

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

(USPS184-660)

Church of God Servant



Volume 58, No. 11

58th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35¢ Per Year

February, 1981

JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH (*The Lord Is There*)

(Ezek. 48:35)

There is a city brightly built,
A habitation fair:
A home, a place with gladness filled,
Its name: The Lord is there!

Surrounded by Salvation's walls,
Affording peace and rest,
The light of heaven sweetly falls;
Her citizens are blessed.

It is the one revealed to John,
The one Ezekiel saw;
A holy plane to live upon
Where love is freedom's law.

For Jesus died upon the tree
To banish sin and strife,
That we might pure and holy be
In His abundant life.

The pure in heart together flow
To bring about to be
A holy nation forth to show
Christ's mighty victory.

And all who find this treasure rare
And taste this goodly joy,
Can truly say, "The Lord is there!
No more shall sin destroy."

The Lord is there! His word is true,
One promise cannot fail.
Each morning are His mercies new
Though Satan's hosts assail.

The Lord is there! No steep to climb,
Nor depths to search for Him,
Through ev'ry storm His peace sublime
Fails not nor waxes dim.

O blessed Home forevermore!
O wealth beyond compare!
Our happy spirits' boundless store—
To know the Lord is there!

—Leslie C. Busbee

Take Heed Lest Ye Fall



The Word of God not only instructs us in the ways of righteousness, but also warns us of the dangers which beset the Christian's pathway. If those warnings are diligently heeded, none need make shipwreck of faith and experience. As we find these warnings, or "danger signals," all through the Bible, we are assured of the fact that the man of God must watch, lest he being led away with the error of the wicked should fall from his own steadfastness.

Some have endeavored to explain away these warnings in order to establish their doctrine of "once in grace, always in grace." They deny the possibility of falling from grace. But the apostle Paul understood the danger connected with such a doctrine, and faithfully taught the Word of God, showing the possibility and the results of falling. In the tenth chapter of the first epistle to the Corinthians he speaks at length on this subject. Here he teaches positively that men can fall from a high state of grace, and for proof of the fact cites the brethren to certain examples. Those who are over-confident regarding their stability, and who think themselves so well established in experience that they are out of danger of falling, will do well to turn and read this chapter.

The apostle had just referred to himself, saying, "I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection; lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." 1 Cor. 9:27. Lest some should not understand how this could be, he goes on to explain, saying, "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness." 1 Cor. 10:1-5.

Now the argument is this: Those very ones who were overthrown in the wilderness had been delivered

by the power of God from Egyptian bondage, which was typical of our deliverance from sin. Not only did they obtain this great deliverance, but they were also baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea. Hence we see that even baptism did not insure them against falling when they afterward turned from the true God. But they did not stop with baptism, for God continued to reveal himself to them. They were also made partakers of spiritual things. "And they did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink." The apostle would here emphasize the fact that both they that fell and those who proved true and faithful were alike partakers of these spiritual blessings. Mark his language, "And did all eat," "and did all drink." By this is meant all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But what was the nature of that meat and drink? "For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." Here then we have a definite declaration telling us that those Israelites were partakers of Christ, yet they displeased God. Some of them were afterwards guilty of idolatry and fornication. Others tempted Christ and were destroyed of serpents. And God swore in his wrath, "They shall not enter into my rest." Heb. 3:11.

"But," says one, "we are not living under the law now, we are living in the dispensation of grace." Yes, but the apostle says, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." And in conclusion, the whole matter is summed up in these words of warning: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." I am aware of the interpretation placed upon this last text by those who put great emphasis on the "perseverance of the saints." But such exegesis does violence to the context, and renders the whole meaningless. The fact is, the apostle proves conclusively both the possibility and liability of falling from the grace of God if men are not diligent in spiritual things. We often see people manifest great surprise when they learn that some child of God has been overcome or gone astray. Those who read and understand their Bibles and those who know the Lord are not moved by such things. The prophet Daniel said, "Some of them of understanding shall fall," and we read that it is impossible to renew again unto repentance those who had fallen away. Heb. 6:4-6. God wants his saints to be on their guard continually. The enemy walketh about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. He is especially engaged in plotting to overthrow those who have the greatest influence for good. Therefore "let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

—G. Q. Coplin

Will you not seek a still closer walk with God—not for your happiness in life nor for your crown in heaven, but for the good your example may do to others? You know not what effect your life is having upon some other life. Your life is casting either sunshine or shadow behind you.

—C. E. Orr

Pulling Life's Load

One day Jesus looked out upon the multitude, and what He saw made Him feel sad. His heart was touched. He saw many people trying to pull life's load and it was a hard pull. They were laboring under so many Mosaic "thou shalt nots," and were oppressed by the additions made by the scribes and Pharisees. (Matt. 23:4) They could not live up to what was expected of them. Their distress and mental agony brought depression to them. They tried and failed so many times that they became discouraged. Jesus saw all of this, and "he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd." (Matt. 9:36) They needed a guide and a helper. They needed someone to help them pull the heavy load of life.

One day the multitude heard Someone calling. They looked and listened. They were ready for some help to pull the load that became heavier day by day. Yes, it was Jesus calling, "Come unto me, all ye that labour 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." (Matt. 11:28-30) Oh, those are the dearest and sweetest words ever spoken! What hope sprang up in the hearts of the hearers! Can He really help us? Can He lift the heavy burdens and let us go free? Can He give us rest? What about the yoke that He is speaking about? We don't need a yoke, we need rest. But didn't He say His yoke was easy, and that He would make our burden light? Oh, that is what we need!

I understand that many times the owner of oxen would put a young ox with an older ox to teach it how to wear the yoke and to pull the wagon or plow. If that younger ox was submissive and willing, it would walk along yoked up to the older one, and the pulling of the wagon would be easy. The older ox would move right along, pull the heaviest part, and be a guide to the younger, inexperienced ox. But if the young ox rebelled and pulled back, the yoke would be a galling yoke and they could not pull the load.

All the "thou shalt nots" that the multitude tried to keep were given without any power to keep them. No one was there to help them. Jesus wanted them to yoke up with Him in humility of heart, and He would give them power to keep all of the commandments of God. Jesus came to earth, lived in the flesh, and pulled life's load, so He understood how to help others pull it. He taught them if they would accept Him, repent of their sins, accept His blood as an atonement for their sins, become humble, be filled with Holy Spirit power, and yoke up with Him, all would be well. All pride had to go. All desire to want their own way had to be changed. Jesus would lead them in the paths of righteousness, and give them "quietness and assurance for ever." (Isa. 32:17) Oh, how wonderful! Now they no longer needed to be confused. Help was there for them. They had a Guide and a Leader.

Oh, dear soul, if the load of life has become heavy, check your guide. Are you trying to please yourself? Are you trying to please someone else? If so, you are in trouble. Jesus wants you to learn of Him. Read God's Word and let His Word tell you what to do. Obey it with humility of heart, mind, and soul. Bow your life down before Him and let Him fill you with His love and peace. You can have a personal experience and contact with the Lord. Jesus will be your Teacher. It will be easy, because you are willing. Most people's problems come about because they want to please themselves instead of Jesus. Self gets in the way, and the yoke becomes galling to them.

Oh, won't you get yoked up with Jesus and let Him be your Guide? All the "thou shalt not's" will become a pleasure for you to keep. Why? because you are happy to be walking along life's journey yoked up with Christ, letting Him pull the heaviest part of life's load.

Let Jesus bear your afflictions, your heartaches, your problems, the burden of your children's disobedience, abuses from others, the weariness of the sameness of the day, and all that becomes heavy to you. Let Jesus pull the load as you walk along by His side. What walk could be sweeter and more complete?

—Sis. Marie Miles

Our Thoughts

The natural man is inclined to meditate upon temporal things and such things as will secure for him fame and honor; but the Christian who lives in close communion with God, meditates upon heavenly things, eternity, and how he may honor God.

Our thoughts have a greater influence upon our lives than most people realize. Many people are unhappy today, many are behind the prison bars, others have ended their career at the gallows—all as a consequence of entertaining wrong thoughts which finally conceived impure desires that resulted in sin. Others are happy because their delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law do they meditate day and night. Psalm 1:2.

