

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

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A Child of God

I looked upon a saint one day—
 I thought: How pure and true!
 How sweet and humble to portray
 God's will to know and do!

How dear that child of Heaven's King,
 A light to brightly shine!
 Life's sorrows and their bitter sting
 Outweighed by love divine!

I thought how God in grace above
 Looks down on such so pure:
 How great and wondrous is His love,
 So earnest and so sure.

How precious is a saint so dear:
 A Christian of His own;
 A path of gladness, hope, and cheer
 To walk and not alone.

For Christ draws near, yes, even now
 His presence oft is felt
 As lowly at His feet we bow
 Our hearts in love to melt.

How good His kingdom so divine
 Of righteousness and peace;
 How bright the light in us to shine,
 And ever to increase!

O child of God! O gem divine!
 O wealth of matchless worth!
 Perfection of the Lord's design:
 Preserver of this earth!

How dear to God, how beautiful
 The pathway of thy feet,
 Like Him whose Name is Wonderful
 In Holiness complete.

O gentle spirit, Heaven-born!
 Live on and on and on:
 And may that crown thy brow adorn
 When work on earth is done.

—Leslie C. Busbee

Holiness or Hell! Which?

We are living in a period of time when many religious people don't even believe one can live holy. The dictionary says that holiness means being free from sin. Heb. 12:14 says, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man can see the Lord." Many church members are blindly going along believing none can live holy. They say, "It is not possible to live holy in this life."

Let us see what the Bible says, in Luke 1:74,75, "That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life." According to this Scripture we are to live holy right here in this life. In Titus 2:11,12, we have these words, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." This would teach the honest heart that he will have to live godly in this present life. In everything we do or say we are to live holy (free from sin). In I Pet. 1:15,16, "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

There is such a great need of holy conversation today among religious people. I hear them cursing, telling smutty stories and using vulgar language but yet claiming to be Christians. Peter tells us in I Pet. 2:21,22, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." Living holy in Christ Jesus means simply living free from sin. In I Cor. 15:34, the apostle Paul writes, "Awake to righteousness, and sin not." "SIN NOT" seems to be God's standard. Look at John 8:11. Jesus speaks these words, "Go and sin no more." Then in John 5:14 we find Jesus talking to the crippled man who was healed. He said, "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee."

We must also remember that the Holy Ghost hadn't come yet. Surely if those folks were able to

live free from sin without the Holy Ghost, we ought to be able to live free from sin with the help of the Holy Ghost. I John 2:1 says, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." In verse 6 of this same chapter, He says, "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also to walk, even as he walked." Peter tells us in I Pet. 2:21,22 how He walked. Without guile and without sin. Paul in 2 Tim. 2:19 says, "Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." It seems very clear from these Scriptures that God requires a sinless life. Paul, in writing to the Romans in chapter 6:1,2 says, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

The holiness opposers will pick up texts like Eccl. 7:20 to justify their living in sin. Let us look at Eccl. 7:20 and see if we can get some understanding. This verse says, "For there is not a just man upon the earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." That was true of that particular time. This was about 977 years before Christ. At this time sins were just atoned for, not washed away. They came with their sin offering, a lamb, bullock, or whatever they could bring, and it was killed at the brazen altar and the blood was sprinkled upon the horns and poured around the base of the altar. Not until Jesus came was any man able to live free from sin. This was His purpose of coming into the world. Read Matt. 1:21. "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." Then holiness opposers will refer you to Rom. 3:10, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one." If you will carefully read on down a few verses you will find out that he is not talking about Christians but unbelievers. Look at verse 11, "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." This couldn't be a child of God because he is seeking after God. Every verse will tell you that he is not talking about Christians. Look at verse 14, "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness." Then verse 17 says, "And the way of peace have they not known." Then these folks were never saved. Another pet text that is often misquoted is I John 1:8, which reads, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." John wrote this for the benefit of the Jew who said he didn't need to be born again, for the moral man that sees no need of being saved from sin, and for the self-righteous and virtuous individual. This Scripture is dealing with us before we come to Christ.

A Christian does not commit sin. If he commits sin, then he is a sinner. It all boils down to this; it is either holiness down here or hell hereafter. When God made man in the beginning, He said, "Let us make man in our image." The soul of man was made in the image of God, holy. In Col. 3:10, "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him."

Holiness is the minimum standard for God's people. In I Thess. 4:7, "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness." Finally, He says, "Be ye holy for I am Holy." Then remember God provided for this by sending His son, Jesus, to "save his people from their sins." Matt. 1:21. —C. G.

Holy Spirit Leadership

It is very evident that all spiritual actions will have to be directed by the Holy Spirit, or they will be in vain. We read in the Scriptures (I Cor., chapter 2) concerning the wisdom of man and the wisdom of God. Verses 4 and 5 point out clearly to us that the apostle was not speaking in his (or man's) wisdom, but in the Spirit, which will always show the power of God, the only way that will produce the right effect.

It is not safe to go on human impulse. In considering the last three verses of this chapter, we see why so many things get out of order and allow the devil to work as he does. The natural man just cannot do the best thing, even though he tries so very hard. In the 15th verse, let us notice that the man who is led by the Spirit will judge or discern the over-all picture of any case, and will be very careful how he speaks and acts.

I think of the lesson we see in the Old Testament, how strict the Lord was in regard as to how to carry out His work. For example, in 2 Sam. 6:6, we see the natural concern, how a man who was not a Levite put forth his hand to steady the ark because he thought it was going to fall from the oxen who shook it. The Lord had special respect for the Levites, and only the sons of Levi were to bear the ark. The man who put his hand on the ark no doubt was greatly responsible for a lot of the safety of it, but he was not to touch it. Yet he took matters into his own hands, and thought he surely had to support the ark to keep it from falling. However, this was not his place in the service of the Lord. His natural thinking caused him to be put to death by the Lord for touching the ark. No matter how much we think something should be done, we will get out of order if the Spirit doesn't lead.

I am also burdened for us ministers to fast and pray more for our leadings to preach. It is not only respect and courtesy to wait on our brother or sister to have liberty or opportunity to preach where a large number of ministers are present, but also it is taught in the Bible to prefer our brother. (Rom. 12:10, I Tim. 5:21). The Holy Spirit is the Master of ceremonies, the Speaker of the house, the Chairman of the meeting, and He directs the order and actions of the services. What a great need there is today to let the Holy Spirit be in charge.

All things should be done decently and in order. (I Cor. 14:40). Let us consider this text a little further. The only meaning a lot of people get out of the word *decent* has to do with wearing apparel. I would like to point out a greater depth of the meaning on this

subject, for it has a close relationship to my burden of **Holy Spirit Leadership**. Let us give a few definitions: "proper, or correct; right; respectable; good taste; fair"; and many other synonymous or similar words. If we will let the Holy Spirit direct our leadings, we will perform our duties in order, and this will be respectable and fair to all others.

It is a real burden to my heart to see many people dealing with God's business in a natural course. There is too much lost time with a lot of people trying to get someone lined up to their own ideas or natural thinking. Yes, as the Scripture states in Matthew 12:36,37, every idle word will be accounted for in the day of judgment. I use this text in relation to my burden to this extent, that all words, instruction, and teachings which are not led by the Holy Spirit are idle or unprofitable, and many times destructive to some soul.

I am greatly concerned for the ministry to upgrade our labors instead of letting the devil have any room to work. If there was ever a time that we should gird up the loins of our minds and be as the Word teaches in I Pet. 1:13-16, it is now.

Let us look forward to a real prosperous season being led by the Holy Spirit to the edification of the church. Romans 8:14, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

Your Brother in Christ,

—Richard Madden, Pastor

Who Is a God-called Minister?

Someone asked me one day, "Are you a minister?" How can we know a minister of God?

A minister must be Biblically sound, holy, sanctified, empowered with mental stability, endowed with wisdom from God, and free from the depraved nature. True ministers must be humble, meek, not quick tempered, not passive, not given to the lusts of the flesh, free from the lustful spirits of this world and temperate in all things.

