

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Christ Born Within



Christ could be born a thousand times
And in a manger laid,
But vain would be the Christmas chimes
If heart-room were not made.

The manger and the bed of hay
Was not His final goal;
He sought a temple bright as day
Within the human soul.

He is not pleased with empty pride
And decorations vain:
A form of godliness outside
Denying Heaven's reign.

To give a gift to someone dear
Is good, but bear in mind:
Without the Gift of godly fear
No blessing will you find.

Shall Christ's birth celebration bring
A time of revelry
With parties, drinks, and everything
Ungodly for to see,—

And all the time His blessed Word
Forgotten, lies in shame,
And His commandments are not heard
Or cherished in His name?

In vain the tree is decked with gems
And glittering lights aglow,
And hollow are the sacred hymns
That should with gladness flow—

When in the hearts and lives of men
No life of Christ is found,
Where strife and discord mar within
The holy joyful sound.

Turn from the outward and the dim;
Let Christ in you be born!
Look and behold the face of Him
Who will your heart adorn.

—Leslie C. Busbee

Good News, or The Gospel



Dear ones, are you away from the Saviour today? Are you burdened down with the cares of this life? Are you trying to get ahead of your neighbor, or striving in politics? Are you laying up money for yourself to use in later life? Do you sometimes feel that everyone has turned his back on you, that you don't even have a friend? Do you sometimes think you would just like to die, feeling that would settle it all? Death will not be all. If you do not know the Saviour when you die, the Bible says you will be punished in the lake of fire, called hell, for ever and ever, which is the second death.

Listen for a moment; wake up! Hear the "good news," or the "gospel." We read in St. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Christ lived, died, and rose again, and is sitting on the right hand of the Father that you might have salvation. Oh, do listen to His voice, read the Bible, study it with all your heart, and come to Christ, casting all your care upon Him. Forsake the world, and even your own life. God will give you a new heart and life, and peace and joy that the world cannot give, and of which it knows nothing about.

Believing and living by the Gospel will mean life eternal in the day of Judgment. If we die before Jesus comes back, our spirits will live on with God, and our bodies will be put in the graves for a short time to await the resurrection of the dead. The graves will burst open, our bodies will come forth immortal and be reunited with our spirits, and together with the living glorified saints, we will meet Jesus in the air, to ever be with Him in heaven, where there will be no more heartaches or sorrow, no pain, no sickness, and no misunderstanding. There will be no death, not even a tear. Won't it be wonderful there? Oh, do hear and obey the voice of the Saviour today! He is calling for you!

—Sis. Pearlene Whitson

Jesus entreats: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

The Church of "Evening Time"



The early morning Church had received the truth from Christ and the Apostles. They received the truth about the Church of the New Testament and how man should live if he was to please God. If we know anything about history, we know that through the Dark Ages of several hundred years many of these fundamental truths were lost to the multitudes.

Then the Spirit of God began to move upon the hearts of men, light began to shine, and truth began to come forth once again. Martin Luther, a priest, saw that *the just shall live by faith*, and then he tried to clean out the corruption of the Roman Catholic church. This he did not succeed in doing, but he did bring forth the doctrine of justification by faith, that is, being born again as Jesus said.

Then others began to receive light, and truths began to come forth. Among these was Charles Wesley, who was convicted and found that justification was not enough. He sought for and obtained the second definite work of grace, which was called by the Methodists the second blessing. It was actually the infilling of the Holy Spirit upon the eradication of the carnal nature inherited from Adam after his fall from grace.

Then we come to the late 1870's and early 1880's, and find the Holy Spirit moving upon the hearts of a number of God's children. Among them was D. S. Warner, who became the leader of the Evening Time Movement, whose goal was to restore all the truths of the Morning Time Church: justification by faith, sanctification by faith, divine healing by faith, the inspiration of the Scriptures, holiness of life in this present world, and the one God of the Bible with three persons in the God-head. They were also to stand with open minds and hearts for any truth that they did not have. This should still be the stand of Christians today, and will be if they are to remain Christians.

This Evening Time group had a definite message for the sinner world: turn to God repenting of sin with godly sorrow, or you will be eternally lost. This message is still true today. The message was also definite that in order to live a victorious and godly life in this world, one needed the infilling of the Holy Spirit with the eradication of the carnal nature. They also believed in divine physical healing through faith and obedience to God's Word.

They also had a definite message for the denominational church world: it was wrong, and even sin, to join a church, for it divided God's people, and division is sin. The Evening Light Movement suffered persecution. One time D. S. Warner had to hide under a house to get away from a denominational mob. Christ said in one place, "They hated me and they will hate you." If we are not being persecuted today, it may be we have left truth, and are not standing for anything to be persecuted for. All who live close to

God will be persecuted. Where are the people today that have open minds and hearts for any truth which they do not have and sincerely desire to have? Where are the people today that actually have a God-given vision of the New Testament Church? To many it is just a church among churches. The Church of God still preaches for God's people to come out of the divisions and be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers, for any church you can join has sinners in it. The people of God must walk in the light of God's Word or backslide. We as individuals, or as a movement, can refuse the light (Truth) of God's Word and go into darkness and still think that all is well, spiritually speaking. You may disagree with these truths, but please think about them, and above all pray about them, if you sincerely want to get to heaven. There is but one way, and that is God's way.

—Carl P. Burton

A Need for True Prophets

Today we need more prophets to shake the ungodly, and I thank God for the dear ones we have! The word of the Lord came unto Jeremiah telling him that He would ordain him a prophet unto the nations. Jeremiah then told the Lord, "Oh, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak; for I am a child." Then the Lord said unto him, "Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord." Then God touched his mouth, and put words in his mouth, and said, "See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant." Jer. 1:4-10.

Praise God, today we have ministers and prophets who are not afraid to tell sinners of their lost condition and are not afraid of the faces of people! Some of the people thought Jesus was Jeremiah. Matt. 16:14. But Jeremiah came about eight hundred years before Jesus came. Both of them were men that had sorrows and were acquainted with grief. Nothing can quite compare with the lamentations of Jeremiah. He had many sorrows. He wished he had a fountain of tears; he thought he didn't have enough. The Holy Ghost in us can make us weep! Jeremiah wasn't playing religion. His heart was heavily burdened, and the words he told them were the Lord's words, not his. That whole nation was on his heart. He knew he had a heavy task. We pray that in these days we will have burdens like this. Our eyes are dry too often. Whole nations are going down. How burdened are we as saints of God? Without Christ, men are dead spiritually. Brokenness and contrition are what God wants.

Unless we see very quickly in our nation a Holy Ghost revival, we are going to see something else, and that is the wrath of God! He *will not always* chide. Not too many of us shed tears over this poor, lost, and dead generation. God give us weeping prophets like Jeremiah! Situations are heartbreaking

in our world! The world now in all its chaos is due to the backslidden state of the professed church. We need more Jeremiahs! Oh, that God, in these last terrible seconds of this dispensation, would send us some men of the caliber of John the Baptist and Jeremiah, some pleading prophets.

Have you a passionate love for souls? Are you keeping your end up in the work of the Lord? Are you praying? Are you travailing? The harvest will soon be past. The clock is running out on us! It is nearer the end than we think. We pray our heavenly Father to give us all a vision, and to help us keep our first love. Move upon us, O God, to pray more for souls. Lord, if we wait, it will be too late! Now is the time to plead with God for our lost loved ones! Amen.

—Selected by Sis. Rubye Quave

HELL!

