

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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The Precious Word of God

When I survey the wondrous Word,
The precepts of our Lord and King,
I joy because my soul has heard
The message that its pages bring.

Its promises, commandments, too;
Its statutes, judgments, richly show
The love and goodness ever new
That God is willing to bestow.

How rich and full of benefit
The standard high it does uphold:
Upon a mountain will we sit
And shine a city of pure gold.

All flesh is grass to sure decay,
Its flower of beauty fadeth fast;
God's Word will never pass away,
Our only hope to ever last.

Oh, read, and study, meditate
Upon the precious Holy Word,
And let its virtue sweet create
Within the image of our Lord.

A mine of rich unmeasured wealth
Within its sacred depths are found,
Assuring happiness and health
Within the soul to here abound.

From first to last its light unfolds
The loving tender heart of God:
The earnest will His bosom holds
For us low creatures of the sod.

Oh, will the heart of man be dumb
And senseless to its loving plea,
Must earthly care the spirit numb
And cause us not the light to see?

No, we with open face shall search
The sacred pages evermore
To learn of Christ and His great Church
And feast on His unbounded store.

—Leslie C. Busbee

Awake, America, Awake!

Isaiah 5:20 says, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" We know that change is bound to come, and this Scripture implies change—a change for the worse. This certainly describes what is happening in our world today when it comes to decency, right principles, holiness and the better things of life.

If the multitudes look upon sin at all, it is not regarded as very sinful. If you are an alcoholic, you are sick. Living together today without marriage is condoned. It is not looked upon as a disgrace today by multitudes when unmarried girls get pregnant. There seems to be no shame. How far can we drift from God and right? Jesus says in Matt. 28:19,20, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, . . . teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. . . ." Could it be that the world is in the condition it is today because we as Christians have failed to live and witness as we should for Christ? We need to do some soul-searching.

Since I have been converted, I have tried to call a spade a spade; that is, face facts. There are too few today who are willing to face facts. Christ's life and teachings must be our number one priority in life if we are to be a Christian.

There are multitudes who claim to be Christian, but they look like the world, go where the world goes, and many times do what the world does, and as a result they have never won anyone to Christ.

Christ saved us because God loved us. He saved us that we might be His children to witness to others. The great question is, are we doing this? Christ wants us to live a victorious and godly life, and tell others what He has done for us, and what He can do for anyone who repents with godly sorrow, and comes to Him.

In 2 Tim. 4:3, Paul says, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine." We are now living in that day, for the world at large and especially the so-called church world does not want this kind of doctrine. You can preach anything but truth and get a following, but it is different if you preach the truth.

Isaiah 4:1 gives us a picture of the modern sectarian world. "And in that day seven women shall take hold

of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach." These seven women represent all of sectarianism. The man, of course, represents Christ. A pure woman represents the Bride of Christ, but the bad woman represents the apostatized, so-called church. Their own bread they eat is their own doctrine with which they are satisfied. Their own apparel is their own self-righteousness. They just want Christ's name to take away their reproach, but even by using His name their reproach is still there and will always be there.

Everything in the world is being preached from modern pulpits and over the air waves with just enough truth to deceive those who do not know their Bibles. It is necessary that we know our Bibles if we would not be deceived.

After I preached one Sunday morning, a man met me in the back of the church building, and said we have had too much doctrine. I agreed that we have had too much false doctrine, but not enough pure gospel. The Bible says for us to "contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints," and that is what I try to do, the Lord being my helper.

We are told to walk in the light, and if the light says to separate ourselves and come out, we had better come out if we are to remain Christians.

Worldliness and temptations are all around us, but if we have the fortitude and a determination to stand, God will give us the necessary grace to be victorious. Let us be faithful regardless of what happens in this life, for it is worth it here and will surely be worth it in that last day. If God be for us, what does it matter who or what is against us? —Carl P. Burton

Footprints in the Snow

Looking down at the snow as I was walking home from the Print Shop the other day, I noticed the many footprints in the snow. There were men's footprints, women's footprints, teen-agers' footprints, and children's footprints. The footprints were going west, east, north, and south, and some were angling across the path. Some had started one direction and then changed and had gone another direction. The thought came to me that each footprint represented a person on his way to a certain place with something in mind to do, or just carelessly walking along with no certain purpose in mind.

Doesn't that remind you of the masses in the world today? Some are going one way, and some are going another. Some aimlessly drift through life. Some start down one course in life, and then suddenly another idea strikes them and they start another way. On and on the multitudes are rushing over the sands of time, headed toward the final judgment. Yet, seemingly they are carelessly disregarding their future destiny. They are living only for time and the things of time. They do not have certain goals for their lives, and if some do have a goal it is only for this earthly life, which is a short-sighted goal. Things of this life will be left behind when death comes to us.

Jesus said, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." Luke 12:15. Jesus

told about a rich man that had so much of this world's goods that he decided to make great preparations so he could live a life of ease for many years. He had enough material goods, that in this life he could take it easy, "eat, drink, and be merry." He had a goal in this life. He thought he knew where he was going. He started down that course of living, but suddenly God came on the scene and spoke to him. He had left God out of his life's preparation. He had thought only of time in this life. God said, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Luke 12:16-21.

Are there not many in the world today acting foolishly? He who builds below the stars builds too low. Those who have goals that are only for this world have goals that are too empty, shallow, and foolish. Let us stop and search our hearts and minds, and see what our real goals in life are. Do we have goals that include our eternal welfare? If not, we are foolish according to what Jesus has told us.

"I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore, choose life [eternal life]." Deut. 30:19. The wise person takes time to take care of his soul's destiny. He has a goal in life that includes eternal life. You can't ignore the fact that your soul will live on somewhere after death. Just as sure as death is sure, your soul has a destiny. Your soul's destiny lies in your hands; it is your choice where you will live in eternity. Be wise and make sure that you choose eternal life which is found in Jesus Christ, through genuine repentance and godly living.

Possibly you are already a child of God, have repented and received salvation, but what are your goals in this life for Christ? Do you aimlessly live each day, assured that your soul is all right, but disregard your need to be a worker for the Lord?

The young people who made tracks in the snow need to have a purpose in life to do something for God. They are strong, have clear minds, and a great influence. The children need to be on their way to the right places, and be kind, gentle, and obedient to their parents. The men need to be strong and have a goal of speaking for Christ, working in their calling, supporting God's work, their family and helping others. The women should have a goal of being good mothers, which is a big work for God; comforting, guiding, instructing their children in righteousness, being examples to others, taking time to be neighborly, and helping the needy in various ways. Oh, there are so many goals for each day in life. But most of all, children, young people, men, and women need to be sure that their main goal in life is to please their Lord and have everything clear between them and God. They need to be sure that their names are written in the Book of Life, ready to meet their God.

—Sis. Marie Miles

Continue to believe that God will give you what you asked for when you prayed, thanking and praising Him for what He has given, and it will always materialize. This always puts God to working. So many are waiting for God to heal them, when He is waiting for them to take what He is offering to them. —R. R. B.

The Choice of Youth

"Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment." Eccl. 11:9.

Be happy and carefree, teen-ager, while you are young; let your fleshly desires make your life gay in your youth, and partake of whatever you wish of the things you see around you: but know this, God will hold you accountable for these things and you will have to pay.

It is the desire of youth to want to find things out for themselves, to try everything and decide for themselves what they enjoy, what's good or bad. They think, "How can I condemn going to movies when I've never been inside a theater? How can I say cigarettes are harmful, when I've never smoked one? How can I tell others of the bad effects of alcoholic drinks, when I've never taken even a sip?" On and on, young people want to find out for themselves the hows and whys of moral and religious beliefs. To the above questions I can say, "I've never tasted arsenic poison, but I know it kills because others have died who have taken it. I've never put my hand into a fire, but I know it burns because I've seen the scars of others." If we had to find everything out for ourselves, we would all die young. We must profit from the mistakes of others.

We've all seen or read of the awful things people do under the influence of alcohol or drugs—things they would never have dreamed of doing in their sober minds. We often hear of someone being charged with manslaughter, who while driving under the influence of alcohol kills another. Their years in prison are like a nightmare to them. One has only to go into some of the hospitals to see men and women suffering from T.B. or horrible throat and lung cancers often caused from smoking tobacco.

Everytime we read a book, we form new opinions or reaffirm things we already believe. This same thing happens in watching movies. When one watches murders, loose sex scenes, stealing, and drug taking, after a time these things are so commonplace in one's mind that the reality of them doesn't seem so bad. One begins to partake of petty things and each time the worse things seem less wrong. The excitement we see on the movie (or television) screen fills us with fleshly desires that long to be fulfilled. When one gets saved in later years and forsakes these evil things, he has to live with scars, and the devil sometimes haunts his mind with the terrible things seen on movies in his younger years.

A young person wants to "belong" to a group, or be like the others. It takes strength and determination to be an individual—to stand up for clean morals and holy living, when all of one's classmates are partaking of worldly things and trying to use their influence on you. You may not realize it, and most of the time they won't admit it, but these people who try to get you to do things you feel are wrong, admire you for your strength of character to stand up for what you believe.

