

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



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Guthrie, Oklahoma

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God's High and Holy Standard

It is a holy way of life
That God would have us go:
So pure, so true, and free from strife
In this time world below.

Denying worldly lusts, we yield
Our hearts and lives to Him
Who all our sins and sorrows healed
With joys that never dim.

Above the dark unholy mass
Of blind humanity
The grace of God would have us pass
That all the world might see.

The fruits of honesty and toil
Spring forth from lives so pure,
Integrity will keep from soil
Our garments safe and sure.

Upon the altar we remain
A living sacrifice
To prove what is that lasting gain:
The will of God precise.

While all around immoral ways
Are lavished and upheld,
We seek to win the Saviour's praise
By His great love compelled.

To let the standard down an inch
Gives room and license for
The next one down to think a cinch
To let it down some more.

Hold high the standard, live the life
That glorifies the Lord;
Don't compromise with worldly strife
Their favor to afford.

Pursue His holiness divine
And walk with Him in white,
And as it doth upon thee shine
Keep walking in the light!

—Leslie C. Busbee

A Personal Invitation

This is a personal invitation to find the best thing there is in this old world—salvation! Salvation means *deliverance*.

Maybe your first reaction is, "I don't need a thing! I'm happy as I am." Are you? Don't you really feel a need? Don't you really want a better life? Better than you have found heretofore? Are things so perfect for you that you just are not interested in making any changes?

I want you to think. God says, "Come and let us reason together." Salvation needs to be sought for, for a reason, not just with emotion. Sure, there may be some emotion, but emotions are not to be trusted in. They can lead you anywhere, into worse things than what you already are experiencing. Emotions do not last. Reason does and will, through eternity. Emotions are like the tides of the sea, now up, now down. Would you trust your only hope on something as unstable as the sea?

This life is so uncertain. From one day to the next, who knows what it holds? There is one thing certain about this life — it will end! Look about you. You see people getting older. (You are, too!) See the accidents; see the destruction; see the changes in your own life, and in the lives of others. Are they getting better? Consider these things carefully; reason about them. Do you see any positive evidence that the way you are going will bring any real profit to you?

Consider—are you any better off than you were in times past? Are you happier now? More content? Are you satisfied with your life as it is now? Are your troubles less? Are they apt to be so as time goes on? Have you any real assurance for the future?

Consider this! This world is going to end! It might, and could, end for you before the last trumpet sounds and the great judgment is ushered in. People are dying all the time, every day! And, they aren't all old people! You don't know that you will live to be old.

Oh, yes, the enemy of your soul wants you to feel that you have plenty of time! "No hurry, no need to

make any serious commitments or decisions now: you have plenty of time — wait!" And so it goes.

Remember the devil is a liar! His only purpose is to deceive you, get you to put off the most important, most valuable, wisest and richest choice you can ever make! "Just wait; plenty of time for old foggy stuff like religion. Wait until your death-bed, wait wait, WAIT! So you waste precious time, letting it slip through your fingers. All the time the devil is chaining you tighter and tighter, so you will never get loose. Aren't you being foolish?"

Sure, salvation costs you something! Why shouldn't it? It cost the life's blood of the Son of God, the only person who ever lived a perfect life with no sin, no faults. Jesus didn't leave heaven for His own pleasure. Why would He want to leave a place where there is no sin or trouble and come to a world filled with all the things that are wrong here? He came only to give Himself so men could be saved from the awful effects of sin and have a better hope.

Can you read the story (a true story) of Jesus and be unmoved by it? Can you read how He was hated without a cause; mocked, and set at naught (counted of little worth) by Herod and his soldiers; scourged, crowned with thorns, arrayed with a purple robe in mockery, and think you would not have treated Him so? He was scorned by those He came to save! You think you wouldn't have treated Him so, but you are!

You feel there is injustice in the world? You get "uptight" because some things aren't right? Yet you think nothing of how scornful you are towards the only One who died to save you from a burning hell. Yes, you scorn Him!

Read the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John concerning the trial and death of Jesus. Think about the injustices done to the One who "went about doing good, healing the sick, casting out devils, and raising the dead." You wouldn't treat anyone like that? But you are! You care nothing for Jesus! You do not consider that He has any right to your love and affection because He has given you every good thing you will ever have in this world, or in the world to come. He made a way for you to escape the wrath that is soon to come upon this old world. How unjust you are towards the Son of God! You aren't even interested enough to go to meeting and hear about Him. You scorn the company of those who love the Lord and who want to do right. You choose the things that are corrupting you, defiling you, and the things that are destroying your body. Is that good sense?

Have you lost all desire to do right and to live right? Even if it seems true, doesn't reason tell you it is unprofitable to live in sin? What real good is in it? How lasting are the pleasures you have? Where is your peace? The Bible says the wicked are like the troubled sea, they cast up mire and dirt. "There is no peace to the wicked," saith the Lord.

Now let me tell you how good salvation is. I have already said that salvation means deliverance. Can you imagine what joy a slave would have who was

freed from the most cruel and heartless master? Can you think what it would be like to be set free from a heavy load that you had carried on your back for years and years — a load that kept you bent double and in pain; that kept you from walking tall and straight? Then — to be loosed and let go — how would you feel?

Can you imagine a storm raging, winds howling, blowing in gale force, destroying, ruining everything in its path? The pelting rain beating down everything green and tender in its path; flashing lightning in searing streaks across the sky; the thunderous crashes that bring terror with their roar, and nowhere a refuge or cover from its fury? But — there is a refuge! Jesus said, "My peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth." But you have to want it, and on His terms.

If that slave knew there was a way to be freed from that cruel master, don't you think he would take that way? If that man with the heavy load knew there was a way to be loosed from that awful burden, wouldn't he be a fool to keep carrying that back-breaking load?

Are you tired of sin? There is a better way and it is worthwhile! It's a good way; there is peace, joy and hope on that way. It pays now and will pay more in eternity. Will you cast such a deliverance aside so lightly? Can you be so foolish? Consider what I say, and the Lord give thee understanding!

—Thelma Sprague

Visions of Victory

1 John 5:4, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world, and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

I had a couple of visions a few weeks ago, a few nights apart. In the first one, I saw Jesus standing on a little hill apart from His saints. He was clothed with light, bright and shining. His vesture was light gold. He had golden hair. He was smiling. He was alone, but was confident of victory in the fight against the devils. They were trying to get to Him, but they could not touch Him. Praise the Lord! The saints that were near Him were fighting devils, and down from them in the valley other saints were also fighting devils, and Jesus was motioning for His saints to fight harder, saying, "Fight harder, fight harder, fight harder!" wanting them to put forth a greater effort to gain the victory. The battle was a fierce one. There seemed to be dozens of devils trying to prevail over them, but even though the devils gained some ground, the saints fought harder and won the victory. Praise the Lord!

The second vision was that of saints again in a battle against the devils, and some saints had won a victory. Looking up on a hill I saw a lone saint. The devils were surrounding him, coming from behind him, but he didn't realize it. We called to him. There was one devil with a big knife, but we did not see what happened to him.

Dear ones, we are fighting devils and they are real. In these visions which Bro. Gene Harmon had, the

Lord is warning us all to close ranks and fight together. "United we stand, divided we fall." We need each other and we must fight harder in these last days. We see that the enemy of souls has overcome some and yet is overcoming others. In 1 Peter 4:7, 8, Peter tells us, "But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins."

We cannot slack up or the devil will overtake us. In Eph. 4:27 we read, "Neither give place to the devil." We are in the battle for our lives. Let us be diligent in our service to the Lord by watchfulness and prayerfulness, lest we be moved from our steadfastness. We are truly in the shaking time, and we must press harder in our battle against the foe if we want to go to heaven. Titus 2:12-14 warns us to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.

We feel that these visions give a definite warning to all God's children to press harder in this battle, and to take courage, as it won't be long until we will receive our crown. —Bro. Gene and Sis. Loretta Harmon

An Unforgiving Attitude

Two sisters were confined to a German concentration camp during World War II. The women had to do work beyond their strength while being served very thin soup. Because one of the sisters wasn't physically able to carry a heavy load, she was whipped. Both of them were mistreated in various ways. Both wanted to live for God, yet they had their inner struggles.