His wife (or her husband) should be able to testify to salvation, patience, kindness, and love. There should be family devotion often. A minister is a good example of salvation and what it does in the heart and life of a man. He must have a single eye of holiness; not compromising nor fanatical; not moved by the praise of people nor by their ridicule. He must be willing to die for the doctrine of holiness. A minister must preach with boldness the doctrines of freedom from sin, divine healing, and holy living.

A minister must be teachable and able to teach. He must not take advantage of one's weakness or ignorance, but be just in all his dealings. There should be no practice of deceit. He also must teach, preach, and practice sound doctrines; not for praise, prestige, nor strife, but because it is God's will for him and he is interested in the saints, sinners, heathen, or whomsoever the gospel reaches. A minister is a watchman set on the wall that will not hold his peace day or night.

A minister's wife is exhorted to encourage him whatever betides. His wife should be grave: not talkative, nor a slanderer. She must not be a busybody or

malicious, but faithful in all things. Together they must practice everything the gospel represents, and live at peace in the home everyday. Power is added to his ministry and influence by his conduct.

A minister carries the glad tidings of full deliverance from all sin and he himself is first partaker of this freedom. A minister is one who is holy, yes, and wholly consecrated to God and His will. He is no longer selfish and fleshly minded in everyday living. Instead, he lives a reasonable, practical, and holy life with his family, friends, or whomsoever he meets. He has the confidence of the saints and those in his community by his pious and sincere life that they behold daily.

A minister is one who is despised and rejected by some, yet on the other hand, loved and honored by others. He is not cast down to despair, nor exalted in pride but has an humble estimation of himself. Yes, a minister of God is very humble, and would be pleased to sleep in your barn with thanksgiving to God.

A minister also meditates continually on the Word of God, for this keeps him in perfect peace. When he preaches or speaks, there comes forth power, anointing and conviction that defies unclean spirits. It breaks open prison doors, loosens chains, heals broken hearts and gives perfect freedom from sin and salvation to all.

A true minister of God is personally known by the devils abroad and he is on their most wanted list. But he has no fear because there is One with him who has all power in heaven and in earth—the man Christ Jesus. If men, groups, or organizations oppose a minister of God, they are taking upon themselves to oppose God Himself. Ministers of God, preach the truth! Let the devils sneer, let persecutions come, let friends despise, and may God be with you.

—Alexander Clark

BRO. C. CARVER IN WEST GERMANY

Isenbittel, W. Germany (May 14)—Had a nice trip. Had service Saturday night, and two on Sunday. Good attendance, over 40, and several new faces. Found folks well and encouraged. We may visit a congregation in Pforzheim from Russia.

Love and regards,

—C. C. Carver

COME YE ASIDE, WITH JESUS ABIDE

I come aside from the world of strife,
With its burdens, trials, and the cares of life,
To a beautiful, quiet, restful place,
Where I meet my Jesus face to face.
Forgetting all the clamor and din,
With fears that assail from without and within,
I find joy and rest in every case,
When I meet my Jesus face to face.
O, what peace of mind as I see Him there,
For I am relieved of my every care,
I'm warmed by His love and blessed with His grace,
When I seek my Jesus face to face.

—Edward M. Brandt

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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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Write for prices on larger quantities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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God can hear the most simple prayer, even though it be nothing more than the moving of the lips like Hannah, whose prayer was not left unanswered. God loves to have us come and offer our humble petitions, and He will not turn us away without His notice. —E. E. Byrum

EDITORIALS

AS USUAL, THIS JUNE ISSUE is going to the press and in the mail just prior to the beginning of the Oklahoma State campmeeting here at Guthrie. The first service will start, Lord willing, at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, May 25. A large attendance is expected, and some no doubt will be coming for their first time. Our prayer is that the presence and power of God will be felt in every service, that the preaching of the Word will be accompanied by the convicting Spirit of God, and that many souls will respond to the gospel invitation. Jesus kindly entreats, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20.

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Sixteen years ago, on June 6, 1963, this writer's beloved father, Fred Pruitt, laid down his armour and received eternal rest with the Lord. He was the founder and editor of this publication for forty years. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth. Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." Revelation 14:13.

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A ten-day revival meeting held by Bro. Curtis Williams, evangelist of Kentucky, closed with victory here at Guthrie on May 6th. The Lord dealt with souls in a special way. Several were saved, and others received spiritual help at the altar of prayer. The church was edified and strengthened to fight the good fight of faith in these perilous times.

Following the Guthrie meeting, Brother Williams held a profitable revival at Enid, Okla. The church received much instruction and edification.

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Here at the Guthrie chapel a few faithful saints still meet regularly at the noon hour on each Wednesday with fasting and earnest prayer for the many requests that come in. The Lord hears prayer according to the reports of definite answers, for which we praise His holy name.

It would be well for more congregations to meet at their chapels in agreement of prayer with us at the Wednesday noon prayer services. In unity and agreement there is power. The song writer reminds us: "While proud in heart at bright midday can find no time for prayer, my thoughts shall soar from earth away to heaven bright and fair."

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Cramer Family Suffered Extensive Fire Loss . . .

Recently the home of Brother Edward Joe and Sister Estelene Cramer and their five children here in Guthrie caught fire at an early morning hour. They all escaped in their night clothes, but the rest of their clothes and most of the house were damaged or destroyed before the fire department extinguished the blaze. The remainder of the house is being torn

down. At present the family is staying in the home of their married daughter which is very crowded. They did receive some insurance on the loss, but not nearly enough to purchase another suitable home. Some of the saints are helping them to find a house to buy. If any reader feels impressed to aid them on this project, please send your contribution directly to this office, specifying it for the Cramer family, and it will be applied on a home for them or other needs of the family. May the Lord bless and reward each donor.

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Church of God Guest Home at Guthrie . . .

It saddens our heart to announce that Sister Vera Forbes of the Home here recently took very ill and her daughter Sylvia Busbee moved Sister Forbes to her home in Guthrie for nursing care. Now the Church Home has four nice rooms waiting to be occupied. This is an ideal situation for our elderly isolated saints where they would have the privilege of attending the worship and preaching services with the Guthrie congregation. All elderly, able-bodied members anywhere who desire more information should contact the secretary-treasurer, Brother Bob Sallee, 916 West Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

Whenever the Lord provides several residents, the urgent need will be for a qualified and dedicated Christian couple (man and his wife) to take over the management of this Home. An allowance with board and room will be provided. Interested saints should contact Bro. Bob Sallee at the above address.

If the saints abroad do not make use of this Guest Home, then in the very near future the project will be reviewed and disposition of the property made accordingly. Let us continue to pray that the residents and managers will be provided for this Church Home, and that it will prove a real spiritual and temporal blessing to our elderly saints.

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Word was received that Sister Gladys Doolittle of Pacoima, Calif., passed away rather suddenly on May 11, 1979, and the funeral was held on Saturday, May 19. May the Lord comfort the bereaved relatives and saints in their loss.

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Another 10,000 pounds of printing paper were scheduled for delivery from the paper mill to the Lord's Print Shop in the month of May, but it has not yet been received. A number of books are tentatively planned for printing in the near future, one of which is a reprint of the book entitled "Church of God Doctrines" written by Bro. C. C. Carver and first published by this office in 1948.

The German language translation of the book, "Divine Healing for Soul and Body" written by E. E. Byrum, has been reprinted and is now in stock at this office.

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The church at Jefferson, Oregon, where Brother Ostis B. Wilson is the pastor, is in the process of

constructing a dining hall on their new campground. They hope to have it ready for partial use during their coming campmeeting which is scheduled for June 8 to 17. May the Lord add His special blessing to this effort to advance His kingdom.

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By the help and grace of God this writer is a follower of "them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." God made a promise to Abraham, "And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise." See Heb. 6:12, 13, 15. "The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong," but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. The trying of our faith is more precious than gold, so please continue to pray that my faith will not fail for the healing provided in Jesus' great atonement. Faith is the victory! —L. D. Pruitt

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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:—

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.

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GREEN BANK, W. VA., CAMPMEETING

The campmeeting of the Church of God at Green Bank, W. Va., will begin; Lord willing June 15th and continue through the 24th.

Green Bank is located 50 miles south of Elkins, and 57 miles north of White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., on Route 92. There will be two services each day, 10:30 a.m., and 7:30 p.m.

