as we cry unto Him day and night. Pray that our faith will not fail, for faith is the victory.

—Lawrence Pruitt

## Partial List of Items Available

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No. 5 Song Record is by the Hattley Evening Light Singers. It consists of 14 songs on the 33 RPM recording. Order as No. 5. Price, \$5.00 each.

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## OBITUARIES

Ida Louisa Adams of Swifton, Arkansas, departed this life on April 19, 1976, at her home at the age of 87.

Sister Adams was born on April 21, 1888, in Wisconsin. She was a Mother in Israel, and a real comfort and strength to all who knew her. Sometimes in her letters she would send some freshly-pressed flowers. Surely, her life was a beautiful flower. The Lord called her home to help make up His beautiful bouquet in heaven. She will be greatly missed by her family and loved ones. She was a real saint of God, a member in the Church of God for more than 60 years. She was greatly loved by her neighbors and friends. She was a praying woman. Once a saint asked her to pray for her in the late hours of the night. Sis. Adams said, "Yes, I will pray for you, and it won't be a sleepy prayer, either." Praise God for praying, godly mothers! Her request was to "Please pray for my children." For her, to be absent from the body was to be present with the Lord. Truly, our loss is heaven's gain.

Sister Adams is survived by one son, James W. Adams of Dallas, Texas; four daughters, Mrs. Elma Johnson, of Dallas, Texas, Mrs. Ruth DeBaun of Columbia, Maryland, Mrs. Rachel Rosenberg of Atlanta, Georgia, and Mrs. Venita Roberson of Memphis, Tenn., seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. Curtis Williams, assisted by Bro. Kenneth Probst. Text: John 11:25, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

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**Florence I. Baker, 75, died March 2, 1976.** She had been in failing health for two years.

Sis. Baker was born in Garrett, Indiana, on November 9, 1900, a daughter of Samuel and Lillian (Gump) McKinley. She married Harold Gerner, and he died in 1929. She then married Scott Baker on January 12, 1930, and he preceded her in death on March 21, 1962. She was a member of the Church of God.

Surviving are two sons, Ralph Baker, Garrett, Indiana, and Robert Gerner, Houston, Texas; a daughter, Miss Betty Baker, Garrett, Indiana; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild; one brother, Ray McKinley; a half-brother, Ben Groscop; and a half-sister, Mrs. Charlton Vass.

Services were held at the funeral home, with Bro. Sam Abbott of the Church of God, Dayton, Ohio, officiating. Burial was in the Christian Union Cemetery.

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Margaret L. Brant was born at Detroit, Michigan, on October 11, 1919, and departed from this life at her home in Bangor, Michigan, on May 4, 1976, at the age of 56 years.

Her life was a busy one, doing for others. The large funeral attendance, the beautiful floral offerings, and the many good remarks about her life were proof that she labored for the Lord as long as she lived. Her influence had gone out extensively for good. She lived a beautiful life.

She was converted in her high school days and was faithful to the end. She had a call to the ministry and was a blessing to many. She was married to Bro. Clarence Brant, to which union four children were born.

She is survived by her husband; two daughters, Mrs. Harold (Connie) Ethridge, and Mrs. Dale (Carroll) Small; two sons, Gordon and Kenneth Brant; one sister, Mrs. Richard Watson; her step-father, and six grand-children.

Funeral services were held at Bangor, Michigan, and interment was in the Arlington Hill Cemetery. Services were conducted by Sis. Ruth Murphey and Bro. William McCoy. "She hath done what she could."

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Mary Annie Fisher, daughter of the late Doc and Lavenia Donnelly, was born in Topeka, Kansas, on November 21, 1898. She departed this life in her home on May 4, 1976, at the age of 78 years, six months and three days.

At an early age she was united in marriage to the late Cleveland Murphy, and to that union a son, Curtis, was born. Her husband and son preceded her in death. She was then united in marriage to Bro. Benjamin Fisher in 1915. Many years ago Sis. Fisher was converted. Later, she became very ill and was taught about divine healing by the pioneer saints. By her faith in God, and through the prayers of the saints, she was healed. When she received more light, she walked in it to all she knew and understood. She trusted God for both body and soul. Her whole life and work was praying and administering to the sick, both at home and abroad, until God called her Home.

She is survived by her husband, Bro. Benjamin Fisher of the home; a brother, Paul Donnelly, of Buttin Willow, Calif.; a sister, Elizabeth Thigpen of Los Angeles, Calif.; and a host of relatives, saints, and many friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Lewis Williams, assisted by Sis. Juanita Watson and Bro. Raymond Johnson. The text was Luke 10:17, 20.

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Ethel Mae (Stover) Barbee was born November 17, 1891 at Adams, Nebraska, and departed this life April 30, 1976, at the Church of God Senior Citizen's Home at Pacoima, Calif., at the age of 84 years, 5 months, and 13 days.

On July 16, 1923, she was united in marriage to Robert L. Barbee. One child was born to this union.

Her husband preceded her in death in 1942 and her daughter, Marjorie, in 1961.

She was a resident of the Church of God Senior Citizen's Home of Pacoima, California, for the last few years. She was a true example of cheerfulness and patience during all her illness and had a smile for every one even in times of suffering and distress. She loved the Lord and gave a good testimony last February that she was ready to go.

She is survived by two sisters: Mrs. Lydia Stark of Corona, California, and Edith Wittenborn (her twin sister) of Pacoima, California; two brothers: George Stover of Burbank, California, and Ira D. Stover of Tulsa, Oklahoma; and a son-in-law, Harold Williams of Huntington Beach, California, and a large number of nieces, nephews, and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Ostis Wilson, with interment in the Angeles Abbey Mausoleum at Compton, California.

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Bro. Elmer Olsen of Portland, Oregon, passed suddenly from this life to be with the Lord on February 22, 1976. Bro. Olsen was saved several years ago and manifested a real love for the truth.

We loved Bro. Elmer, and with his family we feel saddened at his passing, yet comforted with God's great promise of eternal life.

Services were conducted by Bro. O. B. Wilson and Bro. Charles Elwell.

—C. Elwell

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Joseph Edward Atnip, son of John Alexander and Minnie Lauzia Leach Atnip, was born in Silva, Mo., on March 7, 1909, and departed this life at his home in Shook, Mo., on May 3, 1976, at the age of 67 years, one month and 26 days.

