

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Treasure Hid in a Field



While plowing in a certain field,
The plowman stopped to rest,
And musing on the future yield
He hoped would be the best,
He happened to find a treasure rare
Upturned from 'neath the ground,
A wealth of gems beyond compare—
A value to abound.
With trembling hands he covered o'er
His find, and with great joy
Went home and sold his house and store,
And all he could employ.
He bought the field with title clear,
And then the wealth possessed,
'Twas his to own without a fear,
And so his life was blessed.
There is a treasure hidden deep
From pride and vanity,
A glorious wealth that we can keep
For all eternity.
It is for all a hope divine
Of life forevermore,
The grace of God to ever shine—
Abounding happy store.
The glorious Kingdom of our Lord,
And all its values great,
So far exceeding what men hoard
In earth's unhappy fate.
Come to the Saviour, find in Him
The riches that are true,
The wealth of soul that will not dim,
But always keep so new.
To be redeemed from all your sin,
And know that you are right,
Is better far than all the din
Of earthly power and might.

—Leslie C. Busbee

A Proper Sense Of Values



One's sense of values is what guides him in all affairs and decisions of life. What we buy, where we go, where we live, with whom we company, and all our plans and purposes of living are gauged by our sense of values. Satan was able to prevail over the desire of Adam and Eve by twisting their sense of values. The lovely garden of Eden with all of its purity and bliss and happiness took second rate to the desire to be wise in the light of the forbidden fruit. All along the history of man are seen sad things evolving from man's sense of values. Jesus said in Paul's quotation in Acts 20:35, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." We must be aware that God's sense of values is much different than our own. He looks only at soul values, values that have to do with our eternal welfare. When the poor widow cast her two mites into the treasury of the temple, Jesus said, "Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: for all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had." Luke 21:3,4. The parable of the householder in Matthew 20:1-6, shows this also. Those who worked but one hour were paid the same amount as those who worked all day. This is spiritual language, speaking about the Kingdom of God. It was not the amount that meant so much, it was the faithfulness of each one who worked, doing his best as he had opportunity.

In Matthew 13, Jesus spoke several parables of the Kingdom of Heaven. One of these in verse 44 speaks of the man who found a treasure hidden in a field. He placed such a great value on that treasure that he hid it, and then went and sold all that he had to get means to buy that field, so that the treasure could be his. With joy he went and sold all that he had. Why? Because he knew that the value of the treasure far exceeded all that he had to have to pay for the field. Jesus said that the Kingdom of Heaven is like this. Its value far exceeds anything else. No sin or practice of life will come near to its great value. We need to have this sense of values that we will

be willing to forsake all to follow the Lord. The rich young ruler that came to the Lord in Matthew 19, went away sorrowful when he learned that Jesus was asking him to sell all that he had. He counted his wealth to be more valuable than what Christ had to offer him. How often this scene has been repeated through time. Whether a person accepts the Lord or rejects Him depends upon his sense of values.

"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward." Heb. 11:24-26. Moses had a proper sense of values. The fabulous wealth of Egypt meant little to him. The prospects of the throne and all the pleasure of comfort and luxury did not allure his heart as much as the prospects of being a part with the people of God. Oh, that people today could get their hearts and minds off of financial and fleshly gain! Listen. Gain is not godliness, "but godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich [they that value riches as what is worth their seeking] fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." These words of the apostle Paul from 1 Tim. 6:5-11, are true. Here is what we should seek: "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness." "God hath chosen the poor of this world rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him." James 2:5.

Oh, that we might love the Lord Jesus and put the proper value on what He has to offer us! "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." Col. 3:1,2.

—Leslie C. Busbee

The Journey Is Too Great

One of God's children was greatly blessed by the Lord. He moved under the leadings of the Spirit of God and performed great miracles. Many people were won to the Lord. Then all of a sudden a message was sent to him. His spirits fell. He hurried away from the city, and with great exhaustion of body and mind he fell prostrate before the Lord, crying, "O Lord, take away my life. I am all alone."

Have things similar to this ever happened to you? Things seemed to be going along fine and the Lord was blessing you, when all of a sudden something touched your life. You fell prostrate before the Lord

and cried, "Oh, Lord, take my life." At the time, you felt all alone and your life's work seemed over, yet you still held on to the Lord, knowing that He was your only Friend. If it has, you are not alone.

Elijah had prayed and God sent fire down from heaven and burned up the sacrifice. It licked up the water all around the altar. The people of all Israel fell down and cried, "The Lord, he is the God: the Lord, he is the God." Then Elijah prayed, and God sent an abundance of rain after a three and one-half year famine. What a glorious miracle and many people turned to God! Elijah was happy and rejoiced in the Lord to see Him being exalted, but all of a sudden his joy ceased. His spirits fell. His body was exhausted, and he lay down under a juniper tree, crying to the Lord, "O Lord, take away my life; I am all alone." (1 Kings 18:29-46; 19:1-21) Jezebel, the queen, had sent word that she was going to kill him. He could not face it, as he knew her to be a wicked woman.

God saw Elijah lying there and did not forget him. Oh, dear child of God, remember that nothing touches your life but that God knows all about it. If you will cling to Him, He will help you just as He did Elijah. He sent an angel to give Elijah food and water, saying, "Arise and eat: because the journey is too great for thee." God will send someone or send some of His Word to give you some "angel food" and words of encouragement. Oh, we need help in those times because truly the "journey is too great" for us. We know that when we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, things will come against us. We also know that life has its troubles and problems, and they are too great for the sweet, sensitive spirit of the children of God. Each one needs some "angel food" in those times. Don't become discouraged because you seem to falter or your spirit becomes depressed at that time. If you hold to the Lord through it, you will never go down. Our emotions rise and fall, but we can have a faith that will hold straight through, just as Elijah did. He never let go of his faith and confidence in God. God did not condemn him for his problem, but came to his rescue and lifted him up. He spoke to Elijah in a still small voice and said, "I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees of which have not bowed unto Baal." (Verse 18)

Dear child of God, you are not alone. Arise and eat "angel food." Take courage. Press on. Commit everything into God's hands, knowing that He will take care of it. As you arise and go forward, you will feel the strength of the "angel food" touching your spirits, reviving your body, and soon your heartache will be healed. The problem may not be resolved, but such grace and victory will flood your soul that you can face it and go on doing God's service. Never let the devil make you believe that you will never be able to face life, but with the God of all power being your Helper, you can go forth. Without God's help the journey would be too great for you, but by His grace and by eating "angel food," which is the Word of God, you can face life. Praises be to our God!

The secret of victory is putting the problem in God's hands, keeping love in your heart, holding your

faith in God, forgiving, forgetting, and not nursing your problem or thinking about it. Banish it from your mind, as it is not your problem but God's, since you are His child. This is what Elijah did as he went forth, and soon he was doing God's work. He called Elisha to the work of God and did other things for God.

—Sis. A. Marie Miles

How a Faithful Minister Should Preach

A minister who is loyal will preach the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. He will not crush, misrepresent, or expand the meaning of any text for favor, financial interest, or fear of displeasing the people.

