

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

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If There Be No Resurrection

If there be no resurrection,
Then is Christ yet in the tomb;
And to look in His direction
Is but error, grief, and gloom.

If there is no resurrection
We are lost forevermore,
And our cause is insurrection
'Gainst the world and all its store.

And our faith is vain, our preaching
Is an idle empty tale,
And in folly we are reaching
For a hope that's sure to fail.

We have naught to quench our sorrow,
No support to stop our fall,
Let us eat, and drink: tomorrow
We shall die and leave it all.

But there is a resurrection,
And, thank God, 'tis surely true,
And the holy life's election
Gives us hope and gladness new.

From the dead is Christ arisen,
O'er the grave a vict'ry gained,
From the bars of Satan's prison
He has triumphed and has reigned.

We can rise from sin's dominion
Unto life of one accord;
Like an eagle on her pinion
We can reign with Christ, the Lord.

Yes, there is a resurrection,
We shall triumph at the last;
Live our life in His protection
With our cares upon Him cast.

For we know that our Redeemer
Lives above in endless joy;
We shall live with Him forever;
Nothing shall our hope destroy.

—Leslie C. Busbee

CHRIST IS RISEN!

"And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you." Matt. 28:5-7.

Christ's resurrection, foretold by the prophets and consummated in reality, stands as the greatest miracle of all time. The empty tomb is the strongest proof of the divinity of Christ, and evidence of the supernatural power of the only true and living God. Mohammed remains in his tomb, as well as all the founders of pagan religions, the various cults and creeds of men. Only the Christian can truthfully say that his Lord and Master is living today—not only at the right hand of the Father, but also actually reigning in Spirit within the heart and life of the sanctified believer.

It is true that people have been resurrected from the dead before and after Christ's resurrection, but none other has come forth with a "glorified" body as He did. The Apostle Paul writes by divine inspiration: "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept." I Cor. 15:20. Christ alone blazed the way and set the pattern for the general resurrection that shall take place at His second coming. "But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming." I Cor. 15:23. Again Paul writes: "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our vile [decaying] body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." Phil. 3:20,21. This is the blessed hope of the righteous.

Jesus said to Martha whose brother had died, "I am the resurrection and the life." This truth He proved on this occasion and throughout His ministry. Jesus did not preach or conduct any funerals. Whenever He came in contact with the dead they were resurrected to life. It is also very true spiritually that when a soul, dead in trespasses and sins, comes in contact with "the Resurrection and the Life," he is resurrected and made a new creature in Christ to walk in newness of life.

The doctrine of the resurrection and immortality is the cornerstone of our faith and hope. Without it there would be no redemption. The Apostle Paul says that Jesus "was raised again for our justification." Rom. 4:25. Again the Apostle contends in I Cor. 15 that if Christ had not been resurrected our preaching is in vain, our faith is vain, we are yet in our sins, the apostles were all liars, the righteous dead have perished, and the living saints have no hope after death.

Thank God for the truth that we are serving a resurrected Saviour, the One who came forth from the tomb triumphant over death, hell and the grave. That blessed hope of immortality is instilled in the hearts of all who are partakers of His divine nature. Because He lives, we shall live also. Praise the Lord!

—Lawrence Pruitt

Saintly Women?

I would like to ask the saintly women a question: Are you following God's holy Word? Now all the true saints will answer, "Yes, I'm following God's Word." But, I wonder if you are being careful to follow it according to the Spirit's leadings? I've traveled some among the saints and I've seen something that is troubling me—the length of dresses among some of the women. God's Word teaches modest dress. Surely this indicates dress lengths longer than barely below the knee.

When I was first saved, I wore my dresses barely below the knee. In our congregation there were no young saints to pattern after, and I thought that wearing a dress halfway between the knee and ankle was for the elderly women, not for the younger like myself. But God's Word makes no distinction in dress between the elder and younger. The Word does say that the elder women should teach the younger. Are you elderly women of the church dressing in such a way you would not be ashamed for some new convert to pattern herself after you? New converts do look on and copy others. Usually they will copy those least measured up. Are you truly a holy example? God help us!

Do you ministers' wives realize the great influence you have over the women in your congregation? They look to you for leadership and they copy you. Will you have to answer to God for someone's following you?

Are you ministers of the church aware of the example your wives are setting before the church and the world, and the reflection it has on your preaching? It will be hard to cry aloud and spare not about modest dress if your wife is not measured to the Word. Surely you could go to her in the spirit of meekness and love, and talk with her and help her to see the way more perfectly.

Are you young mothers a perfect example to your daughters in modest dress? Do you also dress them modestly? Young children learn by example and by practice.

Let's examine our motives and see whom we are trying to please. God says we are to abstain from the appearance of evil. We can't dress in the immodest fashions of the world and please God. I found that wearing my dresses just below the knee was actually due to pride in my heart. At that time the world wore their dresses shorter than they do now. I didn't want to look too different from the world, so I could feel comfortable around worldly people

and my family. I didn't want people to talk about me behind my back and think I was strange. I was actually ashamed to be different, and God was ashamed of me. We are to be different! We are to be holy in this world of sin. We have to hold the banner high, no matter what people say or think of us.

Now you can tell if the length of your dress is due to pride in your heart. If it's not pride, you can lower your dress length without a second thought. If it's pride, you'll give all kinds of reasons why you can wear them shorter than other saintly women do.

We must live by the Bible standard of modest dress to be holy women of God. We must be perfect examples before a sinful world that is looking on. We must have a higher standard than the worldly churches. Can't we see the danger of living too close to the world? Let's walk as the Holy Spirit leads and be careful to obey His checks.

We say these things in love to help, not to condemn. We realize some may not have the light on these truths. We love souls everywhere and we want to see everyone prospering in the Lord. We know the closer we measure to God's Word, the more power we have. I recommend two tracts—*Freedom from Worldliness* and *If We Could See Ourselves As Others See Us*—for you to read, which may be obtained from Faith Pub. House. These tracts explain these truths better than I can. We pray God will help us all to measure more carefully to the Word of God.

Your servant in the Lord,

—Sis. Sheri Rich

SANCTIFICATION

What Is It?

God's Word clearly defines another work of grace, subsequent to justification or regeneration, and as distinct to consciousness. It is known as sanctification or holiness. (See Rom. 5:2; Acts 26:18; Eph. 1:13; John 7:39.)

Justification deals with committed sins (Rom. 3:24,25; Acts 13:38), while sanctification deals with inherited depravity or inbred sin—"the sin which dwelleth in me" (Rom. 7:17). It is also called: "our old man," "body of sin" (Rom. 6:6); "body of this death" (Rom. 7:24); "carnal mind" (Romans 8:7); "the flesh" (Gal. 5:17); etc.

This principle of sin inclines its possessor toward the "works of the flesh" (Gal. 5:19,21). It is "enmity against God" (Rom. 8:7,8). It produces warfare in the justified believer against the holiest purposes and desires of his heart (Gal. 5:17; Rom. 7:9). While these manifestations may not outwardly or always dominate, they do produce an "up and down life" and hinder victorious Christian living. This condition creates a heart hunger and intense longing for deliverance (Rom. 7:24).

Since it is evident that regeneration has not cleansed the believer's heart of this principle of sin, even though forgiveness and restoration may have been sought repeatedly, there is need of this other work of grace to cleanse the heart and purify the affections (Acts 15:8,9; Jas. 4:8). God calls to it (I Thess. 4:7); He commands it (I Pet. 1:16); Christ prayed for it (John 17:15-23); and promised it (John 14:16,17); He gave

Himself to accomplish it (Eph. 5:25-29); the early Church received it (Acts 2:4); Paul prayed that believers might receive it (I Thess. 5:23); and it is promised to all (Acts 2:39; 15:8,9).

Sanctification is the act of God's grace (Jude 1; I Thess. 5:23) provided in the atonement (Heb. 2:11; 10:10,14; 13:12; Eph. 5:25-27) through the work (Rom. 15:16; I Pet. 1:2) and witness (Heb. 10:15; Eph. 1:13) of the Holy Spirit, whereby the believer, by appropriating faith (Acts 15: 8,9; 26:18,15; Heb. 4:3) is cleansed from the nature, or principle of sin (Rom. 6:17,18; I John 1:9; Rom. 6:22) and is empowered for victorious life and consecrated service (Acts 1:8; Col. 1:29; I Thess. 1:5) through the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4).

This experience is referred to as "Circumcision of the Heart," "Soul Rest," "Wholly Sanctified," "The Rest of Faith," "Holiness," "Life More Abundant," "Heart Purity," "Perfect Love," "Pentecost," "Baptism of the Holy Ghost," etc.

