

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



Volume 58, No. 1

58th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35c Per Year

March, 1980

God's Ways

God's ways are far above our own,
As far as heaven's heights ascend;
Our mortal thoughts are clearly shown
As vain and darkness without end.

We look ahead, we ponder, and
We search and study, yet we find
Our only hope is His command
To guide and help our feeble mind.

His ways are perfect; ours are not,
His ways in peace triumphant flow:
His thoughts are right, and ours a blot!
We need Him everywhere we go.

O Thou, whose guiding hand hath been
Unerring counsel in the past,
Help us to walk and truly win
The pathway that is upward cast.

Oh, may we shun that downward road
That leads to dark perdition's night:
And rather bear that heavy load
That goes along with doing right.

What is the "seem right" way whose end
Reveals the ways of death alone?
I must confess, O Saviour Friend,
That "seem right" way: it is my own.

My ways will cause my feet to stray
In paths forbidden of Thy Word;
Help me to see the narrow way
Revealed in all the truth I've heard.

Search me, O Lord, and know my heart:
Try me, and know my thoughts that stray,
And lead me by that better part
Within the everlasting way.

All we like sheep have gone astray
And wandered far from Mercy's call;
We've turned each one to his own way,
But Thou hast borne the sin of all.

—Leslie C. Busbee

Why Are You Afraid?

We are living in times of apprehension—people are afraid. Fearful things are happening: clouds of war hang low over us; crime and wickedness abound; dread diseases threaten.

The Bible speaks of troublesome times. "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." Luke 21:25,26. "... Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven." Luke 21:10,11. Note verse 9: "But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by." Note also verse 28 of the same chapter: "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

Well do I remember the fear and terror that once gripped my heart when I was living in sin. Rumors of war brought paralyzing fear into my heart. I just read in the news of how many people are building bomb and fall-out shelters again, since the crisis in Iran has risen. People are afraid; they are preparing for the worst! It seems so strange that mankind will be so concerned for their present lives and yet be so careless about eternity. Our President, Congress, and others in high positions are racking their brains trying to find solutions for the threatening problems. Do they not know there is a God in heaven who holds every nation and every soul in His hands?

In the 20th chapter of II Chron. we read how King Jehoshaphat and the nation of Judah were threatened by three nations coming against them. What could they do? They had no might to withstand the hordes that were coming. They were helpless, but they were not hopeless! With one heart the king and the people sought the Lord. "And Jehoshaphat feared and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a

fast throughout all Judah. And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the Lord: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord." Read Jehoshaphat's prayer in verses 5-12. "And all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children." Our God who hears the cry of the humble answered. "Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's." Then they were told what to do. "Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation [deliverance] of the Lord with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you. "And Jehoshaphat bowed his head and his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the Lord, worshipping the Lord." Is there any greater joy or cause for worship among the people of God than to know our God has answered our prayer? You can read how God delivered them from their enemies and they did not have to strike a blow! Now, are we serving the same God Jehoshaphat did? Has His power lessened?

I can recall other terrors I felt while I was unsaved: the fear that gripped my heart as I went outside under a starry sky. I was afraid to look up. Why? Even "the heavens declare the glory of God," and my sins separated me from that God. There was fear in my soul of judgment. When a storm cloud rolled threatening on the horizon, panic gripped me. Subconsciously I knew I was not ready to die; therefore, the thought or fear of death brought terror to my soul. Do you have such a fear? When God saved me, He took the fear away.

I know Satan can, and will, if we allow him to, impose fear upon our hearts. As children of God, we must not let down the shield of faith! It is faith that will quench the fiery darts of the enemy. It is easy to lift the shield of faith if we are obedient to all the Word of God. "There is no fear in love;" (remember Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments"?) "but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." 1 John 6:18.

Who is the author of fear and torment? "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Tim. 1:7. True love and consecration to the will of God in our hearts brings peace, (the opposite of fear), calmness and assurance. Are you troubled? Are you afraid? Is your love perfect? "Perfect love casteth out fear."

Every promise in the Book is ours. Why should we be afraid? "If God be for us, who can be against us?" We need not fear death. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff [the Word and Spirit of God] they comfort me." Psal. 23:4. Read also Psal. 27:1, 3-5. Comfort yourself with the words in Psalm 34:7-10, and verses 15-19. Also consider Psalm 103, note verses 10 to 18. Has God removed your transgressions as far as the east is from the west? Then you have nothing to fear. "And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that

kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him." Luke 12:4,5.

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Ecc. 12:13,14.

—Thelma Sprague

First and Second Coming of Christ

The first coming of Christ was in the most humble manner. "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Luke 2:8-12.

Paul, in speaking of Christ, says: He "made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Phil. 2:7,8.

Isaiah prophesied concerning the first coming of Christ—"For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted." Isa. 53:2-4.

When Christ appears the second time, He will come in the glory of His Father with the holy angels. "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory." Matt. 25:31. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God." 1 Thess. 4:16. "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. . . . And they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Matt. 24:27,30. "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him." Rev. 1:7.

Jesus came to this earth as a tender, compassionate Savior. "For the Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost." He was anointed to preach good tidings unto the meek, He was sent to bind up the brokenhearted, "to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified." Isa. 61:1-3. Praise the name of the Lord forever!

When Christ makes His second appearance He will be our judge. "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son. For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; and hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man." John 5:22, 26, 27. "For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ." Rom. 14:10. "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day." II Thess. 1:7-10. —Emma Talbert

Draw Nigh to God



"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you," is a mandate given us by Divine inspiration. This Scripture has a universal application: the good, the bad, the high, the low, the rich, the poor, the learned, the ignorant—in fact, every one may apply this text to himself.

Sins, whether of omission or commission, separate us from God. It is possible for a man to live righteous perhaps for many years, enjoying the blessed experience of salvation and fellowship of the saints, and then to be separated from God by committing sin. See Ezek. 3:20. "He that committeth sin transgresseth also the law." I John 3:4. We read in Jas. 4:17—"To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin." By committing sin, then, we transgress God's law and thus become separated from Him. Likewise, failing to do good is a sin and brings the same results—separation from God.

It means more than merely professing Christ and accepting the truth to be continually drawing nigh to God. Most any sort of a soldier can brandish his sword and act bravely in drill or exercise, but it takes a really brave soldier to face cannon balls, bayonets,

and swords in the hottest of the battle. It takes a real experience of salvation and a life of humility and devotion to be continually drawing nigh to God. "Men ought *always* to pray, and not to faint," is a worthy Scripture in this connection. One must indeed be dead unto sin in order to continually live in the presence of God, drawing nearer to Him each day.

Paul suffered many things, but despite the powers of the enemy, at the end of his life we hear him saying, "I am now ready to be offered and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith." How? By forgetting the things which were behind and pressing forth unto things which were before—"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Sometimes it seems to us that God has forsaken us when He has not, or it seems that we are separated from Him when we are not. It appears sometimes that God has hidden His face from us. Why? To bring us closer to Him. Elijah thought all the Lord's prophets were killed and he was seemingly forsaken. When Elijah was running for his life the Lord informed him that there were yet seven thousand who had not bowed the knee to Baal. Two disciples were walking to Emmaus and talking of the happenings of the day. Jesus Himself drew near and went with them, even to the place of their destination. The disciples were very sad because He whom they hoped would redeem Israel had been crucified. They thought the Lord was dead and hid away, but He was not, for He was *with* them.