I'm sure that most young people think they just want a few years of the world's pleasures, and then they'll think about their soul. That may have been the thoughts of the six young people working in a steak house in Oklahoma City not long ago, who were forced

into a back room and each shot to death. These were teen-agers who had plans for their lives, but however their souls stood at the time of death is the way they will face the Judgment.

God does not force anyone to serve Him. The choice is up to you. You can go ahead and indulge in sinful, worldly practices, going along with the crowd, dulling your mind with the pleasures at hand. But remember as you make that choice—you will be brought before God, our Judge, for these things, and you will pay a great price—the loss of your never-dying soul in eternal punishment.

—Sandra Whitson

Keeping the Right Company

Someone has said, "No man keeps company with another but he learns before he realizes it, some gesture, tone of voice, or conduct." Shakespeare said, "It is certain that wise bearing or ignorant carriage is caught as men take disease, one of another." Paul wrote, "Evil communications corrupt good manners." There is an old Latin proverb: "If you live with those who are lame, you will learn to limp." He that comes from the stable has an odor of the horse. He that works with the chimney smells of its smoke. He who keeps company with the ugly soon undergoes an evil transformation. He who frequents places where shame holds carnival will soon bear the brand of vice. A man is known by the company he keeps. If that with which you associate is below you, it degrades; if above you, it uplifts.

When Da Vinci painted his "Last Supper," he had the faces of the eleven disciples completed before he had found someone to use as a model for the portrait of either Jesus or Judas. He spent many months in unsuccessful search, until one day he noticed the striking features of a young man in a church choir, whom he sought out to sit for the painting to represent our Saviour. The artist was many years in seeking a model for Judas. Finally, in a prison cell in Rome he came across the man he sketched as Judas. Da Vinci later found out that these two men were the same. The world will never cease to wonder how a face that was taken for the calm, strong, gentle face of Jesus, could ever have its lines so defaced and its beauty so disfigured as to pose, only ten years later, as Judas.

If holiness can write beauty on the facial features, sin can wash beauty speedily away. For sin, like love, hath power to convert.

Sweeter than any tint of painter, fairer than any touch of sculptor, is the beauty with which holiness brightens up the soul. It lights up the sunken eye of sickness. It warms the cheek of depression and despair. The old classics tell us that a woman cannot choose whether or not she shall be beautiful at twenty; but it is her own fault if she is not beautiful at sixty, just as the maple gets gorgeous on the verge of winter. The Lord God is a Sun, and we will shine, too, if we get into the stream of His brightness.

We are shaped into the likeness of what we live with. We are shaped into the likeness of what we love. We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image, even as from the Lord the Spirit.

—Sel. from *Heavenly Harmonies for Earthly Living*

FAITH AND VICTORY

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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

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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.

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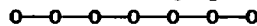
Those who cumber themselves with the cares of this life and give themselves much concern about the temporal things have certainly neglected that good part. To have much concern about the temporal things is very destructive to spirituality.

—C. E. Orr

EDITORIALS

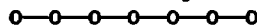


By the gracious dealings of the Lord, this February issue marks the completion of 56 years of publication of this monthly journal in the interest of Christ, His Church, and the unsaved world for whom Jesus shed His precious blood. We gratefully acknowledge the sustaining and protecting hand of God over this gospel publishing work, and appreciate the readers who have so faithfully prayed for and contributed to the support of this gospel literature ministry for the spread of the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ. From that humble beginning 56 years ago, the Lord has through His people expanded the printing facilities over the years and added more co-workers to help meet the ever increasing demand for more gospel literature.



The 72nd annual Okla. State Assembly meeting held here at Guthrie from Dec. 22 to 31, 1978, was a very precious and profitable meeting in the salvation of souls, the sanctification of believers, and the edification of the Church. It was well attended, and the Word went forth with convicting power. The Word also was anointed each day for reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. Harmony and unity prevailed throughout the camp. Bro. Cecil Carver had just returned from West Germany, and he gave a favorable and interesting report of his contacts with the Church in that country.

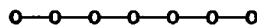
Toward the end of the meeting, the weather changed and brought snow and ice. A number of the folks in attendance had a rather difficult time returning to their homes over the treacherous roads, but none were seriously injured, for which all praise is due unto the Lord for His protection.



Still Need More 1979 Campmeeting Dates . . .

Those who have not sent in their 1979 campmeeting dates, please send them by Feb. 15th so we can print all of them in the March issue. Thank you!

The Oklahoma State Campmeeting at Guthrie, Okla., will be held, Lord willing, from May 25 to June 3, 1979. The date of the National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo., is July 20 to 29, 1979. Watch for other dates in the March issue.



"Evening Light" Truth Revealed a Century Ago . . .

It was a hundred years ago, on December 31, 1878, that God revealed to Bro. D. S. Warner the design for the Church of God Restoration Movement in this "evening light" of the gospel day. The injunction was to combine the teachings and practice of holiness and the unity of God's people, thereby restoring the Church to the position in which Jesus founded it. The Word and the Spirit were granted their rightful places in the government and restoration of the Bible truth to the Church which was lost during the Dark Ages.

From that date in 1878 to the end of his life seventeen years later, Bro. Warner dedicated and

used all the energy of his body and soul by the pulpit and press to proclaim that glorious, unique message from the mouth of God. During that time other ministers heard the voice from heaven, accepted the message, and united their efforts with Bro. Warner amid great opposition and persecution from the sectarian religious world. God blessed their labors in a mighty way, and many of God's sheep in sectarian pens heard the divine message, "Come out of her, my people," and declared their freedom from the Babel lords. They came to Zion, their native home, with shouts of joy and praise to God for this newfound freedom in Christ.

Thank God that He has preserved a remnant who are still teaching and practicing those Bible truths which were restored to the Church by those faithful pioneer ministers. If Bro. Warner were resurrected today, he would be welcome to preach in our pulpits. Would he be allowed to preach in your congregation? If not, why not?

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Memoirs of Late Longtime Minister . . .

Just off the press is the new booklet entitled, "Memoirs of George E. Harmon," which was sponsored by Sister Vera M. Forbes, a longtime acquaintance of the Harmon family. This 56-page, paper-bound booklet with four pictures includes in its contents an autobiography of the late Bro. George E. Harmon, pioneer minister of the Church of God, and memories of his life and labors by a number of persons who knew him. Sister Forbes paid for the copies that have been sent to all the ministers of the Church of God for whom we had addresses.

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Opening of Church of God Guest Home . . .

The Church Guest Home here at Guthrie, Okla., was opened on Dec. 23, 1978, with Sister Vera Forbes from the local congregation as the first resident, and Sister Mildred (Dolly) Brown as the caretaker. At present Sister Forbes is still the only resident, and she would like more saints to come in order to have company and encouragement in the Lord. Of course, Sister Brown, as caretaker, lives in the Home and is very helpful to Sister Forbes.

Our thanks go to those who have donated furniture, appliances, and supplies, as well as the offerings for the Home's upkeep and payment on the loan. Each month the loan payment is \$347.76. The Home is still in need of contributions of twin beds, chests of drawers, night stands, and bedding, such as mattress pads, blankets, quilts, and contour sheets for twin beds, as well as tea towels.

During the recent Guthrie holiday meeting, a number of those in attendance visited the Home and expressed that it was a very nice building and location for our elderly saints. All elderly, able-bodied members of the Church anywhere who desire to reside at the Home or want more information should send their request to the secretary-treasurer, Brother Bob Sallee, 916 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Ok. 73044, who will refer the inquiries to the Trustee Board. It cer-

tainly would be to the distinct advantage spiritually for the isolated elderly saints to come to this Christian Home where they could live in a godly atmosphere and be in the worship and preaching services of the local congregation. Let us pray and work together for the benefit of the elderly members of the Church for which this Home was established.

—Lawrence Pruitt

In Memorial

Eldred Wittenborn was born May 21, 1919, at Chester, Ill., and passed away on Jan. 9, 1979, at the age of 59 years. He is survived by his mother, Edith Wittenborn; two sisters, Alberta Wyckoff, and Evelyn Wilson; three brothers, Byron, Chester, and Melvin. Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Ostis Wilson at San Bernardino, Calif.

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Mrs. Alice Maurie Lea of Kentwood, La., died Nov. 6, 1978, at the age of 78 years. She was survived by her husband, Fermon R. Lea, of Kentwood, La. (who since her death also died, Dec. 15, 1978), two daughters, eight sisters, two brothers, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Sis. Lea loved the Lord and testified of a personal experience of salvation many times. She attended services regularly at the Line Creek Church of God Chapel, Kentwood, La.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Bob Forbes with an assistant.

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Della Mae Anschultz of Grubbs, Ark., was born in Newport, Ark., on Nov. 10, 1911, and departed this life to be with the Lord on Dec. 16, 1978, at the age of 67 years.

Sis. Della was ill for nine months and fully trusted the Lord to the end. She was and still is a member of the Church of God.

She is survived by her husband, Ruben Allen (Bill) Anschultz, three sons, three daughters, 14 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at Jackson's Newport Funeral Home Chapel with Brothers Roy Harmon and Donald Sharp officiating.

