

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

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Seek The Lord Now!



Seek the Lord, oh, fleeting mortal!
Ere thy days are past away;
Turn from sin's destructive portal
To the strait and narrow way.

He is hidden from thy vision,
From thy erring human sight:
You must make a pure decision
If you want to see the Light.

"I'll be found," the Lord hath spoken,
"If ye seek with all your heart,
If ye come with spirit broken,
I will life and peace impart."

Seek the Lord, and you will see Him,
For He's not so far away,
For in Him we have our being;
"We're His offspring!" hear Him say.

Seek His face, and be not doubting;
Cast away that careless mind,
When you could be leaping, shouting
For the gladness of your find.

Feel now after His sweet presence;
Seek Him while He may be found;
Seek to know His holy essence,
Hear and heed the joyful sound.

Search your heart, your ways amending,
Turn to Him who loves you so,
And a chorus without ending
In your soul will ever flow.

Throngs of men pass by, unheeding,
Buried in the earthly strife
While the Saviour's heart is pleading,
Holding out a crown of life.

Seek Him, pray and bow before Him,
He your soul will satisfy,
And forever you'll adore Him
In that Home beyond the sky.

—Leslie C. Busbee

"How Shall We Escape?"

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"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" Heb. 2:3. If we were to judge the importance of being saved or not being saved by the careless, indifferent attitude of the masses of our fellow men, we might easily conclude that salvation is not a weighty consideration. The greed for worldly gain, the lust for pleasure, the pride of life, are gratified, but little attention is given to seeking after God.

"How shall we make money?" "How shall we keep and enjoy our possessions?" "How shall we spend the time for pleasure?" "How shall we make a name for ourselves in the world?" "How shall we become beautiful and attractive in our person?" "How shall we hide from others the impurity, malice, envy, bitterness, anger, hatred, murder, adultery, and infidelity that is in the heart?" are questions that are taking up more of the precious fleeting hours of life than the all-important question of being saved.

The important and serious facts connected with time and eternity are purposely avoided altogether, or lightly esteemed. A theater, circus, or some superficial attraction of a kindred nature will draw thousands, where a plain, serious discourse concerning the realities of this life, heaven, and eternity, can scarce draw a score of hearers, unless the speaker has his name previously known and extolled as a popular preacher. Notwithstanding the awful fact that hell is enlarged to receive countless myriads, and warnings are being given, the multitudes still choose to enter in at the gate that is wide, and walk the way that is broad. "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." Psa. 9:17. "Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it." Isa. 5:14.

While people are allowing themselves to be engaged with the questions already mentioned, we are confronted with the most serious and important of all questions: "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" No answer is given, and none is offered, and none can be found. There is no other way of

escaping the wrath of God against sin and its perpetrators, than through the salvation of Jesus Christ. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12. How shall we escape? We cannot, except we are saved from our sins. There is no other way to escape.

Dear soul, I entreat you, do not neglect this great salvation. If you are unsaved, begin to seek God for mercy. Forsake your sins, and make the salvation of your soul the prime object of your life. Do not consider any other thing of any importance when compared with salvation. Value your soul as worth more than the combined treasures of a million worlds like this.

Beloved fellow pilgrim, we may neglect this great salvation after we are freely justified and fully sanctified. We may neglect to watch and pray, neglect to keep little in our own sight, neglect going to meetings where God is worshiped in spirit and in truth, neglect to give of our substance to those who are in need, neglect to confess Christ, neglect to keep ourselves unspotted from the world and clean from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?"

—J. C. Blaney

Sanctification

The great underlying principle of the Church of God is scriptural unity. This is what Jesus prayed for in John 17:21. "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." The experience that produces this divine unity is named in the 17th verse of this prayer, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." In Heb. 2:11, there is another text that reveals this truth and gives us the true bond of unity: "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren."

It is this precious grace of sanctification that takes out all the discordant elements of carnality. Carnality is the soil in which the germs of division spring up and grow. Where this soil is removed from the moral nature of man, division is impossible. Unity is the sublime standard raised by the Lord Himself. He prayed that we may all be one as He and the Father are one. This unity between the Father and Son is such that nothing can break it. He prays that this may be the standard among His disciples.

From human viewpoint it would be impossible for man ever to become so spiritual that he would be united in this sacred bond, to the same extent as are the Father and Son; but from the divine point of view, it is possible. After the soul passes through the divine process of sanctification, there is nothing left but unity with the Father and Son, and when another soul gets the same experience, the same unity exists between them as exists between each one and God. This is God's own process of making His people one—one with God, and with all His people.

Human creeds which have divided Christendom into multitudes of factions and sects, are the production of human reasonings. These creeds are contrary to God's plan. Some of the people of God have been deceived into some of these places where carnality has its way; but when they hear the doctrine of truth concerning the unity of the people of God, and when they get the experience of sanctification, they are forever spoiled for all creeds and doctrines of men.

Without this grace, it would be impossible to bring unity among us; it is beyond the power of man, but it is the will of God that we should have this unity. There is much popular sanctification in sectarianism today, which claims the Scriptural experience, but does not bear the Scriptural fruits. A sanctification that does not produce true unity, is not the Bible kind. This popular kind teaches that people should remain in their creeds, and continue in the corruption and confusion of the religions of men; but the Bible kind calls us out of all these places, and into the unity with the Father and Son, and all sanctified people.

In speaking of the power of God to break the captivity of literal Babylon, where the people of God had been held, we read in Isa. 10:27, "And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing." Sanctification is the anointing that breaks off and destroys all the yokes of men, and makes the soul free to worship and serve God in the beauty of holiness. It is this beautiful experience that first brought out the truth in this reformation. There was a wonderful revival of holiness all over our land. Thousands of people came out of the different denominations, because it was impossible to remain there and follow in the liberty of holiness. Other thousands were put out, because of their experiences and their consequent testimonies which would not be tolerated in the sectarian churches.

As long as this teaching was continued, separation from the various sects went on; but through the subtlety of the enemy, the denominations began preaching holiness and numbers of those who had been separated from them, again became united with them. God had something to be accomplished in these last times. He would have His Church separated from all the unholy alliances of Babylon, and have her come out separate and distinct from all confusion. The voice from heaven has now been heard throughout the land for many years: "Come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Rev. 18:4. All who have obtained and maintained Bible sanctification, and have heard the voice from heaven, have gladly responded to this voice, and made their escape. Others who have not yet heard it, are ready to do so as soon as they hear.

To endeavor to carry out the principles of this reformation without the grace of sanctification, would be useless. It is only as this sublime grace is manifest, that the Bible Church is manifested. It is this experience that unifies, and beautifies the saints of the

Most High. It is this experience that manifests the bride of Christ in these dark times.