Our thoughts form the foundation or underlying principle of our lives. They cause either satisfaction or dissatisfaction. You who profess the name of Christ, upon what do your thoughts dwell? What is the principle of your thoughts? Sometimes you do not feel so secure in your soul, and your life and conduct also manifest unrest. Have you thought only upon temporal things and neglected to meditate upon and delight yourself in the things that concern your soul? If you would be at peace, take sufficient time to meditate upon God, let your thoughts dwell in His presence. Think upon divine, holy, and eternal things, and upon heaven. Think of the eternal glory that you will enjoy with all those who endure to the end. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind [thought or imagination—margin] is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Isa. 26:3. Do not idle away the time by thinking of worthless imagi-

nations. Remember that your mind is the gateway to your soul! Guard it well.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Phil. 4:8.

—David Koroch

Watch and Be Sober

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." 1 Pet. 5:8.

Just recently while in meditation, I was deeply impressed with the thought of sobriety and vigilance on the part of the Christian. There is a great tendency in the human nature to become passive and at ease when everything goes well.

When a soul has been rescued from the awful darkness and despair of sin, and the heart has been warmed and comforted by the precious love of God, how easy it is to fall into a careless attitude and forget that we have an enemy who is ever busy in setting snares and weaving nets for the captivity of souls.

Did you ever think that there is no rest for Satan? He has lost everything and has no hope of ever finding the rest and peace which the Christian finds in the service of God, but only the deepest, darkest despair and fiery torments are allotted to him while the ceaseless ages of eternity roll. Why should he let a single soul have peace and happiness when there is none for him? Is it any wonder that the devil and all his imps are attracted toward the Christian, pure and white, who shines as a light in this dark world? Ah, no! There is nothing beautiful in all the realms of darkness, nothing to comfort, nothing to cheer, nothing to incline them to pass their time idly there. Hence the only recreation or pleasure for the demons of hell is found in defiling and destroying that which is pure, thus dragging as many souls as possible down to the bottomless pit, where only the sharpest anguish, the bitterest sorrow, the deepest disappointment, pain, and despair will be their portion in an endless eternity.

Oh, may the God of heaven stir our souls to greater diligence in His service, and help us to realize that we must be sober and vigilant, active and prayerful, until we get to the end of the way. Then, and only then, may we lay our armor down and say as did Paul of old, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." 2 Tim. 4:7.

—Pina Winters

My Heart's Desire

I love my blessed Lord;

He is the One that made me whole.

To do His blessed will

Is the deepest longing of my soul.

—Effie Miller

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.

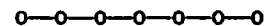
FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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

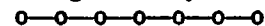
EDITORIALS



THE NEW YEAR OF 1981 is passing swiftly, and time will soon end in eternity. Important events in this time world are coming fast. The new president of these United States, Ronald Reagan, has recently taken the oath of office, and the 52 American hostages have been released from their barbarous captivity in the nation of Iran. These events have to do only with this world which will pass away (Matt. 24:35), for the Scripture says, "... the things which are seen are temporal [transitory]; but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Cor. 4:18. The truth is that the things which are not seen are much more real and permanent than those things which are seen. The latter will soon be dissolved, pass away, and be no more. (2 Peter 3:10). Therefore, we should be so much more concerned with those eternal values which can be seen only by the eye of faith. It was written of Moses that "he endured, as seeing him [God] who is invisible." Heb. 11:27. This appears to be a paradox (seeming contradiction), to be able to see the One who is not visible, but it is very real and true in God's spiritual realm. Again, we read that when the Apostle Thomas saw Jesus after His resurrection, he believed and exclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" Then "Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me [with your natural eyes], thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." John 20:28, 29. Thank God for the faith to believe to the saving of our soul though we have not seen Jesus in the flesh.



Bound volumes of the eleven issues of the Faith and Victory paper for 1980 are now available at \$1.00 each, plus 60c for postage and handling. Also ready are the 1980 Beautiful Way books for Juniors (52 papers for the year) at \$1.00 each, plus 60c for postage and handling. Send your orders TODAY!



The 74th annual Oklahoma Assembly meeting was held in Guthrie, Okla., according to the schedule of Dec. 26 to Jan. 4, 1981, with three regular services daily and other special services. The Lord gave good weather throughout the meeting, and the attendance was large from several states. The Word was proclaimed with divine anointing, accompanied by Holy Spirit conviction, which resulted in the altars being filled time and again with seekers for spiritual help. Many souls were saved, believers were sanctified, and the sick healed in answer to the prayer of faith. Much rejoicing was in heaven and on earth for the many souls that were liberated from the power of sin. Twenty-three believers followed the Lord's example and ordinance of water baptism.

The Church was edified and strengthened to hold up the shield of faith and wield her holy weapons in this great battle of Armageddon which is waxing more fierce in these last days of time. Gog and Ma-

gog (the combined spiritual adversaries) are compassing the camp of the saints with the aim for one massive, crushing attack, but thank God, His Church is on the winning side with Jesus. Praise the Lord!

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

1981 Wall Calendar Reduced in Price . . .

This 1981 Wall Calendar has beautiful nature scenes in color for each month with Scriptural emphasis. Size 7½ by 13½ inches. Order at this reduced price while they last—\$1.00 each, plus 50c for the postage.

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

"Secular Humanism: The Most Dangerous Religion in America" is the title of a book that every one should read, especially ministers and teachers. This deceptive doctrine has infested all the nominal churches, and poses a threat to the very elect. This book contains 81 pages in a heavy paper cover. The price is \$2.00, plus 60c for postage. Order TODAY!

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

Still Need More 1981 Campmeeting Dates . . .

Those who have not sent in their 1981 campmeeting dates, please send them by Feb. 15th so we can print all of them in the March issue. Thank you!

The next Okla. State campmeeting to be held here at Guthrie, Okla., is scheduled for May 22 to 31, 1981, Lord willing.

The date of the next National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri, is set for July 24 to August 2, 1981. Watch for other coming campmeeting dates in the March issue.

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

It was a pleasure to have Bro. Robert Eckenwiler to visit us here at the Office on Jan. 23, after his recent return from Nigeria where he was in mission work for more than two months with Bro. Titus Enu. He recounted some of his interesting experiences and observations in that mission field, and he was impressed with the noticeable effect that the English gospel literature is having on precious souls in that area. While here, he submitted a partial report of his Nigerian mission trip, as well as an additional report from Bro. Enu, all of which appear in this February issue.

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

The "Trumpet" Gave Uncertain Sounds . . .

The Apostle Paul asked this question, "If the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to battle?" 1 Cor. 14:8.

The first issue of "The Gospel Trumpet," which was founded and edited by Bro. D. S. Warner, was dated January 1, 1881—one hundred years ago—the date which marked the beginning of the "evening light" Church of God restoration movement in fulfillment of the divine revelation in Scripture. This God-ordained restoration of the morning Church doctrine and practices moved forward with increasing power and victory for the first thirty years after 1880. But it is sad to note that in the period of 1910-17, the "Trumpet" made "uncertain sounds" and the notes were distorted because the majority of the

leadership accepted innovations and worldliness that were contrary to their former Bible teachings. Even their own historian and editor, C. E. Brown, admits their points of change by devoting an entire chapter of his book, "When the Trumpet Sounded," to the subject, "Changing Patterns in the Movement." Yet in the face of these historic facts, last month the Anderson editor wrote: "We have not compromised our convictions, diluted our doctrines, or modernized our message." Even a court of law decreed seventy years ago at the time of the compromise that the majority movement was guilty of making division because they had departed from their former teaching and practice.

However, many ministers and saints did not go with the compromise, but remained true to the restoration truths. God graciously preserved a holy remnant of the true "evening light" Church of God which has consistently taught and practiced for the past 100 years the same Bible truths that brought forth this glorious restoration movement in the early 1880's. The Church of God congregation here in Guthrie, Okla., has upheld the Bible truths for 75 years, and it was never affected by the division of the years 1910-17.

By the grace of God the Church that Jesus built on the rock of eternal truth will continue to blow the gospel trumpet with no uncertain sound until Christ comes to receive His Bride without spot or wrinkle to dwell with Him forever.

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

By the blessings of the Lord, we note that this February issue of Faith and Victory marks the completion of 58 years of the publication of this monthly journal for the spread of the good news of salvation through Christ to all countries. We gratefully acknowledge the sustaining and protecting hand of God over this gospel publishing work, and we appreciate the readers who have so faithfully prayed for and contributed to the support of this gospel literature ministry over the years. May the Lord bless and reward every contributor. Those who turn souls to righteousness shall shine as the stars of the sky for ever and ever.