On Nov. 23, 1928, he was united in marriage to Stella Opal Barks, and to this union eight children were born.

Bro. Atnip professed his faith in Christ and was a member of the Church of God. He was active in the Church, serving as a minister of the gospel. "His works do follow him."

He leaves to mourn his departure his wife, Stella Opal Atnip, Shook, Mo.; four sons, Ivan Atnip, Overland, Mo., Alva Atnip, Greenville, Mo., Truman Atnip, Hartford City, Ind., and Lonnie Atnip of Farmland, Ind.; two daughters, Mrs. Inez Walker and Miss Wanda Atnip, both of Poplar Bluff, Mo.; 23 grandchildren, one great-grandchild, one brother, six sisters, other relatives, a host of friends, and saints. One son, Edward Jr. and one daughter, Stella Fay, preceded him in death.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Egbert Allen and Bro. Gordon Humphrey.

#### NOTES OF THANKS

The family of Eldridge Glenn Magness, deceased on March 16, 1976, expresses appreciation for the cards, telegrams, condolences, flowers, food, and donations, also the kindness and prayers in our hour of bereavement. —The Magness family; Grandmother, Mrs. Ophelia Lafford; and Aunt, Mrs. Lillie Mae Timmons.



Ky.—Dear Sis. Marie, Bro. Lawrence, and all of the co-workers there and elsewhere; It's so good to know we have a wonderful Friend and Lord that is always near. He cares and is ready to lift our sad spirit and help us to carry on.

I want to thank everyone who has been so kind and thoughtful in our bereavement. I have received over 100 beautiful cards and letters from 16 states, and they surely helped. I also thank everyone for their prayers. I hope to see many of you at campmeeting. I can not answer everyone, but I do thank everyone for your concern.

—Sis. Marie Lindner

## 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:—

**Oklahoma State at Guthrie, Okla.**—May 28 to June 6.

**Holly Hill, South Carolina**—June 4 to 13.

Everyone is welcome to come. We have places for you to stay and a place to eat. We are looking to God to send the ministers of His choosing. For further information, contact Bro. Hudson Crummie, R. 1, Box 42, Holly Hill, S. C. 29059, phone 803-496-5231.

**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 27 to July 4. (Note change of beginning date).

**Akron, Ohio**—July 2 to 11.

**Ojos Negros, Mexico**—July 6 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, Ca.**—Aug. 27 to Sept 5.  
Please note this corrected date.

## CAMPMEETING AT GREEN BANK, W. VA.

The campmeeting of the Church of God at Green Bank, W. Va. will be held from June 18 to 27, 1976. The tent will be located  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile north of Green Bank on Rt. 92 and 28. Green Bank is located fifty miles south of Elkins and fifty-seven miles north of White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., on Rt. 92. Two services will be held each day. Meals will be served and places to stay will be provided for all who come. This is a new congregation, and this is our first campmeeting, but we want to make an all-out effort to reach every one in this part of the country. Come and help us in this effort. (The nights are cool here, so bring your coat.) We are looking

to the Lord to supply all the needs. Pray much for us even if you can not come.

For more information, write Bro. Mart Samons, P.O. Box 127, Green Bank, W. Va. 24944, or phone (304) 456-4469.

—Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons

## CAMPMEETING AT OAKLAND, CALIF.

The campmeeting of the Church of God in Oakland, Calif., will be held, Lord willing, at 9330 Walnut St. from June 18 to 27, 1976.

All are welcome, and come praying for the salvation of sinners and for the encouragement of the saints. The effectual fervent prayers of the righteous availeth much.

For further information, contact the pastor, Sister Velma Smith, 2066-81st Ave., Oakland, Calif. 94621, phone 632-8211, or the undersigned at 1447-72nd Ave., Oakland, Calif., phone 635-1786.

—Sister Doris Washington, Sec.

## GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMPMEETING AT HAMMOND, LA.

The General Southern Campmeeting of the Church of God will begin on Sunday, June 27, 1976, in Hammond, La., continuing through Sunday, July 4, 1976.

All the saints of God of all nations are extended a warm invitation to come and be with us in this meeting. We are praying that God will send in ministers of His choosing to preach the truth and to expound the gospel in its fullness that souls will be awakened to their spiritual needs. We are expecting God to work in a mighty way in the saving of souls and the healing of bodies.

All who come to the meeting will be cared for. Meals will be served as usual in the dining hall on the campground. Space is available on the grounds for campers and trailers, along with electrical hook-ups and sewer disposal facilities. Sleeping facilities are in the dormitory, and rooms are available for ministers, aged saints and families who need them. There are no charges for the beds or cots. The meeting is supported by free-will offerings.

Those coming by auto and traveling on I-55, turn east on I-12 at intersection and travel east until all traffic exits at the Hammond exit. Turn north toward Hammond on Hwy. 51. Go to the first street going west past the first traffic light at the city limits. Continue west until you see signs showing directions to the campgrounds just off White Street. Those traveling by bus or train, upon arrival call Bob Forbes, phone 542-1144, and someone will pick you up.

Come praying that God will open up the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing into our souls that we might not be able to contain it.

Yours in Christ, —Bob Forbes

## OHIO STATE CAMPMEETING

The Akron, Ohio, campmeeting of the Church of God (Evening Light) will be held in the name of the Lord on July 2, through the 11, 1976, at the chapel located at 419-421 W. Thornton, Akron, Ohio 44307.



All nations are welcome to attend each of these services. Come at the beginning and camp with us until the end. We have space for trailers and campers to park. Dormitories and the dining hall are on the ground.

All expenses will be met with free-will offerings. Contributions may be sent to the treasurer of campmeeting funds, Bro. Darnell Abbage, 1436 Honodle Ave., Akron, Ohio 44305.

We pray that all the services will be led by the Holy Spirit, and the preaching by Spirit-filled ministers. All are invited to come. All the gifts of the Spirit are needed—helpers, prayer warriors, teachers and gospel workers. Come, all that need help in body or soul.

For further information, contact Sister Hazel Clark, the pastor, 555 Fernwood Dr., Akron, Ohio 44320, phone 376-5371. The chapel phone is 762-2286.

