

FAITH^{AND} VICTORY

Church of God Servant



Volume 56, No. 1

56th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35¢ Per Year

March, 1978

Prepare the Way of the Lord



John preached out in the desert parts
For people to repent;
He told them to prepare their hearts
For Him who would be sent.

"Prepare His way, (flee wrong and hate),
Exalt the valley low,
Bring down the high, the crooked straight
That ye His grace may know."

The people listened and gave heed,
Confessed their evil way,
Turned from each dark and awful deed
To seek the light of day.

For came the Saviour to redeem
Their souls forever more,
With holy fire their hearts to claim—
A holy threshing floor.

Still yet today, for us to find
This Christ who lives above,
We must turn from the sinful mind
And seek His gracious love.

We must arise from doubt and sin,
All vile iniquity;
We must prepare our hearts within
If we His grace would see.

We must come down from haughty pride,
From praise and fear of men;
With deep humility inside
We must confess our sin.

The crooked pathways we have led,
All lies, hypocrisy,
Dishonest ways and words we've said
Must surely straightened be.

Thus shall before our eager eyes
(A holy sight to see)
The Sun of righteousness will rise—
Our Saviour, King is He.

—Leslie C. Busbee

CHOOSE YE!



There comes a time in the life of every one, who is permitted to come to that stage, when he is able to discern values, qualities, good and evil, tastes and desires, and when he will be confronted with the responsibility of choosing between different articles—clothing, tools, fields of labor, a life companion, and many other things. But the greatest and most solemn is the choice one makes as to which spirit he will follow, whether the Spirit of God, or the spirit of the devil. This decision comes to every one who reaches the age of accountability.

When we were babes in our mother's arms, we were not qualified to do our own choosing, so it was the duty of those under whose care we were placed to choose for us. They chose the kind of clothes we should wear, and the kind of food we should eat for the nourishment of our bodies, and as we grew older, little by little much of this responsibility was placed on us.

The Board of Education chooses the kind of books we should study in order to fill our place in the world of activities. Some have been influenced by others to choose certain fields of labor for their life's work, and have been successful as they were guided by men and women of wisdom and understanding who were interested in their welfare, and saw in them the qualifications and abilities to succeed in certain lines. Then there were others who refused the advice of those who wished them well, and fell far short of what they could have accomplished. There are many decisions that are trivial in their nature, and there are decisions to be made that are of great importance.

There are many books on the market today that are designed to help the young man or young woman in making their choice as to which course they should pursue. I am thinking of one, the title of which is *Choosing a Life's Work*. It sets forth the advantages to be enjoyed, also the disadvantages to be encountered, and the reward to be obtained through perseverance. Such advice and instruction have proven to be of great value to many from a monetary standpoint.

But there is a reward offered that is of far more value than dollars and cents. We read in Proverbs 8:10-11, "Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to

be compared to it." Prov. 1:8, "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother." A wise son heareth the instruction of his father. In God's Book of instruction we read, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Eph. 6:1-4. In one of Paul's letters to Timothy he says, "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." II Tim. 3:14,15. We have been warned in God's Book of instruction that "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov. 14:12.

Moses was taught by a God-fearing mother while he was under her care and he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." Heb. 11:24,25. Luke 10:41-42 reads, "And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: but one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." Mary had chosen to sit and learn at Jesus' feet.

Choose now, don't delay! You will never be called upon to make a decision that is of more importance than the road you will travel—the strait and narrow way of life, or the broad way of sin. The exhortation is, "... Choose you this day whom ye will serve; ..." Josh. 24:15. Today, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. Behold, now is the day of salvation. II Cor. 5:11, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men."

Dear ones, we are using our influence to help you make the right choice. Heed the instruction of a wise man. Choose ye this day whom ye will serve. Today if ye will hear His voice harden not your heart. God so loved the world He gave His son to die on the cross that you might not be lost. Now is the day of salvation. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord we persuade men. Many have been almost persuaded, but did not yield to God, and died to fill a Christless grave. The wages of sin is death. The gift of God is eternal life. You can not serve God by force. The willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land. God is calling for willing-hearted men and women, boys and girls. The reward is everlasting life, and a home in heaven. A few more days and you must go to reap the deeds that you have done. The Lord has gone to prepare a place for the righteous. The wicked shall be cast into hell where the fire is not quenched and where the worm dieth not. Jesus says, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. Oh, come to the Lord today! The same God that saved Paul will save you if you will just come to Him now.

—Ulysses Phillips

You have taken a long step toward holy living when you have learned to do much and say little. Holiness is seen in what you do and not in what you say.

—C. E. Orr

Bits of Crumbs for the Hungry Soul



The world is heavy by the weight of want. Someone said, "Oh, for a moment of time!" No doubt, his heart was heavy by the weight of sin. But listen, I hear a Voice from the sky saying, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. If you are tired of sin, tell Jesus and He will listen. Tell Him about your cares. If you are hungry, Jesus said, "I am that bread of life." St. John 6:48. Will He hear? Listen, He is saying this is the confidence we have in Him that if we ask, "I will hear and come." Now if we believe when we ask, we know He has promised to give. If we ask unselfishly and with all our heart follow by faith in God, He will do it. You must believe there is a God and that He is a "rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. 11:6. There is more joy "in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." Luke 15:7. The seeker is not without hope.

Jesus makes the soul glad because the weight of sin is gone. Praise the Lord! The heart becomes light when Jesus comes in. "Just like a bird in prison I dwelt; no freedom from my sorrow I felt. But Jesus came and listened to me, and glory to God, He set me free. Now I am climbing higher each day; darkness of night has drifted away. My feet are planted on higher ground, and glory to God, I'm homeward bound." You are free to worship God in spirit and in truth.

I once served a wicked master and was bound by Satan's fetters, but now we have parted forever. To be with Christ, it was a "Pentecost" for me. Even the green leaves of trees were golden to look at. The Christian's hope is sure and steadfast because God is real and Jesus is real; His promises are real. What is the price? It is without money or price, yet it has a price. We have to give up the world and be true to God. "My son, give me thine heart." Prov. 23:26. You can't take care of it by yourself, but Jesus can. Depend on the Word of God for truth. "It is written," says the Master, "that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matt. 4:46. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee because he trusteth in thee." Isa. 26:3. "Great peace have they which love thy law." "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him and delivereth them." Ps. 34:7. "For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee." Ps. 86:5. "The Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly." Ps. 84:11.

Jesus went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil. "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love and of a sound mind." II Tim. 1:7. This poor man cried and the Lord heard him and delivered him out of all his troubles. It pays to live for God, for He knows the way that we take. Jesus said to be of good cheer, for He had overcome the world. The blessings of the Lord maketh rich and he adds no sorrow.

The Bible is the waybill from earth to heaven. "I have been young and now I am old, and I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." When you have Christ in the home, it is a happy place to be. Neighbors need not fear where Jesus is. Love is a binding force. If the world were full of love, there would be no shoplifting nor crooked deals. "All his grace is free as the air we breathe; we may each have a full supply; if we will obey and his word believe, He'll prepare us to dwell on high." Let us labor to enter that soul rest. Lay hold on eternal life. Take courage, and be watchful, for "the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." The love of God abides forever. "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." There He commanded the blessing. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." II Cor. 3:17. "The Lord is my light and the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid." Psa. 27:1. "Perfect love casteth out fear." I John 4:18. The world is full of fear. Jesus calms that fearful heart. Fear God and live.

—A. E. Harmon

Does God Look at our Clothes?

(Part of an answer to a letter)

I was really surprised at the comments in your letter with reference to your statement that "God isn't looking at our clothes." My dear, from the time of sin in the Garden of Eden, God has looked at the clothes people wore. Read the third chapter of Genesis. When Adam and Eve sinned, they realized they were naked and sewed fig leaves together and made aprons to cover themselves, but this was not enough for God. He took a look, and He made them coats of skin and "clothed them," verse 21. Clothed means "to cover." They needed a covering for their soul because of sin and a covering for their bodies. (In verse 15, God promised a Saviour from the "seed" of the woman, whose blood is a covering for our soul.) Then we read in the Old Testament how at different times God despised the clothing of the day. Read Deut. 22:5 about the abomination of the woman wearing "that which pertaineth to a man." Also a man was not to put on women's apparel. Then over in Isa. 3:16-26, much is said about the wearing apparel and actions of women who are "haughty." Then we go over into the New Testament and read I Peter 3:1-6. It speaks of the inward adorning of the heart and the outward adorning of the body, and goes on to say, "For after this manner in the old time the holy women . . . adorned themselves." So my dear, do take another look at your idea that God doesn't look at our clothes. I will also refer to I Tim. 2:9 which speaks of women adorning themselves in modest apparel with shamefacedness.

Yes, we must have the heart right with God to be able to dress according to God's Word. What is in the heart will come out in the dress and actions. Jesus plainly tells us that "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, . . . an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness." So pride comes from an evil heart.

