

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

(USPS184-660)

Church of God Servant



Volume 58, No. 2

58th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35c Per Year

April, 1980

The Risen Life of Christ



Look, O Man, the truth beholding
Of the risen life of Christ,
To thy bosom's core enfolding
All His wealth supremely priced.

He is risen from death's sorrow;
He has triumphed o'er the tomb,
Giving man a bright tomorrow
And a hope to ever bloom.

Though the human scarce can know it,
Nor the heart can comprehend,
Yet the Spirit now can show it
With a joy to never end.

As the brazen serpent lifted
Fiery serpents did subdue,
So the dark clouds will be rifted
When we claim His promise true.

Look and live! For He is risen
And He offers victory
For the soul in sin's dark prison
Who is pining to be free.

Oh, what pow'r He has exerted
In His triumph o'er the grave!
Life to those by sin perverted
To the uttermost to save!

On the holy hill of Zion
Reigns He there forevermore!
Him we can in faith rely on;
Him we'll worship and adore.

And someday our eyes shall see Him
Coming from the Heav'ns above;
While the wicked seek to flee Him,
We shall bask in all His love.

Look, O Man! Your loving Saviour
Once hath suffered death for you,
And He lives in loving favor
Great and mighty things to do!

—Leslie C. Busbee

The Resurrection of the Dead:

"With What Body Do They Come?"



The doctrine of the resurrection of the dead has met opposition from the time the skeptical Sadducees tried to entangle Jesus until the present. Of the heathen Greeks and Romans, Zeno pronounced the resurrection the hope of worms and Pliny considered it impossible even to the power of God. Modern skeptics, as well as some of the liberal class of professed Christians, have continued to assail this doctrine. In spite of this opposition to the idea of a resurrection, multitudes today when following their beloved dead to the grave are comforted, like Martha of Bethany, with the thought that they "shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day." The doctrine is of special advantage to the average man, in that it makes immortality easier for him to believe in and to comprehend. Moreover, if it is a truth of Scripture and of practical value as a part of Christian faith, then we do well to attempt a statement of the doctrine and to answer the supposed objections to the doctrine.

The Body Will Be Raised

The truth of the resurrection of the dead can be known only through the statements of Scripture. Unlike the doctrine of future existence of the spirit, it cannot be known by rational processes. There is nothing in nature or reason to show that the body will be raised. Like other truths known only by revelation, such as the doctrines of the Trinity or the atonement, it is not unreasonable because it cannot be known by reason. On the other hand, when it is accepted on the ground of revelation it is found to be very reasonable. It is reasonable that as man was originally created with a body, he should retain it in the life to come, and that human beings should forever consist of body and spirit. It is not unreasonable that as the body has shared with the spirit in probation, it should also share in future reward or punishment, and that the bodies of ourselves and our friends to which we each are so strongly attached here, should be a part of each of us in our eternal

home. Whether or not these may be the reason for resurrection we cannot certainly know, but if not, there may still be a sufficient reason for it in the mind of God.

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth" (John 5:28). It is the body that goes into the grave and not the spirit, which is said to "depart" at death. Therefore, the resurrection has to do, not with the spirit, but with the body. "Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake." (Dan. 12:2). At death the spirits of the saved go to be with Christ (2 Cor. 5:8). It is the body that is in the dust of the earth, not the soul. The soul does not sleep but is conscious after death (Luke 16:24); it is the body that sleeps, and that shall awake on the resurrection day. Christ is the firstfruits of the resurrection, says the apostle Paul, and we know it was His material body that was raised. As surely as that was true of Christ, so surely Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 15 that our material bodies shall be raised. Certain modern religious teachers who deny the resurrection of the body have endeavored to find support for their theory in Paul's statement, "It is raised a spiritual body." If this expression "spiritual body" means only the spirit that now dwells in our bodies, then the expression is a contradiction in terms; for a body that is only spirit is not a body. It can only be interpreted to mean a material body in the changed, incorruptible, glorified form that the apostle here describes. It is spiritual as to state, not as to essence.

Nature of the Resurrected Body

The resurrection is a transformation not a transubstantiation. The resurrected body is identical with the body that dies in some real sense, otherwise it would be a creation and not a resurrection. To deny a proper identity of the natural and the resurrected bodies is to deny the resurrection itself, because this is essential. It must be remembered that there is a distinction to be made between an absolute identity and a proper identity. An absolute identity requires that every atom of the body that dies must be included in the raised body. We do not suppose this sense of absolute identity to be required by the Scriptures. Only a proper identity need be held. This identity may be illustrated by that identity of your body with the body you possessed in early childhood. The body you possess now is different, yet identical. Our bodies are in a state of constant flux, new particles taking the place of old ones which are cast out of the body. Scientists tell us our bodies change entirely as to substance in a period of seven years. You meet a friend you have not seen for ten years and recognize him at once, although he is an entirely different being as to the particles of matter of which his body is composed. This illustration shows at least the possibility of an identity that does not require the gathering for the raised body particles that may have gone into the composition of other bodies.

This resurrected body, then, will be a material body; but not in its natural form. God's supernatural

power will have given it supernatural qualities. It will be incorruptible, immortal, glorified, and spiritualized in that it will be adapted to that eternal world. It must be allowed that we cannot know in detail what such a body will be like, as we have nothing like it in the realm of our present experience; but the terms used to describe it assure us that it will be perfectly suited to our eternal happiness there. While the bodies of the wicked are to be raised up at the same time as those of the righteous, yet comparatively little is said of the nature of their bodies, and as to any differences between theirs and those of the righteous it is useless to speculate.

Why This Doctrine Is Not Unreasonable

The resurrection is not unreasonable because it has been divinely predicted. "Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?"

It is necessary to a complete redemption. The actuality of physical death is the result of sin, and Christ must raise the dead body to make his redemptive work complete. This "redemption of the body" Paul looked forward to.

A difficulty more theoretical and imaginary than real is that particles composing a dead body may become widely scattered, and through cannibalism and by entering the composition of vegetables may become parts of several different bodies during thousands of years. The proper identity already described solves the problem of the same particles in the composition of several different bodies; and as to the scattering of particles, if absolute identity were required it would be but a small thing for God to bring them together again.

Science may say the resurrection of the body is impossible; but what does science know about the supernatural? It has to do only with the natural, and this is claimed to be supernatural. As with any other miracle, science is entirely out of its province in attempting to say anything. But the remarkable thing is that some of these very so-called scientists who deny the possibility of a resurrection would ask us to believe the unprovable absurdity of abiogenesis—that both body and spirit originally sprang from lifeless matter!

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept" (1 Cor. 15:20). "If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him"; "The dead in Christ shall rise": "Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thess. 4:14, 16, 18).

—R. R. Byrum

FAITH MAKES VISIBLE

Since Jesus commands us to believe we have received the things we pray for at the time we pray, and before they take visible form, it is clear that they exist in two forms: first, invisible, afterwards, visible. First, believe that ye have received them (in their invisible form) and ye shall have them (in their visible or material form).

—F. F. B.

Salvation, Preparation for Heaven



A great many people sin more or less every day, walk in forbidden by-paths, do things they ought not, leave undone things they ought to do, and yet expect by and by to taste the blessings of the heavenly home. What a wonderful deception! What an unreasonable expectation! Heaven is a holy place. It is God's throne. No sin can enter there. Man is naturally a sinner, and hence, unfitted by nature for heaven. Salvation is that which prepares and fits us for heaven. Without God's salvation no soul will enter heaven, for it is the only salvation that saves from sin. We must be holy to enter heaven. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Heb. 2:4. This eternal truth should be traced indelibly upon the mind of every mortal, yea, it should be the substance of his belief until he is as holy as the Word of the dying Lamb of God can make him.

Joining some church will not fit a soul for heaven. You might be a member of every church in Christendom and still be a sinner and miss heaven. You may have signed a sort of promise to serve God, but it will take more than that to fit you for heaven. You may have said that you believed on Jesus and have been baptized, and still be in sin and not fit for heaven. O that men everywhere could see the futility of such beliefs! O that men could see that nothing, absolutely nothing, but God's salvation can save them from sin and fit them for heaven!