May God help us all to keep this sacred experience in our hearts, to hold it up to the world as it was held when the saints first made their escape from Babylon. It has taken this experience to bring the Church out of Babylon, and it is needed to keep it out. To let down in this respect, would soon be to lose the principles of the reformation, and soon the lines of distinction would be lost. God will have His bride separated from all sectarian confusion, separated unto Himself alone. The standard must be lifted up as it was in the beginning.

"Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people." Isa. 62:10.

—J. W. Byers

True Holiness

True holiness is love unfeigned, or a consecration to our God to the depths of our being. Oh, may God stir our hearts to the true depths of unfeigned holiness!

To be a vessel meet for the Master's use, we must be sanctified for use at God's pleasure. We must be truly humble, not seeking any self-esteem, but seeking out the hidden places with God that His very Spirit may be able to put upon us the essence and presence of His being. When a person is truly consecrated, God will be able to work in him to perform mighty works in His name, and people will know that the power of God rests upon him.

There is a great call going forth for people to live a holy life and be filled with God, the beauty of holiness. Dear young person, or middle aged, or older person, God has a specific plan for your life. Are your efforts each day bent toward pleasing God and seeking His total will in your life, or are you merely professing Christianity, wanting a home in heaven? There is a life far superior to the pleasures this world has to offer. We can have a song of victory every day. God has something for each of us to do, and in order to maintain that song of victory we must do God's will. If we are sanctified and filled with the fulness of God, then we must be up and doing. We must be seeking God's complete will in our lives or we will be losing ground. These things are essential to God's Church moving on. Let us stir ourselves. Are we seeking temporal gain, or are we seeking what we may do for God?

The Lord Jesus Christ has blessings so rich and rare if we will but submit ourselves, our temporal means, our future plans, and all within and without us to His mighty hand. Let us be encouraged to hold ourselves in the bond of perfectness with our Lord and Savior, free from all pride, formality in worship, and vanity of the world, and we shall meet our Lord in peace. Amen.

—Philip Gellenbeck

There will be many souls lost in eternity because they were not loved on earth as they should have been.

—C. E. Orr

Being Steadfast in the Lord

Let us run the Christian race with patience, for we shall wear a crown over there if we pray and faint not. Often I hear of people being up and down in their experience with God. They don't seem to be able to stay saved, or they don't stay as close to the Lord as they need to. We can have a more secure experience of salvation than this.

When a person seeks the Lord, he should realize that he cannot save himself. He can change some of his ways, such as giving up bad habits and dressing more modestly, but to get true salvation he must be born again. One must begin by giving Christ his heart, then be sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost. You will have trials and temptations, but God says He will not let you be tempted above that you are able to bear with His help. So always be ready to ask God to help you with the temptations and resist them.

Let God and the devil both know that you are determined to serve God and go to Heaven to live with Christ and all the redeemed. Don't start out thinking, "If the way doesn't get too hard, I will go, or if my wife, or husband, or children will go, I will go." Be determined that you want to go to heaven whether any of them go or not. Put God first in your heart and life.

Don't look at the things of the world to see how they are going. Don't see how closely you can stay to the world on any line—dress, gossip, amusements, being friends to the sinful world, going to Church services only when you want to, giving only a little financial support to God and His work. You cannot straddle the fence and be happy serving God. He wants happy Christians who give their all to Him. Put your whole heart into God and His ways. Let your mind dwell on heavenly things, such as love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, and patience. Go to the church services every time you can. Support the Church and other godly causes with your finances. Let the light of Christ shine through your life daily. Always be ready to testify with your lips when needed. Love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength. Love your neighbor as yourself. Be helpful, be kind, and find joy in doing things for others even when you know you will not get paid in return. Don't look backward to the things you left in sin. Life is so fleeting that it will all soon be gone. The things we can see with our eyes, even the earth itself, shall be burned up, but God and His Word are eternal.

So let us be steadfast, unmovable, always looking for and taking hold of eternal things that will last forever. Let us not think too highly of ourselves, lest we fall, but let us realize that our strength comes from Christ as we lean on Him mightily and look to Him for everything. For in Him we live and move and have our being. I am persuaded that nothing can separate us from the love of God, if we keep our eyes on Jesus and heaven. Through Him we are more than conquerors.

—Pearlene Whitson

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 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.

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
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EDITORIALS



GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS in the precious name of Jesus Christ who is the "Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." Rev. 1:8.

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In giving the Commission to His Church, Jesus' vision was world-wide. He said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Then again He said, "This gospel must first be published among all nations." To reach the unreached in the "regions beyond" is the purpose of this gospel literature ministry which is primarily and essentially a work by faith in God. Without His blessings it could not continue. This institution operates under a valid charter from the State of Oklahoma as a non-profit religious and charitable corporation, and no one connected with it receives any personal profit. All proceeds from offerings and sales above the actual operating expenses are kept in the work to expand and increase the output of free gospel literature. All who work here have volunteered their services as unto the Lord with no promise of remuneration other than that in God's holy Word, and His promises have not failed. Of course, all of God's work involves sacrifice and self-denial which is the pattern and example that Jesus set before us.

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If you move, please advise us **AT ONCE**, giving your OLD and NEW address. The post office charges us 25 cents for each notification of a change of address. Thank you for your cooperation.

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Second Class Postage Rates Nearly Doubled . . .

When we mailed the February issue of "Faith and Victory" paper, we received a postage statement or charge which was nearly double that of the preceding month. Each copy of the February paper mailed to an address in the U. S. cost 5.3c in postage, and for overseas the rate is over three times that amount. Figuring eleven issues for one year times 5.3c brings a total cost of 58.3c for a year. The wholesale price of paper in eleven issues is 50c, plus the postage of 58.3c, makes an approximate total of \$1.08, not counting the cost of labor and other supplies in producing the publication. As you see, the yearly subscription price of 35c pays a little over half of the postage cost of 58.3c, and the balance of the necessary cost of production must be met by freewill offerings.

This large jump in postage rates for second class religious publications was not scheduled to take effect until 1987, but President Reagan instituted it now, as he is determined that all religious magazines and papers will eventually pay the same rate as commercial magazines and papers.

We have appreciated how our readers have responded with sufficient freewill offerings to cover

all added costs of production, so we have not had to increase the present low subscription price of 35c per year which does encourage a wider circulation. We will hold this subscription rate as long as possible, or until the Lord directs otherwise.

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Just off the press is a reprint edition of the excellent volume, "Heart Talks" by C. W. Naylor. Out of print for many years, this book consists of 59 chapters with a different subject treated in each chapter. It contains 280 pages in a heavy paper cover. The price is \$2.50 each, plus 75c for postage and handling. Order your copy TODAY!

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

With this March issue of Faith and Victory, we begin the 60th 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 precious souls 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.

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As the Church of God in this "evening time" of the gospel day 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. Time is running out, and what we intend to do for the cause of Christ and precious souls must be done quickly.

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Many Prayers Ascended To The Throne . . .