That evil monster called "hate" would try to raise its head up in their hearts and dominate their whole mind and being. One had power in her heart to resist any thought of hatred, but the other one had her battles and would give way to its overwhelming spirit of depression and hate. One day she said, "I hate these Nazis!" The one who had been whipped said, "Oh, no, we must forgive. We cannot hate, but we want to have God's love in our hearts for them." This sister was in touch with God and died in that camp with victory in her soul. The other sister was later released and told about her sister's triumphant life.

There is nothing like an unforgiving attitude that will eat like a canker sore into the heart and life of a person, and bring many unpleasant thoughts and bitterness. More people will choose to go to hell over an unforgiving attitude than those who have committed murder through burglary. Often one will hear the remark made, "I'll never forgive them for what they have done to me!" That person is choosing hell for his eternal destiny. It's just that plain, and God's Word is very plain on this subject. Jesus clearly said, "But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." Mark 11:26. There is no doubt about what God requires of us. It is either forgive or suffer the consequences.

Someone might say, "But you don't know what they did to me and how they treated me." Oh, yes, there are many terrible things done by people who have hatred and unforgiveness in their hearts! There is a force which drives them to do things that later they wish they had not done, but they were helpless under the Satanic evil spirit. Thank God, there is a way of deliverance from evil spirits! It is only through Christ! That one who sees his wrong attitudes and confesses them, seeking God for forgiveness of his awful sin, can find peace in Christ. That person can forgive! It is not done through human strength, but only through Christ. One man got up from an altar and sought out the person whom he had intended to kill, and asked his forgiveness for his hatred. Others have done similar things. Only through Christ can we find power to forgive.

The devil will work on those who are saved and sanctified. He will present a little ill-feeling toward a person. The child of God will use the power of the Holy Spirit and resist that ill-feeling. He knows if he allows it to linger, it will grow and soon take over and cause him to lose his soul. Every time the devil appears with his feelings to place upon God's children, they should hold up the shield of faith and fight that deadly foe.

My father, Bro. Fred Pruitt, received a letter from a person who wrote some false things to him and about him. I read the letter and it was a terrible letter. My father calmly said that he didn't know why that person felt that way about him. He could not recall of having ever mistreated the person in any way or doing anything to cause such awful accusations. He prayed for the individual, but didn't feel led of the Lord to answer the letter. Time passed, and I was with him in a service in the town where this person lived and attended services. After the meeting was over in the chapel, my father was shaking hands with different ones. I saw him shake hands with that person, asking about their health, etc. Finally this person said, "Why didn't you ever answer my letter?" My father replied with a smile, "Did you ever receive a letter that you didn't know how to answer?" Nothing more was said. More time passed, and one day my father received a letter written at the request of this party who was on his deathbed. This person was asking my father's forgiveness for writing that letter. Of course, he had forgiven that person when he first received the letter. He let God take care of the whole situation and God did a marvelous job of it. This is the best way. There may be situations in which a person could go to someone in the spirit of meekness and help get an understanding. Each person must seek God for guidance. The devil could keep a person busy going to someone, if he isn't careful, and not have time to serve the Lord. The devil is a sly old fellow. We need to watch our hearts. "Keep thy heart with all diligence: for out of it are the issues of life." Prov. 4:23.

—Sis. Marie Miles

FAITH AND VICTORY

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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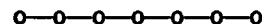
When you get weary and tired of sin,
Jesus is waiting to take you in.
He will fold you in His arms of love,
And prepare you to live in Heaven above.

—Effie Miller

EDITORIALS

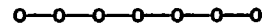


GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS on this first day of autumn, 1979: The campmeetings have ended for the summer season, but some evangelistic tent meetings are continuing. Jesus is still sending out His universal invitation, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17. No one needs to leave this world unprepared to meet God in peace when our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ "tasted death for every man." When mankind was sold under sin to the devil, Jesus paid the full ransom price by the sacrifice of Himself to redeem man back to God. The way is clear by faith for every soul to "plunge into that fountain that was opened in the house of David for sin and uncleanness" and to be made whiter than snow. He can be clothed with the white robes of righteousness that will shine before the throne of judgment. Praise the Lord!



MAIL YEARLY GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW! . . .

Write or **PRINT PLAINLY** the names and addresses of your relatives, friends, and neighbors on a **SEPARATE SHEET** of paper from your letter, and send in the list and remittance at these rates:—Single copy for one year, 35¢; and additional yearly subscriptions are priced at three addresses for \$1.00. Please send in all the subscriptions that you can, and do it **NOW**, so we can start sending this gospel paper of vital Bible truth. Let us continue to be "workers together" in God's great cause to rescue the perishing. The reward will be eternal joy in the presence of our Lord and Saviour when the "golden sheaves" are brought in. Thank you, and may the Lord bless and prosper your efforts in this gospel literature ministry.



This writer and his wife were privileged on Sunday, Sept. 9, to be at the tent meeting held eleven miles south of Norwood, Mo., near the home of Bro. Egbert Allen. Bro. Bob Forbes brought the tent from Hammond, La., and helped in the meeting. Bro. H. Hargrave of Goulds, Fla., ministered the Word in those services. Bro. Allen wrote: "New people came to the meeting each night. I don't think I was ever in a tent meeting that was attended as well as this one. It seemed to have been a seed-sowing time."

On this same trip we had a pleasant visit with two cousins and their husbands on the Lake of the Ozarks near Gravois Mills, Mo., whom we had not seen for several years.



This is to inform our readers and friends of Bro. and Sister Sam E. Abbott that they have re-

cently moved from Pomona, Calif., to 201 E. Forest Drive, Apt. 3, Payson, Arizona 85541. They write that they are enjoying the clear, cool air of the higher elevation out of the smog.

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A Book Reprint Scheduled This Month . . .

Planned to be off the press and available by October 15th is a reprint of the very interesting and inspiring book, "Pioneer Evangelists of the Church of God in the Pacific Northwest" by John L. Green. Out of print for many years, this book consists of 164 pages in a heavy paper cover. The price of the book is \$2.00 each, plus 65c for postage and handling. Send in your order NOW with remittance, and the book will be mailed as soon as it is ready.

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This writer had a long acquaintance, dating back over sixty years, with Brother Clarence Cole Means who departed this life on Aug. 10, 1979, at Clovis, New Mexico, at the age of 87 years. He is survived by his wife, Vada (Smoot) Means, their three children, other relatives, and many friends. May our heavenly Father comfort all the bereaved.

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A tent meeting was scheduled to begin in the town of Loranger, La., on Saturday, Sept. 22. Bro. Tom Melot of Guthrie, Okla., went to help in that meeting. We trust that the Lord sent out the people and anointed for the preaching of the Word in a special way.

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Very Instructive Meeting at the Guthrie Chapel . . .

Bro. and Sister Ostis Wilson, pastors at Jefferson, Oregon, arrived in Guthrie by train on Sept. 15. After officiating at the wedding in Enid, Okla., of Mark Spinks and Elois Eck, our former co-workers in the publishing ministry, Bro. Wilson held a very profitable and inspiring meeting at the chapel here in Guthrie from Sunday, September 16th to the 21st. The Word was preached clear and definite for the instruction and edification of every hearer. Numbers of saints from other congregations were also blessed by attending the services. Those who did not come missed a real feast of spiritual food. Our readers are familiar with and appreciate Brother Wilson's Question and Answer column in this publication each month.

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Church Guest Home Open for Residents . . .

Sister Maude Hornbeck is settled in the Church Guest Home here at Guthrie as the resident caretaker. She is keeping it open for the benefit of our able-bodied, elderly saints. Two nice bedrooms are now available for occupancy at a reasonable price with meals prepared and served in the dining room. All residents have access to the large, furnished living room. The first residents should be a man and his wife, or single women. Elderly, able-bodied members of the Church of God anywhere who desire more information should contact the secretary-treasurer, Brother Bob Saltee, 916 W. Mansur, Guthrie,

Okla. 73044. Contributions are needed and would be thankfully received to help meet the operating expenses and to retire the indebtedness. Pray that this Church Home will prove a real spiritual and temporal blessing to our elderly saints.