May the Lord bless and teach you that the way to walk with God is with humility of heart, mind, actions and modest, outward adorning, for God is concerned with everything that we do, how we act, speak, dress,

and every detail of our life. In this day the creature is being lifted up above the Creator. Rom. 1:25-32. The physical body is on display and exalted. The saints of God need to be an humble, modest people who cover their bodies so as not to attract sinful thoughts from wicked people.

—Sis. Marie Miles

The Holy Spirit



We are now living in the dispensation of the Holy Spirit. Ever since the day of Pentecost when the Spirit of God fell upon the first disciples of the Lord it has been the privilege of all believers in the gospel to be filled with the Holy Ghost. The lives of professed Christians cannot be fruitful without the indwelling fullness of the Spirit of God. The heart of every unsanctified believer needs to be swept clean from sin and filled with God.

The chief mystery connected with the gospel is, "Christ in you, the hope of glory." Col. 1:27. "Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit." Eph. 5:18. "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith." Eph. 3:17. God, through one of His prophets, said, "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. 36:27.

It is necessary for every believer to be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and have His refining fire sweep every element of unholiness from the inner being. Nothing else will meet the needs of the soul, and nothing *less* will meet the requirements of God. He included the gift of the Holy Spirit as our inheritance when He gave His Son to be the Saviour of the world. He, the personal Spirit of God, deigns to take up His dwelling in us to remain with us forever.

Reader, are you in possession of the Holy Spirit? If you are not, pray God to help you feel your need of Him. Ask God to help you to get a clean heart, free from sin. Abhor every element of unholiness that lurks in your heart. Let the cry of your soul be like one of old—"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." It has been forever settled that we should "follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Heb. 12:14. We must have the fullness of the Holy Spirit in order to be holy inside and out; and we cannot afford to be without holiness. "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Matt. 5:8. Only the pure in heart will dwell with God. We must have the fullness of the Holy Spirit in order to have pure hearts. "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." Acts 15:8,9.

—J. C. Blaney

TRUST

He takes my hand, my little boy,
And we, anxious the world to see,
Keep talking about many things
And what he will grow up to be.

I take my Father's hand which leads
Through changing scenes of mystery
And know that faith supplies the need
To trust Him as my child trusts me.

—William Walter De Bolt

FAITH AND VICTORY

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

Notice to subscribers: Whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your Zip Code number. The post office now charges 25¢ to notify us of each change of address.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single copy, one year\$.35
Single copy, three years\$1.00
Roll of 4 papers to one address, one year...\$1.00
Write for prices on larger quantities.

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

Single set for one year (52) papers 80¢

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

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

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

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

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

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

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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

EDITORIALS

TIME MOVES ON WITH A SOLEMN TREAD, and very soon time will end in eternity. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 Cor. 6:2b. "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. These gracious promises are extended to every penitent soul who will return unto God with his whole heart.

With the blessings of the Lord, the gospel literature is continuing to go out from this office every working day regardless of the recurring snowstorms since the first of the year. In this section of the country more snow has fallen this winter than any other winter in the memory of this writer which covers a period of 60 years. However, we have not come close to having the vicious snowstorms and wind that they experienced in the Northeast section of the country.

As the rain and snow come down from heaven, this scripture in Isaiah 55:10, 11, comes to our mind with reference to the God's Word going forth to all mankind. Isaiah, the gospel prophet, wrote: "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Even as God has a specific purpose in sending the rain and the snow, He also has a definite purpose and aim in sending out His Word to every person, and "it shall not return to him void." God's Word is like a fire, and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces. Again we read: "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." Heb. 4:12, 13. The Word of God will either liberate or bind every soul according to whether it is received or rejected.

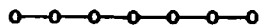
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Word was just received that Bro. Carl Gimse, a long-time subscriber of Schiller Park, Illinois, went to be with the Lord on Feb. 10, 1978. May the Lord comfort the bereaved relatives in a special way.

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

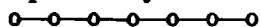
With this March issue we begin the 56th year of publication, thanking the Lord for His gracious dealings in past years, and trusting that He will continue to use these columns to send forth His eternal Word to this world of mankind who so des-

perately need to hear and believe the soul-saving gospel of Christ. "Heaven is a holy place and sin can never enter there."

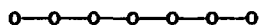


Inspiring New Book Ready to Read . . .

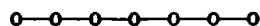
Just off the press is a very encouraging new book entitled, "Lest We Forget," by Sister Margaret Eck, a long-time minister. Originally, she intended to write a letter of life experiences just to her children and grandchildren, but she was encouraged to put it in book form for the reading public because her experiences with the Lord and His cause over many years should be an inspiration to every reader. The book consists of 72 pages in a heavy paper cover. The price is 75c each, or three copies for \$2.00, plus 35c for postage and handling. Order several copies TODAY for prompt delivery.



Preparations are still going forward to print the Seventh Edition of the book, "God's Gracious Dealings," but we were not able to get it on the press in February as planned. This volume will have nearly twice as many pages as the last edition which has been out of print for a number of years. It is planned to have this edition bound in a nice cloth cover.

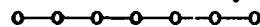


Bros. Egbert Allen, George Hammond, and C. C. Carver, who went to Grand Cayman Island, B. W. I., in February, have returned to the States. Brother Carver had a heart attack while in Cayman, but in answer to prayer the Lord enabled him to return by plane to his home in Louisiana. At present (Feb. 22) he is up and around, but he still has a soreness in his chest. He appreciates the prayers of the saints, and desires your continued prayers for his complete recovery.



Sister Sandra Whitson of Alabama, who attended the recent Guthrie meeting during the Christmas holidays, remained here to help Sister Opal Kelly in the preparation and mailing of Spanish gospel literature. She operates the Justewriter machine which has a typewriter keyboard that punches the paper tape for the reproducer unit that automatically types the Spanish words in a column at the speed of 100 words per minute. Sister Sandra has been very efficient and faithful in that work. May the Lord ever bless and reward her for her consecrated services.

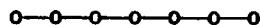
Sister Opal Kelly and Sister Sandra Whitson left Guthrie on Feb. 22 by auto on a missionary trip of 6,000 miles which will take them, Lord willing, into the western, central, and eastern sections of Old Mexico. Pray the Lord to bless and prosper their efforts in spreading the gospel to the Spanish-speaking people, and return them safely.



New Pastors at Orland, California . . .

Bro. A. E. (Gene) and Sister Loretta Harmon have accepted the pastorate of the Church in Orland, Calif. Their address is 507 A Street, Orland, Calif. 95963. The chapel is located on the corner of Colusa

and A Streets. We pray and trust the Lord to bless and prosper their efforts in filling that vacancy in the congregation.



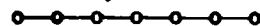
Bro. Richard Madden Returns From India . . .

By the blessings of the Lord, Brother Richard Madden returned safely by plane to his home in Tulsa, Okla., on Feb. 13, 1978, after an absence of four weeks on his missionary trip to India covering over 24,000 miles for the round trip.

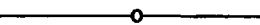
Bro. and Sister Madden were here at the office today, Feb. 22, and reported some highlights of his trip and showed us some pictures he had taken in India whose population is about 650,000,000 people. Bro. Madden arrived in South India in time to participate in the general campmeeting of the Church of God which began on Jan. 18 at Karikkom, India, where Bro. John Varghese is the pastor. It was necessary for Bro. Madden to preach through an interpreter in their native language. All the services were attended by large crowds. Three or four hundred people would sit on their mats on the floor through the services. The area is very thickly populated, and most of the people are poor. Wages are very low and many people are without employment. A union brick mason receives only about \$1.50 per day. Many conditions are primitive compared to ours. The food, water, and strange customs presented some problems for the "sipe," as the American is called, but the Lord provided grace, patience, and wisdom. The weather was hot and humid. It was the time of the rice harvest which was a fairly good yield this year. He saw the women do the harvest work.

After the Karikkom campmeeting, Bro. Varghese took Bro. Madden in his Fiat car hundreds of miles over narrow, rough roads to several mission stations where they visited and held services. From the constant traveling and laboring in the gospel work in India and the long plane flights, Bro. Madden returned home very worn in body, but he felt the presence of the Lord all the way with the knowledge that the mission was accomplished for which God had sent him.

Bro. and Sister John Varghese of India desire very much to come to the States this summer to attend the campmeetings. A small amount is in a fund started last year for that purpose, but the round trip plane tickets for both, costing around \$2500.00, will have to be purchased before they can secure the visas to come to the U. S. Pray about this matter, and please do promptly what the Lord directs you in helping them to come. Action must be taken very soon if they are to arrive in time for the first campmeetings in this country.



As "workers together" with our Lord and Master in His great cause, let us be faithful at our post of duty until the final summons. —L. D. Pruitt



Deep tenderness of spirit is the very soul and marrow of the Christ-life. —Sel.

Partial List of Items Available

Evening Light Songs, shaped notes, with 512 pages in cloth binding. The right hymnal for the Church of God. Price, \$3.00 each.

Birth of a Reformation—Life and Labors of D. S. Warner by A. L. Byers. A reprint with additional pictures of pioneer ministers. Cloth bound, 496 pages. Price, \$5.00.