How Obtained? What It Does

This experience of sanctification is promised to every believer (Acts 2:39). It is the act of God Himself (Jude 1) wrought instantaneously as the believer, clear in his present testimony of justification, but under conviction of his own need and God's call to holiness of heart and life (I Thess. 4:7; I Pet. 1:13), fully and irrevocably consecrates himself to God, a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1, II Cor. 7:1). As he thus abandons himself to the will of God, known and unknown (Heb. 10:9,10; John 7:17), by a living faith (James 1:6; Acts 26:18), he reckons himself "to be dead indeed unto sin" (Rom. 6:11) and appropriates heart purity (Acts 15:9; Heb. 10:19-23) and the baptism of the Spirit (Gal. 3:2,14). The baptism of the Spirit received simultaneously with cleansing is the witness (Heb. 10:15) of the finished work of sanctification, and is also termed the "anointing," "sealing," "unction" and "earnest of the Spirit" (Eph. 1:13,14; II Cor. 1:22; I John 2:20-27). Obedience to God is essential both to receive and retain this experience (I Pet. 1:22; Heb. 5:9).

In sanctification the old man is put off, the new man put on (Eph. 4:22,24). There is deliverance from the carnal mind, and the mind of Christ is received (I Cor. 2:16), creating spiritual-mindedness (Rom. 8:6). The flesh, or self, is crucified (Gal. 5:24) and the body of sin destroyed (Rom. 6:6). The inner conflict and struggle are ended.

The indwelling Spirit (Rom. 8:11), the abiding Comforter (John 14:16), becomes teacher, guide, revealer, preserver, making the believer more than conqueror, and supplies wisdom, strength, grace, joy, peace, and glory. The sanctified believer rests in the keeping power of God (Jude 1), walks in obedience to His Word (I John 1:7), yields his members servants to righteousness unto holiness (Rom. 6:19), and finds his highest joy in the will of God (Heb. 13:21). Being now made free from sin, and become a servant to God, he has his fruit unto holiness and the end—everlasting life (Rom. 6:22; Gal. 5:22,23).

—O. B. Ulery

Christians should have a thousand times more interest in, and find a thousand times greater joy in laying up treasures in heaven than ever man did in laying up earthly store, for heavenly riches are a thousand times and more, of greater value than earthly goods.

—C. E. Orr

The Tongue

Dear ones, what does our daily conversation consist of? Are our thoughts and words on heavenly things, and things that are upbuilding? Do we speak the truth to our neighbor? Are we quick to hear, but slow to speak? Are we gentle, kind, good, patient, and longsuffering?

The Bible tells us to speak only words of truth. In the fourth chapter of Ephesians we read, "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt, according to the deceitful lusts; . . . Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another. . . . Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." We should "let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." "But fornication and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints." Eph. 5:3.

Have you ever run across someone who was full of foolishness and always telling jokes, trying to keep people laughing? Or have you seen people who talk so much they hardly give time to listening to others, always keeping the center of attention? Ephesians 5:4 says, "Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks." One of the proverbs of Solomon is: "In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin." Do you know people who are quick to gossip, saying, "Oh, did you hear about so and so?" When you hear something bad about someone, do you get on your knees and pray for him, or do you do just a little bit of gossiping by telling someone else; maybe even adding just a little to it? Proverbs 26:20 says, "Where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth." We all should want to be peacemakers. Jesus says, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

Maybe you are always ready to tell people off and give them a piece of your mind. Let me warn you, it would be much better to stop and think before you speak. There was a time in my life when I was guilty of this, but I repented and had to apologize. If we will always stop and think before we speak, it will help us. Col. 4:6 says, "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." The Apostle James speaks much about the tongue. In the third chapter and fifth verse he says, "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature: and it is set on fire of hell." Jam. 3:5,6. We read in Col. 3:17, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus." We all should be very careful with our tongues and speak only things that are upbuilding, giving thanks to God in everything and letting praises come forth from the heart.

—Sis. Pearlene Whitson

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FAITH AND VICTORY

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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

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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.

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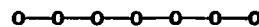
A man asked why he could not find greater delight in meditating on things above, and why he had such difficulty to have such meditation, and was troubled so with earthly thoughts. He was told that he did not have enough heart in heaven.

—C. E. Orr

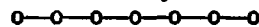
EDITORIALS



GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ "who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." 2 Tim. 1:10. "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." 1st Timothy 3:16.



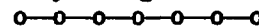
This is the month of the year when we especially remember with praise and gratitude the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ "who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification." Rom. 4:25. In fact, we meet together to worship the Lord on the first day of every week because He was resurrected on that day—the Lord's day.



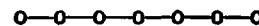
"Infallible Proofs" Attest To Jesus' Resurrection . .

St. Luke wrote that Jesus "shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." Acts 1:3. To the church at Corinth the Apostle Paul declared, "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: and that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: after that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once: of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time." 1 Cor. 15:3-8.

Yes, Jesus Christ arose from the tomb a conqueror over death, hell, and the grave, and because He lives we shall live also. He ascended to heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, making intercession for His people and all those who shall be heirs of salvation. "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."



In this area, the cold winter's death grip is being released, and vegetation is bursting forth with the greenery of new life. A resurrection is taking place in this beautiful world which our Father created for the benefit of His creatures. Let us worship and adore Him, and fulfill the purpose for which He is leaving us in this world.



Bro. Sam Abbott, minister of the gospel in Pomona, Calif., has been very sick. Their daughter, Sister Alberta Cook, who lives close to them, reports that he is better in body in answer to prayer. They thank the Lord for healing and the saints for their prayers. Sister Armilda Abbott is still very frail. Continue to pray for both of them in their declining

days, as they have spent many years in the gospel work in various parts of the United States.

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The out-of-print book, "Divine Healing For Soul and Body" by E. E. Byrum, is in the process of being reprinted in the German language. This excellent book contains 288 pages, and will be bound in a heavy paper cover. Barring unforeseen hindrances, completion of the book is expected in April.

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Dream of Twelve Years About Fulfilled . . .

In the May, 1967, issue of F. and V. this editor recorded a dream which he had in the early morning of March 29, 1967. It seemed that I was in a service at the Guthrie chapel with Bro. C. E. Orr, a pioneer minister with whom I had been well acquainted the last few years of his life, but he had gone to Glory about 34 years previously. In the dream I could see that familiar form kneeling in prayer and hear him praying very earnestly. He was very burdened for the unsaved world in general and for a number of souls in particular. In his earnest petition before the throne he uttered these prophetic words: "Lord, you know that in about twelve years something very tragic is coming to pass, . . ." On hearing those words I awoke instantly, and the dream was deeply impressed on my heart and mind. Since that time I have prayed and considered often the prophetic meaning of that dream. In the interval many events have occurred. The twelve years will be fulfilled in this month of March which is the approximate time, but the Lord has not yet revealed whether that tragic event is another global war, some other catastrophe, or the end of the world. Obviously, it is a definite warning of a great calamity that will overtake those who are unprepared to meet the Lord. The signs of the times which Jesus set forth indicate that time is about to run out, and we are right on the brink of eternity. The bad economic, political, and moral conditions of the world are reaching a climax when God's wrath will be poured out without mercy upon rebellious mankind. We should be looking for the coming of the Lord at any moment. That will be such a sad day for the wicked and a glad day for the saints. Jesus said, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28.

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Property for Sale Joining National Campground . . .

Brother Dale Doolittle, caretaker on the National campground at Neosho, Mo., informs us that the residence, store building, and land adjoining the southeast corner of the campground, plus the right-of-way of the railroad across the road, will be for sale at auction on May 8, 1979. He is concerned with what bad effect may result for the Church if the purchasers of that property would open a liquor store or a night club at that location. Perhaps some of the saints would be interested in purchasing this property in order to avoid that unfavorable situation, or maybe

the saints in general would want to contribute to a fund to purchase this property for campground use. Anyhow, this serious matter is a call for earnest prayer by the Church at large. For further information about the property, please contact Bro. Dale Doolittle, R. 7, Box 368, Neosho, Mo. 64850, phone (417) 472-6427.

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In a recent letter from Bro. Ulysses Phillips he wrote this phrase which is so true: "Time is flying and men are dying."

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Faster Printing Press for the Lord's Work . . .

In the month of March, through the blessings and direction of the Lord, a Model LXD Harris Offset Press, sheet size 17½ by 22½ inches, was purchased in Philadelphia, Pa., at the total delivery cost of over \$8,300.00 for the Lord's Print Shop. On March 14, the 5800-pound press was delivered by Truck Freight and placed in position on the shop floor. About April 1st, Bro. Hammond, an electrician, plans to come from Illinois and connect the press to the electric service. This faster press, a welcome addition, will be used to print books, and we pray and trust that it will be printing the pure gospel for the whole world until Jesus comes.

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On March 20th, 10,000 pounds of printing paper were delivered from the paper mill at a cost of approximately \$3,800.00. Lord willing, the gospel of Christ through the tracts, papers, and books will be going forth to the world in a steady stream from this publishing plant to meet the increased demand. Many thanks go to all those who are so faithful with their prayers and regular financial support to keep this good news of salvation through Christ going out by the printed page. You are laying your treasures up in heaven where they will never fade away. Let us all be faithful and receive that crown.