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NOTE OF THANKS

Sister Nellie Key of Springfield, Ohio, hereby expresses her sincere appreciation to those who wrote cards and letters of encouragement, made phone calls, contributed flowers, food, offerings, and all the favors during the illness and death of her beloved husband, Bro. Ray Key.

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NEEDY SAINTS LOSE HOUSE BY FIRE

On Jan. 12, 1979, a fire destroyed the home of Bro. and Sister Jimmie McDonald in N. Carolina. They and their children escaped the fire, but they lost everything else. They attend the services at Durham, N.C., where Sister C. B. Nelson is the pastor. These needy saints want to replace the house with a trailer on the same lot. Please send your contributions directly to Bro. and Sis. Jimmie McDonald, R. 2, Box 271, Morrisville, N.C. 27560.

REPORT OF CALIF. STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Calif. State Assembly meeting in Pacoima was held Dec. 22-31, 1978. We give thanks to the Lord for every message He sent and for the souls that sought the Lord for salvation.

Thank you for praying for this meeting. We are encouraged to continue in this battle against Satan and sin.

—Sis. Wynema Clay

REVIVAL AT BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.

The saints at Bakersfield, Calif., extend a warm welcome to all to attend the annual revival to be held, Lord willing, from Friday night, Feb. 9, through Sunday night, Feb. 18, 1979. In addition to nightly services, plans are for a daytime service at one o'clock on week days, with three services on the last Friday and on each Saturday and Sunday. We sincerely covet your earnest prayers. The chapel address is 1802 Virginia Ave., phone 322-9314.

For further information, contact Bro. Z. E. Francisco, 305 So. Owens St., phone 805-323-0747, or Bro. Robert Mays, 524 So. Haley St., phone 805-325-2730.

—Sis. Robena Montgomery, Sec.

FIELD REPORT

Dear Bro. Lawrence and workers at the Lord's Print Shop, who are putting out the Word of God and "Evening Light" truth to the saints and to many who cannot be reached in person by our ministers: We thank God for the many tracts that have been printed in different languages to carry this present truth to the people of other lands. May the Lord bless you and this work, is our prayer.

Here is a report of some of the meetings and places we have been in the year of 1978: The Lord privileged me to accompany Bro. Egbert Allen to another place in the work of the Lord. Early in the spring we went to Goulds, Fla., meeting, of which I have already written a report. Then we were happy to go to the Shell Lake, Wis., meeting where Bro. LaVeau is the pastor. On the way we stayed overnight with Bro. and Sis. Scott of Milan, Mo. We went over in the evening to Iowa and had meeting with a dear Brother and his family. They seemed much encouraged.

The Lord gave a blessed meeting at Shell Lake, Wis. Bro. and Sis. Herbert Probst were there, as well as the local ministers of Wisconsin. The Word went out straight, strong, and true, and all who heard from the heart were edified. We enjoyed meeting saints we had never met before. The saints at Shell Lake have started a Christian school in a house trailer on the church grounds, and the Lord is blessing very much. Bro. LaVeau found that in the public school library were books teaching atheism and moral depravity in a bold and vivid way, and when he and the other fathers and mothers brought it before the school board, they voted to leave the books in the library. Our brother decided then to have a private school. The Lord provided a Brother, who had been in that work for several years, to teach. His children and Bro. LaVeau's children make up the school. All the children are saved.

Oh, dear people, watch what your children are reading, as the devil has many unclean books in most school libraries.

Our next trip took us to Holly Hill, S.C., for a ten-days' meeting. We were impressed with the love of the saints there, and the many things they did to make us feel welcome. We stayed in a cabin on the campground and took our meals with Bro. and Sis. Crummie. The Word was preached in its fullness, and the Judgment alone will tell what good was done there.

On the way there and back home, meetings were held with the saints in Warrior, Alabama, and south-east Missouri. We enjoyed the fellowship of these saints.

The next leading was to go to the Hammond, La., Assembly meeting in November, which was one meeting long to be remembered. Much altar work was done, and we trust that all who gave their hearts to God will press on to a deeper life with Christ. Several dear people who had not attended previously because of race were there, and some testified to getting saved. We know that all saints have always taught that this great salvation makes us one brotherhood in Christ. Praise God!

From Hammond, the leadings were to Jena, La., where Bro. Merrill Williamson is the pastor. A three-nights' meeting was held which, we trust, did much lasting good. Several came from the neighboring town of Jonesville and were much encouraged in the Lord. Some were under conviction, and we understand one has given his heart to the Lord since the meeting. Another visitor from Texas made it known he was glad to hear the gospel brought out as it was. Let us pray the Lord will lead this one into the deeper things of God.

From Jena, we went to the Bay Springs, Miss., community, where there is a work which dates back many years. Bro. Cecil Carver has a monthly appointment there. The Lord gave three meetings there, and the saints were encouraged. We visited one brother who had been hit after he had stopped for a school bus. He was very bruised up, but felt better after prayer. While there, we enjoyed our stay with Bro. and Sis. Griffin.

On our way home we went by Grubbs, Ark., to see a sick sister and have prayer for her. She has gone Home to be with the Lord since we were there. Do pray for her dear husband that the Lord will bless him in both soul and body.

We trust the Lord will bless all, and may we keep ourselves on this upward, narrow road, and follow His leadings. Pray for us.

Your Bro. in Christ, —Amos Porter, Granby, Mo.

SERMON TAPES (CASSETTE) AVAILABLE

First, let this editor correct his statement in the December issue that Sister Ruby Hutchinson and Kenny had recorded over fifty messages preached by Bro. Ostis B. Wilson, pastor at Jefferson, Oregon. He should have stated that the messages were recorded by Bro. Clifford and Sis. Patsy Smith, and that Sis. Hutchinson and Kenny helped to finance the project. Sorry for my misinterpretation of Bro. Smith's letter.

A list of the titles of the 87 sermons by Bro. Ostis Wilson on cassette tapes was sent by Bro. Clifford Smith,

and he has offered these tapes to anyone on a loan basis. If you want a typed list of the titles of the sermons, or if you want to borrow one or more of these cassette tapes of those sermons, please address your request directly to Bro. Clifford Smith, 600 Fairview St., Salem, Oregon 97302.

NEW TRANS-VAN PURCHASED FOR EVANGELIST

Bro. Curtis Williams of Morehead, Ky., a true and faithful minister, came to the recent Oklahoma State Assembly meeting at Guthrie, Okla., with his family in a motor home that he could no longer drive without expensive repairs. He had to borrow a car to take his family home. Much of Bro. Williams' evangelistic labors are in fields where there are no sleeping nor eating accommodations; so he had purchased the used motor home, expecting to use it for that purpose, also so he could take his family with him when his children are out of school. But he was disappointed in it because it was so nearly worn out that it had many mechanical breakdowns, was too large for some roads which he travels, and got very poor gas mileage.

Some saints, who appreciate his sacrificial labors, realized something needed to be done. They began to pray and investigate the possibilities of purchasing an efficient vehicle. The result: A new Trans-Van was selected. It is equipped about like a motor home, but gets better gas mileage (14 or 15 miles per gal.) and is easier to handle on country roads. One was purchased from a local dealer for \$300 above wholesale price. The amount of \$12,050.00 was borrowed from a local bank on a 90-day note at 12% interest. There was no down payment. Saints gave Bro. Williams money to get it registered in Kentucky and to cover other expenses connected with the transaction. A Brother here has offered to repair his old motor home, which will cost about \$800, and deliver it to Bro. Williams to sell and pay off the indebtedness on it and use the remainder (which will not be much) for personal expenses.

Please send your free-will offerings to pay for this van to Bro. Ralph M. Beisly, Sec.-Treas. of Church of God National Missionary Fund, 407 Eldridge Street, Coffeyville, Kansas 67337. Make checks payable to the "Church of God," and be sure to indicate on your check or in your letter what the offering is for. This is a large sum which is needed very soon, and the Lord will surely bless everyone who will respond to this need to advance the gospel work. "Freely ye have received, freely give," said our Lord and Master. —Geneva Ray

CHAPEL PURCHASED IN DALLAS, TEXAS

We want the saints to know how much we appreciate their prayers and financial support toward obtaining the chapel in Dallas, Texas, located at 770 Elsberry on the corner of Jeanne. Our sincere thanks are extended to the saints attending the recent Oklahoma State Assembly meeting at Guthrie, Okla., for their liberal contributions toward the purchase of this chapel.

Our chapel is a frame building. The auditorium is 36'x60', seats 200, has eight educational rooms, heated separately from the auditorium. The land includes an area 160'x250'. The cost of the building was less than

\$45,000.00. Our monthly payments are \$450.00, plus utilities.

We have a great responsibility to souls in this area. Please pray that God will impart wisdom in dealing with them.

If the Lord wills, we plan to have a special dedication service on Sunday, March 11, 1979. Sunday school at 9:45 a.m., morning worship at 10:45 a.m., lunch at 12:30 p.m., afternoon worship service at 2:00 p.m., and the evening service at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome and urged to come.