—Lawrence Pruitt

ONE LIFE

One life for Christ is all I have,
One life for Him so dear;
One life for doing all I can
With every passing year.

One life to live for Christ my Lord,
One life to do my part;
One life to give my very all,
With all my soul and heart.

One life for Christ in all I do,
One life to show my worth;
One life to glorify His name,
And prove my second birth.

—Edward M. Brandt

In Memorial

Lydia M. Hall, daughter of James C. Sorrell and Eva Roberts Sorrell, was born November 8, 1900, at Myrtle, Missouri, and departed this life at her home, Myrtle, Missouri, December 19, 1980, at the age of 80 years, 1 month, and 11 days.

She was united in marriage on December 3, 1922, at Elm's Store, Arkansas, to J. Andrew Hall, who preceded her in death in 1976.

She is survived by one son and daughter-in-law, Leo and Jueldine Hall of Myrtle, Missouri; two grandsons and their wives, Steven and Ronda Hall of Thayer, Missouri, and Donald and Danna Hall of Couch, Missouri; two great-grandchildren, Timothy Don and Lisa Michelle Hall, of Couch, Missouri; three brothers, Foy Sorrell of Kearney, Missouri, Loy Sorrell of Springfield, Missouri, and Audie Sorrell of Thayer, Missouri.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, two brothers, Earl and Alsia Sorrell.

Sister Hall was a faithful member of the Church of God at Myrtle, Missouri.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Donald Sharp at the Carter Chapel in Thayer, Mo., and interment was in the Myrtle Cemetery, Myrtle, Mo.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Irvin Gerald Probst was born October 28, 1916, near Vandalia, Ill., and passed away December 8, 1980.

He was married in 1939 to Marian Noling and they were life-long residents of the Vandalia, Ill. area.

He is survived by his wife, Marian, of the home; six daughters, Annabel, Carolyn, Jean, Phyllis, Kathy, and Lisa, 20 grandchildren, and three sisters, Lucille Perry, Lela Sharp and Ardell Lyons. At the time of his death, he was yet survived by his brother, Herbert Probst.

In July, 1980, Irvin became ill with cancer. He began to be in earnest about his soul and looked much to his older brother, Herbert, to help him in seeking salvation and to help him keep encouraged. He had a good testimony and witnessed to all he was with until the end. His last months were spent with much prayer, committing himself to the will of God, and his last words were trusting in the Lord—"Not my will, but Thine be done."

Funeral services were held at the Miller Funeral Home in Vandalia, Ill., with burial in the cemetery at Vandalia, Ill.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Herbert Victor Probst was born February 27, 1910, near Vandalia, Ill., and went Home to be with the Lord on December 21, 1980, from his home in Miami, Okla., at the age of 70 years, 9 months, and 24 days.

On April 20, 1935, he was united in marriage to Eva Bracken of Effingham, Ill., and to this union six children were born, five sons and one daughter.

Bro. Probst was saved in the Church of God at the age of 15, and his main purpose in life was to live for God acceptably. His call to the ministry came early in life, and he faithfully labored for souls wherever the need and opportunity were presented. Many years were spent in pastoral duties and in helping in isolated areas in the states of Ill., Wisc., Iowa, Ind., and Mo. He pastored the Oak Grove congregation near Loranger, La., from 1966-1975. He was loved and appreciated by young people, as well as those who were older, for his sincerity and gentleness in holding a true standard of holiness without compromise. He died as he had lived, trusting the Lord all the way. He was a tender and loving father and companion, and his place in the family will be missed greatly. He had been in failing health for some time and suffered a severe stroke six days before the Lord called him Home.

He leaves to mourn his passing: his wife, Eva, of the home, Miami, Okla.; one daughter, Janice Probst, of Miami, Okla.; five sons, Donald Probst of Escondido, Calif., Maurice Probst of Vinita, Okla., Kenneth Probst of Tulsa, Okla., Dale Probst of Tulsa, Okla., Marvin Probst of Wichita, Kan.; and eleven grandchildren. He also leaves three sisters, Lucille Perry of Vandalia, Ill., Lela Sharp of Donnellson, Ill., Ardell Lyons of Decatur, Ill., and 23 nieces and nephews. His brother, Irvin Probst, of Vandalia, Ill. preceded him in death by 13 days at the age of 64. Another brother, Marvin, and a half-sister, Velma, also preceded him in death.

Funeral services were held at Clark's Chapel of Memories in Neosho, Mo., with Brothers Charles Smith, Orie Young, and Austin McMillian officiating. Burial was at Gibson Cemetery, north of Neosho, Mo.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Letter of Appreciation

Dear Sis. Marie, Bro. Lawrence, & Sis. Maybelle: Greetings of love to each of you, and to all the dear precious saints who have prayed for us and stood by us during the time of our beloved husband and father's illness and death. All the family of Bro. Herbert Probst join in gratitude and appreciation for all the many prayers, cards, letters, flowers, and offerings received. We are unable to express the depth of our thankfulness as we are overwhelmed by such love and concern. Truly, our hearts overflow at this time as we are made to realize how good the Lord is to bestow His great love through His precious saints, one to another.

It seems almost more than we can comprehend that the time has come for our walk together here on earth to be ended. Our journey together has been precious and I can never thank the Lord enough for the beautiful life he shared with me for more than 45 years. All the wonderful experiences in the work of the Lord down through the years are precious memories. The burdens of life, the sorrows and disappointments, were made so much lighter with all the

loving care and deep understanding of my godly companion. He was a wonderful husband and father, and we miss him so greatly. The Lord gives comfort, knowing that he has exchanged all his many cares and burdens for perfect rest in Jesus. He seemed so very tired for so long.

During the months from July to December, Herbert had deep concern for his dear brother, Irvin, and made several trips to Illinois to be with him to encourage and pray with him in his suffering. It seemed that Irvin had a desire to live and to be able to witness for the Lord of his salvation. He often expressed his anticipation of being in meetings with Herbert. However, he always ended his words with, "however the Lord sees best." He was just so thankful the Lord had been merciful to save his soul. He spent much time in prayer and even during his last hospitalization the nurse was astonished to find him on the floor upon his knees in prayer. How little did we realize how close together the time would be for Irvin and Herbert to be called to their eternal rest. Each had very precious memories of their mother's love and prayers from early childhood, as she went to be with the Lord when Herbert was 15 and Irvin was 9.

After being with Irvin and the family during the time of his sickness and death and returning to Oklahoma following the funeral, the strain upon my dear husband was obvious. We arrived home on Saturday at 9:30 p.m., and attended Sunday evening services at Four-Corners Chapel, near Vinita, Okla. Bro. Vada McMillian was present and preached. We returned home to our apartment in Miami, Okla., and retired for the night. On Monday, Dec. 15, at 7:45 a.m. he suffered a severe stroke. At first we could not tell how severe, but perhaps it was a series of strokes during the next few days. Most of His words were prayers—"Lord, have mercy on us," and "Search our hearts, Lord," and "The Lord knows." He rejoiced with the brethren, Bro. Orie Young, Bro. Austin McMillian, Bro. Amos Porter, and Bro. Charles Smith, who all happened to be present at the same time on Wednesday afternoon. What a meeting they had that day! Bro. & Sis. Albert Eck and others came also, and it was such a blessing and comfort for the saints to come or to call. We would have been most thankful for the Lord to spare him to remain with us and that he could fulfill some of the missions in the work of the Lord which he had at heart, but we know that God doeth all things well. Although we long deeply for our dear loved one, we know it was God's time to call him Home and his passing was so very precious. The Lord permitted him to linger just long enough for the family to be able to bestow a lot of loving care upon him and to make him even more precious than ever before. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

Continue to pray for us as a family. Our desire is to be with the Lord at the end of life's race.

With love and prayers,

—Eva Probst and all the family
210 Lohman, No. 104, Miami, Ok. 74354

David Harry Williamson, the son of Bro. and Sis. Max F. Williamson, was born September 25, 1953, at Hammond, La., and passed from this life on January 19, 1981, at the age of 27 years, 3 months, and 25 days, having lived with his parents in Baton Rouge, La., for the last four or five years.