The average person doesn't believe there is a hell. Most say that hell is here on earth. We don't hear much preaching about hell anymore, as it is not a very popular subject. Ministers don't like to preach on the subject, but would rather preach on the subject of "God Loves You." But the Bible also teaches us that, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord." "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3:36. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness." Rom. 1:18. "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience." Eph. 5:6. By these Scriptures we see that God hates all kinds of sin, and His wrath is upon them that do wickedly. Then in the sixth chapter of Revelation, speaking of that great day, the Judgment Day, when His divine vengeance will come, it says: "For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

Now we will see what is said about hell. "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matt. 10:28. "And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee; it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire." Matt. 18:9. "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" Matt 23:33. "And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched." Mark 9:45. "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame." Luke 16:23,24. "The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he

shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night. . ." Rev. 14:10,11. "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." Rev. 20:10.

Of all the Scriptures that are written in the Word of God, sophisticated Americans don't buy the notion of hell. But let us take a look around us. "Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." 2 Tim. 3:13. "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many." Matt. 24:11. "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matt. 24:37-39.

Present Evil Conditions

"On the average, one crime is committed in the U.S. every three seconds; a murder occurs on the average of once every 27 minutes; a forcible rape once every eight minutes; a robbery once every 78 seconds, and an aggravated assault once every minute. Somewhere in the U.S. a burglary occurs on the average of once every ten seconds; a larceny once every five seconds; a motor vehicle is stolen once every 33 seconds. Five thousand young people commit suicide each year, a near-epidemic average of 13 a day. Researchers say there may be as many as nine million alcoholics in the U.S., nearly one in every twenty persons. More than fifty million abortions are performed each year, world wide. This results in an abortion-to-live-births ratio of about one to two. Pregnancies among ten to fourteen-year-olds are increasing, and abortions now exceed births in that age group. In 1976, a total of 357,533 children were reportedly abused or neglected, or both. It was found that the natural parents were allegedly responsible for the abuse in 87 percent of the cases reported."

These conditions are growing worse and not better.

—Earl B. Bliss

Apostasy Begins at Closet Door

Philip Henry, the father of the commentator Matthew Henry was an especially godly man. "In his lifetime, it is said that he and his wife constantly prayed together, morning and evening. We are told, also, that he made family worship a matter of conscience and abounded in it. He said to his children and friends: 'Be sure you look to your secret duty; keep that up whatever you do. The soul cannot prosper in the neglect of it. Apostasy generally begins at the closet door of prayer.' As to family worship, he would say: 'If the worship of God be not in the home, write, "Lord, have mercy upon us" on the door, for there is a plague, a curse within.' "

—Prayer and Its Remarkable Answers

FAITH AND VICTORY

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Office Phone 282-1479 Home Phone 282-2262

O, how great the Lord rewards me,
O, how His blessings never cease!
O, how He makes this life all sunshine,
With the joy of His abiding peace!

—Edward M. Brandt

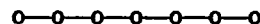
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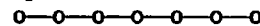
Glory to God, the Saviour Is Born!

THE SEASON'S WARMEST GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS in the precious name of the Holy Child Jesus, at whose birth the angel of the Lord and a multitude of the heavenly host appeared to the shepherds who were keeping watch over their flocks that night, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Emmanuel's birth and mission to this world was a fulfillment of those prophecies which run like a golden thread through the Old Testament over an era of thousands of years—ever since Adam and Eve were driven from the garden of Eden. For four hundred years prior to Jesus' coming, God had not spoken to man by a prophet and the world was in gross spiritual darkness. The darkest period was just before the glorious dawn of the gospel day with the coming of the Messiah, the Anointed One. "The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up." Matt. 4:16. Jesus "was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." St. John 1:9. Jesus Himself said, "I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12. Again He said, "While ye have the light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light." John 12:36.

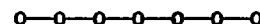
Salvation from sin through Jesus Christ is now offered to every creature in this gracious gospel day. Whosoever will may come to Him and take the water of life freely.



As this last issue of the year of 1979 goes to press, we offer many thanks to our readers for the considerable number of yearly gift subscriptions that you have sent. We welcome all you can send at any time at the price of \$1.00 for three yearly subscriptions. We pray and trust that the Bible truth in the coming issues will prove a real spiritual blessing to every recipient. There is transforming power in believing the gospel of Jesus Christ.



By the 20th of December, bound volumes of the eleven issues of the Faith and Victory paper for 1979 will be available at \$1.00 each, plus 60c for postage and handling. Ready also at that time will be the 1979 Beautiful Way books for Juniors (52 papers for the year) at \$1.00 each, plus 60c for postage and handling. Send your order TODAY!



Beautiful 1980 Wall Calendar with Scripture . . .

This 1980 Wall Calendar has beautiful nature scenes in color for each month with Scriptural emphasis. Size 7¼ by 13½ inches. Price, \$1.25 each, plus 60c for postage and handling, which is a total of \$1.85, postpaid to your address.

Scripture Text Christmas Cards — 10 cards in box. Sunshine Line—price per box, \$1.50, plus 65c for postage and handling. Order your supply NOW!

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Off the press recently was a reprint German edition of the excellent book, "Food For Lambs" by C. E. Orr. We have it only in the German language which consists of 127 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00 each, plus 60c for postage and handling. However, we expect to print the English version in the near future.

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Some of us from Guthrie attended the last part of the very good autumn meeting which closed on Nov. 4th at Wichita, Kansas, where Brother Lewis Williams is the pastor.

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Bro. Mart Samons held a profitable revival meeting from Nov. 4 to 11 at the 23rd Street Church of God chapel in Oklahoma City where Brother Eddie Wilson and Bro. Archie Souder are the ministers.

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With much gratitude to the Lord, this writer and his wife Maybelle observed quietly our 46th wedding anniversary on Sunday, Nov. 18th. God's care and keeping grace has been with us all these years, for which we surely praise Him.

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Bro. Ostis Wilson, pastor at Jefferson, Oregon, reported that their Assembly meeting at Jefferson, which closed on Nov. 11th, was a very good meeting and that God visited them again. Brothers Richard Madden, Ori Young, and Herbert Probst carried the main burden of the preaching. A good spirit of harmony, fellowship, and co-operation prevailed throughout the meeting, and several souls were at the altar for salvation, sanctification, and other help and victories needed.

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The mission work is continuing in the Philippine Islands, but the native workers are urgently calling for ministers to come over and teach them more of the Bible truth. Who will hear the call and go?

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Bro. Leslie Busbee, pastor of the local Guthrie congregation, held a very inspirational meeting from Nov. 4 to 11 at the Church of God chapel at Four Corners, which is a few miles north of Vinita, Okla. The saints responded and rejoiced in the messages of Bible truth.

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Bro. Tom Melot, minister of Guthrie, Okla., and his daughter Lissa left on Nov. 14 to hold some services in Springfield, Mo., and Dayton, Ohio, enroute to Ontario, Canada, where he is scheduled to hold services with the saints in that area on Thanksgiving weekend. We trust the Lord anointed him with the messages of truth that He desired each congregation to hear.

Some of the dear saints in Ontario expect to come to the winter Assembly meeting to be held here

in Guthrie during Christmas week. Pray that the way will keep open and that they will have a safe and profitable journey.

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Sister Dorothy Keiser Scheduled for India . . .

Barring last minute changes, Sis. Dorothy Keiser of Shawnee, Okla., will leave Los Angeles on Dec. 29, 1979, by airline across the Pacific Ocean enroute to Kerala, South India, to participate in the general campmeeting which will begin in the first week of January, 1980. Paying her own way, she advises that she is answering God's call and Bro. John Varghese's invitation to come over to that campmeeting. She is scheduled to arrive in India on Dec. 31st. Pray that she will have a safe round trip and be a real blessing in that mission field. In almost every letter Bro. Varghese has been pleading for the Lord to send one or more from here to their general campmeeting in January, 1980.