Jesus, our example, fearlessly expounded the truth. In His preaching He cared for neither the frowns nor the smiles of any one. "And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." The scribes delivered their messages like a schoolboy would recite his lesson, but Christ spoke to the people with the authority of a magistrate, yet at the same time His words were characterized by meekness and love. In Luke 4:32, we read that "they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power." There was weight in every word that He uttered, imparting divine revelations of truth to those who heard Him. At one time the rulers sent a body of officers to capture Christ, but they returned without Him, and said, "Never man spake like this man." They could "neither gainsay nor resist" His words, for never before had they heard a person speak with such wisdom and power, and with such convincing clearness.

He excelled Moses, and all the prophets, and in this age of progress and learning, his example still stands out in bold relief against the modern methods of preaching.

Fellow workers, after whom will you pattern? Will you take for your only model the example of Jesus Christ?

—N. S. Duncan

The One True Way

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?" Heb. 2:1-4.

Dear ones, there is no way of escape if we neglect to hear Jesus. Jesus said to Thomas, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6. Jesus is the one who

died that you and I could have life. Today, many people won't pay the price to gain eternal life. Jesus says, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." John 10:9. "I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." John 10:1. We all have to walk that strait and narrow way. Heaven is a perfect, pure, and holy place, and all that go there must be holy. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matt. 5:48. —Nathan Mobley

Adorning the Doctrine in All Things

Much has been said regarding our duty in living to the teachings of the Word of God. We have read that to adorn means to beautify, and yet I fear that sometimes we forget how great a responsibility we have taken upon us when we profess to be God's own dear children. It is so easy to grow careless in little things, especially if we neglect our secret devotions; and then how often it happens that there are manifestations of self and of other things which appear so inconsistent with our high profession. We are exhorted to adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. This evidently will necessitate our setting a watch on our whole life's deportment.

The doctrine teaches us what our conversation should be. Our words should be with grace that they might minister grace to the hearers. All idle words, foolish talking, and jesting are forbidden. If we would adorn this teaching we must be diligent to conform our lives to the same. If we fail in doing this, it will not be long until other and possibly more grievous irregularities will be manifest in our conduct which will reproach and cast reflection upon the glorious doctrines of our Lord. When we are made conscious of the fact that our deportment is not up to the Bible standard in some point, we ought to begin an earnest, determined effort at once to remedy the defect. If we give up the struggle without gaining the point and obtaining the victory over it, we have already surrendered in part to our enemy who will soon have full control, unless we become fully awakened to the situation.

In all things God would have us watch our lives. Our safety and our hope of heaven depend upon it. We can have the victory complete. Our lives can be fully conformed to the Word of the Lord. If discouragements confront you, and the enemy should suggest past failures, look away to Him whose grace is sufficient for you and whose strength is made perfect in weakness. He will cause you to triumph, if you will but fight on.

Let us not lower the standard, but rather, let us double and redouble our diligence, if necessary, determined to prove that the grace of God is sufficient and that it is possible for man, even in this world, to adorn the glorious doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

—George Coplin

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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)

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

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

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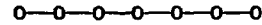
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EDITORIALS



GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS in the precious name of Jesus Christ who "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 every time of need." Hebrews 4:15b, 16.



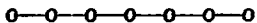
Judged by the Words of Christ, Our Saviour . . .

It is so important that we take heed to Jesus' words in these last days—the gospel day of grace. We read in Heb. 1:1-3, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." In Acts 3:22, 23, the Apostle Peter quoted a prophecy which was in direct reference to Jesus' ministry: "For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which shall not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people."

When Peter, James, and John were with Jesus on the mountain, He was transfigured before them, and Moses and Elias also appeared before them talking with Jesus. Peter was so impressed with the experience that he wanted to equally honor all three participants. Peter "said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good to be here: if thou wilt, let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." (Matthew 17:1-5.) Moses represented the law and Elias represented the prophets. The law and the prophets had fulfilled their time, and God's voice made it crystal clear that they should hear His Son in this dispensation of grace. "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." Luke 16:16. There is no other name under heaven whereby we can be saved from sin.

In Hebrews 2:2, 3, we note this pointed question: "For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him?" The implied answer is that there is no escape if we neglect or refuse to hear the words of Jesus.

Jesus himself said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." John 12:48. Knowing that Jesus' words will judge us in the last day, we should by all the means of divine grace measure our lives according to what He has spoken.



Another Milestone, Another "Ebenezer" Set Up . . .

With this March issue of Faith and Victory, we begin the 59th year of publication, thanking the Lord for His gracious dealings in past years, and trusting that He will continue to use these columns to send forth His eternal Word to this perishing world of mankind who so desperately need to hear and believe the soul-saving gospel of Christ.

The aim of this publication is to continue to cooperate with the Church which remained true to the Bible truths of the first thirty years of this "evening light" restoration movement. Though this paper is not recognized as the official organ of the Church, yet in spirit and practice it is the servant of the Church as the use of its columns and the sub-title indicate. Over the years the paper has served as a means of communication among the members of Christ's spiritual Body, the Church, and to proclaim the good news of salvation through Christ and the doctrines of the Bible to all people.

As the Church of God in this "evening time" enters its second century of service, may each member of that universal Body rededicate his life, time, talents, and means to that great challenge of taking the soul-saving gospel of Christ and the Bible truths to this perishing world of mankind. Time is running out, and what we intend to do for the cause of Christ and precious souls must be done quickly.

—L. D. Pruitt

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

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

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

The Stereo Gospel Song Album titled, "Songs Mother Loved" by the Carver Family. Sung and dedicated by the Carver children to the memory of their mother, May

DeLee (Jackson) Carver, who departed this life to be with the Lord in 1967. On the jacket of the record is a nice, large picture of Sister May Carver. The record has twelve songs which you will surely enjoy hearing. The price is \$5.00 each, plus \$1.00 for postage and handling.

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In Memorial

Sister Armilda Abbott of Pacoima, Calif., departed this life to be with the Lord on Jan. 27, 1981, at the age of 75 years, 9 months, and 1 day.

She was married to Samuel Everett Abbott on Aug. 26, 1924.

Around forty years ago, she embraced the teachings of the Evening Light Church of God, and the greater part of the last thirty years she traveled with her husband as an evangelistic team, teaching and preaching the good news of the Kingdom of God. She will be remembered by her song, "There Is a Higher Power."

In departing, she leaves her husband of fifty-six years, Samuel Abbott; one daughter, Alberta Cook; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; two sisters; two brothers; a host of nephews, nieces, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were conducted in Science Hill, Ky., by Bro. Mart Samons. The text was Mother's favorite verse, Rom. 8:28. Interment was in Woodstock Cemetery, Science Hill, Ky.

In Appreciation

We do thank you for the words of comfort, the cards, offerings, and all of the kind expressions of sympathy and love shown to us during the illness and passing of our dear one.

—Bro. Samuel Abbott and family

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Katie M. Priem was born in Yugoslavia on Nov. 13, 1899, and departed this life to be with the Lord on Feb. 14, 1981, at the Golden Rule Home, Shawnee, Okla., at the age of 81 years, three months, and one day.