He leaves to mourn his passing: his father and mother of the home; two brothers, Dennis M. Williamson (his twin brother) of Baton Rouge, La. and John S. Williamson, of Phoenix, Arizona; five sisters, Mrs. James (Nell) Davis and Mrs. James (Judith) Crouse, both of Baton Rouge, La., and Mrs. Carroll (Sarah) Short of Innis, La., Mrs. Harvey (Maxine) Pruitt, of Guthrie, Okla., and Mrs. Robert (Geraldine) Dean, whose husband being in the military service, is presently living in West Germany; also many relatives, saints, and friends.

David loved the Lord, and would bow at an altar of prayer at different times, seeking help from God, who in His mercy and love prepared him for this event. In the last few months and days of his life, David began to realize that God would, in the near future, be calling him Home. He was heard to say, "This is it!" "Well, this is it." "I was lost, but now I'm found, praise the Lord!" "I've been washed in the blood of the Lamb."

Funeral services were held in the Thomas Funeral Home in Hammond, La., with burial in the Oak Grove Church of God Cemetery near Loranger, La. Bro. Bob Forbes conducted the services.

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

John Easterly Bailey, husband of Sister Pearl White Bailey of Hammond, La., was born April 10, 1898 in Springfield, La., and died January 21, 1981, being 82 years old. He was a resident of Hammond, La., but had been living in a nursing home near Denham Springs, La., along with his wife, Sis. Bailey, since both were physically unable to maintain their home in Hammond.

The night before his death early the next morning, he was heard praying and asking God for mercy, and then thanking God for hearing prayer in his behalf. "God knows the hearts of all men!"

Funeral services were held in the McKneely Funeral Home in Hammond, La., with burial in the Oak Grove Church of God Cemetery near Loranger, La. Bro. Bob Forbes conducted the services.

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

Eva (Gibson) Mitchell Carver was born at Summerville, La., on Jan. 2, 1903, to Calvin and Tina Gibson, and departed this life at Jena, La., on Jan. 21, 1981, at the age of 78 years and 19 days.

She was married to Ernest Mitchell, and to this union were born two sons and one daughter. Soon after her marriage to Bro. Ernest Mitchell, Sister Eva was led to the truth of the Church of God which she readily accepted. Bro. Ernest Mitchell passed away in August, 1967.

In 1968, Sister Eva was married to Bro. Cecil C. Carver of Shreveport, La., her former pastor. Sister

Eva lived a consistent Christian life for many years and was a real example of godly living.

She leaves to mourn her passing: her husband, Bro. Cecil Carver; two sons, Ancil and Manuel Mitchell of Jena, La.; one daughter, Alma Carver of Shreveport, La.; four step-sons, nine grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, as well as a host of other relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were conducted at the Midway Church of God chapel by Bro. Merrill Williamson, assisted by Bros. Clifford Wilson and Charles Smith. Interment was in the Belah Cemetery near Jena, La.

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

Benjamin Luke Phillips was born Nov. 27, 1889 in Rockcreek, Ks. to John L. and Hattie E. Phillips and departed this life Jan. 11, 1981 in Wichita, Kan. at the age of 91.

When he was three his family moved to Dover, Okla. where he grew to manhood and married Tressie Hatch. Two girls and four boys were born to this union. Both daughters, Lillie and Hattie, and his wife preceded him in death. In later life he married Annie Mae Thomas who also preceded him in death.

Years ago, Bro. Ben was saved and thereby born into the Church of God. He loved the Lord and loved to read the precious Word of God. He was faithful to attend services. He was a mild mannered, quiet man and gained the love of all who knew him.

He leaves to mourn: two sons, Floyd and Cleophas, both of Wichita, Kan.; one step-son, Charles Gill of Wichita, Kan.; two brothers, Fletcher of Wichita, Kan. and Frank of Dover, Okla.; 17 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; 35 great-great-grandchildren; 29 2 great-great-great-grandchildren; and a host of saints and friends.

The funeral services were held at the Church of God chapel in Wichita, Kan., and conducted by Bro. Lewis Williams, assisted by others. Burial was in Highland Cemetery, Wichita, Kan.

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

Sister Janet Patrick passed away on Jan. 15, 1981, in the home of her grandparents, the Clevengers, at Webster Springs, W. Va.

W. Va.—Dear Sis. Marie and saints: Janet (Patrick), our dear granddaughter passed away some time after midnight the fifteenth of January. We don't have words to explain how much we miss her, but we are confident she is with the Lord and the redeemed. She told me many times she had a desire to be with the Lord. She was looking forward to going to heaven. She was determined to do God's will. I've heard her say a number of times, "No matter what I have to go through, I'm going to live for God because I want to go to heaven."

Janet was always so kind and everything went well with her. We know she suffered much when her children were taken away, but she suffered in silence. She would say, "I know God will take care of my little boys. . . ."

Just the night before Janet went away she said, "Grandma, one of these days these old seizures will

be gone." I believe she realized the Lord would soon take her home. I believe, without a doubt, that Janet is with Jesus and the angels. She was persecuted very much from the beginning of her Christian life, but she was strongly determined to do the will of God. She was willing to pay what it took to gain heaven. She loved to be with the saints. I've often heard her telling others how good the Lord was to her to let her live at Green Bank, W. Va., and be with the saints in service. She loved to get letters from the saints. She would say, "It's so encouraging to get letters from the saints." She would always pray with her boys morning and evening and ask God to take care of them.

Dear saints every where, please pray that those two little motherless boys will not forget what they learned about God when they went to Sunday school and church service. Pray, too, for their father, that he will see the light and be saved and be able to train and teach them in a godly way. Please pray for us too.

We wish to take this means to express our thanks and appreciation for the concern and love shown to us during the death and burial of our dear granddaughter, Janet. We deeply appreciate the flowers, food, and offerings, and most of all the kind words that were spoken. We especially thank Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons who came to be with us during the first hours of our sorrow and helped us with arrangements. We would like to thank each saint for the love you had for Janet and for the prayers that went up before God in her behalf while she lived among the saints.

—Bro. & Sis. Cecil Clevenger

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

She Loved Her Soul

"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matt. 16:26.

I am thinking of our dear Sister Janet Patrick who was recently called into eternity. She paid the full price. She left a nice home in giving up an adulterous marriage, but she wanted to go to heaven, and so made preparation. Near the end she had to be separated from her precious children, but she loved her precious soul. Now she is sweetly resting in the arms of Jesus.

To receive our eternal reward we must pay the price of whatever is the cost to please the Lord, and have nothing between our soul and the Savior. Oh, if only more people would become concerned about their souls and come God's way! He is able to save to the uttermost all who come to Him. —Ruth Murphey

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

Wildena Huffman departed this life on Jan. 24, 1981, at Coffeyville, Kansas.

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

Sister Ada Leach of Orland, Calif., departed this life to be with the Lord on Jan. 1, 1981.

AT PRESS TIME . . .

Sister Armilda Abbott, the wife of Bro. Sam E. Abbott, departed this life to be with the Lord at 7:00 a.m., Jan. 27, 1981, at Pacoima, Calif. Arrangements are pending.

The staff and workers here at Faith Pub. House extend our sincere sympathy to all the bereaved relatives of the deceased whose names appear under this Memorial heading.

Prayer Requests

Calif.—“Bro. Gene [Harmon] is in much need of prayer. He is so weak and suffers much at times. Remember me, too, as I get so worn out because I don't get enough rest.” —Sis. Loretta Harmon

Ohio—“Pray for me. I will be 80 on May 15. . . . I know the Lord can heal me. He knows the condition.”

—Annie Chestnut

Ill.—“Remember my sister, Helen Rogers, who is afflicted with irregular heartbeats, anemia, and low potassium. I also have an afflicted knee. . . . I have a bad condition in my jaw.” —Evelyn Johnson

Tex.—“Pray for my throat and cough. I have been told that I have bronchitis. . . . I know God has power to heal me.” —Sis. Lessie Speed

Okla.—Remember dear Sis. Woodrow Warren. She has not been well for some time. She is faithfully trusting the Lord. We missed Bro. Warren's presence here in the Assembly meeting, as he felt he should be with her.

Calif.—“I have been ill since last April. . . .” (Other requests, also.) —I. Winters

La.—Remember Bro. G. A. Nichols in prayer. He suffers much.