Reports were received from across the country that many saints were fasting and praying for the sick and afflicted on the announced special day of prayer on Feb. 10, and we expect to receive testimonies from those who received a definite healing touch on that day. The Lord was surely moved on His throne of power when all these fervent prayers ascended to Him. "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry."

This writer was a recipient of physical help on the day of prayer. Since that time my strength has increased and the hemorrhages are abated. I praise the Lord for every bit of help, and I am still holding on to God's promises for healing. Please continue to pray until faith is lost in sight in the fulfillment of His healing covenant. —L. D. Pruitt

Partial List of Items Available

Birth of a Reformation—Life and Labors of D. S. Warner by A. L. Byers. A reprint with additional pictures of pioneer ministers. Cloth bound, 496 pages. Price, \$5.50 each.

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Evening Light Songs, shaped notes, with 512 pages in a cloth binding. The right hymnal for the Church of God. Price, \$5.00 each. A 10 percent discount is granted on orders of 12 copies or more placed at one time.

God's Gracious Dealings by Fred and L. D. Pruitt. This enlarged Seventh Edition is a history of this gospel publishing ministry in the Church of God for the past sixty years, as well as a record of the work of the Church at large. Contains 496 pages, including more than 100 pictures, in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00 each.

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

Must We Sin? by D. S. Warner. This 24-page booklet records the supposed conversation between Bro. Light and Bro. Foggy on the sin question. Price, 25c each, or five copies for \$1.00.

Life's Story and Healings by Sister Nellie Poulos. This is a reprint of her first book, plus additional material. This volume contains 160 pages with a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50 each.

The Double Cure, or Redemption Twofold by D. O. Teasley. This book should enlighten the reader on the two works of grace, and correct the thinking of those who deny the cleansing element in sanctification. 160 pages of large print in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50.

The Battle of Armageddon by O. B. Wilson. A clear exposition of this much misunderstood subject in an enlarged 24-page booklet by the author. Price, 20c each, or six copies for \$1.00.

Divine Healing for Soul and Body by E. E. Byrum. Available ONLY in the German language, it contains 282 pages bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.25.

Bible Humility by J. W. Byers. An excellent treatise of this subject in 33 pages with a heavy paper cover. The price is 30c each, or four copies for \$1.00.

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Lest We Forget by Sister Margaret Eck. 72 pages of many encouraging experiences with the Lord bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 75c each, or three for \$2.00.

Memoirs of George E. Harmon, sponsored by Vera M. Forbes. This is a brief autobiography of our beloved Bro. George Harmon, a long-time minister in the Church of God, including the record of the memories of a few others who knew him. It will inspire your faith in God. Its 56 pages with four pictures are bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 60c each, or two copies for \$1.00.

Food For Lambs by C. E. Orr in the English language. This English version contains 168 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50 each.

Food For Lambs by C. E. Orr in the German language. It consists of 127 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00 each.

Tim and His Lamp, re-written by Fern Stubblefield. This excellent booklet of 52 pages for children and young people is bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 35c each, or three copies for \$1.00.

Harry the Newsboy and Other Stories by Sis. Isabel Byrum. 32 pages in heavy paper cover. Price, 35c each, or three copies for \$1.00.

Heart Talks by C. W. Naylor. Consists of 59 chapters with a different subject treated in each chapter. It contains 280 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.50.

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.

No. 1 Stereo Song Record by the Evening Light Gospel Harmonizers. These twelve songs were sung by seven California 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 handling.

No. 2 Stereo Song Record by the Evening Light Gospel Harmonizers. Just recently produced, this record has ten songs. Price, \$6.50 each, plus \$1.00 for postage and handling. It may be purchased from this office, or from the publisher, Philip Matthews, 811 N. Ferger, Fresno, Calif. 93728. Be sure to specify **No. 2 Harmonizer Song Record**. The songs of this same record album, titled "I'll Keep Holding on to Jesus," are also now available on 8 track and cassette tapes at the same price. Send all orders for tapes directly to Philip Matthews.

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. Since this office does not have this record in stock, please send your order and remittance directly to Lynette Melot, 1313 Whitehurst, Choctaw, Okla. 73020.

Write for a complete list of other excellent books in stock at this office and ready for prompt delivery.

For postage and handling, add 65c for the first dollar and 7c for each additional dollar of total order.

Mail Orders To—

FAITH PUB. HOUSE, Box 518, Guthrie, Okla. 73044

In Memorial

Chalmer C. Bowers was born Feb. 4, 1900, near Newtonia, Mo., and departed this life to be with the Lord on Jan. 23, 1982, from his home near Wyandotte, Okla., at the age of 81 years.

In 1932, after their marriage on April 4, 1931, Chalmer and Doris moved to Wyandotte, Okla., where he was a farmer.

Chalmer was a member of the Church of God at Neosho, Mo.

Survivors include his wife, Doris, of the home; two sons, Coy of Wyandotte, Okla., and Nolan of Graymond, Okla.; five daughters, Norma King and Janiece Tuter of Joplin, Mo., Mrs. Cletus Garroer of Neosho, Mo., Claudine Martin of Mustang, Okla., and Florence Dent of Bentonville, Ark.; two sisters, Nellie Robbins, Columbus, Kan., and Mrs. Robin Haig, San Lorenzo, Calif.; 24 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

The funeral services were held at the Friends Church of Wyandotte, Okla., with Bro. Vada

McMillian and Sister Margaret Eck officiating. Burial was in the Wyandotte Cemetery under the direction of the Campbell-Biddlecome Funeral Home of Seneca, Mo.

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Helen Goldie Haven was born August 28, 1904, in Eveline Township, Michigan, and went home to be with the Lord on January 13, 1982, at McMinnville, Oregon, at the age of 77 years, 4 months, and 22 days. She was the daughter of Albert and Ivy Trudgeon.

The family moved to Granada, Colorado, where Helen grew up and was educated. She moved to Oregon in 1924.

On December 1, 1928, she was united in marriage to Cliff Haven. To this union two children were born; one son and one daughter. Helen and Cliff lived in Sherwood, Oregon for a time; then moved to Sweet Home, Oregon. The couple lived in Albany, Oregon for a time and then moved to Lebanon, Oregon where they made their home until Cliff's death in 1964. Helen then returned to Albany to be near her family and remained there until near the end of her life. The last of June, 1981 she suffered a stroke from which she never recovered and was later removed to a health care center in McMinnville, Oregon where she died.

She was a member of the Church of God congregation at Jefferson, Oregon, for a number of years. She was a very faithful and conscientious saint, loving and serving the Lord in meekness and godly fear, and was loved and appreciated by all the saints. She was very faithful in her attendance at the services of the church. She had a great desire to always know what the will of the Lord was and to do it. She is much missed by all in the congregation.