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The devout child of God will not only give to the Lord of his increase while in this life, but also he will, if possible, direct by a will or trust that his assets or estate be used to the glory of God after his departure to the Glory world. Unfortunately, in some cases the estates of saints never benefit God's cause. If one dies intestate (not having made a will), then the court settles the estate according to the State statutes and God's cause receives no benefit. A Christian will is one in which provisions are made for the advancement of the cause of Christ. Indeed you want to know that the pure standard of Bible truth will be held up to the world after you are gone, so do not neglect, as many have, the important matter of making a Christian will. Any reputable attorney will assist you in writing out your wishes in a legal manner for a nominal fee.

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This writer was very ill a few days last week with the flu, but in answer to prayer God brought me out and gives me strength to work long hours here in the office. All praise to Him! —L. D. Pruitt

In Memorial

William A. McCoy, son of Tilden and Dora (Lyn) McCoy of Lewis County, Kentucky, was born May 24, 1900, and departed this life at Dayton, Ohio, in the home of his daughter Helen Underdown, on Feb. 26, 1979, at the age of 78 years, 9 months, and 2 days.

He had been failing in health for some time, but the last month he weakened fast. He fully trusted God to the end without wavering, and many times asked for prayer during his suffering. About two and a half weeks before his passing, he said he felt God had shown him that He was going to take him, and that he wanted to return to Dayton from Guthrie, Okla. God made the way through the help of Bro. Curtis Williams.

Bro. McCoy was a man of fervent prayer, many times spending two to three hours in the early morning in prayer and study of the Word of God. He worked diligently at the gift that God gave him—teaching the Word of God and ministering to those in need. For many years he was pastor of the Church of God in Dayton, Ohio.

He was married to Virgie Clark on June 6, 1923. To this union nine children were born: Paul of Midway, Ohio; Earl of Uzes, France; Helen Underdown, John and Orville, all of Dayton, Ohio; Cecil W. Carrollton, Ohio; Donnie of Kettering, Ohio; Opal and James who preceded him in death. His wife, Virgie, preceded him in death Oct. 27, 1969.

He was married to Sis. Evelyn Gibson on Oct. 2, 1971.

He leaves to mourn his passing: his wife, Evelyn, six sons, one daughter, three sisters, 30 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, two stepsons, and one stepdaughter.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Curtis Williams and Mart Samons. Scriptures used were Daniel 4:10, Psalms 1:3, and Jeremiah 17:8. His earthly tabernacle was laid to rest in Evergreen Cemetery, W. Carrollton, Ohio, to await the resurrection when all the dead shall arise.

In Appreciation

I wish to take this means of thanking each one who has been so kind to us in our sorrow and loss during the illness and passing of our loved one, Bro. McCoy. We appreciate the help and care that was given him, the food that was brought, the many get-well and sympathy cards, offerings, floral pieces, prayers, phone calls, and all the tender love shown to us. We thank the dear ministers and singers for the comfort they gave.

The Lord is helping me in a great way. Sis. Roberta Hightower has come to stay with me and I am thankful for her. Pray for my healing. —Sis. Evelyn McCoy
1205 W. Warner, Guthrie, Ok. 73044

IN MEMORY OF OUR PASTOR, BRO. WILLIAM MCCOY

It was hard for us to say "Amen" to the Lord's will in taking you from this life, Bro. McCoy. We felt we needed you so badly. The Church needed you and your family needed you; but when we heard that the Lord had revealed to you that He was going to take you, we humbly said, "Amen" to the will of God. We

know He never makes a mistake, although we will all miss you so very much. We know our great loss is heaven's gain.

As I write this, there is a great flow of tears; not all tears of sorrow, but mixed with rejoicing. Paul said, "Ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." We are rejoicing that you have made that peaceful crossing for which we heard you pray many times. We are rejoicing over the many precious memories that are flooding our minds from your labors of love as pastor to our little congregation in Dayton, Ohio. You were a true Shepherd. You never left the flock unguarded. I don't ever recall seeing you come in late for a meeting, unless it was one time when our dear Sis. McCoy was sick. If we got to meeting early, we would usually find you sweeping the floor. You always had a big smile and a hearty handshake for every man, woman, and child.

We lived about 30 miles from the chapel, and I'm thinking of the many, many trips you made to our home—the first, when we were still in "Babylon." You made several trips to expound to us the way of God more perfectly. Oh, how we appreciated your steadfastness!

We met the saints in 1959, and took our stand for the truth in March, 1960. The dear Lord has permitted us to go through many battles since that time. You were always right there with us, and I feel it was your great faith in God that helped us to go through them. You were also there to rejoice with us when the victories came. When God would hear and answer prayer, I can still hear you say, "Let's kneel and thank God for what He has done."

In July, 1960, the Lord blessed us with a darling little baby girl. He just loaned her to us for a short time, as He called her Home to be with Him. I remember it was so hard for you to give her up. You weren't well at that time. You were suffering from ear trouble (of which the Lord healed you later). You were still working on the job. Little Marsha had meningitis. We had been up with her all night. Someone called you about 3 a.m. You came and prayed for her. The Lord touched her, and she went to sleep. All the saints went home and she was able to rest for several hours. We were taken to court because we trusted God with her. Oh, what an inspiration and encouragement you were to us! When we had to go to court, you took off work and went with us. You had special prayer meetings in different homes for our deliverance. God did hear and answer prayer in a mighty way.

We remember the burden you always carried for our oldest daughter Beverly's salvation, and the time you came to see Brenda, when Curtis (my husband) was away in the Lord's work. Her tonsils were swollen so badly she could hardly breathe. She would roll from side to side in the bed, struggling for breath, and was delirious. You came and prayed for her. The Lord touched her and she immediately calmed down and went to sleep, and rested peacefully all night. Then there was the time when Karen had what we thought was meningitis, just a few days after we buried our baby. You were there to help pray the prayer of faith for her. When Mark was only one year old he had pneumonia and was very low. This was a long, hard battle, but you were faithful to make many trips after a hard day's work until the victory came. When Curtis

Ray was six months old, he had whooping cough, after which he had convulsions quite often. You made many trips to pray for him, especially when Curtis would be away. The Lord healed him when he was three year of age. You were living in Oklahoma when we had three severe trials of sickness with Ruth during three consecutive winters. Twice we thought the Lord might take her, but we were assured by your letters and phone calls that you were praying and were in the battle with us. Our baby is almost ten years of age now, and the Lord has blessed her with reasonably good health, but we know you have prayed much for her, too. This is what we are going to miss most—your prayers.

After we moved to Kentucky, Curtis had pneumonia several times. You made several 300-mile trips to pray for him. When I was sorely afflicted two years ago and had a nervous breakdown, your letters were so encouraging. When the Lord healed me and I visited you in Guthrie, Okla., how you did rejoice!

These are just a few of the many, many precious memories that we have of you in our home. I'm sure each one in the congregation could write just as many. We are all going to miss your prayers and your good sound teaching and advice.

Sadly missed by,

—Curtis, Burnice Williams and family

A Note of Thanks

Dear saints of God: I want to express our sincere thanks to all who sent cards and to those who called us at the time of the death of our son Bill, and for all your prayers. Your love and concern meant much to us, as the death of our only son was a tragic loss to the family. Bill was killed on the morning of Feb. 13th of this year in a head-on collision in Jacksonville, Fla. He leaves a wife and two sons, ages 4 and 6. He was 29 years of age and was such a loving son. Some of you might remember him as a young boy, when he broke his arm at the Monark Springs campmeeting at Neosho, Mo., back in the 50's. We trusted God for his arm. God healed his arm.

Please continue to pray for the family when you think of us. Bro. Curtis Williams conducted the funeral services, assisted by singers of the Dayton, Ohio, congregation. Interment was in Byron Cemetery near Fairborn, Ohio.

—Earl Sharp and family

SEEK GOD FIRST

Mo.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings in the dear name of Jesus our Saviour, whom I love so dearly. "Blessed be the Lord who daily loadeth us with benefits."

I went to visit the sick in the hospital. I came to one room and there was a young man in his twenties who was crying very hard. I sat down on the bed, but did not say a word. He said, "I just talked with my boss and I have lost my job. They have taken my driver's license away from me. I have no money, and here I am in the hospital. The bill will have to be paid." I repeated the verse, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." He said, "I don't know what to say or do." I said, "Call upon the Lord," and he went down on his knees, calling upon the Lord. Praise His holy name! It filled my soul. —Velva Steffens

Campmeeting Dates for 1979

Following are the Church of God campmeeting dates in 1979, and a more complete announcement of each meeting will be printed in later issues:—

Goulds, Florida—April 13 to 22.

Oklahoma State Campmeeting at Guthrie, Okla. — May 25 to June 3.

Holly Hill, South Carolina—June 1 to 10.

Tulsa, Oklahoma—June 8 to 17.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 8 to 17.

Green Bank, West Virginia—June 15 to 24.

Oakland, California—June 22 to July 1.

Hammond, Louisiana—June 30 to July 8.