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Bro. and Sister Max Williamson of Baton Rouge, La., and other relatives were here in Guthrie to attend the wedding of their granddaughter, D. Eileen Pruitt, to Kevin Dixon, on Saturday, Nov. 24, 1979. Eileen is the daughter of our son Harvey and his wife Maxine. May the Lord's blessings accompany the union of this couple and convince them that they need God to pilot their lives together.

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Congratulations to Sis. Thelma (Davis) Busbee and her husband Ray who will have reached their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 3, 1979. Their address is 515 Morrow Street, Neosho, Mo. 64850, to which you may send them a card. They are the parents of our Guthrie pastor, Bro. Leslie Busbee.

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Church Guest Home Open for Residents . . .

The Church Guest Home here at Guthrie is available for residents with Maude Hornbeck as the resident caretaker. Available for occupancy are nice bedrooms at a reasonable price with meals prepared and served in the dining room. The first residents should be a man and his wife, or several single women.

Bro. Floyd Hines arrived from Michigan on November 5th to live in the Home, but he is now living at 1005 W. Warner Street in Guthrie until a man and his wife come to the Home which will make it proper for Bro. Hines to reside there. Agree with us in prayer that this urgent need for a man and his wife as residents will be met speedily. Bro. Hines has been isolated from the saints for many years and is now certainly glad to be here in the Guthrie congregation. Other isolated saints should also take advantage of this opportunity to live in the Guest Home in a Christian atmosphere and be in the congregation. All elderly, able-bodied members of the Church of God anywhere who desire more information should contact the secretary-treasurer, Bro. Bob Sallee, 916 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

Please help make this an ideal Christian Home.

—Lawrence D. Pruitt

Excellent Gift Suggestions

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.

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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. Riggle. Originally published in 1902, this excellent volume contains 432 pages of Scripture references and comments on many Bible subjects. Nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00.

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. Riggle. Reprinted verbatim in 541 pages, cloth binding. Price, \$5.00 each.

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

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.

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.

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.

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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.

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In Memorial

Fred Leach was born Oct. 8, 1897, in Turkey, Texas, and passed from this life on Oct. 15, 1979, in Willows, Calif., at the age of eighty-two years and seven days.

On March 4, 1921, he was united in marriage to Mary Ada Daniels, and to this union six children were born.

He accepted the Lord during his last illness.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Ada, of the home; six children, all in Calif.; two brothers and six sisters; twenty-two grandchildren, and thirty-three great-grandchildren, other relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were held by Bro. Ostis Wilson and Sis. Loretta Harmon. Interment was in Odd Fellows Cemetery, Orland, Calif.

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Miss Queenie V. Williamson, daughter of Bro. F. M. Williamson (pioneer minister of the Church of God) was born in Neshoba County, Mississippi, Feb. 8, 1894, being a long-time resident of Hammond, La., at the old home place at the entrance to the Church of God campground. She passed from this life on October 5, 1979, at the age of eighty-five years, seven months and twenty-seven days.

She was preceded in death by her father, Bro. F. M. Williamson, and mother, Sarah J. Williamson; two brothers, Oscar and Grover Williamson; two sisters, Mrs. David (Bertha) Robertson, and Mrs. Wilson (Leila) Joiner.

She is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Robert J. (Elma) Forbes, Mrs. J. Roy (Ethel) Langlois, and Mrs. Everett I. (Viva) Carver; four brothers, Fred E. Williamson, Austin J. Williamson, Earl E. Williamson, and Max F. Williamson; numerous nieces and nephews, both great, and great-great.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Merrill Williamson and Bob Forbes, with burial in the Oak Grove Church of God Cemetery, near Lorange, La.

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

Beatrice Spaur was born June 2, 1891, in Lewis County, West Virginia, and departed this life on Oct. 20, 1979, at her home in Jefferson, Oregon, at the age of 88 years, four months and 18 days.

She grew to womanhood in West Virginia and was married to Thomas Spaur in that state. The date of that marriage was not obtainable. This couple spent several years in West Virginia, then lived in Washington State for a time, and returned to West Virginia where Thomas Spaur died in 1958. No children were born to this union. Sister Spaur had a mother's heart and loved and desired children, so she reared four children to be grown who were not her own. Also, she had several other young children in her home and under her care at different times.

She was converted while still a young woman and became very active in the work of the Lord. She

and her husband established a congregation in Richwood, West Virginia, and later established another one in South Charleston, West Virginia. She was very active in these endeavors. After her conversion she quickly embraced the truth as taught by the Church of God, and remained in the Church of God until her death.

After the death of her husband she came to Jefferson, Oregon in 1959, and that was her home until her death—for twenty years. She worshipped with the Church of God in that city throughout this time and served as its pastor for more than half of those years. She will be much missed in the church circle and among her friends.

She was as energetic a worker for the Lord as I have known. She was continually visiting people who were sick, shut in and in trouble or sorrow to try to comfort and help them. Most of her Sunday afternoons (this was when she could have a car and driver to take her) were spent in this way going to Eugene, Salem, Stayton, Albany or wherever her burden was for the needy. Oh, how we need more people in the Church like that!

She is survived by one brother, Lon Smith, of Parkersburg, West Virginia, three sisters, Opal, Ruth and Marie, all of West Virginia; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Charles Elwell and Ostis Wilson on October 24th, at the Fisher Funeral Home in Albany, Oregon. Interment was in the Jefferson Cemetery at Jefferson, Oregon.

—Ostis Wilson

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In Memory of Sister Spaur

Why should we bitterly weep
For the loss of those we love,
When we know they have wended homeward
To that beautiful world above?

For soon we, too, may join them;
For this we are longing for—
That grand and joyous meeting,
Never to part any more.

Farewell, Sister Spaur, we will miss you!
Your sun of life has gone down,
And you have exchanged your cross
For a bright and shining crown.

—By Grace Jones

—————o—————

REVIVAL AT GOULDS, FLORIDA

The annual revival meeting will be held at the Church of God chapel in Goulds, Fla., from Sunday, Dec. 23 to Dec. 30, 1979. Two services will be held daily—12:30 and 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to these services where you can find divine help for soul and body.

For more information, write or call the pastor, Bro. H. H. Hargrave, 22345 S.W. 117 Place, Goulds, Fla. 33170; home phone 305-247-4102, chapel phone 305-251-3873.

OKMULGEE, OKLA., REVIVAL REPORT

The annual revival meeting at Okmulgee, Okla., which closed on Oct. 21, was truly blessed of the Lord. It seemed more like a campmeeting as praises, shouts and holy hands went up to Him in victory.

Bro. Woodrow Warren, the pastor, and the saints here appreciate the visitation of the Holy Spirit and the presence of all the dear saints from far and near who carried a burden for the meeting. May the Lord richly bless those from Alabama, California, Kansas, Ohio, Bluejacket, Guthrie, Sapulpa, Shawnee, and other parts of Oklahoma. The gospel was preached, and some souls sought the Lord for salvation, some for more grace, others for deeper depths, and healing of the body, soul, and mind.

Even though the meeting is over and we are in perilous times, there is peace and joy in the Lord today.

A baptismal service was held on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 18, 1979. —By Erma Johnson

WICHITA, KANSAS, MEETING REPORT

The saints at Wichita, Kansas, give thanks to God for His continued blessings. Again He provided us with a blessed meeting that was very solemn. The Word was sobering and soul-searching, inviting us to try our own spirits, to use the time wisely that God allots to us, and to stand against the strong pressure and force that hell exerts as it is moved from beneath. We were warned against spiritual sleeping sickness, as well as exhorted to have faith for divine healing and not to dwell in the shadow of Egypt by resorting to remedies.