She is survived by one son, Don Haven of Albany, Oregon; one daughter, Mrs. Sam (Dorothy) Dalesky also of Albany; four brothers, Rennell Trudgeon of Sunnyside, Washington, Archie Trudgeon of San Bruno, California, Ron Trudgeon of Salem, Oregon, and Earl Trudgeon of Jefferson, Oregon; three sisters: Mrs. Violet Thomas of Puyallup, Washington, Mrs. Pearl Moses of Boise, Idaho, and Ruth Bethell of Dallas, Oregon; also three grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the Aasum Funeral Home in Albany, Oregon, on January 15, 1982 with Ostis B. Wilson officiating. Interment was in the Willamette Memorial Park at Albany, Oregon.

The angels came so tenderly
And bore her soul away
Up to the Paradise of God
And bright eternal day.

It's hard to stifle sobs and sighs,
And tears that want to flow,
But we know her work was finished,
And she desired to go.

Her faith it never faltered,
And to Him her faith stayed true,
And she had finished all the work
He'd given her to do.

Oh, dear Helen, we will miss you,
For we all loved you so,
But we know that you are living
Where no tears will ever flow.

—Poem by Grace Jones who cherished her friendship

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Campmeeting Dates For 1982

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Following are the Church of God campmeeting dates for 1982, and a more complete announcement of each meeting will be printed in later issues:—

Goulds, Florida—April 9 to 18.

Oklahoma State Campmeeting at Guthrie, Oklahoma,
May 28 to June 6.

Tulsa, Okla.—June 11 to 20.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 11 to 20.

Chilliwack, B. C., Canada—June 21 to 27.

Oakland, California—June 25 to July 4.

Ojos Negros, Baja Cfa., Mexico—July 5 to 11.

Fresno, Calif.—July 2 to 11.

Green Bank, W. Va.—July 2 to 11.

Akron, Ohio—July 11 to 18.

National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs),
Missouri—July 23 to August 1.

Myrtle, Mo.—August 2 to 8.

Bakersfield, Calif.—August 6 to 15.

Boley, Okla.—August 20 to 29.

California State Campmeeting at Pacoima, Calif. —
August 27 to September 5.

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WICHITA, KAN., SPRING MEETING

The Wichita, Kan., Spring Meeting will be held March 26 to April 4, 1982, if the Lord so wills.

We are already seeking God to please send us a meeting filled with much power, so the conviction will be heavy enough to cause some souls to break free from the devil's strongholds and be saved to the uttermost. We are trusting the Lord to send the message bearers that He sees fit to burden and anoint for this meeting. We desire the prayers of all saints that are concerned and share the burden. We extend a welcome to all who can to come and help us in the battle.

The chapel is located at 1701 N. Ash, and the phone number is: (316) 267-8579. For any further information you can contact the pastor, Bro. Lewis Williams at (316) 264-8481, or his home address which is 2643 N. Spruce, Wichita, Kan. 67214.

—Sis. Shirley Knight

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Have faith, and don't despair;
You are in God's special care.
His love is the most precious known;
God looks out for His very own.

—Edward M. Brandt

Field Report

W. Va.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and dear saints everywhere: We send greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior.

I trust the Lord is blessing you with grace and courage to press the battle on. As yesterday was a special day of prayer, it seems I could see all the saints on their knees, and I saw the Lord looking down on them. We know His eyes are over the righteous.

We are much encouraged to live for the Lord. We have a greater desire to work and serve Him than ever before. It is hard to realize that it's time for campmeeting dates again. Lord willing, we plan on the campmeeting here at Green Bank, W. Va., July 2 to 11th.

We have a special request we would like to have the saints pray about. A few years ago we felt led of the Lord to have a campmeeting here at Green Bank, W. Va., as there are a number of isolated saints in the East who never get to go to one of our campmeetings. The Lord has surely blessed this effort, as we have had some of the best meetings I've ever been in. Each year the crowd gets larger. In years past we have had our meeting in the tent, as we used our chapel for sleeping space. The last few years the tent has been much too small, so the congregation feels led, as soon as the weather breaks, to start building a tabernacle to have our campmeeting in, size 30x60. We hope to have it ready for this year. Anything the Lord would lead anyone to do to help us in this effort would surely be appreciated, and I'm sure the Lord would bless him for it in a special way.

I would like to announce, Lord willing, we will have a revival meeting the week before Easter, April 4 to 11. Bro. Tom Melot plans to be with us, Lord willing.

We plan to leave Monday for Florida and have some meetings down South. Pray the Lord to give us strength, and help us to finish our course.

We love all the dear saints. Phone (304) 456-4469.

—Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons,
P.O. Box 127, Green Bank, W. Va. 24944

NOTICE

Since Sis. Ruby Stover of Sapulpa, Oklahoma, is no longer selling the Thompson Chain Reference Bibles, I have felt led of the Lord to sell them. I now have them available, and plan to carry them with me to the various meetings, or you may contact me at the following address or phone numbers: Bro. Carl R. Shaffer, in care of Mrs. Heber Shaffer, 1808 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044. Phone numbers are (405) 771-4522 or (405) 282-6131.

THE DEBT IS PAID

The congregation of the Church of God at Myrtle, Mo., wish to inform the saints that the debt on the tabernacle is paid off. We are thankful to everyone who had a part in this work of the Lord.

Also, the new cabins are almost completed. All of the older bottom units are sold, and three of the new

top units are sold. There are six units yet available for sale at \$2,000 each. Anyone interested in purchasing a cabin should contact Bro. Joe Sorrell, Rt. 1, Myrtle, Mo. 65778, or the Secretary and Treasurer.

—Sis. Carol Sorrell

Rt. 1 Box 116, Myrtle, Mo. 65778

Prayer Requests

Mo.—Pray for Sister Alice Rhoads who has been suffering for some time with pain in her right leg between the knee and ankle.

Canada—The Church at large is requested to pray earnestly for the healing of Sister Betty Friesen of Ontario, Canada. She is 30 years of age, totally incapacitated, and has been for about ten years. It is a steadily progressing disease which has rendered her incapable of doing anything by herself. She must be constantly cared for, which is done by her sisters, Agathe and Mary, and her mother. She is holding on to the Lord for complete healing. We ask the Church to really get under a burden for her as she is steadily getting weaker and in constant agony. Sometimes the pain is so bad that she can't stop screaming, and we are afraid that the neighbors will hear, and go to the authorities to make her take medication. Betty is a true saint of God who needs a real touch of divine healing.

—Grace Lasche

Florida—Bro. and Sister Hargrave of Goulds, Fla., are requesting continued prayer for their serious problems. The court trial is still pending and may be called any day. (See page 16 for the late report of God's healing touch on their daughter Rachel.)

Okla.—Pray earnestly for the healing of Sister Thelma Sprague who is very ill and needs special help from the Lord. When she was able she faithfully helped with the gospel publishing work.

—L. D. Pruitt

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (Jan. 29)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the worthy name of the Lord Jesus who loved us with perfect love that casteth out fear. May His name be forever glorified.