Morality will not save you; being a good citizen and paying your debts will not redeem you; no, you are lost, eternally lost, unless you come to the blood and be saved. Neither your friends, your companion, your parents, nor any one else can save you. Only Jesus can save. O sinning professor of religion, how can you hope to dwell in the eternal bliss of heaven with sin upon you? And you, poor "sin-you-must" preacher, how will you, and those deceived by your false doctrine, fare at the hands of a sin-avenging God? You will be driven from His presence by the brightness of His holiness. You will be speechless, too. The beautiful robes of righteousness were freely offered you, Jesus died for you, the cleansing fountain was opened for you and you were invited to plunge in, but, alas, you neglected it, you rejected it, and thought you could go your way; and now you are lost, lost forever.

Who will enter heaven? "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Matt. 5:8. A person with a pure heart will see God and enter the eternal bliss of heaven. None else will.

It is your privilege, dear reader, to know you are washed in the blood. Your life then will be holy; your death triumphant; and your home, heaven. Do you not want this blessed experience? Come then to Jesus, give up your sinful life, confess and forsake your sins, afterwards consecrate all to God and be sanctified, and you can dwell eternally with Christ.

—R. L. Berry

Our Intercessor



The Scripture says that the law of Moses was the shadow of good things to come. Heb. 10:1. I would like for us to consider the breastplate of judgment that Aaron was to wear when he went to minister in the tabernacle. This breastplate had four rows of stones; each row having three stones. Each stone had the name of one of the tribes of Israel, the number of the stones being twelve, representing all the names of the children of Israel. "And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart, when he goeth in unto the holy place, for a memorial before the Lord continually." Ex. 28:29. Now let us consider what one of the old prophets said about this. I am thinking especially of the memorial part. "But Zion said, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me." Isa. 49:14-16. Now let us find the fulfillment of this in the New Testament. "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." Heb. 9:24.

Let us remember Aaron, the type of Christ, that it is said he had all the names of the children of Israel upon the breastplate and that he bore their judgment upon his heart continually before the Lord. Does not Christ bear our judgment upon his heart before God continually? (Our judgment means all the help we need.) Does not our faith take this in? If it does, we are a happy and blessed people. "Thou hast a mighty arm: strong is thy hand, and high is thy right hand. Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face. Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted." Psalms 89:13-16. Also, read Heb. 4:14-16 as follows: "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." This throne of grace is sufficient for all our needs if we come boldly to it. The sinner can obtain salvation if he comes boldly to it. (Heb. 7:25) The justified brother can obtain sanctification if he comes boldly to it. (Heb. 10:19-23) All of us can have our needs supplied if we come boldly by faith to this throne of grace. Heb. 4:16; Phil. 4:19; II Cor. 12:9, 9:8.

—T. V. McMillian

—o—
SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PAPER — 3 years for \$1.00.

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.)

Notice to subscribers: Whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your Zip Code number. The post office now charges 25¢ to notify us of each change of address.

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

Write for prices on larger quantities.

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

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the 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.

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

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P.O. Box 518 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044
Office Phone 282-1479 Home Phone 282-2262

EDITORIALS



Christ Is Risen! . . .

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

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

It is true that people have been resurrected from the dead before and after Christ's resurrection, but none other has come forth with a "glorified" body as He did. The Apostle Paul writes by divine inspiration: "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept." First Cor. 15:20. Christ alone blazed the way and set the pattern for the general resurrection that shall take place at His second coming. "But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterwards they that are Christ's at his coming." 1 Cor. 15:23. Again Paul writes: "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our vile [decaying] body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." Phil. 3:20 and 21. This is the blessed hope of the righteous.

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

The doctrine of the resurrection and immortality is the cornerstone of our faith and hope. Without it there would be no redemption for fallen man. The Apostle Paul says that Jesus "was raised again for our justification." Romans 4:25. Again, the Apostle contends in 1 Cor. 15 that if Christ had not been resurrected our preaching is in vain, our faith is vain, we are yet in our sins, the apostles were all

liars, the righteous dead have all perished, and the living saints have no hope after death.

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

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

A reprint of the excellent book, "Birth of a Reformation" by A. L. Byers, is now on the press. This book is primarily a biography of the life and labors of Brother D. S. Warner who was perhaps the most widely known reformer of this "evening time" restoration movement which began one hundred years ago on that prophetic date of 1880. In this centennial year we remember with gratitude the rich heritage that is ours because of the faithfulness of those early pioneer ministers of the Church of God reformation. In this volume you will find the basic Bible teachings on which this restoration movement was established, though many adherents began departing from those Bible principles seventy years ago. Thank God, He has preserved a remnant which has maintained those Bible truths for the past hundred years. This book consists of 496 pages, including pictures of some of the pioneer ministers, bound in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.50 per copy, plus 90c for postage and handling. Order a copy today to remind you afresh of our rich spiritual heritage in this centennial year of 1980.

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

The Lord's Print Shop Needs Worker . . .

A consecrated Christian woman is needed at the Lord's Print Shop who can operate a typewriter to work in the correspondence and mailing departments. Board and room are provided, plus an allowance each week as the Lord supplies. Who will hear and answer the Lord's call? If God gives you a burden to work for Him in this literature ministry, please contact Marie Miles or this writer at this office by letter or phone for further information. We are grateful to Sister Mary Murphey who is helping part-time in the mailing department until the Lord provides a full-time worker. Ask the Lord whether this is the place He wants you to fill in His great cause.

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

Bro. and Sister Willie Murphey and Sister Marie left Guthrie on March 20, driving to Jefferson, Ore., via California. They plan to visit relatives and hold services enroute, as well as hold a few services in Jefferson, Oregon, before they return home on the 4th of April. Perhaps Bro. and Sister Ostis Wilson will return with them.

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

In the month of February, Bro. Tom Melot held a few services at Vernon, B. C., Canada, where he met some precious souls in that new field.

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

On March 23rd, Bro. H. H. Hargrave, pastor at Goulds, Fla., began a revival meeting at the 23rd

Street Church of God chapel in Oklahoma City where Bro. Archie Souder is the pastor. The Lord is expected to anoint the messages of truth.

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

Word has been received that Sister Beverly Reed is the new pastor of the Church of God in Pacoima, Calif. May the Lord bless and prosper her efforts in that new field.

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

Sister Dorothy Keiser Returns From India . . .

On Mar. 8, 1980, Sis. Dorothy Keiser of Shawnee, Okla., returned safely to the U. S. from South India where she had been working with Bro. John Varghese and his co-workers in that mission field since the first of January. She reported a profitable contact with the people of India which brought to her a greater burden to return for a longer stay if the Lord opens the way. Many pictures were obtained, and some will be put on slides for showing to those who may be interested. She also wrote a record of her trip and experiences in India which will be printed in booklet form. All proceeds from its sale will go to the mission work in India.

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

Congratulations to Sister Mary Ellen (Forrest) Worley who reached her 100th birthday on Feb. 11, 1980, and thanks to the Lord for giving her a long life. Sister Worley, who has been well acquainted with the Church of God reformation most of her life, lives with her daughter at Fresno, Calif., and still writes regularly to this office, sending in subscriptions to the paper from various sources. May God's presence preserve her unto His heavenly Kingdom which awaits all the faithful saints.

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

May God comfort the following families whose loved one passed away recently: Matthesen, Schudy, Rhoades, January, Jury, Fletcher, Warren, Robertson.

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

Bro. Tom Melot of Guthrie, Okla., returned on March 17th from holding a week's revival at Green Bank, W. Va., where Bro. Mart Samons is the pastor. Those in attendance report that they were inspired by the messages of truth. Enroute Bro. Melot visited Bro. Curtis Williams at Morehead, Ky., and found him still much in need of physical help in order to be out in the evangelistic work. Continue to pray fervently for Bro. Williams' healing.

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

Many thanks to the unknown sender of the following encouraging verse received by this writer with an unsigned letter postmarked February 7, 1980, in Los Angeles, California:

"Thy prayer is heard, though long thy heart's petition

Has mounted to the Father's throne on high;
Though years have passed since first that prayer
you uttered,

E'en from the first He heard thy bitter cry."

