

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

## Church of God Servant



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### The Saviour's Mission



Once more the Christmas bells ring out  
Glad tidings bright and clear,  
While friends and loved ones gather 'bout  
For gladness, warmth, and cheer.

But let us pause for solemn thought;  
Slow down life's reckless rate,  
Lest in a snare your soul be caught,  
And sorrow be your fate.

Let's turn our hearts in one accord  
From earth's dark vanity,  
And think of Jesus Christ our Lord  
Who died for you and me.

His lowly birth into this world  
Has changed the course of men;  
Though Satan's wrath at Him was hurled  
He conquered death and sin.

The message that He brought, the life  
He lived so earnestly,  
The work He did, the holy strife  
He fought so valiantly

To bear us witness and portray  
The heav'nly Father's love,  
To open up and make a way  
That we might live above.

All this was fully carried out,  
Made perfect and complete;  
And we can gain beyond all doubt  
His full salvation sweet.

'Tis ours to know and here receive  
Eternal life and peace;  
As we continue to believe  
Our joy will e'er increase.

Then can we know the angel song  
That came to earth that night,  
And with the ransomed heav'nly throng  
Rejoice in Heaven's light.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### You Can Live Forever!



"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." John 11:25, 26. This is not a head belief, but with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Most people shrink from death and go to any extent to live. In Jesus you can live forever: not here, for there are so many things undesirable in this world. There are sickness, pain, hardships, disappointments, to say nothing of crime, wars, dangers, and calamities.

What is this offer of eternal life—never die? Of Abraham it was said that, "He looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God, . . . and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. . . . But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city." Heb. 11:10-16.

God made this provision by giving His Son. John 3:16. Eternal death was brought on the world through disobedience. Man could no longer be trusted with the tree of life to live forever in his sinful state. Jesus tasted death for every man, so the death sentence is revoked for those who accept Him as their Saviour from sin and the Lord of their lives. "This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." I John 5:11,12. In Christ alone we have eternal life, which is spiritual life. By the new birth He transforms and translates us into His spiritual kingdom where He rules, and we submit to His will and Word. "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17.

The natural man would not fit into the heavenly country. There will be no television, bars, night clubs, theaters, for this is a spiritual place. Spiritual things are foolishness to the natural man. He can't know them, for they are spiritually discerned. I Cor. 2:14. Only those who are born again can enjoy the things of God. God has provided a new heart and a new spirit that delights in the things of God. "A new heart also will I give you, and a new

spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them." Ezek. 36:26,27.

Our earthly house will be temporarily vacated at the death of our bodies. II Cor. 5:1 tells of moving out of our earthly quarters—that body wracked with pain, maimed, feeble, and burdened, which can no longer be repaired. As a poet wrote, "We don't need this old house any longer."

Jesus has gone to prepare a place for His Bride—the Church. Later, when He returns, those bodies will be raised to be glorified for the new country.

Jesus said, "I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come." John 8:21. Only one alternative: live eternally with Christ who paid your sin debt, or have eternal death for your sins. Only God's children inherit eternal life with the Lord. "If children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ." Rom. 8:17.

We become children of God by being born into His family. Jesus said to Nicodemus, a religious man, "Ye must be born again." There must be confessing and forsaking of all sin. He that confesseth and forsaketh shall have mercy. "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." Psalms 51:17.

Do you want to live forever? Then "seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Isa. 55:6,7. Both life and death are eternal. Who would reject Christ who gives life and died for our sins, to suffer eternal damnation? "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: that thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days." Deut. 30:19-20.

—Elsie Dietrich

## "Tossed To and Fro"

It was high noon, and the wind was blowing briskly as we sat looking out of the window at the airport, waiting for the time for my sister to board the airplane. She had come to the wedding of my granddaughter Connie, and was returning. The men were servicing the airplane; the food service truck backed slowly up to the side of the plane. It stopped at the proper distance and the man got into the bed of the truck. It began to rise up to the door of the plane. When it was at the proper place, he opened the door of his truck, and let down a platform on the level with the door of the airplane. He opened the door of the plane and began to unload the food. As he worked, a napkin was caught by the wind and was tossed to and fro. It would go up and down, and back and forth, finally drifting to the ground. As I watched that napkin, a part of a Scripture came to me, which was, "tossed to and fro, and carried about with every

wind of doctrine." No doubt, the Apostle Paul had seen how the wind would toss paper or just anything about, and he compared it to people who did not have a firm foundation upon which to build their faith.

The Apostle Paul brought out the fact in the Ephesian letter that God had given gifts to different ones for the "perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." To some He gave the gifts to be "apostles, some prophets, and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers." Eph. 4:11-14. He knew this was needful "that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." Those who had these gifts would speak the "truth in love," so we could "grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ." (ver. 15).

How sad it is there are so many false prophets in the world today and many people who are willing to believe everything they say. God has given the truth to those who are His workers and we need to know who they are. Just because some preacher has a D.D. after his name, or is called Reverend, that does not mean he is ordained of God. Those who are ordained of God to teach, have the Holy Spirit within them and they can "rightly divide the word of truth." It takes the Spirit of God to reveal the deep Bible truths to people. It takes more than just studying or being able to quote a lot of Scriptures. I have known people who could quote whole chapters and yet misinterpret their meaning. Many will take out a part of a verse and try to base a doctrine on that part of a verse. They do not take the whole context of the chapter or what it is meaning. People who follow false prophets are like the napkin falling from the platform of the food service truck. They are "tossed to and fro" by false teachings. They become so confused that they finally lose faith in any of God's Word.

Some false prophets will quote Romans 3:10, "There is none righteous, no, not one." On this verse he will base his false teaching that no one is righteous, nor ever can be. He might even use the verse on down in the chapter which says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God," (verse 23). Those who believe this interpretation think there is no hope for them to be saved from sin and be righteous in God's sight. They will be "tossed to and fro" with doubts, fears, unbelief, and false teachings.

The true prophet will say that the Bible says, "There is none righteous, no, not one," but through Christ we can be forgiven of our sins and have the righteousness of God. He will read the whole context of the chapter which says, "Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe," (verse 22) and that through Christ we are justified "through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins." The whole chapter teaches that once we were unrighteous, but through faith we are saved from our sins and can have the righteousness of God within us through Christ.

After our volitional sins are forgiven, then we can be cleansed or purged by the Holy Spirit from the sin principle that "passed upon all men" through Adam. Rom. 5:12; Acts 15:8,9; Rom. 15:16. Many today do not teach two definite works of grace in the heart and many

who do teach it are in confusion. They are "tossed to and fro" with winds of false doctrines and do not have a settled experience in Christ that brings power in their lives, nor soul rest. I know by experience that we can have two definite experiences of the work of grace in the soul. It's real and it's precious. It brings one to the place of perfect rest and faith in Christ.