Traveling directions into Dallas from the Tulsa direction, take highway 75-69 south; and from the Oklahoma City direction, take highway 35 south, to Dallas. Near downtown Dallas, take Highway 80 east to the Jim Miller exit. Exit right, then go approximately eight miles on Jim Miller Road to Elam Road, make a right turn and go approximately ten blocks to Elsberry, make another right turn, then go three blocks to the chapel. We will appreciate it if each family would bring along a basket lunch to the dedication service.

Any contributions to help meet the payments on this chapel should be mailed to: Church of God, Evening Light, P.O. Box 18104, Dallas, Texas 75218, and the Lord will certainly bless you for the same. Please do not send any correspondence or contributions to 770 Elsberry.

Yours in the Gospel work,

—Annie Bell Allen

Prayer Requests

Ohio—We would like to send out an appeal to all the saints for earnest prayer for Sis. Carolyn Rhonemus. A little over two years ago she surrendered her life to God. This decision in changing her life immediately brought persecution from her husband who subsequently left her and later filed for divorce. The final hearing is scheduled to convene on Feb. 7. We earnestly covet the saints' prayers and would appreciate your fasting with us on the 6th and 7th concerning this urgent need. There are two school-age children involved, and Sis. Carolyn especially needs grace and strength at this crucial time. Please pray with us that God will sustain her and only permit what He sees best where her home is concerned. —Margie Sallee

Ore.—"Please pray for my eyes and nerves, and I still have some pain in my hip when I use my walker or sit too long. I do thank the Lord for all He has done for me after breaking my hip. I appreciate all the saints' prayers and the ones here who took care of me. They have been so sweet to me." —Sis. Beatrice Spaur

Tex.—Sis. Carolyn Holland is holding on for the healing of her eyes. They have pains in them if she drives, sews or does any close work. She has faith in God. For a long time she had pains in her chest or lungs, and she kept holding on. God healed her of that. She is expecting God to heal her eyes.

Calif.—Bro. Sam Abbott is much better, but very weak. Sis. Armilda Abbott is still very frail, but their trust is firm in the Lord.

Okla.—Bro. and Sis. Wm. McCoy are neither one well. They need a touch from the Lord. They are getting up in years now. They have their bodies completely in God's hands.

W. Va.—Sis. Janet Patrick is holding on for complete healing, so continue to hold her up in prayer. She needs health to rear her boys for the Lord.

S. Carolina—Sis. Crummie was in a car accident and needs a touch from the Lord.

Okla.—Bro. Tommy Melot is expecting God to work it out so he can have his girls so they can be reared for God and be protected from the devil's traps. Pray earnestly about this.

Mo.—Remember Bro. and Sis. Murphy Allen for healing.

Ohio—"Pray for me, I have arthritis in my body."

—Bill Abbott

Mich.—I will soon be 85 and can hardly walk with my walker. I have a nerve deafness, . . . but thank God, I can read. . . . I am happy amidst the pains. His grace is sufficient, and a bright future is mine in Christ."

—Sis. Blanche Carson

(Isn't that a wonderful outlook? It takes grace to grow old and she has found that grace and has grown old sweetly. M. M.)

Sis. Lessie Speed writes from Texas—"I want to thank you and each one who prayed for the healing of my sinus. It is almost well now, and I am very thankful."

Some will write and say that they never did write and tell how God had healed them when they sent in their requests, for whom all of you prayed, but they were thankful. God is on His throne to help us today just as Jesus healed years ago.

Be encouraged, dear ones. Have faith in God! He will bring you through, but not if you look at the affliction or at the problem. Look to God!

The week-end of the 14th of January I began to get dizzy and it got worse. In the night, when I got up I was almost staggering and was very weak. Sunday morning, I was still staggering, very weak, and was trembling. I called for prayer and I prayed. God touched me. I didn't stagger by that afternoon, but was a little weak yet. I suppose my blood pressure must have soared. I am thankful that I didn't have a stroke. I do praise and thank my Lord and Saviour.

—Sis. Marie Miles

BRO. OPPEL'S REPORT ON GERMAN TRIP

Canada—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings to all of you saints in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Bro. C. C. Carver and I had a profitable trip to West Germany in December. Our going over there was to them a confirmation of what they already believed. They believed the same Bible truth which was preached by Bro. Carver. They said they had prayed for someone from Russia to come to West Germany some way, but they never expected that someone from the United States of America would come. They were happy that we came.

They also told of some experiences with the Lord that they had while living in Russia before coming to W. Germany—of divine healing, casting out devils, etc. One family told us that their daughter could not see very well from childhood up, but now the Lord had healed her in West Germany, and she can see good. We know her personally.

If someone had come without the pure gospel, they would have known it. Those saints could see the confusion of the so-called Church of God. Someone said when they

came to W. Germany from Russia, they were sad to see the decline of spirituality. They said if they could have gone back to Russia without great difficulty, they would have done so. This shows that those saints preferred spirituality under Communist rule rather than prosperity and loss of spirituality.

As the gospel was preached, some sought justification, others sanctification, and some divine healing. On Sunday we observed the Lord's Supper and feet-washing.

What those saints are now wanting is gospel literature in German from the pioneer ministers of the Church of God. They copied some of the tracts which were sent over there and they sent them on to Russia. They said there is quite a number of saints over in Russia who stand for the old Bible truths.

We went over there to be a help to them, but we ourselves were blessed by being in contact with them.

I am thankful for the prayers and interest of the saints in this case. May the Lord bless you richly.

Your Bro. in Christ,

—Alfons Oppel

GOOD NEWS FROM W. GERMANY

When I received a letter from Bro. Ernst Herter of Isenbittel, W. Germany, asking questions concerning the Church of God in America, I was immediately impressed with the need of going and visiting them. Bro. Herter had read a tract, *The Image to the Beast*, which had been translated into the German language, and he seemed very anxious to know about the condition of the Church in America. They had, until recently, lived in Russia where the Church of God had not compromised. They expected to find the same in Germany, but were unhappy with the German "Church of God" (?) there to the extent that they had "come out" of it and were standing alone. They began services in their own homes. Others are unhappy with the German church (?) and will probably come out, too.

Arrangements were made with Bro. Alfons Oppel of Aylmer, Ontario, Canada, who was born in Germany, to go by plane as my interpreter and helper, and we were to meet at the airport in Frankfurt, Germany, on Dec. 11, 1978. Bro. Oppel arrived that day before I did, and he, Bro. Herter, and Bro. Lang waited about four hours for me. They met me with warm, brotherly love kisses. Bro. Richardt Lang took us in his Volkswagen bus the 200-mile journey to Isenbittel where we arrived safely at Bro. Herter's home. He has a nice home with a large living room and dining room combined which will probably seat fifty people. The first night we had quite a session discussing the church, etc. The next night and several nights following we had services in his home with 30 to 35 or more present. Bro. Oppel translated for me, as I understood no German and none of them understood English.

The German people living in Russia in Hitler's day were exiled to eastern Russia near to Siberia, where they were left to get along the best they could. They had to eat grass, tree leaves, etc., and many starved to death. After the war, they got along better. About ten years ago, at the time Germany was short of manpower, that Government offered to bring back those Germans who wanted to return to Germany. Russia granted them the privilege of leaving—leaving homes, stock, and everything but 90 rubles, their bedding, and their airline ticket to Germany.

These German brethren had come from Russia under this arrangement. Bro. Herter had been in Germany about eighteen months, and Bro. Seifriet only five months. Several work at the Volkswagen factory at Wolfsburg, Germany. When they meet they greet with the holy kiss, and when service is over they greet again. At the table, they stand while giving thanks, and stand again after the meal thanking the Lord for it.

I was very happy to find this congregation standing for the old-time truth. They are very spiritual, sincere, and teaching the same things taught in America. They love the Lord and one another. I am praying that we will be able to contact the Russian church this year.

While we were there, three or more got saved and two were sanctified.

The congregation there asked me to give the Church of America their warmest brotherly greetings and love.

The fares for both of us were financed by \$690.00 from the Faith Pub. House Missionary Fund at Guthrie, Okla., along with individual and church donations.

Let us pray for the old-time Church of God in Germany and Russia, and that good communications may be established with both.

Christian love, —C. C. Carver,
305 E. 62nd St., Shreveport, La. 71106

From the Mail Box . . .

La.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: Greetings of Christian love in the beginning of a new year. We trust that this new year will bring you many rich blessings from the Lord, both spiritual and physical, and that this will be the year of your complete healing. Claim it according to the promises of God, and in Jesus' name may it be so!

We pray that God will bless and prosper the work of love and faith as you and co-workers send forth the printed messages of truth, that they may reach honest souls hungry for the truth.

We thank the Lord for the many blessings of the past year; for the trials, tests, and battles we had in which the Lord gave us the victory "again and again," as the song says, and for the many precious lessons the Lord has helped us to learn.

We thank the Lord for all that has been accomplished this past year in the work of the Lord for the benefit of souls in our area, as well as other places, nation-wide and world-wide. We do trust and pray that greater things will be wrought for the Lord in this new year, and that many souls will be saved, as it seems that the end of time is fast approaching. Let us pray much and labor together in those fields where God has called us to work, looking to our Father to guide us by His Holy Spirit and direct us to souls searching for the truth, give us much wisdom and understanding in dealing with souls needing to be saved, and those needing to be encouraged and fed by the truth of the never-changing Word of God. . . .