—Sister Hazel Clark

### FRESNO, CALIF., CAMPMEETING

The Fresno, California Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, July 9 to 18, 1976, at the campgrounds located at 7249 East Kings Canyon Road, Fresno, California.

A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this meeting. Provisions will be made to care for all who come. Dining area and dormitories are located on the grounds. All meeting expenses will be met by free-will offerings. Come praying for a profitable meeting—that souls will be saved, believers sanctified, and bodies healed.

Directions to the campgrounds are as follows: From the south on Highway 99, exit on Clovis Avenue and go right. Continue down Clovis Avenue a few miles to Kings Canyon Rd., make a right turn onto Kings Canyon and continue east to the campgrounds. From the north on Highway 99, take the Ventura exit. Turn left onto Ventura and continue east to the campgrounds. (Ventura becomes Kings Canyon Rd. after a few miles.)

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. E. J. Trotter, 811 W. Alamos, Clovis, Ca. 96312, phone (209) 291-6003 or Sis. Gladys Foster, 1226 E. Terrace, Fresno, Ca. 93704 phone (209) 224-2715 or the church, phone (209) 255-9868.

### CAMPMEETING AT MUNCIE, INDIANA

A campmeeting of the Church of God (Evening Light) will be held, Lord willing, southeast of Muncie, Indiana, from July 9 to 18, 1976. The old-time Bible truth as taught and practiced by the pioneers of the Evening Light Reformation will be expounded under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Everyone is cordially invited and urged to attend this old-fashioned gospel meeting, especially those in the Northeast. Saints, come praying for a mighty outpouring of God's presence and power in every service.

The 10-day meeting will be held on the Central Friends Campground located six miles southeast of Muncie, Ind., on U. S. 35 and one quarter mile to the right on Road 650 S. This five-acre campground with lots of trees has been rented at considerable expense. It is equipped with dormitories that will sleep about 150 people, the tabernacle will seat approximately 300,

and the dining hall, fully equipped, will seat about 200 in the dining area. It is expected that electrical outlets will be available for about 20 trailers and campers. Please bring bedding, including pillows, cases, sheets, and blankets; also water bucket and washpan. Bro. Egbert Allen expects to arrive there on July 6th and have the place open. The campground phone is (317) 774-4575. Perhaps some in that area would volunteer to come on those days ahead of the meeting and help clean the buildings and dining equipment.

Bro. Orie Young, minister of Sapulpa, Okla., was led of the Lord to offer his services to assist Bro. Allen in the meeting in any place needed. Since there is an urgent need for food and other provisions, Bro. Young has accepted the responsibility to receive donations of food and provisions at his Sapulpa home from Oklahoma and surrounding area and see that they are delivered to the Indiana campground. Please send or take your contributions of food, etc., to Bro. Orie Young, 12 South Walnut, Sapulpa, Okla. 74066, phone (918) 224-1600.

All phases of this campmeeting will be supported entirely by free-will offerings. Please send your free-will contributions and request for more information directly to Bro. Egbert Allen, Rt. 2, Norwood, Mo. 65717, phone 417-746-2840, and state specifically in your letter what the offering is for.

If the Lord permits, the undersigned writer and his wife will be a few days in the Akron, Ohio, and Muncie, Ind., campmeetings. We would be happy to meet our readers at those meetings. —Lawrence Pruitt, Editor

### CAMPMEETING IN OJOS NEGROS AND SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends: We give you a courteous and cordial invitation to the campmeeting at Ojos Negros, Mexico, which will be in progress July 6th through the 11th, trusting that all of you will pray much for me and for the campmeeting. Especially pray for the messages and all the services, and that they will bring rich blessings to all, principally to those who walk without the Lord, those in darkness, serving the world. Pray that they will come and accept the Lord in their hearts, and that we will be able to reconsecrate our lives more unto the Lord. Pray that all will return to their homes filled with the Spirit and that no one will go away empty. All are welcome! "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28.

Christian love, your friend and brother in Christ,

—Mayarino Escobar Roblero

P.S.—The Lord has always blessed us to be able to have accommodations for all who go from the States to this campmeeting; not perhaps in a way to which you are accustomed, but the best available. Who is willing to sacrifice the conveniences you are now enjoying, to go and be a help and encouragement to Mexico workers and lay people there? I trust that many are carrying a burden for this campmeeting. Lord willing, I plan to go two weeks prior to the meeting to help in the preparations. Contact any former worker for directions from San Diego.

The Lord has made it possible to print about 4,500 sheets of literature in Spanish this past week, and

several of those were sent along with some from the Print Shop already available, with the group who left Guthrie for Ciudad Mante, Tamaulipas, Mexico, on May 9th. We are praying that they will fall into the hands of people with hungry hearts.

Hoping to reach more for the Lord in Mexico than ever before, I remain,

Your Sister in Christ, Opal Kelly

919 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044

Mayarino's address is: Ap. Postal 284, Ensenada, B. Cfa. Mexico.

### REPORT OF BOLEY, OKLA., SPRING REVIVAL

The saints in Boley, Okla., thank the Lord for the glorious meeting He gave us, for the visiting ministers and workers He sent, and also for those from out-of-state.

The Word of God was preached in its fullness on many lines, anointed of the Holy Ghost, exhorting the saints to deepen their trust and faith in God, expounding the wonderful truths of the Church of God, and warning sinners to flee from the wrath to come. Our souls were truly fed from heaven, and we give all thanks and praise to the Lord for it all. Several sought the Lord for spiritual help. —Sis. Kathrine Williams

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Okla.—Sis. Doris Bowers needs prayer as she has been having dizzy spells lately.

Calif.—“Do remember my high blood pressure. I know God can heal me. He did before when I had it.”

—Sis. Ada Leach

Maryland—“The last couple of days, when I’ve started to get a seizure, I have prayed and resisted the devil, in the name of Jesus, and my seizures have gone right away. I have asked the Lord to heal me to His glory. So I’m just being very patient and I know He will heal me completely. I feel I am healed by faith.” (Saints, do keep holding on for Sis. Janet until she has complete victory. She is young in the Lord, but has great faith.) —Janet Patrick

Mexico—Sis. Edith (Cole) Lara called me on the phone saying that she is some better but still has need of healing of a chronic infection. At times she suffers greatly. She appreciates all the prayers of the saints. Her trust is completely in the Lord.