—Lawrence Pruitt

In Memorial

Virgil E. Robertson was born Nov. 29, 1907, in Fairmont, W. Va. He was the youngest son of the late James C. and Philena Nuss Robertson. He departed this life on Feb. 12, 1980, at his home in Lost Creek, W. Va.

On April 26, 1929, he married Julia M. Criss. To this union one son was born.

Survivors include his wife; one son, James C. Robertson, of Clarksburg, W. Va., two grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Mancil Doolittle.

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

Jake Schudy, son of the late James and Josephine Clark Schudy, was born April 8, 1904, at Coldsprings, Mo., and entered into rest on January 3, 1980, following a short illness at the age of 75 years, 8 months, and 25 days.

Jake had accepted Christ and expressed his faith in God. He attended the Church of God services.

On March 2, 1927, Jake and Connie Rhoades were united in marriage at Ava, Mo., and to this union four children were born.

Survivors include his wife, Connie, of the home; three daughters, Mrs. Ilene Halford, Mtn. Grove, Mo., Mrs. Vivian Hardin, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Mrs. Ruth Slayton, Mtn. Grove, Mo.; one son, Neil Schudy, Norwood, Mo.; 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; two brothers, Dr. Fred Schudy, Houston, Texas, and Mr. Elmer Schudy, Norwood, Mo.; three sisters, Mrs. Eula Henson, Springfield, Mo., Mrs. Rebecca Steelman, Springfield, Mo., and Mrs. Pearl Allen, Norwood, Mo.; also a host of other relatives and friends.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. Richard Madden.

o

Evangelistic Tent Needed for Midwest

Some of the brethren expressed their concern of the urgent need for an evangelistic tent for this mid-west area. Accordingly, a Brother in the Lord made the down payment, and an order has been placed with a company in Joplin, Mo., for a new tent, size 30 by 30 with single pole, at the cost of \$2400. This tent is scheduled for delivery on April 15th, at which time the balance will have to be paid. In order to complete the project, there is also the need for one hundred or more folding chairs, lighting equipment, and a public address system, which will cost a total of several hundred dollars.

This is surely a worthy project for the spread of the gospel. Ask the Lord what He would have you to do to help purchase this evangelistic tent and equipment. Please send your freewill offering very soon to this office and specify it for the **Tent Fund**, and the Lord will bless you abundantly.

—Editor

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.

Green Bank, W. Va.—June 13 to 22.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 13 to 22.

Oakland, California—June 20 to 29.

Hammond, Louisiana—June 28 to July 6.

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

Fresno, California—July 4 to 13.

Prince George, B. C., Canada—July 5 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.

Bakersfield, California—August 1 to 10.

Boley, Oklahoma—August 15 to 24.

o

WICHITA, KAN., SPRING MEETING

If the Lord so wills, the Wichita, Kan., spring meeting will be held March 28th through April 6th. We are looking to the Lord to let His Spirit lead and send the power that is needed to move on every heart and cause them to seek what they need, whether it be salvation, more grace, sanctification, or better understanding. We want God to send the ministers of His choice.

All who feel led to attend, please come praying and prepared to be in the battle.

The chapel is located at 1701 North Ash Street. For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Lewis Williams at 2643 No. Spruce, phone (316) 264-8481.

—Shirley Knight, Secretary

o

SINGING AND ALL-DAY SERVICES AT SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA

The Shawnee, Okla., congregation would like to announce a gospel singing for Saturday, April 5th, at 7:30 p.m. at the chapel on Gordon Cooper Drive (South Beard). We also invite everyone to stay for all-day services Sunday, the 6th. Dinner will be served at the Golden Rule Home with the afternoon service there to commemorate 17 years of operation. For further information, call (405) 273-7106 in the daytime, and in the evenings call Sis. Melinda Penner at 273-2483, or Sis. Janyce Porter at 275-6686.

—Janyce E. Porter

ALL-DAY EASTER SERVICES AT SAPULPA, OK.

Bro. Richard Madden, pastor at Sapulpa, Okla., announces all-day Easter services on Sunday, April 6th, at the Church of God chapel on Old Sapulpa Road. Everyone is cordially invited to come.

Then on the following Sunday, April 13, Bro. Ostis Wilson of Jefferson, Ore., will begin a meeting, Lord willing, at Sapulpa, to continue several nights. Keep these dates in mind and be present at all these special services.

For further information, contact Bro. Richard Madden at phone number (918) 446-8202.

SPRING MEETING IN OKLAHOMA CITY

The annual spring meeting at the Church of God chapel, 800 N.E. Third Street, Oklahoma City, will be held, Lord willing, from April 11 to 20, 1980.

All are invited to attend these services each evening at 7:30. Pray that the Holy Spirit will do His office work in every service by sending forth His Word, by convicting the unsaved, and convincing the believer of his need of entire sanctification.

On the two Sundays there will be three services, and dinner will be served at noon.

BOLEY, OKLA. SPRING REVIVAL

Lord willing, the annual spring revival of the Church of God at Boley, Okla., will be held April 27 through May 4, 1980. There will be all-day services both Sundays of the meeting, and services nightly at 7:30 p.m.

We extend a hearty welcome to all nations. We are looking to God to send ministers and workers of His own choice. Come praying that the Lord will work and give us a Holy Spirit-filled meeting, and that souls will be saved, bodies healed, and believers filled with the Holy Ghost!

In these last and evil days time is running out. Let us do all we can to "redeem the time." "Brethren, the time is short." 1 Cor. 7:29. Come, let us share one another's burdens and praise the Lord together.

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

—Katherine Williams

FRESNO, CALIF., ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

The saints of Fresno, Calif., extend a hearty welcome to all to attend our annual spring meeting, to be held, Lord willing, from Friday May 2 through Sunday, May 11, at our new location at 388 N. First St., Fresno.

Please pray that the Spirit of God will have the preeminence in each service.

For further information, call Bro. E. J. Trotter, pastor, (209) 441-1758, or Bro. Charles Parrish, (209) 291-9958.

—Lavern Moles

ALL-DAY SERVICES AT HOFFMAN, OK.

The Church at Hoffman, Okla., plan to have, Lord willing, a gospel singing on Saturday night, May 10, 1980, and all-day services on Sunday, May 11th. Every one is cordially invited to attend these services.

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

Report From the Field

My wife and I arrived in George Town, Grand Cayman Isle, B.W.I., on Feb. 2, 1980, and attended six days of the convention. The poet says, "We reach our hand in fellowship to every blood-washed one," (amen) and we do. As we begin to know some of the dear ones on the island, our burdens increase and we want the will of the Lord to be thoroughly accomplished by any going there we might do. The poet states, "The Church of God one body is; one Spirit dwells within, and all her members are redeemed and triumph over sin." In order for the Lord's prayer of John 17 to be fulfilled in us, we must live far above the reproach of sin. (Amen.) Many do not see the spotless Bride of Christ as she really is, but all that have the vision must let her shine, shine, shine! The devil, vain leaders, and other diversions have worked some havoc, but if we walk in the light wherever we are, truly world-wide fellowship exists, and our spirits blend with an amen to all of God's Word. . . .

—Bro. H. H. Hargrave

Testimony of Divine Healing and Report from the Field

In these last days, we are living in perilous times, but through it all, God in His faithfulness to His children is blessing His Church in the earth, being faithful and true to His Word. He said: "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." Heb. 13:5. "For the Lord will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the Lord to make you his people." 1 Samuel 12:22. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1.

It matters not what kind of trouble it may be, whether affliction of the body, soul, mind, or heart, God can, and does, heal the wounded heart and comfort the feeble minds. He is a Healer of the body and a Saviour of the soul. Praise God! He is all we need. Bless His holy Name!

We would like to encourage those who are afflicted in body or who are carrying heavy burdens of any kind, to look to Jesus, our Great Physician, who healeth all manner of disease.