Yours in Christ, —Bro. Bob Forbes
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Penn.—To the saints: I have just finished reading Bro. Tom Melot's appeal for reliable instruction to our youth. I say, "Yes, Lord, do give our preachers, teachers, and workers in-depth visions and burdens to write

good counsel and instruction for all of us, especially for the isolated and youth.

I am a mother of four, three of whom are teenagers, and I cry, "Lord, help us to know how to deal with these present day conditions." The devil has cunning ways to camouflage (cover, intending to deceive) things to make them not look so wrong or harmful.

I have a 14-year-old boy who likes the rock music, sports, worldly dress and fellowship with the world. I beseech the saints' prayers for wisdom to instruct him on the wrong of these things. I feel my limited knowledge is not enough. I would like to be able to give him some good articles to read. Oh, brethren and sisters, help if you can. Do see if the Lord can use you to cry aloud in the printed pages. Through this paper or a tract, your words could go further than if said aloud.

Saints, let us pray the Lord to give a vision and burden to all of us. Prov. 29:18, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." —Sis. Virginia Myers

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

Okla.—Dear Sis. Marie and workers: . . . We are concerned about the work and are praying for all of you. May God bless you with another prosperous year in the Print Shop. Only God knows how many souls may be saved and helped through the work there. . . .

God is blessing our congregation here in Tulsa. Truly, we are learning to lean on the Lord for everything. We are but dust, and our heavenly Father is greater than all of our problems. I love Him more and more. I am determined to do my best for Him. He has done so very much for me.

Your Sister in the Faith, —Theresa Gaines

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

Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: We are still saved and on our way to heaven the Bible way. Some day, if we keep faithful, we will see God's face in peace. I am working for that day. Please pray for us that the Lord will keep us saved.

We are sending a check for tracts for the whole world, as far as they can go. We believe you are doing a great work for God. May we share with you?

Your Bro. in Christ, —W. E. Bramlett

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

Minn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Happy are we who know the Lord and have forgiveness of sins so we can enter into that holy place when the Lord calls. It is my earnest desire to make it into the portals of heaven, and that may be soon according to my age. I love the Lord because He first loved me and cast my sins away, and will remember them no more. He says, "Go, and sin no more."

May God's richest blessing be upon you.

Christian love and prayers, —Bro. Andrew Senti

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

Ark.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and co-workers: Greetings to all of you in Jesus' name. Once again we wish to say that we appreciate the *Faith and Victory* paper. We especially enjoyed Bro. Ostis Wilson's comments on the carnal mind. We want to have victory over carnality in every form. . . .

Remember us in prayer that we will be faithful in all things and in every way pleasing to God, our Father. I remember as a boy how good I felt when I knew my dad was pleased with me and also how careful I was not

to arouse his displeasure. This is my desire toward my heavenly Father.

—Doug and Barbara Walters

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

Okla.—Dear Sis. Marie and all the saints that knew and loved Sis. Della Anschultz and prayed many prayers for her: We wish to report that she kept the victory to the last. I was so grateful I had the privilege to be with her from Monday night, Dec. 11th, until she went to her reward on Saturday, the 16th. She had suffered very much from Friday the 8th until Monday. Her children told me how badly she suffered and kept praying for the Lord to give her grace. The roads were so very icy, both here and there, that we could not go any sooner. We would have them put the phone receiver to her ear and we would pray for her over the phone and try to encourage her. Sunday night, Bro. Roy Harmon, Bro. and Sis. Loftis, and Bro. and Sis. Clarence Bennings went to see her, and what a blessing it was to her and her children!

She was very weak when I got there Monday night, and it was plain to see she would not be with us long. She asked me to pray that she could talk. The Lord gave her the desire of her heart, and she talked and had a message for almost everyone that came in that night, telling them it takes a pure clean life to make it to heaven. It seemed she was like Paul—she had finished her course, she kept the faith; now she just waited for the time. She would ask us to pray that she would not have to suffer. Tuesday evening, she began to go into a deep sleep. Wednesday noon, her husband, who was in the hospital, was allowed to come home. She awakened and was able to smile and talk to him, but would go back to sleep. Oh, how God took care of her! Saturday morning, we saw it was God's time. Sis. Opal Bradley and I agreed in prayer for the Lord to make it easy for her. Her breaths just kept getting farther apart, until her last breath was taken and we felt she was in the arms of Jesus.

I want to say that her children were so very good to her. They cared for her so wonderfully that, though she had lain on her back for about five months, she did not have bed sores. They made her comfortable in every way they could. Her children and her husband all stood by her in her desire to trust the Lord unto the end. They were good to her and I feel sure that God will reward them.

Her husband is very ill and needs prayer, so pray for him.

Another dear saint has been taken, but my prayer is, "Let my end be like hers, and let me die the death of the righteous."

—Margaret Eck

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

Canada—Dear saints: "Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation." Psalms 111:1. This Psalm was read this week on Wednesday morning by our boss in the printing firm where I work, when we came together for Scripture and prayer in his office. . . . A couple of born-again Christians were with us and the Lord was so near with His presence. This was the second time I had prayed in English in my life. Was it the devil who suggested, "You pray in German only," to use as an excuse not to pray? Another Voice reminded me of Luke 12:11. Yes, it pays to obey the Lord. After we

left, our boss called in fellow workers who were not saved. Much concern was expressed for these lost ones.

. . . I am still distributing tracts. One young soul sitting beside me in the bus, to whom I had handed the tract, "Christmas Gift in Prison," asked whether that tract was about Christianity. Joyfully I found this soul to be a Christian who was also reading the Bible every day.

Another bus passenger, a teacher, asked me where I am teaching (he saw my brief case), and my answer was, "I am just bookkeeping." Then I gave him a December *Faith and Victory* paper.

I remember especially reading one testimony in the Nov. issue from Sis. Thelma Busbee. The Lord told her, "I speak through my Word." Since that time I've been taking more time to read the Bible and it is more real to me than ever before. Last Sunday, in Bible class, I used this statement, "The Lord speaks through His Word," encouraged by this short, but most important testimony, when our Sunday school teacher gave an opportunity for questions or thoughts.

In Christ's love, —Wilfried Froese

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

Mich.—I enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory* paper so very much. The testimonies are very good. Everything in it is food for my soul.

—Ludwig Grams

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

New Mexico—Dear Sis. Marie, Bro. Lawrence and co-workers: Greetings of love in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour at the beginning of another year, 1979. I trust that it will be a good year for every one of you in the dear Lord's service. I do want to be just what God would have me to be, always pleasing Him in all things, living closer each day to my Lord. I know we always need help, and He is a present help in every time of need. Praise Him!

—Sis. Ruth Doolittle

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

W. Va.—Dear Sis. Marie: I was glad to meet you at the Monark Springs, Mo., campmeeting last year. I also enjoyed meeting others of God's saints. That was my first time to be there. It didn't seem to me that I was far away from home, because so many saints were there. The messages were very good. Heaven will surely be a wonderful place when we all get there to be with our dear Lord.

God has been so very good to me this past fall. He healed me of a very bad cough that I had for several weeks, and also of a pain in my side. If we put our trust in Him, He won't let us down. I'm so thankful I'm saved and sanctified, and trusting Him for all my needs. There is so much more wickedness, it seems, than there was just a few years ago. But to me, the light is shining much brighter than a few years ago.

Do pray for me that I will hold out faithful to the Lord. I don't get to services very often.

—Sis. Erma Clevenger

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

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie: Enclosed check for . . . in memory of Mother—Sister Nellie Poulos. I would like you to continue my subscription.

—Ruth Wright

—————o—————

"Anytime you come away from a period of prayer more depressed or discouraged than when you started, examine your prayer for the missing ingredient—Thanksgiving."

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Okla.—I don't want to fail to give thanks to the Lord for all His goodness and mercy to me. For almost as long as I can remember, I haven't had very good health, but about three years ago I started developing serious health problems. As time went on, this grew worse until the last year and a half I wasn't able to take care of my home and family the way I would have liked. There were times I was so weak in body that I had to crawl around the house. Therefore, it was a very frightening time for me when I realized I was expecting our second child. The first few months it looked impossible. But the Lord saw fit to let me carry the baby despite many complications. As time went on, I grew weaker and weaker. My sister, Karen Williams, came and lived with us and did most of my housework and cared for our little daughter. We were so very thankful for a Christian sister whom we could depend on and who could be an encouragement to me. The time was drawing nearer for the baby to be born, and I knew there was no way I could go through it in my own strength. But we knew God was the best Physician in whom we were fully trusting. With the prayers of the saints we were not afraid. About three weeks before the baby was born, I took very ill. I could feel my strength slowly leaving my body. I knew I had to have help right then. I called Bro. and Sis. Wm. McCoy, and they came over, anointed and prayed for me. The Lord saw fit to reach down and touch me. Although the pain didn't leave until about ten o'clock that night, I knew the Lord had answered prayer. There was such a precious warm feeling of His presence that stayed with me even after prayer. From that day until the baby was born, I steadily gained in strength and the Lord blessed us with a healthy, 9 lb. 1 oz. baby girl. The doctor said she was almost a breech birth, so the Lord protected us from that, too. Since her birth I am still gaining strength and feel better than I have in years. I don't know how to express my thanks to all the saints who stood by us with their love and prayers, but most of all, I want to give God all the praise and use the rest of my life in pleasing Him.