May the Lord help souls to search the Word of God and find the chain from the beginning to the end that links God's truths that they may be settled on a firm foundation, is my prayer. —Sis. Marie Miles

## "Bring Up Your Lives"

I once heard a story of a military standard bearer who, in the time of battle when his company was charging up a hill against a fortified enemy position, was going ahead of his company carrying the flag. Enemy fire was very effective as the enemy was strongly entrenched and the company was being shot up badly. The officer in charge deemed the battle lost and that he should pull back his men, so he called to the standard bearer ordering him to bring back the flag. The standard bearer called back over his shoulder as he continued to charge on into the enemy position, "I won't bring back the flag; you bring up your men!" According to the story, the beaten and battered army rallied to the standard and the result was victory.

Brethren, let this be the spirit of every one of us. There is a cry from some in our day that the standard is being held too high and we are too strict about this and that, etc., and some are seeking for a modification of some of the old teachings which our fathers stood by, lived and taught, and to which God attested His sanction by miracles, signs and wonders, and abundance of divine grace, producing great joy and victorious living among His people. When the cry goes out to bring down or lower the standard, let the spontaneous response of every one of us be that "We won't do it; you bring up your lives." And if all will bring up their lives to the definitely established standard and principles of truth (rally to the standard) the result will be victory.

In Numbers 2:34 we read, "And the children of Israel did according to all that the Lord commanded Moses: so they pitched by their standards, and so they set forward." Ah, folks, there you have it! "They pitched by their standards and SO they set forward." If we want to set forward and make real solid progress in our individual lives and in the work of God, we must pitch by the standards which God will honor and work through. Otherwise, we are doomed to certain defeat.

Variance is classified in Gal. 5:20 as a work of the flesh. For us to vary in any degree from the established lines of truth laid down by Christ and the apostles and perpetuated unto us by our fathers is to give place to the flesh. Two straight lines running parallel can be projected around the world and still be the same exact distance apart as at the beginning. But if there is a little variation in one of them, be it ever so slight, by the time it is projected around the world it will be off a long, long way. So with the lines of truth: if there is just a slight variation some way, by the time it is projected through this age, or through a few generations even, there is no way of calculating how far off it might be.

One has said, "Individuals are but atoms. They are born, they live, they act, they die. But truth is an eternal principle and can never be changed." This is very true. Change truth to any degree at all and it becomes false. There may be different conditions and different things to meet in our day than in the days of Christ and the apostles or in the early days of this reformation and, no doubt, there are. But the clear principles of eternal truth, if solidly held, will meet the problems of our day the same as theirs.

We cannot move established landmarks to suit our land lines. We must move our land lines to suit the established land marks. At this point I think of Bro. George Winn of Guthrie, Oklahoma, whom some of you may still remember. He said at one time that if God would hand him the Bible and say, "Here, George, just take this book and fix it to fit you," he would just hand the Bible back to God and say, "God, the book is all right just like it is. Just fix George to fit the book." Brethren, that is the attitude we all need and must have. Let us not be trying to change any part of God's Word to suit our way of life at any point, but let us earnestly be seeking God to change our lives in any way they need changing to conform to the truths of God's Word. —O. B. Wilson

## The Cathedral



I entered a great cathedral  
With wonderful carvings in stone,  
Marvelous stained glass windows,  
Organ of matchless tone;  
Such treasures were in its chapels,  
Gifts from across the sea,  
Gathered with others offered  
In loving memory!

I was filled with awe and rapture,  
As I walked with reverent feet,  
Trying to picture the grandeur  
When the building should be complete,  
For years had gone into its making,  
Yet it would take very much  
Money and time and labor  
To give the finishing touch.

I went from the gray cathedral  
To the city's thoroughfare,  
Where I saw the poor and suffering—  
The blind and the lame were there;  
And I caught a glimpse among them  
Of a Figure, shadowy, dim,—  
I knew that the grand cathedral  
Had been planned to glorify Him,  
I thought of His life of service,  
How simply His days were spent,  
So that I could but wonder,  
Would He not be more content  
If the treasure to be expended  
On His temple was given, instead,  
To shelter and clothe the needy,  
And provide His children bread?

## "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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## EDITORIALS



**THE SEASON'S WARMEST GREETINGS ARE EXTENDED TO ALL OUR READERS** in the precious name of the Holy Child Jesus, at whose birth the angel of the Lord accompanied with a glorious light appeared to the lonely shepherds on the Judean hills who were keeping watch over their flocks by night, and said: "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to ALL people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2: 10, 11. Zacharias also prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; as he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; the oath which he sware to our father Abraham, that he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life." Luke 1:68-75.

It is a sad fact that the world, and even Christendom in general, have shamefully disgraced the observance of the birth of Jesus Christ. For that reason, some have gone to the other extreme and practically ignore the observance of His birth as an event that is not important. But the devout children of Israel of the Old Testament believed God's promise of a coming Saviour and earnestly looked forward through the many centuries to the fulfillment of that gracious promise. The birth of Jesus was very important in the life of Simeon, as we read: "And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel." Luke 2:25-32. Jesus' birth was surely a vital part of God's great redemptive plan. If he had not been born, we would still be in our sins. His first advent was for the purpose of saving His people from their sins. God was made flesh and dwelt among men. God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself. (2 Cor. 5:19).

Praise God for the gift of His only begotten Son who was the greatest Gift to mankind. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift!" Jesus Christ,

the Lion of the tribe of Judah, broke the power of Satan who had held sway over the human race, generally speaking, ever since the transgression in the Garden of Eden, and offers a full and free salvation to every soul. Whosoever will may come and take the water of life freely.

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**MANY THANKS** to our readers for the considerable number of yearly gift subscriptions which they have sent. We welcome all you can send at any time at the price of \$1.00 for three yearly subscriptions. We pray and trust that the Bible truth in the coming issues will prove a real spiritual blessing to every recipient. There is transforming power in believing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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Sister Edith Wall, Bro. Geo. Hammond, my wife, and this writer were privileged to attend the autumn meeting in Wichita, Kan., on Sunday, Nov. 6th. We certainly enjoyed the preached Word and the fellowship of the saints, and to see souls find the joy of salvation at the altar of prayer.

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Bro. H. H. Hargrave, pastor in Goulds, Fla., held a very profitable revival meeting from Nov. 6 to 13 at the 23rd Street Church of God chapel in Oklahoma City where Bro. Archie Souder is the pastor. The Lord anointed the minister night after night, and the solid, old-time truth was preached positive and definite. The saints rejoiced in the truth. The meeting was well attended and a number of souls sought spiritual help.

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Good reports have come from the recent Oregon assembly meeting at Jefferson, and their new chapel on the campground is nearing completion.

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Bro. George Hammond arrived in Guthrie from Wisconsin on Nov. 3rd, and helped us in electric, mechanic, and carpenter work for more than a week. He returned to Wisconsin and expects to be back here at the office after Dec. 1st.

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For some years, my wife and I have been permitted to attend the annual Assembly meeting held at Hammond, La., during the week of Thanksgiving. However, this year we will not get to the meeting, as this writer is working long days to keep up the necessary office work in addition to putting all the time possible in finishing additional manuscript for the out-of-print book, "God's Gracious Dealings," and getting it on the press as soon as possible. This Seventh Edition is expected to be bound in a cloth cover, and made available some time after the first of the year.