A few months ago, I was sorely afflicted with a blood clot in my left limb. Prior to the affliction, the Lord told me He wanted me to go to Los Angeles, Calif., to a revival meeting, but the affliction attacked my body before the date of the meeting in

Nov. 1979. I was in great pain. My limb was quite swollen—about twice its normal size. It turned red and was very sore and painful. The enemy suggested that I might die from it. He also suggested that I might not be able to go to the Los Angeles meeting. I resisted the devil and told him he had no part or lot in the matter, that my limb and body belonged to God, that God would heal me, and that even if the Lord did see fit to take me to heaven, I was ready for that. I was ready to live or ready to die. So the devil had to take his flight. Praise God!

I called for the elders of the Church. I was anointed and prayed for, and the Lord healed my limb. Praise the Lord! I appreciate all the prayers of the saints that knew about it. I give all praise and honor to the Lord. When the time arrived for the Los Angeles meeting, I was completely healed, and I am still healed today. Praise God! Oh, what a mighty God we serve!

The Lord wonderfully worked in the Los Angeles meeting. Souls were saved and the saints edified. Our dear Bro. Ulysses Phillips was in that meeting, rejoicing in the God of his salvation. He has since gone to be with Jesus.

After the close of the meeting, Brother Robert Sherman, with the assistance of Brother James Pierro, drove Sister Velma Smith and the writer to Oakland, Calif., in his motor coach. It was a blessing to us to ride in such comfort with such tired bodies. Thank God for the saints and their concern, love, and care for one another. We had a short visit with Sis. Smith and were with her and the saints for prayer service in Oakland.

While on the coast, the Lord impressed me to return to the Bakersfield revival in February. I obeyed the Lord. It was a Spirit-filled meeting, and we rejoiced to see souls weep their way to the cross to be saved, and the saints praising the Lord!

Enroute home we stopped at the Sunset Guest Home in Pacoima, Calif. We were thankful to visit with Sis. Hunter, Bro. and Sis. Sam Abbott, Bro. and Sis. Pat Huskey, and other of the aged saints. All seemed contented and happy in the Lord. Praise God for all His children! I'm thankful to be one of them today.

—Katherine Williams

Make it a business to serve God. In Him live and move and have your being. Make Him the center. Everything in life should center in God. Whatever you do, do to His glory. Live in His presence. Pray without ceasing; guard against all attacks of the world; keep a tender conscience toward God; walk in the light of His countenance; drink of the fountain of life daily; cultivate feelings of reverence, devotion, and thanksgiving; give no place to anything that will dull the finer sensibilities of your soul—do these things, and you will be rewarded with a closer walk with God.

—C. E. Orr

People may DOUBT
what you SAY
But they will BELIEVE
what you DO."

Prayer Requests

Texas—"In mid 1979, Tommy White was arrested by Cuban authorities, and since then he has been sentenced to 24 years in prison. Tommy was dropping gospel leaflets over Cuba. His plane went down in a storm, bringing about his arrest. His wife, children and mother are deeply concerned about him." Let us pray God to intervene in his case.

Ohio—"I want to thank the saints every where for their prayers for us, especially for my son. I appreciate the cards, letters, and other times you prayed for us. I know Jesus is the same today and can deliver my son."

—Tressie Adkins

Miss.—Sis. Ethel Lowery desires prayer for her body. She has a serious nervous condition.

Calif.—"I have a broken right shoulder. It is not healing right. It is very painful. Pray for me."

—Sis. Susan Stinson

Kans.—Please pray for a sister's son who has a drink habit. He needs God, and his sweet wife needs his help in caring for their children.

As the saints gathered at the Guthrie chapel on March 12, the special day of fasting and prayer, the Lord really blessed in the agreement of prayer for the many requests, and we trust that many petitioners are receiving the answers to those prayers here and abroad.

—Editor

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (Jan. 30)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus to all the saved, the spiritual Israel, which alone God regards as Israel. The truly saved, both of Jews and Gentiles, constitute the Israel of God. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

Thank you for your letter dated Jan. 5, 1980, contents of which have been noted.

Our brethren from the U.S.A., Bro. Jefferson Pierro, his wife Sis. Geneva Pierro, and their daughter Sis. Jefferlene Pierro, who have been in our midst since December 18, 1979, left Nigeria to return to the U.S. on Jan. 29, 1980. Saints from Kwale travelled to see them off at the Benin City Airport, while this writer went with them to Lagos where they were finally seen off.

Actually, their six-weeks stay in Nigeria constituted a fruitful period of activity. Our tour of Auchi from where we visited the village of Okpekepe put the U.S. visiting brethren in the picture of what a missionary is bound to suffer in the battle for the freedom of souls. No one can wear the great diadem without first passing through great tribulation.

On Jan. 12, we left Kwale for Tombia, passing through Port Harcourt. Apart from the U.S. brethren and myself, Bro. Alphonsus Okwosha and Regina Uka were also in the entourage. All of Tombia and Port Harcourt congregations received us jubilantly. We enjoyed remarkable hospitality in the entire eight days spent in Tombia. Profitable evangelistic open

air meetings were held in Tombia, Bukuma and Ikukiri. We thank God for their courage and obedience to the voice of God. A congregation has been raised at Ikukiri, a riverine village which is about a mile by water from Tombia. Bro. Flag feeds the flock there. Bro. B. Ben Taylor will visit them at frequent intervals to instruct them more perfectly in the Church of God doctrine.

On Jan. 20, we left Tombia for Aba in Imo State. Seven congregations of the area assembled at their central chapel in Ohuru for our arrival. We received a warm welcome from the combined congregations. Their care of us was praiseworthy. This writer is requested to return as early as possible for discussions with the elders of the seven congregations.

The first daughter of this writer to get married was Sis. Glory Obielumani Enu, an event which took place at the Church of God chapel, Utagba-Ogbe, Kwale, on December 23, 1979: She was united in marriage with Bro. Pius Ifeanyi Osuya of the same congregation of the Church of God. The marriage was witnessed by a great crowd of people from far and near. The U.S. brethren were in attendance. This writer was the officiating minister.

The information on the passing of Bro. Ulysses Phillips found no cause for tears of sorrow, but for joy in the transfer of this faithful saint to a sure royal welcome in paradise for finishing his course. We shall meet some happy day.

Yours in His service, —Titus U. E. Enu
* * * * *

* * * * *

Bendel State, Nigeria (Feb. 23)—Dear Bro. Pruitt:
Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, the Light of
the world and of the heavenly city.

Thanks for the receipt of your letter dated Feb. 2, 1980, and its enclosures.

The gospel work is expanding. Our application to preach in the prisons has been given approval by the Superintendent of Federal Prisons, Kwale. Two hours are spent in the prisons every Sunday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. to preach the Word of God to the prisoners. To God be the glory for the amazing response to the Word of God by the inmates, strengthened by their request for Bibles, tracts, and song books. Saints everywhere should co-operate in this worthy cause and supply us with King James Version Bibles, good religious books, and tracts for distribution to the prisoners.

A missionary journey is planned for the first week in March to Okpai, a town on the bank of River Niger, to seek and to save that which is lost. (Luke 19:10)

All who are of God must be positive Christians. We must do something. God is calling for those who will show their faith by their works. That means using our talents for God's glory in the advancement of His kingdom. There is no other reason for the vine to exist except to bear fruit, and we are plainly told that any branch that fails to bear fruit will be taken away. The Bible stresses that Christianity is a religion of faith and works. "Why call ye me. Lord.

Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). "Why stand ye here all the day idle?" (Matt. 20:6). God is looking for deeds, not mere words.

Yours in Him,

—Titus U. E. Enu

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

South India (Feb. 18)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints everywhere: We send our loving greetings to all of you again in the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Thank you very much for your very kind letter dated Feb. 2nd, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude.

The meeting at Nadukkunnu starts this Friday, and the new chapel built there will be opened for services next Saturday. The meeting at Koottarvila will be conducted by the middle of March.

Sister Dorothy Keiser is doing all right, and she is enjoying her visit here. We took her north and south to attend and preach in many meetings. She plans to return to the U. S., leaving the 6th of March. Now she is busy writing a book of her experiences in India. We have already visited many of our congregations, and need to visit some more this week.