So, brother, sister, if you meet with discouragements, remember the Scripture, "Draw nigh to God." If you are tempted, draw nigh to God. If you are oppressed, draw nigh to God. If you are bereft of some of your loved ones, remember the One who notes the sparrow's fall, and draw nigh to Him. He will draw nigh to you. —E. N. Reedy

Mission Work in the Philippines

The native missionaries in the Philippine Islands report how the mission work is progressing in their area. Bro. M. S. Tangunan tells of their first camp-meeting held in San Jose City last December. Souls were saved and a number were baptized. He and his co-workers plan to redouble their efforts this year by personal evangelism in the homes and holding Bible studies in open-air meetings.

Bro. Policarpo Encabo of Cebu reported on their evangelistic trip in January to Midsalip and Zamboanga on the island of Mindanao. The group of 49 believers at Midsalip already have a church building devoted to the services of the Church of God. Meetings were held and twelve brethren were baptized. Bro. Encabo and company were gone two weeks, traveling by boat and bus, and felt that their mission was very successful. In February they planned to take another evangelistic trip to the six islets of Bohol, and also to San Miguel town on the mainland of Bohol. —Editor

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. (USPS184-660)

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

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Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single copy, one year.....\$.35
Single copy, three years.....\$1.00
Roll of 4 papers to one address, one year.....\$1.00

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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 service 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; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

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

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

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EDITORIALS



GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS in the precious name of Jesus Christ "who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification." Romans 4:25.

Our winter so far in the Oklahoma area has been mild compared to that of the past two winters, and we are looking forward to God's beautiful springtime when the vegetation breaks forth with new life. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." Psalms 19:1. All praise and honor unto the Creator of all things!

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With this March issue of Faith and Victory, we begin the 58th year of publication, thanking the Lord for His gracious dealings in past years, and trusting that He will continue to use these columns to send forth His eternal Word to this perishing world of mankind who so desperately need to hear and believe the soul-saving gospel of Christ.

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Mankind, the crowning work of God's creation, was given dominion over all the earth and the living creatures which God had created. Adam and Eve, the first couple, were placed in that beautiful garden of Eden where they had everything they needed at their fingertips. God came down and had sweet communion with them. Their souls blended with all the pure and holy attributes of heaven. However, by the subtlety of Satan through the serpent, that first holy pair yielded to temptation and transgressed the one law that God had given them. As a result of that disobedience, Adam and Eve died a spiritual death just as God had said. Their souls were separated from that holy fellowship with their Creator. They were driven from the garden of Eden, and a curse was placed upon that sinful pair. Because of that transgression, the "law of sin" (Rom. 7:23) or the bent to evil passed upon the nature of Adam's posterity. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation. . . . For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners. . . ." Romans 5:12, 18, 19.

After their banishment from Eden, Adam's descendants were not left without hope of a better day. God gave the promise of the Messiah, the Anointed One, who would come and redeem mankind from the curse of sin. Through the weary centuries that followed, God's prophets told of that glorious day of good news—the gospel day, when Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, would come and make a perfect atonement for sin by the sacrifice of Himself. Thank God, at last the time was fulfilled. The angel proclaimed, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11. When the Lamb of God expired on the cross,

He said, "It is finished." That perfect sacrifice not only atoned for the actual, volitional sins of mankind, but also provided for the cleansing from that "law of sin" or bent to evil in a second definite work of grace. The disciples were new creatures in Christ before Pentecost, but just before His ascension to heaven Jesus told His disciples to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. On Pentecost, the purifying fire of the Holy Spirit and the blood of Christ cleansed them from the carnal or Adamic nature and empowered them for service in the Church of God which He set in operation on that day. Thank the Lord for the love of God that was shed abroad in their hearts by the Holy Ghost.

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The prophet Zechariah foretold, "But it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light." Zech. 14:7. The gospel light of the morning time of the gospel day gradually faded away, then followed the Dark Ages of Catholicism, then arose "the dark and cloudy day" of Protestantism, but praise God for the light of the "evening time" with the promise that the "sun shall no more go down." Isaiah 60:20. This is the "last reformation."

In fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy, the restoration of the morning in this "evening time" began about 1880 A.D. under the divine unction and labors of Bro. D. S. Warner and his associates who had a like revelation of divine truth. They proclaimed loud and long the New Testament Church and doctrines in no uncertain terms. They set forth the truth that the Church which Jesus built included all truly born-again children of God, and excluded all sinners, mere professors, and creeds of men. Many honest souls heard the call of God and came out of "Babylon" to remain in the one Church of which Christ is the Head. The "evening light" prevailed and began to spread rapidly for about thirty years.

But, alas, about 1910-12 and thereafter, the leaders of the movement adopted innovations which repudiated many of their former teachings and practices which were firmly established upon Bible principles and examples. This record of the compromise is verified by their own historians. The apostasy sent the movement into the fastest decline spiritually of any reformation in history, and the large majority of the members accepted the innovations, though some with reservations and reluctance.

Thank God, a few ministers and saints continued to stand for the Bible truth of the first thirty years, and they refused to compromise. God has blessed and preserved His Church down to the present, and it will continue by the grace of God until Christ comes for His Bride. In this centennial year of the Church of God reformation, this is the only visible body, to my knowledge, who fully accepts and rejoices in the rich heritage of Bible truth which has been handed down to us by the pioneer ministers and saints of the first thirty years of this "evening light" restoration movement. What was truth then is still truth

today, and we are open for more light on God's Word. "We reach our hands in fellowship to every blood-washed one, while love entwines about each heart in which God's will is done."

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A shipment of 10,000 pounds of printing paper is scheduled to arrive at the Lord's Print Shop in May from the paper mill, and another shipment of the same amount in July. Paper is in short supply, and it must be ordered several months in advance. Of course, on every order the price is higher, but the gospel must go forth regardless of cost or sacrifice. One soul is worth more than the whole world. Let us get the proper vision and value of precious souls in the light of eternity. —L. D. 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, \$5.50 each.

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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.

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From Darkness To Light, a twenty-page booklet by Bro. Mart Samons, which is his inspiring testimony of his marvelous conversion, his call to the ministry, and some of his experiences of living by faith in the gospel work. Price, 25c each, or five copies for \$1.00.

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.

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In Memorial

Evelyn Adeline (Simpson) Taylor was born October 2, 1907, at Wellston, Oklahoma, the oldest child of Jesse and Gertrude Simpson. She departed from this life on January 26, 1980, at her home in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

On July 16, 1927, she was married to Sam Taylor, who preceded her in death on January 27, 1947. To this union were born four children.

Survivors include: three daughters, Patsy Turner of New Orleans, La., Marilyn Coppla, Monterey, California, Linda Probst, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and one son, Sam, Jr., of Arkansas City, Kansas; three sisters, Mrs. Vivian Holliday and Mrs. Imogene Taylor of Guthrie, Okla., and Mrs. Betty Temple of Floresville, Texas; two brothers, Aubrey Simpson, Alameda, Calif., and Russell Simpson, Villa Grove, Colorado; nine grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, besides a host of other relatives, saints, and friends.

Sister Evelyn accepted the Lord as her Saviour in her early married life and lived a consistent Christian life. She was a faithful member of the Guthrie, Okla., Church of God, where she attended services for many years. She was always concerned about the spiritual welfare of her family, never failing to hold them up in prayer, even in her last hours. "Her children rise up and call her blessed." Prov. 31:28.

This poem was one of her favorites, and she had committed part of it to memory:

"My life is just a weaving between the Lord
and me:

I cannot choose the colors; He worketh steadily.

Ofttimes He weaveth sorrow, and I in foolish
pride

Forget He sees the upper, and I, the under side.