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Gospel Work Continuing in the Philippines . . .

Letters are received almost every month from the native missionaries in the Philippine Islands in the far west Pacific Ocean whom Bro. Geo. Hammond contacted last year while he was in that great mission field. They include Brothers Policarpo Encabo, Alberto Jover, Cel Candelas, M. S. Tanguan, Mauricio Santiago, Juan Pascual, and John Nisperos. Pray that these gospel workers will keep a clear vision of the Church that Jesus built which is separate and distinct from all the creeds of men.

—Lawrence Pruitt

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Partial List of Items Available

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

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

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

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

Personal Experiences of S. O. Susag was written by himself, a Norwegian who had many marvelous experiences and answers to prayer as an early-day minister in the Church of God. 191 pages are bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.75.

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

Holy Spirit Baptism and the Second Cleansing by R. R. Byrum. Consists of 108 pages in heavy paper cover. Price, 75c each, or three for \$2.00.

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

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

Evening Light Songs, shaped notes, with 512 pages in a cloth binding. The right hymnal for the Church of God. Price, \$4.00 each.

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

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

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

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

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

Life's Story and Healings by Sister Nellie Poulos. This is a reprint of her first book, plus additional material. This volume contains 160 pages with a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50 each.

The Double Cure, or Redemption Twofold by D. O. Teasley. This book should enlighten the reader on the two works of grace, and correct the thinking of those who deny the cleansing element in sanctification. 160 pages of large print in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50.

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

Lest We Forget by Sister Margaret Eck. 72 pages of many encouraging experiences with the Lord bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 75c each, or three for \$2.00.

God's Gracious Dealings by Fred and L. D. Pruitt. This enlarged Seventh Edition is a history of this gospel publishing ministry in the Church of God for the past sixty years, as well as a record of the work of the Church at large. Contains 496 pages, including more than 100 pictures, in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00 each.

The Second Coming of Christ by Willie C. Murphey. An excellent short treatise on this very important Bible subject. 24 pages in a paper binding. Price, 25c each, or five copies for \$1.00.

The Battle of Armageddon by Ostis B. Wilson. Just off the press, this is a clear exposition of this much misunderstood Bible subject in a 16-page pamphlet. Copies are FREE here at the office. Include postage for mailing copies to your address.

Memoirs of George E. Harmon, sponsored by Vera M. Forbes. Recently off the press, this book is an autobiography of our beloved Bro. George Harmon, a long-time minister in the Church of God, including the record of the memories of a few others who knew him. It will inspire your faith in God. Its 56 pages with four pictures is bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 60c each, or two copies for \$1.00.

The Key to Peace by Marie Miles. Recently off the press is this 32-page booklet, in which the plan of salvation is made plain for young people and adults. The price is 35c each, or three copies for \$1.00.

Divine Healing for Soul and Body by E. E. Byrum. Available ONLY in the German language, it contains 282 pages bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.25.

Church of God Doctrines by C. C. Carver. First published in 1948, this reprint edition contains 180 pages in a heavy paper cover. Out of print for many years, this excellent doctrinal book is now available at this office at the price of \$2.00 each.

To God Be The Glory by Sister Naomi Jennings of Fresno, Calif. A record of her life story in brief and experiences with the Lord, this book contains 48 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, 60c each, or two for \$1.00.

Pioneer Evangelists of the Church of God in the Pacific Northwest by John L. Green. This is a very interesting and inspiring book. Out of print for many years, this reprint edition consists of 164 pages in a heavy paper cover. The price is 2.00 each.

No. 1 Stereo Song Record by the Phillips Evening Light Singers. Fourteen songs by the Phillips family on 33 RPM record. This No. 1 record may be ordered from this office or purchased directly from Bro. Paul Phillips, 1220 Wabash St., Wichita, Kansas 67214. The price is \$5.00 each, plus 84c for postage and handling.

No. 2 Stereo Song Record by the Phillips Evening Light Singers. Eleven songs by the Phillips family—Bro. Paul Phillips and his six children. On the cover for the record is a large picture of the singers. This record No. Two may be ordered from this office or purchased directly from Bro. Paul Phillips, 1220 Wabash Street, Wichita, Kansas 67214. The price is reduced to \$5.00 each, plus 84c for postage and handling.

Stereo Song Record by the Evening Light Gospel Harmonizers. The twelve songs, just recently recorded, are sung by seven California gospel singers and composed by one of the singers, Bro. Philip Matthews of Fresno, California, who is also sponsoring the production of this record. Price, \$6.00 each, plus 90c for postage and the handling.

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

For postage and handling, add 60c for the first dollar and 6c for each additional dollar of total order.

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In Memorial

Hazel Ruth Houck was born June 22, 1908, in Helena, Ark. She died Aug. 4, 1979.

She accepted the Lord Jesus as her personal Saviour early in her marriage and trusted Him for soul and body down to the end. Her last request was that she be read some of God's healings from the *Faith and Victory* paper. We are confident that our loss is heaven's gain.

She is survived by two sons, one daughter, and eight grandchildren, all of Duncannon, Penn.

—Virginia Myers

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Dayne Jean Smith was born May 20, 1977, in Alaska. She departed this life August 9, 1979, at the age of two years, two months and 20 days, in Orland, Calif.

Survivors are her parents: James L. Smith of Alaska and Melody Bowman of the home; and one brother, Michel.

Services were conducted by Sis. Loretta Harmon.

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California State Campmeeting Report

We give thanks, honor and praise to the Lord for how He wonderfully answered prayer in the California State Campmeeting at Pacoima.

God sent forth the truth with authority under the anointing and convicting power of the Holy Spirit. Souls sought the Lord at the altar for salvation, sanctification, spiritual help and healing. Many testified to receiving the blessings.

We were blessed to have Sis. Beverly Reed from Alabama with us for the first time. We praise the Lord for all the ministers and saints that attended from both in and out of state. We appreciate the labors of love and prayers for the meeting.

We pray that all will continue to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord."

—Sis. Wynema Clay

Akron, Ohio, Campmeeting Report

In answer to prayer, the Lord blessed the Akron, Ohio, campmeeting this summer. The definite presence of the Lord was evident throughout the meeting. On two definite occasions the Lord poured out special blessings which opened the meeting up to many shouts of victory and liberty in the Spirit. We appreciate the answer to prayer, and we feel like the blessing has created a greater dedication to the Lord. The meeting left the congregation with a renewed courage to press forward, as we realize there is more land to possess and many souls we sincerely desire to reach. We appreciate the company of saints, ministers and workers who labored in the meeting. Pray for all of those who sought help at an altar of prayer for various soul needs and conditions. Pray also that our commitments to the Lord will be manifest in a deeper experience in grace and a greater outreach to souls in this area.

—Keith A. Fuller

Autumn Meeting at Spencer, Okla.

The annual fall meeting will be held, Lord willing, at the Church of God chapel, 57th and Denver, Spencer, Okla., from Oct. 10 to 14, 1979. You are cordially invited to attend these services. If you are unable to attend, please support the meeting with your prayers.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Herman Kelley, 1504 N.E. 48th St., Okla. City, Ok. 73111, phone (405) 427-7314.

Report of Boley, Okla., Campmeeting

The campmeeting season has come and gone, but we surely thank God for the good we got to our souls during the campmeetings, for the fellowship of the dear saints, and for God's gracious dealings with our hearts. We praise God for it all!

The Boley, Okla., campmeeting was well attended. The Lord was so near and the saints were so dear.

We appreciated the ministers and workers that came to help in the meetings. We thank God for

sending forth His blessed Word anointed of the Holy Ghost, for convicting hearts of their needs, for saving souls, and supplying the needs of the dear saints. We appreciated the altar services.

The ordinance service was very sacred and richly anointed of the Lord, as well as the baptismal service. Praise God! We give thanks and praises to Him for it all! Praise the Lord. —Katherine Williams

Tent Meeting In Louisiana

The church at Shreveport, La., announces a tent meeting to be held four miles east of Bossier City on Highway 80, next to the entrance of the Acadian Mobile Home Park. Services will be held nightly at 7 p.m. from Saturday, Oct. 6 through Sunday, Oct. 14, 1979. Both Sunday morning services will be held in the chapel at 4222 Greenwood Blvd., Shreveport. All are welcome and urged to attend these gospel services. Pray for the planting of the Bible truth and the salvation of souls in that area.