Meals will be served, and all that come will be cared for. Bring a coat, as nights are cool. If possible, bring sleeping bags and pillows.

The congregation extends a special invitation to all isolated saints, lovers of the truth in the East, and all others that can, to come.

We desire your earnest prayers for this special, evangelistic effort, and we will be looking for you.

For more information, call or write Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons, P.O. Box 127, Green Bank, W. Va. 24922, phone 304-456-4469. —Mart Samons

TULSA, OKLA., CAMPMEETING

The Church of God campmeeting on the corner of Norfolk and Pine Place in Tulsa, Okla., will be held June 8 to 17, 1979, Lord willing. Everyone is cordially invited to these services, and all who come will be cared for. Pray much for the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon this meeting.

For additional information, contact Bro. Norman Simpson, 2215 N. Norfolk, Tulsa, Okla., 74106, phone 583-2096 or Bro. Charles Lowe, 1823 N. Main, Tulsa, Okla. 74106, phone 584-6838.

—Maple Littlejohn, Sec.

OAKLAND, CALIF., CAMPMEETING

The annual Church of God campmeeting at Oakland, Calif., will be held, Lord willing, on June 22 to July 1, 1979. You are cordially invited and urged to attend these services. Please come praying.

For further information, contact the pastor, Sis. Velma Smith, phone 415-632-8211, or Sister Doris Washington, phone 415-635-1786.

—Doris Washington

HAMMOND, LA., CAMPMEETING

The annual campmeeting of the Church of God will be held on the General Southern Campgrounds located just off 109 White St. in Hammond, La., beginning on Saturday night, June 30, 1979, and continuing through Sunday, July 8, 1979.

We wish to extend to all saints of all nations a very warm welcome to come and be with us in this meeting, and enjoy the fellowship of the Spirit in the brethren. We are praying that God will send the Spirit-filled ministers of His choosing to preach the Word of Truth needed in these last days.

Meals and lodging will be provided again as usual. The meeting will be supported on a free-will basis.

Please come praying that God will send forth His Word under the anointing of His Spirit; that souls will be saved, bodies will be healed, and His saints stirred to a closer walk with the Lord, and a close unity with the brethren.

—Bob Forbes

FRESNO, CALIF., CAMPMEETING

The Fresno, Calif., campmeeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, July 6 to 15, on the campgrounds located at 7249 E. Kings Canyon Road.

A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this meeting. Provisions will be made to care for all who come. Motor homes, campers, and trailers are welcomed. All meeting expenses will be met by free-will offerings. Come praying for a profitable meeting, that souls will be saved, believers sanctified, and bodies healed.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. E. J. Trotter, 811 W. Alamos, Clovis, CA. 96312, phone (209) 291-6003; or Bro. Charles Parrish, 5970

E. Fedora, Fresno, CA., (209) 291-9958; or the church, (209) 255-9868.

—Lavern Moles

AKRON, OHIO, CAMPMEETING

The campmeeting at Akron, Ohio, will be held July 6 to 15, 1979, Lord willing. Everyone is cordially invited to attend these services. Come praying with a burden that the Lord will work effectually in the meeting.

The chapel is located at 419-421 W. Thornton Street. For additional information, contact the pastor, Bro. Keith A. Fuller, 869 N. Jenkins Blvd., Akron, Ohio 44306, phone 216-773-3926, or Bro. Wayman Parmer, 553 Glendora Ave., Akron, Ohio 44320, phone 216-836-1907.

—LaVern Shaw, Sec.

FORTY-SECOND NATIONAL CAMPMEETING

A hearty invitation and welcome are extended to everyone to attend the 42st National Campmeeting of the Church of God which will convene, Lord willing, on July 20th, and continue through July 29, 1979, at Neosho, (Monark Springs) Missouri.

Another time of warm, Christian fellowship is expected among those who have a love for the truth and are willing to walk in the old paths of the Church of God reformation. Ministers from across the nation will preach the Word under the direction and anointing of the Holy Spirit who is the Executive Officer and Pulpit Committee in all the meetings of the saints in light.

The campgrounds are located approximately five miles east of Neosho, Missouri, on Highway 86, the exact location being one mile east and ¾ mile south of the intersection of Highway 86, and of Alternate 71 Highway. Those coming by public transportation, such as bus or train, will need to come to Neosho and take a taxi to the grounds, or call Granby, Missouri, phone number 472-6427 to arrange for someone to meet you and bring you to the grounds.

Meals will be served in the dining hall on a free-will offering basis as well as the lodging in dormitories and tents. We do trust that no one will stay away because of a lack of finances, as we are confident that God will supply for the needs as they arise. Dormitory space and tents will be available on a first-come first-serve basis. There are several comfortable motel accommodations within a short driving distance which are available at reasonable rates for those who desire such, but reservations should be made ahead of the meeting. In addition, there will be parking areas on the grounds for trailers, campers, and motor homes. Electrical and sewer hook-ups are available at the trailer spaces.

Bro. and Sis. Austin McMillian will be working to assist in finding accommodations for sleeping. All correspondence regarding tent orders, dormitory space, etc., should be addressed to them at Rt. 7, Box 351, Neosho, Mo. 64850.

The work days to prepare for this meeting are scheduled for Saturday, June 30, July 4,

and each Saturday thereafter. Come and help prepare for this National meeting, and the Lord will reward you.

Come praying for the salvation of sinners, sanctification of believers, divine physical healing for the sick and suffering, and a drawing together of God's family in these last days.

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR COOKS

The scheduled time for the National Campmeeting at Monark Springs, Mo., is not far away. We request the earnest prayers of the saints for the success of the meeting. As you pray, also remember the need for workers during the meeting. One of the most important needs is for some qualified workers to accept responsibility for the cooking. A few have carried this heavy responsibility for quite some time. It may be possible to divide the responsibilities for different meals and thus share the load. If you feel a burden for this work, please contact me as early as you can so that plans can be made before the meeting.

—Jim Wall

5825 E. 64th St., Tulsa., Okla. 74136

REVIVAL AT BLACKFORD, KY.

Lord willing, a revival meeting will be held at Blackford, Ky., from August 10 to 15, on the old campground where saints of yesteryears have trod. This is not a campmeeting, and services will be held only at night at 7:30.

The Lord will send ministers of His choosing. Come praying and expect God's Word to go forth unto victory.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. W. R. Fox, phone number 965-3320, or call 965-4035, 965-9226, or 965-3070.

—The Charles Knights
Rt. 1, Marion, Ky. 42064

REPORT OF MEETING AT FOUR CORNERS, BLUEJACKET, OKLA.

We desire to let everyone know how much we appreciated the good meeting the Lord gave us that closed April 25th. The Lord certainly blessed every service and every minister that took the pulpit, and we do give all the glory to God. We cannot thank the Lord or you dear saints enough that had part in the meeting, but the Lord knows how much we did appreciate those that came, and also all that prayed for us.

There were saints here from Wichita and Coffeyville, Kan., Enid, Tulsa, Guthrie, Bristow, Sapulpa, Okmulgee, Nowata, and Oklahoma City, Okla.; Neosho, Webb City, and Springfield, Mo.; Prattville and Pea Ridge, Arkansas.

The singing on Saturday night, the 21st, was so blessed. It seemed that every song had a message of comfort, encouragement, or instruction. There were testimonies and exhortations given that were soul-searching. The Word tells us to sing with

grace in our hearts unto the Lord. We truly feel the saints sang in a way that God accepted it as we offered it unto Him. We just felt a heavenly atmosphere.

Truly God was here from the first service until the last, and "to God be the glory" now and forever.

We invite all to come again and worship with us any time the Lord leads. Pray for us to be a light to the world in this area.

—From the Church of God at Four Corners,
north of Vinita, Okla.

REPORT OF FRESNO, CALIF., SPRING MEETING

The Fresno Calif., Church of God Spring meeting is history. Only the Lord knows all the good that was done. Several sought help at the altar. The Word preached under the anointing of the Spirit of God was precious and stirring to our hearts.

We appreciated the ministers that were present, especially Sister Mildred Sherman's example of dedication. She carried such a burden for the meeting that she stayed until she was called home, even though she knew her sister, Sister Gladys Doolittle, was very ill. God is calling us all to the same example of dedication. Luke 14:26,27,33.