Mo.—Mike Hightower is still very, very weak, but can be up a few minutes at a time in the wheel chair. They have his leg in a cast, and it can’t be determined just how it is doing, but it still didn’t have life in the bone when it was put in the cast. The Lord did answer prayer and he can now eat and keep his food down. He really is still in a critical condition. They sit with him all the time. Sis. Esther, his mother, wrote, “Mike does love the Lord. I try to encourage him to not question God and that God is still with us. . . . Keep holding him up to God. We do appreciate all the saints and their prayers and concern for him and us at this time.”

Va.—“I took the flu, I suppose, last Mar. 5th, also a terrible sore throat, which has not healed. I also have

pains in my body and feel badly. I have an unspoken request that I want the saints to pray about.”

—Sis. Lillian Bohannon

Saints, let us pray for one another. We are living in the last days and the enemy is working to discourage every soul. Our older saints have a battle as the devil would like to cause them to fail in their last days.

Bro. Kenneth Abbott of Ohio had a sore place on his back that had been there for sometime. It was giving him much distress and pain. They wanted us to put a request for prayer in the paper for his healing, but the Lord has healed it and they are rejoicing for what God has done. How precious it is to trust the Lord for all things! He never fails.

We need to pray for the various campmeetings that are in progress. We trust that there will be a host of souls come to the Lord in the various efforts put forth through God’s vessels that are dedicated in giving out the Word in various ways. —Sis. Marie Miles

### FROM THE MAIL BOX . . .

Okla.—Dear Sis. Marie: I trust all is well at the Print Shop and the needs for God’s work are being supplied.

Oh, how sad to look around us today and see how God’s truth is being misrepresented, claiming it is right the way they explain it! “God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.” Romans 3:4. One thing for sure, God is the judge. . . . I thank the good Lord that I knew the truth all my life. I never did belong to any man-made church. By God’s help I aim to make heaven my home.

The wonderful little “Faith and Victory” paper is so good, and I do enjoy it. There is so much soul food in it. May God bless you and all there that the work will go on until the end of time. —Sis. Nola Wells

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Mo.—Jesus is my present helper in every need. I thank the Lord for healing my body many times, and for all He has done for us. The Lord blessed us with His presence and His Word each Sunday morning at the Nursing Home. How we do praise Him for the anointed messages each Sunday evening at the little chapel!

My brother has emphysema and has been poorly for several years. Please pray for him.

May the dear Lord bless you each one at the Print Shop abundantly, as well as all of the saints everywhere.

—Lena Bowman

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Fla.—Dear Sis. Marie: Jesus loved us and gave His life’s blood on that cruel cross to save us from a miserable life of sin. Oh, how good it is to be saved in these evil days, when people’s minds seem to be polluted with things of this world! Many people have become money-minded. Oh, how we all need to keep our minds stayed on Jesus and on things above! “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.” Col. 3:2. I’m determined to do this.

We surely need the prayers of the righteous. Some seem to have their hopes built on some person. I do

love people, but "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name." Praise the Lord! I find joy in serving the Lord. Do pray for me.

Please put me on your prayer list. I have an abnormal condition on my legs and arms. They break out in dark spots, and burn and itch. It is a miserable feeling. The burning and itching are at intervals. I don't know what it is. . . . It may be the Lord allowed it to touch my life for a purpose. I surely mean to trust Him to work out His purpose in my life.

Keep up the good work of getting out the Word of God by the printed page. We are praying that hearts will be pricked by the Word and souls will be saved.

The campmeeting here at Goulds was very good in attendance, also good altar services. Some souls were saved and baptized as the result of answers to our prayers. The Lord did send ministers and workers of His own choosing. We are so thankful for it.

—Sis. Mattie Savage

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

Pa.—Dear Sister Marie: I greet you in the Name which is above every name, Jesus our wonderful Lord! I am so glad He is mine and I am His, and I want to live each hour of the day so He won't have to say, "Depart from me, I never knew you" when I come before Him.

I do appreciate your letters and the Bible verses you give. When one like me cannot meet with others, any little bit of Truth I can receive by phone or mail is encouraging.

As age creeps on, we have pains and aches, but God knows. My arms ache badly at night. I had some kind of accident with my eye. I have little black lines dancing in front of my left eye. Will you pray for my body that I might be able to take care of my husband? He received good news from his check up. His blood pressure was down and he had lost seven pounds, so he was very encouraged. We do praise the Lord that he is so much better than last year, and we do appreciate the prayers of all the saints from many places. Praise the Lord! God is good and greatly to be praised.

I am going to start sending more tracts to people, so they can't say I didn't warn them about eternity and their blood won't be on my head, as it says in Ezekiel.

May God bless all of you there as you work to get out the gospel literature and may many souls be saved, is my daily prayer.

—Eva Cox

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

Minn.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt: Greetings in Jesus' name. This leaves me well in soul and body, and endeavoring to do God's will at all times. Great are His tender mercies. I did not even have a cold this winter, so I thank the Lord for His love and keeping power.

It appears that we are surely in the last days. I just heard that there was an earthquake in northern Italy and many people were killed. The Lord has predicted these things for the last days. Time is swiftly passing away and soon we will gather Home around the throne of God.

Much Christian love, —Bro. Andrew Senti

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Wisc.—Dear ones at the Faith and Victory Print Shop: We choose to give and do all we can, as Time is drawing swiftly to a close, and the best time is right

now. It will be too late for many who do not hear and heed His Word now. The Lord has been very good to us and always has been. We choose not to let God down when needs or high prices rise.

We praise God for His dealings with us, showing us in many ways that the small suffering we endure here will pass swiftly. Time seems to fly. The day seems hardly begun when it is passed. It makes us draw closer to God and examine ourselves, so we will keep true and follow our Guide always.

May the Lord bless all of His children and keep them ready for His coming. All is well here, and we keep busy as much as we can. May His precious blessings rest on each of those working there, is my prayer.

—Mrs. Florence Knoll

## Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Calif.—I am encouraged and thanking God for His precious Son, who changed my life completely. He gave me hope for tomorrow and that is why I love Him so. (Parts of that song stay with me.) I have so many reasons why I love the Lord. He has blessed me in so many ways and so many different times. I truly thank God for complete healing. Sis. Miles, no one knows, but me and the Lord, what condition my body was in. But oh, thank God for His wonderful mercies that reached down from heaven and touched my body and healed that injury! My decision is fixed to go to heaven at any cost. . . .