Thank you for your letter dated Jan. 5, 1982, contents of which were noted. The Lord is aware of our deep concern and earnestness in prayer unto Him for victory of complete healing of your physical body. He is doubtlessly sustaining you with power and strength to rise above the affliction.

The Holy Spirit is the Executive Officer of the Church of God; hence, no false doctrine rears its ugly head in our midst. . . . Propaganda and character assassination cannot change the plan of salvation or the saint's mind. What is written has been written.

The Lord is granting irresistible boldness. The evils of secret societies and atrocities holding sway in

the idolatrous town of Ile-Ife in Oyo State were exposed during the evangelistic meeting of the Church of God, and the opposers moved swiftly to build up false charges which led to the arrest and detention of God's people for more than twelve hours before release and ordered to leave the city. Ours is faithfulness unto God to love not our lives unto death.

The light of God's glorious Church is being seen from afar. A call that needs immediate attention has come from the hungry souls of Abakaliki Division in Anambra State of Nigeria, inviting the Lord's servants to come over and show them the way to Zion. Lord willing, this writer and a few others will leave Kwale for Abakaliki some time in February to reach these hungry souls crying in the wilderness for spiritual food.

Bro. B. Ben Taylor, pastor at Tombia, reported good news of the revival meeting of the two congregations—Tombia and Port Harcourt—held at Port Harcourt. Souls were saved and added to the congregations. It is joy unsurpassed to see scales falling from the eyes of the spiritually blind. This writer will schedule a visit to Tombia and Port Harcourt.

No matter what the obstacles we may meet, there is victory for us through the blood of Jesus.

Yours in His service, —Titus U. E. Enu
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SISTER KEISER'S REPORT FROM INDIA

I am happy to report some highlights of the 16th annual General Campmeeting of the Church of God in South India which was in progress from Jan. 6 to 10, 1982.

The campground building had been finished, and on Monday before the meeting started, the brethren came and erected a framework of poles and thatched roof over the large yard in front of the building, which was the open-air tabernacle for the meeting. The long porch across the front of the building was used as a place for the ministers to sit, and a table to preach from.

There were two preaching services every night; also some preaching through the day with Bible studies, a ministers' meeting, and a sisters' meeting. It was estimated that 25 raised their hands as receiving Christ as their personal Savior. On the morning of the last day eight believers were baptized in the baptistry in Bro. John's backyard. In the afternoon a special Sunday school service was held with singing and reciting Scriptures. . . . The meeting closed with an ordinance service with about 15 women and three times that many men participating.

Bro. Spurgeon from Tamil Nadu brought three messages in English with Bro. John translating, and two other young brethren, C. K. John from Tamil Nadu and Paul Chandran from Kerala, each brought a message in English for Madamma's benefit.

I brought one message on, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" After the message and service was over for the night, one minister told me the message on sanctification had not been preached very much at the General campmeeting, and he was

glad for the message. I told him that was the only message God would give me, and I was happy because I had obeyed Him.

Dear saints at home and abroad, this message is the need of the hour. If everyone all down through the years, who was genuinely born-again, had received the Holy Ghost after they believed, this would be a better place in which to live. The Lord is trying in these very last days to get His children ready for His second coming. Do we really believe it? . . .

The Bible story picture teaching is coming along fine. At the first service there were 60 boys and girls present. On the last Sunday there were over 80 present. Some of them have already received Jesus as their personal Savior. We are looking forward to great things from our God.

Once again I am finding pleasure in laboring with Bro. John Varghese in the work of the Lord in India. Without him I would be helpless, for he does most of the interpreting for me. He and Sister Sara are the same sweet people I came to, and worked with, two years ago when I first came to India as a stranger. Pray for them in this great work, that God will supply their every need, and give them a harvest of souls.

Yours for souls in India, —Sister Dorothy Keiser
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MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

South India (Jan. 21)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the dear saints abroad: We greet all of you again in holy Christian love. "For this God is our God forever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death."

Thank you very much for your kind letter dated Jan. 5, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude.

We are all doing well here. Our 16th General Campmeeting came to an end with great victory. Several got saved and sanctified. Sister Dorothy Keiser preached on sanctification, which is the need of the Church in these days. Bible studies, women's meetings, street meetings, ministers' meetings, Sunday school and children's meetings were some of the activities in the day time. Eight men and women were baptized on Sunday morning, and we observed the other ordinance services on Sunday evening. Altogether it was a very blessed meeting.

The campmeeting at Koottarvila begins the first week of February, and after that we will go north for some more meetings. Our old car is not good for long trips, and we earnestly pray God to supply a Van for transportation. Yes, the needs are many.

Two more new centers were opened for our work in this new year. At Pulinkunnu three Catholics got saved, were baptized, and came out of "Babylon." Another new station is at Kanjiramaltom where five families came out of division. Please pray for the needs of these new stations.

We remember you in our daily prayers. In our fasting and prayer meeting every Friday we remember the dear saints in America who are in the furnace of affliction. May God touch you in a special way.

Yours in His service. —John Varghese

REPORT FROM OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO

Baja Cfa. (Feb. 5)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: I greet all of you in the precious name of our Redeemer and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I can testify that by the grace of God we are well in soul and body with victory over sin. God has helped us in all our battles, afflictions, and problems, and in each we have another lesson added to our spiritual life. There is nothing more precious than to love and serve Him with all our heart. Each time we have services here at the mission we feel the presence of God. There is a new family in the congregation named Negrete who show much interest in the things of God. All the brethren are encouraged in their spiritual lives. One sister has been very ill, . . . and I plead your prayers for her that she will trust only in God. I request your prayers for the mission work here in Ojos Negros, for the brethren in Chapultepec, La Huerta, and Valley of the Trinity that they will keep encouraged in serving the Lord. We do not visit them often, but desire that they always feel the presence of God wherever they are.

I ask your prayers for the three days of services which will be held here at Ojos Negros prior to Easter, April 11, as there will be no campmeeting in Patzcuaro where Sister Edith Lara had labored. All are welcome and invited to come to Ojos Negros.

Thank you for all your help in the work of God.
Yours in Christian love,

—Mayarino Escobar and family

From the Mailbox . . .

Kansas—Dear Bro. Pruitt and co-workers: I want to tell you what a wonderful and spiritually uplifting publication you have. The articles, letters, and poetry are inspiring, as well as being a real teaching instrument in my life. I read your issues front to back—not missing a single word.

There is one writer who has been especially helpful to me. Her life, teachings, writings, and spirit have been a witness to me since I was a very young child. I praise the Lord for allowing me to know such a person. . . I have admired this woman for many years, and I believe that I found God partly as a result of her guidance. She, along with the Holy Spirit, convicted me of my sins in such a persistent, kind way that I could not refuse His bidding. I will never forget this lady as long as I live. . . I know if you were to ask her about any of her accomplishments, she would only give praise to God for giving her the power to do what she has done. I know for a fact that the reason my father is in heaven today is because of this woman's prayers for him when he was a lost sinner. The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing, and she does exactly that.