Prophetic Lectures on Daniel and the Revelation by F. G. Smith. It contains 260 pages in heavy paper cover. Price, \$3.00 each.

What the Bible Teaches by F. G. Smith. A reprint of the original 1914 edition, containing 576 pages in cloth binding. This is a book that should be in every home. Price, \$5.00 each.

The Christian Church; Its Rise and Progress, by H. M. Riggle. Bound in cloth cover, 488 pages. Price, \$5.00.

The Revelation Explained by F. G. Smith. Reprint of 1906 original edition (fourth reprint), plus two 17x22 inch wall charts in two colors. 464 pages in nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00 each.

Experiences of S. O. Susag is a record of the activities of S. O. Susag, a Norwegian who had many marvelous experiences and answers to prayer as an early-day minister of the Church of God. Price, \$1.50 each.

The Last Reformation by F. G. Smith. This reprint edition contains 256 pages. Nice paper binding is priced at \$3.00 each, and the cloth binding is \$5.00 each.

The Cleansing of the Sanctuary by D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggle. Reprinted verbatim in 541 pages, cloth binding. Price, \$5.00 each.

Life's Golden Gleanings by Ruby E. Stover. She records many experiences of her childhood, and how God answered prayer in marvelous ways in her family and through the years in the gospel work. 94 pages in nice paper cover. Price, \$1.00.

Echoes From Heaven—a new song book of 195 songs in shaped notes. In a heavy paper cover, this song book is priced at \$1.65 each.

Bible Readings for Bible Students and for the Home and Fireside compiled by S. L. Speck and H. M. Riggle. Originally published in 1902, this excellent volume contains 432 pages of Scripture references and comments on many Bible subjects. Nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00.

From Darkness To Light, a twenty-page booklet by Bro. Mart Samons, which is his inspiring testimony of his marvelous conversion, his call to the ministry, and some of his experiences of living by faith in the gospel work. Price, 25¢ each, or five copies for \$1.00.

Adventures in the Land of Canaan by R. L. Berry. An instructive allegory of true-to-life experiences in the grace of sanctification. 128 pages in paper cover. Price, \$1.00 per copy.

Life's Story and Healings by Sister Nellie Poulos. A reprint of her book which had been out of print for a number of years. With additional material, this volume contains 160 pages with a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.25.

Christian Baptism, Feet Washing, and the Lord's Supper by H. M. Riggle. This excellent doctrinal book on the three ordinances of the New Testament contains 264 pages in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$3.00 each.

Must We Sin? by D. S. Warner. This 24-page booklet records the supposed conversation between Bro. Light and Bro. Foggy on the sin question. Price, 25¢ each, or five copies for \$1.00.

Holy Spirit Baptism and the Second Cleansing by R. R. Byrum. Consists of 108 pages in heavy paper cover. Price, 50¢ each.

Bible Humility by J. W. Byers. An excellent treatise of this subject in 33 pages with a heavy paper cover. The price is 30¢ each, or four copies for \$1.00.

The Double Cure, or Redemption Twofold by D. O. Teasley. This book should enlighten the reader on the two works of grace, and correct the thinking of those who deny the cleansing element in sanctification. 160 pages of large print in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00.

Beyond The Tomb by H. M. Riggle. This excellent book of 288 pages deals with man, his present and future, in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$4.00.

Lest We Forget by Sister Margaret Eck. The encouraging experiences of a long-time minister, this book contains 72 pages bound in a heavy paper cover. Price 75¢ each, or three copies for \$2.00.

No. 2 Stereo Song Record by the Phillips Evening Light Singers. Eleven songs by the Phillips family—Bro. Paul Phillips and his six children. On the cover for the record is a large picture of the singers. This record No. Two may be ordered from this office or purchased directly from Bro. Paul Phillips, 1220 Wabash Street, Wichita, Kansas 67214. The price is \$6.00 each, plus 50¢ for postage and handling.

For postage and handling, add 35¢ for the first dollar and 5¢ for each additional dollar of total order.

Write for a complete list of other excellent books in stock at this office and ready for prompt delivery.

Mail Orders To—

FAITH PUB. HOUSE, Box 518, Guthrie, Okla. 73044

Campmeeting Dates for 1978

Following are the Church of God campmeeting dates in 1978, and more complete announcements of each meeting will be made in later issues:—

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, Oklahoma—May 26 to June 4.

Holly Hill, N. Carolina—June 2 to 11.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 9 to 18.

Tulsa, Oklahoma—June 9 to 18.

Green Bank, W. Virginia—June 9 to 18.

Hammond, Louisiana—June 24 to July 2.

Oakland, California—June 23 to July 2.

Akron, Ohio—July 7 to 16.

Fresno, California—July 7 to 16.

National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri—July 21 to 30.

Myrtle, Missouri—August 2 to 9.

Bakersfield, California—August 4 to 13.

Boley, Oklahoma—August 18 to 27.

California State at Pacoima—August 25 to Sept. 3.

One of the first things for a person to do in order to make spiritual advancement after having obtained an experience of salvation is to have a perfect willingness to walk in all the light of God's Word, not only for the present, but for the future also; and in order to do this it is necessary to have on the whole gospel armor and be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

—E. E. Byrum

Obituaries



C. Geneva Joiner was born at Loranger, La., April 14, 1897, to Alfred B. and Minnie Joiner. She departed this life January 23, 1978, at the age of 80 years, 9 months, and 10 days.

Sister Neva was born into the family of God at an early age. Her quiet, meek, and humble life was a living witness of a true Christian—a saint of God.

She grew up in the Oak Grove Church of God congregation and remained there, filling her place in the church faithfully and her departure was one of "victory in Jesus." Her exemplary life of simplicity and a constant and consistent faith and trust in God will not be forgotten by all who knew and loved her.

Sister Neva is survived by three sisters, Miss Elva Joiner, of the home, Mrs. Dallas (Mamie) Flynn, Loranger, La., and Mrs. Lee (Della) Perry of Shawnee, Oklahoma. She was preceded in death by one sister, Mrs. Oscar (Etta) Williamson, and four brothers, Walker, Leonard, Finley and Joe Joiner.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother Herbert Probst and Brother Bob Forbes at the Oak Grove Church of God chapel at Loranger, La., with interment in the Church cemetery.

Note of Appreciation

We deeply appreciate the care and concern of the saints, friends, and relatives shown to us during the short illness and death of our dear sister, Neva Joiner. Thank you for the cards, floral gifts, food, phone calls, love offerings, and letters of encouragement which have meant so very much to us. May God richly bless and reward you each one. —Elva, Mamie and Della



Manyles Durbin Gaines was born April 19, 1915, in Creek County, Oklahoma, to Evander and Mary Gaines, and departed this life to be with the Lord on Jan. 26, 1978, in Tulsa, Okla., at the age of 62 years and nine months.

In 1938, he was united in holy matrimony with Almeta Douglas who preceded him in death. To this union, three children were born.

Bro. Gaines was saved at an early age and answered the call of God to the ministry in 1967. He became pastor of the Church of God in Tulsa.

He was united in holy matrimony with Sis. Theresa Wright on January 11, 1975.

Bro. Gaines was a very pleasant and appreciative person who always exhibited the joy of the Lord with a smile. He was totally committed and dedicated to the service of God and remained faithful until the end. We can surely benefit by following his Godly example. We can say of Bro. Gaines as of Paul: "He fought a good fight, he finished his course, he kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for him a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give him at that day."

He leaves to cherish his memory, his devoted wife, Sis. Theresa Gaines, of the home; his father, Bro. Evander Gaines, of Bakersfield, California; two sons, Manyles D. Gaines, Jr., and Rozell Gaines; one daughter, Mrs. Mary Thomas, and five grandchildren, all of Tulsa, Okla. The Lord gave him five step-children who were

dear to him: Mrs. Barbara Hughes, Mrs. Jacquelyn McDaniel, Miss Frances Wright, Mrs. Oleta Whibby, and Mrs. Perry Wright Jr. He also leaves three sisters: Mrs. Nancy Riley and Mrs. Edith Sherman of Bakersfield, California, and Mrs. Ruth Sheehee of Pacoima, Calif., and a host of relatives, friends, and saints.

The funeral service was conducted at the Church of God chapel, Norfolk and Pine Place, Tulsa, Okla., by Bro. Lewis Williams, assisted by Bro. Woodrow Warren and Bro. Norman Simpson. Interment was in the Crown Hill Cemetery, Tulsa.



Sister Hettie J. (Bradford) Barton, the oldest daughter of eleven children of Charles and Daisy Bradford, was born June 21, 1893, in Logan County, Oklahoma, and departed this life January 26, 1978, at her home in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at the age of 84 years, 6 months, and 5 days.

She and Sam J. Barton were married March 25, 1908, in Oklahoma City. He preceded her in death in 1970, after they commemorated their 62nd wedding anniversary. To this union one son, Gene, was born who survives his parents. One adopted daughter, Dorothy, preceded Bro. and Sis. Barton in death on January 23, 1966.