We had our spring revival here at the Los Angeles chapel. It was blessed of the Lord. Some souls were saved, some were helped and I believe all were edified....

Please continue to pray for me that God will continue to bless me and all the saints of God who call upon Him. I want you to know that I am still under the burden for the sister in Maryland and want the Lord to deliver her from those seizures. I am praying earnestly that God will completely heal her. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases." Psalms 103:2, 3. This is true and it is the Word of God. If anyone will test it, try it, and stand on these words, God will never fail His trusting children. Oh, I do thank God for His comforting Words and His Holy Bible. It is a way-mark to heaven.

Pray for me and my family, especially the child care center.

—Sis. Shawnee Little

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Okla.—Dear Bro. Lawrence, Sisters Maybelle, Marie, and all the dear saints everywhere: Greetings in Jesus' precious name. Our hearts are full of praise and thanksgiving to the dear Lord for His wonderful plan of salvation and His manifold blessings to us day by day.

Our strength has been so limited the last few months, but God has come to our rescue in a special way these last weeks when we needed it so much. It was hard to give up my sister, Ethel, especially just eight months after my sister, Lucy, was taken, but we know our heavenly Father doeth all things well, and we say, "Amen" to His will.

She left such a good testimony of being ready for heaven. She was so patient and sweet during all her

illness. She had the confidence of the nurses and those about her of being a real saint, trusting the Lord fully to the end.

We want to thank the dear saints for their prayers and love shown to us at this time. The cards, phone calls and words of comfort have meant so much to us. Truly, there are no people like the family of God and their love to each other.

We especially want to thank the dear ones at Pacoima, Calif., for their love and kindness to us, and the tender care given our two sisters who were residents for a number of years in the Home there. We appreciated it all, and may God bless each one.

I have two sisters and a brother left, all so frail in body. Please pray for them, especially my brother who needs a real awakening in his soul. Pray for us that we keep close to the Lord and be ready when He calls for us. Our greatest desire is to live faithful and true to God at any cost and hold up this precious truth to lost and dying souls, and finish this race with victory. We hope to see you at campmeeting.

Yours in the One Body of Christ,

—Bro. and Sis. Ira D. Stover

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

Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt, Sis. Miles, and the saints scattered abroad: Greetings in Jesus' name. May the love of God be present among and in the hearts of all saints both here in this country and across the waters. God's love cannot be destroyed by water nor quenched by fire. I rejoice in the news of the gathering together from all points of the compass into one in Christ Jesus. In Him only can this be accomplished through the Spirit. The Lord is a very present help in time of need.

I regret that for a long time I have been separated through affliction from the saints in camp meetings in the summer, but I do not draw back knowingly from the maneuvering of the Spirit. I have suffered greatly from nerve trouble, lasting a long while. Sometimes I would feel like I was going to leave here, but the Lord would lift me up, and through prayer and the faithfulness of my wife, I would survive and rejoice with her. A quote out of an old reader says, "I have fought the lion and conquered the bear," Praise God!

Last evening, while walking in the yard, it came to me to look up, and as I did so, I felt a great blessing creep through my heart. I had been feeling quite low. Then a phone call came from someone about 300 miles away. The party wanted earnestly to see me, being in great trouble in his soul. The next Monday he drove in. This brother (now a brother) let it be known that there was no time to waste, as he had some dreams that greatly troubled him. We went to earnest prayer. After a short season of prayer, he arose with a bright smile, and greeted his wife and me with a testimony. This morning he went on his way rejoicing. What a mighty God we serve! I am happy to know that great rivers and wide oceans fail to hinder God's love.

We have been much concerned about so many afflictions among the saints everywhere, but God said, "After that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect." I Pet. 5:10b. Job said, "God maketh my heart soft." Job 23:16. God cannot use a hard and stiff heart. I am not concerned about the ability to preach, but I am concerned

about the texture of the heart. It is written, "But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people." Rom. 10:21. Can't God make a vessel as it pleases Him? To be a vessel in the Lord's hand, there must be a softening of the heart.

"Am I a soldier of the cross;  
A follower of the Lamb,  
And must I fear to own His cause,  
Or blush to speak His name?

"Must I be carried to the skies  
On flowery beds of ease,  
While others fought to win the prize  
And sailed through bloody seas?

"Sure, I must fight if I would reign—  
Increase my courage, Lord;  
I'll bear the cross, endure the pain,  
Supported by Thy Word.

"Thy saints in all this glorious war,  
Will conquer though they die;  
They see the triumph from afar,  
By faith they bring it nigh."

Your Brother in Christ, —A. E. Harmon

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

Calif.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings on this beautiful day God has given to us. I thank Him every day of my life for being so good to Elmer and me. I thank Him for health and happiness, but most of all, for letting me be His child. Praise the Lord for wonderful answers to prayer and the many blessings with them. The little book, "God's Gracious Dealings," by your late father, Fred Pruitt, given to me by my mother years ago, was re-read. My, what blessings were received with joy and tears! What precious parents you had, Sis. Marie! Every time I read the book, I receive encouragement and draw closer to my Saviour, also do more for others. My little book is loaned out so much of the time, that I would like an extra one. ["God's Gracious Dealings" has been out of stock for some time. Pray with us that it will soon be reprinted. —Editor].

I think of you often and the "Faith Publishing House," also all those who have given of their time there for the Lord over the many years. All my married life, or most of it, I would say, "If anything happened to my Elmer, I would go back to the Faith Publishing House and offer my time." Now I am old, 72, but feel young in body and mind. When I go up to see Mama (Sis. Annie McKinney), she says, "Child, are you 72?"

Pray for me that I will ever do God's will in all things. May He ever bless and care for all of you like He did your dear parents. —Sis. Lucille Allen

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

Mich.—Dear Sis. Marie and readers: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus. We are so thankful to still report victory in our souls. Praise His name! Although we have been through several trials lately, God has been faithful to bring us through each one. More and more we realize that we need to get closer to Jesus and trust completely in Him. We cannot look at the storms that are all around us, but look up, for Jesus is truly always

watching and caring for us. He loves us with an everlasting love, and what touches us touches Him, too. Oh, dear ones, how precious to know that we are in God's care and He is always faithful to come to us with words of encouragement, to lift us above the storms of life! I truly love Him with my whole heart. I desire to please Him with my life.