Ojos Negros, Baja Cfa., Mexico—July 2 to 8.

Akron, Ohio—July 6 to 15.

Fresno, California—July 6 to 15.

National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri—July 20 to 29.

Myrtle, Missouri—August 1 to 8.

Bakersfield, California—August 3 to 12.

Boley, Oklahoma—August 17 to 26.

California State at Pacoima—August 24 to Sept. 2.

GOULDS, FLA. CAMPMEETING

The campmeeting of the Church of God in Goulds, Fla., will start April 13th and continue through April 22.

We are praying that this meeting will fill every hungry soul, awaken the sleeping, and stir every idle one. Mercy's door is closing, and we pray that the effects of this meeting will work in the congregation and out through the community, convicting and convincing.

Everyone with a soul burden is cordially invited. We ask that the saints pray that the Lord's will be done in this meeting.

The chapel is located at 12030 S.W. 214 Terrace, Goulds, Florida. Phone Bro. Hargrave, (305) 247-4102; or, if no answer, phone Sis. Alida Riley, (305) 238-1741.

—Alida Riley, Secretary

SAPULPA, OKLA., REVIVAL MEETING

You are invited to attend the Sapulpa Road Church of God revival meeting to be held April 8th to the 15th, with an all-day meeting on Easter Sunday. Pray with us that the Lord will give a precious outpouring of His Spirit in these nightly and week-end services. For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Richard Madden, Rt. 13, Box 303, Tulsa, Okla. 74107, phone number (918) 446-8202.

OKLA. CITY SPRING MEETING

Our Spring meeting will be held April 16 through April 22, 1979, ending after morning service. No meal will be served. Everyone is invited to attend. Pray with us that God will give us a mighty outpouring of His Spirit in every service. The chapel is located at 800 N.E. 3rd Street. For further information contact the pastor, Bro.

Hermon Kelly, 1500 N.E. 48th St. His phone number is 427-7314.
—Jaunita Parks

SPRINGFIELD, MO. MEETING

There will be a meeting held at Springfield, Mo., on Wednesday night, April 25th, through April 29th, with all-day meeting on the 29th. We are looking to the Lord to send the ministers of His choosing for this meeting.

For further information, contact Church of God, 718 N. Kansas, Springfield, Mo. 65802, phone 417-865-6907.

ANNUAL SPRING MEETING AT BOLEY, OKLA.

Lord willing, the annual spring meeting of the Church of God, will convene in Boley, Okla., on April 29, and continue through May 6, 1979. We extend a warm welcome to all nationalities to attend this meeting. Services will be held nightly at 7:30 p.m. There will be all-day services on both Sundays of the meeting.

We are looking to the Lord to send Holy Ghost-filled ministers and workers to help in the meeting. Do come praying that the Lord will send conviction in the meeting so souls will see their need of salvation and weep their way to the cross and be saved. The women and men's dormitories will be open to accommodate those who would like to camp on the grounds.

"Time is running out." Let us do our best by the help of the Lord to use His time to the glory of God. "To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Eccl. 3:1.

For further information, contact Sis. Ora Spears, Rt. 1, Boley, Ok. 74829, phone (918) 667-3376, or Sis. Katherine Williams, 905 N.E. 15th St., Okla. City, Ok. 73104, phone (405) 235-2270.
—Katherine Williams

MEETING NOTICE

Norwood, Mo.—We expect to have a five-day meeting here at our home from Wed., May 9th to Sunday the 13th, 1979. This will be a meeting with two services—morning service 10:30, night service 7:30. Bring your camper trailers if possible, or sleeping bags. They may come in handy. God will make a way and provide lodging for all. Meals will be provided here in our home. Everyone is cordially invited.

For further information, write Bro. and Sis. Egbert Allen, Rt. 2, Norwood, Mo. 65717, phone (417) 746-4250.

MEETING AT HOFFMAN, OKLAHOMA

Lord willing, the Church of God at Hoffman, Okla., will have a gospel singing on Saturday night, May 12th, followed by all-day meeting on Sunday, May 13th. Everyone is welcomed and urged to attend these services.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Woodrow Warren, 810 North Porter, Okmulgee, Okla. 74447, phone (918) 756-6425.
—Lorene Payne

WELCOME TO PATASKALA, OHIO, SERVICES

You are cordially invited to attend the services in the home of Bro. Rufus Perry and family whose address is 12500 Cable Road, Pataskala, Ohio 43062, phone number

927-7238. Bible study will be held on the first and third Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Sunday school at 10 a.m. and worship service at 11 a.m. will be held on the first, third, and fourth Sundays of each month. You will be spiritually blessed by attending these services.

Note of Appreciation

Okla.—Greetings to all in the name of our dear Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ:

When I sent the manuscript to the publishers about our dear Bro. G. E. Harmon for publication in booklet form, I did not think or expect my name to be put on the book, or to receive any credit for it. I am quite sure that much more could have been added to it by others who were blessed through his ministry.

I have been quite surprised to receive such nice cards and letters of thanks and appreciation for the book. Now I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks to each of you who have so kindly written me.

In Christian love,
—Sis. Vera Forbes

Prayer Requests

Ala.—"I read where Bro. A. Eck was healed of cataracts. I believe in divine healing, and I have been healed at different times. My eyes . . . are beginning to hurt me . . . I have decided to write for prayer . . . I am 75 years of age but age doesn't have any effect on what God can do for His children. . . . My husband has afflictions and he is trusting God for help."
—Mrs. L. B. Long

Calif.—"I have been having awful headaches."
—Ada Leach

Md.—"I am suffering with the veins in my legs, but I am happy in Jesus . . . I know God can heal me. He has healed me many times."
—Sallie Gaither

Tenn.—"I have kidney and bladder trouble. Pray for me."
—Lou E. Simpson

Ohio—"They say I have a malignancy of the hip bone. . . . Would you folks please pray for my healing? I'm trusting the Lord to undertake. My knee and back hurt me so bad."
—Mrs. Gerald Jeffrey

Be encourage to hold on to God for what you need. We read in the Word of God where He made promises and we read where it says, "it came to pass." Jesus is the same Jesus today and He wants to be your God, your Healer, your Comforter, your problem Solver, your Companion, your Helper, and everything that you need. Truly He is the Lily of the Valley, the bright and morning Star. He is called "Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isa. 9:6b. We can be sure that Jesus is taking care of everything, for "the government shall be upon his shoulder."

God says, "Fear thou not: for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Isa. 41:10. Oh, the Lord wants us to face the problems of life with victory! He wants us to resist the devil and take a stand against him. Again and again resist him with faith. He doesn't give up easily, so be persistent in your demands, through Christ, that all kinds of depressing feelings must go.

You will not have them, no, not for even one minute. Rebuke doubts and fears in the name of the Lord. Shout victory! Sing victory! Talk victory, and count victory yours through Christ! —Sis. Marie Miles

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

South India (Feb. 20)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and the dear saints everywhere: We send our loving greetings to you faraway precious brethren in the glorious name of Jesus Christ who provides for us and protects us daily under His wings.

Thank you very much for your very kind letter dated Feb. 3rd, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude. I am a little late to reply, as I was participating in the campmeeting at Kodassery last week. After our general campmeeting at Karikkom, we held several meetings in other localities such as Nadukunnu, Anayam, Vilengara and Kodassery in February, and now we are getting ready for a few more meetings at Niranam, Kulakkada, and Peringodu in March. The new chapel at Niranam will be opened for services on March 8, 1979. . . .

We pray God to protect all of you from the severe cold, ice and snow in the winter season there. It is too hot here now. Also, we continually remember you in our earnest prayers for the complete healing of your afflictions.

The King's business demands haste as the night comes when no one can work. The harvest is ripe enough, and this is the time to put in the sickle. Let us exchange our prayers.

Yours in His service, —John Varghese

MISSION TRIP TO OLD MEXICO

Dear saints scattered abroad: We greet you in the precious name of Jesus. Through the merits of His shed blood we expect to escape the damnation of hell and inherit eternal life.

This winter we felt impressed to visit with Bro. Irineo Rama in Uruapan, Michoacan, Mexico. This was made possible in February by a young man living near Guthrie, who asked us to return his wife and two small children to her parents, as he could not obtain immigration for them.

The trip was surely timed by the Lord, as we were at the right place at the right time. New doors are opening for the gospel in Mexico. One is in the home of a woman we visited southeast of Querretero.

Bro. Rama has been very ill this winter. During this serious illness he reconsecrated his time to the Lord, and God has given him more work. He is having services in six different Tarascan Indian villages. Five are held weekly. The other is about 100 miles away; therefore, he cannot go as often. On Sunday he has services in Calzontzin where he lives. Monday is his only free day to work in his carpenter shop to make a living. On Tuesday he goes fifteen miles northwest to San Lorenzo, a village near Paricutin volcano. Bro. San Mateo lives there and has built a very small but attractive meeting house. Bro. Mateo's wife is a devout Christian, but suffers much heartache because her only daughter, aged 16, will not speak to her. The daughter is living across the street with her grandparents who are ungodly, Catholic fanatics. Another sister who lives there needs

much prayer because of a runaway son and an unsaved husband who sometimes beats her.