We thank God for everyone that attended our meeting, and for the prayers and support given. May God bless all of you.

—Lavern Moles

OKLAHOMA CITY MEETING REPORT

The spring meeting here at Oklahoma City, Third and Phillips, has come and gone, but the memories and blessings still linger in our hearts, thus leaving the saints much encouraged to press on for Jesus.

We appreciate the ministers, Bro. E. J. Trotter, Bro. W. Warren, Sis. Katherine Williams and others, also the many saints, friends and other loved ones who came from far and near to share their supportive efforts of prayers, finance and good-will in this wonderful, soul-stirring revival. Souls received salvation and other spiritual help. Some desired healing for their bodies. The prayer of faith was prayed, and through the divine healing power of God, many testified of their healing. For all of this, we give our heavenly Father the praise and glory.

Do remember us in your prayers that we will be continually faithful to God and His purpose all the days of our life.

Yours in Christ,

—Sis. Juanita Parks

REPORT OF GOULDS, FLA., CAMPMEETING

The campmeeting in Goulds, Fla., held April 13 to 22, 1979, was a great and constant visitation of the Holy Spirit! The Lord used His ministers to the fullest. The call came from God, and the congregation melted under the refreshing of the Spirit. Many were up and on their feet, walking and praising the Lord, lifting up holy hands, and tears flowed like

mighty waters. Surely, the Lord wants His people to break loose and let Him have His way.

Saints from North Carolina, Avon Park, Fla., Akron, Ohio, New Orleans, La., Neosho, Mo., Tulsa, and Guthrie, Okla., made up the holy army that pitched the battle against the enemy of all souls. The Lord also blessed in the street meetings that were held right on the devil's territory. Many prayed and asked for prayer as a result of these services. I would like to see more of the campmeetings give some of the afternoon service time to going out on the streets and proclaiming the gospel to the dying souls of men and women. Yes, we must go to them!

The week ended with baptismal services, with eleven believers following Jesus all the way. Pray that we keep going in the direction that this meeting has pointed us. —Bro. H. H. Hargrave

Prayer Requests

Montana—"We both have painful arthritis. . . . We need prayer for our daughter. She has three children and works at the school. They need prayer for problems in the home."

—August and Martha Elhard

Ind.—"Pray for our daughter who has cancer. I know my Lord can heal. . . . She is a good Christian."

—Bro. and Sis. W. Brown

Okla.—"I have been a Christian for a long time, but lately I have learned that by continuing in a sectarian church that it could mean (spiritual) death for me. Dear ones, my sincere desire is to "come out of her" and be separated from her. I also have some severe afflictions upon my body. I beg all the saints everywhere to pray for me."

—Dolly Brooks

Ill.—"Pray for my head and eyes, also my back. I can hardly walk. I have arthritis."

—Maude V. Decker

Mo.—"Bro. and Sis. Farmer Wilson are still very poorly in body. They need your prayers. . . . Wife has a hurting in her right arm and sometimes it goes down to her hand."

—T. V. McMillian

Ok.—Our dear Sis. Vera Forbes is very weak, after a bad spell of sickness, and is not responding very quickly. She needs prayer. She has had some severe trials lately, but it seems that God is just ripening her up for heaven. She is at her daughter's home, (Sylvia Busbee) and is so easy to take care of and is very precious.

Mo.—Remember Connie Sorrell who has been having much trouble with her eyes the last few months. At times, even the light causes distress.

How precious it is to trust the Lord for soul and body! This morning I was thinking about how God had touched me in such a precious way when I had a heart attack several years ago. My breathing was getting so hard, and as I looked up it seemed I saw a light coming down from way up through the sky toward me. It was something I cannot

even explain. There were a number in the room praying. I finally asked if they could open a window. The cold, fresh air seemed to bring life to me. I'll never forget that wonderful feeling. I began to get better. The Lord brought me out and has given me more years. Later, this morning, I was asked to have the chapel service for the "Path of Life" school, which they have every Wednesday morning. The young people and children sang the song, "Jesus Has Been So Good To Me." It brought tears to my eyes, as I again thought about how good the Lord had been to me. I told them about how God had healed me. I then told them that the Lord has been good to all of us, and we knelt in prayer, thanking Him for it.

We want to pray that the Lord will send us another teacher for the school. This is a work for God and surely the Lord can talk to some heart to fill this great need. A person who can read, spell, has had a high school education and graduated with good grades ought to be able to qualify. Of course, we want someone who is in touch with the Lord, able to help others love the Lord, and be an example.

We want you to pray about our getting an adequate building for the school. The one we use now isn't sufficient. Ask the Lord what He might want you to do to help some children and young people to have Christian teaching and a right influence.

—Sis. Marie Miles

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (April 25)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints everywhere: Greetings in the matchless name of Jesus—the Great Creator who became our Saviour and in Whom all God's fullness dwelleth. Praise Him forever!

Thank you for your letter dated April 4, 1979, which arrived safely and intact, and we are very thankful for its contents.

The evangelistic meeting scheduled for Tombia and its environs is yet to be held. Many and multifarious reasons gave rise to delay in its implementation. It will, however, come to pass in the very near future of more convenient time.

Congregations in Bendel State are being visited with increased frequency, even Abbi, the prodigal congregation. This straying congregation from the look of things may not be long to stage a come back to his Father's home penitently. The lesson of the "prodigal son" is one of the most tender revelations in the gospels of God's great compassion for the lost sinner. This wayward boy, once he discovered his terrible mistake, came penitently home to his father and was joyously received. Every person who has gone into sin, has strayed from his Father's home and needs to come back in the spirit of repentance and humility. The plight of the human race is here pictured. The one boy had sinned publicly and scandalously, while the other had remained dutifully at home. But the bad attitude of the moralist was as much in need of correction and

forgiveness as that of the wayward one. The ring on the lad's finger, sealing the father's forgiveness, and the fatted-calf dinner, showing the joy of reunion, both speak of God's love in forgiving and restoring the sinner and making him joyful with the peace of assurance of forgiveness. "But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him." Luke 15:20. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9.

Faithfully yours in Him,
—Titus U. E. Enu, Pastor

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

South India (April 20)—Dear Bro. Pruitt, the dear ones at the Print Shop, and the saints everywhere: We send our loving greetings to all of you in America in the glorious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour "by whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for His name." (Rom. 1:5).

Thank you very much for your kind letter dated April 4th, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude. We are thankful for the many sacrifices that you undertake for us and the Church in India. May God bless you abundantly in soul and body.

It is hot here now and we need rain urgently. Our rice fields have not yet been planted, and there is no water to drink in many wells. We are waiting for an immediate rain from God.

The Christians in India are a minority, and it is calculated to be 2%, including the nominal Christians. The freedom for Christians and for gospel work is getting worse here. Unfortunately, the Government is trying to take some steps to restrict the freedom of Christians by law. A bill to that effect has been submitted to the Parliament for consideration. This bill should not be passed, and we earnestly pray to God about this serious matter. This is the time to fast and pray as Mordecai and Esther did in Shushan. One man with God is the majority, yet Satan is working everywhere to destroy the children of God.

We plan to have a ministers' meeting at Karikom on May 5, 1979. We continue to pray for the need of a Van, and are waiting for God's appointed time. Also, we pray for your complete healing.

Yours in Christ, —John Varghese

MEETINGS OF IMPORTANCE IN MEXICO, AND SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

The Lord blessed the efforts put forth in the recent campmeeting in Caltzontzin, Michoacan, Mexico. Bro. Irineo stated we needed to help living souls, so although the first thing to do was join a funeral procession to help put away his mother-in-law, the campmeeting began that same evening. Recently, Bro. Irineo had started preaching each of six days in a different place, so of those places, some

were able to come and go, others to come and stay for part of the meeting. Some received special help they had been needing, and with others, were fed the sincere milk of the Word. One full day was spent at San Lorenzo (a settlement of Tarascan Indians) with about 125 people in attendance at services. It was a joy to all who went. We saw some take a firmer stand for the truth in this campmeeting than ever before, for which we were grateful to the Lord.