In 1921, Katie came to the United States where she later heard the gospel, embraced it, and was born into the Church of God. She remained faithful to the Lord until death.

In 1951, Sister Katie was married to Bro. Reinhart Priem who preceded her in death.

Over the years Sister Priem has faithfully supported the gospel work by her prayers and means. She kept the faith, finished her course, and is now at rest with the Lord.

Survivors include: one sister, Mary Schlitter, Detroit, Mich.; a niece and some nephews, and many friends and saints.

The funeral service was conducted at the Church of God chapel in Shawnee, Oklahoma, by Brother Charles Smith. Interment was in the Bethel Cemetery, Shawnee, Okla.

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Janet Louise Patrick was born March 3, 1950, and entered into rest with her Lord and Saviour on January 15, 1981, at Webster Springs, W. Va., at the age of 30 years, 10 months, and 12 days.

A short time ago, Janet heard the gospel message and believed it with her whole heart. She was born into the Church of God and walked in the light of truth all the way.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. Mart Samons at Webster Springs, W. Va., and interment was in the Cutlip Cemetery, Webster Springs.

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Mary Ada Leach was born in Erie, Missouri, on August 20, 1903, and entered into her rest on January 1, 1981, at the age of 77 years, 4 months, and 7 days. She was the daughter of John and Martha Daniels.

She was united in marriage to Fred Leach on March 4, 1921, in Neosho, Mo. To this union six children were born. Her husband, Fred, preceded her in death on October 15, 1979.

Sis. Leach was reared in this truth, sought the Lord, was saved, and lived faithful unto death.

She leaves to mourn her passing: her four daughters; Margie Wilson of Orland, Martha Powell of Corning, Doris Pehaylic of Willows, Joyce Cordoza of Mt. Shasta, all of California; two sons, Johnny and Ivan Leach, both of Orland, California; twenty-two grandchildren, thirty-six great grandchildren; two brothers, Jim Daniels, of Chico, Calif., and Virgil Daniels of Orland, Calif.; many other relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Ostis Wilson and Sis. Loretta Harmon at Orland, Calif. Interment was in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Orland, California.

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Bro. James Ross Departs This Life

Word has been received of the passing of Bro. James Ross of San Diego, Calif., on Feb. 1, 1981, at the age of 72 years, after an extended illness. His devoted wife, Roberta, his mother, Sister Oceoler Foster, the family, and many friends surely will miss him, but rejoice in his "Home-going."

We join all the saints in sympathy for all those left and admonish all to be ready when death overtakes them.

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Note of Appreciation

Our sincere thanks are extended to each one for your prayers, cards, letters, phone calls, and all acts of kindness and sympathy during the illness and passing of our loved one, Sister Eva Carver.

—Bro. C. C. Carver and family

Ollie May Holt was born in Boley, Okla., on Dec. 30, 1925, the youngest child of Walter and Minnie Overstreet, and passed away January 23, 1981, in Wichita, Kans., at the age of 55.

Ollie had a great desire to go to Heaven and knew she must obey God and live for Him in order to go there. During the latter years of her life she had been striving to live for God.

She leaves to survive her: two sons, Lewis and Arthur B. Daniels, both of Oklahoma City, Okla.; three daughters, Bernice Thompson and Juanita Taylor, both of Wichita, Kans., and Thomasene Henderson of Denver, Colo.; 4 brothers; 12 grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Bro. Lewis Williams officiated, and burial was in Highland Cemetery, Wichita, Kans.

Prayer Requests

Calif.—"My mother is very frail. She fell and hurt her side, maybe broke some ribs. . . . Remember her in prayer, as she is alone and has to care for herself."

—Sis. Loretta Harmon

Calif.—"Pray for the healing of my heart and this shortness of breath."

—Susan Stinson

Ga.—"Pray for the healing of the pain in my hip and shoulder."

—Miss Willie Lou McKinnon

Okla.—"I have arthritis and suffer almost constantly. . . . Remember my brother, Luther Reed. He is not well."

—Sis. Lottie Buchanan

W. Va.—"Pray for me . . . I know God is able to heal this diabetes. . . . Pray that my son will find work."

—Verna Kizzie

Va.—"I have been in bed most of the time since Jan. 16th. I came down with a virus, dizziness, headaches, etc. . . . I am very weak and have heavy breathing. . . . Pray God to completely heal me."

—Sis. Avis Tinsley

Okla.—Pray earnestly for Bro. Oscar Wall who is in special need of healing to his body. He is fully trusting in God.

Fla.—"I have been sick for a long time . . . pray for me."

—Thelma Robinson

Be encouraged to hold on for your healing. Continue to, by faith, claim victory. What may seem to be apparent defeat is only a testing of your faith. "The trial of your faith being much more precious than of gold." We value gold, but, oh, there are things of greater value than gold! That is the trying of your faith. But victory comes according to how we come through the trial. Those who let their faith waver will not receive from the Lord. It is those who hold steadfast faith that come forth victoriously. God brings us into hard places so He can make opportunities for us to exercise faith in Him, and that will bring about blessed results and His name will be greatly glorified.

Are you in the battle of affliction now? If you do not let your faith waver, one of these days you will look back upon that battle and thank God for bringing you through.

—Sis. Marie Miles

Campmeeting Dates for 1981

Following are the Church of God campmeeting dates for 1981, and a more complete announcement of each meeting will be printed in later issues:—

Oklahoma State Campmeeting at Guthrie, Okla. — May 22 to 31.

Holly Hill, South Carolina—June 5 to 14.

Tulsa, Oklahoma—June 5 to 14.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 12 to 21.

Oakland, California—June 19 to 28.

Chilliwack, B. C., Canada—June 22 to 28.

Hammond, Louisiana—Saturday, June 27 to July 5.

Ojos Negros, B. Cfa., Mexico—June 29 to July 5.

Fresno, California—July 3 to 12.

Green Bank, West Virginia—July 3 to 12.

Akron, Ohio—July 11 to 19.

National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri—July 24 to August 2.

Missouri State Campmeeting at Myrtle, Missouri — August 3 to 9.

Bakersfield, California—August 7 to 16.

Boley, Oklahoma—August 21 to 30.

California State Campmeeting at Pacoima, Calif. — August 28 to Sept. 6.

REVIVAL AT MYRTLE, MO.

A revival meeting is scheduled to be held at Myrtle, Mo., from March 29 to April 5, 1981, with all-day services on Sunday, April 5. Lord willing, Bro. Tom Melot will be preaching at this revival. You are cordially invited to every service to hear God's Word.

FOREIGN FIELD REPORTS

SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

Each month, literature is being sent here in the States, to Mexico, and South America. Experience has taught us that two-pound packages pass the lines and large ones do not. Now, replies of gratefulness are coming in, whereas before, we never knew if they arrived. We learned, from one here in the States who ordered it, that one huge order to Peru, S. A., did not arrive.

Having been afforded the opportunity to learn typesetting on the Lord's Print Shop phototypesetter, we now have *The Church of God* by D. S. Warner, and *Emma Bailey Seeks Truth* by Mable Hale, ready for printing in Spanish.