On Wednesdays, Bro. Rama goes to San Juantombio, about fifteen miles northeast. He has service in a home. The mayor of the town is also interested in the gospel because of the change the gospel brought into the life of a friend. The friend was a drunkard for years and is now a responsible man.

On Thursdays, he goes south of Uruapan about 25 miles, mostly downhill over a bumpy, dirt road that winds along the edge of a mountain. It is a very steep climb coming home. He has service in a home with three families.

Friday is visitation day, and on Saturday he goes to a ranch six miles east of Taretan, which is 42 miles round trip. Four of these are by foot over a narrow path covered with lava rock. On our trip with him, we killed a five-foot iguana lizard on this path.

Tamazunchale, the sixth village, is in the high mountains. He met these people through correspondence with Sis. Opal Kelly. This trip is partly by auto, bus and several miles by foot, but the people are hungry for the Word, so he goes as often as possible. Sis. Cuca, who has been saved about eight years, is having children's meeting in her home. Bro. Rama has service in their home once in a while, but they are faithful to come to services in Calzontzin, which is about eight miles from their home in Quirimicuaro.

Some of these trips take most of the day. Also, Bro. Rama must spend much time in study and prayer to have messages for all these places. So, please do pray often for him.

Bro. Rama is also in need of another car. He sold his truck and bought a small car (Renault) to economize. It is economical on gas, but parts are expensive should it need repairs. Also, it is not large enough to carry his family and his gospel helpers. Therefore, his children are being left with a grandmother who is unable to care for them properly.

He has announced a meeting for the week before Easter and is trusting God to send some Holy Ghost-filled ministers to help out. Lord willing, we plan to go and will be glad to interpret for whomsoever God sends.

—James and Charlotte Huskey

THE NEED OF CHRISTIAN HOMES

In order to have a better church, a better government, better schools and better communities, parents must be born again (John 3:7), and obey the Word of God (I Sam. 15:22). In Heb. 5:8 we read that Jesus was in obedience: "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things he suffered." In Jer. 7:23, God said, "Obey my voice, and I will be your God." Peter and the other apostles, in giving an account of their deeds to the high priest, said, "We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29.

Christian parents will train their children in the way they should go. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6. "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." Prov. 22:15. Requiring obedience of children is needful for the security of a Christian home. —Sallie Gaither

From the Mail Box . . .

Ind.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the lovely name of our dear Master, Jesus Christ. I hope all is well, and that the work is going fine. We surely need the truth in these days, and all the truth, too.

I am more determined each day to go all the way with my Lord Jesus. These are wicked days and they are getting more wicked fast. Sin has increased very fast since television came out. It is awful today that men and women are living together outside marriage. . . . I am looking for the coming of Jesus any time. "Come, Lord Jesus, come."

Remember Wife and me when you pray, and also our family. We are praying for all of you.

—Nathan Mobley

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

Mich.—Dear Brother and Co-workers: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus, who shed His precious blood to save us from our sins and to heal us. Praise the good Lord for those precious promises!

I do not think I broke any bones in my arm when I fell Feb. 5th, but it is not completely well yet. For ten days or more, I could not remove my clothes; now I can put my clothes on. I did not have x-rays to see if I did break any bones. Different people asked, "Did you have an x-ray to see if you broke a bone?" My right hand, wrist, thumb, and arm have arthritis, so with both hands and arms being in the shape they are, it is hard to do what I need to do. . . . It has taken me at least one hour to write what I have written, so you can see what kind of problem I have.

—Floyd Hines

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

Okla.—Dear Sis. Marie and all at the Publishing House: We greet you in the loving name of Jesus who has done so very much for us all. Truly I love Him more each day. I always enjoy your encouraging letters. Please continue to remember me.

God is blessing here in Tulsa. Three have gotten saved since Bro. Gaines has been gone. God is very mindful of us to send good encouraging messages and has sent several visiting ministers. The Lord inspired Bro. Lewis Williams to be with us in a few nights' revival. Every message was truly anointed of God. We truly thank the Lord for sending him. Also, Sis. Katherine Williams was very much impressed to be with us last week. The Lord certainly used her. Each message was truly anointed. The Lord is sending His Word forth to the saints. Pray for us.

I am much encouraged to continue to work in His vineyard.

—Theresa Gaines

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Ohio—Please accept this little check in remembrance of my brother, W. A. McCoy, and use it where it is needed, to the will of the Lord. May God bless all of you.

—Grace Zornes

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Mo.—Dear Sis. Marie: . . . I am looking forward to the March *Faith and Victory* paper. I am very thankful for the gospel that goes out from there. It has been such a blessing down through the years. . . .—Cassie Wilson

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

Mo.—Trust this note finds everyone well in body and encouraged in the things of God. We are all up and going. The Lord is blessing our son, David, and he is

able to be in school by being careful. We are very thankful for what God has done for him, but we are looking for complete healing. . . .

—The Glen Inmans

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

Colo.—Dear saints: Greetings to you this lovely morning. . . . Sis. Tombleson has been well all winter but now has a cold. The children who were close took dinner to her house for her 86th birthday yesterday. . . . Sis. Wollert isn't well. She has trouble with her breathing. We all need prayer out here. So glad Jesus knows all our needs. He helped me yesterday evening. I sometimes have bloating spells, but the Lord is faithful to answer prayer. I am glad I learned to trust Jesus. He has been so very good to me and mine. Oh, for grace and wisdom to trust Him more while He leaves me here! I will be 81 the 29th of March, so He has been good to me. He has been my Physician for fifty years or more.

I am very glad for all the good tapes and literature I get from the saint preachers. I got three tapes Saturday from Ok. City, so I had new messages to listen to yesterday.

I still desire your prayers. I want to see my loved ones saved; not only mine but everyone. . . .

—Sis. Addie McEndree

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

Mo.—Dear ones: . . . We are thankful for God's blessings to us daily. We have had health to work every day this winter and all the family has been reasonably well.

I'm so thankful for the spiritual help of the *Faith and Victory* and the preaching that we have opportunity to hear. I have been reading *Birth of a Reformation* during the recent bad weather. It's a blessing to learn from others' experiences on the upward way.

—Bro. Leslie Adams and family

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

N.C.—I have just finished reading the February *Faith and Victory* paper. I thank the Lord for ones like you who are doing His work in such an inspiring way. When I read the many personal testimonies of "touched" believers, I, too, felt I should testify of the "showers of blessings" the good Lord has given me. After reading of Sis. Virginia Myers' fourteen-year-old son who, it seems, is starting to center his life on the things of the world, and of the desperate need she feels for help, I knew the Lord would have me testify.

When I see the youth of today, or anyone, who turns to this fleeting world instead of to the loving arms of our Lord, I do want to cry aloud. Satan has so many traps for the young of today. I experienced the tragedy of being caught in them, and my prayer is that I may call out that others may escape being led into the same sufferings of these evil days.

When I think back over the years I stood helpless against Satan, I realize the true mercy of our Lord. Even when I rejected Him, He spared me many times from a Christless grave. Truly, it must be terrifying for a soul to go into eternity without the cleansing of the blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I, like many others whose hearts Satan had burdened, wouldn't listen. Many times the Lord would call in all kinds of ways, and I

foolishly, with the devil's help, would just turn my back and walk away. Our Lord has given everyone who does as I did, a solemn warning. In Genesis 6:3, the Lord said, "My spirit shall not always strive with man." God is going to call and work with you for only so long. How many times does the Lord call and you just turn away? Therefore, thou art inexcusable, "Because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not." Isaiah 65:12.

I really don't think I can explain the awful state I was in before I finally answered my Lord's plea. When I was about sixteen, I changed so much that my parents could hardly believe it. I started turning against authority—my parents, school, and any kind of discipline. I guess I wanted to go along with my so-called friends. I did all they wanted me to do and more. All the worldly friends I associated with kept telling me that I was right and that my parents and authority were all wrong. I was into more trouble than anyone could believe—trouble with my school, neighbors, police, even fooling around with drugs. I look back now and realize I was filling all the expectations of a true child of the devil. No matter how hard people tried, or how many times the Lord called, I wouldn't listen.

Finally, one night as I lay awake, the Lord opened my eyes to how I had ruined my life. I felt I had lost all love and respect anyone had ever had for me. All the things I had done and how much I had hurt everyone just kept haunting me. It hurt me so badly that I just lay there crying. Finally, I fell on my knees and asked the Lord to please take my life, for I could not bear it any longer.

The next day I got up feeling worse than I ever remember feeling. I went for a walk and sat in an old place of mine and started crying out to the Lord again. A so-called friend came walking up, and with eyes full of tears I looked back at him. He walked away. I turned back and looked up to the sky, where I saw two huge clouds which formed the cross resembling the one on which my Saviour died. God told me then that He was my way from where I was to where He stays. You see, He answered my prayer. I prayed that He should take my life. That He did. You see, God revealed unto me His way of salvation. He showed me the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ, which He shed for everyone on Calvary's cross. He took my life and gave me a new one. The Lord said, "Behold, I make all things new." Praise God! This day I can testify to that very fact.