We were thankful to be able to attend the Guthrie assembly meeting once again. After returning home, on the 6th or 7th of January, I slipped off the side of our step on the back porch, and my foot got caught between a barrel and the step. I then lost my balance and fell over. In falling I broke the bone on the side of my leg about four or five inches from my ankle. For most of six weeks I was on crutches. God would touch me at times and always kept the pain from being too bad. The 4th of February God definitely healed me. From that time my foot and leg have been getting stronger. I am so thankful to prove once again that God is "the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." It is a wonderful privilege to trust God for our every need.

We are remembering all there at the Print Shop in our prayers. We enjoy the "Faith and Victory," and appreciate the labor of love in sending the Word of God out across the country and different parts of the world.

We are still praying for God to heal Bro. Lawrence. Please remember us in prayer.

—Bro. and Sis. Ralph Wilkins and son, Ralph Steven

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

Ohio—Dear saints, and all who may read this testimony: On March 1st, I became ill with sugar diabetes. In fact, I had it longer than I realized. The ministers here anointed and prayed for me, and the Lord blessed me to an extent. New conditions began to develop. The sugar condition was getting in all parts of my body until I was in much pain, plus a boil in the gland under my right arm that soiled more than five or six pads a day. I had severe pains in my chest that would become critical at times. The pain finally moved to my back, but by continued prayer of the saints I was healed of those pains. Then every joint became infected with pain, from which I became bedfast for several weeks.

My daughter, Patricia, was to be married on May 8th. I wanted to be well for her sake, also to glorify the Lord. Bro. Hargrave of Florida came with the groom-to-be, Clyde Cox. He was here several days before the wedding. On Wednesday afternoon, May 5th, Bro. and Sis. Hargrave, Sis. Hazel Clark, my pastor, and Sis. Sadie Stamm, who came here for the meeting, came to visit me. We talked of the precious power of our Lord. So the Brother asked if I would believe that if at that time hands would be laid on me, that the Lord would heal me instantly. I said, "Yes." The ministers laid their hands on me and prayed. When Bro. Hargrave said, "Amen," every pain was gone. I got out of bed, walked out in the hall, and other rooms. My Lord had healed me! Praise His name! I gave my daughter away at her wedding on the following Saturday evening. I have had some severe tests, but I am still claiming my healing, getting stronger each day. Continue to pray for me. I mean to trust the Lord unto the end.

I got saved in the year of 1966. I have had to work long hours to support a family of eight children. Now that they are all growing up and several married, I mean

to humble down in the Lord more and more and be used to His glory, as we are instructed continually by our pastor.

—Bro. Ralph Posey

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

Calif.—Dear workers at the Print Shop and all the saints of God: I am glad to say that I am saved, sanctified, satisfied, and healed by the power of God. All my trust is in Him who sees all, hears all, and cares for all. Truly, my God is real. He makes no mistakes and never fails us if we just believe what He says. "God's way is best, I will not murmur, although the end I may not see; where'er He leads I'll meekly follow—God's way is best, is best for me."

—Sis. Flora B. Davis

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### Note of Thanks

We, the family of Sherman Tolly Walker, son of the late Bro. Samuel T. and Gertrude L. Walker, wish to express our thanks to all the saints for their prayers, cards, telegrams, floral offerings, telephone calls, and visits in our bereavement. We find words inadequate to express our appreciation.

—Sis. Flora B. Davis, and Sis. Tora Mae Jensen

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

Mo.—Dear Sis. Marie and all the co-workers at the Print Shop: I am still encouraged to go on. I don't see anything to turn back to. I just want to keep on until I reach the mark.

I do thank the Lord for answering prayer for my husband and me. We both had two kinds of flu. We were real sick. We called Bro. Allen and they agreed with us in prayer. We are up and going again. Thank the Lord! Our desire is to have a closer walk with God, to walk as the song says, "from day to day with His shadows over us."

Remember us to the Lord when you pray. We need more strength and more grace to help us each day.

—Bro. and Sis. Howard Boulden

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

Kansas—Dear Sis. Marie, Bro. Pruitt, and other saints; These lines leave me still encouraged in every way to continue to live for God. As I look around at all the sin and degradation, I can see no other sensible way to live. There is such security in living saved, because we are ready to live or die. We know the Lord will protect us from everything He sees fit, and anything that He allows to befall us will not harm our soul, but will be for our good. I love the Lord today and I am endeavoring to prove it by keeping His commandments.

There seems to be so much to learn, but as we realize the great value in the spiritual things, then learning is a pleasure to us. The devil is very busy trying to convince us that we can not comprehend and retain all the things the Lord wants us to learn. However, the Holy Spirit lets us know that if we will allow Him to do His office work, He will lead us into all ways of truth and bring to our remembrance the truth we have heard or read, when we need it. I truly thank the Lord for His perfect plan of salvation, and mean by His grace to get all the benefits of salvation that I can and attain the depth that He has for me.

—Shirley Knight

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

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## A Tribute To Dad

(O. D. Flynn, 1912-1961)

Dear Dad,

As I begin writing this, I hardly know what to say. There is so much I would like to tell you. It has been a little over fifteen years since you entered the realm of eternity. During this span of time, there have been many things that have happened in our family; some of these things have been joyous and some have been sad. However, I want you to know that I am saved, sanctified, and satisfied in the service of the Lord. I am striving to live in a manner that is well pleasing to the Lord; I am determined, by the grace of God, to be faithful unto death so we can be reunited in Heaven.

Next, I would like to tell you how thankful I am that the Lord permitted me to have YOU for my Dad. I am so thankful that the Lord permitted us to be together a little over 19 years. Those years we spent together were precious and I hold many fond memories of them. You know, Dad, when we were together I am afraid that I really didn't appreciate and cherish our relationship as much as I should have. So many times we fail to realize just how much we mean to each other until one has been taken away. I have wished many times since you left that I would have expressed my love to you more than I did. Yes, Dad, it is too late for me to bestow my love on you, but maybe others who still have the opportunity that I had, will take note and put forth more effort to show their love to their loved ones.