Our thanks to all for your prayers and support of this foreign literature ministry. Pray for us as we labor for God.

Yours for souls of the Spanish-speaking people,
—Sister Opal Kelly

MEETING NOTICES AND REPORTS

REVIVAL AT GREEN BANK, W. VA.

Bro. Tom Melot is scheduled, Lord willing, to start a meeting at Green Bank, W. Va., on March 8, 1981.

For further information, contact Bro. Mart Samons, P.O. Box 127, Green Bank, W. Va.

WICHITA, KANSAS, SPRING MEETING

Lord willing, the saints at Wichita, Kansas, plan to have the spring meeting on March 27 to April 5, 1981. We desire the saints to be praying with us that the Lord will bless and anoint, and send what is needed for every waiting soul whatever their need—whether salvation, sanctification, strength, enlightenment, encouragement, or just a blessing. We want God to lead and work all things out to His glory and burden the ministers that He wants to come and deliver the messages that He sends for us here.

All are welcome to come and hear God out of His Word and receive blessings to their souls, including salvation, if they haven't yet taken that first and very important step.

The chapel is located at 1701 N. Ash, and the phone number is (316) 267-9582. If further information is needed, the pastor, Bro. Lewis Williams, can be contacted at (316) 264-8481, or his home address is 2643 No. Spruce, Wichita, Kansas 67214.

—Shirley Knight

REPORT OF MISSION TO PHILIPPINES

Wisc. (Feb. 18)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints: Greetings in joy and hope through the grace of our Lord and blessed Redeemer. I am thanking the Lord for His love and mercies to us day by day, and for the blessed hope we have in our hearts. Praise God!

I am surely glad to be home again, but it was with reluctance that I had to leave the Philippines and the brethren there. It was a short stay of three weeks, but I felt the call of many things which needed to be done here. I tried to give the brethren there some encouragement. I feel the Lord is accomplishing the work of the truth there. Working with Bro. Tangunan at San Jose City, I went out from there. We went to Cauayan to visit the Granil brothers, and saw Bros. Florencio and Justo. . . .

I am surely thankful for the good spirit of Bro. Tangunan who is very dedicated to the Lord's work. He has a fine family, and they all love and respect him. Three of their daughters are yet in school. His good wife has a little restaurant in the public market where she spends very long hours to support the family so Bro. Tangunan can be free to work for the Lord.

Their daughter, Ruth, aged 20, is a very dedicated worker for the Lord. She and her sister Demaris, aged 16, go each week to the different barrios, especially to Caridad, about three miles from San Jose, and teach the young people. She also brings a message at the

home congregation, and desires to serve the Lord anywhere. . . .

We visited Camiling, where Bro. Santiago works with three other gospel workers. A very profitable three-day meeting was held on Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday morning. I believe they came to a much better understanding of the Bible truth in practice. On Saturday afternoon we held a baptismal service with fourteen being baptized. Then we followed with the ordinances of feet-washing and the communion. . . . A man who was saved at a meeting on Thursday night in a home, told his wife that he had never heard the Bible taught like that before. We praise God that His Word is ever fruitful and satisfies the deepest need of the heart. . . . I tried to bring them much of the Bible standards practiced by the saints. . . .

The following summer after I left in 1978, Bro. Tangunan and other workers went to the barrio of Caridad where a young lady had leukemia, I believe it was. She had spent much time in the state hospital and was sent home as a hopeless case. A while after, she spent a week or two in San Jose with a specialist, and he, too, sent her home as incurable. The parents and many friends were weeping when Bro. Tangunan and his group went there. The saints gathered around the lady and Bro. Tangunan laid his hands on her head and prayed. When they finished praying, she was asleep. They went out and ate dinner. After dinner, Bro. Tangunan went back to see her and she had awakened. He asked if she would like to eat some rice. She said, yes, she was hungry. She began to get better and is now back at work. All praise and glory to God!

A great number of souls are ready to harvest in all these barrios. They are hungry for the truth. Pray the Lord of the harvest to send out reapers. They need someone so badly to teach them the true way. The real truth is new in the Philippines, and though some try to use the work of the Lord to profit themselves, there are many hungry souls longing for the pure Word. . . .

The greatest need there that I can see now, for which we need to pray much, is for someone to stay with them until they are settled in the truth. I have much confidence in Bro. Tangunan as a humble and dedicated worker, but he also needs help in the truth. It would be a great blessing if he and his daughter, Ruth, could visit the Church here in the States, but he is reluctant to suggest it as there are so many needs in the Church there of a vehicle to drive to the barrios and a chapel large enough in which to worship. They are now renting the lower portion of a house, but there is not enough room when any of the visiting saints come in. Across the street from his home is a lot for sale at \$3,000.00, and to construct a chapel on it would cost about \$1,000.00.

I don't know which is the more needful of these two things, but the Lord can direct in it. A good used vehicle costs from \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00. and a new one from \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00. . . . I don't believe

we are going to have much more time to gather in souls. We surely need to get a greater burden while there is yet time. I don't know whether I will be able to go back or not. I am hoping to go again soon, if possible. If someone else could go to help them, it would be a blessing. . . .

We surely must remember these needs much in prayer, and I trust that someone will get a burden to start a fund for some of these worthy projects.

Yours in Christ, —Bro. George Hammond
6726 14th Ave., Kenosha, Wisc. 53140

MEXICO MISSION REPORT

Ojos Negros, B. Cfa., Mexico (Feb. 12)—Dear brethren: I greet you in the holy name of Jesus Christ. There is much joy, peace, and happiness in my heart. God has blessed greatly in the gospel work and in the Spirit because the brethren here are very encouraged and are sincere in the things of God. It is noticeable in each service as they come with a great desire to assemble. When the brethren from Pacoima, Pomona, Bakersfield, and Mexicali come, it encourages all of us in the work and to keep on going forward. The brethren (Sherman, Kutra, and Montgomery) come with a heavy burden and love for souls here in Mexico, especially for Ojos Negros and Patzcuaro. They have been much help and blessing to all of us, as they are consecrated and wise in the work of God. The people take notice that they are not coming just to pass the time or for pleasure, but through love and a burden for souls. There are very few workers and the harvest is great. May we work faithfully, giving our all to God without reserve.

We have been visiting La Huerta and Chapultepec where the brethren are pleading for prayer. An enemy tries to separate us from the Lord, but our God is stronger than all. One day we shall live together in Heaven where there will be no tears nor pain. I ask prayer for all the brethren, especially for us that we be faithful in going forward.

Many thanks for the offerings. May God bless each of you.

With Christian love,

—Mayarino Escobar and family

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

South India (Jan. 20)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints everywhere in America: 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 kind letter dated Jan. 5, 1981, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude.

Our 15th annual General Campmeeting closed with victory last Sunday, Jan. 18. There was a large attendance of outsiders filling the whole ground. The Word was preached with special power of the Holy Spirit which resulted in the salvation of many souls and the sanctification of several believers. About 15 were baptized. The Church rejoiced throughout the

meeting. Many new members were added to the Church of God. Women's meetings, young people's meetings, Sunday school teacher's meetings, minister's meetings, open air meetings, and house visitations were some of the activities of the Church in the day time. The new building on the Bethel ground was a real blessing to use as a dormitory and dining hall for the saints. We need a little more ground for next year's meeting, as the gathering is increasing every year. We are sorry that Sister Keiser nor anyone else from America could not participate in the meeting this year. We hope someone will get ready to participate next year.