For further information, contact Bro. C. Wilson, phone (318) 636-7488, Bro. A. J. Carver, phone (318) 635-2214, or Bro. S. Dickson, phone (318) 949-0262.

Wichita, Kan., Autumn Meeting

The Wichita, Kansas, Autumn meeting has been set for Oct. 26 through Nov. 4. We desire saints everywhere to pray that God will send us down a meeting from heaven. This has been a troublesome and shaking year, and sad to report some have been shaken off. We desire the Lord to revive their desire to serve God and go to heaven, and pray they will arise and return to their Father. We also desire to see the few *berries* in the topmost branches gleaned and brought to the fold of God. The chapel is located at 1701 N. Ash, Wichita. All are welcome and urged to come.

For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Lewis Williams at 2643 N. Spruce, Wichita, Ks. 67219, or call him at (316) 264-8481.

Assembly Meeting at Jefferson, Oregon

The Assembly meeting on the new Church of God campground near Jefferson, Oregon, is scheduled to be held from Nov. 2 to 11, 1979. There will be three regular services daily. The meeting will be supported on the free-will offering basis, and the meals will be served in the new dining hall which will be ready for full use by the date of the meeting. Everyone is cordially invited to attend these services.

Directions to the new grounds: Go to the Texaco service station at the north edge of Jefferson, turn right on Marion Road for about 3/4 mile, then turn left on Sheldon Road 1/2 mile to the chapel.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Ostis B. Wilson, 6505 N.E. Sunset Dr., Albany, Ore. 97321, phone (503) 928-7223. The chapel phone is (503) 327-9916.

Hoffman, Okla. Revival Meeting

The annual autumn revival meeting at Hoffman, Okla., is set for Nov. 7-11, 1979. Lord willing, services will begin each night at 7:30 p.m. There will be services Saturday and Sunday. Lodging will be provided. We will appreciate your presence and your prayers.

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

—Lorene Payne

Field Report

W. Va. (Sept. 14) — Dear Bro. Lawrence: Trust you are keeping encouraged, and that your faith is keeping steady in your battles.

We are much encouraged in the service of the Lord. I appreciate the truth more all the time, and it grows sweeter to me as I get older. I am thankful to be saved, sanctified, and satisfied.

It seems the summer has gone by so fast. I surely enjoyed the good campmeetings, as it seemed they were especially blessed of the Lord. Our campmeeting here at Green Bank, W. Va., was the most outstanding meeting I have ever been in. The glory of the Lord came down in every service. I have heard of the old-time meetings, but they never had any better ones than we had. The Word of God had free course. The congregation was in unity. Everything was just right for a wonderful meeting. Some of the services lasted four or five hours.

We attended parts of four other campmeetings. Then on Aug. 24th we started a tent meeting in Marlinton, W. Va., which is 25 miles from Green Bank. The Lord truly blessed. Some souls we have been burdened for found their way to the Lord. Seven got saved, one of whom was a 79-year-old lady. Our chapel is almost full now on Sundays. The Lord is working and dealing with more souls in W. Va. than anywhere I know of. We surely desire the prayers of the saints that we will have wisdom to know how to help them.

On Sept. 1st we started a tent meeting in Kingsport, Tenn., where Bro. Charles Williams lives. It is such a blessing to have a meeting in a community where someone has lived a godly life. Bro. Williams' life has had an influence on many people. We had good attendance. The burden of the meeting was to sow good seed. We left some people with tears, wanting us to come back and start a congregation there. Surely there is a great need for more qualified workers.

We are now in Ohio in a tent meeting. The burden here is that the Lord will break down some walls. We trust He will before it is over. The attendance is good here. The congregation at Dayton is co-operating 100 percent. Some of them are driving 30 to 40 miles each night.

We would like to go home for a while after this meeting if possible, as we have hardly had a day off since last spring.

Our revival at Green Bank will start on the 13th of October.

We desire the prayers of all God's people that we remain true to the end. I would like to say to all the saints, "Steady as you go."

Much Christian love,—Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons
P.O. Box 127, Green Bank, W. Va. 24944

Field Report and Challenge

A company of gospel workers, including the writer, recently held a short revival meeting in Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada, where some sincere Christians were found. We truly hated to part with the dear ones there. A baptismal service was held at 11 p.m. on the last night of the meeting and two were baptized. Sister Toews requests prayer for her family. Please pray for their needs.

Lord willing, a gospel company will go to Prince George, B.C., Canada, and hold revival services from Oct. 17 to the 21, 1979. A few lovers of the truth live there. Please pray God to bless these coming services, to open up British Columbia to the gospel, and that more special efforts will be made to plant the whole truth in that rugged land.

We had a glorious campmeeting in Tehama, Calif., in August, 1979. There was good attendance and good interest.

For some time we have felt burdened to put in a special request — that the saints in general would get out more in the evangelistic field in tent meetings and revivals in new areas. It would really be good if some of the campmeetings could be shortened to five days in order to give more time throughout the summer to schedule tent meetings. We do thank God for the interest and support this past summer in different meetings. There is a renewed interest in the gospel and more emphasis is being placed on the "old paths."

We trust God to supply gospel workers, singers, evangelists, and helpers. We are writing this now so those whom God wants to use can begin laying plans to that end next summer. Read Isaiah 6:8, "Lord, here am I, send me."

The year of 1980 will be the 100th anniversary since Bro. Warner and his associates began to usher in these eternal truths that had been hidden by the rubbish of man-made religious organizations. Joel 2:15, "Blow the trumpet in Zion." God gave us a trumpet. We feel the time is ripe for forays into the devil's territory where so-called Church of God folks have fallen into apostasy and forgotten the "old paths." Let us gird on the armour, take the shield of faith, wield the Sword of the Spirit, and march forward with our bloodstained banners held high. This army is on the offensive, and is out to deliver honest souls, destroy Satan's strongholds, and conquer in Jesus' name. Jesus is our Captain. Praise God!

The end is near. Our nation is falling. What we intend to do must be done quickly.

Your Brother in Christ,

—Tom Melot

NOTICE!

The Senior Citizens' Home at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif., is in need of dedicated workers who love to labor in the Lord's vineyard. At present there is a need for a cook, and perhaps a nurse. If you are interested, write to Sister Robert Sherman, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif. 91331.

—H. P. Huskey

Prayer Requests

Kansas—"I have a serious affliction that at times gives me a lot of pain. I do not know what it is, but think perhaps it might be a tumor. . . . Please pray for me."

—Wildenna Huffman

Oregon—"I am up and can use my walker. I suffer a lot of pain at times. . . . Continue to pray for me."

—Beatrice Spaur

W. Va.—"I need complete healing of this nerve problem. I believe the Lord has healing for me. . . . Please pray for me."

—Nancy Wagoner

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (Aug. 18)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the most precious name of Jesus, the Saviour of mankind. . . . I am now His own and walking in the King's highway of holiness. All who are His own should so walk and shine.

Thank you for your letter dated August 2, and for its enclosures, delivery of which was taken intact at Kwale Post Office. . . .

Thank the Lord for the glorious stand of His Church. We have been found and given the power to go out to find others. What else could Philip do as soon as Christ found him, but run to his friend Nathanael, and cry, "We have found Him." Here then is a search that never fails. In the mass evangelism of our time, we seem to have lost sight of the necessity and effectiveness of personal evangelism. Having had his own load of sin taken away by the Lamb of God, Andrew felt he must declare such a gospel to others. To the man out of whom Jesus had cast a legion of demons, and who wished to remain at his Deliverer's side all the time, Jesus commanded, "Go home to thy friends, and tell them what great things the Lord hath done for thee."

We never know what far-reaching results may issue from our willingness to tell a soul about Christ's redeeming love and grace. Are you not happy because a brother, or sister, or parent told you about Jesus? Peter brought 3,000 to Christ at once with that sort of gospel preaching which was responsible for the rapid extension of the early church. The secret of our beautiful life is being told to the villagers of villages around Kwale. Praise God that the young people are submitting themselves to be sent out in teams to wherever their services are required of the Lord, and

have been returning to report to Jesus that even devils are subject unto them in His name. . . .