Sister Hettie was a member of the Church of God, having given her heart to the Lord in early married life. Sister Barton worked with her husband who for many years was a real pioneer minister of the Church of God. She was a "mother in Israel." Their home was opened to saints and others who found a place of welcome.

Other survivors include one sister, Mrs. Juanita Mote, Gardena, Calif.; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends.

The funeral services were conducted at the Wizenhunt Funeral Chapel, Tulsa, Okla., by Bro. Willie C. Murphey, assisted by Sister Ruth Murphey. Interment was in Memorial Park Cemetery, Tulsa, until the general resurrection.



Margaret J. Melot was born July 24, 1886, and departed this life at Lubbock, Texas, on Feb. 12, 1978, at the age of 91 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas M. Melot, in 1961.

She first met the saints of the Church of God in Shawnee, Okla., about the year of 1906. She was a supporter of the *Faith and Victory* paper since its beginning, and loved to talk about the old-time saints.

She was alert up to the time of her death, and departed very peacefully.

Margaret Melot is survived by two daughters, Marjorie Bailey, Lubbock, Tex., and Glatie Johnson, Borger, Tex.; six sons, Milton, Los Angeles, Calif., Marion, Guthrie, Okla., Elbert, Bangs, Tex., Ulie, Shawnee, Okla., Pat, Phoenix, Ariz., and George, Lubbock, Tex., as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Her earthly tabernacle was laid to rest in the Resthaven Memorial Park, Lubbock, Texas. May I exhort us all to seek for the "old paths."

—Tom Melot

IN LOVING MEMORY

Sister Katie (Marler) Gibson, you see,
Is someone that I loved and she loved me.
She visited me many, many times,
Stood firmly for the truth, though very kind.
She taught me this true way more perfectly,
'Till the Church of God was revealed to me.

A mother in Israel we found her to be,
We trust to meet her in God's eternity.
We miss her, and her dear children do, too,
But to call her back we cannot do.
She is with Jesus in that Home so fair;
To meet her there, is our daily prayer.

She was faithful and true unto the end,
And we need to be, too, my Christian friend.
God bless her children that are left here today,
And help them, too, her Saviour to obey,
Because she has prayed for you many times,
And is waiting for you in that Heavenly clime.

A missionary spirit she had alway,
Going near and far to help souls to pray.
We loved you, Sister, but God loved you best,
And took you Home where you can always rest.
—Effie Miller

LOS ANGELES SPRING MEETING

The annual Spring meeting at Los Angeles, Calif., will convene on Friday night, March 17, at 7:30 p.m., continuing nightly for ten nights, ending on Easter Sunday, March 26, 1978.

There will be 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. day services on Saturday, March 18, and Friday and Saturday, March 24 and 25.

The chapel is located on the corner of Naomi and Walnut streets, phone (213) 746-9474.

You are welcome and urged to come.

For further information, contact our pastor, Bro. Mackey Francisco, 2129 Stocker St., phone (714) 629-9907, Pomona, Calif., or Bro. T. R. Summers, 711 W. 85th St., phone (213) 752-1135, Los Angeles, Calif.

—By Sister Leon Phillips

DAYTON, OHIO, ALL-DAY MEETINGS

We plan to have all-day meetings, the Lord willing, on the second Sunday in March, April, and May, at 622 Tyron Avenue, Dayton, Ohio. For more information, contact Bro. or Sister John Gutwein, 4008 Gardenview Dr., Dayton, Ohio 45431.

SPRING MEETING IN OKLAHOMA CITY

The congregation of the Church of God which meets at 800 E. Third St., Oklahoma City, Okla., will hold, Lord willing, their annual spring meeting on April 7 to 16, 1978. Pray the Lord to bless and anoint for the preaching, that all souls will be benefited. Bro. E. J. Trotter of California is expected to be in this meeting.

For further information, contact Bro. Herman Kelly, 1504 N. E. 48th St., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73111, phone 405-427-7314.
—By Sister Juanita Parks

DATE CHANGE OF MEETING AT WICHITA, KS.

The congregation at Wichita, Kansas, has decided to change the time of their annual spring meeting to summer—June 23 to July 2, 1978. This will not be a campmeeting, but their usual spring-type meeting. A meeting will not be held in March. All are welcome to the summer meeting.

Pray the Lord to bless this meeting on June 23 to July 2 in a special way, and send ministers of His choosing.
—Sister Shirley Knight

INTERIOR MEXICO MEETING AT EASTER

The Lord has burdened several hearts spontaneously about a meeting at Easter time in interior Mexico. It seems there are several interested in going. We want others who have a burden about this meeting to know about it.

This meeting will be held, Lord willing, March 17-26, 1978, at the village of Calzontzin, a suburb of Uruapan, Michoacan, Mexico, where Bro. Irineo Rama is in charge. It is on the highlands west of Mexico City. At this time the weather is dry and sunny, and the roads are good all the way.

Those interested in helping in this endeavor, phone us as quickly as possible for additional driving information. Phone No. 405-282-5671, P. O. Box 206, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.
—James Huskey

SUPPORT THE HOME MISSIONARY WORK

Kansas—To the dear saints scattered abroad: Greetings in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. I am thankful we have found a refuge in Him from the storms of life. We sing a song, one verse of which reads like this, "The cruel pirate at the helm bound for the rocks of shame, was vanquished by the power of my Saviour, Bless His name! and since I serve my Lord today, He condescends to be, thro' all the changes on my way, still everything to me—a balm in time of sorrow, my help today, tomorrow; the blessed Christ of Galilee is everything to me." Thank the good Lord!

In reading the Scripture we find this verse, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." It is our desire to be faithful to the teaching of the Holy Spirit. One verse in St. John 1:12 reads, "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God. . . ." It surely works.

We are burdened for lost souls as there is such a great harvest field before us. The man that made a great supper told his servants to go into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in. We hope we never lose that burden for one lost soul. Jesus said that one soul is worth more than all the world. He taught us the lesson of the shepherd that had one hundred sheep and one was lost. Did He not leave the ninety and nine and go in search of that one lost lamb? He looked up in the tree and saw one man, and went to his house. He talked to one woman at the well and told her of the living water. God sent Philip all the way from Samaria down to the desert to preach to one man in the chariot.

We are burdened for the evangelistic tent work this coming summer that the Lord will burden hearts and

open up avenues to reach the lost. In so many places it is hard to find a place to set the tent, but if we pray, the Lord will go before. The need is for gospel workers. Who will go for Jesus into the haunts of sin?

We thank the Lord for everyone who carries a burden for the gospel missionary work. May the Lord bless each one with the knowledge that in bringing in the sheaves God will reward him with a home in heaven.

Pray for us that the Lord will direct our hearts.

Yours for lost souls,

—Bro. Ralph and Sis. Inez Beisly

(Editor's note: Please send your free-will offerings for home missionary work directly to Bro. Ralph M. Beisly, 407 Eldridge St., Coffeyville, Kansas 67337, who is the treasurer of the National Missionary Fund.)

Prayer Requests

Mo.—"I want prayer for arthritis and cataracts. My wife the same."

—Eddie J. Lee

Okla.—"I am studying the Bible and need prayer for complete understanding of God's Word."

—Glenn O. Brewer

Fla.—"Pray for the Lord to heal my right leg. I am almost past going."

—Sis. Anna Rouse

Ore.—Irvin Wattenbarger needs healing for his knees. They are swollen and he has to use crutches. He is a teen-ager and loves the Lord.

Mo.—A 17-year-old young man is sentenced for 15 years. He wanted his mother to write for prayer that "the Lord would help him out."

Ind.—"Please pray for the release of a brother of mine who is in prison. My family and I also need prayer."

—Unsigned

Ill.—"The judge allowed my daughter's ex-husband to have their daughter on some week-ends. . . . Unless God undertakes, my daughter will not see her child again, as he will take her to Nigeria as he did before. He is doing this to hurt my daughter. . . . You know, Sis. Miles, that the court didn't help us out before, but we looked to God. God can and will change things. . . . Pray with us."

—Jean Murry

La.—"My husband has been down for three years. Please pray for him and for some unsaved loved ones."

—Sis. Elvie Ware

Calif.—Remember Bro. Ira Stover in prayer as he had a stroke. He is better, and they are supposed to move him to Bro. and Sis. L. Taylors today (Feb. 23rd) until he is able to come home. A word of encouragement would be a blessing to him and Sis. Ruby. Address: 5497 Avenue 376, Kingsburg, Calif. 93631.

Ohio—Sis. Harley Hiles and her daughter, Betty Nugent have some serious problems they desire the Lord to work out.