Ind.—“I want to thank you for putting my name in the prayer requests. . . . When I was either standing or sitting I had to put both hands on the top of my head to hold my head still and upright. The spasms in my neck were so bad. I still have some trouble sleeping, but not nearly so much as before. . . . I am now able to sit up in a chair most of the time and I can do some cooking and other work. I still need a lot of help. Jesus has done so much for me. I am looking to Him to do the rest.” —Betty Baker

Let us pray for one another. Last Monday I had an internal pain and fever most of the day. I could not come back to the office in the afternoon. I kept praying and others were praying. About quarter till six the pain left. Oh, how I did thank the Lord! But the thought came to me that someone must have prayed for me, or it was a time that all the prayers that had been prayed that day, had been answered. God's timing is not our timing, of which I am well aware. It brought home to me the fact that we need to pray for the whole “household of faith.” Oh, that takes in the whole family of God! I am glad that I am a part of the family of God that is sung about in one of the songs the Christian school students sing.

God has a plan or law that brings healing and victory to us. But we must put forth some spiritual

energy to obtain it. We must press and not yield to the law of sickness that would take us down, away from the healing power of God. It would be something like the law of sin, which, if given in to, will take us deeper into sin. So, we must look up, resist feelings, and by faith grasp the promises of God and climb the ladder to healing. Praise God, I know it works! For instance, if you say, “Oh, I feel so bad!” and give in to feelings, you will feel even worse. But if you say, “By faith, I feel better!” and resist bad feelings, you *will* feel better. God's ways are right.

—Sis. Marie Miles

MEETING NOTICES AND REPORTS

Chilliwack, B. C., Campmeeting

(June 22 to 28, 1981)

By the grace of God, a beautiful campground with complete facilities in the Canadian Rockies has been obtained for the first saints' campmeeting in this area.

There are numerous cabins, trailer hookups, ministers' apartments, a large kitchen and dining area, gym, and tabernacle in a park-like setting. The owners charge \$1.50 per day per person, plus \$500 rent, which is very reasonable. The meeting will be supported by freewill offerings. All who come will be taken care of. We request that you bring your own bedding.

There will be two services daily, plus special youth meetings, and all night prayer meetings. Watch for signs about ten miles north of Chilliwack on Highway One, at Charis Camp.

A special fund for this campmeeting has been started at this office. Please specify that your offering is for this worthy project.

For more information contact, Tom Melot, c/o Faith Publishing, Guthrie, Okla. 73044, or Ron & Ann Walter, 576 Wellington Ave., Chilliwack, B.C. V2P 2E9, Canada.

Regular Services in Chilliwack, B. C.

B. C., Canada (Jan. 18)—Dear saints: The Lord is working in Chilliwack, B. C., Canada. We began meetings in our homes about one and one-half months ago, directly after the Jefferson, Oregon, ten-day meeting. The Lord met with us there and showed us clearly what He wanted us to do. We thoroughly enjoyed being with the beautiful saints there. They are a real encouragement to us.

In our small group in Chilliwack we have four regular attenders and four children in our Sunday school.

On Jan. 2, 3, and 4, Bro. and Sis. O. B. Wilson and twelve others from his congregation in Jefferson, Ore., came to be with us in services. Several folks came out to the meeting.

Before this time we were without a minister. We plan, Lord willing, to have a minister coming once a

month from Oregon. We also hope to be going as often as possible to the all-day meeting which is held the third Sunday of every month in Jefferson.

We welcome anyone reading this, who would like to come out to meetings. Sunday school begins at 10:00 a.m.; morning service at 11:00 a.m.; evening service at 7:00 p.m.; Bible study every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Please pray for us here, and also for the Lord's work in Prince George, B. C. We're remembering all of you in our prayers.

Love in Christ,
—Anne Walter
576 Wellington Av., Chilliwack, B. C.
Canada V2P 2E9

REVIVAL IN ARKANSAS

You are invited to an old-fashioned revival meeting to be held in Prattsville, Ark., at the Church of God chapel from Feb. 8 to Feb. 15, 1981. There will be a special young people's meeting on Sat., Feb. 14, and special singing throughout the meeting. Come with a burden for souls.

For more information contact, Bro. Clarence Bennings, Rt. 1, Prattsville, Ark., phone (501) 699-4390.

From the Church To the Church Abroad

Dear saints: Greetings to all in the precious name of Jesus. As we enter this new year, may God's grace rest upon us, and may we be led by His Holy Spirit as we move forward in the work of the Lord.

We feel led to express a burden to all in regard to the Church of God in Dayton, Ohio, which has labored and stood for the truth and right at its present location at 622 Tyron Avenue for more than 24 years. God has blessed the work, and under the teaching and pastoring of the Church in Dayton, the truth was firmly established through the labors of our dearly beloved Brother in Christ, Wm. A. McCoy, who has gone on to his reward. A number of present faithful ministers who labored with Bro. McCoy in Dayton were Bro. Mart Samons, Bro. S. Everett Abbott, Bro. Curtis Williams, Bro. Gordon Humphrey, and Bro. Donald Sharp. We will name a few of the older ministers who preached the gospel at Dayton: Bro. Ira Stover, Bro. Darius Gibson, Bro. Murphy Allen, Bro. Ostis Wilson, Bro. Egbert Allen, Bro. and Sister Ray Key, and others. The little chapel holds many precious memories over the years.

The area where the chapel is located includes many other buildings of worship, and we have had no response from the people in that area for a number of years. A real burden has come upon the congregation about this lack of interest. An outreach for souls has brought on this burden to relocate and build a new chapel. The matter was discussed in a recent business meeting, and a unanimous decision was reached to relocate and build a new chapel. This is a great obligation for the congregation, and it was

by faith that we have started a building fund. Our main object and burden are to reach souls and work for God while time lasts. We want to stay in the will of God, and by doing this, God can do great things for His trusting children.

We desire the universal Church of God to pray for this burden with us. This is a step by faith in God, and it is a great work for God. Anyone desiring to share in this burden may contact Bro. and Sister John Gutwein, 4008 Gardenvue Dr., Dayton, Ohio 45431. Pray for the little flock in Dayton that we can hold up the truth and be a light for Jesus.

Your Brother in Christ, —Bro. Earl Sharp

CALIF. CAMPGROUND CABIN FOR SALE

Anyone interested in purchasing a cabin on the Church of God campground at Pacoima, Calif., should contact Ruby Marken by letter at Route 1, Twin Falls, Idaho 83301, or by phone at (208) 733-7956. Saturday would probably be the best day to contact her by phone.

FOREIGN FIELD REPORTS

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (Nov. 28)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints of the Most High: Greetings in the wonderful name of the Lord Jesus, the Son of God who is the light of the world and of the Holy City. "O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord." Isa. 2:5. All who hate and discriminate are not walking in His light, and are out of union with God.

Thank you for your letter dated Nov. 4, 1980, delivery of which was taken the last of November on my return from the Tombia campmeeting. Its contents were gratefully noted. We are still fervent in inviting the attention of the Lord to take note of your request for the complete healing of your body. Be encouraged, and be full of faith and hope of victory over this bodily affliction.

Bro. Robert Eckenwiler made a safe trip to Nigeria. He arrived two hours behind schedule on Nov. 6, 1980. At the airport in Lagos to welcome him to Africa were this writer and his son Maurice. It was a day of exceeding great joy at Kwale for the saints to receive their Brother of the same spiritual kingdom in their midst. Bro. Robert Eckenwiler is hale and hearty, both in the spirit and body.

The National Campmeeting held in November on the island of Tombia in the Rivers State of Nigeria closed with great spiritual victory. General uplift in the Spirit was felt by all the brethren of this great family to the praise of Jesus, our only Master, Lord, and Leader. Meetings at 7 p.m. for the first four days were held publicly at the Tombia Square, and were of immense benefit to the inhabitants of Tombia. Activities in the remaining days, which comprised of Holy Ghost messages and teachings, were confined to

the campground. Personal witnessing, of course, continued outside the campground. Bro. Eckenwiler actively participated in personal witnessing and humbly discharged all duties assigned to him. He was received by all with gladness. Back here in Kwale, he is still engaged in witnessing for Christ to whoever comes across his way. He rides out on a bicycle as divinely directed for this purpose and for distribution of tracts.

Many souls at the campmeeting came to the altar for salvation. The Lord also healed the physical afflictions of a great many. Brethren from our Bendel State were plentiful in attendance. Two buses were hired for their conveyance to and fro. Bro. Benson Oparaji, his wife Sister Charity, and Bro. Sydney attended from Owerri, while Bro. H. C. Dike represented the Aba area congregations. All the Port Harcourt brethren, whose minister is Bro. Fraide M. Igbanibo, were in Tombia throughout the campmeeting.