The new chapel at Cheypamkuzhy was opened for service last month, and the chapels at Koottarville and Kodali will be finished for services without much delay.

It was sad to note the departure of Bro. Herbert Probst. May God give comfort to his dear wife and children. We pray for that bereaved family.

We continue to remember you in our daily prayers for the strength of your body and soul. Let us exchange our prayers.

Yours in Christ,

—John Varghese

From the Mailbox . . .

Canada—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Just a line to let you know that I am back in Ontario from my long trip. I lived in my van day and night, and God protected me. I thank my Lord for it. He is greatly to be praised. I visited many saints on the way, and we had good fellowship.

I treasure the precious truths that I heard at the Assembly meeting in Guthrie. Now that I am at home, thoughts come to my mind of what I heard at the meeting. I also enjoy reading the books I got from you. I have many things to learn yet. . . .

Your Bro. in Christ,

—Frank Wiens

Wisconsin—Dear Bro. Pruitt: I trust all are encouraged and pressing on in the Lord. Here at Shell Lake we are daily praising God for His goodness.

In the past year we have had many blessings. In January, 1980, our son Jonathan was born three months premature, and was unable to sustain his breathing. God instantly healed him! Also, his digestive system would not use food properly, and he lost much weight, again bringing him to the point of death. God again healed! At this writing (Jan. 6, 1981) he is normal in all respects, has eight teeth, gets through barriers intended to restrict his range, and is standing up walking from one piece of furniture to the next. To our Father be all the glory, because no medical help was ever asked for or received! He is a very healthy, happy boy.

We have seen eight souls saved, eight baptized here and two at Monark campmeeting, two sanctified, evil spirits cast out, and bodies healed, besides many spiritual lessons learned. Praise God for liberty, and the power of the name of Jesus and His Holy Spirit!

We have also had some battles and trials in 1980. No doubt many of the saints are anxious to know the outcome of our recent legal test over the church facilities here. We were taken to Small Claims Court to be evicted from the property. The action was taken against me personally as I held the lease in my name. The devil stirred up the owners of the property when their son, David Stariha, aged 19, got saved and refused to go with them to the Pentecostal church in town. His mother told him in my presence and that of another witness that "this whole fight [in her words] was because he wouldn't go with them and stay away from us."

During the fall meeting here last September, they got so stirred up that David was told by his father that he could not live at home and go to church with us. David chose God's way and left home with no place to go, so we took him in. He has now been reconciled with his father and has gone back home with no interference about spiritual matters. Praise God for His gracious dealings!

The court action was postponed once, then a date set, at which time I felt led to contest the action. Another court date was then set for a hearing, which the Judge postponed from Dec. 9 to Dec. 15, 1980, at which time we appeared without legal counsel. The Stariha's had a lawyer.

The Lord blessed me with many Scriptures and very little nervousness. The issue in question was the use of a mobile home for our day-school learning center and a travel trailer for temporary housing of a volunteer reading supervisor. The plaintiff's attorney objected to my reading the Bible in connection with the defense position. The judge then requested me to just give references, which I did.

[The lease signed by both parties provided that the property described in the lease would be used by the party of the second part "for church use only." Without quoting verbatim the Judge's ruling, suffice it to state that the Judge ruled in favor of the plaintiff and against the defendant, Bro. LaVeau.]

The week following Christmas, Mr. Stariha contacted me in regard to a settlement of this matter. He offered to allow us to continue as is until some time in June, 1981, the date unspecified. This verbal agreement was sealed by a handshake.

At this time I feel the Lord would have us to change facilities, as those in use at this time are really not adequate. We may also be facing some problems with the State on these facilities. Please pray with us about the possibility of building, as we do not have the finances to do so.

Yours in Christ's service, —Bro. Duane LaVeau
R.1, Box 102, Shell Lake, Wis. 54871

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Md.—Dear Sister Marie and co-workers in the Lord's work: I received the books and 1980 bound volume of the *Faith and Victory*; also, the January *Faith and Victory* paper. Thanks so very, very much for sending them so promptly. I've enjoyed reading *The Hero of Hill House* and *Pasha, the Robber*. I've

already loaned out one of the smaller books to my daughter.

Sis. Marie, I feel like I know you good people. I've been going through the bound volume tonight, and I read in last February's issue the Question and Answer column by Ostis B. Wilson. It is food for the soul. I also read a report from Mexico by Sister Edith (Cole) Lara in the November issue. Then in Jan., 1981, Sister Edith's sister-in-law passed away, but thank the Lord, she was ready to go! . . . You all stand for the same pure truth that we do here. It's the only kind that will stand in the judgment.

The Lord found me lost in sin and saved me quite a few years ago, thank the Lord! I love Him, and I do want to please Him more each day I live. He has done so much for me and my family. . . .

With much love, —Sis. Reba Sipes

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Pa.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus! I am so glad I was taught as a child to trust in God and to lean on Jesus' breast when storms of life rage nearby. He is always there, for His promises are true, and we can always depend on Him. Praise His name! . . .

I want to do all I can this year to help someone find peace with God, so I'm glad I was just a small part in your work there. May God bless each one working there and watch over all of you. May souls be saved through your ministry of the printed page and the spoken word.

Your sister in Christ, —Eva Cox

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Mo.—Dear Sis. Marie and saints: I thank my dear God for my strength and that I am as well as I am. I still enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory* paper. Remember us in your prayers. . . . —Jewell Lane

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La.—Dear Sis. Marie Miles: I am still enjoying the *Faith and Victory* paper. I get so many blessings by reading it. —Thelma S. Joiner

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Okla.—I would like to say that I am thankful for the Word of God and for the saints, and I would like to give my testimony of how God took me out of sin.

I was in sin when my mother got saved, and she made me go to church one Sunday, and there I met a cousin that I didn't even know I had. My cousin (Colleen Meek) and I got pretty close to each other. When she was killed in a car wreck, the Lord started talking to me about my soul. About three weeks later, I had a car wreck. My mother could have been killed. (It demolished my car.) I got saved, but later backslid. I am glad to say that I got saved at the Guthrie meeting after Christmas at one minute after midnight. Then New Year's night I got filled with the Holy Ghost.

I have had some battles in this span of time, but with the help of God I have won them. By faith in God, I shall live for Him all of my days. By faith I

shall call upon Him to heal me when in sickness. By faith I will call upon God for comfort when in sorrow. By faith in God I can and will call upon God to help me in the battles with Satan. By faith I shall stand at the judgment day with faith in God, and I shall have everlasting life! Praise the Lord!

—Chris Johnson

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Calif.—Dear Sis. Marie: Praise the Lord for His glorious Gift to each of us! Through Jesus we have forgiveness of sin and the gift of eternal life. Oh, praise His holy name for ever and ever!