Lord willing, the campmeeting in Ojos Negros, Baja California, Mexico, will convene from July 2 through 8, 1979. We are trusting the Lord to send consecrated help. Although there are few modern conveniences there, all who go will be offered the best accommodations available. Please open your heart to the Lord and see if He desires you to go. Go with a burden for souls, and for the furtherance of the meeting. If the Lord burdens you to preach, there will be interpreters on hand. Pray for this meeting. As other campmeetings, this one is supported by free-will offerings. If the Lord burdens you to go, please contact Bro. Harlan Sorrell, Rt. 1, Myrtle, Mo. 65778, or Sis. Opal Kelly, 919 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

Since my aged mother is able to carry on alone, the Spanish literature printing and distribution are going forward at a little faster pace. The Lord is blessing to get all new literature out to the many addresses on file. New tracts and books (authoritatively true) are being translated, and prepared for printing and distribution. We feel very needy before the Lord for the strength and burden He has given us. Pray for all of His workers in the Mexican field, at home and abroad.

Yours for lost souls in Mexico,
Irineo and Julia Rama, Ap. Postal No. 205
Uruapan, Michoacan, Mexico, Mayarino and
Panchita Escobar, Ap. Postal No. 284, Ensenada, B. Cfa., Mexico, and Opal Kelly.

EASTER CAMPMEETING IN MEXICO

Ejido Patzcuaro, Baja Calif., Mexico—Dear Sis. Marie: . . . The day is very young still, the sun has just risen, and the morning is so beautiful with the praises of the birds in the air, and praises and thanksgiving come from my heart, also. Oh, that men could see the need of loving, serving and praising God for His tender love to them!

Our campmeeting, which is always during the Easter vacation, has come and gone, but we still see the effects of it and feel the effects of it in our souls. The Lord blessed us all, and all of the meeting, from the beginning unto the end. There was a fair attendance of the people from here in the village. Of course, we would have been so very happy if more would have come, but, as in every place, many haven't come to realize their need of God yet.

Sis. Mildred Sherman, Bro. Carnell Montgomery, and a young couple who have recently been saved, came from the States and were with us the first part of the meeting. Bro. and Sis. Mayarino Escobar from

Ojos Negros and a pick-up full of folks came and stayed all through the meeting unto the end. We had a wonderful time in the Lord with precious messages from heaven. There was only one person who went to the altar, and we felt many more should have gone, for we could feel and see conviction because of God's Word and His Spirit. This, of course, put a real heaviness on our hearts, and yet we realize the choice is with each individual. At least, all had the opportunity to hear God's Word.

Our ordinance service seemed especially precious as we remembered with what great love the Master began this form of service. It made us all feel closer to God and to each other.

We feel the meeting was a real success, especially for our young saved people. They took part in the meeting by singing specials, testifying, and some taught the children's meetings that we had during the general service. Since the campmeeting, I can see an over-all encouragement in different ones, including myself.

Don't think all went well with us before the meeting and during the meeting. Satan presented himself in many ways. It was a struggle all the way, mainly sickness, then one thing and another came, but through it all we feel the meeting was a real victory and we are still rejoicing.

You asked about the payments on the truck. We are so grateful that the balance is getting smaller. We still owe \$2,316.16. The payments are paid up until March of 1980, and we are paying it off as quickly as we can. We want to humbly thank each one who has so kindly helped, and no doubt sacrificed a lot to do so. We do appreciate it, and your love and concern for us and God's work here in this place. We want to be faithful to the Lord and the people here and the saints of God. We want to be faithful ambassadors of the Lord.

We will close, trusting that God is blessing your lives and that you have good victory over the enemy.

With Christian love, —Edith and Paulino Lara

PRAYER REQUEST

Mexico—Please pray for Sis. Lupe's child who has cancer of the bone. The mother desires the will of God to be done. Pray, also, for our coming campmeeting, July 2nd through 8th, and for us.

—Bro. Mayarino Escobar and family

Man has a higher life than the physical life. He possesses a moral, or spiritual, being; and this spiritual being has life. It is in the life of this spiritual being that we find the difference between saint and sinner. The sinner is alive in sin but dead to God; while the saint is dead to sin and alive to God. The nature of their moral being is directly opposite. There is no communion nor affinity between them in a spiritual sense.

—C. E. Orr

“God always gives His Best to those who leave the choice to Him.” —Sel.

From the Mail Box . . .

Pa.—Greetings in that wonderful Name of Jesus! He is the only One on whom we can depend. He is always there, even when our bodies are so tired and afflicted. He knows and cares. . . .

The flowers are so pretty and the trees are getting green leaves after the long, dark winter. That is the plan of God and He gives us so many things to enjoy, and supplies our every need. I do thank and praise Him each day. The same sun that shines on me, shines on you. I pray for you to have strength and wisdom for each day's tasks. . . .

I am reading the Bible through again. Right now I'm in I Kings. The children of Israel had many battles to fight when they didn't please God, and they lost. After King Solomon asked for wisdom and understanding, he sinned by following the ways of his wives. Just like today, sin abounds so much everywhere. People aren't thinking of eternity. They think of “just have a good time today and no tomorrow—no eternity.” How sad! I can only thank God that my Christian mother taught us the way of God and to be ready when Jesus comes. . . . She lived a true Christian life before all of us. Her life is a testimony even though she is gone.

May God bless you and all who work there as you get out the printed page to try to win some to Christ. Those who do accept it will truly find peace and happiness in the Lord. Trials and troubles will come also, but we'll have the Lord to lean on.

Your Sister in Christ, —Eva Cox

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

Canada—Dear Sis. Miles and Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in Jesus' precious name! . . . My dad told me one evening, as he was reading *God's Gracious Dealings* and praying, that the glory of the Lord filled the room. It was such a wonderful experience—he just wanted to go to heaven!

In memory of our loving mother, Sis. Sophia Krueger, my sister, Margaret, and I are enclosing an offering. Mother went to be with the Lord on May 15, 1978. How I thank God for blessing us with such wonderful Christian parents!

Please pray for us and our unsaved loved ones. Christian love, —Martha McMorran

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

Texas—Dear people of God: I noticed in your paper that you have reprinted E. E. Byrum's book, *Divine Healing for Soul and Body* in the German language. How I wish we were able to have all his books reprinted. Should you ever reprint this one in the English language, and if I am still living, I would like to get one. I am 88 years of age and Bro. Byrum has been in my home. I used to read the *Gospel Trumpet*, and it was full of testimonies of healing and other good testimonies.

May God bless your efforts to reach men and women for Him. Deep down in my soul is a prayer for an old-time, Holy Ghost revival, and that we will all come back to the old paths.

Yours in Jesus, —Mrs. Lula Noble

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

La.—Dear saints: We feel that it is the Lord's will for us to write what great things He has done for us.

As many of you know, when our little girl was born Feb. 13, she was seriously afflicted with a birth defect commonly called open spine. There was an opening near the end of her backbone and the spinal cord was exposed. Below the place where the cord was protruding was a sac filled with spinal fluid. She couldn't move one of her legs, and both feet were badly affected because, according to the doctors, the nerves were paralyzed. Although we told the doctors that we preferred to trust God and take the baby home, they sent her to New Orleans to a big hospital there. Right away she developed an infection that we were told was meningitis, which is usually fatal in infants, and was caused by the exposure of the spinal cord. The doctor gave permission to have the baby prayed for, so Bro. and Sis. Bob Forbes, Sis. LaVern Manuel and Troy went to the hospital in Intensive Care and anointed and prayed for Amy. The Lord gave Sis. Dorall Forbes the Scripture, "They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Mark 16:18. The Lord heard, and in a few days the infection was gone. They had said we could bring her home, but then they began to work on us to let them operate on her back and put the cord back in place, so finally in order to be able to bring her home, we gave our consent. It was a dark time, but God and the dear saints stood by us, and we committed our baby completely into God's hands, to live or die as He saw fit. She had the operation when she was only 10 days old, and much to their surprise she was able to come home the 5th day. They said some babies that have that operation have to stay for weeks, but we are serving a mighty God. The doctor said he couldn't heal her, that there was nothing he could do about her legs, but she can use them now. God healed the paralysis. Her feet still aren't normal, but we are expecting complete victory.