"Not till the loom is silent, and the shutters
cease to fly

Shall God unroll the canvas and explain the
reason why

The dark threads are as needful in the weaver's
skillful hands

As the threads of gold and silver in the pattern
He has planned."

Funeral services were conducted in the Church of
God chapel at Guthrie, Okla., by Bros. Willie Murphey
and Leslie Busbee with burial in the Taylor Cemetery,
Guthrie.

—Leslie C. Busbee

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Bro. Donald McIntosh of Southfield, Mich.,
was born Feb. 7, 1936, and departed this life to be
with the Lord on Jan. 17, 1980, at the age of 43 years.

Bro. McIntosh was off work a few days with the
flu, and the morning that he returned to work at the
plant, he collapsed on the floor and departed sudden-
ly with a heart attack. Of course, this was such a
shock to his devoted wife, Mary Jane, and to every-
one who knew him.

Bro. McIntosh was converted and had served
the Lord faithfully since June 21, 1961. He loved the
Lord with all his heart. He loved the Word and often
dveled into the Scriptures. He was a shining light at
work, and others would bring their problems to him.

This editor and his wife met Bro. and Sister
McIntosh and their family at the Akron, Ohio, camp-
meeting a few years ago, and they were readers of the
literature from this office.

Sister McIntosh is left with the great responsi-
bility of rearing their five children—Ruthann 10,
Sarah 8, Rachel 6, Amy 5, and their son Jamie, 17
months old. She desires special prayer for the Lord's
help and direction in rearing these children for the
Lord. She expects to meet Don again in heaven.

—L. D. Pruitt

Church Guest Home for Sale

The Guest Home here at Guthrie, Okla. is for sale
at \$67,500. Located on five acres one-half mile from
the city limits on a blacktop road, the house is about
seven years old, stone walls, attached double garage
with power door closer, four bedrooms, 2200 sq. feet
floor space, plus a nice basement 30 by 60 feet. It has
central heat and air conditioning, all electric, natural
gas available, good well with electric pump, and
many other good features. This property is first
offered to our readers who perhaps would like to live
here and be in the Guthrie congregation. We are
informed that a qualified buyer can get a Federal
Land Bank loan at 10% interest at this time. If this
property is not sold by **March 25**, it will be put in the
hands of a realtor who will ask a higher price. If you
want to purchase this property or desire more infor-
mation, contact Bro. Bob Sallee at 916 W. Mansur,
Guthrie, Okla. 73044, phone (405) 282-1376.

Campmeeting Dates for 1980



Following are the Church of God campmeeting dates
for 1980, and a more complete announcement of each
meeting will be printed in later issues:—

Ejido Patzcuaro, Baja Cfa., Mexico—March 30 to
April 6.

Goulds, Florida—April 11 to 20.

Oklahoma State Campmeeting at Guthrie, Okla. —
May 23 to June 1.

Holly Hill, South Carolina—June 6 to 15.

Tulsa, Oklahoma—June 6 to 15.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 13 to 22.

Hammond, Louisiana—June 28 to July 6.

Ojos Negros, Baja Cfa., Mexico—June 30 to July 6.

Fresno, California—July 4 to 13.

Akron, Ohio—July 5 to 13.

**National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs),
Missouri**—July 18 to 27.

Missouri State Campmeeting at Myrtle, Missouri —
July 28 to August 4.

Boley, Oklahoma—August 15 to 24.

Oakland, California—June 20 to 29.

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EJIDO PATZCUARO, MEXICO, CAMPMEETING

We invite one and all who carries a burden for lost
souls to come and worship with us in the coming
campmeeting which will convene March 30 to April 6,
1980, at Ejido Patzcuaro, Baja California, Mexico.

We are trusting the Lord to send ministers of His
choosing. Interpreters will be on hand to interpret
messages.

As all other Church of God campmeetings, it will
be supported by the freewill offering plan. The best
accommodations available will be provided. If you
cannot come, pray that the Lord will bless in a special
way.

For further information, write to Sis. Edith (Cole)
Lara, P.O. Box 1425, Calexico, Ca. 92231.

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CAMPMEETING AT GOULDS, FLA.

The annual campmeeting of the Church of God at
Goulds, Florida, will be held, Lord willing, from April
11 to 20, 1980, with three services daily. Everyone is
cordially invited to attend these services where the
gospel will be preached by God-sent ministers.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro.
H. H. Hargrave, 22345 S.W. 117 Place, Goulds, Fla.
33170, phone (305) 247-4102. The chapel phone is (305)
251-3873.

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ALL-DAY MEETING AT SPRINGFIELD, MO.

There will be an all-day meeting, Lord willing, on
the fifth Sunday, March 30, at the Church of God
chapel, 718 N. Kansas, Springfield, Mo. All are wel-

come. If any of God's ministers feel burdened for a meeting here about this time, please contact us at phone number (417) 865-6907.

—The saints at Springfield

GOSPEL SINGING AT COFFEYVILLE, KAN.

You are cordially invited to attend a gospel singing to be held, Lord willing, on Saturday night, April 12th, at the Church of God chapel, corner of Eldridge and Willow streets, which is four blocks west of the Brown mansion. We are expecting the Lord to send those He can use in singing praises to God, as we want everything to be done to His glory. Come, and let us worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.

—Bro. and Sis. R. M. Beisly

Campmeeting Scheduled in Canada

According to Jesus' commission to His Church, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," we are announcing a campmeeting to be held, Lord willing, from July 5 to 13, 1980, in Prince George, British Columbia, Canada.

We trust the Lord to have the diesel bus ready by then which Bro. Jim Reynolds is preparing. We also believe God will supply a gospel tent for the services, as well as singers, ministers, prayer warriors, personal workers, helpers, and more campers to go on this worthy mission.

Lord willing, we hope to leave Jefferson, Oregon, on June 23rd as an evangelistic company to hold meetings enroute to Prince George. The field is ripe, and time is precious. Jesus said, "Behold, I come quickly." Let us link up, work together, and reach the unreached millions with the blessed old Bible truths. Let us forget our comforts and differences, and sound aloud the gospel trumpet. God is issuing marching orders to every willing and qualified soldier of the cross. We are in a warfare. Let us go forward.

In this centennial year of the Church of God reformation, God is calling for more, not less, sacrifice; strength, not weakness, and unity, not division. God has given us all the commission, yes, as in days of old, to build up the Church of God. No more shall the saints quake and tremble before the enemy. Who can defy the armies of the living God? If there must be defeat, let it be Satan's armies. "In the name of our God we will set up our banners." Isa. 20:5. These are banners of holiness, righteousness, unity, power, and victory. Praise God! May God stir our hearts.

We ask the saints to pray for the healing of Bro. Curtis Williams so he can go in these meetings, as he desires to go.

Any who can go and help with the young people, please contact us, as several are going. The tent will be set up on a public campground and camper spaces will be available at a modest cost.

For further information and directions, contact Sister Daisy Rabel, S.S.3, Haldi Road, Prince George, B.C., Canada V2N 2S7, phone (604) 964-4776, or Bro. Tom Melot, R. 6, Box 510, Guthrie, Okla. 73044, phone (405) 282-3611.

—Tom Melot

Financial Report of National Campground

In August last year additional property was purchased for the Monark Springs National Campground at Neosho, Mo. To make the purchase, \$15,000 was borrowed. Offerings have been coming in, but we are not quite keeping up with the payment schedule.