We earnestly pray for Bro. Curtis William's complete healing and victory over the affliction.

Lord willing, I plan to visit all of you again with my wife in May, 1980. May God open the way for the trip.

**We pray God to send peace among the nations.
The political condition every where is unbalanced.
May God give wisdom to those who rule the nations.**

**With prayers for your complete healing, I remain
Yours in Him. —John Varghese**

Yours in Him,

—John Varghese

From the Mail Box . . .

Calif.—This offering is in memory of my two aunts—Bell Sanders and Nancy Jones, who passed away in Green Pastures, Okla. —Vivian Payne

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

Wash.—Dear saints: We are thankful to the Lord for His many blessings to us. He said if we would live according to His commandments, which is His Word, He would bless us. We are thankful for His help to do our best for Him to all we know and understand. . . .

We pray for you there. We do appreciate all the literature we get, and Sis. Marie's letters are such an encouragement to us. Thanks to the Lord and all that labor in the Lord's Print Shop. Remember us in prayer.

—Sister Violet Thomas

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

N. Car.— . . . We are still the Lord's children. We are aiming for that eternal Home! . . .

I am praying constantly for our little Jason! . . . Our son has never known a TV to exist in our home. By the mercy of God he never will. I will be 21 years old in one month. I was one of those teenagers who watched television. I loved to do my homework right in front of it. I would even get mad at my mother if

she wouldn't let me eat dinner while watching it! I just loved TV, but as soon as the Lord gave light, I began to see all the evils. Anything that boasts of violence, immodest dress, beer, sex, and adultery cannot be for a child of God. We grew up with TV as a part of our daily lives, but now we're trying to rear our son on a higher plane. We have also found there are all sorts of children's games and playthings available that pertain to the Bible.

I would like to testify to one thing that the Lord gave me light on this past Christmas. I grew up believing in Santa Claus. Our son, of course, is not going to. It finally dawned on me one day as I did my shopping, how unfair it is to Jesus that Santa Claus has become so much a part of Christmas. There were Santas everywhere in the store and on the bottom shelf were about six mangers! What would you think if it were your birthday and every year someone else got three fourth's of the celebration along with you? I'm sure you would feel very cheated. We celebrate our Saviour's birthday, when in actuality the world seems to celebrate Santa Claus. Sinners cannot see this, of course. They feel we are taking joy out of our son's childhood. Why can't they see all the joy that comes with Jesus? Our son will only gain from the Bible teachings, and nothing will ever be taken out of Christmas for him—only a fairy tale. Praise God for more light! When people say, "You have no TV? No wedding rings? No Santa?" Just count it among your most precious blessings that people can see you are a child of God!

—Sis. Cheryl Ann Yocum

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Pa.—Dear saints: . . . I'm still saved, trusting in the Lord, and pressing my way toward the goal. I'm thanking and praising God for His loving kindness and His tender mercy to me; also, for the many trials He sends my way and for the victory He gives in the trials. I am still thanking and praising God for the salvation of the soul of my brother who is living here with me. . . .

We are still praying for you and for the Lord's work. We trust the Lord is blessing all of you there and the saints everywhere. Do pray for us here and for the souls in this city, that the Lord may save more.

We surely enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory* paper. It is a real inspiration to my soul. Sis. Fuller still comes, and we are still holding services. It seems there are just a few souls that are interested in the truth, but we mean to stand in the truth and right and lift up the blood-stained banner. The song says, "If we suffer as a Christian, He'll reward us over there." I'm living to live again and for the reward that my Saviour shall give to all the redeemed.

—Mary Johnson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ala.—Dear Sis. Marie: I appreciate your encouraging letters. They mean so much to me. I was glad you quoted the Scripture about "sitting together in heavenly places." Although I do not have the privilege of meeting with God's people, I still feel a close

fellowship with them. We can unite in spirit, through prayer, and communicate with one another.

Last week I went through a severe testing time. At times the way was so dark I could not see any light. I held onto the promise of the Lord, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." When I had struggled with the problem for several days, this Scripture was given to me. Matt. 11:28-30, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

I realized then that I was trying to do the impossible, and all the time Jesus was waiting for me to turn everything over to Him, and let Him take care of the problem. I was praying all right, but I was taking the burden to the Lord, laying it all out before Him, and then getting up, picking the load up, and carrying it away with me.

I thought of the song, "Standing somewhere in the shadows we'll find Jesus, and we will know Him by the nail prints in His hands." Then the sunlight of God's love began to shine in my soul. How foolish to trust in our own strength and reasoning! Prov. 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." The problem is still with me, but now I know I cannot solve it alone. God has not promised freedom from adversity, but rather strength and grace in adversity.

—Sis. Frances Everhart

—————o—————

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



W. Va.—Dear Sis. Miles: . . . Your good letter was received, and it thrilled my soul when I read how dear Bro. E. E. Byrum had slept through the train wreck and was not awakened.

Bro. Byrum was a precious saint of God. On one occasion he scolded me. I felt a little miserable, but it came out all right. That was in 1925. The camp-meeting was going on, and a dear Sister had been so sick. With my other duties, I was trying to help her all I could. Bro. Byrum had prayed for her while I was away, and when I came back to her she was getting ready to go back to West Virginia. I told her she needed to stay until she was stronger. She looked so weak. I went to Bro. Byrum and told him I thought the Sister should stay until she was better. He scolded me and told me that she could make the trip all right. It hurt me some, for I feared she would die on the way. They took her home over four hundred miles, and she wrote me the nicest letter saying that the Lord had healed her. I felt so good. Bro. Byrum was a precious saint of God.

I do thank you for your prayers. . . . The Lord has answered and I am better. Many wanted me to go to the hospital, but I am trusting the Lord and want to be ready when He calls. Continue to pray for me, and I'll remember you. I've always wanted

to meet you, but my traveling days are over. The dear folks bring my mail in to me and take my mail out. They also get my groceries for me, for which I am thankful. . . .

—Flora E. Hinzman

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

Okla.—Dear ones: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I want to thank each and every one for your prayers, letters, cards, phone calls, and encouraging words. I want to testify that I have gotten the greatest blessing out of this affliction that I've gotten in all my life. God has been so precious to me. Once when the sisters were praying for me, God brought to my mind when the people were stoning Stephen to death, and how he looked up into heaven and saw the Son of God standing on the right hand of God. The Lord just seemingly opened the heavens and let me look right in. Praise the Lord! Then came all the precious cards and encouraging words! I said, "Oh, Lord, why is all of this happening to me?" He said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." He let me know it was because I was one of His little ones, and it was just the chain of love flowing from one heart to another—the divine chain of God's love for Him and for each other. I am so thankful that I'm in the family of God. He has given me other great blessings, also. I'm standing on God's Word.

—Essie Moore

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

Mo.—Dear ones: Greetings to each of the household of faith. We thank the Lord for salvation and for His many blessings to us. We want to live faithful to Him.

I want to testify how the Lord healed our two girls, Lisa and Lori, of the sores they had during the Guthrie, Ok., Assembly meeting. Lori's had broken out about two and one-half weeks before the meeting with some on her arm, the side of her cheek and neck, and on her ear. Then during the meeting, Lisa had what looked like a fever blister in the corner of her mouth, but it started spreading until it was in her nose and down around her chin.

Lori's was looking some better by the time we came home, but Lisa's looked really bad. We decided to bandage it the best we could and send her on to school.

On Wednesday night after the meeting, Bro. and Sis. Samons were here, and I felt impressed to have myself and the girls anointed and prayed for. (I had come home from Guthrie with a bad sore throat that had settled in a gland in my throat.) The Lord inspired my faith and I felt I had done all I knew to do and had obeyed His Word, so I stood on that. The next morning the soreness in my throat was almost completely gone and I felt much better. I did thank the Lord for that! We had to wait a little longer for the girls' complete healing, though. Lisa even had a new place to break out the next morning, but I resisted the devil and thanked the Lord for the healing. Lori's continued to look better, but Lisa's still looked really bad, like a burn or something and would crack

and bleed sometimes when she would eat. By the start of the second week of school, we had run out of bandages, so we sent Lisa to school that Monday morning without her bandage. Thank the Lord, when she came home from school that evening, we could tell a definite change for the better in the way it looked. In two or three days all she had left were pink spots where the terrible looking sores and scabs had been, and Lori's had cleared up completely during this time, too. We surely thanked the Lord, and the saints here rejoiced with us when we went to meeting and they saw those sores healed. Everyone had been really concerned.