Yours to make Christ known,
—Titus U. E. Enu

(Editor's Note: Bro. B. Ben Taylor is the pastor of the congregation at Tombia, Nigeria, where the National campmeeting was held last November.)

Later Report by Bro. Enu . . .

Nigeria (Jan. 14)—Greetings in the uplifting name of Jesus, and a happy New Year to all of spiritual Israel—the Israelites indeed in whom there is no guile.

Thank you for your letter dated Dec. 7, 1980, which was received greatly behind schedule due to the breakdown of mail service between Sapele and Kwale. We thankfully noted its entire contents.

A revival meeting which lasted a week was held at Kwale. Its divine timing rejoiced our soul and made us most grateful to God as we must enter the New Year with the needed divine energy to press on much more faithfully in the harvest of souls.

The three Kwale area congregations co-jointly held a Thanksgiving service at Kwale on Dec. 28, 1980, which produced good results both spiritually and materially. The Lord was mightily praised with gifts brought into His storehouse to gratefully acknowledge the deliverance of His people from the snares of Satan, pangs of death, and victory over the grave. . . .

Bro. Robert Eckenwiler is returning to his homeland in the U. S. after 71 days of active missionary service in the army of the Lord in Nigeria, W. Africa. He will leave Nigeria on Jan. 16, 1981, by plane for America.

Bro. Eckenwiler is a young man of ambassadorial disposition. His color fetched him no pride, being amazingly aware, to the surprise of all, of the Lord's demand in Zion where color has found no place to rear its ugly head. He is a saint, blessed with the Bible fruit of universal love which fortunately qualifies him for heaven more than a great number whose labors have been ruined by being barren of the fruit of love. None here nor anywhere can make heaven without the Bible fruit of love.

The saints of Nigeria were sad to see him leave us, but we are encouraged to know that we have a place to meet where parting is impossible—at the feet of Jesus. Amen.

Yours in the Master's service,
—Titus U. E. Enu

REPORT OF MISSION TRIP TO NIGERIA

Kansas—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints of God: Greetings in the precious name of the Lord Jesus. I am very thankful to be saved today and encouraged in this holy life.

I have just returned (Jan. 17) from being with our brethren in Nigeria since Nov. 6, 1980, and I am happy for this opportunity to tell of the goodness of God. I am thinking just now of God's Church in the earth, more particularly of the fellowship that the saints have and enjoy as the members of Christ's spiritual body. It was something very wonderful to me to travel such a vast distance into a different nation and culture, and there to find the familiar "peculiar" family of God, which is always easily distinguished anywhere by the simple and unmistakable characteristic named by the mouth of our Savior: "If ye have love one to another." I am very thankful to God that it is just this way.

The whole of the trip proved to be a very profitable experience. The town of Kwale in Bendel State, where Bro. and Sis. Titus Enu live, was the central point of our traveling. It was here that I had the most time to learn and enjoy African hospitality and culture. In November, about 30 of us left Kwale and traveled to the island of Tombia in the delta of the Niger River where the National campmeeting was held. I was privileged to meet many of the saints who came from various places across Nigeria. The Lord wonderfully blessed the meeting to our hearts. Several evenings were devoted to preaching the gospel in open-air services at the town's main square with good results. It was here in Tombia that my attention was first called to see the people worshipping idols, which practice darkens the lives of many in Africa. It is amazing to think that this is still in the world, just as it was practiced several thousand years ago when men worshipped the images of Baal and Astarte. The gospel is still the only power that can deliver from darkness.

It is very encouraging to see what the Lord is doing in Nigeria in gathering His people, and raising up congregations, caring for their needs, and sending them out to find others. The saints here in America should be encouraged to know that what we do makes a difference. Our prayers and support provide something very needful to the Church there. I was glad to witness much good being accomplished by the constant labors of the saints in the Lord's Print Shop. The printed page is of great use in the hands of God.

I could say much more about the trip, but space will not allow at this time, of the other congregations visited; of the faithful lives of the saints in the face of

hard circumstances; the everyday kindness of the Lord, and His providences and lessons. I am thankful for all of it.

The brethren in Africa asked me to convey their love and greetings to the Church at large. I would like to thank all of the saints everywhere for your prayers and support. May the Lord bless us as members of His one true Church and as "members one of another" and help us to abide in this truth, and to exalt the good Shepherd before all men.

—Bro. Robert Eckenwiler
c/o 3104 Aloma St., Wichita, Ks. 67211

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

Kerala, S. India (Dec. 20)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and the dear saints in America: Warm greetings to all of you again in the unique name of Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel.

Thank you for your very kind letter dated Dec. 7, which reached here yesterday, and the enclosures were noted with many thanks and heartfelt gratitude. May God abundantly bless each one who supports the work of the Church of God in India.

Now we are almost ready for our 15th annual general convention or campmeeting at Karikkom. Sinners must be saved, backsliders must be reclaimed, and the Church must be edified. We look to the Lord to supply the temporal needs of the meeting.

I doubt that Sister Dorothy Keiser got the visa to come over to this meeting. We leave it in the hands of the Lord.

Several believers from the new stations are getting ready to follow Christ in water baptism during our campmeeting. "And the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved."

More copies of our church monthly paper, *Evening Light*, in the Malayalam language are being printed and sent to different parts of India. It is a real blessing to many. Please remember this work in your prayers.

Thank you for the information about the fund for the Van for India. The price of diesel vehicles goes higher and higher day by day. A new Van with seats for 20 people costs \$9,000. A used one costs \$6,000 or \$7,000. Diesel fuel is cheaper than petrol.

We continue to pray for the strength of your body to be as the strength of your soul. Let us exchange prayers.

Yours in Christ, —John Varghese

VISA TO INDIA DENIED

Okla. (Jan. 19)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints scattered abroad: Greetings to all of you in Jesus' dear name.

I had hoped that I would be able to report to you long before now that I had a visa to enter India for a year, but I have not been able to go according to plans.

The letter containing my passport and application to enter India was registered and sent to the

Indian Consulate office in San Francisco on Aug. 18, 1980. I was told it would be from two or three months before I would hear from it. But for about four months I waited for some word, for it was long overdue. I made several calls to the San Francisco office, and was assured that the papers had been sent to India on Sept. 19, 1980. All I could possibly conclude was that they were lost some place.

On Jan. 2nd of this year, the Indian Consulate office called from San Francisco and said they had located my passport in their office, that it had never been sent to India. (I learned later that the passport never had been sent to India, but the application had been sent.) They asked if I would pay for a telegram and they would wire India for a decision on the visa. (The application was tied up in India.) I told them I would, and a telegram was sent on Jan. 5th. He said it would take about six days to hear from the telegram.

Well, two weeks had passed, so this evening I called the Indian Consulate office again, and I was told that my visa for a year had been turned down. Now I have accepted this answer as divinely ordered of the Lord.

I had a very nice conversation with the young man to whom I talked. He volunteered, without my asking, that he was a Christian, too. I asked him if it were possible that I had been turned down on the year visa because I was a Christian, and he said, "Yes." He possibly didn't realize how much that answer meant to me, for my heart is in India, and I have very much wanted to go on the field as a missionary. But his answer didn't give me much hope to ever do so. The enemy is closing in fast.

I have believed very strongly that I would return to India again. If the Lord should lead, I will try again to enter India this coming winter, Dec. 1981, but only for three months. Going to India for a longer stay is out.

If I had only asked for a three month visa, I would have been there in India for the conventions this year, but since I have a longer range vision than a few months on the mission field, I am having to stay home. The enemy is surely working, but God is working, too. Praise His Name!

Continually remember the gospel needs of India. There could come a time, and very soon, when they will not be able to receive any outside spiritual help. Now is the time for the Church to pray and do.

Yours for souls in India and around the world,
—Sis. Dorothy Keiser

GOSPEL MISSION TRIP TO THE PHILIPPINES

Wisconsin (Jan. 15)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in love and hope through the name of our Lord and Saviour. I am surely thankful for all the Lord has done for me. I cannot praise Him enough.

It was a precious time to be at the recent Guthrie Assembly meeting, and I surely want to thank you

and Sister Pruitt and all the saints there for their many kindnesses to me. It is surely the greatest blessing on this earth to be in the family of God, and I surely want to live a life pleasing to God that I might make heaven my home for eternity. . . .