—Brenda Wilkins

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

Texas—Dearest Sis. Marie: . . . We thank all of you for the prayers that went up to God for us. It's amazing how God has healed and answered prayer in our family in the last three months. I wrote to you and asked for prayer for God to heal my grandson's (Michael) face, which for three years had bumps on it. God healed his face. I wrote you about my daughter-in-law, Sue, who needed healing of a serious back problem, and God healed her back. I wrote you to pray for my husband's nerves and he said his nerves are much better. Then you prayed about my daughter's keeping our granddaughter and God answered prayer and let her keep the baby. I called and asked all of you to pray for our other granddaughter who was very sick, and God healed her. . . . We can't thank God enough for healing, hearing, and answering prayer. God is so good to people and they don't thank Him enough for what He does for them. I want to live so much closer to God this year than I've ever lived, and do more for Him. . . .

The court trial of my daughter in getting her child was such a strain on her. This has been a two-year

problem concerning our little granddaughter and it's almost got the best of my daughter. She is on the verge of a nervous breakdown, so please pray that God will heal her nerves and give her strength to raise her five children. . . .

May God bless each of you in a special way.

—Louise Strickland

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

Okla.—Dear Sis. Marie: I just wanted to share with all the saints how the Lord divinely touched my body when I had poison oak in December. Poison oak doesn't sound serious, but some know how bad a case I had. I was fully trusting in God, and I believe I would have died without a touch from Him. Well, praise the Lord! He touched me.

The Lord witnessed to me three or four weeks before this happened that someone in my family would be seriously ill, but wouldn't die. I then knew, as soon as I found poison oak on me, that this was what the Lord had been warning me about. My eyes were almost closed when I called the boys into my room and told them that this was going to get serious. My eyes were swollen shut for almost two days. Some of the saints were with me most of the time, praying and singing. My face was swollen up like a balloon. It looked like it couldn't swell any more. Bro. and Sis. Eddie Wilson, Sis. Opal Kelly, and Bro. Bob Huskey were all around my bed praying, and said they weren't leaving until we got the victory. The Lord touched me, and like one, two, three, I could touch my teeth together, close my lips, breathe through my nose, and, praise God, I could see. Later, Bro. and Sis. Souder came in and the devil had to flee. My face felt like air had been let out of it. The Lord blessed me in my soul all the way through it. I was never afraid for I knew He was with me.

I want to thank all the saints who prayed for me and cared for me and my family. Oh, the Lord's people are so dear! I love the Lord and want to please Him.

—Sis. Velda Wisner

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

Ill.—Dear Sis. Marie: I am thankful for the love of God in my heart, and for all the blessings He gives to me day by day. As the new year has come, I want to do more and live a better life for my Lord than I ever have before. I'm so thankful for salvation and the true Church. I am thankful someone came and preached the truth or I would still be in sin. I remember well when God saved me in 1949. Praise His holy name!

I pray that every one at the Print Shop is fine. I am doing well and am able to work three days a week, for which I am thankful. I can truthfully say that "God is my refuge and strength."

Pray for me as I pray for all of you.

—Mildred Snell

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

Okla.—Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord: I feel it good to write my testimony and praise the Lord for all His goodness shown to me. Psalms 103:1,2, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits." There surely have been many benefits bestowed upon me in my lifetime. When I look back and think how He saved my parents and they taught me in the way I should go, I can't help but praise the Lord. I

got saved in my middle teens and received such a blessing in my soul as I endeavored to live for the Lord. There were many steps I had to learn to walk in, as the light began to shine down on my pathway. I thank the Lord for the grace, strength, power, and knowledge of the truth He has given to me. I'm also very thankful for a good wife and a happy home. We have had many battles and sicknesses, but the Lord has always been our helper. Praise His name!

I would like to tell what the Lord has done for my eyes. About six years ago, while living in Arkansas, an optometrist told me I had cataracts growing on my eyes. Then about two years later, after moving to Myrtle, Mo., I had my eyes checked by another optometrist. He told me that I had bad cataracts and nothing short of an operation would help and that I would not pass my next driver's test. I told him that by the help of the Lord I would not have an operation.

Realizing what this meant, I began to ask the saints and family for prayer. Many times this was our unspoken request before the Lord, as we also continued in earnest prayer at home. I was also anointed and prayed for. The devil brought many dark, unpleasant thoughts into our minds, but we held our faith in God. By His help, when we moved to Oklahoma, I was able to pass my driving test. I had my eyes checked again, but there was not much change.

Around the first of October, 1978, our daughter LaVerna, Wife and I went to Joplin, Mo., to have our eyes tested. I was the first to go in. He gave me a thorough check, then asked if anyone had ever told me that I had cataracts. I told him that two other doctors had said I had bad cataracts. He then told me that nature had taken hold and the cataracts had gathered together and that they would not bother me anymore. Oh, praise the Lord forever! I told him that we had been looking to the Lord to heal my eyes and that all praise belonged to Him. He added that I was getting my second eyesight.

When he talked to Wife and LaVerna he was very happy to tell them about what had happened to my eyes, stating it was something we don't often see, but the cataracts had crystalized and flattened out. Truly, there is no way we can praise our God enough for this wonderful healing!

I want to ever live close to the Lord and be what He wants me to be. There are so many being led astray by the enemy of our souls that we must live very close to God or we, too, will fall by the wayside. God has done so much for me that I want my life to praise Him daily. Pray for me that I will ever be true.

—Bro. Albert D. Eck

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

La.—Dear Sister Marie and readers of the *Faith and Victory*, greetings! I thank the Lord for this paper that uncompromisingly teaches the truth of the Bible and helps us get acquainted with many of our brothers and sisters in the Lord through their testimonies. We are all one big family. I do thank and praise the Lord for victory in my soul, and for feeling well in body. Oh, there's joy in having peace with our Lord, "more than all in this world of sin."

The Lord has been so very good to me from childhood. He has always talked to my soul and caused me to have a certain amount of the fear of God. He has

been so patient and longsuffering when I was not so careful to walk close to Him, and to seek to please Him in everything as I should have. While on the farm, there were many duties and cares of life, and I failed to take as much time in reading, watching and praying, and instructing the children as I should have, for which I am very sorry. Yet the Lord did not let me down nor leave me. For years I have been endeavoring to please Him better and better. I call on Him daily for knowledge to know how to please Him in "word, thought, and deed." I believe if our meditations and thinking are right, there will not be too many problems with our words and deeds.

This is the beginning of a new year and we surely don't know what is before us, or what may come to pass before the end of it. According to the way sin and wickedness are increasing, and from much we read and hear about the fall of our nation being close on us, we can look for some great changes, possibly beginning in this year. All this is the beginning of sorrows that the Bible speaks of that will come to pass just prior to the end of time. Oh, if our loved ones and friends could only see the dangers that lie ahead, and see the awfulness of going to a devil's hell, and being in torment for ever, and begin to make preparation for heaven! I believe many sinners feel that they are strong enough to be brave and take it along with all the others. Oh, how foolish! As the dying testimony of many atheists, they will change their minds when it is too late, and will stand speechless without excuse before the great Judge. Oh, how sad! May we, as saints, keep our robes white and be ready, is my prayer.

—Myrtis Flynn

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

La.—Dear Sis. Miles and saints: Praise God, He is so very good to us all! He protects us from danger through the night when we are asleep. Oh, He is so good! There is none like Him! He is perfect and has all power in earth and heaven. . . .

I do pray that the dear Lord will help each of you and keep you encouraged to fight on and hold up the good old ways of truth. I love the dear Lord with both soul and mind.

Please pray for me and all my loved ones.

—Etta Averett

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

Ohio—Dear saints: Greetings of much love in the precious name of our Redeemer. Blessed be the name of the Lord!

We were glad to attend the latter part of the Guthrie, Okla., Assembly meeting. It was a real blessing to our souls. We had desired to come, but did not think we would be able to make it, but the Lord saw fit otherwise. Praise God! We were so thankful. Sis. Margie Sallee decided to go and we were able to ride with her.

We appreciate the precious truths that were brought forth at the meeting, and trust the Lord will help us to measure up to all of them. By the grace of God we are in this thing for good, to nevermore turn back. "Remember Lot's wife."

We want to thank the Lord for His hand of protection on the highways. . . . We hit an icy patch and the car went into a sway and started fish-tailing, spun us around in the opposite direction, but the One

that is so faithful, and said He would never leave us nor forsake us, showed up on the scene and caused the car to stop on the very edge of a steep embankment. Praise the Lord! He surely watches over His people.

We also want to express our appreciation to the different saints who shared their homes with us, and for being so kind. May the Almighty God bless and keep you each one, is our prayer.

It was such a blessing to see and visit with Bro. and Sis. McCoy again, and to meet the dear ones at the Print Shop. The Lord surely has a great work there.

Pray for us, that we'll ever be strong and valiant for the truth, and do more in the service of our Saviour.