I have letters from Auchi, Owerri, Tombia, Port Harcourt, and Ikot Esen testifying to spiritual progress of the congregations. We are surely going to be mobile as soon as the rainy season is over. These areas are awaiting evangelization.

Yours devotedly,

—Titus U. E. Enu

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Aug. 20)—Dear Bro. Pruitt, dear ones in Guthrie, and the saints everywhere: Greetings in the unique name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Eph. 3:20, 21.

Thank you very much for your kind letter dated Aug. 2, 1979, and the enclosures were noted with many thanks. I appreciate the special help for the car repair. The car is now in good condition and in service. I was also glad to note that a fund has been started there to purchase a Van for our use in the gospel work. May God fill that fund soon, is our prayer.

Our general campmeeting at Karikkom is scheduled to convene on the first week of January, 1980, and I wish that some of you from the U.S.A. would come and participate in that campmeeting. May God give inspiration to someone to come over. It would be a great encouragement to us.

It is still raining here, but the church activities are going on without delay. We plan to conduct some special meetings the first week of September in which are the national festival holidays. I want to visit the new stations in northern Kerala by the end of this week. I was on the bed last week due to an attack of influenza. Now I am doing all right.

My wife and co-workers send their love to each dear saint in the U.S.A. Let us exchange our prayers.

Yours in His service,

—John Varghese

A Crippled Friend

When I was in Ojos Negros, Baja California, Mexico, as a missionary, there was a very poor family (among many), who lived in La Huerta, the Indian reservation about ten miles up in the hills from Ojos Negros. The father had passed away and the only boy among five children was making their living, doing whatever he could find to do.

One day a neighbor of mine, Alejandrina, who had moved there from La Huerta, mentioned this family and how sorry she felt for the mother and children. One girl had married and moved away, one girl, 19 years of age, had never walked a step in her life, and now the only son had died. This was about five years ago. The mother found work as she could, and from then on, either she or one of the healthier of

the girls worked, while the others stayed to be company and care for Rosa Maria, the crippled girl.

The mother, Maria Ema, had been coming as regularly as she could to services in Ojos Negros and always came to the campmeetings, but had never mentioned her crippled daughter. When I went to visit them, evidently Rosa hid because of timidity, so I knew nothing of her until Alejandrina, my neighbor, told me. My heart went out to this woman and her family, and as opportunity was made, help was gotten to them in one way or another. For example: Finding out that Rosa Maria did quite a bit of handwork, and since we had received quite a few stuffed animals in the making, Rosa Maria was contacted to finish them and was given her choice of pay in money or Artex paints. She chose the paints, thereby helping to sustain herself in part, by doing painting on tea towels, etc., for others and getting a remuneration for it.

Once, when a visit was made there, after Rosa Maria knew us, she was given a Bible. Since crawling is her only mode of motivation, she had never attended school, but her sisters and mother helped her to learn to read, and she has told us many times how much she enjoys her Bible.

She was also given a wheelchair, but the ground outside was so uneven and the house so small, she couldn't use it.

The only place I have ever seen Rosa Maria is sitting at a tiny table, on a rude bench in the kitchen which is about five feet by seven feet. She sits by a tiny window overlooking the cemetery in La Huerta.

Just this past week I received a letter from Sis. Panchita Escobar saying that the mother, Maria Ema, had passed away suddenly. She had eaten lunch at 2: p.m., had lain down for a nap and didn't awaken. The doctor said she had had a heart attack, but didn't suffer. Brother and Sister Escobar were able to go and do what they could, but they said that Rosa Maria never ceased crying.

Please pray for these three girls who are left, that the Lord will comfort their hearts, and especially pray for Rosa Maria, who, unless the Lord undertakes, will possibly have nothing to do but gaze out that tiny window at her mother's grave.

—Sister Opal Kelly

God's Unity Plan

Christian unity is a spiritual thing. It will not begin on the outside and work inward. It must begin on the inside and thence proceed to externals. It must be first a union of hearts before it can be a union of hands. It must first be a union of ideals before it can be a union of methods. It must first have a common purpose before there can be unity of action. These things federation does not supply and can not supply. There is, therefore, no hope of Bible unity coming from federation. Organic unity can never be reached when federation is the goal of our efforts.

—C. W. Naylor

From the Mail Box . . .

Kans. — . . . We are thankful for that fountain that was opened in Jesus' side to purchase His bride. We believe it still has power to clean up every heart that has been stained with sin and make it pure and holy in His sight. Oh, that people could see how good it is to be made pure! Oh, the joy that fills our souls just to be in the center of His will! No pleasure of this world can compare to it. We may be looked upon as not having any fun, but the joy of heaven is better than all the fun of this world.

This isn't a very popular way. The Scripture forewarns us that "strait is the gate and narrow is the way, and few there be that find it." We may be persecuted and cast aside, but God has promised better things ahead. It is a good way to live, and we recommend it to everyone.

We are thankful for the good reports we have received from the tent meetings. We pray that lasting good has been done. Let us continue to pray that others will find the Lord precious to their souls in the tent meetings that are in progress.

We are also thankful to report the indebtedness on the Van for Bro. Curtis Williams is down to \$627.58. The Lord is good and gracious. We will be glad to report when it is all paid. May the Lord bless each one who had a part and reward you for your sacrifice of love. Be assured whenever a soul is won through these brethren in the field, that everyone who made it possible also will receive a blessing.

Pray for us as we endeavor to fill our place in the Body of Christ. —Bro. Ralph and Sis. Inez Beisly

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

Okla. — Dear Sis. Marie: . . . I am very thankful to report victory over sin and to have the peace of God in my heart. I truly love the family of God, and I am satisfied with God's dealings with me.

I enjoyed the campmeetings this summer. There were many messages that seemed to be to the saints. It made us realize that the coming of the Lord will be soon. My burden for lost souls has certainly increased. Just to think of one moment in hell without ever a chance to get out, surely stirs my heart to pray for our lost loved ones.

I surely do appreciate the good literature from the Print Shop. I read the tracts and send them on to others in letters. I appreciate the poems and other encouraging articles in the *Faith and Victory* paper. . . .

—Theresa Gaines

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

Minn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and co-workers: . . . May the gospel be spread to the unsaved world, and to the saints to encourage them to hold fast to the Saviour who set aside the glory of heaven to come down to this sinful world to preach the gospel, suffer and die on the cross for me and all the saints. Glory to Jesus forever and ever!

I am still able to get around fairly well, for which I thank the Lord. I am sending for more tracts to pass out.

Much love and prayers, —Bro. Andrew Senti

Calif. — Dear Sis. Miles, Bro. and Sis. Pruitt, . . . I am so very happy to have been able to attend the campmeeting in Pacoima, Calif. I was able to spend nine days, and, oh, what a blessing it was! Praise His holy name! It was well attended, and to meet and fellowship with the dear saints that we read about in the paper was a precious experience.

I received all of the books and tracts ordered in August. I am enjoying them very much. The *Faith and Victory* papers are a real blessing. The testimonies of the dear saints are very encouraging.

I am thanking the Lord for bringing me out of a sectarian organization into His Church. I tried so long to serve Him in a sectarian group, thinking that I could help them to see the truth, but the Lord was telling me to come out. After much suffering in mind and spirit, I knew that I had to obey. Oh, how I thank Him for all the trials I went through! I now have peace in my heart. Praise His holy name! I want to always live for Him. Pray for me that I will always be faithful.

I have a real burden for lost souls. I am giving and sending out tracts continually. Pray for a young friend, Harriet, suffering with cancer. She is also unsaved and has small children. . . . —Sis. Ruth Donnelly

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

Pa.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: . . . Our prayers daily are that the Spirit of God will move upon the hearts of all His people to arise and meet the need of the day. We are truly grateful for the health and strength He has blessed us so that in these latter days of our lives we have been able to work and help others instead of having others to care for us. May God continue to give you strength and complete healing. Pray for us, as we are facing problems and conditions for which we need wisdom and guidance from above.—Grant Boyer

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

Calif.— . . . This morning finds me encouraged and happy in the Lord. My daily prayer is to draw closer to God each day. I am asking Him to give me a greater burden each day for lost souls and to help me be able to help others to be ready for heaven.