This lady is also responsible for my receiving your publication. That's how much she cares for me and my salvation. Even though I do not see her now as often as in past years, I can still keep in touch with her and be taught by her through the *Faith and Victory*. . . The writer that I am speaking of is Effie

Miller, my grandmother, of Loranger, La. Praise the Lord for allowing her to witness to me.

A Sister in the Lord, —Martha (Miller) Burnett

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Okla.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt: Greetings in the love of Jesus Christ. I got your letter and tracts. They were truly good and encouraging to our hearts to help us fight the good fight of faith. I also like to get the *Faith and Victory* paper. . . .

"For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts." Psalms 107:1-2, "O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy." I am happy and rejoicing in our God, our heavenly Father.

Yours in Christ, —Sis. Eva Penner

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Idaho—Dear Brother Pruitt and saints of God: Christian greetings from Idaho, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It has been a long time since we have written or done much corresponding with any of the saints. We do ask for forgiveness, and pray for Jesus' help that we can do better in the future than we have in the past.

Having lived in Idaho for the past four years without the fellowship of the saints has been very trying on our faith. At times when we have been feeling pretty low and discouraged we would visit some of the other churches in the valley, hoping we could find a church with whom we could fellowship, only to come away disappointed. There is truly no people like God's people. Please pray for my family and me that we can remain faithful to God's true Church and its message. Please also pray that God will somehow see fit to send someone to help establish a true Church of God in the Boise area. (The Treasure Valley, of which Boise is the capital, has a population of approximately 300,000 people.) This reminds us of Jesus' words where He said, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few." Matt. 9:37.

We want to let you know we appreciate all you and the co-workers are doing there at the print shop to help further the gospel through the printed page. We look forward to receiving the *Faith and Victory* every month. It is really an encouragement to us to read about the saints and the work of the Church in other places. . . .

Sincerely in Jesus, —Bro. and Sis. Floyd Combe

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Fla.—Dear friends in Christ: . . . My husband and I are enjoying good health now, thanks to God and the people who prayed for us. We pray God will continue to bless the work there and all you good people. We hope to get to some of the camp meetings this year.

A Sister in Christ, —Ruby Blanchard

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Okla—Dear Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Maybelle: Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus, who suffered such cruel treatment of ungodly men. It's the blood that atones for our sins. It's a double cure, is it not? It cleanses the heart from all sin and sanctifies our nature to give us a clean and holy nature like unto Himself by the Word and the Holy Spirit. I'm glad and thankful, too, that the blood provides healing for the body.

There were earnest prayers for you, Bro. Lawrence and Sister Maybelle, in the service at the chapel Sunday night. We all know there are many praying for you all. Surely, it is the Holy Spirit that is upholding you. God's ways are far above our ways. Bless His holy name!

Writing doesn't go so well for me yet since the injury to my arm. It could have been destroyed, but praise be to God for His abundant mercies, that awful sore has healed.

I am praying for you and the work of the Lord there. I also need your prayers. My whole heart's desire is to please my Lord and to be faithful. . . .

In His love and grace, —Sis. Julia Llewellyn

Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the mighty name of Jesus to all the fellow saints.

I am thankful for Bro. Daniel Layne because he was the one that gave me some tracts on holiness and your *Faith and Victory* paper. After reading the tracts and your paper, I was very uplifted. I thought I would send in my testimony and tell all the saints what the Lord has done for me in the past year. I have the faith, and I am going to keep the victory. Praise God for holiness!

To save time and spare details, please read Gal. 5:19-21. Thank the Lord I have never murdered anyone. For ten years I smoked cigarettes and pot. I took all kinds of pills, cocaine, L.S.D., along with playing hard-rock music. I had long hair down my back. Thank the Lord I don't do those things anymore. My wife, Crystal, her brother Mark, and I have a Bible study every Friday night in my home, along with Bro. Daniel Layne, Sis. Mae Braselton, and anyone else who comes. We would appreciate your prayers for Bro. Mark's wife and two daughters because they are not saved. Pray for all three of us to stay true to the Lord unto the very end.

I have been a saved and sanctified saint of the Lord Jesus, living a holy life, now for seven months. I thank the Lord for taking care of my heart because I have not taken any of my heart pills for two weeks. I am going to trust the Lord for my healing. I have had a heart problem for eleven years, so I would appreciate your prayers for the Lord to give me more strength to "hang in there."

Please keep our congregation in your prayers. We need more saints willing to witness to unsaved loved ones, family, and people on the street.

Dear Bro. Pruitt, we are praying for you in your affliction. I love you and what you are doing with the paper.

Yours in Christ,

—Bro. Rik Strey

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Okla.—Recently, I had such a sweet experience, one among many, but precious, that I would like to share it.

I went, as usual, to do for my mother, one morning in the nursing home, what either my sister or I do each morning. I had completed my tasks, when, for no reason at all, mother's roommate turned loose her temper on me. While driving home, the Lord brought these words to me, "I shall not be moved." I rejoiced for His mindfulness of me. On reaching home, I picked up my Bible and it fell open (by the Spirit of the Lord) to Psalms 60:11, 12, "Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man. Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies." Also in Psalms 62:2, 6, "He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence. I shall not be greatly moved." (Six says, "shall not be moved.") My heart was surely melted in gratitude to the Lord for taking such meticulous care of one of His trusting children.

Just this week, Mother's roommate railed out at me again and even cursed. Almost immediately God gave me a great calmness in my soul through the same words. I truly thank the Lord for I know He did it all.

—Sis. Opal Kelly

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Calif.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Maybelle: Praise God for His eternal, divine love! "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Praise God for His glorious kingdom of love that begins here and never ends over there!

I received your comforting letter and my last order of tracts. To God be the glory for all He has done. Let us continue to trust Him with steadfast faith for a great harvest of souls, for hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him? And in this beautiful kingdom of love, let us continue to bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. "The righteous shall be glad in the Lord, and shall trust in Him; and all the upright in heart shall glory." Psalm 64:10. . . .

May He keep you as the apple of His eye and under the shadow of His wings. Let us exchange prayers.

Your Sister in Christ.

—Melia Viser

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Oregon—Dear saints: I give thanks and praise to God for helping me out in time of trouble. I work in a hospital. I was cleaning an empty patient room when I fell and dislocated my ankle and chipped a bone near the joint. At first I thought, how awful, and I wished this hadn't happened because I had never had an injury before. Then I thought, all things work together for good to them that love the Lord. I put my hand on my foot and said, "Lord, I know you can

heal it; I know you can heal it even if it's broken even right now." He gave me a small touch and an assurance that it was going to come out all right. Then I felt like praising the Lord.