It's sad to think that there will be scoffers and unbelieving people when I try to tell them of the blessings with which the Lord has showered my life. The Apostle said, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." Praise God for salvation!

A concerned Brother in Jesus,—Harry Yocum III
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Calif.—Dear saints: This beautiful day finds us saved, sanctified, and satisfied. We think of the Scripture, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." If people would only do this, they would never go back into sin.

We used to sing a song, "Sweeter as the years go by." This is so true when serving the Lord. When we

go through a trial with victory in our souls, the Lord blesses us so richly that we cannot tell it all. The way of the cross is a precious way. When we need Jesus and call on Him to help us, He is never a minute too late. It is my determination with God's help to make heaven my home. We are being blessed richly here in Orland.
—Letha Reece

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

Mich.—Dear Sis. Marie and other precious brothers and sisters in the Lord: Greetings of Christian love to all. A few weeks ago I wrote and requested prayer for my son who was very low with pneumonia. He was a sick man at one time and we didn't think he would make it, but the Lord saw fit to touch his body, for which we do give Him all the praise. Today I can happily report that the Lord heard and answered prayer. My son is up and going again. I give honor, glory, and praise to my dear Saviour and Father in heaven.

I also want to thank everyone who prayed for his healing and for the sweet letter of encouragement you wrote me. Thank you for the anointed cloth you sent. How wonderful to have brothers and sisters in the Lord who care for each other! It should be that way when we are placed in the Body of Christ, who is the Head of it. . . . Keep me and my unsaved loved ones in your prayers.
—Lela Stewart

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

Okla.—Greetings to all in Jesus' name: The furnace of affliction has been heavy upon me this last month. The Lord says He will not put on us more than we can bear, and I have found it true many times. He does not leave us to go through the furnace alone. He walks beside us all through the trial of affliction, and all we have to do is reach out and take His hand. The song, "Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His word" has come to me over and over. Praise the dear Lord!

Springtime is near. After a time of affliction and severe winter we see all the earth beginning to praise our Maker and Redeemer. Man is the only one that forgets God. Life is short, and soon every knee shall bow before our Maker.

I had a heart attack on Feb. 18th. On the 20th a blood clot about the size of a small marble moved out of my leg into my body, causing much suffering and weakness. We would call for prayer, and God's soldiers would go to work. How precious to our heart have been the prayers of the saints in our times of need. We appreciated very much their visits, singing, cards, letters, and phone calls. It will be some time before we can answer all. May the Lord bless each one.

Today, March 16th, the Lord said, "By faith are ye healed. Get up and you can work a little." Yesterday I was so sick that we called one of our girls and she came and stayed the day with me. I lay there a little while, feeling I was too weak to get up. Then I said, "Lord, you are my strength in weakness." I got up and fixed breakfast and did the dishes, and then had to lie down two or three times. I feel stronger and blessed, even though there is pain yet. We know when the molding is just right, the Lord will say, "It is enough." I want to be willing and ready to do what the Lord would have me do. "I'll trust Him while I live; I'll trust Him 'till I die."

The Lord blessed my husband and me through this severe winter. We didn't even have a cold. We do thank the Lord for how He has helped and given Husband strength to do the chores and wait on me. He goes about his work singing the songs from the *Evening Light Songs* book, and reads to me from the New Testament. He has almost read it through twice now. Oh, the blessed promises we have to look forward to when its' springtime in glory! May the Lord help each one to fight on until the battle is won.

—Sis. Doris Bowers

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

Ohio—Dear Sis. Marie and saints abroad: We send greetings to each one in the name of our dear Redeemer and Lord. I've proved Him to be a mighty God indeed, and the best Counselor that can be found.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the saints for their prayers regarding our recent burden for Sis. Carolyn Rhonemus. We have been able to see the Lord's hand in the matter of the divorce for which her husband filed. On February 7th, a hearing was held for the purpose of making some kind of settlement. In brief, the outcome of it all was such that he has the children every other week-end and as a result she is free to be in services more frequently than she had been prior to that. We thank the Lord for this. Also, Dick (her husband), dropped the divorce temporarily. In October it will have been two years since he left home. In the state of Ohio there is a law whereby one may get a "no-fault" divorce after a two-year separation. We still covet the saints' earnest prayers concerning the matter, as we feel this may be what he is waiting for. Our desire is that God will soften his heart and bring him back home to fill his place in the home properly as a husband and father. Also, please pray for Sis. Carolyn, that God's grace will carry her through and that she'll keep faithful to Him in all that she must suffer.

The Lord has been good to us and our congregation over the past several months in answering our prayers and adding new souls to the flock. I do appreciate how God has kept me through some severe battles, times in which I could easily have yielded to discouragement. I've found out that if we'll just wait on the Lord, He'll renew our strength and carry us through with victory. We can conquer if we'll count it so. I see no way to go but forward, onward, and upward. This is my determination by the grace of God, and He's promised that His grace is sufficient for every need.

We'll miss Bro. Wm. McCoy from our midst; his prayers and faithful service to the little flock over which he labored are now just a memory in the minds of those he served, but he has left us with a heritage worth more than the wealth of the world. The example he has been has proven to be a challenge to those who knew him best.

Bro. McCoy has finished his course and has been called to his eternal reward. One more faithful pilgrim has faded off the scene of action—who will there be to take his place? He will be greatly missed, but the work of God must go on. Who will stand in the gap and make up the hedge? Who will be willing to say, "Here am I, Lord, send me," determined to lift up a standard for the people? May God enlarge our vision and increase our burden for the lost world around us. We can be a pillar in the Church, even as Bro. McCoy was, if

we're willing to pay the same price he did—a life filled with service to others.

In the Master's service, —Margie Sallee

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

Oregon—I want all to know I am healed of those awful "shingles" that I had for three or four weeks. Oh, how I suffered! One day while in service, I went up for prayer. Bro. Ostis Wilson, our pastor, asked God to put His tent of mercy over me. I saw it as a big white object come over me. My faith took hold and God began to give me relief. Oh, praise God! Within a few days I was much better, and within a week, I believe, the shingles were gone. I do give God the thanks and praise for victory. "What would we do without Jesus? What would we do all the day long?" I love my Lord and Saviour. Praise His dear name!

—Sis. Allis King

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

Va.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings of love in the name of our dear Lord and Saviour. Oh, praise the Lord! I love Him today and my heart's desire is to please Him. He has done so much for me. I could never thank Him enough. I am so thankful that the Lord didn't stop dealing with my soul; that He followed after me. I am so very thankful that He helped me turn away from a life of sin; that He set me free from the awful chains the devil had around me. I was so miserable, had no peace, and my soul knew no rest. Oh, praise the Lord for this wonderful salvation! It truly satisfies my soul! . . .

I was thinking the other day about the hard battle I was going through about three years ago, and how the Lord has delivered me. When my husband left me, it affected me so that I could only sleep one or two hours. I would wake up in such awful pain. I went for days without eating. I would cry and scream. I couldn't even think beyond the minute I was passing through. I couldn't pray or read. When I tried to pray, I would sit and cry; that's about all I could do. Oh, how I loved my husband, and his leaving me was almost more than I could stand. My mind was in such a state that the enemy took advantage of me. I got into trouble and failed the Lord. Even though I failed Him, He was still there to pick me up and help me. I remember the night I gave up and quit fighting. I awoke and started crying. It seemed I then fully realized what had happened to me. . . . I was in an awful place, so torn up over all that had happened. I suffered until I felt like a bomb was going to go off inside of me. I felt like I'd explode into a million pieces. I am so thankful for God's mercy toward me. Oh, how could I ever thank Him enough! He knew my heart. He reached out to help me even though I had failed Him. He gave me enough mind to know what I had to do and to pray. The Lord answered my prayer. He gave me grace to take my stand against the devil. The thing that caused me so much suffering had been cast down. I remember telling the Lord that I loved Him and I knew this way was the truth; that there was no other way to heaven but to go God's way. I asked Him to help me turn loose and let my husband go. I marvel at all the Lord did for me. He filled me with so much grace and with a real determination to take my stand even if it meant living without my husband. I remember the night I told my husband of my love for the Lord and that I couldn't

live any other way. I knew this was the truth, and I was going with the Lord. I knew the Lord could help me get over my husband, but there is no other way to go but God's way. That brought the victory. For three or four months after that, I was tried much, but the Lord fully delivered me. Instead of being persecuted I began to receive flowers. I started hearing, "I love you," again from him. Oh, praise the Lord! I would not be saved today if it were not for God's mercy and goodness. Thank the Lord for victory! The Lord showed me how the devil had put up a roadblock. I couldn't go around it, over it, or under it, but it had to be moved out of the way. When I turned loose of my husband and got willing to go on through without him, that was when the roadblock was moved. How could I ever praise the Lord enough for all He has done for me! By His goodness and mercy, I am saved today and still pressing on toward heaven. Without the Lord I could do nothing. He is my all and all. Praise His name!