I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* very much. It's real food to my soul. I know the devil is working hard to discourage and deceive all of God's children, but I am thankful to be able to have victory in Him. . . .

I pray much for God's children and the work of God all over the world, also your work there. Please keep praying for me and for some burdens that are heavy on my heart. . . . —Hazel Savage

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

Fla.—Dear Sis. Marie: . . . I'm leaning strong on the arms of Jesus; the arms that never give way. Praise the Lord! I do appreciate the goodness of the Lord for enabling me to get around. I'm not as strong as I have been, but I am thankful for what strength He does give me. I'm thinking of the Scripture in 1 Thess. 5:18 that says, "In every thing give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." This is one of my favorite quotations.

The Lord laid it on my heart last year, while the children were out of school on vacation, to have a

Bible story class each Wednesday afternoon here in my home, so we started. This summer some of them asked to have it again. They seemed to like it so well. We decided to have it during school, so we have it at 3:30 p.m. We take ages three to twelve years. We need your prayers that the will of God be done in this effort.

The Lord is surely blessing us here in the Goulds congregation. We need your prayers. Pray especially for me. . . . —Sis. Mattie B. Savage

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

Okla. — Dear Brother Pruitt: . . . I desire your prayers that I can dig deep enough to get established on the solid Rock. Sometimes it seems that some things blow me about. I must learn to run with the footmen and not be weary, so I may be able to contend with the horses. Yet, I know with God nothing is impossible.

I thank you for your kind letters and all your efforts in distributing the gospel. You encourage me to press the battle on. As a young person, I appreciate you older saints who have fought courageously through the years. I will continue to pray for you. . . .

—Andy Lewis

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

Ga.—Dear Sis. Marie: . . . I have received the *Faith and Victory* for several years and always enjoy it. I find it to be a very helpful and inspiring paper. It is strength to me. May God bless everyone who makes the paper what it is. . . . —Abbie Stewart

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

Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: We love the work you are doing for the Lord. We are always glad to get the little paper. We think you are doing a wonderful work for the Lord. . . . —Ed and Ruth Upton

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

Calif.—Dear Sis. Marie: . . . I was praying to the Lord for His words of wisdom when your letter arrived with the wonderful tract on wisdom. I received much help from reading it. Oh, praise the blessed name of Jesus!

I often think of how blessed we are to have been brought up in the purity of the gospel of Christ. Many are going about perverting Christ's gospel with their own. When we read Amos 8:11-12, we have a profound reverence in our hearts to Almighty God for enriching our lives.

The devil has a lot going on television, in seminars, workshops and meetings of all kinds. People are running to and fro to seek the Word of the Lord when "they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us. For in him we live and move and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring." Acts 17:27, 28. . . .

Dear sister, I need your availing prayers. I have a battle to win for Jesus in this valley. "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds, casting down imaginations, and every high

thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Cor. 10:3-5. As the Lord leads me, I pass out books and pray earnestly that these souls will humble themselves and open their hearts to receive the precious gospel of Christ in its purity, righteousness, and simplicity, into their hearts.

I thank the Lord for your writings of "My Life's Heartstrings" and the Sunday School lessons. They have brought joy and much needed help into my home. Lord willing, I am compiling mine into a folder for future use for my granddaughter, to whom I read them each morning. . . . — Melia Viser

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Ore.—Dear Brother Lawrence, and saints: . . . On Sunday, July 8th, I took really sick. I was not able to go to services. That night I got to the place that I didn't know anything or anybody. My darling wife, Violet, saw that I was very sick and fed me with a spoon. She would hold a glass of liquid in one hand and a straw in her other hand for me to sip through. She called the saints to pray for me. After service that night Bro. Clifford Smith, Bro. Don Williamson and Sis. Ruby Hutchison came and prayed for me. After they left, my wife led me back to bed. She checked on me throughout the night. The next morning she found me on the floor in my bedroom and got help for me. Some saints came again, but for three or four days I knew very little. Thank the dear Lord, He heard the prayers of the saints and brought me back to myself. I thank God for the saints' prayers for me (not only the saints here in Oregon, but also others). I thank the Lord for my darling wife, Violet, who watched over me and tended to my needs. I feel much better, but I still need prayer. I have some ringing and roaring in my head yet. I was prayed for at meeting and feel better. My pastor, Brother Wilson, said it may be my nerves.

—W. J. Benson

Calif.—I appreciate the Lord's opening up the way for me to attend the National campmeeting in Neosho, Mo., again this year. He truly blessed me in both soul and body.

When I left home, I was afflicted with high blood pressure so badly that my head felt as though it would detach itself from my body. My baby had diarrhea so badly we could only drive a few miles before we had to stop the car to take care of her. We would have prayer from time to time for relief for the baby and myself.

I arrived in time for the 2:30 p.m. service and decided to go forward for prayer for the baby and myself. Satan whispered that I should wait until healing service since it was a serious affliction. I told the Lord I could not enjoy the meeting with my head hurting like it was, so I went forward. I got some relief.

The Lord started to talk to my heart about temperance, how that it was a fruit of the Spirit and that in order to bear the fruit of self-control by love, it must come from above and not just my own will power. My faith took that in.

Later, my son asked if we received our healing. I told him the baby did. As I searched my heart for an answer, I was reminded that I obeyed the Word by being anointed with oil by the elders. The passage of Scripture came to me, "He sent His word and healed them." My heart rejoiced. I was healed instantly. Before I gave thanks to the Lord publicly, Satan whispered that I should wait to see if any of the symptoms returned before I claimed my healing. I knew I had met the conditions. My faith had been inspired, and God did a complete work. I gave Him the praise. What a mighty God we serve!

—Sis. Wynema Clay

La.—Dear Sis. Marie: I am most thankful for the light of the gospel and for what Jesus means to me! Thank the Lord, He is no respecter of persons, either. Everyone can enjoy this marvelous salvation if he will. People's wills have great weight. I am praising the Lord tonight because He put a willingness in my heart to obey Him, and my purpose and prayer is that I'll be faithful.

The Lord heard prayer for me again. Last Monday and Tuesday the suffering in my stomach was so great that I don't think I could have stood much more. Our God is ever faithful to His trusting children and it is wonderful how He healed me! Praise Him forever, and I also thank all the saints for their prayers. When the Lord permits us to suffer like that and then brings us through with victory, it makes us stronger. It helps us to realize more of His power and ability to solve every problem. He can save every soul and heal every body. "For with God nothing shall be impossible." Luke 1:37. "With God all things are possible." Matt. 19:26b. Oh, how I want to live for Him and honour Him for all He means to me!

Your good letter was a blessing to my soul. I read and reread it; and gave it to Mother to read. May the Lord ever give you strength and health, as you walk with Him in so great a task, for you are truly a blessing to many.

My sister, Nava Jo, is much in need of prayer for the healing of her body and strength to carry on. We surely covet the saints' prayers for her.

Let us be faithful until life's work is done that after awhile we can enjoy together the glory the Lord has prepared for those that love Him.

—Sis. Gladys Cashio

Mo.—Dear Sis. Marie: I'm writing concerning an accident I was in on May 3rd, 1979. I had been on my new job with the Post Office only about a month when I was sent out in a truck to help another carrier. My truck was hit broadside by a car, and I was immediately knocked unconscious. The truck then bounced around and finally landed in a neighboring yard on top of some bushes. I had my seat belt on, but I was still twisted around with my foot caught by the door and my

head on the floor behind me. When I came to, I heard the blood dripping from my head and had a numb feeling in my right foot and leg. My first thought was that I could be dying. Quickly I asked the Lord how things stood. Praise God, all was clear! I felt so calm and reassured. I pulled my head up onto a tray beside me, and was in that position when two police officers broke open the back door and came in. One of them gently lifted my head onto a towel and the other began working to get my feet untangled. As they worked, I told them how merciful God had been to me. One of them commented that surely God had been merciful. (Later, different ones who saw me in the truck right after the accident said it had to be a miracle that I was alive.) I was taken to the hospital in an ambulance. The emergency room staff thought I had a broken foot. They were very concerned about my collarbone, neck, head, and spinal cord. When they finished taking all the X-rays, they told me there were no broken bones. Thank God! I can't praise Him enough for His protecting arm. After the doctor sewed up my head, he told me I could go home. I couldn't raise myself up, but I was allowed to go home. For the next two or three days I had quite a bit of pain, but by the following Tuesday I was back at work. I could easily have lost my job because I was still on probation, but the Lord worked that out, too, and now I'm past the probation period. I still have some problems with my shoulder, but I trust God will eventually touch it completely.