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#### Two Books Just Off The Press . . .

The excellent out-of-print volume, "The Double Cure, or Redemption Twofold" by D. O. Teasley, is now in stock. This book should enlighten the reader on the second work of grace, and correct the think-

ing of those who deny the cleansing element in sanctification. Consisting of 160 pages of large print in a heavy paper cover, this book is priced at \$1.00 each, plus 35c for postage and handling.

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Looking back over the year, as this last issue of the year of 1977 goes to press, we gratefully recognize God's gracious dealings of love and care in advancing this gospel literature ministry. Our praise ascends to Him, and our sincere thanks are extended to our readers who have so faithfully prayed for and supported this gospel ministry. For the future, our hand is in the Lord's to follow wherever He leads.

—Lawrence Pruitt

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## Obituaries



**Mrs. Olive S. Keene**, born April 29, 1894, departed this life on Sept. 19, 1977, at her home at Summersville, W. Va., with an apparent heart attack at the age of 83 years.

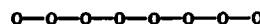
Her husband, William H. Keene, preceded her in death in 1972.

Sister Keene met the saints of the Church of God 57 years ago, and remained true to the teaching until the end. She was kind and kept a sweet spirit until she went to sleep in Jesus. Another pillar in the Church has gone to her reward.

Survivors include one daughter, Mrs. C. Y. Brown of Summersville, W. Va.; one son, William H. Keene, Jr., of Akron, Ohio; four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

At her funeral the undersigned used the Scripture: ". . . let my last end be like his." Num. 23:10b.

—Mart Samons

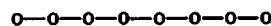


**Edward Olson** was born October 18, 1885 to O. E. and Henrietta Olson in Forest City, Iowa and departed this life on October 15, 1977, at Albany, Oregon, at the age of 91 years, 11 months, and 28 days. He lived in Iowa, North and South Dakota, Canada, and California before moving to Jefferson, Oregon, about 10 years ago. He married his wife, Marie, at Albert Lea, Minnesota, to which union one daughter was born. His wife preceded him in death in 1928.

He was a member of the Church of God congregation in Jefferson, Oregon, and was a most regular attendant at all the services of the church—always in his place. He loved the Lord and was seeking to please Him in all the ways he knew. His place is now vacant and he is very much missed as we look back over the congregation and do not see him.

He is survived by his daughter, Mrs. Berniece Sjorgren of Roseburg, Oregon, one grandchild and five great-grandchildren.

His funeral service was held by Ostis B. Wilson at the Fisher Funeral Home in Albany, Oregon, with interment in the Willamette Memorial Park at Albany.



**Alsia James Sorrell**, son of Jimmy and Eva Sorrell, was born Sept. 16, 1899, at Myrtle, Mo., and departed this life Nov. 6, 1977, at the age of 78 years, one month and 21 days.

On November 25, 1923, he was united in marriage to Bessie Mable Reynolds. To this union were born four sons and two daughters: Lillian Eck, of Goltry, Okla., Lehman, of Newton, Kansas, Dora Lela Beisly of Guthrie, Okla., Clifford, of Garden City, Kansas, Fred, of Denver, Colo., and Thurman, of Myrtle, Mo. He leaves to mourn: all the children and their companions, as well as 16 grandchildren, one great-grandchild, three faithful brothers, Foy, of Kearney, Mo., Loy, of Springfield, Mo., Audie, of Thayer, Mo., a devoted sister, Lydia Hall, of Myrtle, Mo., other relatives and many friends.

Alsia and Bessie, through a tender conscience, embraced the truth of the Church of God at an early age in life, and worked together faithfully in furthering the gospel. Bessie preceded him in death on Dec. 2, 1967, at the age of 65 years.



They always taught their children to love and fear God. Their philosophy was to live peaceably with all men, and they both proved it by their quiet, meek, and pleasant lives.

On December 15, 1968, Bro. Sorrell was united in marriage to Dollie Gentry. She was a devoted companion also, and stood by him in sickness as well as health. Her four children, Hassie Palmer, of Shreveport, La., Eula Adams, of Hornersville, Mo., Troy Gentry, of Loranger, La., Ed Gentry of Hornersville, Mo., and six grandchildren were taught of the same faith, uniting the two families in love and understanding to work for the same cause.

Bro. Sorrell has gone to receive a great reward for the labors he loved so well, which were working to make preparation for the campmeetings each year. The meetings were held and many souls saved. Now he is sharing in the reaping of the harvest of souls, being added to the kingdom of God in heaven.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Murphy Allen, Bro. Sam Abbott, and Bro. Donald Sharp. Burial was in the Church of God Cemetery at Myrtle, Mo.

#### Note of Thanks

We wish to express our appreciation to each one for the prayers, offerings, flowers, food, cards, and each act of kindness shown us at this time. Many friends and relatives paid more than one visit to Bro. Alsia during his extended sickness, showing their love and concern. It was appreciated by him and made a lasting impression on his wife and children. May the Lord bless and reward each one.

—The family of Alsia J. Sorrell

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Annie Mae (Thomas) Phillips was born Sept. 21, 1908, to James and Ida Penney in Little Rock, Ark. She departed this life on Aug. 26, 1977, at Bakersfield, Calif., at the age of 68 years, 11 months, and six days.

Annie Mae married Isaac Bell in 1927 at Boley, Okla. To this union two children were born, Alfred and Autry Mae. Mr. Bell and Autry Mae preceded her in death. Annie Mae married Mr. Herbert Thomas in 1943. He passed away in 1966. She was saved in the Church of God in 1952 and became a faithful and devout member.

In 1972, she married Bro. Ben Phillips of Wichita, Kansas, and made her home there until ill health caused her to move back to Bakersfield.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her husband, Ben Phillips of Wichita, Kan.; one son, Alfred Bell of Kansas; 10 brothers, James Penney, A. C. Johnson, and Milton Johnson of Oklahoma City, Okla., Mansfield Johnson and Jewell Johnson of Oakland, Calif., Mencer Johnson, Roy Johnson, and Willie Johnson of Boley, Oklahoma, Raymond Johnson of Wichita, Kan., and Leo Johnson of Okmulgee, Oklahoma; two sisters, Rosie Lee Moland of Bakersfield, Calif., Ida Lucille Francisco of Rialto, Calif.; four grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, many other relatives, saints, and friends.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. R. C. Mayes, assisted by others, at the Church of God chapel in Bakersfield, and interment was in the Union Cemetery, Bakersfield, Calif.

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Bro. Carl Gimse of Schiller Park, Ill., longtime reader of this paper, sent a Thanksgiving offering and wrote on Nov. 10th that his wife, Sister Karen Gimse, aged 86,

passed to her eternal Home on Sept. 27, 1977, after falling and breaking her hip in February. They had been married 49 years. The funeral service and burial were at Hartford, Michigan. May God comfort and sustain Bro. Gimse and all the bereaved relatives of this dear one who departed this life. Remember there will be a great reunion day for all the faithful.