Please remember me in prayer.

—Sis. Nancy Wagoner

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

Mo.—Dear saints: Praise the Lord for His blessings and gracious dealings with me. He's my Saviour, Sanctifier, and Keeper.

Praise the blessed Lord of heaven;
All His blessed name adore.

Praise the Lord for all He's given;
Praise the Lord forevermore.

Praise Him for His truth eternal
Which has made us pure and free.
Praise Him for that Home supernal
Where we'll live eternally.

Praise Him for His great salvation;
Praise Him for His saints in light;
For the hope and consolation,
Making all our days so bright.

Praise Him for the holy union,
Praise Him for the Church of God;
Ev'ry member pure as heaven,
Washed, redeemed in Jesus' blood.

Praise Him for His great compassion
When upon the cross He died,
Just to purchase our salvation
That we might be sanctified.

Praise Him for the grace He giveth
Just to walk the holy way.

Praise Him, everything that liveth,
Sing His praises all the day.

I would especially like to tell, to the glory of God, about the trip I made to Mexico in December, 1978. I had many precious experiences which I had thought I would just treasure up and keep for myself, but lately I have felt impressed to write about them.

It was my privilege last July to attend the campmeeting at Ojos Negros, Baja, Calif., Mexico. While there, I got briefly acquainted with the young pastor, Bro. Mayarino Escobar. I found him to be a very precious brother in the Lord. After we had returned, my thoughts went back continually to the precious services and fellowship we enjoyed. Truly the saints are precious wherever we find them. All speak the same language even though it is in a different tongue.

Later in the fall, I began to think of making a trip back to Ojos Negros at Christmas time. I took the matter

continually to the Lord in prayer. There wasn't anyone I could find who was willing, or able, to go with me, and it was such a long trip. Others were opposed to my going alone. I hardly knew what to do, but our God never fails. He spoke to me through a song and said, "Go forth, the Lord is with thee, His arms are underneath thee, Fear not, for He'll protect thee, Go forth in Jesus' name." Praise the Lord! He gave me the assurance that He was working, so I began to make preparation to go.

I left home on Dec. 20th, and drove to Guthrie, Okla. It was encouraging, as the different ones there at the Print Shop told me they would be praying for the Lord to give me a safe and prosperous journey. I surely felt the effects of those prayers. I was not alone, neither was I lonely; the Lord was with me in a mighty and precious way. One night around 8:30 while driving in the deserts of Arizona the glory of God suddenly flooded my soul. I thought how strange it was that such a sudden blessing should fall on me. Then the thought came to me, "Someone is praying for you." Praise the Lord for the saints! What a privilege to belong to the family of God!

I arrived at the border of Mexico, south of San Diego, early Saturday morning. I had my Suburban vehicle loaded with things that the saints had sent. Sis. Opal Kelly had told me that I had better have prayer before attempting to cross with all those things. I stopped in a parking lot that morning and prayed until the Spirit assured me that all would be well. As I approached the border, I saw the officials were stopping the vehicles and thoroughly examining their contents. When it came my turn they simply motioned me on through. I passed through praising God, and, oh, how His glory flooded my soul! It was such an encouragement to my faith. As I drove down the road with the mountains on one side and the Pacific ocean on the other, the Lord poured out such a blessing that I could not contain. As deep as those fathomless ocean waters, so deep was the joy of my heart! The joy waves were rolling and my tears were flowing. Mightier than those splendorous mountains was the God of my salvation! I shall never forget the experience. I thought to myself, "A blessing like this is worth going all the way around the world for."

I arrived at Bro. Mayarino's that day and found a hearty welcome. The ten days that I spent there were truly wonderful and the fellowship was precious. We enjoyed discussing the Word of God, singing the songs of Zion, and bearing each other's petitions to the throne of grace. We also visited various places and had services.

One evening I felt as if I were coming down with some kind of sickness. That night I asked the Lord just to take care of it and the next morning I awoke feeling fine. Praise His name! His blessings were upon me all the time I was there.

Bro. Mayarino desired that I send the saints in the States his regards. He also desired that we pray that he and his family might be able to obtain passports and come to the U.S. next summer to attend the Monark Springs (Neosho, Mo.) and Myrtle, Mo. campmeetings. I feel that this would be a great blessing to them as well as to us, so do remember this request. Mayarino is a precious brother and deep in the Lord. He and his companion are holding the standard of holiness before a community of people who in general are rejecting the gospel. He desires our prayers that hard hearts will be

broken and receive the soul-saving truth. Let us remember in a special way the campmeeting scheduled there for July 2-8, that God will give a rich outpouring of His Spirit and much good will be accomplished. I would urge all who can, and who have a burden and interest in God's work in Mexico, to attend. Your presence alone would be a great lift.

I appreciate the Lord with all my heart and what He's done for me. I appreciate all His people. I love the Church of God, "the pillar and ground of the truth." I Tim. 3:15. Pray for me. I want to be a faithful pillar in the house of God.

Your brother in Christ,

—Harlan Sorrell

—o—

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

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

[The answer is covered in Four Parts]

(Answer, Part 3)

Then following the dragon came the beast of Rev. 13 which had the same identifying marks as the dragon before him, "seven heads and ten horns." He occupied the same territory and possessed the same power as the dragon—the Roman Empire. The universal religion that followed paganism was papalism; Roman Catholicism. This was the second great opposer and persecutor of true Christianity. This was a false, apostate institution.

Then in Rev. 13:11 there is a second beast introduced and he had all of the power of the first beast before him (verse 12), and he caused his followers to make an image to the first beast (verse 14), etc. It was a universal religious system like the beast before it (Catholicism), and was a human system with human headship, human organization, etc., just like the first beast and in this was made an image to the beast. This was the third religious system which opposed the truth and the true people of God. They set up human creeds and disciplines instead of accepting the whole Word of God as the true people of God do. This was Protestantism.

These three major universal systems of false religions have been on the scene, one at a time, throughout the history of the Church of God in this Christian era. As we approach the time of the end and the final conflict and climactic battle of all, we see all three of them on the stage of action at the same time and forming one great combine, the number of which is as the sand of the sea, to go up on the breadth of the earth and compass the camp of the saints, and the beloved city (Rev. 20:9)—"The city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, the church of the first born which are written in heaven." Heb. 12:22,23.

There is a world-wide ecumenical movement gathering momentum in the world today and it is making great strides toward combining all the world's religions, including so-called Christianity with its multiplicity of churches and movements, into a general world church—Gog and Magog. Much could be said on this, but space will not permit here. I will make this observation here. When the first world's Parliament of Religions met in

Chicago in 1893, including all the heathen religions of the world and Catholics and Protestants in all their varied forms, creeds and denominations, the President of this Parliament said in his opening address, "For when the religious faiths of the world recognize each other as brothers, children of one Father, whom all profess to love and serve, then, and not until then, will the nations of the earth yield to the spirit of concord and learn war no more. We meet on the mountain of absolute respect for the religious convictions of each other. This day the sun of a new era of religious peace and progress arises over the world, dispelling the dark clouds of sectarian strife. It is the brotherhood of religions." The dragon, the beast, and the false prophet had met in "mutual confidence and respect, a brotherhood of religions." Other similar congresses have been held since that time, and in recent years there have been different ecumenical councils held which are all beating the march right on down that same road—gathering Gog and Magog and an innumerable company with them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

While this is all going on, Christ is also marshalling His forces (army) and maneuvering them into position for this gigantic and climactic conflict which is to terminate in the great day of God Almighty. We read in Rev. 19:11-16, "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood; and his name is called the Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

The rider on this white horse could not possibly be identified as any other than the Lord Jesus Himself. No one in all Holy Writ has borne the names mentioned here but He Himself. And let us note that He had only one weapon which was a "sharp sword" which came out of his mouth. Surely, we would all recognize that men of war (carnal) do not carry their swords in their mouths. "But the Word of God is quick and powerful; sharper than any two-edged sword." Heb. 4:12. It is by the Word of God and the power of the Spirit that Jesus carries on His warfare. The Word of God is called "the sword of the Spirit" in Eph. 6:17. It is by the Word of God that sin is exposed and people are convicted of sin and through obedience to the Word they are saved; and those who fail to obey the Word are destroyed (slain). Rev. 19:21. This same Jesus appeared riding on a white horse in the beginning of this gospel age of time. (Rev. 6:2). In that case He had a bow which was equivalent of the rainbow God placed in the sky to confirm His promise of mercy to humankind in Noah's time. The bow in this case is significant of God's promise of mercy and salvation to the human family in Jesus Christ. Now He appears again in the closing out of the age on the same white horse and riding at the head of

a great army. This army is composed of an innumerable multitude out of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people (Rev. 7:9), representing the redeemed of the gospel era. They followed Him on white horses and they were clothed in fine linen, white and clean. This fine linen is declared to be the "righteousness of saints" in Rev. 19:8. The innumerable company of Rev. 7:9 are said to be clothed in "white robes" (verse 13), and verse 14 says they had "washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." The armies that followed Him, then, are the bloodwashed throng who have been redeemed through faith in the all-atoning blood of the Lamb.