—Bro. and Sis. Jimmy Neff

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

Okla.—Dear Ones: We have so much to be thankful for. The Lord is so good to us. I hurt myself on Friday morning, Jan. 5, and my hip and back just got worse and worse. I hurt all night Friday night, but was even worse on Saturday. I began to wonder if I had broken my hip. Saturday night I called Guthrie for prayer. It hurt all night. I could hardly raise my leg to get into bed, and Sunday morning it still hurt. As the day wore away it began to ease up, and by Sunday evening it was so much better that I felt I should phone and let them know what the Lord had done for me. Praise His dear name forever! By Monday morning the pain was about all gone, and gradually all left. I'm so very thankful to be normal again. I guess I'll never know what caused the trouble. I surely thank all of you and the congregation for their prayers. . . .

Love and prayers,

—Sis. Emma Dille

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

Tenn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in Jesus' lovely name. We thank Him for letting us live through another year, and enter into this new one of 1979. By His abundant grace and power, I want to walk softly, patiently and uprightly before Him each day, listening to His Word and Spirit as they lead and instruct in the way of truth and righteousness. His way is a sweet and inspiring way—holy, reasonable, beautiful, and rewarding.

I'm so thankful that the people of God and His church have always held a light to those in darkness—encouragement, hope, and help to all who seek to find the good way and walk therein. I appreciate more and more the beautiful Church of God, a divine institution, whose head is Christ, and the Holy Spirit its Teacher. We enter through Christ, the door. Salvation puts us in and is the only adornment we need.

We appreciate the *Faith and Victory* paper and other publications that you so faithfully publish for His cause. May the Lord bless, sustain, and keep you in this important ministry. Bro. Pruitt, please be encouraged and have renewed hope for your healing by faith in Jesus, such as you have shown, exercised and lived by for these many years. He'll care for His people and see us through, and never leave nor forsake us. The Word says that we are complete in Him and that He'll supply all our needs according to His riches in glory. Praise His name!

I've trusted Him for more than 60 years—not even taking an aspirin. He has healed so many times and has always done it right.

Your Brother in Christ,

—Charles B. Williams

Mo.—Dear ones: We want to thank everyone again for the prayers, love, and financial help given us since Melisa's accident. We tried to answer each gift personally; but if we missed some, please know this was not intentional, and we appreciate and thank you for all you've done. We pray God to bless everyone abundantly. Due to all the offerings, the bill at Neosho, Mo., has been paid in full. We were referred to the Crippled Children's Service of Missouri and qualified for their help. They are paying all expenses incurred at Columbia and Springfield, Mo.

[On Sunday afternoon, Nov. 12, Melvin and Elaine Doolittle and children were visiting in the home of their Uncle Dale and Aunt Dora Doolittle and children at Neosho, Mo. The children were outside, and some were riding the motorized three-wheeler machine. As Melisa, the eleven-year-old daughter of Melvin and Elaine, was riding around, her long hair got caught in the sprocket and drive shaft, pulling her backward toward the rear wheels as her hair wound around the shaft. Hearing her screams, the children called the older folk and rushed to her. The engine had stopped, but the turning of the shaft had already pulled her scalp off with her hair except a small spot of hair and scalp which was holding her head against the shaft. —Editor]

God had worked wonderfully. He was working even before the accident. A short time before it took place, Ronnie Doolittle, Dale's son, had exchanged his dull pocket knife for his dad's sharp one. He didn't know why, but felt he might need it. This was the tool needed to cut Melisa's remaining hair to free her from the sprocket and shaft of the motorized three-wheeler machine on which she was riding alone.

I can still hear Melisa scream, "Jesus, help me!" and "Daddy, I don't want to die!" as I ran across the field to her. Later, as we drove to the hospital, she said, "Mommy, all I could do was ask Jesus to help me." We assured her this was all she needed to do. Another time she told us that God caused the engine of the machine to stop, then held her up until she asked Ronnie to hold her up until we got to her.

When we started to the hospital, we had to return to get Aunt Dora Doolittle to go with us because we didn't know the way. This delay was beneficial because we had started out without the scalp, which was handed to us at this time. For some reason, Aunt Dora had a wet towel with her, and we wrapped the scalp in this. God was controlling our actions. Some saints were near us during the long wait—four hours of surgery to put the scalp on—to offer encouragement. It was a great comfort to know that all the saints were praying, too. The surgeon's reports were not very good that night. There was a black picture before us. I felt despair coming over me. Then Bro. Don Johnson said, "Remember, all things are possible with God." I felt courage flood my being, forcing despair to leave. Nothing was said about Melisa's chance of living; but I don't think she was expected to make it as the hospital management let everyone see her that night and the next day. When Melisa suddenly turned for the better, they asked us to restrict visitors to two at a time. One week later, she was almost as active as normal. Except for the bandage, a stiff neck, and faint black eye, it was hard to imagine how badly injured she had been.

On the tenth day (Nov. 22), when the bandages were removed, Dr. B—— told us that forty percent or

better of the scalp had taken. He suggested a transfer, as he could do no more. They transferred her to Columbia, Mo., where they have a new technique for grafting (a faster process, requiring only two or three weeks). The injury was too old for the new technique to be used; so the old technique was started. We were told this would take weeks and months. (In Neosho, they told us it would take two or possibly three months.)

That evening Mother came to Columbia to stay with Melisa while I went home for two days to get the other children settled. Sister Ruth Dollins had been caring for them. I took sick with a cold almost as soon as I got home, but the Lord touched me. I was able to go to Columbia on Saturday.

During this time Melvin had talked to the Crippled Children's Service. They suggested we ask to transfer her to Springfield (which was near our home). A transfer would only be possible if Dr. P—— at Columbia agreed. God worked in answer to prayer. He was willing, and helped us to get a quick transfer to the care of Dr. D——, who was a very kind, gentle, and understanding young man. He and his partner let Melisa come home for Saturday and Sunday (Dec. 9 and 10) on pass. We took her to church services and had her anointed and prayed for. Another pass was granted Dec. 15. She desired one so she could go to her class gathering at school on Dec. 22. At first the answer was "no," but perhaps she could be home for Christmas. But Dr. D—— came in early Dec. 21, which surprised us. He wasn't supposed to look at her head until the next day. He asked Melisa if she'd like to go home—which she did. He had decided to look at it that afternoon and if it looked good, she could go home. We called for prayer that all would be well when he looked that afternoon, and it was. He released her from the hospital, making her an "outpatient." We came home rejoicing. We rejoiced so much because we had been told that the old procedure would take weeks and months to prepare the skull to take the graft, then do grafting; but God worked so that three weeks from the day they started this procedure, we were home. Melisa went to school Dec. 22. The whole school rejoiced with us. Many parents and teachers said, "This is what we were praying for."

Melisa's total stay in hospitals was five and one-half weeks. God was very merciful. She did not suffer near the amount of headaches she was expected to have. We can only begin to thank God for His help and all He did for us. Hebrews 13:5,6, comes to mind now, and surely these words are true: "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

Pray that we remain submitted into God's hands and will, no matter what comes our way.

Much love and prayers,

—Elaine and Melvin Doolittle and family,

Rt. 2, Box 234, Strafford, Mo. 65757

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"We should exert all the powers of the mind in the study of the Scriptures, and should ask the understanding to comprehend, as far as mortals can, the deep things of God."

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: What is the Battle of Armageddon? What is its nature, its beginning and its ending?

[This answer will be covered in Four Parts in consecutive issues.]

(Answer, Part I)

Answer: Let us first consider the term "Armageddon" and its significance. In the dictionary *Armageddon* is defined as: "1. The scene of a final battle between the forces of good and evil, prophesied in the Bible to occur at the end of the world. Rev. 16:16. 2. Any decisive conflict. It is taken from the Hebrew word "har megiddon" referring to the mountain region of Megiddo, site of several great battles in the Old Testament."

—Taken from the *American Heritage Dictionary*

Then the *Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary* in its article on Armageddon says the Greek is "Armageddon" but the Hebrew is "Har Magedon" (Mount Megiddo), a word found only in Rev. 16:16 for the final battle ground between the forces of good and evil. It says further, "The valley of Jezreel and the Plain of Esdraelon at the foot of Mount Megiddo were the scene of many decisive battles in the history of Israel." It was here that Israel completely annihilated the armies of Sisera to the last man. (Judges 4:16 and 5:19,20). Here Gideon defeated the hosts of the Midianites. (Judges 6:33 and the entire 7th chapter of Judges.)

We will here insert the text of Rev. 16:16 which is the only place in the New Testament where the word is found. "And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." The New Testament in this place gives the Greek rendering of the word "Armageddon." The fact that it is mentioned, "Which is called in the Hebrew tongue," indicates that Jesus wished here to connect up what He is saying with the Hebrew "Har magedon" (Mount Megiddo) in the history of Israel.

Israel after the flesh (natural Israel) was a type of Israel after the spirit (spiritual Israel). In Romans 2:28,29, Paul says, "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God." Here is the comparison of literal Israel and spiritual Israel. Therefore we conclude that "Armageddon" in the New Testament has the significance for the Church of God, the people of God in this gospel age of time, or spiritual Israel, as Mount Megiddo had for literal Israel in Old Testament times—a place of very great and decisive battles.