I am on the battlefield for my Saviour. The powers of hell are raging, but Satan is a conquered foe, and I resist him in the precious name of Jesus. The burden is heavy; however, this one thing you must know, I go forth in the strength of Jesus, and the burden once so heavy is becoming lighter and the way is getting brighter! I am growing under the load; therefore, I ask my Father to let patience have its perfect work that I may glorify Him and be more than a conqueror through Jesus, my Lord and Savior.

Remember me in your prayers, —Melina Viser

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Ala.—Dear ones: I am so thankful that God let me live to see the beginning of a brand new year. With this new year, we also have new hopes and aspirations that we will be more committed to God with a greater desire than ever to be of greater use to Him and to lost souls! The new year will, of course, bring new valleys and new battles to fight, but I am so glad we have someone to hold our hand and walk through the valley with us. We can have victory in every battle if we walk close to Jesus and just trust and obey His Word. Praise God for all His promises and for faith to believe them! —Leora Frink

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Calif.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: Thank the Lord for my salvation and sanctification, and the many blessings He has given to me and my family. The Lord has blessed Wife and me with five wonderful children. We enjoy them and desire to raise them all in a way that is pleasing to Him. After the birth of our last child, Nov. 19, 1980, the baby developed what appeared to be a serious jaundice condition, at least, that is what the doctor told us the day we had him circumcised. We took the child home and went into serious prayer. In the next day or two, he seemed to grow worse, until he was sleeping excessively, even for a newborn. He was listless and not showing sufficient interest in nursing. Then, on a Sunday evening we called some saints over for prayer. They anointed the child and prayed for it. The Lord undertook right away, and the recovery of the child was rapid. In a matter of days, the condition seemed to have resolved. Thank God for His answer to prayer in our distress.

In the past several months, we have experienced severe trials, adverse circumstances, and discouraging situations in what seemed to be a three-pronged attack on us by the devil. Wife and I prayed

for God's enduring strength for some time. Then one day while we were talking together, I felt inspired to fast one day a week about these matters, rechecking our consecration and asking the Lord to give His guidance to us in a clear and definite way that we could understand His will for us at this time, and asking Him to work out some problems. Today, I am glad to report victory! God answered our prayers after several weeks. We surely appreciate His help and comfort in our time of distress.

We ask that the saints everywhere hold us before God in prayer.

Yours in Christ, —Adriel & Cecilia Bowman

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W. Va.—Dear saints: Jesus is so dear to me. I love serving the Lord and am looking forward to going to be with Him.

The Lord has been so good to us this past year. It seems we have had more battles than usual, but we've grown closer to the Lord through it all. The Lord has given us grace of late just to sit back and watch Him perform miracles that we know had to come from Him.

I have served the Lord three years and they have been the best of my life. He has given me some true friends. Oh, praise His Name! After I've been with the saints from a distance, and they have to leave after a meeting, it makes me look forward to the meeting that will have no end.

Pray for us that we will always please the Lord and make Him happy with our lives. Remember our family.

—Billie Jean Beverage

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Virginia—Dear Sis. Marie and saints: I was very sick with ear trouble and pains all through my body. My son had pneumonia and I was sick like he had been. The saints in West Virginia were praying for me. Bro. Mart Samons and Bro. Mancil Doolittle anointed a handkerchief and prayed the prayer of faith. I received it January 28, about 5:00 p.m. when I went to the Lord in prayer. I have never received a greater blessing from the Lord in my body. I could just feel the relief go through my ears. My strength came back. I just felt the glory of God!

I felt that way when I got saved. Bro. Fred Pruitt was the one who was praying with me in Charleston, West. Virginia in 1949. I had gone with Sis. Laura Powell and Sis. Bessie Faudree to the meeting there. It was the first meeting I had ever been in.

I feel like I belong in the congregation at Green Bank, W. V. When Bro. Samons asked us in Holly Hill, South Carolina, to come to West Virginia to the meeting, I thought to myself, "I know I won't ever get there." But, praise God, nothing is too hard for the Lord to do! The wheels on the bus seemed to be saying, "Praise God!"

My son gave me two plane tickets to Oklahoma in December to go to the Assembly meeting at Guthrie. Sis. Lillian Bohannon went with me. It was wonderful to be with so many saints at one time.

Keep praying for me and for my unsaved children.

—Sis. Nannie Connell

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Minn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the holy name of Jesus. God has been good to me and to all of His children in these perilous times, and He will be until we meet with Him face to face. Oh, what will it be! Joy and peace forevermore!

I just passed my 94th birthday on Jan. 16, 1981. I never thought I would get that old, but here I am still worshiping my Lord and Savior in spirit and in truth. I am still in good health and get out every day. I cannot praise the Lord Jesus enough for His goodness to me and to all of His blood-bought saints. Glory to God in the highest! —Bro. Andrew Senti

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Mo.—Greetings of love to all the saints: Different ones have sent me letters of encouragement and told me they were praying for me. It seems that I don't get around to answering them. I appreciate the love of God and the love of the saints. I appreciate the prayers of each one, and I don't believe they will be in vain.

A year or two ago, there were hard lines about the size of a pencil that reached out from the sore or affliction that I have on my body and they ran in different directions. After I had come home from Blue Jacket, Okla., having attended the singing there, Sis. Margaret Eck wrote that, one day when praying, the Lord impressed her that He had put a boundary on the sore that it spread no farther. I noticed about that time that those lines were gone. Praise the Lord!

As the months have gone by, the sore has gotten larger, and I have more pain. The Lord did one work for me, and He can take care of this, too. I'm trying not to look at the affliction, but look to God. The Lord has been good to me. I am usually able to rest at night. This past week I have had lots of trouble with my arm hurting me, but we walk by faith and not by sight. I'm pressing on!

Christian love, —Eva Lou Gaines

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

Okla.—Dear saints scattered abroad: Greetings in Jesus' dear name!

I want to take this means of thanking all of you for the love and kindness shown to me at the time of my husband's death. Thanks also for the cards. I also thank the Lord for the comfort He has given me.

I thank the Lord for salvation and for the goodness He has shown to me down to this present time. It seems that I have been under the accusations of the devil much of my life, but I thank the Lord that He is helping me spiritually, mentally, and physically.

A few weeks ago I was very depressed. I went to visit Aunt Evelyn McCoy, and while there my head started to hurt due to my depression and crying. Aunt Evelyn saw me holding my head and asked if I wanted prayer. I said, yes, and we knelt and all of

us prayed. When we got up from prayer, the Lord lifted the load.

Another time the devil was coming hard against me, but I lifted my hand during the singing of a song and the devil left for a season.

The devil cannot stand for us to enjoy God's blessings, so he jumped onto me again Sunday night. However, I asked for prayer at the service. When we knelt for prayer, the Lord came to my rescue and raised up a standard against the devil. Thank the Lord.

Please pray for me.