I have my plane ticket for the Philippine Islands, leaving Chicago on Jan. 27, 1981, and scheduled to arrive in Manila on Jan. 28. I surely covet your continued prayers that I might accomplish what the Lord would have me to in that needy mission field. I am anxious to get there again after being away so long.

May the Lord bless and keep all of you, and please remember me in prayer while in the Philippines.

In Christian love, —Bro. George Hammond

Editor's note: At press time for this February issue at the end of January, Bro. Hammond is scheduled to make his third missionary trip to the Philippines. For many months the native missionaries in that great field have pleaded and prayed for his return to aid them in the mission work. In answer to their prayers God has opened the way and burdened Bro. Hammond to go again, at his own expense, and we trust that he will be able to labor with them for many weeks or months. Let the Church everywhere respond to his request for prayer, and pray fervently and continually for his safety in travel, and that the Lord will enable him to spread the gospel light and be a special blessing to many precious souls in those islands of 37,000,000 people. Bro. M. S. Tangunan expects to meet him at the Manila airport.

Those who may want to write Bro. Hammond a letter of encouragement can address him in care of Bro. M. S. Tangunan, Stall 26, Bldg. A, Public Market, San Jose City, N.E., Philippines 2331.

From the Mailbox . . .

Missouri—Dear Bro. Lawrence and co-workers: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus our Lord. I trust all is going well with you dear ones there, and trust the Lord is blessing all of you richly for the good work you are doing there in publishing the gospel by the printed page. We appreciate good, sound, wholesome literature that can be given out to hungry souls. The Sunday school quarterlies of the last year have been a great blessing to us here.

While I was there at the office recently, I got at least one each of the tracts that you have on hand. After I finish reading them, I want to select the ones that I feel I can use to God's glory, and order some. Thank you so much for the samples.

Bro. Lawrence, we have just had a short revival meeting here at Neosho, which was very good and profitable for the congregation. The Lord burdened Bro. Mart Samons to come by and hold a three nights' meeting on the 7, 8, and 9 of January. There were souls at the altar every night of the meeting.

The Lord has blessed us with quite a large group of young people and children. Several of them felt their need of coming to the altar at the first of the meeting. Then some of them came back and presented their bodies as a living sacrifice to be sanctified wholly. I believe the Lord gave them their heart's desire. Pray for them that God will lead, guide, and teach them. There was also altar work among the older class. Several of the saints saw their need of a deeper consecration and a more complete infilling of the Holy Spirit. They came to the altar, too, and God met their needs. We trust that all will hold the ground gained in this meeting. I know that the Lord is faithful to do His part.

There was one who got saved that was new among us. She is one of Sis. Doris Bowers' neighbors. Please pray for her and for all of us.

We appreciate the saints who came from Four Corners in Oklahoma, and from Springfield, Mo., to be with us in the meeting. . . .

Your saved Brother, —T. V. McMillian

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mich.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints: I trust you are still pressing on until the final reward is given. What a day that will be when that trumpet sounds and we are all caught away up in the clouds to be with the Lord forever! Thank God, we don't have to return like some people are teaching. I think that once one would see the Lord, nobody would want to come back to earth.

Well, another year has come and gone, and I can certainly say the Lord has been good to us. Time is flying by and the only thing that will count in 1980 is what we have done for the Lord.

I learn to appreciate the Word of God more every day. It seems like the old world is tossing and turning, and is in an upheaval everywhere. One is teaching this and another teaching that. There is so much confusion, and yet the Word of God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. I thank God more every day for the privilege of knowing how to read. What a wonderful gift this is, and how so many people are neglecting it! . . .

Yours in Christian love, —Bro. Bob Randolph

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Calif.—Dear Sis. Miles and saints: I am rejoicing, praising, and thanking the Lord for making it possible for me to attend seven days of the Assembly meeting in Pacoima, Calif., that ended last night. Praise His holy name! He knows just what we need. It was all so encouraging. The messages, the testimonies, and the fellowship were sweet to my soul.

We are continuing in prayer for the Lord to completely heal Bro. Pruitt, and praying always for the great work you are doing there. The *Faith and Victory* papers are so precious and the tracts are a great help in witnessing for the Lord.

I have such a burden for my unsaved loved ones and for others, also. It is so sad and heartbreaking to see them living in sin, and not even interested in

hearing what the Lord would do for them if they would only turn to Him for salvation. Please pray for them. Pray for me that the Lord will direct me in all that I do, and keep me faithful. —Ruth S. Donnelly

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

Okla.—As we look back over 1980, our heart is full of praise to the Lord for His love and mercy to us. We are glad that He made a way for us to live for Him and the only way of peace and joy in this world. We know that every good and perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights. Read James 1:17.

There is much confusion in this world today, so we want to cling closer to the Lord and put on the whole armor of God, that the peace of our Lord will be with us, for He giveth light and understanding so we can live pleasing to Him.

The song, "The Virtue of Faith," reads: "Though thorns bestrew the path we've trod, He whispers still, 'Have faith in God.' My cry shall be 'til time shall cease, 'O blessed Lord, my faith increase.' "

—Doris Bowers

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

Ind.—Greetings, Sister Marie: I do enjoy the good *Faith and Victory* paper I receive each month. I read it and get so much good from reading it over. I never get to go to church services, as my husband isn't very well. He had a heart attack on December 17 and has asthma, too, so he has to be indoors all the time and can't work. But God has been so good to us.

I'm not very well myself, and need your prayers to give me strength to do the house work and to help take care of my husband. He is 73 years old, and is very weak. He has been sick a lot in the past few years. God knows all about us. Also, I have a special prayer request on my heart.

May God bless every one there, especially Bro. Pruitt and Sis. McCoy. . . . —Sis. Mary Rogers

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

La.—Dear ones: May the Lord bless and prosper the work of the Lord, and each worker in this year of 1981, is my prayer.

I live alone, and yet not alone, as Jesus is my Partner, and I wouldn't want to live one hour without Him. Oh, the joy, peace, rest, and contentment we find in Him, such as the world cannot give! True happiness and satisfaction is found only in the Lord, but we can't have it if we don't love and obey Him with our whole heart. It is easy to do this because He has done so much for me. I love Him because He first loved me, died for me, forgave me of my sins, put His love in my heart, and supplies all my needs. Glory to His name! It is a pleasure to do His will to all I know and understand. . . . —Myrtis Flynn

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

Okla.—I did enjoy the Guthrie Assembly meeting. It meant so much to me to see the dear saints of God and enjoy the sweet fellowship of God's people.

May God bless each of you at the Print Shop. I appreciate your labors of love far more than I can

express. I am praying for you. May this be a good year for each of you. Pray for us.

God is blessing us.

—Theresa Gaines

o

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Okla.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: I want to thank the Lord for healing me. A day or two before Christmas, I got something wrong in my chest, and it caused hard breathing. It got so bad that I could hardly breathe. The day after Christmas I got a little better. I had my daughter, Nina, to put in a request at the Guthrie Assembly meeting, and I got better from that time on. Thank the Lord!

Please pray for Martha. She still has a bad cough.

—Alfred and Martha Classen

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

Okla.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: We are thankful for the Lord's blessings to us through another year. He has proved Himself faithful by answering prayers in our home. We have truly found that "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."

We are thankful that the Lord has given us another normal, healthy child. Surely it is a miracle each time a normal child is born. We don't ever want to take God's blessings to us for granted. Pray for us, as we want to please the Lord with our lives and be ready when He calls for us.

—Danny & Cheryl Doolittle

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

Okla.—I am so thankful that I can still witness for Jesus. I am still saved and encouraged to live for the Lord amidst the severe test of afflictions. I refuse to be discouraged; I am standing on His promises and they will NOT fail.

God has spared me to see another new year, but we do not know what it holds in store. We know who holds the future and I know who holds my hand. As the years of our life come and go, it seems the devil fights harder than ever. We, too, must fight harder. I've never had to press harder in my life than now. I love the strait and the narrow way. It just satisfies my soul.

God is looking for ones who are dependable, who will stand in the gap and make up the hedge, (Ezek. 22:30) and lift high the Bible standard. "Ask for the old paths and walk therein." Jer. 6:16. We dare not give any place to the devil or let down on any line. This is just as good as the devil wants. My hearts says "Amen" to God's Word on whatever line it goes forth; for I do want to hear Him say, "Well done," or "Come, ye blessed of my Father." The Lord is looking for pure examples among the old and the young to make up the hedge and to stand in the gap. We are as a spectacle to the world. Oh, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! Rom. 10:15. "Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of the believers." 1 Tim. 4:12. "Flee also youthful lusts." 2 Tim. 2:22. When we think of the seri-

ousness of life, we realize that we need to pray more and seek God's guidance more in our lives. I am so glad that He said He would "beautify the meek with salvation." Oh, I do desire to just seek for more of that beauty.