Then I remembered that we are supposed to call for the elders of the Church. I pulled myself toward the door so a nurse passing would see me. She said, "You had better go to X-ray." I said, "I want to call the preacher." She said, "All right, we will, but let's go to X-ray first." I said, "I don't want to get off the floor until you call the preacher." It was during Sunday morning service at Jefferson, and I knew the phone number by heart. She returned right away and said she had talked to Bro. Ostis Wilson and he said they would have special prayer right away. I felt like the whole Church was with me then. The doctor pulled on it quite a bit, and got it back in place, and it didn't hurt at all, and I felt comfortable. They didn't give me anything, but he wrote out a prescription which I didn't get filled. He said my foot would swell and hurt in the night. I told the Church about that, and they prayed and it didn't hurt one bit from start to finish. One housekeeper looked in the room as they were lifting me with a sheet. The man asked if I had pain anywhere else except my foot. I said, "No, and I don't have any there either." . . . They asked who would take care of me? Would my family? One of them said, "Her Church is her family."

Yesterday (Feb. 2) was the ninth day. The doctor gave me a boot to put on my cast so I can walk. He took new X-rays, and said I was doing fine. But the cast will stay on for another month. I can't go back to work until the doctor says so, and that may be another six weeks.

Yours in Christ, —Evalee Stice
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Ohio—Dear Bro. Lawrence: Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior. You are on our mind, and I'm sending these few lines, trusting they will find you looking unto our great God who is able to do all things. Nothing is too hard for the God whom we serve, and He is looking down at your faithfulness while you are in the furnace of affliction. 1 Cor. 10:13 has often come to my mind, and what a promise He has given us! God's Word is sure and steadfast, and will not fail. . . .

I wish to relate a wonderful healing that God performed on me recently. The Tuesday before New Year's Day I went to work with my left foot and ankle giving me trouble. As the day wore on, I was limping pretty badly, and when I got off work that Tuesday night, my ankle was swollen and I was suffering badly in my left foot. I went home, and the devil was at his job, trying to discourage me, and bringing thoughts to my mind of what was going to happen to me. I called for prayer, and my daughter Carol called out to Guthrie for prayer for me. The Assembly meeting was going on at the time. I got settled in bed for the night, not knowing what the morning held in store for me. When I awoke and got up the next morning and stood on my feet, I was able to walk, and I went to work and didn't limp. I was a

well man! God had taken all the pain away. I had a living testimony to tell at the shop to the men I work with. I had a chance to witness to the vice-president who came to my job. When I told him what the Lord had done for me, he said, "Praise the Lord."

Surely God has done great things for His people, and will continue to do so. When God does something for us, big or small, we need to witness of His mercy and goodness. A number of the dear saints are in need of healing, and we trust that God will stretch forth His mighty arm of power and deliver to the glory of God. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth them out of them all."

I'm encouraged to live for the Lord and want to do the will of God. May God continue to bless you and help you in every needed way, and bless the truth as it goes forth. . . .

With Christian love, —Bro. Earl Sharp
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Okla.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt: Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name.

I feel impressed to write in my testimony of how God miraculously spared our lives in a car accident. My granddaughter and I had just stopped at a stop sign leading onto one of the main thoroughfares. A turning car blocked my view, and we were struck by an oncoming car on the passenger's side. Both doors were caved in, breaking glass, also the windshield, and bending the top on the right side. The car turned completely around, and we were knocked into a yard across the street. Neither of us were hurt. I held onto the steering wheel. I didn't get excited or nervous. The accident never made us sore nor left any other effects. I truly felt the presence of God with us. The ambulance came, and the attendant examined my twelve-year-old granddaughter, and said she was fine, and that I should just take her home and watch her closely.

We felt so blessed to escape with our lives. Surely, I mean to continue to love God more and serve Him better. I can surely say as Samuel of old when he set up a stone between Mizpeh and Shen, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." 1 Sam. 7:12. Surely He wants His deeds made known among the people.

We are certainly praying for the Lord to heal you, Bro. Pruitt. He is truly able to heal ALL manner of sickness and disease. Keep encouraged. We are thankful God can trust some to suffer for Him. Many souls have been blessed by your labors of love in the publishing house. Surely there is a reward for the faithful. May God bless you in these trying hours that the good Lord can look down and see His image and be pleased to see that in these times of medical discoveries and man's wisdom in using the knife to sometimes repair the body, yet there are still faithful servants that love Him enough and desire to please Him that they suffer and do not turn to the aid of man. They are examples of what we teach. Our prayers are with you. Hold on to the horns of the altar.

Your Sister in the faith, —Theresa Gaines

Okla.—To the dear saints scattered abroad: I'm so humbly thankful for the many blessings of the dear Lord. He's been so good and near to me these past few months. Although I've had many trials since August 28 (when my dear sister died) until the present, the Lord has given me different verses for my comfort and encouragement. Within those months, our family has had four deaths. First my sister passed away the day after I arrived in Washington. I'd prayed very much about making the trip and felt the Lord's assurance that it would be a good time for me to go. How glad I was for the nice visit my sister and I had at a family reunion in August and during a phone call prior to my departure. Then not long after I returned, a nephew, who had a precious young family, was killed in a trailer-truck accident. His death was very difficult for me as he looked so much like my only son. Then my late husband Forrest's brother-in-law passed away. Then December 9, my brother-in-law in Missouri died. His wife (my sister) is still grieving and looks to me for comfort.

No doubt, these deaths made a strain on my nervous system, and I began having some physical problems. Through them all these Scriptures were such a blessing to me: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." Matt. 7:7, 8. "And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God." Luke 18:27. Also: "As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec." Heb. 5:6. A fourth Scripture: "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." 1 Peter 3:12. And another one in 1 Peter 5:7, "Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you." Many times I was doing just that, casting my cares upon Him, for He alone was able to help me.

My physical ailments first started with a growth at the base of one fingernail. It grew over the nail in layers, and when it cracked open it appeared dry inside and rather flaky. After the nail healed, a couple of "spurs" (as I called them for lack of a better word) grew on my inside wrist bone. After much prayer, I noticed one night at prayer meeting that the place was flat. At the present, another spur has grown on my wrist. I'm thankful that it doesn't hurt or hinder me in using my hand. I'm trusting this will be removed by God, also.

That affliction was followed by another which was quite unexpected and scary. I was eating lunch at my daughter Rada's house. My left jaw and ear suddenly felt funny. I reached up and felt a large knot. It scared both of us. Rada phoned my other daughter, Ruby, who phoned the saints at the Golden Rule Home and our pastor. The knot would go down and then, after eating would come back up. I decided to have a doctor tell me what was wrong. I went with the intention of fully trusting the Lord to do the

work. I only wanted to know what it was. The doctor said that it was saliva stones, and he felt that I should have surgery in two days, not later than three days. Well, praise God! I never had the surgery and I no longer have the saliva stones.