Your Sister,

—Lois Davis

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear Sis. Marie: I am still saved and encouraged in the Lord. He has been so good to me in giving me strength to care for my mother, Sis. Della Harris. The Lord surely has heard and answered prayer in our behalf. My body and legs both were so weak that I could hardly move before Mother got sick. After I left my home to come and stay with her, the Lord surely has blessed me and given me strength in my body. The saints in this area have been faithful to come and be an encouragement to us. We are going on the prayers of the saints. Mother seems to be weakening in her body, but I know the Lord will see us through. I am much encouraged to live for God. I want to thank the saints everywhere for your prayers. . . .

The work here in Green Pastures is growing, thanks be to God!

—Sis. Tillman and Mother (Della Harris)

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Kansas—Dear saints: I am very thankful for being in the family of God. I am very much encouraged to press on to the end.

As I was praying this morning, the Lord impressed me with the thought of the responsibility of beginning a new day. An urgency came to my heart of how careful I must be with my thoughts and words; not to let my thoughts go out on frivolous things of this world and to watch my words that they will be pleasing to the Lord. How important it is to keep tuned in to God with a prayer on my heart! We surely want to always remember those who are in the furnace of affliction every time we pray.

I thank the Lord for being able to attend the Assembly meeting at Guthrie this year. I surely got good to my soul from the good Word that was preached.

Last summer I was in California during the meetings there from June 19 to Sept. 1. I am thankful for the Lord's permitting me to be able to attend these good meetings. They were surely a blessing to my soul, and I mean to live it out in my daily life.

I just received a call from two sisters in Bakersfield. I want to thank the saints and friends for their many letters and telephone calls. I want every one to know that I do appreciate the love that has been shown. I appreciate the saints here in Wichita, my new home. They have shown much love.

Some have gone out of the way to show love. I appreciate the wonderful family of God.

Please pray for me that I will be true to God and to the saints.

—Sis. Elizabeth Freeman

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Greetings in the name of our holy Saviour, Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and glory forever.

A dear friend of mine and a brother in Christ gave me your address. His name is Elbert Johnson. The Lord has shown mercy upon me and added me unto His body. May praise be sung to Him forever!

Do not underestimate the power of the Lord, for He is the same today as He was yesterday and shall always be. Amen! Our Lord has given us authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt us. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." Ephesians 1:3. Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe: In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 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," Mark 16:15-18. "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth," Mark 9:23. So, my brothers and sisters, the same is true today if we believe. Doubt not, and have faith in the power of the Lord. Quench not the Spirit, that through us the world may see Jesus.

I'm a babe in Christ, but I know and believe in the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit is my teacher.

—Frank J. McCord

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Please explain Ecclesiastes 3:11. One statement in this verse, "Also he hath set the world in their heart," certainly seems to contradict and conflict with some passages in the New Testament; viz: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 Jn. 2:15. Also, "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." James 4:4. Also, in John 15:19, Jesus said, ". . . because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." I cannot see how God's Word could make such strong statements as this regarding the world and then "set the world in men's hearts."

Answer: Yes, there seems to be a strong contradiction here, I agree. But actually there is not. There is no part of God's Word which contradicts any other

part of it when properly understood. Now God's attitude toward the world is forever the same and there has never been any more friendship between God and the world than there is now. But, you may say, "God so loved the world," etc. Yes, He did. But in this case, it was the world of mankind (humanity) and not this physical, material world with its fashion, elements, and way of life. God makes it clear in 1 Jn. 2:16 what the world was, against which He laid such a strong indictment in the above texts when He said, "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." But the question still hangs, "What did God mean when He said, 'He set the world in their heart'?"

I will here insert the full text of Eccl. 3:11. "He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end."

Adam Clarke says the word from which "world" is translated here applies to the "Hidden time," the period beyond the present—Eternity. He further says the proper translation here would be, "Also that eternity hath He placed in their heart; without which man could not find out the work which God hath made from the commencement to the end." The Amplified Bible translates this text thus: "... He also has planted eternity in man's heart and mind (a divinely implanted sense of purpose working through the ages which nothing under the sun, but only God, can satisfy)."

Let us consider how God made man to have dominion over the material creation of earth. He then commanded him to subdue it with all of its vast resources. He put deep in man's heart and nature the intellect, power, ingenuity; also the urge, outreach and curiosity to delve into, to explore, to experiment and to probe the elements of the natural creation—to discover and appropriate these things to human needs for the betterment of the race. We would certainly marvel if God made man a spiritual being and didn't put this same thing deep in his inner being to reach out for, explore, and discover the spiritual and eternal things of God. God certainly has not overlooked this, but has deeply rooted the idea of eternity in every human heart. Psalms 42:7 says, "Deep calleth unto deep . . ." Deep down in the inner being of all mankind is a deep yearning and cry for the deep things of God and the spiritual and eternal things.

Marjorie Holmes said in the introduction to her book, "How can I find you, God?" "People are hungry for God. We are searching for Him. Sex trips, drug trips, mind trips, the whole sensitivity bag are manifestations." This is possibly true. All these things and more are just the devices of Satan to throw people off course in their quest for satisfying the hunger of their souls. Only Christ can fulfill this desire, and all these things are miserable substitutes pawned off on humanity by the devil himself. The

same is true of all other substitutes for Christ—wealth, fame, honor, pleasure, self, fleshly indulgences and the like. All too many people are buying them and trying vainly to satisfy the spiritual hunger of the inner man with these things.

Marjorie Holmes continues, "The hunger is innate. Man is born with an insatiable curiosity about the source of his own being." What this means in other words is that this hunger is inherent, exists in us at birth, that it is unquenchable, and cannot be satisfied outside of the One who put it there. Someone made the comment long ago, "My soul was made for thee, O God, and will not rest until it rests in Thee." Marjorie Holmes says further, "Often the greater the material and intellectual achievements, the more we are haunted by this sense of vacancy; this need for spiritual fulfillment." This is certainly true. It is the natural reaction of the inner being to frustration and disappointment. When one has reached and obtained what they trusted in for satisfaction and fulfillment, still the hunger is there and the vacancy exists; the void is more pronounced than ever. In Haggai 2:7 we read, "And the desire of all nations shall come . . ." This "Desire of all nations" (every individual of the human race) is Christ Himself. All this is focusing right down on the text we are discussing, "He hath set the world in their heart."

In the natural, material world there are individuals and teams of individuals who are constantly engaged in medical research and experimentation and scientific research and experimentation to discover new cures for diseases and to discover ways and means to add to and improve standards of living for the race. In Eccl. 7:29 Solomon said, "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions." This is certainly evident in this time in which we are living and it is also evident that many of man's inventions have only led him farther away from God and more off course. There are important prizes given each year for outstanding accomplishments and contributions in each field of research and endeavor.

If all humankind would give vent to the God-given, deep-rooted instinct and urge for the spiritual and eternal things of God, and not allow the less important things of time and sense to dominate their thinking and occupy their time, there would certainly be a worldwide race on for the discovery of deeper, richer, more marvelous and more glorious truths and graces which would add to the spiritual betterment of the race.