I have not been able to answer nearly all the wonderful letters and cards I have received in my illness. But I want to take this means of thanking each one for your love and thoughtfulness of me. It has been such a rich blessing of courage.

In His service, —Sis. Evelyn (Gibson) McCoy

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ky.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: Our heart is still rejoicing over the good meeting we were privileged to be in at Guthrie, Okla. We felt the Lord wanted us to go, but it looked almost impossible due to our physical condition. We made plane reservations and packed our bag almost a week ahead of time. God gave us strength to ride about 70 miles to the airport and to make the trip, even though we were very weary when we arrived. . . .

The unity and love of God's people that we saw manifested during the meeting was precious. The working of God's Spirit in saving a goodly number of souls and sanctifying many was a good testimony for the meeting.

We stopped off at Prattsville, Ark. on our way home. We spent a few days visiting the congregation there, and were with them in services Sunday morning and evening. The services were precious. We left the congregation much encouraged in the Lord. Praise God for all His precious saints throughout the universe! We count it a high honor to be in that number of the blood-washed family of God. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

We are encouraged to believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, and that all the promises of God are for all true believers in our day, as they were in the days of the apostles. We can expect the same kind of results that they received, through the mighty working of God's power with signs following to the glory of God.

We have put our life on the line for God, fully trusting Him for soul and body, and have not only seen a number of miracles and wonders performed in the past twenty years, but have personally experienced a number of outstanding healings and miracles in our own home by the mighty power of God. Bro. Lawrence, be encouraged; God is still on His throne and is not forgetful to remember our labors of love. Keep up the good work in sending out the printed page. We are daily taking you before the throne of God in prayer for your complete healing. We cannot express how much good we have obtained from the good books and literature that we have been privileged to read from the print shop.

We are reading *The Bible Chain of Truth* during our family worship at night to the children. It has been some time since we read it, and it seems to get better each time we read it. I wish every home had a

copy of that book. It is a profitable book for young and old alike.

We have a number of unsaved loved ones that need to be saved. We would be glad if you mentioned them in prayer when you think of this request. . . .

—Bro. & Sis. Curtis Williams & family

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: We would like to share with you and the saints at large the goodness of God to our family.

On New Year's night, during service in Guthrie, Okla., our son, Matthew, became sick. The symptoms of his illness initially manifested themselves as vomiting and a high fever. We left service early and returned home, seeking the Lord to intervene in our son's behalf. This condition continued through Saturday afternoon, at which time he began to show improvement. By the evening he was in a playful mood and seemed almost normal.

On Sunday morning, after eating a light breakfast, he was struck with a seizure, and fell, striking his head quite hard on the floor. This left him very tired, and after a period of observation he was allowed to sleep for several hours. A second seizure came around 3:00 P.M. This was followed by a third seizure near 7:00 P.M. While he was sleeping following this seizure, we felt impressed to pray that God would bless him with an appetite for food. Except for the breakfast Sunday morning, he had virtually eaten nothing since Thursday evening. Shortly after prayer he awoke and asked for some juice. In a short while he desired solid food and was able to eat a considerable amount.

Bro. Ed Wilson and Bro. Mart Samons came to our home to pray with us and to anoint and pray for Matthew that night. We asked the Lord to rebuke the seizures and not allow them to return. We are thankful to say he has had no more seizures. He had some trouble with diarrhea over the next two days, but the Lord has healed him of that also.

We want to express our appreciation to all the saints who supported us in this battle. Your prayers and words of encouragement were a vital part of our victory.

We have accepted the pastorate of the Church of God in Spencer, Okla., and desire the prayers of all saints that the work will be blessed and God's holy name glorified through our efforts.

Yours in Christ, —Charles & Diann Chandler

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear ones in Christ Jesus: ". . . count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:2-4. "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Again, we praise the Lord for His love and watchful care over us. Rom. 5:3-5, ". . . We glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience,

hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Praise the Lord for the Holy Ghost!

One person said, "I don't believe I ever saw you when you weren't smiling." I have a bad affliction on my body, but the love of God is in my heart. I'm happy in the Lord, so why should I not have a smile? I know that God doeth ALL things well, and I'm content in Him. God says that the "word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword." The Word can cut this cancer out, and I'm standing on the Word. As the three Hebrew children said, God can deliver us, but if He doesn't, we won't bow down to any idol. We intend to stay true to God. There is no defeat to a child of God. We are on the victory side. There is victory in Jesus. Let's keep our eyes on Jesus. He will carry us through with victory.

I thank each one for your prayers. I do love the Lord with all my heart. The Lord is still blessing me wonderfully and keeping me encouraged. To Him be all the praise! I'm still at home by myself, waiting on myself.

—Essie Moore

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

Okla.—Dear ones: God has blessed us and we are happy in the Lord. As we look back on 1980, we see some sad experiences, but also some gladness along life's way. Our hearts were so saddened by the terrible accident that took our great-niece, Janice Busbee, and also Colleen Meek. Our niece, Maxine Busbee, was left in such a broken up condition, but our hearts were made glad for the souls that found salvation through it. Then, two and one-half weeks later, we were saddened again by the accident that killed our oldest nephew. Before the old year was gone, we lost the next to our oldest nephew. Oh, how short life is and how it pays to serve the Lord!

I think of Moses, and how he chose rather to suffer afflictions with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. He looked ahead and saw the end of the pleasures of sin. He saw the emptiness of a wasted life of sin, and as Paul said in Romans 2:8, 9, "But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also to the Gentile." But, oh, the blessed reward of the righteous! Verses 10 and 11 read: "But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: for there is no respect of persons with God."

How we thank God for the gift of His precious Son! He was sent to bring us unto God, so we could escape the wrath of God on sinners. The people of our day and time are very wicked. Surely, we are living in perilous times. Every work of the flesh is being lived out before our eyes, which are "adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions,

heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like." Gal. 5:19-21. We wonder how much longer the Lord will delay His coming. It grieves our hearts to see those who at one time loved the Lord and truth, but turned from His holy way to walk in a way that is marked by all those sins that are mentioned above. Oh, praise God, for the holy way that is free from sin, where there is love, peace, and joy!

We do enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory* paper. We pray for God to bless and reward you for your labors. He is not unrighteous to forget your labors of love. May God keep His good hand upon the work of God in every way for getting the gospel out. May God help souls to stop and think: "Where is the end of the way I am walking?" —Bro. & Sis. Albert Eck

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

S. Car.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: I am encouraged in the dear Lord. Praise His holy and righteous name! We go through many trials and tests, but, praise God, His grace is sufficient. It keeps us from falling or giving up the battle.

We trust you are feeling better in body and much encouraged in soul.

So many around here have gone on to meet God lately. We know not when our time will be, but we do know God said to be ready. So I am staying prayed up, so that day won't overtake me unawares. Praise God!

Keep praying for us that we will be all God is calling us to be until He calls us Home.

—Bro. & Sis. Hudson Crummie

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

Virginia.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings! I want to testify for God.

In 1970, I went to the Monark Springs, Mo., campmeeting with a rupture from which I had suffered over twenty years, wearing a double truss part of that time. On Thursday morning, the day of the healing service, I awoke early. God impressed me that if I would have the saints pray for me I would be healed. They did pray, with Bro. Samons leading in the prayer. God healed me! A truss has never been worn since then—over ten years ago.

This is 1981, and I have been sick nearly two months. I don't go to doctors, so I don't know what my trouble was. I was so very ill a few days that it seemed the whole world was in a whirl. I wrote Bro. Pruitt and the saints for prayer. Now the sickness is gone, and I want God to have all the praise. I love the Lord and His dear saints, and I'm glad to know we still have saints who fully trust God.

With Christian love, —Wm. J. Preston

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

Ohio.—Dear Bro. and Sis. in Christ: I love the *Faith and Victory* paper. I read it from cover to cover. I would like to get the book you mentioned that everyone should read—*Secular Humanism, the Most Dangerous Religion in America* . . .

May God bless each one of you in this good work you are doing for the Lord. —Edith Kauffman