Dad, I am really thankful that you were a real Christian. I appreciate what you taught me about the Lord. I am thankful that you not only taught me, but in your life you showed me what it means to be a child of God. I am so thankful that you set a righteous example before me. You taught me how to pray, and to be thankful for the many things that God blessed us with. Many times when we would be together somewhere—maybe working in the field or maybe we would be fishing or hunting—and you would point out different things of nature and tell how God had created these things and how beautiful they were. Dad, there are so many people in the world today that do not believe in God. They do not believe that God created the world and mankind. I am so glad that you knew there is a God and that you had a personal relationship with Him. I remember how you kept a New Testament out in the dairy barn and many times you would go in the feed room to read and pray. I realize more and more how important it is to read and pray often.

Quite often I remember the times that I was so sick and how you were so burdened and concerned about me. You were so faithful to pray and do all you could to make me comfortable. I remember one time we were on the tractor together and my foot got caught in some of the equipment. I was in so much pain and was unable to walk, but you so lovingly carried me to the house. I did not realize at the time just how much these different things would trouble you and be such a burden. But through the grace of God, you were strong and now they are strong-holds for me. Since I have been blessed with a companion and several children, I have been able to understand some of the anxious moments you must have

had. I hope I can be as strong and stand by my family like you did ours.

There are a lot of questions I would like to ask you. It would be so interesting to know just what Heaven is like. What is it like to pass through death? The Lord has promised that He would go with us through the "valley of the shadow of death" and I know He was with you. Yes, I know that if you could talk to me now, you would surely do all you could to encourage me to be faithful to the end. Oh, I am so glad you were true to the Lord! The Lord was so good to keep you from suffering too much in your last affliction. Dad, I know Heaven is really a wonderful place and you would not want to come back here, would you?

Dad, I am going to have to close now. Once again, thanks so very much for being such a wonderful "Dad." If I could see you right now, I would ask you to remember me in prayer that my life will be all that God wants it to be, but somehow I wonder that if not right now you are asking Jesus to give me all the grace I need—and I know He will. For this present time, I must say "goodbye," but before long (and it won't be long at the longest) I can say "hello" and then we can be together—ETERNALLY.

With much love, —Randall Flynn

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## Are Traditions Important?



Where in the scheme of God's will or the system of earthly things do we fit? We are over toward the end of time, living in days when it is not uncommon to hear pessimism expressed even by those not acquainted with God concerning the direction things are going. We are living in a period of transition, of examining the old with respect to the new. We are living in a period of liberality expressed in women's liberation movement, moral looseness, efforts to circumvent the laws of the land as well as the laws of God and nature. In general, the norm seems to be to "get away with whatever one can get away with." We are living in a period of soul-searching for identity, when people are asking: Who am I? What is the meaning of life?

This is a time when we should benefit from history, whether it be the distant past of early Christendom and civilizations fallen, or the near past of this country and the Evening Light Reformation. The lessons of the past hold meaning and relevancy to us and have bearing upon us if we consider them. Condensing these remarks: With regard to the system of earthly things, we are approaching the apex of civilization; in the scheme of God's will for man in the world, we are at a cross-road, a crucial moment of time; spiritually, we are in a time of general recklessness and wickedness, wherein man seems unable to grasp and retain a grip on the gravity of the spiritual conditions and decisions he is facing.

With these thoughts providing a background, I feel impressed of God to address myself to a detrimental condition, along with the spirit and wisdom of the age which is making inroads into many saints' lives. Wickedness, in God's mind, is any moral depravity; or any behavior or thought that tends to alter man's nature into or maintain man's nature in other than its intended state. Wickedness has become a part of man's code of

behavior in the world in which we live, destroying belief in God and challenging every God-like, Christ-like, righteous virtue and principle that saints possess. There is a danger that our spiritual judgment and discernment be altered or tainted or destroyed by the pervasiveness of this wickedness around us. Let me give an example of the wisdom of the age. Examine this conclusion: Modesty is relative to the weather, relative to the culture, relative to the occasion. That seems reasonable doesn't it? But there is wickedness inherent in it because there is something about modesty that is not relative.

To illustrate this point, here is a question and an answer that is suitable to the conclusion mentioned above, but not to God: If a saint goes to a beach where both sexes are on a hot day, what is modest for him or her to wear? A swimsuit.

Here are some scriptures to consider: Genesis 3:7, "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made aprons." Genesis 3:21, "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them." These scriptures indicate that Adam and Eve's judgment wasn't sufficient to guide them in selecting proper clothing—once they had entered a depraved moral condition and also that God wanted man covered with a more substantial covering than aprons could provide. Hence, a system of modesty in dress, which has no relativity, was set up by God in the very earliest of man's existence. Pride in dress, sex appeal in dress, style in dress were all non-existent at that time; therefore, God did not concern Himself with them. These things are inventions of man in his depravity and saints must consider them prayerfully. (Reference: Ecclesiastes 7:29. "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions." Note the word "but" indicates opposition to "upright" and implies that the inventions were evil or in some way involved evil in their inception. Adam and Eve's invention was the apron.)

This leads me to the condition to which I want to address myself. It is this. The saints are vulnerable to the challenge that wickedness and the wisdom of this age are presenting to the traditions we have received from our elders. A tradition is the handing down of information, beliefs, and customs by word of mouth or by example from one generation to another without written instruction. A tradition of the saints is one that carries a Bible principle or has been found to be helpful in exemplifying a Christian life. Defined this way, few of the traditions of the saints fall into the category of empty traditions of men. By way of an extended question, I would like to call attention to some examples of the traditions of the saints.

What is wrong with saved and sanctified:

1. Women wearing "modest" ladies' pant suits?
2. Women wearing excessively long or short skirts or dresses?
3. Women and men wearing short sleeved shirts or blouses outside their houses, when not involved in some type of labor that as a matter of practicality necessitates this?
4. Men and women wearing tight pants, skirts, dresses, shirts or blouses?

5. Men and women wearing clothing that is patterned, or material that is woven or colored in such a way that its overall design is intended to be conspicuously an attention-getter either to one's body or the fineness of one's clothing?