We want to keep the saints informed on our progress in meeting the obligations on the property for the National Campground. The financial summary is given in the following table:

Original debt	\$15,000.00
Installment payments on principal	396.91
Remaining debt as of Feb. 6, 1980	<u>14,603.09</u>
Payment due on Feb. 20, 1980	\$4,500.00
Installment payments, including interest ...	514.05
Total payments since purchase	5,014.05
Total income since purchase	<u>3,451.14</u>
Shortage	<u>1,562.91</u>

Total Amount Due in August, 1980 \$9,599.98

—Report by Jim Wall, Business Manager

[Please send your freewill contributions to meet this debt directly to Bro. Jim Wall, 5825 E. 64th St., Tulsa, Okla. 74136.—Editor]

NOTICE

A new tabernacle has been erected on the Missouri State Campgrounds of the Church of God at Myrtle, Mo. The present indebtedness is approximately \$6000. There will be yet other expenses for electrical wiring, lighting, pews, etc. This is all for the benefit of the Church at large. Those desiring to contribute to this worthy project may send their contributions to Sis. Carol Sorrell, Rt. 1, Box 116, Myrtle, Mo. 65778, or Bro. Donald Sharp, Myrtle, Mo. 65778.

—Harlan Sorrell

Prayer Requests

Special Day of Prayer, March 12

[A special day of prayer and fasting is announced for Wednesday, March 12, for the sick and afflicted everywhere. Here are a few of the many who need fervent prayer for deliverance: Bro. Murphy Allen, Bro. Curtis Williams, Bro. Egbert Allen, Bro. and Sister Pat Huskey, Sister Ruth Turner, Sister Evelyn McCoy, Bro. Earl Bliss, and this writer, as well as those listed in this column. May the Church as a whole get under a real burden and pray for faith to be inspired for more divine healing to confirm the Word that is preached. We must hold up the shield of faith against the devil's attacks on divine healing. If faith and trust in God are lost, there is no anchor for the soul. Let us pray and believe God's unfailing promises. —L. D. Pruitt]

Calif.—"Mother (Sis. Sam Abbott) asked me to write, asking that you put a note in the paper that

she is no longer able to answer her mail. She is getting increasingly frail, but we thank the Lord that she does not suffer. They are at Sunset Guest Home at Pacoima, Calif., and seem to like it fine. Daddy is able to work in his flower garden—much to the delight of all. Mother and Daddy love to hear from the saints. Do pray for them.” —Alberta Cook

Okla.—“We are still in the furnace of affliction and need your prayers very much.”

—Sis. Lottie Buchanan

Ohio—“I know there is nothing too hard for my Saviour to do. Will you and your people join in prayer for my healing?” [She is seriously afflicted and in bed most of the time.] —Maxine Jeffery

W. Va.—“Remember Virgil Robertson in prayer. He has had two strokes, and his legs are swollen. His wife is an invalid. They are trusting the Lord for their healing.” —Edna Norris

Okla.—Sis. Geneva Ray has been battling arthritis and other physical problems for some time, and we need to be agreed for her complete deliverance.

Okla.—Remember Sis. Essie Moore who has a serious affliction. Her trust is firm in the Lord.

All of us are going to face physical affliction while in this earthly body, which belongs to God. But God has provided a way whereby we can be healed. It is part of the atonement. “By whose [Jesus] stripes we are healed.” 1 Peter 2:24. So let our faith take in the healing that is provided for us. Unless the Lord shows us otherwise, we have a right to expect healing from the Lord. Of course, there comes a time that the Lord is going to take us. I believe He will let us know that also.

It is a good time to start making our decision now to trust the Lord for our physical healing instead of man. When we are in pain and facing the affliction, we might not be as strong to make those decisions. Sometimes suffering will dull our minds, but if we have it settled to trust God for our healing, even if our minds are dulled, we will not be tempted to turn from fully trusting the Lord. I know that I have been in serious afflictions and even faced death, but I never even thought of turning to man for help, but wanted prayer and looked to the Lord. He brought me through. Praise His precious name!

It seems to me that it's such a serious thing for the President to be in favor of the registration of women. We need to pray much for those who want to truly be a woman, with all of her womanly graces, and fill her God-given place in this world. But when so many have lost sight of that place for women, it will affect those who truly want to fill the place for which she was intended. We need to pray for our country and for our rulers, as we are facing some serious problems with other nations and even within our own nation. Our economy is on the verge of a collapse and inflation is continuing. Wickedness is abounding and the fear of God is fast disappearing.

The Church of God at Guthrie had a business meeting and have decided to construct a building for the expansion of the Christian school that was

started two years ago. We already see the good effect it has had on our children and young people. Their testimonies in our prayer meetings are very encouraging. So pray with us in this venture. It is a big project to build in this day of inflation, but we feel that if it can help just a few young people and children to get established in God, it will be worth it. The public schools today are so corrupt. Having a Christian school has been a burden on my heart for a number of years. We feel this is a good way to do service for the Lord. If you want to help in any way, I am sure that the Lord will bless you.

—Sis. Marie Miles

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

River State, Nigeria (Jan. 28)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus Christ, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

Many thanks for your letter dated Jan. 5th, and the enclosures were noted with heartfelt gratitude.

Our third annual revival in Dec., 1979, was held at the nearby village of Opuvuma. A number of souls sought salvation and healing at the altar. Some were healed instantly. The presence and anointing of the Holy Spirit was in the meeting. Opuvuma is an idol-worshiper village. If the Lord wills, we shall continue to go there.

On Jan. 12, Bro. Titus Enu came from Bendel State with five brethren, three of whom were American brethren. Bro. Jefferson Pierro and his wife Geneva, and their daughter, Jefferlene, visited us. Their arrival in Tombia was a great spiritual blessing to us. They accompanied us to preach the gospel in the nearby villages of Ikukini and Bukuma. They spent about seven days with us, and then returned to Imo State. God blessed the services.

Yours in Christ,

—B. Ben Taylor

REPORT FROM OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO AND SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

In a letter just received from the Escobars, Sister Panchita said that even though Mayarino can eat a little better, he is still losing weight and is down to less than ninety pounds. He has always been small, but I'm sure he had weighed over 100 pounds. He constantly has fever and is not able to work at all other than in the gospel services. He had been working some before to help with expenses. Panchita pled for prayer to be able to face whatever lies ahead. Please pray earnestly for them. They are expecting a visit from his parents and a brother from Chiapas, Mexico, and Panchita desires to be a real Christian example before them. She says everyone there is encouraged.

Rosa Maria Ruiz sends her thanks again for the monetary help she and her sisters have received. She asks the Lord to bless each one who has helped.

Samples of all recently printed Spanish tracts were sent out to all addresses on file and some

returns are now coming in. They are especially desirous of the tract *The Church of God* by Bro. Fred Pruitt, with Scriptures of explanation and picture of the one true Church. The supply is depleted and is in need of reprinting. Pray for us who are working toward this end.

Yours in His service for the gleanings of souls in Mexico,
Mayarino and Panchita Escobar,
Ap. Postal No. 284, Ensenada, B. Cfa., Mexico
Opal Kelly, 919 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Ok. 73044

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

South India (Jan. 20)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and the dear saints everywhere: We send our greetings of Christian love to all of you again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Thank you very much for your very kind letter dated Jan. 5, 1980, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude. Sorry I am a little late to reply as I was busy with some of our local meetings.

Sister Dorothy Keiser arrived here on Dec. 31, 1979, and now she is doing all right in getting adjusted to our food and climate. She is very happy now. God surely blessed the general campmeeting here at Karikkom this year in which many souls were saved and sanctified, and fifteen believers witnessed for Christ in water baptism on the last day of the meeting. The crowd was so large that there was no space for the people to sit or stand. Sister Keiser preached several times in the services and all the messages were anointed.