I can't express enough gratitude for the saints' prayers during that time. Each one's love and concern for me was overwhelming. Do pray for me that I will remain true to the Lord and be counted worthy of that final reward.

—Lynne Johnson

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Mo.—Dear Sis. Marie, I am thankful for victory in my soul today. I am grateful to the Lord for His many rich blessings that He has bestowed upon me, especially this past year. He has been such a help to me. Oh, I still have battles, problems, and so forth; but God is helping me to gain some higher heights and deeper depths, I believe. I have been made to realize more fully than before the unimportance of this temporal life as far as earthly success, and the importance of preparing for that eternal life. We may live a very successful life here, gain many earthly honors, have a very successful earthly career, be highly thought of by society, but if these things don't gain us heaven, they will be of no value whatsoever in the hour of death. Since we do live in a realm of time, it is rather hard for us humans to realize that there is coming a day without an end. Everything that we know has an end someplace, somewhere, somehow. Even our earthly life has an end. Most of us have read or heard that "eternity" has no end; but do we fully realize the depth of that? Do we really comprehend that after death we enter into a realm that is forever sealed? How we enter that realm will be where and how we will always be. There will be no more ending. In this life, if we have made a wrong choice in buying a car, someday we have the chance of trading for a

better one; but "eternity" is not that way. The first choice will be the *final* choice if we do not repent.

Not long ago, there was a fiery crash which killed several people. I got to thinking about one who was killed. I understood that he had a job at a local grocery store. I began thinking about that. Perhaps that job was very dependent upon him. Perhaps there were things about that job that only he knew. For that job to be done correctly it was essential that he be there. He probably had plans for the next day; maybe plans that could only be carried out by him. For him not to be there the next day could throw a gap in the work. But when *death* called, these things were no longer of value to him. He did not have time to train someone else to do his job. It was no longer important whether or not he was popular in society, drove an up-to-date car, lived in an up-to-date house. All that was important to him now was whether or not these things he used on earth were used in such a way as to bring him an eternity in heaven. As I thought about this, it seemed that it was stamped more clearly upon my mind that *everything* that I do in this earthly life must be a stepping stone to heaven. I cannot afford to set my heart on earthly success. We live on earth, therefore, we do use things of temporal value. I do believe that while we are still on earth, God would have us to live a successful life: but it must be a successful life in such a way that it will gain us eternal life in heaven when the hour of death calls us. Anything less will only bring us an eternity of remorse. Our life on earth is just a passing thing; oh, how important that we spend it so that we dwell forever in an eternity of happiness and not remorse. It is my desire to always have my goals anchored in heaven. I do want to make heaven my eternal home. Whenever you think of me, pray for me that I will have a greater concern for the prosperity of my soul than for my temporal prosperity. . . .

—Rebecca Sorrell

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Okla.—. . . I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* so much. I read it through without laying it down.

I love the Lord and am encouraged to live for Him. He is my Healer and has done so many wonderful things for me. I can never thank Him enough. . . .

One Sunday, recently, I was anointed and prayed for. I had been having a lot of dizziness. It was either from high blood pressure or an inner ear trouble. I would nearly fall over in every direction — backward, forward, or other ways. But the important part is that God healed me instantly. I have not had that trouble any more. Praise the Lord! . . .

—Sis. Floy Woolery

GOD'S WORD

God's Word for a worried world,
Holy Spirit speed its flight
To all mankind here on earth,
That they might see the light.

—Edward M. Brandt

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Among the many doctrines in the Bible are the two dealing with salvation — the doctrine of election and the doctrine of free-will. There are many passages in the Bible on both of these doctrines and many books written, etc.

Now my question is simply this — How can we fit these two opposing doctrines together so as to form a reasonable part of the whole? The entire Bible must somehow fit together as God's whole Word. So there should be some logical answer here to this confusing matter. Frankly, I don't see how both of these doctrines can be in the Bible. But they are, and how do we explain them?

Answer: In the first place, let us recognize and be persuaded that there cannot possibly be two mutually contradictory doctrines in the Bible. For such a case to exist would certainly raise questions in our minds about God Himself and doubts as to the credibility of the Bible as God's Word. Mutually contradictory doctrines may arise, and often do, out of men's interpretations of the Bible, but they never exist in the Bible itself when properly interpreted and understood.

I see the two doctrines as being mutually compatible, blending into each other and each incorporating the other and the doctrine of *free-will* enveloping the doctrine of *election*. The doctrine of *free-will* is so definitely and so broadly established in the New Testament that it could not possibly be questioned as pertaining to the plan of salvation and the economy of God's grace. We are told in John 3:16 that "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son; that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:14-15 says, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." Rev. 22:17 says, "... and whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." 2 Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord ... is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." This would certainly destroy the idea of God's electing (choosing) certain ones to be saved and excluding others from being saved by an act of His own will and sovereignty. This thought is further emphasized in 1 Tim. 2:1 where we are exhorted to pray for all men, and verse 4 says that God would have all men to be saved. 1 Tim. 2:6 says that Christ gave Himself a ransom for all. 1 Tim. 4:10 says that God is the saviour of all men. Heb. 2:9 says that Jesus by the grace of God tasted death for every man.

I have referred to several Scriptures and could go on and on with many more to show that salvation in its provisions is universal and available to all men, but in its application it is individual and on a *whosoever will* basis. Anyone who is saved must be willing to be saved within the scope of the economy of God's grace, to come under the covenant provisions in the terms

of the gospel and meet the demands of God's Word. Any one who will do this will be saved.

Now I have stated that the doctrine of "Free Will" envelopes the doctrine of "Election." But how? The term *Elect* is used a number of times in the Old Testament in reference to ancient Israel, who in that time were the chosen people of God. God had elected (chosen) them as a peculiar people, separated unto Himself from all the other peoples upon this earth that in them He might reveal His glory, power and holiness; to whom He could deliver the oracles of God (the law), extend and perpetuate the covenant and promises made to Abraham, the originator of their race, and through them bring Jesus Christ into the world.

Therefore they are referred to as the *Elect* in different places throughout the Old Testament. But in the New Testament the term *Elect* or *Election* is extended beyond the limits of the Jewish nation to include all, both Jews and Gentiles, who are redeemed from sin through faith in the merits of the all-atoning blood of Jesus Christ.

In the first four verses of the 11th chapter of Romans, the Apostle Paul argues that God has not cast off His people, Israel, and confirms it with the fact that he himself was an Israelite and had obtained mercy and been saved by faith in Christ. Also, he refers to the time of Elijah when a remnant was reserved unto God in a time of Israel's deep apostasy and idolatry. Then in verse 5 he says, "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace." Note on what grounds the election of this remnant was reckoned. It was not by virtue of being the children of Abraham according to the flesh, nor by the keeping of the law, neither by circumcision, nor by any of the conditions on which the election of ancient Israel was predicated. It is on an entirely different ground — "According to the election of grace." But there are only eleven references to "Grace" in the Old Testament. Two of them are prophetic — Zech. 4:7 and 12:10: one referring to God's mercy in a time of deep trouble (Ezra 9:8); and the Psalmist spoke of grace being given to his lips in prayer (Psa. 45:2). All the others refer to the grace of one person to another, or of the king to individuals, etc. The Old Testament was not an age of grace, but it is said in John 1:14 that "Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

Therefore the election spoken of in Romans 11:5 was not an Old Testament kind of election, but it was the "Election of grace" through Christ which only a remnant of the Israelites obtained. John 1:11-13 says, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born ... of God." Those among the Jews who received Jesus Christ when He came and believed on His name constitute this "Remnant according to the election of grace." Adam Clarke in his comments on Romans 11:5 says, "The election of grace simply signifies God's gracious design in sending the Christian system into the world, saving under it all those who believe in Christ Jesus, and none else. Thus

the believers in Christ are chosen to inherit the blessings of the gospel, while those who seek justification through the works of the law are rejected." Again he says in his comments on verse 6, "And this is done according to the election of grace, or the rule of choosing any persons to be the people of God upon the footing of grace, which takes in all that believe in His Son Jesus Christ."