The Lord was faithful to all souls, and a number of saints sought for spiritual help at an altar of prayer. Some backsliders returned to their Father, for which we are very thankful. We desire prayer for two families who came to the meeting seeking truth. We trust they will have humble hearts so God can show them that they have found it. Thank the Lord for His faithfulness unto us! —Shirley Knight

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 73rd annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Guthrie, Okla., on Dec. 21st to 30th, 1979, inclusive, during the Christmas holidays. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U.S.A.

Since the Christian school will be in session on Friday, Dec. 21st, in the dining hall, the first service of the meeting will be on Friday night, Dec. 21.

The chapel is located on the corner of 6th Street and West Warner Avenue. The dining hall and dormitories are located in the same block for your convenience. All who come will be cared for. The expenses of the meeting will be met as usual by free-will offerings.

We are praying and expecting the Lord to send in Spirit-filled ministers to preach the Word with heaven's

anointing. All hungry souls seeking light or spiritual help, come, and God will meet you here. If you are sick in body, come and be healed by faith in the Great Physician. Saints, come praying with a burden for the unsaved and for all who need help in soul and body. These are perilous times, and we need to be about our Father's business, doing what we can for lost souls.

Please send all contributions for the coming State Assembly meeting directly to the State Treasurer, Sister Frances Deforth, Route 5, Guthrie, Ok. 73044.

—L. D. Pruitt

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The annual California State Assembly meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, on the campground in Pacoima, Calif., Dec. 21 through Dec. 30, 1979.

We request your prayers that the Lord will come down in a mighty way. All are invited to attend.

Meals and lodging will be provided on a free-will offering basis. We do request that out-of-town saints bring their own linens if possible. There are accommodations for all.

For further information, contact Bro. Robert Sherman, phone 896-7593, or Bro. James Pierro, phone 896-5331. The church phone is 899-9021. Area code is 213.

Special Needs for the Church's National Campground

Bro. Dale Doolittle and family, who are the caretakers of the ground and buildings where the National campmeeting of the Church of God is held each year at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri, have moved to their new home near the campground. However, they will continue to care for the grounds as usual. The trustees decided that it would be better not to leave the caretaker's house on the ground vacant because of the problems of freezing in winter and general upkeep of the property. They have made that house available rent-free to some established saint family. If you are interested in occupying this house, please contact one of the trustees in the Neosho area. They are: Paul Cole, Rt. 7, Neosho, Mo. 64850, Dale Doolittle, Rt. 7, Box 415 A, Neosho, Mo. 64850, and Amos Porter, Rt. 2, Granby, Mo. 64844.

Campground Debts

After the purchase of the property adjoining the campground, which was authorized at the last campmeeting, some considerable financial obligations are to be met. The purchase price was \$19,500. Donations for a total of \$4,668.54 have been received. The outstanding balance of all loans is \$14,732. One note for \$4,500 must be paid in full by Feb. 20, 1980. A total of \$8,000 must be paid shortly after the 1980 campmeeting. One other loan is being paid at \$102.81 per month.

This national campmeeting and campground facilities belong to every member of the Church of God, and each of us should feel our responsibility to help pay these obligations on our campground. If everyone who has ever enjoyed that annual campmeeting and used the free facilities would contribute even a few dollars, the debts could be met without a strain on anyone. A gift at this season of the year would honor Christ's advent to the world. For income tax deduction purposes, make your check payable to "The Church of God," and mail to the campground business manager, Bro. Jim Wall, 5825 E. 64th St., Tulsa, Okla. 74136. Any contribution, large or small, will be highly appreciated, and the Lord will bless your concern for His great cause.

Prayer Requests

Miss.—"Hold me up in prayer. . . I need a new touch from God for my body. . . I know God can heal the old as well as the young."—Viola Touchstone

Ind.—"Please pray that God will heal the arthritis in my hands."—Sue Morrison

Va.—"Pray especially for me as I am sick, but trusting God for healing."—Frances Branch

Okla.—"Pray for an unspoken request, also for my husband who has heart trouble."—Mrs. Virgil Patton

Mo.—"Eula, my wife, needs special healing for her body."—Bro. Leslie Adams

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

South India (Oct. 18)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the saints everywhere in America: We send our greetings of Christian love to all of you again in the precious name of Jesus Christ, our wonderful Counsellor and the Prince of peace.

Thank you very much for your kind letter dated October 2, 1979, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude. Glad to note that you are all marching on with victory over Satan every day. We are also happy in the Lord by His wonderful grace.

I got "Macedonian" calls from two places: one from Koottarirle, and another from Pandanadu. I have already visited the needy souls of the first place, and I am planning to visit the second place soon. Wherever we go, we meet with many hungry, thirsty souls for the living God and the living gospel. Surely this is not the time to sleep, but it is the time to arise and build. This is the day to wake up and go out with the message of the gospel. The night is coming soon when no one can work. "Awake, awake, put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city." Isaiah 52:1. Please remember these new centers and villages in your valuable prayers.

I have a special appeal to the saints in America. So far, we do not have a dormitory or a building of any kind on our campground. This is a hindrance to

our meetings. After prayer and by faith, we started to build a building on the campground, but we have not been able to finish it yet. It can be used as a dormitory with kitchen. Our general campmeeting starts in the first week of January, 1980, and we have to get the building completed before January. We need financial help to get it finished. Please pray and contribute as the Holy Spirit leads you.

We expect some of you to participate in our campmeeting this January. May God send one or two to India.

Our next monthly all-day meeting will be held at Thrikkannamangal next Saturday.

We continue to remember you in our prayers. May God touch your body for complete healing. Let us exchange our prayers.

Yours in Him,

—John Varghese

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (Oct. 17)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all of spiritual Israel: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, the great Prince of peace. . . Complete peace of mind and rest come by reposing trust in Him. It is a cure to worry and anxiety. There is no peace like that which comes from completely trusting God for all things.

We have received your letter dated Oct. 1, 1979, with its contents duly noted. We count and appreciate it as a great favour for communicating with us regularly. We thank all for the remembrance of your brethren in Africa.

We are aware of the request for the Father's special touch for complete victory in your body, and we are kneeling down for it fervently. To us, prayer is not merely a spare tire, something to be used when the others fail, but more than anything else it is a daily necessity. . . It has the power to meet every need in life. "Be still and know that I am God." (Psa. 46:10) . . . We can stand anything, even the deepest pain, if we know, really know, we will get through it. And how do we know? "For thou art with me." When one's life is centered in God, his fears of tomorrow give way to hope, and when we look forward with hope, life is good. . .

Seven days of fasting were observed in the three congregations in Kwale for divine direction. When our lives are in harmony with His will, even though we cannot see the way ahead, we have an instinctive sense of right direction and, with courage and confidence, we move steadily ahead through storms and tribulations, and with the guidance of the Star of Bethlehem we shall come to the right place at last. This relieves us of the burden of responsibilities of tomorrow. After Jesus had said on the cross, "It is finished," He then said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." Instead of squandering our energies with countless decisions, wondering whether to do this or that, we can settle it with one great decision, "I shall do the will of God." This brings into our lives a singleness of purpose.

The young people of Utagba—Ogbe congregation moved on Oct. 19th to the town of Afor for personal witnessing and open air evangelistic meetings. I was there for a day to supervise their activities. It was profitable and fruitful, as many by it found Christ. It lasted for three days. Right now, they are on a similar mission to Obetim town and will be there for three days of soul-winning. Praise God for directing and leading the way.