—Editor

#### OKMULGEE, OKLA., REVIVAL REPORT

A good, spiritual revival meeting was held this autumn here at Okmulgee, Okla., where Bro. Woodrow Warren is the pastor. The Lord did hear and answer the prayers of His people. Ministers and singers with a burden were here from Calif., Kansas and Oklahoma. Most all the messages were directed to the Church. The congregation was stirred and provoked to a greater love and good works for the Lord. A few souls sought the Lord at the altar.

In all my fifty years, this is the first time I witnessed a revival of this nature. It reminded me of Jesus' revelation to John on the Isle of Patmos—the messages to the churches. We must be obedient to all His Word that is revealed by His Spirit. We are living in those shaking, perilous times of which the Word speaks. Let us notice and beware.

—Erma Johnson

#### WICHITA, KAN., MEETING REPORT

The congregation at Wichita, Kansas, gives praise to the Lord for His faithful answers to prayer. We had several nights of prayer meetings preceding our ten-day meeting, and the saints did travail. You could say the theme of our meeting was, "Marching around the walls," and they did fall on the eighth day. The Lord gave a breakthrough and Zion did bring forth children. Over a dozen people got saved and we do praise God. About 16 were baptized on the last Sunday.

The Lord worked out problems, healed bodies, strengthened and edified the saints, and blessed abundantly in many ways.

We appreciate the help of all the ministers God sent, and all other saints who came and helped in the battle.

—Submitted by Shirley Knight

#### REPORT FROM THE FIELD

Calif.—Dear Brother Lawrence, and all the saints: This leaves us all as well as usual, and thanking God for all His love and blessings to us. We trust you and yours are well also.

The Lord surely blessed me on this recent trip. Praise His name forever! I had been burdened for some time to visit my sisters and loved ones in Ohio, and after praying much, I felt it would be in God's will to make this trip. I arrived in Dayton in time for their all-day meeting on Sunday, Oct. 9. Bro. Bill Abbott took me all around to visit our relatives. How glad and thankful we were to see them once again. My youngest sister was gravely ill, and in the hospital. She was glad to see me again. It was like going home again, visiting with all the saints there in Dayton. I hated to leave. On Monday, Brother Bill took me to visit our older sister in Kentucky. She was also gravely ill and in the hospital. After

visiting with other relatives, I rode the bus to Holly Hill, S. Carolina. It was wonderful to be there again with the dear saints at Holly Hill. We had several nights' meeting with them. Dear Bro. O'Neal Pratt, the minister there, is very weak and frail in body, but still going in the name of the Lord. By Wednesday night I was quite worn out and left after service to fly back to my loved ones in California. We really appreciate the love and concern shown by every one. Indeed, the service of the Lord is our greatest delight.

Very recently the Lord permitted me to go to the funeral of Bro. Alsia Sorrell at Myrtle, Mo., where we had pastored in former years.

Yours in Christ, —S. E. Abbott  
1435 S. Towne Ave., Pomona, Calif. 91766

### CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting on the Church of God campground at Pacoima, Calif., will be held, Lord willing, December 23, 1977, through Jan. 1, 1978.

All are invited to attend. There are accommodations for everyone. We would appreciate it very much if those traveling by car and living within the state would bring their own bed linens. All meeting expenses will be met by free-will offerings.

The chapel address is: 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif., phone (213) 899-9021, or for assistance or directions, contact Bro. Robert Sherman, phone (213) 896-7593, or Brother James Pierro, 11316 Glenoaks Blvd., Pacoima, Calif. 91331, phone (213) 896-5331.

We request your prayers. —Wynema Clay

### OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 71st annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Guthrie, Okla., on Dec. 23, 1977 to Jan. 1, 1978, inclusive, during the Christmas holidays. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U.S.A.

The chapel is located on the corner of 6th Street and West Warner Avenue. The dining hall and dormitories are located in the same block for your convenience. All who come will be cared for. The expenses of the meeting will be met as usual by free-will offerings.

We are praying and expecting the Lord to send in Spirit-filled ministers to preach the Word with heaven's anointing. All hungry souls seeking light or spiritual help, come, and God will meet you here. If you are sick in body, come and be healed by faith in the Great Physician. Saints, come praying with a burden for the unsaved and for all who need help in soul and body. These are perilous times, and we need to be about our Father's business, doing what we can for lost souls.

Please send all contributions for the coming State Assembly meeting directly to the State Treasurer, Sister Frances Deforth, Route 2, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

—L. D. Pruitt

We know that prayer and praise go hand in hand. Help us, Lord, to pray and praise you all we can.

—Effie Miller

## Prayer Requests



Calif.—Sis. Edith Wittenborn broke her hip. She is up in years and needs prayer. She is Sis. Evelyn (Ostis) Wilson's mother.

Ore.—“I have a lot of pain in my arm from my elbow to my shoulder. . . . At times I feel I am losing the use of it . . . I need prayer. . . . My mother told me years ago how bad she had pains in one of her arms. She sent to Guthrie for prayer and God completely delivered her of the affliction. She could hardly get her arm up to comb her hair. So the Lord can do the same for me.”

—Sis. Grace Jones

Mich.—“My aunt needs prayer. She has arthritis and can't walk good. When she falls, it's so very painful to get up. She is very thin and can't eat very well. . . . My mother's foot is almost healed. Thanks to all for your prayers and praise to the Lord. The bump on her forehead by her hairline is growing and is red. We are trusting the Lord to heal it soon. . . . My father still has some problems, but we are thankful he is as well as he is. . . . Remember my mother's cousins (husband and wife). She has cancer and he has lost one leg with sugar diabetes. They are in their seventies.”

—Sis. Olive Getterson

S. Carolina—“Pray much for my eyes. They are very weak.”

—Eddie Driggers

Oregon—“Pray for wife and me, as we are suffering from arthritis. We live upstairs and must climb the stairs many times a day.”

—Howard J. Hanson

Idaho—“Our daddy is still with us . . . we weighed him last week and he weighed 100 pounds. He eats so very little. . . . It hurts to see a babe in Christ suffer so very much. . . . This surely keeps us on our knees. . . . Remember him in prayer.”

—Sis. Ruby Marken

Okla.—Remember Sis. Hettie Barton in prayer. She has to have someone with her all the time. She is fully trusting the Lord to take her to the end.

Ark.—“A dear sister in the Lord here in the congregation wanted me to write for prayer for her 30-year-old daughter who lost her hearing in one ear, due to infection, when a child. They now have operated on her and the other ear drum is about gone. She has two children and this is sad. . . . This sister also has a grandson who is an epileptic.”

—Sis. Lou Bray

Ky.—“I am 85 years of age, a widow, and live alone. I am a shut-in cripple and I am in need of your prayers.”

—Emma Pigman

Miss.—“I am still in need of prayer for this nervousness.”

—Ethel Lowery

Okla.—Continue to pray for Bro. Waldo Eck. His feet and limbs are still swollen. Sis. Beatrice is some better. She can walk by herself now, yet needs complete healing.

Mich.—Let us continue to remember Bro. and Sis. Floyd Hines in prayer. They are up in years and each has an affliction.