Before we left the hospital, we had to promise to bring her back if her head started swelling. The condition known as "water head" sometimes develops in babies with this defect, and surely enough, in a few days her head began to grow. So we had to take her back for another operation, this time to put a tube inside her skull to drain the fluid down into the abdominal cavity. We don't understand why all this was allowed to happen, but God knows, and we can only trust His wisdom and pray for grace. The baby is still not fully released to us. We have to keep in touch with doctors, but every time they see her, they have a more favorable report, and we know God is answering prayer. This baby is a shining example of a real miracle. We can't thank God enough for what He has done for her, and it has been a real spiritual blessing to us.

We want to thank everyone of you for your prayers, calls, offerings, and expressions of love

and concern for us. Surely God's family is one. When one suffers, we all suffer. Continue to pray for us. We want the baby to be able to walk normally, and we believe God is going to finish the work.

Much love, —Troy and Chris Gentry

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

N. C.—Dear Sis. Marie and precious co-workers in the Lord: We are thankful for God's goodness unto us. We were very sick last week, but praise the Lord, He heard and answered prayer again. He has been so very good to us of late. We just can't thank Him enough. We love Him more and more each day.

Looking back over our life, we thought we loved our husband when we were first married twenty years ago, but not like we do today. It is the same with our Lord. Looking back, we loved Him when He saved our souls, but our love has grown more and more each day. He has done so much for us, how could we keep from loving Him. Praise His holy name!

We are moving to Ahsokie, North Carolina. Please remember us in prayer that our lives will be pleasing to the Lord. May we be the example of our Lord's beautiful Church. We love the Church of God and don't want others to see us, but Christ within us.

Pray for us, as we want to be faithful and make heaven our home.—The Richard Sizemores

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ohio—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings to you in the name of Jesus. We trust that all is well with you and the other co-workers at the Lord's Print Shop.

I am yet pressing forward in the Lord's service. I appreciate the blessings of the Lord over the past year. Many of these blessings were received in trial, and the gold in this could not have otherwise been received. The Lord's dealing in our affairs always brings to our view His perfection if we let Him have His way. In our place, as a vessel, we do not have to settle for something that is incomplete or imperfect, but if we through patience wait for the promise, God's perfect work will manifest itself. When this is the case, we cannot help but give God the glory and the praise. Indeed, we can say at the end of the trial, "that the Lord is very pitiful and of tender mercy." If God has His way in our lives, this will always be our testimony.

At this time, I would like to personally invite you and all lovers of the truth to our campmeeting here in Akron, Ohio, to be held July 6th through the 15th. We are looking for the Lord to send prayer warriors, burden bearers, saints, and ministers who will assist in promulgating the truth of His Word in this area. We feel that God has a blessing for us in this meeting and are praying for the same. This campmeeting is a new battle and the victory is one that must be prayed down. As your younger brother in the Lord, with the many responsibilities and burdens before us, I solicit your earnest prayers.

—Bro. Keith A. Fuller

Minn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Heb. 13:8. He is our Saviour, Healer, and our Lord. He saved us from a devil's hell. He is a Friend in time of need. He is our All in all! Glory to God in the highest!

With God's help I am still able to get around. Praise His holy name! Great are His tender mercies! Most all Christians believe in His soon coming to take us out of this sin-cursed world! There is trouble throughout the world.

Much Christian love and prayers,

—Andrew Senti

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

Mo.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and Sister Maybelle: Greetings of love in Jesus' precious name. Hope all is going well with you there at the Print Shop, as you labor for His people and for souls. . . .

This last winter I spent quite a bit of time in prayer, fasting and seeking a closer walk with the Lord. I want to say He gave me my heart's desire. At two different times, He gave me a song that meant so much to me, so that I could feast on it for days. The first was, "For He is So Precious to Me." The words and truth of this song revealed to my soul how precious Christ is to me. The next song was page 259 in the *Evening Light Songs*, "Bear the Cross." Other songs about the cross were also precious to me, (pages 214, 218, and 248). . . .

Bro. Lewis Williams often says, "There is a message in every song." The truth is, we do not always get the message, but it is precious when we do. . . .

—T. V. McMillian

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

New Mex.—Dear Sister Marie and all saints: Greetings of love in the precious name of Jesus. Trust everyone is well and happy in the service of our dear Lord and Saviour. I know you have much to do, keeping you all very busy.

The little papers, books, and all the literature, are so very good to read. It is such an encouragement to keep me pressing on to that mark of the high calling in Christ Jesus. Thanks for the tracts and your good letters. May God bless you every one in Jesus' name.

Please remember Francis Doolittle. He is not well. Also, Nancy still needs prayer. I thank every one for your prayers. . . .

I am sending my gift to help some and also some for the missionary work.

Christian love, —Ruth Doolittle

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

Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and workers at the Lord's Print Shop: We send greetings of love in Jesus' dear and precious name! Here are a few lines to let you hear from us. We do appreciate hearing from the saints. We have received many letters and cards, but I cannot answer them all. So this will do for all.

We are not discouraged, but are standing upon God's precious promise where we have stood for many years! He has not failed one word of His promise! We are determined to trust Him to the

end. God has been good to us. He has healed Bro. Abbott from that awful yellow color and weakness. He is able to drive our car now and we love to go to services. Last Sunday, May 6th, he delivered a wonderful message from God's Word! We can never thank and praise Him enough for His many blessings.

I am not well, but am able to get around and do the little things in the home. "To God be the glory for all He has done!" Amen and Amen.

—Bro. and Sis. S. E. Abbott

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

La.—Dear Bro. Lawrence, Sis. Marie, and all the dear ones at the Print Shop: I am so thankful to our Lord for all of His goodness and mercy to me and to all who put their trust in Him. Truly He is all in all to me! How can we ever repay Him? We do want to do all we can to help others find help and strength that can only come through our blessed Saviour. . . .

Bro. Lawrence, we are still praying God to work a blessing on you and that you can soon have victory over your battle. Oh, what a mighty God we serve!

I have a request for prayer and ask all there to pray with me that God will work in this great need.

We are enjoying much good through the preached Word. We are much encouraged. Surely we know there is no help except through our Lord and Saviour. Bro. Bob Forbes and Sis. LaVern Manuel are both such dedicated servants. We are so very blessed to have them with us.

We love all the dear saints everywhere and are endeavoring to do all we can to help others find the way to peace and happiness here, and when our race is run, find a home of peace and rest for ever more in heaven.

Christian love to all, —Sis. Ada Short

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

Ohio—Dear Sis. Marie and saints abroad: I send greetings of love in the wonderful name of our Lord this beautiful sunny morn. Just as the sun is brightening and illuminating the earth, so has the Son of righteousness shone in my heart and life.

This past fall and winter have been one big battleground for me. While I was expecting our second child, the baby was lying on the sciatic nerve that goes down my left leg. This caused me to have great difficulty in walking and carrying out the duties of life. My mother came to do my house cleaning. My husband did the laundry. My sister did some baby-sitting with our two-year-old. The Church offered to help. It got so bad I could hardly turn over in bed or even get out of bed. To get out of bed I would have to make as many as three tries before succeeding. While walking I limped badly.

During this time I had weekly appointments at the hospital for natural childbirth classes. There was a long walk from the parking lot to the hospital entrance. One week I was allowed to park in a different lot and go to the emergency

entrance where I was taken by wheelchair to my destination. When time to leave, I was wheeled back within a few steps of the car.

In the meantime the Lord was giving me great encouragement. "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." II Tim. 2:3. This is the Scripture God gave me. I felt confident the Lord was going to undertake. The hardest to bear was seeing others come in and do my work, although it was for only a short period of time. I felt I was being a burden.

One night about a week after being anointed and prayed for, I was preparing for bed. I noticed I was getting along better than usual. I could even get into bed easier. I knew then the Lord had healed me. I began to mend from that hour.

I am acquainted with a lady who was in this same condition when expecting her child. However, it paralyzed her side and the doctor had to assist the mother during delivery, from which the baby has a scar today. I consider myself greatly blessed of God. My nurse and doctor didn't expect me to improve until the baby was born. "Then hopefully you'll be better," it was said.