After the close of the Karikkom campmeeting, we went to the Vilayanthur congregation where we had a four days' meeting which was also very profitable. This week we plan to go to Anayam for a three days' meeting there. We have a busy schedule to the end of March.

The new chapel at Nodukkunnu will be opened for service in February. Another chapel is being constructed at Chayppumkuzhy. We badly need a van or bus for our work here.

We were very sorry to hear of the loss of the boy in Bro. Madden's family. We pray for the comfort and peace of that dear home.

I continue to remember you in my daily prayers for your complete healing.

Yours in His service, —John Varghese

GOD'S DESIGN FOR HIS CHURCH

In the beginning, the church was simply a brotherhood. It had no dignitaries nor human-made laws. Each officer who guided God's people received his authority, not from man, but directly from God. Happy indeed would it have been for the world if human ecclesiasticism had never been, and real unity can never prevail without the re-establishment of that original simplicity of church government and relation that in apostolic times gave freedom to the Spirit of God to work as He did in every soul.

—C. W. Naylor

From the Mail Box . . .

Calif.—I enjoy reading the little paper so much. God is so good to me and hears my prayers. I could not live without Him. I am 87 years old and in very poor health. May God bless each of you in your great work for Him. . . . —Edith Sturgis

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Minn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the blessed and holy name of Jesus, that Just One who died for us who were unjust sinners, that we might be with Him in eternity. Praise His holy name!

We are hearing that there might be a third world war soon. We should all be on our knees looking to Jesus to prevent this terrible thing. Ungodly Communists are trying to force their ungodly ways on us. Jesus is all powerful and can prevent this. Amen. . . .

I now live one day at a time. I am looking for His soon coming with great power and glory.

—Bro. Andrew Senti

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Kansas—Dear saints: I am still thanking the Lord for His goodness to me, and even for the beauty of the foot of snow we received last week. It reminds us of the beauty of the soul that has been washed pure and white in the blood of the Lamb. I am praising God for His mercy and goodness to me, and I am determined by the grace of God to endure to the end. We don't know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future, so we can rest assured that we can be led safely on toward heaven.

The thought that there could be a third world war is not a bit comforting to me, but I know that God is displeased with so much evil and wickedness. Therefore, if He sees fit to allow it, I am busy trying to be spiritually ready so I can be a solid saint and remain faithful through it all. May God help us is my prayer.

—Shirley Knight

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mich.—Dear brethren: Greetings in the name of Jesus and in the truth of the "evening light" Church of God which is the fulfillment of prophecy.

The mention of Bro. L. D. Pruitt's dream in the *Faith and Victory* led me to report a dream, or vision, which I had at home. It seemed I expected our Saviour to come, and I was fearful to meet Him. But He soon put me at ease when He came and wanted me to accept things as they were. He was interested in me personally. He sat across the table from me. I noted how humble and nice He was although I knew He was our Saviour. He was nice like the true believers I have found since finding your movement a few years ago.

After my conversion at home alone in 1931, I almost at once found the truth in a limited way. When the so-called Church of God modernized, I couldn't accept them any longer. I wrote to the publishers of the *Faith and Victory*. A copy was delivered to me which included the story of my mother's glorious conversion on her death bed in 1948.

Recently my home burned and I lost about everything I had. My son Michael and his wife insisted that I come live with them. They believe I was sent here as they now understand the truth.

I have always been a great believer in Bible doctrine, and I will always follow the sacred Word as I have for nearly fifty years, depending on prayer and the King James' version of the Bible with dates and references. I have found that version to be historically correct.

The Lord has been good to me, although at times it seemed my burden was greater than I could bear. But today my cup runneth over, and I am very happy.

My wife died many years ago. Three years ago I met a very nice lady. . . . Today we love one another very much. Although my health may not be best for a marriage, we are happy. . . .

I congratulate you and your co-workers for the splendid work you are doing.

Yours in Christ, —Carl C. Caesar

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Ky.—. . . We have been in a battle, but thank the Lord, we are on the winning side. Jesus is our Captain and He has never lost a battle. We are trying to follow all His instructions and obey all His commands. We felt from the beginning that He was going to bring us through with victory, but we have had our faith tested. One time especially, we didn't know but what the Lord might take him [Curtis]. We are so thankful for His goodness and mercy to us. He is so much better, although he is still very weak. We are expecting complete healing.

We do appreciate the prayers of the saints so much. One time he was so bad that I felt I needed to call for prayer, but I was alone and didn't want to leave him. I remembered that Sis. Mildred McIntosh had called that morning and said that the Neosho, Mo., congregation was fasting and praying for him that day. So I thought, "The saints are already praying." My faith was strengthened, and we earnestly called on our God and He so wonderfully came to his rescue. He hasn't had a bad spell since and has been gaining every day. Thank the Lord! (Feb. 13th)

We want to thank each one of you for the beautiful cards and offerings. They were much appreciated. May God richly bless each one. We still desire your prayers.

Christian Love, —Bro. and Sis. Curtis Williams and Family

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Calif.—Dear Sis. Miles, Bro. and Sis. Pruitt: . . . I am always thanking the Lord for the precious printed materials that you are sending out. They are a real blessing. I always pray for you and the work there, and especially for Bro. Pruitt's healing.

I praise the Lord for all His blessings. His grace is sufficient. Oh, how I thank Him for salvation!

We have in this senior citizens' apartment where I live, every Friday evening a prayer and Bible study group. We are using these materials. Enclosed is an order for the little song books and also some tracts. . .

Pray for me. I am leading this little prayer and Bible study group. Pray for these dear souls that the Lord will open their hearts to receive the truth. It is so sad to see so many souls being deceived.

Thank God for the blessings in this "evening light."

—Sis. Ruth Donnelly

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Okla.—I enjoy the little *Faith and Victory* paper. It reminds me a lot of the *Gospel Trumpet* when I first heard of the Church of God about 68 years ago. I will soon be 92 years of age, and I read myself out of the Methodist church, but I never lived near a Church of God congregation except for a few years. I still believe the Church of God is the Bible way. I don't get out much.

I love the Lord and I know He hears and answers prayer. I need your prayers. I have been having nosebleeds which may be caused from my high blood pressure. So please pray for my healing in every way. . . . I enjoy reading the Bible and good books.

—Cordia Upton

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Ill.—Dear Editor: I thank God for being saved, and I'm very much encouraged in the Lord in these evil days in which we are living.

I just finished reading your article on "Centennial Reformation Review, the Crisis in 1879-80 A.D.," in the November issue. I thank God for this article, as I have found myself in similar conditions in a so-called Church of God and discovered it was man-rule. But I am yet encouraged in the Lord, knowing that God has a true people, or Church. If you have any other material on 1880, please send it to me.

Here is a little love offering to keep the good work going.

—Bro. Arthur Cox

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Okla.—To the saints: I write you to tell of how great God is. My dad's name is Elbert Johnson. Some of you may know that he backslid some years back. The devil took him, as well as the rest of the family, down a dark, lonely road for many years. He finally wound up in prison for life. Then God brought him to his knees and he asked forgiveness. Then God's love descended on him, and he was made whole once again. His family had gone astray and he felt responsible. So he began to pray for them, and after many months of praying, God began to answer his prayers. First, He saved my mother, Bonnie Johnson; then she began to pray that her children would come to the Lord. It was about a month later that my sister got saved. She had to come out of a double marriage. That made three newborn babes in Christ praying for the rest of the family. I'm here to bear witness that God does hear prayer. Two weeks later I got saved. We have never been happier than we are right now. The love of God is so real that I can't understand why it took so long for me, or anyone else, to get saved. That makes four of us saved right now, whereas one year ago there was only one. We are still praying for the rest of the family, but there's only two now to go. We ask for your prayers that we may prosper in God and do His will.