The afflictions and problems of life could be our cares. We are instructed, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." I Pet. 5:7. This would mean for us to tell the Lord all about our afflictions, problems, and needs, and then get up from prayer and cast them out of our mind and thought to the extent that we do not worry about them. We are still human and we know that they are there, but we have such assurance and calmness in our minds and thoughts that we just

know that God will take care of them. Faith doesn't worry. Faith rests in God and trusts. Faith knows that God cares and that He has "an everlasting love" for us and will extend to us "lovingkindness." His heart has a tenderness toward us. His love will never fail. Even though the love and care of our loved ones may be strong and deep, yet it can perish. God's love will never fail. In those lonely hours we find a sweet shelter in His refuge and a sweet resting place in Him. He is there to bless, to heal, to comfort and to work out problems. We are glad that time will not change Him. We must wait, trust, and hope in God. Never grow faint, but keep faith strong. God will come to our rescue in His own time and in His great wisdom. Waiting tests our faith and causes us to become more humble and submissive to Him. Trust God to help us to be ready for that beautiful place that He has prepared for the faithful.

—Sis. Marie Miles

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (Jan. 24)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and holy brethren: Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus—the Light of the world. Thank you for your encouraging letter dated Jan. 4, 1978. Its enclosures were duly received with immense thanks to the Chief Supplier and His blessings to those who gave liberally.

We made our first penetration into a neutral land this year on Jan. 13 to 15. This writer and dependable brethren of Abbi, Utagba-Ogbe and Afor congregations were led out of Kwale to camp at Obetim for three days of real battle with the arch enemy of souls and forces of darkness. We arrived at the town in faith having assurance of victory from the Victor. God's manifestation to Joshua as "captain of the host of the Lord" near Jericho notified him of how to invade and destroy that strong city (Joshua 5:13-15). God is faithful to help us. He never requires of us that which He does not help us to accomplish. When God commands His people to do anything, He goes before them to prepare the way. Although He prepares the way, personal faith and obedience are required of us in each venture for Him. The town of Obetim has fallen to the hands of the children of God. Praise the Lord forever! The Catholic Church in existence there never held services on Sunday, Jan. 15, as its members came to the service of the Church of God and now they are for the true Church.

Bro. Gabriel Chukwumah and Brother Alphonsus Okwosha were dispatched there on Wed., Jan. 18, to hold the first Bible teaching with them. The report brought back of the attendance and reception of the teaching was most encouraging. The picture of an old man who was saved on the occasion and surrendered his juju to be burned will be forwarded to you in due course. . . .

Bro. Gilbert Ogboekene, who caught the vision of the Church of God from afar, was guided all the way from Lagos by the "Star of Bethlehem" to trace out the church which Jesus built. He resigned his secular position and arrived on Jan. 28, to work with us. Bro. Ezekiel Adekanmi, who for the past 18 years had been an evangelist in an apostate church, has been blessed to find the true Church and he will arrive at Kwale soon with his family to assume duty in the Church of God. Bro. Alphonsus Okwosha has also dropped his secular

position with the *Observer Press* for full-time ministry in the Church of God. We are praying the Lord for provisions to meet the maintenance of His workers. Pray with us in this direction.

The gospel Van broke down on our return from Obetim. Bad roads are chiefly responsible. A taxi car coming from the opposite direction caused a stone to fly up which landed with great force on the windshield and shattered it. The cost is heavy to install another windshield and to warrant our going to Owerri, capital of Imo State, possibly during the second week of February. The group there, who were led out of false churches by the Spirit of God, are eagerly expecting the birth of the Church of God in their area. Many are standing by for baptism which this writer will administer. Bro. Benson Oparaji is the leader of the group.

"If it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose ye this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods that your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15. No home can ever be what it should be without Christ as its head. Amen.

Yours on the King's High Plane of service,

—Titus U. E. Enu, pastor

(Editor's note: Bro. Enu also writes that he has "a burning desire to attend the campmeetings in the U. S. this year if the Lord will sanction it." Presently there are some saints concerned to help him come. Pray that the Lord's will be done in this matter.)

REPORT FROM OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO, AND SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

The young couple in Ojos Negros, Mexico, had been ill, but are well now. They write that they had had meeting when some of the ministers from the States had come down, and two souls were saved. This was an encouragement to them, both the souls gained for God, and the visitors. They desire to serve the Lord with all their souls, minds, and strength. They and Sis. Edith Lara are having services together once a month, and the Lord is blessing.

We now have perhaps 100 new tracts or articles in the process of preparation for printing and distribution, thanks to the Lord and His people. We do so much appreciate the Justewriter machine. Through its use, much time has been gained on preparations.

The Lord has been laying a burden on us to go on a mission for Him. I've been strongly impressed this week to go West first. We hope that Sis. Edith Lara and the Escobars can follow us back to Calzontzin where the meeting is scheduled. If she cannot postpone her campmeeting at Patzcuaro, she will need help in it, and as I understand, all other workers will be in the meeting in Calzontzin. I believe that is the reason the Lord has burdened me to go West. If they can follow us to Calzontzin after their campmeeting, we will make a follow-up after the revival, of teaching and encouraging new saints as well as those already saved. We are taking many tracts to be given out along the way, also.

Pray with us that the mission will be a blessing to souls. Sis. Carrie Sheppard feels the Lord would not have her to go. Pray for her here.

Yours for the saving of souls in Mexico,
Mayarino and Panchita Escobar, Ap. Postal No.
284, Ensenada, B. Cfa., Mexico, Sisters Sandra
Whitson, Carrie Sheppard, and Opal Kelly,
919 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Jan. 26)—Dear Bro. Pruitt, each dear one at the Print Shop, and everywhere: We send our loving greetings in the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Thank you very much for your letter dated Jan. 4, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude. I am sorry I am a little late to reply as I was busy with the general campmeeting and other meetings here.

We are all blessed by the short visit of Bro. Richard Madden which is a great privilege in our life. He arrived here on Jan. 18, the first day of our campmeeting, and he preached very anointed messages in that meeting. Those who participated were really blessed. Now we are going together to visit and conduct meetings at all the congregations here. Early tomorrow morning, Bro. Madden and myself plan to go to Trichur and the congregations in the north. Though Bro. Madden has come to a new place where everything is different, he is getting along well now.

Our general campmeeting was more blessed and profitable than those of previous years. Bro. Madden baptized four young men on the last day of the meeting. Your prayers and kind help are appreciated. Brother Madden will leave India on Feb. 12, 1978.

Our prayers are for your complete healing and blessings upon your labors there.

With love and prayers, I am yours in Him,

—John Varghese

From the Mail box . . .

Ill.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: We are enclosing a check . . . and ask that you use this money for the missionary work in the Philippines. Our family collected this money in place of expensive gifts for each other at Christmas time.

I was involved in the Luzon campaign during World War II, and that report from Bro. Granil really moved me with compassion for those dear people. . . .

We pray that God will continue to bless your ministry. I do enjoy your paper and it does much to enrich my life.

Your Brother in Christ,

—Warren A. Baker

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

Okla.—"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it." Psalms 68:11.

I do thank the Lord for the Faith Publishing House and appreciate all those who are sacrificing their time, labor, and strength to work for the Lord to get the truth of God's Word out to the world.

In years gone by, shortly after I was saved, I came in possession of a *Faith and Victory* paper. I cherished it very much. To me it was like reading the Bible. I got so much good help from reading it; I carried it around in my purse until it was quite worn. I was living in Oakland, Calif., at the time. I wrote to Bro. Fred Pruitt

who was the editor at that time. He answered my letter and occasionally wrote encouraging letters which helped me so very much spiritually, as I was a babe in Christ. I was very thankful when the Lord blessed me to meet Bro. Fred Pruitt face to face. He was a wonderful man of God. I shall ever be thankful for how the Lord used him to be a blessing to me in the service of the Lord. Thank the Lord!

For some years now, I receive from the Faith Publishing House a roll of *Faith and Victory* papers each month to pass out in my traveling ministry, and otherwise.

I would like to share with the saints a few words of the many testimonies and expressions of friends and fellow-travelers who have accepted the *Faith and Victory* paper.

A porter on the train said: "When I walked in the station the first thing I laid my eyes on was the *Faith and Victory* paper. It belonged to another porter, but I took advantage of the opportunity to read it."

A Red Cap expressed the good he had received in reading the *Faith and Victory* paper and asked, "Do you have another paper for me?"

While riding the bus, a passenger asked: "How far will you ride this bus? I want to know how long I will have to read this *Faith and Victory* paper." Of course, I said to the traveler, "I gave it to you." "Oh, thank you!" was the reply.

Another expressed: "I found just what I needed in that *Faith and Victory* paper. It answered many questions for me."

A traveler said: "That is a good paper. How can I get another one?"

A *Faith and Victory* reader testified: "Reading the *Faith and Victory* paper has increased my Bible knowledge, and strengthened me spiritually. It has caused me to search the Scriptures more earnestly."

I am thankful for the privilege of serving the Lord and being a worker together with Him and His people. I need your prayers, that I will be faithful to the Lord.

—Katherine Williams

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

Grand Cayman Island—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I received your letter. I am sorry I was unable to answer before, as I have been sick with arthritis in my arm and down in my hand. Anyway, I do praise the dear Lord for what He does for me each day. I am not young in years anymore, but I am stronger each day in my soul, as each day brings me nearer Home. I thank God for salvation which saves and keeps. Praise God! I am so glad I am in the Church of the living God which is built on the Rock, Christ Jesus. I do love God's true people everywhere. When I read the papers and Sunday school books I have to amen and praise God for everything. . . .