It was precious to us what the Lord did! This was a rather small trial compared to what others have endured, but I pray that through these smaller trials our faith and trust will be strengthened for bigger trials that may await us in the future. Our desire is to be faithful, so pray for us.

—Don, Lana, Lisa, and Lori Johnson

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

Okla.—Dear blessed saints: As I was sitting here reading the *Faith and Victory*, I had to write to tell all who read it how much I love the Lord. He is everything to me. Anything I do I want Him to approve. I want to do His will, not my own. I know He will do what should be done.

Ever since I got saved I have had such sweet calmness. I was confused at first as to why I was so calm. My mother (Bonnie Johnson) was having trials; my brother Jon was also having trials. They would get upset, but I always stayed calm. I know now the Lord has His hand over me. I praise the Lord in every way. He has answered prayer for me about many things. I love the Lord. I have consecrated my life to Him to do with me as He will. I have no desire to go back to a life of sin. I want to stay on the Lord's path. I hope you will all pray for me that I will keep saved, as I have every intention of doing. Praise the Lord!

May God bless you for all you are doing there in the Print Shop. I would also like to thank the saints in Okla. City for all their support and encouragement.

—Kathy (Johnson) Woods

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

La.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and saints everywhere: Greetings in Jesus' name, who died and rose again that we might have life and have it more abundantly.

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, phone calls, and encouragement during the time of affliction I have been going through. Last summer at the National campmeeting, I noticed an itching inside my ears, and after I came home it grew worse. Within a few days there was considerable pain and swelling. Soon my ears began to look bloody and the pain was almost unbearable. For about three days and nights I was unable to sleep. After that, they broke and began a discharge that gave me some relief, but the itching caused sores on the outside of my ears, and they were slow to heal. They would quit running and the outside would heal, but I could tell that there was still something down inside, and

they would burn and itch and then break out again. This continued until about a week before Christmas, and then they stopped altogether. I thank the Lord it has not returned. There is nothing inside my ears now.

In the early hours of the morning on Christmas Eve, I awakened to find that there was something wrong with my legs. I could hardly walk and only then with considerable pain. Our oldest son had come home to spend a week with us and he insisted that I go with him that day. By the end of the day I realized there was something seriously wrong, so I went to bed. On Christmas day I managed to go to our daughter's home, so that the family could be together. From then until the 15th of February I was not able to get out of the house again. I continued to grow worse and suffer more for several days. I could not eat, nor could I sleep more than a few minutes at a time. I lost 25 lbs. during this time. I could only walk about 30 to 40 feet and then I had to lie back down. I would suffer such pain and cramping in my legs for thirty minutes to an hour that I would have to beg for mercy. My arms would become paralyzed and I could not use them. They would hurt terribly until someone would massage them for me. I asked the Lord to help me get something out of the suffering, and He showed me that He wanted me to feel how He suffered on the cross with His feet and hands nailed to it, trying to support His weight. I believe that I know now as I had often wondered. During this time I had seizures, would become paralyzed, and could not move, speak, open my eyes, or respond to anyone. Some of these spells lasted two hours or more. They would leave me very weak and nervous.

One morning my wife awakened about 7 o'clock and felt she needed to check on me quickly. She found me in my chair with my color gone and I could not speak above a whisper. She immediately began to pray, and I revived. She began to call different ones for prayer, and Bro. Merrill Williamson and some of the saints from Jena came, anointed and prayed for me, and I began to improve. The Lord has had to make me a new stomach, as I felt that mine was completely eaten up at one time. Today, I have a good appetite, though food still doesn't taste just right. I have been able to get outside and walk in the yard a little for the last four days. I can walk about 200 to 300 feet with a cane before I have to sit down and rest. This has been quite a trial as I have always been active.

Our son, who is an engineer in a hospital, researched this and said all the symptoms pointed to swine flu, which killed a number of people a few years ago. He also said some of the people who didn't die from it were unable to walk for a year. I feel that I have been blessed to have made this much progress. I can say that I have not been to a doctor, nor have I taken any medicine, so I can give God all the glory for what has been accomplished. I still need prayer that I can overcome the weakness in my body. I feel that this has also affected my mind and my eyesight.

Please continue to remember my wife and me, as she is not well, and I am a long way from normal.

Your Brother in Christ, —Ben Goldsberry

Note of Thanks

We want to thank all the saints who came to be with us when we lost our mother, Pearl Goldsberry, last week. Your presence meant much to us, and we did appreciate the singers. May the Lord richly bless each and every one. We love and appreciate God's people who are willing to drive the many miles to stand by in times of need and sorrow. Thank you!

—Bro. and Sis. B. Goldsberry and family

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

Mo.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and the saints abroad: Greetings of love and best wishes to one and all.

I am much better in body and gaining a little strength every day. I have been out in some local meetings.

Bro. Amos Porter and I are planning, Lord willing, to start April 2nd on an evangelistic tour. We expect to be at Zion Hill Church of God chapel at Louin, Miss., on Sunday, April 6, through the 9th. Then we want to be in the campmeeting at Goulds, Fla., from April 11th through the 20th. Also, we have other calls for meeting. Pray for us that our labors will be fruitful and all we do will redound to the glory of God. Thanks to one and all for your support and prayers. Please keep us on your prayer list.

—Bro. Egbert Allen

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

Okla.—Dear reader: We are so thankful to know that our God has not only healing for the soul but also for our bodies. The Lord has been so good to us. We feel so unworthy of His love.

On January 2, 1980, our ten months old baby girl picked up an extension cord at the point where the cord and extension plug join together and put it into her mouth. It burned the inside of her mouth and the left side of her lip very badly. By that evening the whole side of her face had swelled up. We had her anointed and prayed for that night at prayer meeting. She could still drink and eat without it bothering her.

The following Wednesday morning I went to get her from bed and she was soaked with blood. The old skin had started to come off. During the day whenever we tried to give her anything to eat, it would cause her mouth to bleed and with every heartbeat it would spurt out. It bled a couple more times that morning. In the afternoon, it started up again and it wouldn't quit, so I called Sis. Roberta Wilson. I felt like I was taking the flu, so she decided to take Mandy home with her. She had several more spells while over there. She was losing much blood and could hardly take any nourishment. By that evening she was so weak that she couldn't sit up by herself. Several of the saints were called over for prayer. While here they anointed and prayed for me and the Lord touched me. We brought Mandy back home, and during the night she had a few more bleeding spells. For two or three nights I was up with her all night,

holding her, trying to keep her from crying as that caused it to start again. Sis. Roberta took her during the day so I could rest. By Saturday morning she was doing better and started gaining back her strength. She didn't lose any more blood and she started eating better than she ever had. The Lord has completely healed her and has built back her lip where it was eaten out. Today one has to look closely to even tell where the place was. We thank the Lord for sparing her life to us and for all the saints' help and prayers.

I also want to thank the Lord for healing my hands. I had eczema all over them and had had it for several years. Last fall impetigo was going around and I got it with the eczema. It was very painful and I could do very little work.

One Saturday the saints here had prayer and fast day for this and for several other problems. The Lord touched my hands, and today they are completely healed. I surely want to live my life for Him. Pray for us.
—Gary and Judy Morgan and girls

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

New Mexico—Dear Sister Marie and saints: Jesus is a help in time of need. I can't thank and praise Him enough for every thing He does every day. I hurt my hip and I couldn't walk without it hurting. The dear Lord came to my rescue and healed me. Praise the good Lord! I am very thankful for all He has done for me and my family. . . . —Sis. Ruth Doolittle

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

Okla.—Dear ones: . . . I have been reading the January *Faith and Victory*. It has been so much encouragement to me. I was reading that Bro. C. Carver was healed of the place on his ear. I thought of my father-in-law who had a little sore on his ear. He went to the doctor and they removed the whole ear lobe.