We want to pray that the Lord will deal with souls in the different meetings that will be in progress during the holiday season. Also, remember parents who are looking to God to help them rear their children in the “fear and admonition of the Lord” in this wicked world. They have pulls from every angle which are not toward God. We hear through the mail and have phone calls from parents

who are very burdened for their children. Let us help by carrying a burden for them when we pray.

—Sis. Marie Miles

### MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Oct. 15)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints everywhere: We send our loving greetings to all of you in the glorious name of Jesus Christ "who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." II Cor. 1:4.

Thank you very much for your nice letter dated Oct. 3rd, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude.

We had a very blessed monthly meeting at Niranam and the saints had a good time of fellowship there. I am getting very satisfactory and progressive reports from the congregations in north, south, east and west here in India. Especially in Wyandodu (hill area), where we started a work very recently, the gospel is being expanded to the neighboring places, too! They are needy people like God said to Jonah about Nineveh that many living there cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand. Pray for them.

Our general campmeeting at Karikkom will start on Jan. 18, 1978, and continue for five days. We wish that some of our dear brethren from America could participate in these services. This year we expect many spiritual blessings as well as the salvation of many sinners at this campmeeting. Your prayers are requested.

The saints at Niranam do not have a chapel in which to assemble for worship. Now they wish to build a chapel there. . . . The church at Niranam needs your prayers and cooperation.

My wife and others in my family send their love and prayers to and for all the brothers and sisters in America. I extend my love and prayers, especially praying for your complete healing.

Yours in His service, —John Varghese

### NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (Oct. 22)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the dear saints of the Most High: Greetings in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ whose love for us brought Him down to earth to die on the tree for our deliverance from sin. This very love is unchanging to the end. He said, "I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." But He is coming only for His own. "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." Luke 13:24. "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20.

Thank you for your letter dated Oct. 2nd, 1977. We remain grateful to the Lord for all that was enclosed, and may the blessing of the Lord rest upon all through whom the Lord supplied these physical needs.

We look forward to the arrival of the National business meeting of the Church of God set for Nov. 5, 1977, to be held in Tombia due to accommodation difficulties in Port Harcourt. This is the first meeting ever convened in this nation to be attended by representatives from all the Church of God congregations in Nigeria,

making plans for a unified embarkation on the supreme task of evangelism. The Laodicean church was lukewarm; therefore, the Lord said to her, "Because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." Rev. 3:16. "Then said he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Matt. 9:37,38. One of the greatest needs of the Church today is Spirit-filled and Spirit-led people. Many letters have poured in from saints to hail this meeting with favorable comments expecting by it that the day has come when the Church will conduct her activities in a unified effort. We look to God for divine guidance.

Yours in the One Body of Christ,

—Titus Enu, Pastor

### LETTER FROM NIGERIAN MISSIONARY

Cross River State, Nigeria (Oct. 20)—Greetings in the matchless name of our Lord and King, our Comforter and Mediator. All praise to Him!

I am in receipt of your letters of Sept. 2 and Oct. 3, 1977. Thanks immensely to God and you for the enclosures. Our prayers regularly ascend to the throne of grace for our brethren in the family of God in America at large.

Bro. J. U. Etuk and I work together, so we have to eat together.

Thank you for the information that 30 Efik New Testaments are in transit to this address. . . .

The last part of September, 1977, Bro. Jackson Etuk, the pastor, administered the ordinance of the emblems of the blood and body of Jesus to this congregation. The occasion was preceded by the ordinance of feet-washing. (John 13:5-15). The faithful members happily participated in these ordinances after careful examination of themselves. (I Cor. 11:28).

As of now, we have completed building the walls of our chapel (which picture was sent to you in Oct., 1975) with cement blocks, through the effort of the consecrated members here. We ask the Lord to supply the means to cement the floor and install the windows, doors, etc.

This leaves us happy in the Lord and His service. We desire your prayers.

Yours in His service, —Nse B. Umanah

### REPORT FROM OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO, AND SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

Dear ones: Greetings of Christian love to all in the precious name of our Redeemer. Had He not come, none of us would or could be saved today. How I thank Him for coming!

An excerpt from Bro. Mayarino's letter: "We are all encouraged in the Lord. This past week we made a trip to be in services with Sis. Edith Lara at Patzcuaro. They came here for the same purpose about a month ago. All of us from Patzcuaro and Ojos Negros plan, Lord willing, to go to the valley of the Trinity for services and to encourage the brethren there. We earnestly ask that you pray for us. We desire wisdom in all parts of the work. Please forgive me for not writing until now, but I've been working on the motor

of the pickup. It has been giving me quite a bit of trouble."

Since my return this week from nursing my mother back to health, all avenues of the work the Lord has given me have been stepped up. New addresses keep coming in. I was happy this week to receive two new ones from Peru, South America, requesting 1,000 copies each of the book, *The Church of God, What it is, and What it is Not*, in Spanish. This will mean a new printing of it as soon as possible. They were also happy to know that they would be sent tracts on request for free distribution. My heart overflowed to know we had others who want to get the unadulterated Word of God to new areas. Pray for me that I will have wisdom and strength to carry on. My desire is to be faithful to the Lord.

Christian love, —Mayarino and Panchita Escobar  
Ap. Postal No. 284, Ensenada, B. Cfa., Mexico,  
and Opal Kelly, 919 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Ok.  
73044.

## From the Mail Box . . .

Minn.—Bro. Pruitt and saints of God: Greetings of holy love in Jesus' name. This leaves me in good health for which I thank the Lord who does all things well. "They say I am growing old. I hear them tell it times untold. But I am not growing old. This shell in which I dwell is growing old, I know full well. But I am not the shell. What if my eyes are growing dim? I still can see to follow Him, who sacrificed His life for me upon the cross of Calvary." My desire is to be with Him through a never-ending eternity, and also to bring others with me to that beautiful Home that Jesus has prepared for those who love the Lord and do His good will.

—Bro. Andrew Senti

Mich.—Dear ones in Christ: . . . I always enjoy your nice letters. They are real inspiring. We pray for the work and wish someday to meet you folks. There are so very few real saints left anymore. One doesn't know whom to ask for prayer as it seems folks are not interested. . . . There are no divine healing services and everything seems to be cut and dried, but I guess the Word is being fulfilled. . . . When I look in my vicinity and see the devil at work, I do wonder where the saints are. You can't tell the professors from the world. . . .

May God bless you in your work. I wish I lived closer. I would be there to help you in His cause. I am not giving up, for that would make the devil happy. I love God with all my soul, mind, and body.

—Mrs. Merrill Burd

Ind.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. The Lord has done great things for me, whereof I am glad. I do thank the Lord for the prayers of His people. I believe the Apostle James said, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Since I last wrote to you, my youngest son and daughter have been saved from their sins. Oh, I am very thankful to the Lord and I do praise His wonderful name! They are both in their twenties. Please pray much for them that they will stay true to the Lord.

How I do thank the Lord for His divine, unchangeable Word; also for His ministers who are not afraid to

preach His Word in these days of false doctrine and apostasy!

May God ever bless this wonderful *Faith and Victory* paper, and all the dear ones at the Print Shop. May God ever give you strength and courage to work until the day is done.