Note in this case that instead of having a bow representing His promise of mercy, pardon, and redemption, He has a sharp sword in this instance, signifying that He is on a mission of judgment and vengeance against sinful men and false and apostate religions this time.

In Rev. 18:1,2 and 4, we read, "And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. . . . And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

The angel coming down from heaven and lighting the earth with his glory seems to me to be a fitting symbol of the "Evening Light" Ministry which restored the full light of the gospel which had not shown in its fulness since the time of the apostasy of the morning church about 270 A.D. Ministers are referred to as angels sometimes in God's Word. In the 2nd and 3rd chapters of Revelation, we find recorded the messages of Jesus Christ to the seven churches in Asia; the minister in charge or overseer of each church is addressed as "the angel of the church which is at," etc. Here an angel represents a body of ministers rather than just an individual minister.

(Part 4 will appear in next issue.)

NO POCKET IN A SHROUD

Spend your money while you're living;
Do not hoard it to be proud.
You can never take it with you;
There's no pocket in a shroud.
Gold can take you on no farther
Than the graveyard where you lie.
Though you're rich while you are living,
You're a pauper when you die.
Use it, then, some lives to brighten,
As through life they weary plod;
Place your bank account in heaven
And grow richer t'ward your God.
Use it wisely, use it freely;
Do not hoard it to be proud;
You can never take it with you;
There's no pocket in a shroud.

—Anon.

Give Attendance to Reading

"Till I come give attendance to reading," I Timothy 4:13.

There is a burden upon my heart for the young people. I'd like to warn them of the many snares and pitfalls that are coming upon the present world. It is a shame how some young men are being seduced by women who are old enough to be their mothers, and some young women being deceived by older men. Some are intelligent young people who have been taught to obey the older folk, but when older men and women are not living godly, it isn't right to obey them in everything.

Young man, what is your aim in life?

Are you in a struggle with the toilsome strife?

Have you decided in life what you should do

With each golden moment that opportunity gives you?

Young man, it is high time to begin—

The world needs strong, wise, and faithful men.

Young men and women, you are intelligent beings. God has given you inquiring minds, but unless you are satisfying their demand for mental stimulation (increased activity), you will become stale and uninteresting. Every person has intellectual qualities. The important matter is not merely what you learn, but your attitude toward self-development. Experience is what happens to us, plus the way we take it. We can't always have things the way we want, but we can decide upon our reaction to situations as they present themselves.

I find that it is a good thing to acquire the habit of reading. Today there are plenty of good books available. Despite the open road to the printed page, many people spend little time in reading. At the Faith Publishing House there are numbers of interesting books, such as: *The Pilot's Voice*, *Helps to Holy Living*, *The Corrupt Tree*, *Pasha (Greasy) Tichomirow*, *Just Mary*, and many others that are good for young and old alike. (Send for a book list.)

It is obvious that some homemakers are busy caring for the children, doing home chores, taking the children to and from various activities. Busy women, however, need not give up the joys and benefits of reading. If need be, cut something else out of your crowded schedule, and give at least a little time for Christian books and magazines. Even if it is comparatively small, it will give you mental and spiritual nourishment. It is essential to your personal growth, and your family should not be permitted to rob you of this necessity. If they do, they will suffer, too. As you pick up a book, you can make the acquaintance of the greatest people of all time. Circumstances may prevent you from ever meeting such people in person. Your contact may be limited to those in your immediate locality. Not so with reading. Here you have a passport to explore a world of interesting, spiritual personalities. The ideas gathered from the printed pages will become some of the strongest forces in your life.

The fact that reading can be so flexible is a blessing to the average busy person. Unlike walking away from someone in person, you can leave a book whenever you wish. Anytime you come back, its pages will still be waiting for you as pleasant as before.

Joan was a secretary in a large firm, also a wife, and homemaker, so her time was well occupied. However,

she knew the value of reading and always tried to keep a fine Christian book in her desk at the office. During breaks and rest periods she pulled out her friend in print, and read a little. It was only a matter of time before she reached the final chapter and then it was time to begin another book.

"That's all right for the business girl," you may say, "but how about those of us who spend our time being nursemaid, housekeeper, and chief cook and bottle washer for an active, growing family. When do we find time to read?" It may be impossible for you to devote a solid block of time to reading, but to sandwich it in between may give you just the lift you need.

Marilyn proved that it can be done. With several small children under foot, she had little time for anything other than the three C's—caring, cleaning and cooking. But she found that by squeezing in a few minutes here and there, she could read a short article or a few pages without upsetting her time schedule.

The printed page is a powerful force. Probably more information takes root in one's mind by this means than by any other medium. Unfortunately Satan is aware of this, and herein lies a pitfall. Reading is like many other activities which are beneficial—it can also be detrimental. Satan has poisoned a goodly share of printed materials. It is better not to read at all than to feed on the devil's trash. However, there are countless volumes of unusual value, and for all the trashy books there are just as many treasure books.

Since reading provides intellectual food, it is essential that spiritual nourishment be a sizeable part of your diet. Indeed, Christian books and magazines should comprise the bulk of your reading. It is the way you gain spiritual insight and grow in the Lord.

Dotty, for example, fed her mind on trash. She read dimestore novels by the dozen—*Real Confession*, *True Love*, *Night Life*. These and other magazines like them had become her steady diet. She hadn't read a Christian book in years. In time Dotty became just like her reading material—cheap and ordinary. Although there are many who scorn the cheap literature of Dotty's choice, still they never read anything that feeds the soul or draws them closer to Christ. Such women may accumulate a store of information and secular knowledge, but they are ignorant of godly wisdom. Their Christian growth is stunted, and as a result they remain spiritually immature.

Today the Print Shop (Faith Publishing House) is bulging with attractive books that are waiting to be read: biographies, doctrinal, devotional books, and many other volumes for your attention. To have such Christ-honoring literature within your grasp is a precious opportunity and privilege. Thomas Jefferson once said, "I cannot live without books." Indeed, you and I can say, "I cannot live well without them."

The Bible admonishes, "Whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely . . . think on these things." Philippians 4:8.

—Mattie Simpson

We cannot set up our grandfathers and grandmothers as a standard of light and truth, and because they could do so and so think we can do the same things. Jesus Christ is our pattern and we must walk up to all the light and truth He gives us from His Word.

—E. E. Byrum

Working Out Your Own Salvation

We have recently heard some messages that have stirred within us things the Lord has been revealing to us.

As young parents, my husband and I have been concerned about rearing our children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." We are persuaded that the devil is working through so many ways to tempt even our very young children; how much more should we be working to help make our children aware of what they face, and try to help arm them with weapons they can rely upon when they are old enough to face even more evil.

When I inquired of the Lord how to deal with our children, the Lord directed me to consider myself and to make sure I understand what I am trying to impart to my children.

Since facing adulthood and parenthood, I have been made aware that I cannot be saved on what I have been taught (although I am thankful my parents did teach me the truth and work with me). It takes personal experience to be persuaded within one's self of the things he believes in and has been taught. I have had to seek answers from the Lord on my own. I have had to have the Spirit of the Lord in my own heart to cope with the things I was being forced to cope with. So I began seeking, and am still seeking, for an understanding of the Word of God and the teachings of the Church of God of which I am a part.

I am reminded of a Scripture I used often when younger to justify myself in different situations: "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Phil. 2:12. I would take the first part and apply it, but it hasn't been until recent years that I've learned to apply that "fear and trembling" to the working out of my salvation. That is the key.

The Lord doesn't expect us to accept things we don't understand; but He does expect us to take these things we don't understand and consider them and search the Scriptures, as well as our hearts, and let the Spirit of the Lord reveal to us the right way. It is a great privilege to know we can understand. When we understand the Truth as revealed to us by the Word and the Spirit, then we can understand why these same things are required of a child of God. Then we are responsible as a child of God to practice them in our lives.

I want to emphasize that as long as we are resenting some teaching and not intending to understand it, the Lord will not help us to understand it. He will not force His way upon us. He only reveals Himself to those who come in "fear and trembling." If we fail to have our minds cleared in things we wish we could understand, let us look to ourselves and consider our willingness. I Sam. 12:14, "If you will fear the Lord and serve Him and obey His voice and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord: then shall both ye and the king that reigneth over you continue following the Lord your God."

If we want to be qualified to rear our children with a good understanding of the Truth and lay a foundation for them to build on when the Lord begins to deal with them, let us make sure we, as parents: "fear the Lord, walk in all his ways, love him, and serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul." Deut. 10:12. "What man is he that feareth the Lord? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose." Ps. 25:12.

—Jeanie Samons