—Olivine Jackson

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

III.—Your *Faith and Victory* paper is always a great blessing to me. I enjoy reading it with my heart open to truth and I am greatly blessed. I also read it to my husband who is also a born-again Christian, and he is blessed. I pass these papers to fellow Christians and others, and they are also blessed. I anxiously look forward to reading it each month. May God keep anoint-

ing your ministry with His Holy Spirit, and each one on your staff. Keep laboring on in His vineyard until Jesus comes. . . .

—Mrs. H. F. Rost

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

Miss.—I enjoy the many testimonies and the good messages of each one in the *Faith and Victory* paper, also the many tracts from Faith Publishing House.

I do love every one and I ask to be remembered in all your prayers because I am old and I need a lot of help. I know we have a God who can take care of all our needs.

How I wish I could attend some of the revivals at Bakersfield, Calif., and other places, but it is too far away and I am not able to attend. . . .

Your Sister in Christ, —Viola C. Touchstone

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

Canada—Dear Bro. Pruitt, Sis. Miles, and co-workers: Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus. . . . We went to our homeland, Germany, for three weeks in December. It had been 21 years since we were there. We had a good time and the Lord was with us. Also we handed out some German tracts. They were received gladly. It is too bad that so many souls have been deceived by the trick of the devil.

We are much encouraged in our souls. We can look back over the last year and reflect on what was accomplished for God. We feel we learned many things and advanced some in spiritual things. The pathway is getting brighter all the time. We sometimes make mistakes, but the Lord helps us then, to see that we should not trust in ourselves but only in the Lord. We are learning more to let the mistakes prove to be a blessing to us.

As the new year has begun, we realize it brings us closer to eternity. As saints, we are looking forward to this blessed time to be with the Lord forever. We don't know how much time is left, but we want to remind all people to awaken and turn to the Lord Jesus, if they are not saved. We like to draw closer to our Lord. Sin is waxing worse and worse, but we can rejoice in the Lord because there is a plentiful amount of grace in Him.

I am saved and have a refuge and hiding place in God. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless each one of you at the Print Shop and the whole congregation. We love all the saints everywhere. We are always praying for you, and for the Church of God. Please pray for us here in Canada.

May the blessings of God rest upon each of you and your labors for Him. —George and G. Schroeder

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

W. Va. (Feb. 9)—Dear Bro. Lawrence: We send greetings from West Virginia in the lovely name of Jesus. Trust this will find you and all the workers there encouraged to press on for the Lord. We remember you often in our prayers.

This leaves us both well, but we have been snowed in for awhile, and have hardly seen the ground for over a month. The Lord has been blessing and supplying all our needs. I have been feeling much better in body of late. Also, the Lord has been wonderfully blessing the congregation. We have hardly had any sickness all winter. The Lord has been faithful to heal those who were sick. The Lord is still adding to the number here. More have gotten saved in the last

couple of weeks. We can see others growing in the things of the Lord. . . .

In Proverbs 16:2 we read, "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits." And the Apostle Paul wrote: "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Rom. 8:9b. The Lord is weighing our spirit. I want to always be able to discern between the Spirit of Christ and all other spirits. Pray for me.

The Lord willing, our campmeeting at Green Banks, W. Va., will be held June 9 to 18, 1978. We need a chapel here, as the State is to take our present building. Pray about it.

We are remembering your afflictions before the throne of grace.

Christian love, —Bro. Mart Samons
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Canada—Dear Bro. Pruitt, saints there and abroad: I greet all of you in Jesus' precious name, the One who saved our souls from eternal torments in hell, through His own blood applied to our souls in this life as a cleansing agent for the removal of all unrighteousness and sin. Yes, we surely thank God for the gift of salvation!

We are looking forward to the opportunity of sending more literature out to German people. Some of it finds its way to Russian saints of German descent, who have recently been allowed to permanently leave the Soviet empire. They are surely hungry for the full truth and desire more. They are now linked up with the remains of the Church of God movement in Germany and are being frowned upon over their custom of lifting up holy hands toward God. Let us pray that they receive the one and only wholesome instruction of the Word of God and experience a spiritual discernment between God's church and man-made sects. . . .

Please permit me to relate to you a dream the Lord gave me more than ten years ago. At that time I attended the local Bible school, and my heart was very close to the Lord as He permitted me to go through a fiery trial which lasted for months. At last the victory was mine, but at the expense of what I thought to be a great sacrifice.

Here is the dream: I found myself to be on the sidewalk of a city street. The streets of that city were very narrow, as I remembered having seen them in the Old Country. The buildings were all joined up with one another. Then I decided I should buy myself some valuables and walked into what appeared to be a drug store. The succession of events which then took place happened so quickly, that I had no time to think, but I was sorely overwhelmed. No sooner had I entered the store, in which a number of people were waiting to be served, when a man, whose identity I could not recognize, stepped up from behind me, pulled an opened package of cigarettes out of his pocket, and invited me to take one. I knew it was not right, but I cowardly yielded and pulled one out. Immediately following he had fire from a lighter ready to light the cigarette, which I allowed him to do. My conscience rebuked my actions, and a feeling of guilt and shame came over me. The man disappeared. Endeavoring to hide the mark of worldliness (the cigarette) which I had accepted, I moved slowly towards the door and stepped

back out onto the street. Then with all my strength I threw that cigarette away, but to my dismay it fell right into an open window of one of the apartment buildings. Looking up to that window, I noticed smoke rising out of it, then flames shot out and instantly the entire apartment was on fire. The fire spread over to other buildings as well, and it did so until finally the entire city was burning. Far in the distance I saw fire trucks approaching from all directions. Even though the firemen started to pour water on the flames, they could not save any part of the city.

Then I awoke and knew it contained a message from the Lord to me. However, I never was able to really understand what it meant until after I had broken fellowship with the German Church of God denomination. Well, praise the Lord! Dear saints, if we allow ourselves to be cleansed from all worldly defilement, the Lord will then use us to burn up the strongholds of corruption with the devil's own fire! Of course, this will not happen until we have stepped out of all storehouses of deception and declared our freedom in the one and only Church of God. We may reap a little bit of persecution, but that is merely what God's Word said will come if we live holy and do what is pleasing in the sight of God.

Again, my thanks extend to you (also from our brethren in Ontario) for your help in the printing of some literature containing truths that will set "Babylon" on fire. We love the truth and want to see it upheld until the Lord returns.

May the dear Lord continue to bless and reward you for your consecrated service.

Your younger Brother in Christ,
—Reinhard Mueller

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

La.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. We appreciate your cards and words of encouragement in our time of sorrow. We have received many cards, letters of encouragement, and love offerings. We miss dear Neva so very much, but we know she is enjoying the beauties of Heaven that she often talked about and wondered how it would be. The Lord was so good to her in not letting her suffer many days. He would give her relief in her suffering. We could see for the last year or more how she was ripening up for Heaven. Her prayer on her bed would be, "Lord, help me to endure unto the end." She passed so peacefully with victory, and was conscious to the last. Oh, I want to be faithful and leave the same testimony! . . .

We enjoy the Sunday school lessons so much, and our prayer is for the dear Lord to bless all you dear ones in your work for Him.

We surely have missed LaVern (Manuel), but we have appreciated having Bro. and Sis. H. Probst with us. They have been so much comfort to us through our hours of sorrow.
—Sis. Elva Joiner

—————o—————

Can it be possible that there are real benefits received from passing through a fiery trial? Truly in the midst of trial we may not be able to see where the benefit is to be derived, but after it is all over, if we have been true to God we can realize the richness in it, and that it has worked out "an eternal weight of glory" unto our souls.
—E. E. Byrum

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Okla.—Dear ones: We are truly thankful that we can share the way in which God gave us complete healing. As some of you know, when I was at the Assembly meeting in Guthrie, Okla., on the week-end, I had an attack of what seemed to be appendicitis. My wife, son, and I came home after the Lord touched me and I could travel. I worked the week out. The next Sunday we were again at the Guthrie meeting and I came down with it again. I was getting weaker and weaker all the time. The pain at times was so severe that I could hardly stand it. This pain lasted for three full days. On Wednesday it seemed that the Lord was going to take me Home, but I just felt that I still had something to do for God. The devil painted death on every side and seemed as though that was it, but we called the elders of the Church for prayer, and praise the Lord, it had to go. My wife said it was between seven and eight o'clock. The Lord just touched me with complete healing in my body. The devil tries to bring back the pain, but I know without a doubt in my mind that God has healed me. I always want to be thankful to Him for what He has done. Praise His dear name!

—Jerry Meek

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

Calif.—Dear Sis. Marie and Bro. Pruitt: Greetings of love in Jesus' precious name. I am the Lord's and He is mine. This leaves the family and me rejoicing in the Saviour's love. We are all well, and trust all of you are enjoying the blessings of the Lord.