"What did you do?" the nurse asked in great surprise. I replied, "We feel prayer did it." She lowered her eyes in embarrassment.

Sandra Lynne was born a month later, 9 lb., 13 oz. She was pronounced a very healthy baby.

I had dreaded labor, since with my firstborn I experienced what the majority term as "a hard time." The Lord sent Sandra so fast that I just got to the hospital in time. It was all over before I got to see my husband.

When coming home from the hospital, our son, Timmy, had a deep cold. Eventually the baby got it. She almost developed pneumonia. My mother stayed a week with us during the worst. It was a battle night and day. Prayer was our only medicine. The Lord healed her. She didn't even lose weight.

Timmy would get over one cold and soon get another. Sometimes he would feel feverish and vomit. Whenever he would come down with a cold, the baby would usually get it, too. About the first of March the Lord blessed the children with a marked improvement.

Due to all this, I was in Church services very little. Someone else had to teach my children's Sunday school class. The latter part of March Bro. Tom Melot held a revival in Dayton. I was really looking forward to it, having missed so many services the past fall and winter. I had my cup turned up for the Lord to fill as He saw best. I wanted all I could get. I have never been in a meeting quite like that one. It was a true revival, for saints and sinners alike. The Church was revived and several were saved to the extent it seems like a new congregation to us.

On Sunday, March 25, the afternoon message was a call for gospel workers to labor in the King's vineyard. For some time I had felt the Lord was

wanting something more out of me, but I hadn't been able to pinpoint it. Over the past year or two, the Lord has been showing me specific needs in the local congregation. I became dissatisfied with just teaching children. (For me this was not normal. Children have always been the apple of my eye.) I felt like I didn't "fit" in Christ's Body anymore. The Lord spoke to me that Sunday afternoon of March 25, during the message, as the call was given out to work in the Lord's vineyard. "I want you to labor in the Word," He said. My reply? "Yes, Lord. I'll do anything, except preach." Knowing that having reservations with God will lead one down a dead-end street, I consented to preach should the Lord command.

Monday morning following the revival I stayed up to pray after my husband left for work. While in prayer, the Lord so blessed me that I laughed and cried and finally had to quit. That evening was cottage prayer meeting at Sis. Key's. I put in a prayer request for myself, that the Lord would reveal to me the job He had for me. Next morning, Tuesday, I again stayed up to pray after Richard went to work. Prior to this, the Lord had been bringing Scriptures to my mind, but on this morning the Lord gave me a specific text while in prayer. I got my Bible, paper, and pen. After some study I had a ten to fifteen minute talk on my hands. I thought the Lord wanted me to get up in prayer meeting and deliver it. However, He caused the material to grow. It multiplied on my hand until I found I had a Bible study. The Lord spoke, "I want you to teach this particular lesson this Friday at the chapel. You tell the congregation that it is for everyone—the children, youth, adults, the elderly. I am giving you the Divine call in Ephesians 4:11 to be a teacher. The reason you have been passing through the furnace this past fall and winter is to help qualify you for your place in my Body (the Church of God). You have been in my school of learning. Now I am opening the furnace door. I want you to help feed my flock and start teaching adults."

(I have worked with children since about the age of twelve, taught elementary education in public schools for seven years, and taught children's Sunday school class fourteen years. This is the first time in my life that God has said clearly and definitely, "You are a teacher" as stated in Ephesians 4:11.)

At Wednesday night prayer meeting I told the congregation what the Lord had revealed to me. Later, I learned they thought I was going to teach the adult Sunday school class. Having been used to teaching children, I didn't feel qualified to speak on the adult level. I also felt other adults were more knowledgeable than I. But the Lord said to me, "The adults are just children, my children. Think of them in that way. As for feeling ignorant in the Scriptures, you just teach what you know. Then I'll give you more."

Every day that week the Lord revealed His will a little plainer to me. I didn't have a burden for

teaching the adult Sunday school class. The Lord showed me why on Thursday following prayer meeting. "I want you to be a student," He said. "You need to be taught as well as everyone else. I'm giving you that space of time to learn lessons you can't get anywhere else. Besides, I want another worker to fill that position." That same day the Lord definitely let me know I was to resign the teaching of the Sunday school class for the children. He also had revealed to me whom He had chosen to take my place.

The Lord burdened me to organize sewing classes mainly for the benefit of the new sisters. The experienced sisters volunteered to teach in their homes those desiring instruction. This was set up as one day a week, perhaps a three to four hour period, for about six weeks, until campmeeting season. This should allow time to complete one garment, a beginning. After that, those learning to sew may not require as much concentrated assistance. Who was to teach whom was determined geographically (traveling distance).

In teaching the Word, the Lord has given me the main burden of teaching adult Bible studies. In addition to this, He has instructed me to speak to the young people and to the children at such time He should lay a burden upon me for that.

The Lord is wanting me to do some writing. I wasn't too eager to comply, as this is hard work. It is also very time consuming. With a six-month baby and a toddler, I find much of my time is occupied with the three C's of home—caring, cleaning, and cooking. However, the Lord impressed me He would not put any more on me than I was able to bear, to move slowly, and one step at a time, as He would so lead.

In summary, I have taken a high dive and landed in DEEP water. Naturally speaking, I have always been somewhat afraid of the water. I never learned to swim. Spiritually speaking, in obeying the voice of God, I have launched out into the DEEP. Somewhere between the dive and entering the water, the Lord threw me a pair of fins. This has enabled me to keep my head above water, thus maintaining clear vision.

As the Lord guides me step by step, this will lead me out into deeper depths of truth. I believe He will give me any additional equipment He deems necessary to keep me from sinking.

May I invite you to join me in the depths of God's love? Won't you come on in and leave the shoreline behind? The water is just fine. Can you wholeheartedly say, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Can you be as Isaiah and answer, "Here am I; send me"? Isa. 6:8.

Please include me in your prayer list.

Sincerely, —Nancy Bethel

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: I would like to have an explanation of what is the difference between **sickness** and **afflictions** in James 5:13,14. I would like to know what all **afflictions** take in. I have several afflictions on my body, but I don't consider myself sick, so I just pray for myself.

Answer: I will insert here the full text of James 5:13,14: "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord."

The dictionary defines *afflict* as: "To give pain which is continued or of some permanence to body or mind; to trouble, grieve or distress. (To persecute). One can be afflicted with a disease or with melancholy, losses or misfortunes." It lists synonyms as: "Torment, distress, trouble, grieve, harass, pain, disquiet."

Disquiet is defined as "Uneasiness, restlessness, want of tranquility in body or mind, disturbance, anxiety."

Distress is defined as "To afflict greatly; to afflict with pain or anguish, to harass, to oppress or crush with calamity, to make miserable."

Grieve is defined as "To feel pain of mind or heart; to be in pain on account of an evil; to sorrow or mourn, to grieve for a dead friend or grieve at a calamity that befell him."

All of this ground is covered in the term *afflict*. Some of these things also overflow into the dictionary definition of the term *sick*. It might be a little difficult to draw a sharp line of distinction between *affliction* as it might affect the physical body and the term *sickness*. It seems in a general sense, any physical ailment or disorder would come under the heading of *sickness*, while *affliction* would more generally apply to one's being troubled, distressed, burdened, grieved, offended, persecuted or, etc. The Scriptures also generally agree with this.

In Gen. 41:52 we read where Joseph named his second son Ephraim and said, "For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction." His *affliction* in this case was his slavery and separation from his family in a strange land. In I Sam. 1:11, we read where Hannah, who was barren, but afterward by a direct miracle of God, became the mother of Samuel, was praying and said, "O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, . . ." Eli, the priest, saw her lips moving as she prayed but heard no sound coming from her lips, so reproved her for being drunk. Hannah answered him thus in verse 15, "No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the

"God's love for His children during the period of their severest trial, is as strong and tender as in the days of their sunniest prosperity."

Lord." In this case her *affliction* was her deep sorrow and grief of heart because of being barren and having no children.