"I have given up all to my Savior so dear,  
And His praises I ever will sing,  
And tho' all of this world should forsake me while here,  
To my Savior I ever will cling.

"I have a good home in the fold of my Lord,  
Where His sanctified children all dwell;  
I am glad that I heard the truth from His Word,  
And now with my soul all is well."

Yours in Christ,

—Mattie C. Black

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Colo.—Dear Sis. Marie, Bro. Pruitt and all the workers at the Print Shop: I received my *Faith and Victory* and I surely enjoyed it. I read nearly all of it before I laid it down. I want to read part of it again. . . .

The Lord heard and answered prayer for me this morning. I had arthritis, I guess, in my arms, and I slept on my right shoulder until it just kept aching. I finally called Sis. Tombleson to agree with me in prayer, and thank the Lord, He helped. Oh, I want to serve Him and be worthy of His goodness to me! He has been my Healer for over 40 years. I just want to serve Him better each day and be ready at all times. It seems like there is such a little I can do anymore, but my faith and trust are in Jesus. Our little prayer band is getting smaller. Of course, they pray wherever they are, but we call each other when we need prayer. We can't get together to pray, but can agree.

Sis. Wollert went to Oregon to her daughter's. I hope her breathing is better out there.

Sis. Gaskins had a heart attack, but is able to be home again. She is 84 or 86 years of age and stays by herself. . . .

Sis. Marie, my children do not come for Sunday school anymore, so if you need the three books and the "Beautiful Way" papers, just send me one each, but I can give them away if you have extras. . . .

I have a tingling in the little finger and the one next to it, on my left hand, so please help us pray for it. I know Jesus is able to heal it. I always need your prayers.

—Sis. Addie McEndree

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ind.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings to you and all the workers at the Faith Publishing House in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Only the Lord knows what a great work you saints are doing. My prayer to God is that you will not let up. I know your health is not as good as we would like it to be, but God knows better than we do what is best for us. There is not a sunrise nor a sunset that we don't pray for relief from your ailment. We know God still heals and we will continue to pray for you. We have also been praying for Sister Marie's husband ever since she made the request, and we will continue to do so.

Bro. Pruitt, I am always glad to get the *Faith and Victory* paper. There is so much food for my soul in it. You don't know the full meaning of that statement because you are now and have been all your life where

you could hear the precious Word preached. I have to depend on the paper, for which I will always be thankful to God. When I get on this thought, my mind goes back to when your father, Bro. Fred Pruitt, and so many others of the older saints came to this part of the country preaching the Word as God would have them to. I don't get to hear that kind of preaching anymore. Sad, but it is true.

Here is a subscription for a Brother and Sister who love the truth. May God bless and keep you, is my prayer.

Your Brother in Christ, —John R. Floyd  
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Mo.— . . . We certainly appreciate God's mercy and blessing of reasonable health and strength to us this past year.

We are glad the printing work can continue on, and trust the necessary funds will be provided. . . .

We were thinking of how Bro. Alsia and Sis. Dollie Sorrell were with us in services one year ago the first Sunday of November.

May the Lord bless all your labors.

—Bro. and Sis. Leslie Adams and family  
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Mo.—Dear Sister Miles and workers at the Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' precious name. I'm praying the Lord will bless you and encourage your hearts and heal your bodies for Jesus' sake. . . .

I have much to thank the Lord for. I am so thankful to Him for His care over Joe and me on September 13th, when our car was demolished, as He spared our lives. My husband has suffered much with his back since the wreck. Please pray for us. . . . This year we haven't either one been able to do much, but we have been thankful for the things we could do. . . .

I always look forward to the *Faith and Victory* paper. There is much good food for our souls in both the paper and the *Bible Lessons*. The lessons on the fruit of the Spirit were so very rich and good. I go back and read many of them over again.

When I can, I will send for some more literature. There is such a need for good, spiritual reading to hand out to others. There is so much filth, vulgar talk, and sinful reading material that it makes me heartsick. . . .

Your Sister in Christ, —Lena Bowman  
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Ark.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings of love in the name of our dear Lord. He is a mighty Person; one touch can change an instrument of cruelty, shame or suffering to a symbol of love, joy, and peace. He is everything to me!

Bro. and Sis. Ed Wilson were here the past week. Each service was precious. We all seemed to get help and the stirring we needed. May God help us to live so our lives will be completely hidden with Christ in God. My desire is to seek His will in my life and brighten the corner where I am. I need your prayers. Pray for our work here.

Bro. and Sis. Jim McMillian are so dear and faithful. He is a wonderful pastor. We all love and appreciate them. . . .

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

W. Va.—Dear saints: . . . I enjoy the paper very much and usually read it clear through before I quit. I don't start until I have time to finish it. It is so clear and to the point with no commercials to interrupt. The Word of God is put

forth in all of its glory and beauty of holiness. "Bless the Lord, oh, my soul and all that is within me, bless His holy name!" Pray for me.

A Sister in the Lord, —Gladys Morgan  
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Ga.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and co-workers: I'm still saved, trying to make it to heaven. Thank the Lord!

We had a good service today at the chapel. Sis. Bowers' daughter was here with us. . . . Accept the enclosed offering from the Midville Church.

—Friendly Greene  
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Oregon—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings of love to you. The Lord is very good to us.

The past two weeks my brother, Fred and his son Fritz, have been with me. We three went to Jefferson, Oregon, one Sunday and stayed all day, going and coming back on the bus. We got there in time for most of the morning preaching. Let us continue to pray for their souls to be saved. . . .

I want to give toward the payments on the new chapel at Jefferson, so have decided to do some extra quilting. . . . There are many ways we can earn a little to give. I only ask for health and strength to do the work. The new chapel is really nice and larger than I thought it would be. It's nicely arranged. . . .

Yesterday, I met a lady while waiting in an office. She needed quilt pieces and I learned that three of her girls were sleeping in one bed. The grandmother came to visit, so they gave her their bed and were sleeping on the floor. I told her she could have a twin bed and springs that I wasn't using. I also gave her some dacron to use inside her quilts and a lot of quilt pieces. . . . I felt impressed to give it to the lady, a mother of seven living children. . . . When I got the mail, there was a check for fifty dollars which was a refund for high cost of fuel and utilities, so I just couldn't thank the Lord enough. In giving, one cannot outgive the Lord. He is so good to us! . . .

—Sis. Lucille Trimble

## Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Ala.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus. Trust you and everyone there are happy and enjoying good health.

I am thanking God today for the way He hears and answers prayer. The Lord touched my body and removed the infection shortly after I wrote to you requesting prayer. Praise His holy name forever! Please do continue to pray for my loved ones.

—Leora Frink  
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Mo.—My dear Sister Marie and all the saints there: I send greetings in the precious name of Jesus who loved us so much that He gave His life that we might live. Praise His sweet name!