We also thank each and every saint from the bottom of our hearts for praying for us. Let this be an example of how strong our God is.

On Feb. 6, 1980, my sister, Kathy, and I were baptized at the Church of God chapel in Okla. City, on N.E. 23rd, by Brother Eddie Wilson. The saints at that congregation have been a great help, and I would like to take this means to thank everyone for their prayers and support.

—Jon Johnson

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Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: I hope you are doing well in body and soul. Your sufferings for Christ's sake surely are working a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. May God bless you and all there at the Lord's Print Shop.

Praise the Lord for His great plan of salvation! I'm very thankful today for the love of God that reached into that deep pit to save me. God is so wonderful to me. He has richly blessed me, both spiritually and temporally. There is nothing like having Jesus for a friend. He knows all our griefs and sorrows, and shares them with us. Praise His holy name! I just can't thank God enough for everything He is and does.

I'm encouraged to press on to the final victory. How helpless we are in ourselves to live this narrow way. By the grace of God I'll meet you and the rest of the saints in heaven. Please pray for me; I need every one. . . .

—Andy Lewis

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Mich.—Dear Sis. Marie: I am thanking and praising God for His goodness to me this past year. In looking back over it, I can see many prayers answered and many blessings too numerous to mention, and I just thank God! I thank Him for every trial that has made me stronger in Him. . . .

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Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: We send greetings from God the Father through Jesus Christ, His dear Son. Praise God for victory!

It was wonderful news when my wife got saved; and again, victory is ours! My daughter, Kathy, has been redeemed and delivered from the snare of a double marriage! I've borne this burden ever since I heard they were to be married, but, praise God, deliverance has come! Please pray for her to be steadfast in her decision. She wrote me, and I spoke to her on the phone the other night, and her testimony sounds good! Oh, I do praise and thank God for His Holy Spirit! I was locked behind bars and could not go to intercede, but God sent His Spirit to do His office work! What power! Praise God forever!!

The spiritual battle here within the walls continues to rage. But the opposition is weakening. Praise God! I remember where it says, "The house of Saul waxed weaker, and weaker; and the house of David waxed stronger and stronger." I do thank Him for His great love and tender mercy. Surely He does love and care for His creation.

My only desire is to live for Him the rest of my life and count it all joy to be "used" in His service. Surely, if I had ten thousand lives to give, it would not be enough to repay God for all He has done.

As you may know, Bro. Madden from Sapulpa, Okla., has visited with me and strengthened me in the battle. May God bless all of God's faithful warriors everywhere.

Folks, we're at war! The battle is pitched, and Satan will destroy anyone of whom he can take advantage. Our only hope is God through Jesus Christ. Without them, we cannot survive against the onslaughts of the devil. But as the Scripture says, "I can do ALL things through Jesus Christ." Praise God! ALL things! That leaves no avenue open for Satan to gain control. We are FREE from the power of Satan and sin!

God's arm is not short that He cannot save, neither is His ear heavy that He cannot hear. But people's sins have separated between them and their God. WHOSOEVER will repent with all their heart and all their soul will find God ready with open arms to receive them into the kingdom of His dear Son! Praise the Lord!

I pray fervently that people everywhere will wake up to reality, and refrain from the distractions that continually consume the precious time that God is extending to this world! We must stay alert to Satan's tricks and snares, lest we find ourselves wasting time and talents on things of little or no value in the light of eternity.

Please pray for me, that I may seize the opportunities that arise.

Yours for the Gospel, —Bro. Elbert Johnson

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

Okla.—Dear Brother Lawrence: I thank the Lord for the testimonies of the saints. Often I hear someone testify about what the Lord has been doing in his life, and I say to myself, "That's just what the Lord has been doing for me." Like the song says, "I know in my heart what it means."

There is a song in our song book that says, "In the heated furnace, Father, let me stay," and when we would sing that verse I would think, "I don't want to suffer. I want to go to heaven without suffering." The Lord has shown me that if I want to go very far with Him I must be willing to suffer. (1 Peter 5:10)

After the Lord saved me I found myself hindered in spiritual growth because I was unable to gain a clear victory over self.

"For years my soul wrestled with vague discontent,

That like a sad angel o'ershadowed my way;
God's light in my soul with the darkness was blent,

And my heart ever longed for an unclouded day."

God's light was warring with the darkness in my own heart, for a place in my life, and I was miserable. I knew this couldn't be what Jesus shed His blood for. There had to be a better way.

The Lord then showed me my need for sanctification, and I began to read about others who had obtained glorious victory through this second work of grace. Then the Lord sent a message on consecration and sanctification. I realized that was what I wanted, and I went to the altar and consecrated my life to God. I put only a part on the altar at first, but since

then God has shown me other things to consecrate. It didn't seem very difficult to consecrate my family, career, and home, but when it finally came to *self* I knew it would not die without a real struggle. It was in this battle that I found the key to a victorious Christian life and that came when I gave my will completely over to God.

"Forever I choose the good will of my God,
Its holy, deep riches to love and to know,
The serfdom of love to so sweeten the rod,
That its touch maketh rivers of honey to flow.

"And now I have flung myself wrecklessly out,
Like a chip on the stream of the Infinite will;
I pass the rough rocks with a smile and a shout,
And I just let my God His dear purpose fulfill."

Now when we sing about staying in the heated furnace, I can hold my hand up high, because no matter what comes into my life I can see the face of my dear Saviour, and I rejoice and praise His precious and holy name!

"O sweet will of God! Thou hast girded me round,
Like the deep moving currents that girdle the sea;
With omnipotent love is my poor nature bound,
And this bondage to love sets me perfectly free."

—Bro. Bob Cain

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

QUESTION: Please give a full explanation of the meaning of the Scripture in Heb. 6:4,5, and 6.

ANSWER: Heb. 6:4-6, reads thus: "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted of the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance, seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

Adam Clarke restricts the application of the terms in these verses to one class of individuals, and only one, and them of the very worst kind—apostates from the Christian faith. He says this has no reference to any one professing Christianity, nor to any backslider, but that it applies to apostates from Christianity; those who reject the whole Christian system and its author, the Lord Jesus.

He further restricts this to only that particular class of apostates who join with the blaspheming Jews, call Christ an impostor, and vindicate His murderers in having crucified Him as a malefactor; and thus they render their salvation impossible by willfully, maliciously rejecting the Lord that bought them (2 Pet. 2:1) and bring upon themselves swift destruction. Adam Clarke further says, "No man believing in the Lord Jesus as the great sacrifice for sin, and acknowledging Christianity as a divine

revelation, is here intended, though he may have unfortunately backslidden from any degree of the salvation of God."

Many who may read this knew and will remember Brother Sam Barton. I knew him well and when I first met him he was a backslider from a high degree of grace. I was holding a meeting about 20 miles or so from his home. He took my wife and me and our three children home with him and maintained us throughout that meeting, and took us to meeting every night that distance in his car and attended every service himself. I left him sitting on his front porch crying when I left that time. He would go about to the various campmeetings, taking his wife to the meetings and helping in the meetings with money, labor, etc. The saints were his people and he revered the truth and never wanted to see it tampered with or compromised even when he himself was outside of its covenant provisions. But he obtained mercy and found favor with God after twelve years as a backslider, and no one among the saints ever questioned the genuineness of his conversion or his sincerity in Christ, and he obtained grace from God to prove himself a real champion of faith in the closing months of his life when he suffered very greatly from cancer. Never once did he complain against the Lord in all this.