Through the trials and temptations that we have in life, we are encouraged to fight a "good fight" by the grace of God. Surely, we thank and praise the Lord for His love and goodness to us. We are encouraged to work and pray while it is day, "for the night cometh when no man can work." Our continued prayers for God's great cause is a "must," and we should do it with all of our heart.

Christian love, —Edward V. Davenport

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

Mo.—Dear saints: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. He has been so good to me lately that I can't praise Him enough for it.

I was just sitting here reading some of the old *Faith and Victory* papers and felt impressed to send in my testimony of what the Lord has done for me.

On October 8, 1977, I was in our smokehouse back of the house, and I happened to glance up and saw a wasp buzzing over my head. I thought I could get out the door before it got to me. I had my right hand on the glass part of the door when I saw it heading toward me. I became frantic and pushed my hand through the glass part of the door. I cut my wrist in two places. One was very near the main artery, and at first I thought I had actually cut it. But the dear Lord kept the glass from cutting my artery. I thank Him for what He did for me. Some of my friends at school asked why I didn't go to the doctor and have it sewed up. I told them I was trusting in the Lord to heal it, and as I had JoAnn Sorrell put a butterfly bandage on it, I didn't feel like it was necessary to have it stitched. My wrist is now completely healed. Praise His holy name!

I really enjoyed being at the Guthrie, Okla., Assembly meeting this year. I got the help I needed, and mean to live a closer and a more consecrated life for my Lord and Saviour. By the help of the Lord, I mean to keep walking in this strait and narrow way that I may obtain my crown in heaven.

Pray for me that I'll be a shining light in this cruel, dark world that others may see Jesus shine through me. I don't want to ever turn to the ways of the world. There's nothing good there for me to go back to. . . . I have something now that far surpasses anything the world has to offer. I have peace, joy, and an assurance of going to a place of happiness when I leave this old world. Surely I couldn't ask for more.

—Wanda Sharp

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

Kansas—Dear Brother Lawrence and Sister Marie: First, I want to say, Praise the Lord! Bless His holy name! What a mighty God we serve! I have a testimony I want to give to the glory of God.

Three years ago, January, 1975, when I had my eyes checked, the ophthalmologist suspected that I had a brain tumor. Further examination by a neurologist confirmed the opinion of the first doctor that there was a tumor which was pressing against the optic nerves and the pituitary gland. Both doctors were told that a diagnosis was all that I wanted and that I had other plans for treatment. When the neurologist learned that prayer to, and healing by God, was how I expected to treat the condition he asked, "Just how do you expect to go about obtaining healing from God?" I told him that I would get down on my knees and humbly and sincerely ask God to heal me and I would ask everyone I thought had access to God to pray for me. The neurologist said, "Hm-m-m-m. I suggest you do your praying in front of a cobalt machine." (Radiology treatments.) Both doctors told me I could expect total blindness.

After I learned that I had the brain tumor, I was anointed and prayed for in our home congregation in Wichita, Ks., at the Guthrie, Okla. Assembly meeting, the Jefferson, Oregon meeting, and at the Monark Springs (Neosho, Mo.) meeting. I also asked the saints for their prayers. My eyesight continued to deteriorate, then seemed to stabilize. Time after time I was prayed for. At the Monark Springs (Neosho, Mo.) meeting in 1976 I felt that the Lord definitely undertook and testified that I felt the tumor was taken care of. My eyesight did not improve, but it did not become any worse.

During this period of three years there were some dark days, but the Lord would encourage us. Many, many times we sang that precious song "Faith," No. 283 in the *Evening Light Songs*, and our faith would be lifted up. "Put on thy strength, O Zion, rise, and fix thy trust above the skies, move out on faith's almighty plane, through Him that loved us dare to reign." That is what we have endeavored to do in the name of the Lord—to fix our trust above the skies and to move out on the almighty plane of faith.

This morning, February 16, 1978, I had another eye checkup by the ophthalmologist, since he told me that eyes should be checked every three years at my age. After the examination the doctor said, "Amazing! Unbelievable! You should be blind, but there is a

definite remission of the tumor activity!" My eyes are actually some stronger than when they were examined in 1975. The doctor said, "I have seen a miracle." I agreed. That is the way God works. Thank the Lord! The Lord not only heals the tumor, but demonstrates to these two doctors His way of handling the problem.

The ophthalmologist told me that portions of the retina of my eyes have atrophied, due to lack of use by the damaged optic nerves, and will remain this way. The Lord has taken care of the brain tumor, and after what the Lord has done for me, I am confident He will complete the healing and restore my vision to a normal condition.

This experience has greatly increased my faith that God does hear and answer the prayers of His trusting children, and I hope it will encourage others to rely on Him for every need.

To all who have prayed for me, I want to express my deep appreciation for your holding me up to God, and say, "God bless you." I still need your prayers for the restoration of the atrophied retina and damaged optic nerves, and ask that the saints continue to seek the Lord in my behalf until He completes the work.

In Christ, —Floyd Kennedy

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

La.—Dear Sister Marie: Warm greetings of love in the name of our precious Lord and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. I was reading the lesson on faith in my little devotional book, and it inspired my heart. "The land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel." Joshua 1:2. "God here speaks in the immediate present. It is not something He is going to do, but something He does do, this moment. So faith ever speaks. So God ever gives." . . .

The Psalmist said, "I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." Psalms 27:13. He did not see as yet the Lord's answer to his prayers, but he believed to see; and this kept him from fainting. If we have the faith that believes to see, it will keep us from growing discouraged. . . .

We miss our dear Sis. Barton so very much. She was truly our spiritual mother and we loved her as such. After Dorothy Barton went home to Glory, I tried to fill that vacancy as a "dutiful daughter." . . . She and Bro. Barton used to come often to see about us when we first moved to Neosho. They were much concerned for us. They were always just like the "family" to us. Bro. Albert and Sis. Margaret Eck are the only ones left now, whom we first met and who taught us the truth.

Your father [Fred Pruitt] was staying in our home one time when I was very young, both in years and in the Lord, and he paid me the highest compliment I have ever been paid. He said that I reminded him so much of my Aunt Julia. She was the only saint I ever knew, and as a child I'd tell my mother that I wanted to grow up to be like Aunt Julia. No doubt her prayers for me helped me love and accept the truth when it was brought to me when I was about 25 years of age. I corresponded with her until she passed on when I was 23 years of age, but I never saw her after I was 10 or 11 years of age.

My heart goes out to the dear elderly saints and all the isolated ones. It takes much grace and patience when

we are no longer able to work and do things like we were used to doing, and the dear ministers who yet carry a heavy burden for the work of God, but who are no longer able to do much, except pray—it takes a lot of patience.

We trust that you and all the dear ones there at the Publishing House are well, or as well as usual. We hold all of you up in prayer every day as you labor and give of your time and talents in the interest of precious souls.

Pray for us that we will fill our small place to the very best of our ability and be a soul winner for Christ.

—Sis. Sybil Goldsberry

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

Okla.—There have been quite a number of the saints called Home to rest in this new year. They will all be missed, but we think of the Scripture in Isa. 57:1, "The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, . . . from the evil to come."

As we were going to Bro. M. Gaines' funeral in Tulsa, we thought of Psalms 12:1, "Help, Lord; for the godly man ceaseth." We talked about how on the same day Sis. Hettie Barton and Bro. M. Gaines were both taken away, and Sis. Katie Gibson just a week before, also others of God's children were called away. We miss our brother, Waldo Eck, so very much. This means there are fewer godly people in the world. The godly people are so out-numbered by the wicked that it makes us cry out, "Help, Lord!"

Sin and wickedness are surely increasing day by day. These are perilous times. ". . . God is angry with the wicked every day." Psalms 7:11. He never approves of sin and wickedness. In Luke 13:2 we read, ". . . Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." We are seeing much destruction and death around us, such as storms, fires, earthquakes, wrecks, and snow storms. Are the ones we hear of being destroyed more wicked than those who escape? No! There are many who escape who are just as wicked, but God is trying to awaken souls to call upon Him. As we study our Sunday school lessons which are in the book of Revelation, we see God's judgments are being poured out upon wickedness, false religions and every high thing that exalts itself against God. We know He is no respecter of persons. It means much for us to keep our garments pure and spotless. He is coming for a spotless Church. One sin will make a spot. Dear ones, let us watch and pray, so we may be found spotless before Him.

"God is sweeping thru' the nations with an awful searching eye;

Every spot of imperfection must be purged or hope must die."

Let us not try to see how close to the world we can get, but keep ourselves unspotted from the world. May we not be lukewarm, but filled with the Spirit, be up and doing, for our time is short.

—Sis. Margaret Eck

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

Man is to be loved because of what he is worth to God. We get some estimate of man's worth to Christ by the terrible woe He pronounces upon those who would injure one of those who believe in Him.

—C. E. Orr

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: My question concerns the Old Testament Law. In Eph. 2:15 it speaks of Christ "Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments." Also in Col. 2:14, it speaks of "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances . . . , nailing it to his cross." However, in I Tim. 1:8-10 it says, "But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, . . ." Does this mean the law is still in use today to convict sinners of sin?