I suppose you know about the affliction I have suffered, and have been praying for me. At times I would think the Lord would take me on, but for some reason it seems He has spared my life for a while yet. I am not back to normal, but I seem to be getting better each day. I hope I can soon be back in services again. Oh, how I appreciate the saints prayers! Time and again the Lord touched my body through their prayers. He would take the worst suffering away. I can rest now through the

night without suffering. Sometimes I did feel that the Lord was letting me go through the fiery furnace, but the Lord was with me, so what did I have to fear? The Lord was with me all the way. I have lost about forty pounds since my husband, Asa, died, so you know how weak I am now.

I want to thank all the saints for their prayers, also for the cards, letters, phone calls, and all their concern for me. I thank the Lord for helping Cassie, my daughter, to hold up. She has been very sweet to me. She seemed to have so much patience. I learned some lessons in my affliction that I needed to know.

I am glad I accepted the Lord for my Saviour and Healer when I first got saved and sanctified over 55 years ago. I am not tired, but I am encouraged to go all the way. I know His grace is sufficient. He will not let more come our way than we are able to bear. . . .

—Sis. Katie (Marler) Gibson

[At press time, she is very ill. Pray!]

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

Okla.—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus: I truly thank the Lord for salvation, His watchful care over us and His many blessings to us. He is a very present help in time of need, our Comforter and Guide, yes, all in all to us. I am so glad I learned to trust Him. What a wonderful Saviour He is to them that trust Him!

I often think of and pray for the work you are doing in getting the gospel out by the printed page. . . .

—Nellie Poulos

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

Ark.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt and Sis. Marie: I want to say thanks for the card to let us know you were remembering us in prayer. We surely have felt the prayers of the saints and we appreciate each prayer that has gone up in our behalf.

We can report that the dear Lord is blessing us. We are so much better than we were, and can feel some improvement almost each day. We are still looking to God for complete healing.

Sis. Marie, I have thought often of the conversation you and I had at the Guthrie campmeeting. I said I thanked God each morning that I was able to get out of bed. I did not realize how soon it would be when I could not get up without help. But thank God, He has brought me to that place again. To Him be all the glory! We love God, and we know all things work together for good to them that love the Lord.

May the blessings of God rest upon each of you and your labors for Him.

Christian love, —Bro. and Sis. E. A. Loftis

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

Wash.—Dear saints: In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ I greet all of you at the Lord's Print Shop, and greetings to all who read the *Faith and Victory* paper.

I am happy in the Lord. He has been very good to me this last year. I came down with a high fever for two days which caused me to be very weak for a while, but the dear Lord healed me, and has given me strength again. I can do our house and garden work again. It pays to trust our heavenly Father. To Him be all the glory and praise!

This morning when I looked at the mountains, it came to my mind that the Lord makes the hills smoke. Then I looked it up in the Bible and found the verse in

Psa. 104:32. "He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth: he toucheth the hills, and they smoke." One morning after my daughter went to work she called me and said, "Look, the mountain is smoking." Some people say that the Bible was just written by a man, or they say there is no God. We can see with our eyes that everything that was prophesied comes to pass. I think of the song, "What a Mighty God We Serve!"

May the dear Lord bless all of you at the Print Shop, is our prayer. Also, remember us in prayer.

—Sis. Martha Ruhl

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

Calif.—Greetings to the saints: I would like to thank everyone for their prayers for me while I was very sick. I was in bed for two months. The saints were so dear to me and were always ready to help. We were supplied with food and money whenever they saw our need. I do thank the Lord for having a daughter (Alice Faye) who stopped working and took me in her home until I was well. Oh, how I love to serve my Jesus! He is everything to me!

The Lord healed me some time ago of a lump as large as an egg. If you have ever been burned, you know how it felt—like it was on fire. I had trouble with it for about a year or two. Bro. Mackey (my husband) saw how it wasn't getting any better, so he told a saint. The saint let me know that I should let it be known so that the saints could get under the burden and pray for me. In the Bakersfield, Calif., meeting I got up and let the saints now. I was prayed for and the Lord took it away. I don't know when, but one day it was gone. It is trying to come back, but I know I am healed. As I have said before, "The longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows."

It is a blessing to be saved today and encouraged to live for Him. I thank the Lord for giving my husband a healing touch in his body, too. Praise the Lord! He is everything to me. As I have said before, "My God Is Real."

Your Sister in Christ,

—Juanita Francisco

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

Iowa—Dear Sis. Marie: I want to tell you how much I appreciate your prayers in my recent illness and when the baby was sick. It is such a help to know there are others who will pray with you when help is desperately needed. I can see now where I had several lessons to learn. . . . After I gave my heart to God this summer, I began having all kinds of accusations thrown at me. I didn't understand it at first, but it seemed the literature I picked up to read had the very information I needed to understand, and how to resist such workings of the enemy. I know this wasn't by accident. I remember years ago listening to the saints tell experiences of how the devil tried to cause trouble, but I never really knew what they were talking about.

I'm so thankful I still have the victory, and I want your prayers that I will always stay faithful no matter what the cost.

The people who claim there is no such thing as sanctification are surely wrong! If only they knew how wonderful it is! God really does take out the carnal nature. We don't have to sin any more. I had prayed at home for the Holy Spirit to come in and remove the carnal nature that was in my heart. I knew it was there because I would lose my temper. When I went to Monark

campmeeting, I knew what I wanted before I ever got there. I don't know who prayed with me there, but I want to tell that lady that it meant a great deal to me. I felt such a quiet sweetness in answer to prayer. I'm so thankful. Now I **know** that carnal nature is gone.

It almost overwhelms me when I think that God is so sensitive to our needs. This is also something I never realized before. Many times He has supplied our needs — money-wise, health-wise, and spiritual needs. All we have to do is ask. . . . Please remember me in prayer.

—Nancy Boone

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ala.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. . . . I'm still saved and mean to go on until the crown is won.

Although my name is not on your mailing list, I still receive the *Faith and Victory* paper. Please send me some sample tracts that I may read and pass out. Also, pray for me for both body and soul, and for my unsaved loved ones.

—Irene Richardson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mich.—Dear Sis. Marie, Bro. Lawrence, co-workers, and other saints: I love my Lord with all my heart and desire to press onward for Him. My heart is thankful for God's mercy, love, and blessings to us in every way. Most of all, I am thankful for salvation. . . . I pray for all of you, and please do remember my family and me in your prayers.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Lela Stewart

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

#### LAST TESTIMONY

*This writing was found in his tablet.*

On this 28th day of June, 1977, oh, how good God is and has been to me and to all His trusting children! All praise and glory to His great name! What a pleasure and satisfaction it has been to live a life for God! God is good. When we choose God and Jesus Christ as our partner to walk down through life with us, we should love Him with all our heart, and love Him enough to obey His precious Word. If you love Him, you will keep His commandments. Let us all strive to make heaven our home.

God has been so good to give me victory after every battle, and grace to suffer for His name's sake, for His cause, and for the good of others. Paul said in writing to the Hebrew children, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" Let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us and let us run the race with patience. Let us make our calling and election sure.

Let us all read the Book from Matthew to Revelation. We shall know the truth and the truth shall make us free. Let us search our lives daily by the Word of God. The Word of God will judge us one and all at that great day. If ye love Him, ye will keep His commandments.