This is described as the "Battle of that great day of God Almighty." I surely recognize that there has been a continual battle or warfare between good and evil, light and darkness, truth and error throughout this dispensation of time. This passage in Rev. 16:13-16 seems to be focusing right down on these closing days of this dispensation in which we are now living and to the final climactic battle which will terminate in "The great day of God Almighty"—the judgment day—Rev. 16:14.

Neither would we suppose this great battle to be confined to Mount Megiddo or Israel or Turkey or Russia or any particular geographical location because it is said in Rev. 16:14 that they went "forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle." Again in Rev. 20:9 it says, "They went up on the breadth of the whole earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about. . . ." This features it as a general, world-wide, world-encompassing thing.

The kind of weapons and armour provided for the saints as described in Scripture and the general tenor of the Scriptures covering the whole scope of this subject precludes the idea of this being a carnal warfare or a battle fought with swords, spears, shot, shell, and bombs. The very nature of the Kingdom of God as described in the Holy Scriptures throughout preclude this idea also. Let us look at it a little.

In I Tim. 1:18,19, we read, "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; holding faith and a good conscience. . . ." Here Timothy's warfare was to be carried on by faith and a good conscience. These were his weapons of warfare. I Tim. 6:12 says, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life. . . ." In 2 Tim. 4:7 Paul said concerning himself, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." We have no record that Paul ever used physical violence or carnal weapons against any person in his whole Christian life. This was not the kind of fight he fought and that is not the kind of fight Christians fight today, nor will it ever be. He spells it out specifically in Eph. 6:12 that "we wrestle not against flesh and blood. . . ." Again in 2 Cor. 10:2b he spells it out, "We do not war after the flesh." There is no indication in Scripture anywhere in the New Testament that this has ever changed or ever will.

It says in 2 Cor. 10:4,5, "For the weapons of our warfare are NOT carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." This text plainly states that our weapons are not carnal, and who would assume that carnal weapons could bring about what our weapons are described here as doing—casting down imaginations, bringing our thoughts into captivity and controlling our minds? The weapons which accomplish this are faith, love, and the power of the Holy Spirit, and this is what we fight our warfare with. Again Eph. 6:12 says, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." The same weapons outlines above accomplish this warfare and there is no place in the New Testament Scriptures which indicate this has ever changed.

Rev. 12:11 says that the saints overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. The weapons here are described as faith in the all-atoning blood of Jesus and an open confession or witness of that.

In Matt. 26:51,52 it says, "And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the High Priest's and cut off his ear. Then said Jesus unto him,

Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." Peter told Jesus in John 13:37 that he would lay down his life for His sake and now he demonstrates his willingness to do that by drawing his sword and starting a fight. But Jesus quickly made it clear that that was not what He wanted and rebuked Peter for using his sword and told him to put it up because those who used it would perish with it. It was perhaps in the mind of Jesus to lay the foundation for this declaration of His will for His people when He instructed His apostles in Luke 22:36 to provide themselves with swords and they told Him in verse 38 that they had two swords and He told them that was enough. He probably knew that if they had a sword handy when trouble started someone would use it and He would have an opening then to pronounce His denunciation of the use of carnal weapons by His disciples.

In John 18:36, Jesus told Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." We read in Isaiah 9:5-7, "For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire. For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: . . . Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever." We see here that the kingdom of God is not established and maintained on the battlefield as other kingdoms of this world are. This was to be established by the giving of a Son, Jesus Christ, who was to assume the reins of government in His kingdom and the means of its establishment were to be burning and fuel of fire.

Accordingly, we have this only begotten Son of God, Jesus, appearing on the scene to set up and establish His kingdom, and John the Baptist bore witness of Him in Matt. 3:11,12 saying, ". . . He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather the wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." Here we have the burning and fuel of fire spoken of in Isa. 9:5. This was the operation of the Holy Ghost, and Paul said in Romans 14:17, "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost." It is declared here that the kingdom of God is not meat and drink (not literal and material; not of this world as Jesus stated in John 18:36), but consists in the elements of the Holy Ghost. Consequently, on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Ghost came in the form of "cloven tongues like as of fire" (again we have here the burning and fuel of fire spoken of in Isa. 9:5) on all the disciples of Christ (about an 120 at that time), the kingdom of God was established and set in operation right then and has continued in operation until now, and is declared to be for ever in Isaiah 9:7. Then the very spiritual nature of the kingdom of God precludes any carnal warfare to establish it or to defend and maintain it.

(Part 2 of answer will appear in next issue.)

The Temple of God Is Holy

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." I Cor. 6:19, 20.

We find these words in the text by the divinely-inspired apostle named Paul. It is pointed out that the Spirit of the living God dwells in the bodies of His sanctified children. As God dwelt in the Mosaic tabernacle and in Solomon's temple, which were made with hands, He foreshadowed the things to come. As the temple and all its vessels and furniture were holy, (excluded from ordinary and irreverent uses) so should the bodies of justified, sanctified men, indwelt by God, be consecrated with all their members exclusively to the employment and service of God alone. God has this right to possess us. We are responsible to Him. We are accountable to Him because He has bought us with a price—the precious blood of Jesus. Therefore, we are to glorify Him in our body and in our spirit which are His.

The same apostle asked a similar question of the Corinthian brethren (I Cor. 3:16:17), "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

In the light of these Scriptures we understand that God is concerned about His temple being kept undefiled and pure. These texts should cause us to be aware of the things taken into the body, particularly habit-forming drugs such as coffee and tea. Coffee as a beverage contains a complex mixture of chemical components of the bean, some of which are not affected by roasting. Other compounds, particularly those related to the aroma (fragrance), are produced by partial destruction of the green coffee bean during roasting. Chemical extracted by hot water are classified as non-volatile (not evaporating) taste components and volatile (evaporating) aroma components.

The so-called important non-volatiles are caffeine, trigonelline, chlorogenic acid, phenolic acid, and amino acid. The principal physiological effects of coffee are due to caffeine, an alkaloid found also in tea.

Caffeine is an odorless, white crystalline solid, slightly soluble in water and organic solvents. It was discovered in coffee in 1820. In 1827, theine, thought at the time to be a different substance, was discovered in tea, and in 1838 it was established that theine is identical to caffeine. It produces effects of increased blood pressure and stimulates the action of the cerebral cortex. Its medicinal properties are used for migraine headache, shock, and narcotic poisoning caused by opium and its derivatives. Most of the cola beverages are labeled with caffeine as an ingredient. These facts can be found in most reliable encyclopedias. [Websters International Dictionary defines the following which appear within quotation marks: Caffeine "is used in medicine as a cerebral and cardiac stimulant and as a diuretic." A drug is "any substance used as a medicine, or in making medicines, for internal or external use. Any substance used for the cure, mitigation, or prevention of disease." Food is a "nutritive material absorbed or

taken into the body which serves for purposes of growth, work, or repair and for the maintenance of the vital processes." According to the foregoing definitions, the caffeine in coffee, tea, and colas is not a food, but a drug which is used principally in making medicines. Therefore, the drinking of these beverages containing caffeine will defile or injure the body. "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." I Cor. 3:17.]

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" Some may not drink coffee, but still crave the coffee flavor. Have you ever asked why? Could it be possible that the individual really doesn't have victory over coffee and the coffee flavor substitutes for the real thing? Confront yourself with this examination. You may find this craving signifies the desires of the flesh. (Ephesians 2:3). We can be sure we have victory over every wrong appetite. We do not have to run as uncertainly (borderline experiences), not as one that beateth the air (I Cor. 9:26).

—Norman T. Simpson

Devotion

"She hath wrought a good work on me." Mark 14:6. This woman had an emotion in her soul and it swelled and longed for expression. She was charged with wastefulness. No, no it was not waste. Had she not poured out the fragrant ointment then, there would have been waste. Her soul panted for some way to express her devotion, and she took this way and her love was increased and tendered and she was qualified to be a greater blessing to the world. Had she not given expression to her love, she would have lost love and there would have been the waste. Whatever elevates us and serves to make us more capable of doing good is not waste.

She wrought this work on Jesus. "To what purpose was this deed done?" That should not be the question. "For whose sake was it done?" That is the question that settles the matter. Everything done from the stirring of love in the heart for Jesus makes it a good work. Working a good work on Jesus Christ is the law of Christian devotion.

True devotion is that disposition of heart that moves it to perform with tender affection and burning fervor all its services to God. The bowing of the knees, the prostrating of the body on the ground, the lifting of the eyes heavenward, the wringing of the hands, and the pious sighs and groans are not full proof of a devoted heart. In all acts of true devotion there is a high esteem, a profound respect, a holy adoration for the Divine Majesty; there is an humble acknowledgement of the soul's dependence and duty; there is an intense desire to lavish the heart's love upon Jesus by doing all things for His sake.

No exercising of the soul is so ennobling, so hallowing, so consoling as the performing of humble, sincere acts of devotion. True devotion is attended by self-sacrifice. Devotion is more than sentiment. It is a principle fixed in the core of our being. We cannot always be in acts of devotion, but the principle is in the soul and it expresses itself on every fitting occasion.

—C. E. Orr