Transportation: It is staggering to mention the amount of money that had been spent in a bid to reactivate the Volkswagen van after its involvement in an accident. The present automobile expert handling its restoration, after others had failed, discovered that many parts in the engine were pushed out of position and damaged. Being the only means to travel to reach souls and having started before the degree of the damage became known, with huge amount already consumed, it will now be unwise to decide on abandonment. Without faith, we become possessed with a "what's the use" attitude. However, as we have been thrown unexpectedly into heavy indebtedness, not caused by carelessness of any, we are praying the Lord to help pay off this heavy bill. He is bigger than our problems. Amen.

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

FROM THE MAIL BOX . . .

Ill.—Dear Sis. Marie and all: I trust this finds you all well and happy in God's service. We are having a beautiful fall. The flowers were so pretty. We enjoyed them so much. They are another gift from God. We have so much for which to be thankful.

I seem to be doing better, and I thank the Lord for His divine touch. Also, my grandson is doing better and didn't need an operation on his knee. It seems to be healing, but has a little soreness in it yet. Pray that all soreness will leave. I'm thankful for all your prayers. I do like to trust God for the things we need, for sickness, and for other needs we have at different times. . . . May God bless you, is my prayer.

—Mrs. Truman Pitts

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La.—Dear ones at the Print Shop: . . . I enjoy my *Faith and Victory* paper so much. I saw Sis. Queenie Williamson's death notice in the Nov. paper. She was my teacher the first year she taught in the country school in the Robertson neighborhood. She stayed with her sister, Bertha Robertson. My father and mother were next door neighbors to them.

May God bless each one of you at your print shop. . . . Pray for my husband and me.

In Christ, —Thelma S. Joiner

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Calif.—Dear Sis. Marie and all: Greetings in Jesus' dear name, a Name with which no other can be compared. He is my all in all. He is the One who hears and answers prayers at all times. He is our everlasting life. Oh, that more people would pay the price for eternal life!

I have not been very well, and sometimes I think I may not be here much longer, but I have a thrill when I think that my time may be near. Although He may spare me a little longer, I have only three months to go to reach one hundred years of age.

I had a bad fall on Oct. 30, and it is a miracle I did not get hurt. I stooped to turn out a night light and pulled a chest of drawers over on top of me. Helen came and had to call Carl to come over and help get it up so they could get me up. I told them I was not hurt, and I wasn't. I got up and lay on the bed a few minutes, and then came to the living room. I have just been a little sore. I feel that it was one of God's miracles that helped me. How it pays to trust in our Saviour!

Yes, sister, our God is all we need. He fills all places. Tell Bro. Lawrence that all we suffer cannot be compared with what Jesus went through. Just think of the crown of thorns! No suffering can be compared to His. So we must be thankful and live for Him. If Jesus is my Pilot, I'm willing to go all the way with Him.

—Mary Worley.

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Penn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: My heart is full of gratitude and praise to God for the love and mercy that He has extended to us from our Lord and Master. As we behold the conditions of all humanity around us we are made to realize more and more that Jesus has delivered us from sin. May God help us to arise and do more to combat these forces of evil.

I pray God's blessings to continue on all who labor in His vineyard. . . .

In His service, —Grant Boyer

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Mich.—Dear saints: . . . I am thankful to be a child of the living God, and I am so happy and thankful for being acquainted with such a merciful and gracious heavenly Father.

I am thankful for the *Faith and Victory* paper, and for the dedicated ones who print it and the other literature. I want to do what I can to help. Here is a small offering to help in the work of the Lord, and may the Lord bless all of you and His work.

—Lela Stewart

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Canada—Dear Sis. Miles: Greetings of divine love through Jesus Christ. How I appreciate tonight that I know the saints! I love them so dearly! The love that flows from heart to heart is only made possible because each heart knows what it means to be washed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

I just finished reading the book *Life's Golden Gleanings* by Ruby C. Stover. How inspiring it is to read of the older saints' experiences! But in order to obtain these experiences they had to go through many hard times. They were willing to sacrifice themselves. Sometimes I feel that I should sacrifice more, be more devoted and draw nearer to God. When I read of the pioneer saints and how they sacrificed their lives completely for the cause of the gospel, I feel that I do so little. I want to put my trust more

fully in God concerning all the minute things in life, as well as the big things. I want to testify more for Him who died for me. It seems that in this day and age, when the reception of the pure, blessed gospel is so poor, it is harder to testify. But it is our duty, in spite of the hardness of the people's hearts, to witness for Christ. . . .

Betty has had very severe pains lately. However, we are still trusting in God and relying on God's promise. I wholeheartedly believe in divine healing. I know God is just "the same today." His Word is surer than heaven and earth. I pray that He will increase my faith. . . . —Agathe Friesen

The Old Year Is Ending!

The old year is passing away.
We are nearing the last day.
The last night at twelve o'clock
She will have said her last say.

We bid her good-bye with tears
For the many that are lost in sin,
For whom we have prayed and trusted to
The fold of God would have come in.

They have put it off another year;
It seems they do not understand
The prayers that are said, the tears that are shed,
To bring them to a better land.

But as the New Year quietly comes,
Our hopes begin to rise above
The failures of the last year
On wings of heavenly love.

Let us gird our armour on,
And look to the Father of light;
We are determined by His help
And grace to win the constant fight.

The devil is ever raging;
His time is, oh, so short.
For he is a conquered foe,
And from us must depart.

When we lift the banner of faith
And shout the victory,
The devil cannot endure that—
From this he has to flee.

So let us greet the New Year
With our faith and courage high.
We do not fight this fight alone,
For the Saviour is always nigh.

If we keep true and faithful,
Thru the years we will find
The Lord a very present help
Until the end of time.

—Effie Miller

Note: Sister Nellie Lovell has moved from the Golden Rule Home back to her home in Bogata, Texas, Rt. 1, West 7th St., 75417.

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Missouri—Dear saints and readers: I was much impressed by Sister Marie's article in last month's paper, "What Do You Have to Give?" I feel somewhat inspired today to give my testimony, trusting it will be a blessing to some soul. I am happy in the Lord today and praising Him for His unspeakable gift.

As Thanksgiving draws near, I love to review the blessings from the Lord. This time of the year holds special memories for me because it was twelve years ago that I found the "richest treasure human spirits ever found." It happened at Hammond, La., while our family was attending the Assembly meeting there in 1967. Although I was only ten years old at the time, I had come to the age of accountability, and my heart was heavy under the condemnation of a guilty conscience. Oh, how I longed for sweet relief, yet how I dreaded what people might think and the humiliation I might suffer if I went to the altar. Conviction was strong in the services, and sometimes it seemed almost more than I could resist. Even outside of the services the convicting Spirit of God would not leave me. Praise God for His mercy to my soul! Finally it came my last night to be in the meeting. I determined that I must be saved that night. So in spite of what people might think, when the invitation was given I found my way to the altar. I was determined to find the joy of pardon and was willing to do anything to find it. Praise God, it didn't take long. I began to tell Jesus how sorry I was for my sins and asked Him to forgive me. Then, suddenly I felt something take place in my bosom. It was almost unbelievable and more than I could comprehend, yet Satan wasn't willing to turn me loose without a fight. He began to bring doubts to my mind as to whether or not Jesus had really forgiven me. As I doubted, the feeling seemed to fade. I wanted to be sure, so I began to pray again. As I prayed I felt a powerful, definite, indescribable something take place within my breast. I began to feel all new inside, and my faith began to take hold. As my faith took hold, the feeling grew deeper and the joy-waves of heaven began to roll. Oh, hallelujah, I had experienced the new birth! I had actually felt the blood of Jesus wash away my sins and give me a new heart. That pure stream of the river of life and peace came dashing right down from the throne of God and flooded my soul. At that very instant I was born into the great family of God, the Church of God. I found the one, pure religion for which Jesus died to give us.