In Phil. 3:13, 14, Paul said, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Again, in Acts 20:23, 24, Paul said, "Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of these things move me, neither count

I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." And again, in 2 Cor. 4:17, 18, this same man said, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." These are all graphic expressions from a man who had the eternal world in his heart and a good, clear vision of the spiritual things of God. Finally, when his time had come to depart out of this life via martyrdom for Christ, his vision expanded and broke forth in a blaze of glory giving this classic expression of his fully redeemed soul in 2 Tim. 4:6-8, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

—o—

Race in the Church of God

Thank God for the Church of God—the one and only Church that came down from God out of heaven and which Christ purchased with His own precious blood, as we read in Rev. 21:2, and Acts 20:28. It is spotless and pure, and love holds it together. We are exhorted in Col. 3:14, "And above all things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness."

In these days when the government is concerned about legislating against discrimination and segregation, and different churches are concerned about brotherhood and trying to break down racial barriers, no doubt here is the question in some people's minds: "Where does the Church of God stand concerning such matters?"

Praise God, it is so good to report that salvation dissolves the color and nationality lines, and causes us to lose our national identity. "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints and of the household of God." Eph. 2:19. Every one that has been washed in the blood of Jesus and set free from sin has obtained salvation, and has become a member of the beautiful Church of God. This brings us together as **one people**, all joined together into the "one" body of Christ, as 1 Cor. 12:13 brings out, "For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one spirit." When we become "one," the divine love of God holds us together and drives out racial pride or hatred, because they are the works of the flesh from which Christians must be delivered. In fact, it is the perfected love of God that burns out the desire to be considered better than other people of different colors or nationalities. John

13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Even an increase in love is required as found in 1 Thess. 3:12, "And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you."

If, after one gets saved, the Lord shows him that racial pride or differences is still a problem with him, God shows that individual how to humble himself and die out more to self; also, to submit himself to God completely and let Him perfect His love in him by letting the Holy Ghost shed it abroad in his heart, as we find in Rom. 5:5. God has a plan that is perfect, and He can and will purge everything from an individual's heart that would cause any kind of division among His people.

The Apostle Peter witnessed in Acts 20:28, "And he said unto them, ye know that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company with or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean." In the Church of God there is no racial separation, for as Gal. 3:28 tells us, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; and ye are all one in Christ Jesus." We all worship together, no matter when we were born, or what we look like, or what color we are. For if we are all of the "one" body, then we must dwell together in peace and unity. Jesus even states very emphatically in John 15:12, "This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you."

Human reasoning, pride (which God hates and resists), and the devil's trickery are the kinds of unholy reasons that cause people to think the races should have separate congregations or places of worship. Praise God for His most perfect and pure way, and when people yield completely to Him, He shows them His way and causes them to gladly walk therein. When people let God make them into the image of Christ, they abhor the thoughts of racial pride or separation the way Jesus does. John 1:12 so beautifully states: "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." When we spiritually see God, we can understand the great love He has for all of mankind that He created. We even go a step further and get the same love within our hearts, and the Christian race becomes the only one of importance to us.

—Shirley Knight

—o—

Gather crumbs of happiness and they will make you a loaf of contentment.

Not only does a haughty spirit go before a fall; a haughty spirit is a fall.

A lie may be spoken or unspoken, thought or acted, worked out in deed or by the absence of deed or word; yet in all its forms a lie is a lie.

No enemy can come so near that God is not nearer.

—Sel. by E. Miller

God's Indictment Against Television

News—(Genesis 3:1) "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field." "I just watch the news." Unquote. What does the news include? Crime, murder, rape, abortion, slanted and misleading stories, deceit with a bit of good to encourage viewers to look and listen. (Philippians 4:8)

Sports—(Galatians 5:19, 20) Works of the flesh, "emulations." Definition: To rival or vie with; striving to equal or surpass; competition.

Weather—(Matthew 16:1, 4) Jesus said, you discern the face of the sky (or weather); but how is it that you cannot discern the signs of the times? (Job 37:6) "For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength." Ask God what the weather will be if it means so much to know. He gives unfailing reports. God needs people among us that have understanding of the times.

Commercials—Advertisements, mainly of satanically-inspired products, such as tobacco ads, colas, aspirin, and other drugs. (Isa. 55:1, 2) "Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, come ye, buy and eat; . . . Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto me."

Church programs (Falsely so-called), sects and divisions. (2 Cor. 6:14-17) "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord." Spiritual adultery.

Educational channels—Humanism with emphasis placed on secular concerns. Christians need to realize the solemn fact that humanism is not an ally in making the world a better place in which to live. It is a deadly enemy, for it is a religion without God and without hope in this world or the next. (From the book entitled, *Secular Humanism*) Jesus said, "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." (Matt. 11:28, 29)

Comedy shows—(Ephesians 5:4) "Neither filthiness nor foolish talking, nor jesting."

Soap operas—(Ephesians 5:3) "But fornication and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints." These things are all common practices among the soap opera's fame and fortune seekers. It means little to them whose husband or wife they get involved with, and much less the person or persons they run over to accomplish their goals. (Philippians 2:3, 5) "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory."

Mystery stories—(1 Tim. 3:9) "Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience."

Science fiction—(1 Tim. 6:20) "Avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: which some professing have erred concerning the faith." (21st verse)

Worldliness—Worldly and ungodly fashions such as: those styles which tend toward nudity of women's and men's bodies and their form, costliness, superfluity, flashy footwear, immodesty, makeup, and

jewelry; profanity, slang and by-word phrases. Hollywood stars are some of the world's idols. (1 John 2:15, 16) "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. . . . For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

Psalms 101:2, 3, "I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes."

Let us consider our children also. Train them up in the way they should go. Colossians 3:1, 2, "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." Psalms 1:2, "His delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."

At the great judgment throne of the God, no one can afford to be out of harmony with the saints, true holiness, and heaven. Will you forsake the love of God and the privilege to be in the unity of the faith, which was once delivered unto the saints, for a television?

It is not the television alone, but also the spirit that causes people to want to see what is shown. The thing and the spirit of the thing are what the saints stand against. One spirit is the attitude to let loose, or let down. Some will pick out an insignificant thing viewed on TV and say, "There's no harm in that." This gives the appearance of innocence which opens the door to a little more. When once these are accepted, there will be little or no conscience about any other similar thing of a worldly nature.

Individuals having problems in these areas lack proper consecration to God and are immature spiritually. When individuals are filled with the Holy Ghost and power, these things lose their charm. God is looking for spiritual maturity, especially among people professing to be saints in light. God wants spiritually mature saints to fill offices in His Church, such as pastors, teachers, evangelists, trustees, deacons, and all other leaders.

—Norman Simpson

A Prayer

Jeremiah 18:3, 4

Thou art the Potter and I am the clay,
Mold me, dear Jesus, in Thy image I pray.
Thou art the Potter and I am the clay;
Keep me, dear Jesus, in the heavenly way.
Thou art the Potter and I am the clay;
Help me, dear Jesus in thy hands to stay.
Thou art the Potter and I am the clay;
Claim me, dear Jesus, Thine own child today.
Thou art the Potter and I am the clay;
Guide my actions and the words that I say.
Thou art the Potter and I am the clay;
Protect me, dear Jesus, from going astray.
Thou art the Potter and I am the clay;
Give me thy grace that I fall not away.

—Effie Miller

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