Thank God for His great love and power that enabled me to live a life free from sin and evil. Praise His name! It was God that lived in me, not of myself. "To God be the glory," as the song says. How sweet it is to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His Word!

—Bro. Alsia Sorrell

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## Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

**Question:** Are men supposed to be lords over women as we think of it today? Would you please explain the Bible version of a man and wife role in the home?

**Answer, Part 1:** No, I do not think that men should be lords over women or that any person whatever his position is, should be lord over any other person. I do not feel that God has given to any person to dominate the life of any other person. He does not even allow a God-called, God-ordained pastor over a congregation to be a lord over that congregation. I Pet. 5:3. God did not permit Christian masters to be lords over their servants. Col. 4:1 and Eph. 6:9. Neither is a man authorized by God to lord over or dominate the life of his wife.

Let us make no mistake at this point. When two people enter into marriage, both are cast into a new role different from any role they have ever been in before and their respective roles are clearly defined and outlined in the Scriptures. Up to this time they have been just a man and woman like all other men and women. But now that man is no longer just a man but he is a husband with certain fixed and clearly defined duties and responsibilities toward that certain woman he has taken to be his wife. That woman is no longer just a woman but she is now a wife with clearly defined duties and responsibilities toward the man she has chosen to be her husband.

The Bible does not require you to marry. It just requires certain things of you if you do. If you do not want to come under these regulations you are perfectly free to stay out of marriage and that is what you should do. But the question has to do with those who have already entered into marriage and what the role of each partner is, in that relationship. Once you enter into marriage you are no longer free to determine what you will or will not do. The terms are not optional but are clearly defined and outlined in the Scriptures.

In I Tim. 5:14 we read, "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully."

The first thing mentioned here as a duty of a married woman (wife) is to bear children. If a woman does not want children and the responsibility of taking care of them, teaching, and training them, etc. she had better stay out of marriage because that is the natural fruit of marriage. The next thing mentioned is that she is to guide the house. Upon her is placed the responsibility by God to teach, train, and guide the lives of the children which God gives her and to manage her house and family well so that there will be no occasion for the adversary to speak reproachfully.

Titus 2:4-5 says, "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God be not blasphemed." Here the wife is commanded to love her husband. She must do this and in so doing support, comfort, console, encourage and stand back of him in his life's work, his burdens and all of his doings. She is also commanded to love her children and in so doing she will properly care for them, guide, teach, and train them. She



is also commanded to be a keeper at home and to be obedient to her own husband. The wife is to be the homemaker and to keep and maintain her house in a proper and attractive manner. If a woman does not maintain her home and herself in a proper manner and keep her house in order, her marriage is going to suffer and not be what God ordained it to be.

This text enjoins upon a wife to be obedient to her husband. If a woman does not want to be subject to her husband and have a man telling her what to do, she should leave marriage alone. The Bible is quite explicit on this point in numbers of texts. If a woman does not want to spend her time in her own home taking care of her house, she should not marry because the Bible is explicit on this point also. This is the course God set for women in the marriage relation and she cannot expect God's blessings upon her life, home, and marriage if she comes short of her obligations on these lines.

I said in the beginning of this discussion that I did not believe that a man (husband) should lord over a woman (his wife). I say the same again. Let us not be mistaken or overlook the fact that God's Word requires a wife to be in subjection and obedient to her husband. Eph. 5:22-24 says, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing." Col. 3:18 says, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord." I Pet. 3:1 says, "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands. . . ." It is unmistakably clear that a wife is to be in subjection to her own husband and obey him. There is a big difference between a wife being in subjection to her husband and being lorded over by him. This is God's Word. He wrote the Bible, and set up this arrangement and we will just have to fall in line with it, if we want God's blessings on our marriage and in our lives.

(Answer, Part 2 will be in next issue.)

## CHEER

"Then cheer, my brother, cheer, our trials will soon be o'er, our loved ones we shall meet, shall meet, Upon the golden shore. We're pilgrims and we're strangers here, We're seeking a city to come, The lifeboat is coming, To gather the Jewels home."

Cheer is the one thing most folks are seeking for. Cheer has the substance of things hoped for and can be seen on the countenance of the child of God. We see many faces sad and lonely, seeking rest and finding none. If the sad one only knew, he could find cheer in Christ.

There is beauty in the cheerful. Jesus brought cheer to many while here on earth. He said, "I have meat to eat that ye know not of. . . . My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." I have seen many sad faces at the altar seeking cheer, and upon leaving there they had a marked difference in their countenance. The change in attitude cheered many others. The lonely soul may have joy unspeakable and full of glory.

God said that if you would have harkened to me, your peace would have been like a river—quiet and peaceful. In my affliction I found great joy in resisting the devil. The devil may come in like a flood, but the Spirit of the Lord will raise up a standard against him.

Cheer up, we are in a cloudy day. The sun is shining just behind the cloud. Look up, you may see an image of an angel. He may dip his wings as he passes by. If so, smile. His robe is quite easy to see. A mule saw the sword in the hand of the angel.

Praise the Lord while you are meditating. It will lift you up. I know, for I have been there. The leaves of the trees were golden as I drove along. The Spirit bade me look up about 15 degrees, and I saw beauty in everything. The cloud was gone, the sun was shining, my heart was light, and I could sing the song "Cheer" with the chorus above.

I slept well last night, hardly knowing where I was for a while. When you hear the song of the Spirit, it is music to your soul. Heaven is filled with its melodies. Good cheer to all!

Yours in Him,

—A. E. (Gene) Harmon

## The Fear of Man

We doubt if there be any other one thing that prevents God's people living unto God as they should so much as the fear of man. It is so very subtle and cunning that many may have it and not be aware of it. There is an independence of man that is wrong and there is an independence that is most Christlike. Holy living is to live unto God though all the world might oppose. Our dearest friend on earth must not be allowed to cause us to deviate one hair's breadth from truthness to God. Here is one of the places in the Christian's life that should be closely watched and guarded. Peter swerved from the true path when he refused to eat with the Gentiles for fear of the Jews. This was after Pentecost. Paul reproved him. This took some courage on the part of Paul, but faithfulness required it.

"The fear of man bringeth a snare." (Prov. 29:25). Many a one has fallen into this snare. Alas, how many have made compromise with man for man's favor! "Conscious dependence upon God is the spirit of independence toward all men." Perfect love casts out all fear of man. Those who can be influenced by men are not made perfect in love. It is argued by some that we should desire all men to think well of us that we might do them good. This is true, but oh, how careful we need to be that it is solely that we "might do them good." Beware lest there be something of self there. We should desire to have influence with men for Jesus' sake, but for no other purpose. If faithfulness to God causes you to lose influence with men, then it were better for them and you also that you lose it. If you have to step aside from godly living to have influence with men, you are ensnared.

The apostle said, "But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment." (I Cor. 4:3). To suppress or modify truth by word or act is coming short of holy living. To give aid, abet by word or deed any spirit of levity, worldliness, untruthfulness through man's influence is unfaithfulness to God.

—C. E. Orr