After my conversion I found that I had power to do that which pleased the Lord. There was no desire to do anything that His approval would not be on and I had a deep desire to measure my life to all the teachings of His Word. I began to read His Word and spend much time in prayer. This became such a blessing and source of strength to me. Then the Lord showed me that if I wanted to continue to have His

sweet approval on my soul, there were some confessions that I needed to make. I had told some lies to my parents before I was saved as well as to other individuals. He showed me that I must confess these and ask their forgiveness. Oh, this was hard, and so humiliating. But I loved the Lord and I was willing to do anything to have His approval. After much prayer He gave me grace to clear my life of every lie and wrong I had committed against others as far as was in my ability to do so. I want to say right here that the key to grace is humility. Every time I humbled myself and made a confession the Lord poured in the grace and glory. I found that after it was over it wasn't nearly as hard as it had seemed it would be, and the glory and peace that filled my soul was precious.

As time went on I began to feel that I needed to be sanctified. I needed the baptism of the Holy Spirit and I desired to have all that God had for me. This thought kept lingering in my mind until finally I felt that it was time to put in for my need. So one night, realizing that God who has promised is faithful, I presented myself to Him as a living, holy sacrifice for His service, asking Him to give me the gift of the Holy Spirit. Suddenly the glory of God flooded this earthen temple. The Holy Spirit came in all of His power and glory. It is beyond the power of words to describe it. I can only say that I felt so full of God, and the glory was so intense in my breast, that it seemed I could not hold any more. I was aware of a deeper cleansing and purity of heart than I had ever before experienced. The Adamic nature had been purged out of my being. Praise God for full salvation! The second work of grace in the heart is as definite as the first.

I had entered the spiritual land of Canaan. It was now time to "go forth and possess the land." I went forth, but soon made a startling discovery. There were giants in the land of Canaan. One of the first I encountered was Giant Accuser. He threw some fierce darts at me and wounded me quite severely. Then Giant Doubt began to torment me, and his brother, Giant Despair, carried me down to his dark dungeon. But Immanuel in His mercy came and delivered me, and after many encounters with these giants, I learned how to use the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit which He had given me. Praise God, by His power I have conquered the giants and He has given me a home where the "flowers bloom forever and the sun is always bright." I cannot praise God enough for His great salvation. I love this holy way. There is joy in the service of the Master.

Many people today have a religion, but it is head religion, not a heart religion. They are yoking up with various religious groups, trusting in their creeds for salvation. We are told in the Word of God to yoke up with Jesus only. Only while we are bearing His yoke alone can He fit us into His Body, the Church. If we are bearing the sectarian yoke, which is of man, we cannot see clearly the Church that Jesus built. How is it with you, friend? Have you really

been born again? Have you been made a new creature, and has your old life passed away? Can you see the glorious Church that Jesus built and of which He only can make you a member by the virtue of a new birth? Let us ignore the so-called churches where men admit members, and look to Jesus, the Author of the one true faith.

Oh, dear friend, are you enjoying the fullness of what God is offering to you? Look at what He has to give. Look at what He has already given. He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life. But you must give Him something. He wants your heart—your undivided affections.

I have not been able to fully describe in words the glory of salvation, but I trust the Holy Spirit will bear the message to your heart. This glorious experience can be yours. You may not have the same emotions that I had, but you will have an experience—a solid one.

Your saved Brother, —Harlan Sorrell

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Oklahoma.—Dear saints: May God bless each one for praying for me. I thank the Lord for the affliction. He has ways to teach us. I didn't know if He would heal me or take me on, and I wanted Him to have His way. He knows my heart—that I desire to cling to Him all the way.

I am thankful to be able to be back to work again. I need your prayers continually for grace to get victory over the heavy burden on my heart, for a soul in trouble.

Christian love, —Viola Weir

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N. C.—Dear workers of the Lord: Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. We are thankful for salvation this morning and to be free from the bondage of the enemy. The dear Lord has been so good to us that we just can't thank and praise Him enough. Trust this finds all well and encouraged at the Print Shop.

We wish to thank the saints for their prayers in behalf of Dad Sizemore. He is home now and doing well. It was truly a miracle how the Lord touched him. He lost weight until he only weighed eighty-three pounds. He nearly died twice, but the good Lord heard and answered prayer. He had mercy on him and spared his life. When we look at him we realize more and more the power of God. We truly want to give the Lord all the praise for his recovery, and not man or medicine. The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16b.

We again thank the Lord for the good job He has worked out for us at the telephone company. I thank the Lord that I didn't have to join the union, as North Carolina has an open shop law. The men that I work with have been on strike since Oct. 1, but I have been able to work without any problems or harsh words from anyone. I put the whole matter in the Lord's hands before the strike started and just trusted Him fully for the results. The Lord brought

the Scripture, "But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?" Gal. 4:9.

We want to thank the Lord also for working out things for the children in school. We are still having family service on Wednesday night, Sunday morning and night. We still trust fully in the Lord for all things that come our way. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." Psalms 103:2.

Remember us here in prayer that we will stay in the center of God's will and live a life that will be pleasing unto Him. —R. D. Sizemore

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B.C., Canada—Dear Sis. Marie and readers of *Faith and Victory*: Praise be to God for the many times He has answered prayer in our family by faith alone in God and His precious promises. We are not accustomed to using doctors or medicine.

In 1978, we had a TV in our home and were watching it for game shows, sports, and news, but mostly children's programs. We reasoned the way most of our *modern* congregations did, that TV was OK as long as it was controlled.

One day our married son, Sid, came home and announced he was getting rid of his TV as it had no place in a Christian home. It was shortly thereafter that Sid came down with a serious head pain, and by the next day his eye had swelled shut. We got under the burden and prayed. As we did, we, too, felt convicted about the evil device in our home, so we got rid of our TV. We felt we should be obedient to James 5, so we called the local pastor for prayer, and he said it would depend upon Sid's faith. That way, it washed his hands of his own lack of spiritual power with God. (I know scripturally we need faith for healing.)

Our family set aside a day of fasting. It so happened that our other son came home early from work. He gave his heart to the Lord that day and we rejoiced. We gathered around Sid for prayer, and the Lord's presence was so precious. He got some relief, but the pressure came back strong in his head.

After a few days we took Sid in for an examination. (He had to have a report for missing work.) The doctor gave him penicillin and drained an abscess from his eye. The pain in his head grew more intense. This continued, and our nights turned into prayer sessions, and our appetites were stayed. God blessed Sid, however, that through it all he could still eat and keep up his strength. This went on for about two more weeks. We took Sid to the local doctor once a week, and he always sent him home and couldn't find the cause.

One night, as I was earnestly beseeching the Lord for Sid's relief, I stopped praying. For the past six months I had been suffering from a leak in the artery to my heart. It had been getting worse and now it was a constant trickle of blood. As I stopped praying and concentrated on the flow of blood, I said, "Lord, you could make me well, too." I felt the wonderful, tender hand of Jesus reach down inside of me

and press lightly on the spot where the bleeding had taken place. It got very warm, like a patch had been placed there. In seconds the blood began to retrack to the proper route. I felt pressure on my heart from the extra flow of blood, which continued for a couple of weeks. But that night I really rejoiced in just knowing the Lord had been so close in person that I could feel that hand reach inside of me. This inspired my faith. I felt that if God had so marvelously healed me, He would heal Sid, too, who was living with us with his wife and baby for these past three weeks. The Lord was so close, yet He did not heal Sid that night.