To this the Scriptures bear conclusive evidence, for it is written "**whosoever will**, let him take the water of life freely" (Rev. 22:17); and "**whosoever believeth in Him should . . . have everlasting life.**" John 3:16.

Romans 11:7 says, "Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for." They desired to continue as the chosen people of God with all the power and glory of their kingdom which had been in time past. But they did not recognize the Author of eternal salvation when He came, so did not accept Him, but rejected Him, therefore failing to obtain what they desired. This verse says further, "But the election hath obtained it." We have seen that the election were those who believed in Jesus Christ and received Him, thus were born of God, became His children in reality. Therefore they inherited all the blessings of the gospel, entered into the spiritual kingdom of God (righteousness, joy and peace in the Holy Ghost — Romans 14:17), and obtained the fulness of what they sought after.

This group of Israelites, who were elect according to grace received Christ and believed in Him, were born of God, and became children of God in reality. This great majestic company of faith champions survived the complete spiritual collapse and downfall of the Jewish people and came through with faith and belief in the promises, looking for the Consolation of Israel. This group came through, merged into, and blended with the spiritual body of Christ and entered the spiritual kingdom of God. It was absorbed into a much greater and broader "Election" which included all of those from every nation under heaven (both Jews and Gentiles) who believed in Christ and received redemption by faith in His blood.

The term "Elect" means *chosen, selected*. Several translations drop the term *elect* and insert the term *chosen* in its stead in all texts where "Elect" is mentioned. The Amplified Bible retains the term *Elect* but in each case inserts in parenthesis the terms *chosen, select*. Then we read in Eph. 1:4, "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." The choosing or electing here does not refer to particular individuals, but that God had chosen or selected a plan for people (all people) to be saved, and this was through Jesus Christ and Him only, by believing in Him and yielding themselves to Him for salvation. Thus it is said that we (all the people of whatever nation, kindred, tongue or people) are chosen (elected) in Him, for there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

Now let us look at a very important text regarding "Election." In 2 Pet. 1:10 we read, "Wherefore the

rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." This Scripture teaches us that we have a part in our election. Someone said a long time ago in regard to the "Election," that "God has a vote, the devil has a vote, and I have a vote, and whichever way I vote is the way the election is going." In Romans 6:16 we are told, "to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness." Again Romans 6:13 says, "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, . . . and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." Thus we can see that the yielding of ourselves to one master or the other is in our own hands, subject to our own will and our yielding determines our election one way or another.

2 Pet. 1:10 also teaches us that our election can be lost after it has been gained. "If ye do these things, ye shall never fall." The inference here is that if we fail to do these things and give diligence to this, we will fall.

This is exactly what happened to Israel. They were the elect of God, but they lost their election status and were cut off because of unbelief (Romans 11:20.) Verse 17 speaks of the Gentiles being grafted in and verse 20 says they stand by faith. Then verse 22 says, "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee goodness, if thou continue in his goodness; otherwise thou also shalt be cut off." This all makes it very clear that our election is determined by us and how we yield ourselves, that our election can be lost after we have obtained it, if we do not diligently work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

Is Life Worth Living?

Each year nearly 16,000 people in the United States come to the conclusion that life isn't worth living. Some take poison, others jump from bridges or apartment houses, while others resort to firearms. Are these people right? Is life worth living after all?

Life is not worth living if you live it only for fortune, fame, power or pleasure. But it is worth living if you live it for Christ. "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain," (Phil. 1:21), we hear the educated Apostle Paul say. After suffering much for Christ, Paul said when he came to the end of the way, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." 2 Tim. 4:7, 8.

—M. Miles

It is through following the Word of God that His people are brought into the "unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Ephesians 4:13. It is then that we can be perfectly agreed together and of one accord.

—E. E. Byrum

The Beauty of God's People

I love God's people today, and I thank our Lord for the privilege of being one of His people. God has a pure church without spot or blemish. "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Eph. 5:26,27. He always had a Church since He built it, and He always will have a Church because it is built on the "Rock," Christ Jesus. "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt. 16:18.

It is our duty to daily check our personal life and test it with the Scriptures, so we may each one remain in God's Church. It takes a fresh renewal of grace and strength each day to keep our attitudes clear with God, and only a determined, prayerful few will come out victorious at the end. However, God's Word is encouraging to every eager heart that is willing to please Him.

As a young child of God, I am concerned about the future of the Church because its future determines my future to a great extent. I want to continually see the beauty of God's people—the saints. "Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined." Psalms 50:2. God's people are beautiful! Often the devil will focus our attention on the mistakes or faults of our fellow brothers and sisters because he is displeased with harmony and fellowship among people. He wants to lessen our confidence in each other. Let us not be misled. Let us question any attitude or thought which tends to stir up bad feelings toward any one. Take it immediately to the Lord in prayer and nip ill feelings before they can grow. I think we will all agree that this is the right thing to do. Today we may be able to overcome and conquer any bad feelings; tomorrow will be another day. We will need another supply of grace to again battle the devil—the would-be destroyer of our soul and of God's church. "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Prov. 4:23.

This leads to the burden of my heart. Each day I want a new supply of understanding toward others. We will not be able to see the beauty and perfection of the church with a critical, self-righteous attitude. Too often we hear with our ears, judge with our minds, and then speak with our lips without fully pondering the situation, or without considering the depth of our brother's or sister's purpose. This gives the devil room to work between us. To prevent this, we must daily ask for love and understanding that none of us will be hasty in voicing opinions that would cast down the Church of God in any way.

As mentioned earlier, we must nip all bad attitudes in the bud, taking all unsettled thoughts to the Lord in prayer. Any honest seeker will find comfort there. We want to be like Jesus, who was filled with longsuffering. It was said concerning Jesus, "A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory." Matt. 12:20.

I am concerned about the Church of God and I want to always see the radiant beauty of God's church through understanding eyes and with prayerful lips. "Lift up your eyes, and behold . . . the flock . . . thy beautiful flock." Jer. 13:20.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

FAITH

Jesus asked, "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Do we have this faith of which He is talking? Faith that He will keep all His promises? Faith that God can do what He says? Faith to believe that He will come again and carry His redeemed children to heaven to live with Him for ever and ever? Do we have faith to believe He can heal our bodies and direct our lives? Did you know that without faith in God, it is impossible to please Him? When we go on a trip, we have faith God will see us safely to our destination. We must have faith in God for all things, believing He will supply our needs, such as food, clothing, a place to lie down to rest at night, etc. He gives us faith to walk according to His Word. If we make mistakes, He gives us grace, or faith, to get up again, knowing He loves us and wants to forgive us if we ask Him in faith, believing. He really cares for and loves us.

Faith is the "blood stream" of our spiritual life. In Hebrews 11:1 we read, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." We cannot please God without faith. Heb. 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

Do you remember what Jesus told the blind man in Mark 10:52? "Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight. . . ." The woman who had the issue of blood twelve years spent all her living upon physicians, neither could she be healed of any. When she touched the hem of Jesus' garment, Jesus knew someone had touched Him for He perceived that virtue had gone out of Him. He said unto her, "Be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace." Luke 8:48. 2 Cor. 5:7, "For we walk by faith, not by sight." Gal. 3:26, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." Works and faith go together. James 2:17,18, "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works." When we pray to God, we must have faith to believe He will answer our prayer. Jude 20, "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost." The Bible tells us not to put our faith in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." So we see we must have faith in God to the believing of the saving of the soul. After we are born again, we must have faith in God for the keeping of our souls.

Faith without love will not accomplish much. My prayer is that we, the children of God, will have more love and faith in God, in His people, and in the truth of His Word.

—Sis. Pearlene Whitson