In 2 Kings 14:26 we read again, "For the Lord saw the affliction of Israel, that it was very bitter: for there was not any shut up, nor any left, nor any helper for Israel." In 2 Kings 13:4 we see that Israel's affliction was their oppression by the King of Syria. Again in Exodus 3:7 we read, "And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows." In verse 8, God continues speaking, "And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, . . ." It is clear in this case that Israel's affliction was their severe oppression by the Egyptians, and their abject slavery unto them, and God came down to deliver them by the hand of Moses.

In Isaiah 53:4 we read of Christ as a man who was afflicted. I know of no Scripture referring to Jesus ever being sick, but He was "A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." Isa. 53:3. He was persecuted, despised, rejected. As the weight of the sins of all mankind, including our own, fell on Him, His soul became exceeding sorrowful unto death. (Mark 14:34.) He bore a great weight of grief because of the unbelief and hardness of the people's hearts and the severe burdens and troubles they were in on account of this. Mark 3:5, Matt. 9:36, Mark 6:34, Matt. 14:14. On one occasion when Jesus came near to Jerusalem and beheld the city, He wept over it because of realizing the great calamities which would befall its people, not far hence. These were the afflictions of Christ.

Concerning the time of these severe calamities Jesus said in Mark 13:19, "For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be." In this case their affliction was to be the great tribulations they were to suffer. In 2 Cor., chapter 4, Paul speaks of his being troubled, perplexed, persecuted, cast down, bearing in his body the dying of the Lord Jesus, and in verse 17, he says, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, . . ." In this case all of these things constituted his affliction. In 2 Cor. 8:1,2, Paul speaks of the brethren of Macedonia, "How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality." Their affliction was deep poverty and great material need. Also Paul said in Phil. 4:14 in regard to a financial contribution the Phillippian brethren had sent him, ". . . ye did communicate with my affliction."

I could go on extensively with such texts, but it is not necessary. These texts surely confirm the scriptural use of the term *affliction*, and I find no place in this whole chain of Scriptures where affliction refers to physical or bodily ailments. The terms used to describe these in the Scriptures are "sickness, disease, plague, infirmity."

Therefore, it is concluded that one's wounds, bruises, hurts, offences, griefs, sorrows, troubles, burdens, persecutions, tribulations, and such like are afflictions about which one should pray until he has prayed out from under them and triumphed over them until he can be merry and can sing psalms. Neither is it forbidden to them to seek agreement of prayer from others in whom they confide. But these are things in which the individual needs to pray through for himself and gain his own victory. Also, that any physical ailment or disorder that a person may have (including arthritis, eczema, nerve disorders and anything which causes pain, discomfort or torment)—things which we ordinarily think of as afflictions—should be anointed with oil by the Elders of the church and prayed for with the expectation of being healed according to Jas. 5:14,15 and Mark 6:13.

The Whirlpool of Worldly Pleasure

In the light of divine Scripture that "perilous times shall come" (II Tim. 3:1b), we recognize that these times are here by the evidence before us.

The word *perilous* tells us of things that are hazardous, dangerous, unsafe, risky; open to attack on every side; insecure and shaky. It also implies dangerous possibilities that should be avoided or dealt with most carefully. (Webster's Dictionary). These are the signs of the end of time that Bro. Paul was declaring to Bro. Timothy.

With a burdened heart I am concerned about this present evil world and souls that are involved and trapped in its present condition.

Paul mentioned a category of sins that would be prominent near the end of time. The two that we wish to emphasize are as follows: lovers of self, and lovers of pleasures. These are quite prevalent in the world today.

Webster defines *pleasure* as follows: "enjoyment, happiness, joy, delight, gratification, cheer, bliss, elation, gaiety, mirth, fun, entertainment, recreation, festivity, desire, indulging in carnal appetites, that which pleases and satisfies." Let's refresh our minds with the thought that God created all things for His pleasure. Rev. 4:11. God also designed that man could have pleasure in serving Him. In Psalms 16:11 we read, "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

Adam and Eve were created in a pleasant atmosphere. God made all things good, and it pleased Him. In God's presence Adam and Eve enjoyed full communion with God, coupled with pleasure and joy ultimately. Sin was unknown and holiness reigned supremely. It was not long, however, until we see the enemy of truth invading the garden—the serpent, the subtil one. He attacked God by persuading the woman to listen to him. Satan knew that if he could work through the avenue of pleasure (that which pleases the physical senses), mankind would centralize his thoughts on himself and soon forget

God. Through this avenue of self-love Satan could project his plans, and his work of deception could be established. Eve listened and yielded, then Adam, and we see the results today.

A whirlpool, from which part of our title is drawn, is "water moving rapidly in a circle so as to produce a depression in the center into which floating objects may be drawn." (Webster's Dictionary). This creates the same reaction as that of a drunken man, putting one in a stupefied state that draws him away from the real purpose of life.

The spirit of the world makes man the central figure of all its activity, and its sole purpose in life is physical pleasure. God is left out and forgotten. Self-love is attracted by the spirit of the world in the form of entertainment, fashion, festivities, love of money and popularity, until mankind is engulfed with much sorrow. (I Tim. 6:9).

The entertainment world was designed for the pleasure of man, giving him false hope, false joys, and deceitful bliss which last for a season (Heb. 11:25), blinding him to the true joys of salvation. God was never in this design and never will be. The things included in the entertainment world are as follows: theaters, dance halls, pool halls, gambling casinos, sports in the professional field, skating rinks, bowling alleys, rodeos, television, mixed swimming, night clubs, carnivals, circuses, the field of music, the juke box playing rock music and worldly love songs which promote the spirit of lust, and all such like.

We want to emphasize the fact that there are spirits that accompany these areas of entertainment. In Gal. 5:20 we read that one of the works of the flesh is emulation. This spirit dominates the sports and gambling world. Webster defines *emulation* as follows: "to strive to equal or excel, trying to outdo someone with a revengeful attitude, to beat or overthrow an opponent in order to win or excel." This spirit can be found in backyard games at home if the motive is other than wholesome exercise of mind and body; but in the professional field this spirit dominates the game, and its influence is easily detected and affects the spectators. This area is a dangerous place for souls to be found to be attracted by this spirit. The spirits of revelry, pride and lasciviousness also dominate these areas of entertainment. "Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory." Phil. 2:3.

Any pleasure that dulls the sense of spiritual discernment until one finds himself losing the ability to see evil in the things he once regarded wrong is too near the borderline of sin. This desire for worldly pleasure always leads to idolatry and excessive love for self.

We must recognize that recreation is necessary and godly as long as its true purpose is kept in mind. The original definition for recreation is *a creating again*, hence, a refreshment of body or mind by pleasurable exercise, to rest, relax, edify or improve. If it injures or tears down body, mind or

soul, it is not recreation. There is an area of pleasure where God can still be respected and we will not endanger our soul in flirting with the world. These are as follows: fishing, visiting the zoo, taking a lunch to the park, visiting friends, and playing outdoor games with the family or friends with no revelry. God can lead and show us which area is best to *re-create* our soul, mind, and body if we are willing to follow His voice. Even in these areas we need to watch so we don't overindulge and become "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." Bro. Paul wrote in Gal. 5:16, "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." Pray and read the Word.

More could be written on these thoughts. May God give the increase to edification.

—Bro. Donald Sharp

The Heavenly Highway



Two ways run through this dark land,
Two ways in which the people stand;
One way is smooth, the other rough;
One is crooked, low and tough.
One way is dark with dismal gloom,
But for the crowd, there's plenty room.

The other way is straight and narrow,
And just a few that walk therein;
But they're joyful, singing praises,
Saved and washed from all their sin.

Jesus said, "I am the Way,
Take up your cross and follow me."
He is the Way, the Truth, and Light—
No more stumbling there need be.

With darkness past, the light is shining.
We're headed Homeward, safe in His fold.
We are nearing the crossing of the river,
And soon we'll enter those gates of gold.

Glory, hallelujah, we'll never more roam,
But sing with all redeemed ones of Home,
sweet Home.

Brother, sister, will you meet me
Where we'll never say "good-bye"?
But we'll ever praise our Saviour
In the Home beyond the sky.
There we'll ever be together
In a never-ending day,
Where all the blood-washed army
Shall forever stay. —Ulysses Phillips

NO OTHER NAME

No other name can save me,
No other name beside,
But Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
Him whom they crucified.

—Edward M. Brandt