In the morning hours, the Lord impressed me to have Sid sent to the city of Vancouver where they had a brain scanner to have his case diagnosed, because the *modern* church was scorning us for giving testimonies without medical proof. We held onto the Lord for help and strength as the ambulance took him away. That afternoon they phoned that they had found the problem—a very large abscess on the top of his head. We rushed to Vancouver after my husband John got home from work. Six of our family went, along with a German brother who had faith in God's power. When we got there, they had already shaven Sid's head, sedated him, and covered his body with artificial instruments for the operation. We requested that we be able to lay our hands on Sid and pray for him. The doctor was furious that we would delay the operation just to pray. He said, "The young man is almost dead and you're taking his life into your hands." When his sister said it would be his request if he could speak, they reluctantly consented. We knew God had Sid's life in His hand and felt prayer was so important. We gathered around the bed, quoted Scriptures, and then poured out our hearts to the Lord around his unconscious form. We all took time to pray. It was so important to us that our great and wonderful God would show these people a miracle. Nothing seemed to happen, and they wheeled Sid out for a drilling and draining. The nurse promised us that they would only drill a tiny hole when the consent card was signed, but we later found out it was as large as a dime in his upper forehead, so that they could later fish out the tissue sack which had enclosed the abscess. After the draining, the doctor seemed to have softened. He said, "He had a good draining. With your prayers and my work he'll make it just fine." He said that in another week Sid would need a big operation to set a bone in his head and fish out the tissue sack.

We got home after midnight, and after prayer I tarried before the Lord to pour out my soul for Sid. The Lord spoke to me and said, "Sid is already healed. I've rebuked the abscess in his head and set the bone back in place." How I praised the Lord! I really believe the Lord must have healed him as we prayed that night in the hospital.

The next morning I wrote a note to Sid, and sent it along with his wife Betty to the hospital. It read: "Praise the Lord, Sid, you won't need to have the operation. The Lord told me last night He had rebuked the abscess and taken over for the bone in your

head." Sid was very troubled when he got the note. Would the doctor believe a miracle could take place?

That very afternoon Betty phoned long distance that they had scheduled an operation for Sid the following day. I was sick. All I could say was, "Tell them to X-ray first." I knew God couldn't be wrong. When we got to the hospital, the nurse met us and said, "It looks like Sid won't need an operation after all." I said, "Praise the Lord! I knew He wouldn't let us down." We later met the doctor in the hall who said, "Did you hear the good news? We X-rayed Sid today and the abscess is completely shrivelled, just completely! We couldn't fish it out if we tried. And the bone is in almost perfect alignment. It's just too good to operate." I said, "It was God." John, my husband, said, "All those prayers the other day weren't for nothing." The doctor shook his head and said, "I can't deny that."

While Sid was in the hospital we felt a burden to go to Prince George to help start a church work there. So we left the following weekend. My husband inquired about a job there, and we looked for a house. We didn't find one, but the burden remained as we came back to Chilliwack where we resided at the time.

When Sid came home his eyesight was so poor that sometimes he'd see only a blurry mass, and sometimes he'd see several of one person. His balance was poor and his memory was gone. We took him to a brother in Mission City who believes exclusively in the power of God. He prayed a very simple prayer to our wonderful, all-powerful, all-knowing, caring God, and the next day his eyesight, balance, and all were back to normal. How we praise the Lord!

A few months later, skin tissue began to grow over the hole in his head which threw him into convulsive seizures. This became so violent that he ended up in the hospital again. This time the same doctor examined him, took a brain scan, and found no abscess had returned, as the doctor had previously said it would if he didn't stay on medication. The doctor put him on heavy drugs. To put this short, it was ten months later that he became very discouraged to think he would go around like a *zombie* for the rest of his life. I then noticed an announcement for a camp-meeting in Jefferson, Oregon, and phoned him and asked if he would like to go. "I surely would!" was all he said, and we began to make plans. How he and Betty loved the warm fellowship of the saints and how anxious they were to learn the ways of God! The healing service was on Friday, but he couldn't wait, so on Wednesday he went to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. How wonderful it all was! He then asked to have prayer for his healing. His muscles had been all ripped in his shoulder from his seizures. After he went back to his seat, the saints were raising their hands as a witness to the Lord. He slowly raised his hand, and glory be to God, he was completely healed! He has been a witness to many. The devil is a hard foe, but glory to God, He is stronger than any foe. Sid is holding a steady job now. Continue to pray for him.

We rejoiced to see the saints come all the way up here to Prince George to hold five days of meeting with Bro. Tom Melot. They were such a blessing to us. My dear mother who knew the Church years ago used to talk to us about the saints and their modesty and obedience to the Word in refraining from cutting the hair and wearing of gold, etc. It was great to be with them in person.

I hope this doesn't encourage anyone to use doctors. I still believe God has all power in Himself, where we have true spiritual shepherds to anoint with oil and stay under the burden until God answers prayer. We believe that in part God let this happen to bring us out here to this North country to do a work for Him. We have three interested families and a small Sunday school group now. Perhaps the Lord will lay it on someone's heart to come up here to raise up a work for His glory.

The Lord taught us many precious lessons through Sid's illness: that the deck of cards is to be left for the devil and his own; pants and shorts and other immodest clothes are not for Christians; according to Corinthians it is wrong for a woman to cut her hair and a shame for men to wear theirs long; that not having TV is a witness to the world that we are willing to deny ourselves of worldly pleasure; that God will not by-pass unconfessed wrong no matter how small; that God wants us to live a life free from religious sects and to keep ourselves unspotted from the world.

—Sis. Daisy Rabel

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Tex.—Dear Sis. Marie: . . . I feel so much better in my soul tonight, and I do know God has healed my body this week. I feel so happy! Pray that God will keep me feeling well.

I have had a lot of back trouble, but now it's improving and I'll soon be fine. I thank Jesus for His healing power. . . .

—Lessie Speed

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

Ontario, Canada—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt: Greetings to all in the lovely name of Jesus. Summer and fall have gone and winter is upon us. But the grace of God has not gone, and never will as long as we do His will.

I am happy to report that all of us here are in God's hands, trusting Him for soul and body. We are looking up to the Lord for whatever comes our way because we are His little children. We are living in a world with dangers all around us and are surely needy before the Lord. But, oh, how blessed we are as He cares for us! The love of God has come down to us in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Praise His holy name!

We have been enjoying the good articles in the *Faith and Victory* paper. They surely encourage my faith to follow on in the narrow way, the way of the cross which leads to victory and eternal glory in heaven.

We arrived back home safely from the camp-meetings at Monark Springs and Myrtle, Mo., and later enjoyed the all-day meeting at Dayton, Ohio. We

are always glad to be together with the saints. God is there where the saints are, and that makes the difference. We have come out of man-rule, and the Lord will help us not to fall into it again. Man-rule is there if the Spirit and the Word of God do not have full control. May the Lord help all His saints to stand clear of man-rule and follow Christ, and Him alone.

Pray that the Lord will always have His way in my life. I surely want to stay on Mount Zion.

Your Bro. in the One Body, —George Schroeder

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Who are the elders in the Church? When are they elders? Does ordination have any thing to do with being an elder? What is a bishop and what is a deacon? If a minister has a rebellious child, does that take away his gift?

Answer: We have several questions in one here, but they are all related, so maybe we can discuss them all together.