We see from this experience that a full and complete recovery is possible for one who under some peculiar circumstance or combination of circumstances may be overcome and go down in defeat and fail utterly of the grace of God, and yet maintain a right attitude of reverence toward God and His truth and His people. This man and others have been reclaimed and recovered and used mightily of God after having suffered crushing defeats.

Also, I heard Brother I. C. Chandler bring out this observation which is worthy of note. He said he had seen numbers of people recovered after they had been overcome and lost the victory if they had maintained an attitude of reverence for God and His truth and the saints. He also said that he could only remember a very few, if any, that ever lost their experience with God and began to faultfind, criticize, brow-beat, and chastize the saints and blame them and seek to modify or change the principles and standard of the truth that ever got back to God. To receive a hard and wrong attitude when one has been overcome and to lose his hold on God is a dangerous thing to do, and if persisted in, could bring him to the condition covered in this passage we are considering.

We learn from this Scripture that it is possible to apostatize from the highest degree of God's grace, and that those who are highest in the favor of God may lose it and perish everlastingly, and we are warned to never be led away from the truth, either by the persuasions or persecutions of our fellows.

The people referred to in this passage have been "once enlightened." They have been thoroughly instructed in the Word of God and the ways of the Lord, and have received the knowledge of the truth

which has convinced them of sin, righteousness and judgment to come (John 16:8) and led them to Jesus Christ, the only Saviour of sinners and the Light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world (John 1:9). And the God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness has shined in their hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 4:6). They had given heed to the more sure word of prophecy until the Day Star had arisen in their hearts (2 Pet. 1:19).

They had "tasted of the heavenly gift." They had tasted that the Lord is gracious (1 Pet. 2:3). They had received that bread of life which came down from God out of heaven to give life unto the world (John 6:51). They had received into their hearts the gift of God's love—Jesus Christ (John 3:16). Through Him they have received the knowledge of salvation through the remission of sins and witnessed the full effects of salvation and the Christian religion.

They had been "partakers of the Holy Ghost." They have been blessed with the full witness of the Holy Spirit as to the fullness of God's mercy toward them. Also they have the witness of the complete soul-saving, sin-purging efficacy of the atonement, and have been filled with the Spirit which is the greatest and crowning grace of heaven upon any individual.

They have "tasted the good word of God." They have actually experienced the gospel of Christ which is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16) working in them and have received the engrafted word which is able to save their souls (James 1:21). They have found the Word of God to be good and sweet to the taste of their souls. The Psalmist speaks of the sweetness of God's Word to him in Psalms 19:10 and 119:103. And Job said, "I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." Job 23:12. It is the good word of a good God and by it we are warned, admonished, instructed, corrected and thoroughly furnished unto every good work (2 Tim. 3:16,17). Peter exhorts us to desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow thereby. 1 Pet. 2:2.

They had also tasted "the powers of the world to come." Adam Clarke says that the Greek word here translated "taste" signifies to experience or have full proof of a thing. The same word is translated in Heb. 2:9 in respect to Christ's death, "He tasted death for every man." And surely no one would question but that Christ actually experienced death to the full extent and died just as fully as it would be possible for a man to die. Also, the same word is translated in 1 Pet. 2:3, "ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious," and no one would surely question that this would refer to one actually receiving and experiencing the graciousness of God in salvation and the "things that accompany salvation" (Heb. 6:9), which God has prepared for them that love Him.

Adam Clarke further says, "Accordingly, the statement here would refer to something these people had actually already experienced and received the full benefits of and consequently 'the world to come' in this case would refer to this gospel age which was just being ushered in at that time."

It could also refer to the eternal world. But let us realize that one who receives salvation in its fullness receives a foretaste of that heavenly world. The elements of heaven are imparted to him and he receives an earnest of his eternal inheritance when he receives the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 5:5 and Eph. 1:13-14). So it is clear the "the world to come" could and does refer to both this gospel age and the eternal world depending upon the context.

The "powers of the world to come" would, no doubt, refer to the signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit by which God witnessed to the preaching of His gospel in the early church and by which He confirmed His Word (Mark 16:20 and Acts 2:22). Throughout the writings of the prophets there are prophecies of the coming of Christ and the miraculous powers which would accompany His ministry, among which was specified the healing of the blind, deaf, dumb and lame. All these things Jesus did and His apostles after Him which gave definite witness and proof from heaven of His true Messiahship and of the genuineness of the gospel message. Peter said in Acts 2:22, "... Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know." Jesus said if He had not come and done among them the works which no other man did they would not have had sin (John 15:24). He said, "The works that I do, ... they bear witness of me" (John 10:25). Again He said, "Though ye believe not me, believe the works" (John 10:38). These people had witnessed and experienced all these things, and the gospel had been confirmed to them by these means.

Then it says, if these people "shall fall away." Adam Clarke says that the Greek word translated here signifies a happening already past and that the proper rendering here would be "having fallen away," signifying a thing already done. This would signify that the people who had experienced all these things and had been actually confirmed in this faith had fallen away from it or apostatized, and that to the extent they had "crucified to themselves the Son of God afresh and put Him to an open shame." In their apostasy, they do in themselves what the Jews actually did to Christ, and reject Him as an impostor, and justify His death on that ground. They hereby show that if they had been present when Christ was crucified they would have joined with the murderers in the actual deed.

Adam Clarke says further that the Greek phrase which is here translated, "Put Him to an open shame" properly means, "And have made Him a public example;" or the entire thought would mean, "Crucifying unto themselves and making the Son of God a public example." In other words, they show openly that they judge Jesus Christ to have been worthy of the death which He suffered, and was justly made a public example by being crucified. Thus, it is clear that final apostasy by the total rejection of the gospel and the blasphemy of the Saviour of men is what is referred to in this passage.

But why no repentance? Repentance is the first step a sinner must take to return to God. But true repentance is based on a genuine godly sorrow for sin. To whatever extent a person may be sorry for his sins it is utterly useless unless there be a proper, efficacious sacrifice for sin. The only sacrifice for sin now standing and valid is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Since these people had utterly, willfully, maliciously, and finally rejected Christ as the acceptable sacrifice for sin and the author of salvation, it rendered their salvation permanently impossible because there is salvation in no other (Acts 4:12).

NOTE: These last three or four paragraphs are taken mostly, if not in their entirety, from Adam Clarke's comments on this passage, and there are other thoughts of his interspersed throughout the discussion which I have altered some to fit in with my channel of thought and discussion which accounts for the absence of quotation marks in some instances.

Centennial Reformation Review

WARNER AS EDITOR AND AUTHOR

The difficulties and privations incident to Brother Warner's years of faithfulness in the ministry, his persecutions on account of holiness culminating in his expulsion from the Ohio Eldership, his bereavements of some of his nearest relatives—all were serving only to draw him closer to the Divine and thereby fitting him for greater responsibilities and usefulness. As we become acquainted with his career and the mission to which God had chosen him, we discern the hand of Providence leading him to his appointed field.