It also says in Gal. 3:24, "The law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ." Gal. 3:25 says, "But after faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster." Is this speaking of humanity in general 2000 years ago, or does it mean the law is still bringing sinners to Christ today?

Now I have a more specific question which partly hinges on the former questions: In Deut. 22:5 we read, "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garments: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God." I am surely convinced that a woman should not wear slacks, so that is not the question. I Tim. 2:9 makes it clear that a woman should dress modestly, but what I want to know is: In dealing with others about this matter, is it correct to refer back to the Old Testament Law?

Answer: In regard to the first part of this question the words, "In his flesh," in Eph. 2:19 and "nailing it to the cross" in Col. 2:14 are important key words. Many have difficulty in understanding that the Old Testament Law was not carried over at least in part into the New Covenant of Grace because of the fact that there were many references to it in the New Testament and even in the ministry of Jesus, and He enjoined the observances of the law upon the people in numbers of instances. Jesus observed the law in many respects Himself. It must be remembered that the law was in effect until the death of Jesus. There was a lapping over of dispensations here and Jesus actually observed the law while teaching grace which was to come. John 1:17 says, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." That grace that Jesus brought was not fully given unto us until after the shedding of Christ's blood and the subsequent coming of the Holy Ghost.

In Matt. 5:17 we see that Jesus came to fulfill the law. It is also clear in the Scriptures that the law was not fulfilled until the death of Christ as the supreme sacrifice for sin. The Scriptures also make it clear that the law was a temporary measure and that it had an end. In Gal. 3:19, we read, "Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; . . ." This makes it clear that the law was to be in existence until the "seed" should come. Then we would conclude that after the "seed" came the law ceased to exist. Who was that "seed"? Gal. 3:16 says, "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as

of many, but as of one, and to thy seed, which is Christ." Then the law was to be in existence until Christ came. One of the Scriptures used in the question—Gal. 3:24,25—states that the law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. The word *schoolmaster* was translated from a word which does not refer to the teacher but it means "pedagogue" which was a servant who escorted the children to school. He was not the teacher, but took the children to the teacher. Likewise, the law was not our teacher to teach us about Christ but was the agent which brought us to Christ, the great Teacher. Then this Scripture continues on to say that after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. Consequently, when Christ came, the law (pedagogue) had done its work and served its purpose and brought us up to and delivered us to the great Teacher, Christ. When this was accomplished, then comes into focus the key words referred to in the first part of this answer: "In his flesh" and "nailing it to the cross." When Christ expired on the cross, He fulfilled the last jot and tittle of the law and finished it, and it had no further use or purpose in the plan of God as pertains to our salvation, but was totally abolished at Calvary. From that point on, everything pertaining to our relationship with God was on a different basis—faith in Christ instead of the works of the law—for both Jews and Gentiles. Accordingly, we read in Rom. 10:4, "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

No, the law is not still in use today to convict men of sin. That was its purpose in its time, all right. We read in Rom. 3:20, ". . . for by the law is the knowledge of sin." Again we read in Rom. 7:13, ". . . that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful," and again in Rom. 7:7, ". . . I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." The bitter truth is that it convicted men of sin while providing no deliverance for them from sin, and consequently they lived in a state of continuous, perpetual conviction and condemnation with no means of escape until they became very wretched and miserable. See Rom. 7:24. Today we have the Holy Spirit in the world to convict men of sin, so do not need the law for that purpose. John 16:8 says concerning the work of the Holy Spirit, "And when he is come, he will reprove [convince, "margin"] the world of sin. . . ." That is His office work now, and the glorious thing about being convicted by the Holy Spirit is that as we respond to that conviction and follow through and allow Him to perform His work of salvation in our hearts, He administers grace to deliver from the sin He has convicted us of and fills us with joy and peace.

As to the thought that the law is good if a man use it lawfully; that is, if he teaches concerning the law as for what it was and its purpose to give knowledge of sin and consequently to restrain sin until Christ should come and put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself, and when that was accomplished it had no further use in the plan of God and came to an end at Calvary; then it would be good and would enhance the gospel of Christ. Actually the law was good in its time and served as an effective restraint to sin and kept the Jews from falling into the same depths of degradation of the heathen nations around them. The only lawful use of the law now is as outlined here.

In regard to using Old Testament Scriptures to support New Testament truths I would say that at no time, and in no way, do saint ministers teach the law system as such and in no way do we teach anything as present day truth just because the law said it. However, there are many things said in various parts of the law and Old Testament scriptures which contain principles of truth which are carried over and included in New Testament doctrine. For example: Jesus said in Matt. 5:27,28, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old-time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Jesus taught very positively against adultery; not because the law had said, "Thou shalt not commit adultery," but because adultery is wrong and involves a wrong principle. He carried this right over into His teaching and expanded it to include mental adultery or a lustful disposition in one's heart. Several other similar examples could be given, but this will serve to establish my thought and I will move on.

I feel the text under consideration in Deut. 22:5 falls in this category. At the time this text was written and in that land the garments of both men and women were close to identical. At least the outer garments were. Both wore long robes and the principal thing that distinguished the women's robes was a little decorative embroidery that was not on the men's robes. Consequently, I wondered for a long time why it would be so abominable to God if they should get them mixed up and one put on the other's garment. It came clear to me in my meditation at one time that there was a principle laid down here. God made both man and woman and established certain duties and course of life for each of them. Here He lays down a principle to forever condemn any attitude on the part of either of them to want to be like the other and not be satisfied with the way God made them and the course He laid out for them. This principle is carried over into the New Testament also. We read in I Cor. 6:9,10, among many other evil things, that effeminate persons shall not inherit the kingdom of God. I define effeminate as a womanish man; sissy. Webster is a little more sophisticated than that in his dictionary and defines it: "1. having unsuitable feminine qualities; unmanly: 2. marked by weakness and love of ease." Also in I Tim. 2:9,10 and in I Pet. 3:1-6 and other texts, women are taught to be womanly. There are certain graces, refinements and delicacies which belong to womankind, and God's women are instructed and admonished to manifest these. In other words, God wants men to be real men, look like real men, act like real men, dress like real men and fill the place of real men. Likewise, He wants women to be real women, look like real women, act like real women, fill the place of real women and dress like real women. In this country where dress is one of the principle distinctive features between men and women, this thought in Deut. 22:5, which is carried over into the New Testament, comes strongly into focus. Accordingly, it is concluded that God's women must wear dresses (womanly apparel) and God's men must wear pants (manly apparel). The principle is forever the same. God still strongly condemns any attitude on the part of either women or men to want to be like the other.

No, we as saint ministers do not use Old Testament scriptures alone to establish any point. There must be

scriptures or scriptural principles in the New Testament which relate to them to make their use permissible in establishing or confirming a doctrine. It is perfectly permissible, when a good foundation has been laid in the New Testament, to use Old Testament scriptures which relate to them and thus establish the fact that God's attitude has always been the same on any given point.

Giving, A Proof of Our Love



God approves of but one way of giving, and that is by love, with our whole heart. The apostle says, "Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, . . . and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing." Love is the greatest thing in this world. We may give and not love; but we cannot love and not give. The more we love, the more we want to give. Giving is a demonstration of our love to God or to each other. We give gifts to those we love; not because they need the gifts, but because the love in our hearts must have an outlet, and the gift is a manifestation of the love within. The young woman in love, gives her life, her all, to the object of her love. She never thinks of reserve. She wishes she could give more rather than less. Likewise, when we are in love with God, and His love fills our hearts, we unreservedly give all. Then, that glowing, fervent love seeks to demonstrate itself, and opportunities for giving are sought.

We find that any gift we bestow on God's children or on His cause is directly toward Him, hence we seek opportunities to lavish our love. Paul understood this law, when he said, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." II Cor. 9:7. We see the needs of the cause, but that does not so much prompt our giving as the love we have in our hearts for the cause. In other words, the love of God prompts us to give, rather than the necessity for so doing. The greater the love of God in our hearts, the more anxious we are for the opportunity to give. Instead of closing our hearts to the given opportunities, our hearts are open and seeking opportunities. Thus, we become cheerful givers, and are the ones God loves.

When Paul was gathering a donation for the poor saints at Jerusalem, he exhorted the Corinthian brethren to prove the sincerity of their love; not only so, but he plainly taught that they show before the churches that this was a proof of their love. The church at Jerusalem had sent ministers to the Gentiles to teach them the Word of truth and now in return the Gentiles were exhorted to show their love to the church at Jerusalem by a liberal contribution. It was their duty. All through his letters, Paul tries to show that the giving should be through love, rather than of necessity. He taught them that giving would not only enlarge those who gave, and profit the one to whom they gave, but also redound to much praises to God. It would thus, not only serve as a double, but a triple benefit. By this service, much fruit was borne for the glory of God. To the Roman church he calls giving "sealed fruit," and exhorted them to minister in abundance. To the Corinthian church, he said that they should abound in this grace; not to give occasionally, but that they should bear an abounding amount of fruit.

—J. M. Byers

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