It seems apparent from the Scriptures that the term "Elder" and the term "Bishop" are used interchangeably and apply to the same officer in the Church. We are not to confuse the present use of the term "Bishop" with what it was in the early Church of the Apostolic period. F. G. Smith in his book *The Revelation Explained*, on page 94, quotes from the historian Waddington who says, "... and it is even certain that the terms 'Bishop,' 'Elder' and 'Presbyter' were, in the first instances, and for a short period, sometimes used synonymously, and indiscriminately applied to the same order in the ministry." On page 95 of the same book he quotes from the historian Milman who says, "The earliest Christian communities appear to have been ruled and represented, in the absence of the apostle who was their first founder, by their elders, who are likewise called bishops, or overseers of the church." Further he quotes from D'Aubigne's *History of the Reformation* on page 96, "The church was in the beginning a community of brethren, guided by a few of the brethren." And again, "All Christians were priests of the living God, with humble pastors as their guides."

It will be noted in all these quotations from these historians that they are going back to the beginning and describing how it was then. That is what we must do to get a proper understanding of these officers in the Church and their functions. We can certainly be sure that when the Church was brand new and fresh from the hand of God that it would be perfect and exactly like He wanted it. As it was then, so must it be now. We must go back to the beginning of the New Testament Church for our pattern and not allow our vision to be clouded by all the paraphernalia that has been attached to these terms by ambitious and aspiring men down through the apos-

tasy and the Dark Ages and their present day usage which has come on down to us from that time.

The Holy Scriptures also attest to this. In Titus 1:5 we read Paul's instruction to Titus, "... set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee." Then verse 7 says, "For a bishop must be blameless, etc." It is clear here that the terms "Elder" and "Bishop" are used interchangeably.

We find in Titus 1:6 that the qualifications for an "Elder" (Bishop) is that he must have faithful children, not accused of riot or unruly, and in 1 Tim. 3:6 we read, "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity." But these are conditions that change. Sometimes unruly children through the prayers of their parents and the saints, settle down and behave better. Sometimes they become more rebellious and leave home. In different ways these conditions may change. Also, they have been known to get saved, shape up and do well. So, let us not give up on them, but pray for them and be all the help to them and their parents that we can. Perchance God may undertake in the matter and solve the problem in the best way and to the best interest of all parties involved.

I would hesitate to say that a minister having a rebellious child would cause his gift to be taken away. However, if conditions became bad enough it would perhaps shut him down in the exercise of his gift for the time being until conditions changed to clear him for going ahead in his calling.

In Acts 20:17 we read concerning Paul, "And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church." We see here that at least some congregations had a plurality of elders—more than just one. Also, in verse 28 of this chapter we learn something else about the elders—the most important thing. That is that they were divinely appointed and qualified by the Holy Ghost and that they were the overseers of the Church of God. Their specified duty in this verse was to "Feed the Church of God, which He has purchased with His own blood." Also in the next three verses they are warned about some who would come in among them, and some of their own number who would break rank, and draw away disciples after them. These elders are charged with the responsibility of watching and standing guard over the Church and protecting it against schisms and divisions, false and erroneous doctrines. In 1 Pet. 5:1-3, Peter is exhorting the "Elders" (it is important to note that he also classifies himself as an "Elder" even though he was an "Apostle") and he exhorts them to "Feed the flock of God" and take "The oversight thereof." Verse 3, "Not as being lords [not over-ruling—margin] over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock." Paul declared in 2 Cor. 1:24 that he did not have dominion over their faith, but was a helper of their joy. Some unwise and over-ruling pastors require things of people which are beyond their faith, light, understanding, and experi-

ence to which they have attained, and discourage them and crush their spirits. Instead, they should teach them in love and sympathy and set a good example before them of those things to which they desire them to attain. Again in Heb. 13:17 we read, "Obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give an account, . . ." Where this text says "Rule over you," the margin says "Guide." One of the principal ways that a pastor rules over his congregation is in teaching them from God's Word in precept and then showing them how it works by a good example of what he is teaching. These texts all set forth the work of an "Elder" and his responsibilities and duties and also his authority.

It has already been noted that an "Elder" is appointed, qualified and empowered by the Holy Ghost. But a recognition of his call and qualifications for this work which is known as "ordination" is also taught in the Scriptures. This is usually done by the laying on of hands of other ministers. Paul wrote to Titus to "Ordain elders in every city." Titus 1:5. Paul also wrote to Timothy to stir up the gift of God which was in him by the putting on of his hands. 2 Tim. 1:6. 1 Tim. 4:14 says, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery." In Acts 13:2,3 we read, "As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away." Then verse 4 says, "So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost . . ." All these texts make it clear that the Holy Ghost is the One who calls, sends, endows with gifts and qualifies "Elders," and also that the Holy Ghost Himself wants the other ministers to recognize what He has done and to signify it by the sign of laying on of their hands. It is certain that any minister can feel freer in the exercise of his ministry and work more effectually when he knows that he has the recognition, support, backing and approval of the other ministers among whom he works and of the saints. For one to successfully fulfill the office of an "Elder" or "Overseer" in a congregation in all its aspects he should be ordained by the laying on of hands of other ordained ministers. He may preach just as well and feed the flock just as well without it, but when it comes to exercising authority and dealing with problems which may arise in the congregation, he will be much more effective and respected in his judgment if he has the recognition and backing of the ministry and the people he is dealing with know it. So I would say that one is a full-fledged "Elder", eligible to fulfill all the aspects of his office, when he is ordained by the laying on of hands of the presbytery.

In the early Church there were two classes of officers—"Elders" and "Deacons." The "Elders" were in charge of the spiritual oversight and operation of the Church, while the "Deacons" were in charge of

the temporal affairs of the Church and the administration of its charities, etc.

In the first four verses of the sixth chapter of Acts, we have the introduction of the office of "Deacon" into the Church. In this case a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the administration of the charities and care of them by the Church was taking place. In other words, they felt they were being discriminated against and that partiality was being shown. It is altogether possible that this was the case, since the Jerusalem Church was predominantly Jewish and they had not yet learned that all men were equal in God's sight and that there was neither Jew nor Greek in the body of Christ. When this murmuring reached the apostles, they called the whole company together and instructed them to choose out from among them seven men filled with the Holy Ghost and wisdom, and they would appoint them over this business, but they would give themselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. That was their job and they did not have time to attend to the administration of those temporal matters. Verse 6 says that when these men were chosen and brought to the apostles they prayed and laid their hands on them. These men were ordained to administer in the office of a "Deacon" in that Jerusalem Church.

In the third chapter of 1 Timothy we have set forth the qualifications of a "Bishop" or "Elder" in the first seven verses. Then verses 8-13 set forth the qualifications of a "Deacon." You will notice there are some strict requirements on the "Deacon" as well as on the "Elder," and some of them are the same. God is very particular about any person who administers in any office in His Church. The deacons were required to be filled with the Holy Ghost the same as the elder was required to be Spirit filled. All who administer any office in the Church or occupy any position of leadership in the Church are to be Spirit-filled people.

Literal Millennial Reign Without Basis

The idea that Christ will set up a literal kingdom, resurrect the righteous, who will reign on earth a thousand years, and then resurrect the wicked, is wholly without Scriptural foundation. Nothing is said in Rev. 20:4, nor anywhere else in the Bible, about a literal kingdom of Christ, nor is there a single text that asserts a coming thousand years' reign of saints on the earth, nor is there one verse in the whole Bible that asserts a thousand years' interval between the resurrection of the righteous and the wicked. All these things are the result of a misinterpretation of some deep symbolic apocalypse, and are without the support of one plain New Testament declaration.

—D. S. Warner

Word was just received that Bro. Frank L. Walker of Klamath Falls, Ore., departed this life to be with the Lord on Nov. 13, 1979, at the age of 95 years.