My husband, Leonard Roberts, had a sore place on his forehead and one on his lip for about two years. I would think of my Uncle Sam Barton and how that cancer ate his face away, and the devil would make me think that this would happen to Leonard. About the time that we lost our son Sammy, Leonard had much persecution. Our oldest son said to him, "Dad, why don't you do something about that place on your lip?" He said, "I am doing something about it." He meant that he was trusting the Lord. Our son just scoffed at him. After the Lord healed him, our son rubbed his finger over his father's lip and said, "It is gone!" His father said, "Yes, it is gone." We gave the Lord all the praise!

Since we have been saved, the Lord has done many wonderful things for us. One time a friend of our son's wife came to stay all night. She had some pills she was taking and she left them where the baby boy got them. I don't know how many he ate. He passed out and was in a kind of stupor. We picked him up in our arms and prayed. God brought him to consciousness. He got down and started playing with the other children.

One time my husband got a rusty nail in his hand. It went almost through the center of his hand.

A meeting was going on at Green Pastures, Okla. It hurt him badly, but we went on to church service that night. It hurt all during the service, and when we got home it got worse. A streak was going up his arm and his hand was swelling. I called our son and we prayed for him. It still got worse, and it looked like it might be lockjaw. His jaws began to ache. I really got worried. I called Okla. City, where some of the saints were staying and they had special prayer. About three a.m., I believe, he went to sleep. The next morning the swelling was going down, and by the next day his hand was wrinkled where it had been so swollen. Thank the Lord for what He did! We rejoiced with the saints at meeting the third day after the accident.

The Lord has supplied all of our needs abundantly. . . . The Lord is truly good to His people.

—Sis. Leonard Roberts

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

Ohio—Dear saints scattered abroad: It has been a long time since I sent in my testimony, and I've felt impressed lately to send one in to show how great God has been to me. It isn't just for me; it's for all of us who are willing to let God have His way in our lives. This is my desire—to please Him with my life so others looking on will see Christ and want Him, too.

When I was sixteen years old I had a wonderful experience with the Lord. For years I was fully saved, sanctified, and satisfied; but through neglect and by not taking the proper time to read and pray, I began to drift until one day what I had known was really wrong didn't seem so bad after all. The devil had his way of luring me into some traps he had set, and I fell prey to most of them. But, praise God, in May 1979, the Lord spoke peace to my soul once more, and I do thank Him for showing mercy to me once again. Since that time I have fought many battles, but I've also gained many victories, and it was only through the Lord that I was able to overcome.

In the month of June, after I got saved in May, the Lord began to deal with me about making a move. I prayed about it and asked the Lord, "Where?" He made it very clear to me: Dayton, Ohio. I hesitated, argued a bit, but felt a strong leading, so I earnestly sought the Lord, as this meant leaving all of my family. I had no relatives in the Ohio area. The Lord blessed and opened up the way, and in August, 1979, I moved as I had been directed. I knew not what lay out in the future—all I knew was to move. Shortly after I arrived I began seeking employment. I searched and searched, but to no avail. Still I never gave up, as I had had a definite and clear leading from the Lord to make this move. For three months the Lord let me struggle. I learned many lessons during this time that I would not have learned any other way. Finally, one day a phone call came, and I was called in for an interview. Within a few weeks I had a job. I started to work on the first day of November. I worked from Thursday through Monday, which meant, of course, that I was required to work weekends. I didn't mind working Saturdays, but

Sundays were a different thing altogether. I began praying and requesting prayer before the saints, that God would somehow make it possible for me to be off on Sundays. Three months later, in answer to prayer, God worked a miracle, and I now have the entire weekend off, working Monday through Friday. I've praised and thanked Him for it time and again.

The Lord had more lessons for me to learn. In late December I began having trouble with my lungs. At times, every breath I took felt like a knife was tearing through them. On Sunday night, December 23rd, Sister Margie Saltee called out to her brother's, Pat Saltee, and had him to request prayer for me at the Guthrie Assembly meeting which was in progress at that time. The Lord undertook, and by the next day my lungs had cleared up a lot. On Christmas day I began taking a fever and chills, and spent the entire afternoon and evening in bed with a headache. By this time I had developed sores in my mouth. I have no idea what those sores were, but they were surely painful. I got to where I couldn't eat. My gums were swollen so badly I could not close my teeth together. The gums swelled on the inside and outside, both upper and lower, and I had sores on my tongue and inside my lower lip. I grew weaker and weaker. One day I lay in bed all day and the pain in my mouth was almost unbearable. As I lay there wondering how much longer this was going to last, the Lord spoke to me and let me know that if I'd do what He had told me to do He would heal me. I began searching my heart and found where it lay, so I began to consecrate and pray, asking the Lord to help me. In a matter of minutes I felt a tingling start in the middle of my gums and go around to the right side of my mouth. Then, in a little while I felt this same tingle start on the left side at the back of my mouth and move up to the middle and stop. The Lord told me my mouth would get no worse. I began to mend from that time on.

The next night I began having a severe earache. I tossed for awhile and prayed alone, but it continued to get worse. At about 2 a.m. I called Margie in to pray for me. She prayed and called some of the saints for prayer, also. After about an hour's battle, the Lord touched my ear and from that day to this I have had no pain with it. Praise our God!

I do thank the Lord for His saving and keeping grace. It is a real blessing to me to be able to know that I can pray and God will hear and answer prayer.

Saints, this is a pressing way. Let us each one lay aside whatever the Lord reveals to us and go all the way for God, because in the end it will be worth it all. Revelation 2:10b, "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life."

—Joan McIntosh

Jesus Christ rose from the dead,
The world acclaims His glory,
He broke the bonds of death asunder,
This is the resurrection story.

—Edward M. Brandt

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Just what is meant by the expression, "The Person of Christ"? We see it in many articles, but the Scriptural meaning is not always clear.

Answer: First, I will insert the dictionary definition of the word *person*. 1. A living human being, especially as distinguished from an animal or thing. 2. The composite of characteristics that make up an individual personality. 3. An individual of some specified character. 4. The living body of a human being. There are several others which clearly do not apply in this case and No.'s 1 and 4 do not closely apply as pertains to this discussion—No. 1 not at all. But we will note item No. 8 as appears in the dictionary. In theology: the separate individualities of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as distinguished from the Godhead that unites them.

The term "Person of Christ" appears only one time in the Holy Scriptures. In 2 Cor. 2:10 Paul said, "To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the *person of Christ*." The margin here says, "In the sight of Christ." The Amplified Bible says, "In the presence (and with the approval) of Christ." Phillips' Translation says, "As before Christ." Another translation says, "By the authority of Christ." Forgiveness is one of those characteristics which make up the individual personality of Christ, and God be praised that it is. In our forgiving of another, we do so in the presence of Christ by His approval and instruction, by His authority and grace, in conformity with His doctrine and in keeping with His example which is full of mercy and kindness toward the penitent. Let us never forget this and in all our dealings and relations with our fellowmen remember that we are in the presence of Christ. We are to act under His authority, by His approval, conform to His doctrine, and follow His example. This is said in this case to be done "In the *person of Christ*."

While the expression itself only appears one time in Scripture, its equivalent is widespread throughout the New Testament and is a major element in our relationship with Christ. In 2 Cor. 5:20 Paul says, "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: We pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." In other words, Paul and every other God-called, God-sent minister of the gospel is a representative of Christ doing business for Him as an ambassador, in His name, and by His authority and commission—in the *person of Christ*.

All true saints live their lives in all of their aspects in the *person of Christ*. We are all representatives of Him to manifest His glory and likeness to the world. Paul said in 2 Cor. 3:2,3, "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, . . ." Col. 3:17 says,

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, . . ." This text covers every phase and area of the life, and it is all to be done in His name, under His supervision, by His authority and grace, and in keeping with His example—in the *person of Christ*.

In Mark 16:18, "They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." All the work of God in all its phases is to be done in His name, as His representative, in His stead, under His authority, commission, and power. In other words, in the *person of Christ*.