6. Men and women wearing unnecessary articles of adornment or dress?

7. Men and women wearing the latest styles?

8. Men and women using the latest mannerisms and mode of speech of the general public?

9. Men and women wearing wigs, dyeing and tinting their hair?

10. Men and women watching television for entertainment?

11. Men and women engaging in sports activities outside of the parent-child relationship?

This listing is by no means all-inclusive of the traditions of the saints. Some of these things may be regarded as doctrine in one way or another. Many of these things may require special teaching, prayer, or consideration for everyone to arrive at a clear understanding. Here, they are put forth to provide a list of examples of traditions which have Biblical, or righteous principles, or consideration in them. Thank God that the doctrine of righteousness by which the Church of God lives includes more than the traditions which are handed down to us. That standard of righteousness and pure holiness cannot be written down. Traditions are not a test of fellowship in God's Church, because we recognize as God does that there are newborn babes among us who don't even know what many of the saints' teachings have been and why. (I John 1:7). Also, a saint may be found in non-compliance with any one of these traditions through unwilling ignorance. While taken one at a time, it may seem that each tradition is insignificant when compared to righteousness as a whole. However, if any number of these traditions are discarded, the net effect would be devastating to the spirituality and Christian identity of the individual or the congregation concerned and the Church of God as a whole if disregard becomes that widespread. This is what concerns me.

Traditions are often the way our elders have of handing something down to us which they feel is a Biblical or a godly principle, when they have no other adequate way of leaving it with us, and therefore these traditions should warrant our careful consideration before being discounted as not applicable to us. In other words, a good deal of gleaning should take place prior to dropping these traditions. It goes without saying that we should not drop the traditions of our elders solely for want of sufficient self-denial. God will provide strength for self-denial if the will is present. A tradition can be likened to a picture; a picture is often worth a thousand words. Likewise, a tradition may express through its living example Bible principles deeper than many of us can put into words. If these traditions are haphazardly or recklessly cast aside, lost at the same time is a valuable spiritual truth. In many young people there is a prevailing and increasing feeling that if one's heart is right and spirit is right, that he has found the essence of salvation; hence, after having so possessed these, the traditions concerning the outer man may be dropped. However, if a person does not have the right spirit, he is not saved. Romans 8:9, says, "If any man



have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his." This suggests appropriately that there is a deeper truth involved in a tradition than making sure one has the right spirit. One's identity as a saint is at stake.

In the foregoing pattern of reasoning, leading to the discarding of a tradition, there is a connection between the heart and the spirit, the heart and the body, the body and the soul, the inner man and the outer man, that is being overlooked. For purposes of identification, a man's spirit is that activating or essential motivating principle influencing a person and it is made manifest in one's deportment and the overall effect he has on those around him. The connection between a man's heart and his spirit is that his spirit abides in his heart; reference Zechariah 12:1. Matthew 15:18-20 says, "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man." In this passage is shown that there is a connection between a man's heart and the body (note: things out of the mouth come forth from the heart), and the inner man and the outer man (note: the inner man is defiled when the outer man does something displeasing to God, because the actions of the outer man originate from within). These connections are not limited to the catalogue of sins listed here, nor to just what the mouth part of the outer man does, but can be Biblically expanded to generally include all deeds of wickedness that any part of the outer man might engage in.

Hence, as we look back at the discussion of carelessly dropping the observance of traditions, we can see a distinct danger of losing our identity as saints. After all, what are true saints in light and the body of the Church of God but people who have the inner man and the outer man in submission to God's will and Word, "perfecting holiness"? The outer man and the inner man, both, are important. Traditions on the surface almost always seem to pertain to the outer man, but as we look deeper we usually see that God is calling for our hearts to be involved to turn what appears to be an empty tradition into a living example of a Christian life.

It is for those of us saints who esteem ourselves to be spiritually-minded to recognize the challenges facing our Christian life and the lives of those looking to us for guidance. We must stand out as clear examples for God in this world, applying Godly traditions as well as the Word of God to our lives through study of the Bible and prayer and fasting if need be. —Adriel J. Bowman

## Truth In The Inward Parts

"Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom." Psalms 51:6. "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." James 1:8. "Cleanse your hands, ye sinners and purify your hearts, ye double minded." James 4:8.

The dictionary says that double-minded means "waverer or undecided." We might also express it as an unstable mind or personality. The English author, Lewis, wrote a book about the "Hollow People" who lived

a "double" life or who put on a different face or nature when they went out in the world. He saw the hollow and double life that so many people lived. Sometimes, this is an evil nature at home and a good nature before other people, or it may be reversed with a better nature shown at home while at work they use profane or obscene language and tell lude stories or look at or read material which they would never allow in their homes.

This is all an expression of the double nature of man; the baser or animal nature that draws us to sin through the cunning devices of Satan, and the moral or higher nature which draws us to God, and gives us control over the evil nature through the cleansing and atoning blood of Jesus Christ. Many lives are like the waves of the sea as James says in 1:6, "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed."

This is the predicament of man. He needs to be changed from the "natural" man to the "spiritual" man that he might have the "natural" man removed. Then with the mind of Christ in him he no longer has the conflict of good and evil within him. He no longer has to put on a different "face" before the people he works or associates with, but can just be "himself" as God leads him. The natural man seeks to flatter others that they may look upon him with favor, but it comes from a vain and unstable heart that cannot forever be hidden. The Psalmist says in 12:2, "They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak." The Psalmist also says in 119:113, "I hate vain thoughts [those of a double mind]: but thy law do I love."

In the business world or among people of the world, it is common to lie to one another with never a thought of it being wrong. It is a common thought that you can not do business without lying or deceiving. Prov. 12:22 says, "Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight." It is more than displeasing to the Lord, it is an abomination! In Prov. 10:18 the Bible says, "He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool." Paul also said in Eph. 4:24-25, "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another."

Jesus said, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." The nature of children is to be straightforward or "naive," which is defined as "a natural simplicity of nature." Most young people will retain this trait until they are trained or influenced by their peers to conform to other attitudes. The true child of God does not have the unstable nature of the worldly person, but can speak from a true heart of love replenished from the well of God's love which never runs dry. Paul expressed the condition of the unregenerate man in Romans 7:19, "For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do." Then he gave the answer to this dilemma in 7:24,25, "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord! There is deliverance! With Paul we, too, can say, "Thank God!"

—George A. Hammond