On his return to Upper Sandusky from Tiffin on April 9, 1878, he found some urgent calls to go to Indiana, and he said, "I think the Lord is in it; expect to go next week." At this time he became more fully awakened to the importance of abandoning all party names and creeds and returning to the "faith once delivered to the saints" in its entirety. At this time, also, he began to have some conception of the printing press as an aid in publishing the truth. The manuscript for a tract on the subject of holiness, which he was writing, was growing to the proportions of a book, and he began to pray for means to have it published. He "received gracious answers by the Spirit," as he says, and the following night while he was lying awake in meditation, the Lord opened up to him the new field of publishing holiness by means of the printing press.

Over the state line, in Wolcottville, Ind., the Lord had prepared the opportunity. The little paper *Herald of Gospel Freedom*, was in its first year, and its editor, I. W. Lowman, was favorable to holiness and had been impressed that Brother Warner should conduct a holiness department in the paper. The appointment was made at the Eldership meeting. As usual when undertaking any responsibility, Brother Warner placed himself in entire dependence upon God. He thus speaks of the project:

"Oh, that God may endue us both with grace and wisdom to discharge this solemn and important calling! O my God, I cry unto Thee for help! I am sure Thou hast put me under this solemn and responsible charge. Now Thou must qualify Thy poor tool for the work. Be pleased, O Lord, to touch my heart and all my intellect and religious powers afresh with the Holy Ghost. Be Thou thyself my qualification. I am so glad Thou hast promised to be my wisdom. Oh, give me also Thy mind. Be Thou the fountain of all knowledge and goodness in me. Lord, I accept Thee for my ALL."

His holiness articles contributed to the *Church Advocate*, the regular Church paper, had been effective and had won for him openings and warm hearts in various places. He possessed excellent gifts for writing as well as for speaking. His discourse was entertaining and instructive. He began his editorial duties in much physical weakness, as, it will be remembered, he was just recovering from a severe illness that laid low his naturally weak frame.

On the 24th he visited Rome City in view of finding a suitable place to reside. He felt directed to locate here, and wrote his wife to come. On the 26th of November they moved to their new location. He bought the south half of lots 103 and 104 for \$213.

The entry in his diary for the new year, Jan 1, 1879, is of interest.

"Since the last account my time has been closely devoted to writing for the *Herald* and on my little book. This seems to have been the order of the Lord, and He has most wonderfully blessed me in the work. The Spirit is continually taking the things of Christ and showing them to me. Glory to God for the new beauties and blessed unfoldings of divine truth under the clear light of the 'anointing that abideth and teacheth of all things.' The luminous heavens of revelation seen through the all-searching telescope of the Holy Ghost raise many texts that were but dim and of doubtful application to the definite purifying grace, to their true magnitude of absolute authority; while one beautiful, blazing constellation of Bible truth after another is brought to view until the adoring soul sees no end to the divine evidences of the 'second grace' save the end of revelation itself; and even there the Spirit takes up the eternal theme and writes it all over the soul, on the tablet of the heart and upon every fiber of our conscious being; yea, writes it upon the 'merchandise' of the saints all over the entire universe of God's creation, on every surrounding object. Even 'upon the bells of the horses shall there be HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD.'

"We can begin to see the effects under God of 'praising the beauty of holiness' in this place in our prayer- and class-meetings. Many express a hunger for full salvation, and as we frequently present our dear neighbors to God in prayer, the Spirit seems to indicate a glorious harvest of souls in this place in the near future. All glory to God!

"And now, my soul, another year of thy earthly career and time to work has passed away. Thank God it was the first whole year of my life that I have

dwelt in the Canaan of perfect love and sinless glory. All its events through God have indeed worked together for good to my soul.

"11. Since last writing we have constantly shared the goodness of God. The time has been closely devoted to writing on my book and for the *Herald*. The Holy Spirit has greatly assisted. The weather has been very cold, as much as twenty-four degrees below zero. The first week of the new year was observed as a week of prayer. The weather being severe, only a few attended our union prayer-meeting. Last night in the name of Jesus we began a meeting here in the Methodist church-house on the line of holiness."

The book he speaks of was the *Bible Proofs of the Second Work of Grace*. It was printed and bound the next year, 1880, at the E. U. Mennonite publishing house in Goshen. Two thousand copies were printed. It contained 493 pages and was, it would seem, an almost exhaustive treatise on sanctification as a second work of grace as shown by the Scriptures. It was counted an excellent book by the holiness people and leaders, and doubtless accomplished much good. Copies of the book may yet be found in individual libraries. This was the first book of which Brother Warner was the author. He became the author of a number of publications afterward.

—A. L. Byers in *The Birth of a Reformation*

Astonishing Facts

Facts that were published Aug. 30, 1979, said that "90% of all homes in America have at least one television set, while only 85% have only one bathtub, which goes to show you that more brains are washed than bodies." Most people take baths, yet have only one tub. But we see how important television is to most homes.

We also read some interesting facts that "In the average home a TV set is on six hours and eighteen minutes every day. Upon completion of high school a child has seen 15,000 hours of TV; 350,000 commercials (most of which are loaded with sexy or embarrassing speeches), and 18,000 murders." What do you think this does to the mind of a child? No wonder crime has increased, and many immoral deeds are committed openly.

I have heard different ones who have discarded their TV's say their home life is now so different. One mother said that she is at last getting acquainted with her children. I heard one father say that since the TV was taken out of his home he now has time to help his son with his homework and they often work together on model airplanes. One mother said that her family now ate at the table and enjoyed their meal instead of eating while watching TV. But most of all the exposure to the immorality that the children of these families are being spared is so important.

I know there are some who say, "There are good things on TV." I agree with that, but when I was a ten-year-old child, or a little older, some girls wanted me to stay all night with them and go to a movie. I

told them that I didn't believe in going to movies. I told them what a preacher said, that in a garbage can there is some good bread, but who is going to take it out and eat it. Some of the bad will cling to it.

The Bible tells us that uncleanness and lasciviousness are works of the flesh. We are to keep our minds pure and our thoughts clean, for out of the heart proceed what goes in. If we see evil and let it get into our hearts, it will come out in our lives.

The Bible says, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside: it shall not cleave to me." Psa. 101:3. We hate evil of every kind, and how can we look at it being committed if we hate it?

Some say that they control their TV. I do not believe it can be done unless it is kept under lock and key. I knew a man who had a radio when they first came out, and he had it under lock and key. He really did control it, but that is not a rule in homes and is a rare thing to do. If TV could be controlled, it would not be so bad to see the good and wholesome things. But again, I say, I do not feel that it can be done. We must think of it in this way. If Brother A— had a number of children in his home and he did not have a TV because he could not control it, and Brother B— and his wife had one but could control it, how could Brother A— explain to his children that Brother B— could have one and he could not. They would not understand that at all.

The reason a TV is so harmful is that there is a drawing, worldly spirit that goes with it. The news may go off, and quickly there is another act almost before you can turn it off, and it might be a commercial that is degrading. Then the drawing spirit makes one want to see something that would not be profitable. Oh, dear saints of God, we need to be careful. We know that those who have a worldly spirit want these things that are of the world, but we who are enlightened and have knowledge must not expose ourselves nor our families by having a TV in our homes.

—Sis. Marie Miles

HOLY SPIRIT, DRAW ALL NEAR

In the place where seeds are sown,
May Thy saving grace be known—
To all lands removed, remote,
To the far most distant coast.

Holy Spirit, draw all near,
Free the heart from doubt and fear,
Fill it, Lord, with peace and cheer,
As they find Thee kind and dear.

Shine Thy love through darkest haze,
Usher in the brighter days,
Speak to souls both far and wide,
Draw them to the Master's side.

Saviour, Lord, that all might see
Thy precious love so full and free;
May all men on bended knee,
Praise Thy Name and worship Thee.

—Edward M. Brandt