Although Christ was a human being among men in the likeness of men and in the form of a servant; yet he possessed within Him the full composite of divine characteristics that made up a personality that set Him apart from all other men. This was His real person. Saints are to conform closely to that pattern of divine characteristics which made Him what He was. And as we do this we manifest the *person of Christ*. Christ was ". . . the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, . . ." (Heb. 1:3). This text refers to the relationship between Christ and His Father. Christ manifested the complete image or likeness of His Father. Col. 1:15 declared Him to be the image of the invisible God. Jesus said in John 14:9, ". . . he that hath seen me hath seen the Father . . ." All that God was in His divine attributes, Jesus revealed and manifested to mankind in His life. This is said to be the "Express image of His *person*." In other words, Jesus lived and acted in the *person of God*. Jesus never departed from this at any time, but He said, "The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He seeth the Father do." In all His doings and teachings He was acting in compliance with His Father's will and under His direct authority, power, and commission.

Now the saints maintain this same relationship with Christ. 2 Cor. 3:18 says, "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord." Romans 8:29 says, "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son." We are to become the image of His Person and reflect His glory and manifest His characteristics to the world. Paul said in 2 Cor. 4:10, "Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body." In Phil. 1:20 he says again, ". . . Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life or by death." Let us realize that nothing unlike Christ is ever going to get into heaven. He is the model, and we must conform to His likeness if we have this hope in us. Just as Christ's relationship with His Father was declared to be the express image of His person (in the *Person of God*); so our relationship with Christ is declared to be the image of His Person—in the *Person of Christ*.

Of course, the *Person of Christ* as He is distinguished from the Father and the Holy Spirit is

glorious in His own right if no one loves and serves Him and manifests His likeness to the world. To describe His glory and majesty would defy all human wisdom and rhetoric. Glimpses of His glory, majesty, power, and strength are given in Rev. 19:11-16, Rev. 1:13-16, Matt. 17:1-8, 1 Tim. 6:14-16, and other texts.

—o—

Erroneous Directions



On a certain occasion, while I was crossing the American plains, there was on the same train in which I was traveling a lady who carried a tiny baby in her arms. She had to get off in a very lonely place where the train hardly ever stopped to let off a passenger. The lady notified the conductor that she wanted to get off at that certain place. The conductor promised to stop the train and advise her, so she could get off at her destination. The conductor went on. A traveler came near to the woman and said, "Don't worry, I will advise you also."

After a few minutes the train stopped, and the kind traveler announced to the lady, "Here it is. You may get off," and she, without waiting for the conductor to advise her, got off. It was about midnight, and snow was falling, covering the plains with its white blanket, when the lady traveler disappeared in the midst of that furious tempest. Forty-five minutes later the train stopped again, and the conductor, faithful to his promise, came to advise the lady that she had arrived at her destination. Imagine his anxiety when he realized she had already gotten off. He said, "That was not a stop; the detention was only to regulate a small imperfection in the engine. That lady will die! What insanity! Why did she not wait for me,—the conductor of the train?"

Some men hurried back to look for the lady, and there, where she and the baby had left the train, they found her covered with ice and snow, dead, and the baby in her arms was dead also.

"Why did she suffer such a tragic calamity?" The kind passenger desired to do good. He was a charitable man and had compassion for the lady, noting with interest so she would not go past her stop, but all of his good desires failed. Through ignorance, he gave erroneous directions.

The lady lacked no faith in her "blind guide." Implicitly, she got off when it was indicated she should, and through her faith in him, she perished.

Dear reader, faith is good, but only when we have faith in Christ, in the living God, and it can now be seen that it is worth nothing when we have faith in only man or images (idols).

And what will the Lord say in that great day of the judgment, to those "blind leaders of the blind," who with erroneous directions have thrown into eternal darkness millions of ignorant souls? Let us follow Christ, the only official Conductor, the only authorized Mediator for God to conduct us to the true stop of the eternal Celestial City.

—Selected from Spanish tract

They've Been to Hell and Back

By Ann Baker

St. Paul, Minn.—Just when people maybe felt they could relax about dying—with all the reports flowing in from resuscitated patients who describe a luminous, floating afterlife—along comes a doctor whose patients say they have been to hell.

Dr. Maurice Rawlings claims to have examined reports from 300 persons who woke from near-death to tell of another worldly existence. Some were his patients, others patients of doctors across the country whom Rawlings consults with as a teacher in advanced life support for the American Heart Association.

Half the patients described a euphoric, heavenly experience.

The other half were terrified by dark, slimy pits, fiery lakes, swarms of crawly creatures.

One patient said he was carried along a conveyor belt into a room full of ovens. Another said he saw layers of hell, where the lower layer would rise up and attack the upper layer.

Rawlings made note of those experiences a year ago to write a book, "Beyond Death's Door," which he was promoting here recently.

Rawlings started paying attention to these experiences two years ago when working on a patient whose heart had stopped. He and the nurses were giving the man the full treatment—heart massage, pacemaker, mouth-to-mouth breathing . . .

"Each time he regained heartbeat and respiration, the patient screamed, 'I am in hell!'"

He begged Rawlings not to stop pumping his chest, not even for a moment.

"Don't you understand? I am in hell. Each time you quit I go back to hell. Don't let me go back to hell!"

Rawlings said he told the man to be quiet about hell and let him get on with his treatment, but the patient's persistence got to him.

Rawlings had talked with Raymond Moody and Karlis Osis, earlier reporters of afterlife experiences, and says they have encouraged him to keep documenting cases. He was puzzled that they and Elizabeth Kubler-Ross had heard only reports of a heavenly after life. He says that is probably because they interviewed the patients several days after they had revived.

"And who, after he's had time to think about it, wants to tell you he's been to hell?"

Rawlings said he is convinced that the experiences are genuine visits to another life. If they were just dreams, he says, they would be random, varying substantially from one person to another.

But these death bed accounts, from persons of all religious persuasions and none, tend to follow the same basic sequence, Rawlings said.

The reports from hell speak of being flung down a tunnel into a dark place, an ocean or fire or a cave, a "blackness," a "black hole . . . all red and hot and on fire," a "world of horror."

The Saviour Invites You In



Many years you have travelled without Jesus;
Now you're close to the end of life's way,
Disregarding the blessings He gave you,
Unheeding the words He did say.

Now eternity's vast darkness is before you,
On, on with no end ever in sight;
No hope in the direction you're going—
Halt now, accept Jesus tonight.

He left the glories of heaven's bright city,
Paid the price to save you from your sins;
He's not willing that any should perish,
My friend, He invites you to come in.

Just over beyond flows the river of death,
With its icy cold waters so deep;
Take Jesus who'll pilot you safely across,
To the haven where none ever weep.

Let Him write your name on His records,
Among those of the born-again host;
It is only those found in its pages,
Who will not be turned away lost.

There's a beautiful city over yonder,
A city with bright mansions so fair,
Where the happy redeemed will all gather—
He invites you, friend, to be there.

Would you go to that place of many mansions?
You must turn to your Bible and read;
For in it the Lord gives the directions,
And to His Word all must give heed.

Why not repent now and turn to your Savior?
Lay your sins upon Jesus I pray;
Accept His offered salvation right now,
Be saved, yes, saved now, while you may.
—Elsie Dietrich

—————o—————

CHRISTIANITY IN HOME LIFE

Nowhere is Christianity more beautiful and blessed than in the home. It changes the home of wickedness, strife, and contention into a peaceful and delightful Eden. It converts the home of the poor into a palace. It drives away discontentment, uneasiness, fear, and darkness, and scatters contentment, peace, assurance, and sunlight into every heart and home into which it is permitted to enter. Recently we saw some people shouting in a public meeting, and speaking their testimonies of the blessedness of salvation. They said, "It is a heaven to go to heaven in"; but in their homes we found them irritable, impatient, and contentious, which is very unlike heaven. Thank God, Christianity brings a heaven to the home as well as in the public life. Christianity is Christ in the heart, and where Christ is, there is heaven; consequently a Christian has a heaven within him, and he has this heaven at home as well as abroad. Praise God!

—C. E. Orr