My last afflictions, which were the severest in pain and suffering, consisted of three attacks, each somewhat different. First, one night my stomach hurt so much I couldn't straighten up. The next night I had severe pain in my chest all the way through to my back. I couldn't lean back, but had to sit up leaning forward. It was then that God impressed song number 41, "To God Be the Glory," upon me. About six weeks later I ate some potato soup which I made with red peppers, celery seeds, and onion. Several of the saints came to pray for me that night.

Once during this period I became very depressed. But after prayer, the next day I felt so very happy.

The crowning text which God gave me was Isa. 41:10, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Dear ones, we can be held with God's right hand of righteousness and fear not nor be dismayed during our tests and trials in life.

Pray for me.

—May Norcutt

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Kansas—Dear Bro Lawrence and workers: Greetings in the name of Him who died that we might live. I am very grateful for His mighty love.

I truly hope and pray that you are so much better, and that the Lord will continue to bless all of us by letting us have you much longer.

The Lord is blessing me, and I am recovering from my fall, but not up to writing very much.

Christian love to all,

—Sis. Amy Hunter

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Your letter of February 4 was received, and was a real blessing to my soul. I am pressing on for the victory in spite of the hard tasks, the trials, and tribulations. I am determined to keep faith in our Savior and to endure unto the end. Praise the Lord, His grace is sufficient, and I am continually thanking Him.

May God bless you and all of the dear saints there at the Lord's Print Shop. May He bless you with complete healing, is my prayer.

Here is my order for more books. Whatever is left over is an offering for the Lord's work. . . .

Yours in Christian love, —Sis. Ruth Donnelly

A LOVING HEART

Grant me, Lord, a loving heart,

A will to give and share,

A whispered prayer upon my lips

To show I really care.

—Edward M. Brandt

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Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Will you please discuss the matter of God's hardening Pharaoh's heart and how God could do this and why?

Answer: The time of the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt was at hand and the hour of Egypt's judgment was about to strike according to God's promise made to Abraham in Gen. 15:13-16, and God was marshalling the principals into position for the impending drama.

God had arranged for Moses to be spared at the time of his birth even though a decree had gone forth from the king for all male babies born to the Israelites to be slain at birth. Further, God had arranged for Moses to be brought up in the king's court as the son of Pharaoh's daughter and to be learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. Also, he was well trained in the Egyptian army and learned all the arts of war and became mighty in deeds. Further, he was placed as a commanding officer in the army where he learned well the arts and skills of leadership. God had far ranging plans for Moses' life from the start and put him through all this grooming and preparation and now he was God's man and ready to be put in the position of leader and ruler of God's people, Israel.

But just so, Pharaoh was God's man as ruler of Egypt for the coming drama. God said to Pharaoh in Ex. 9:16, "And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to show in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth." Let us not forget that "The most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will"—Dan. 4:25b. He brought Pharaoh to the Egyptian throne for this very purpose, and the proceeding and facts will prove that He had the right man for the purpose and had made no mistake in His choosing. For all the major events of the Bible God brought forward selected men whose peculiar characteristics and dispositions fitted them for what He wanted them to do in that particular case. It was so here—Moses for the Israelite's leader and Pharaoh for Egypt's ruler.

There was a long line of Egyptian rulers in the Pharaoh dynasty. All of them were not like the Pharaoh of the Exodus—strong willed with an obstinate determination and a bitter, hard, unrelenting disposition—perfectly fitted for the operation at hand. In fact, the ruler just ahead of him was of a mild, generous disposition even toward the Israelites and made their burdens lighter. God could not have carried out the full scope of His judgments upon Egypt with a ruler like that, because that ruler would, no doubt, have capitulated before it was finished. But God had decreed judgment upon the nation of Egypt (Gen. 15:14), and also judgment against all the gods of the Egyptians (Ex. 12:12). But under this Pharaoh of the Exodus who was proud, haughty, defiant,

unrelenting and showing no signs of capitulation until the judgments were complete and the land of Egypt was destroyed, and in the process, judgment had been executed against all the gods of the Egyptians.

Now let us consider that God was preparing to bring out the Israelites from Egypt and establish them as people for Himself. Let us also consider that the Israelites of that generation were 430 years down the line from Abraham. That generation had come up in Egypt among the Egyptians, and had only a faint knowledge of Abraham's God but were deeply involved with the Egyptians in the worship of their gods; they were pretty much idolaters themselves. Therefore, it was very much necessary that all the gods of the Egyptians with whom the Israelites were familiar and participated in the worship of be judged and proved to be impotent, powerless, and worthless, and He Himself established in the minds of the Israelites as the true and living God, possessing all power and superior to all other gods.

All the plagues poured out on Egypt were directed against their gods one at a time. The Egyptians worshipped the serpent in the temple of Uraeus. The first miracle was directed against this god—Aaron's rod becoming a serpent. The Egyptian magicians did the same thing, but Aaron's serpent devouring theirs proved their serpent god to be impotent and the true God superior. The Nile River was also held sacred and revered as a god and its fish regarded as holy. When its waters were turned to blood and all its fish died and became putrid and stank, they loathed their god and fled from his banks in horror. The Egyptians also worshipped the frog; unclean mammal that he was. The plague of frogs turned their god into a curse to them. They dared not kill them because they were sacred; hence, they became to them a terror and disgust.

The plague of lice brought to an abrupt end and total halt all of their religious rites for its duration. It was directed against their priests and temples. Their law forbade any priest to approach to the altar with this loathsome insect on his body. To protect against any chance accident of this kind, they wore white linen and shaved their heads and bodies every day. But now there was no escape; the lice were every where and on the bodies of every Egyptian.

Baal-zebul was the Egyptian god of flies and had the reputation of protecting them from the swarms of flies which, at certain seasons, infest the air throughout all Egypt. The plague of flies proved the inability of this god to ward off the infestation of flies and the inability of the Egyptian magicians to remove the flies proved the superiority of the true God over their false god or idol.

The plague of rain, hail, thunder and lightning, such as they had never seen nor heard of before, was directed against the worship of Isis, as the moon, who controlled the seasons, clouds and weather. When all the prayers to Isis failed to stay the fearful tempest of God's wrath, it surely proved the folly of idolatry and

trusting in an idol god that could not protect them against the power of the true God.

The god Serapis was regarded by the Egyptians as their protector against the devastating power of locusts. There was quite an elaborate and sophisticated system of worship to him. The plague of locusts was directed against this idol god and his system of worship and proved his inability to do what they credited him with doing.

The plague of darkness was aimed at the universal worship of Osiris, or the sun. It served to show that the true God was superior to their "lord of the sun" and could veil his splendor any time He chose and for as long as He chose.

The plague of the very grievous murrain upon all the cattle of the Egyptians which produced the death of all their cattle was directed against their system of brute worship. This system prevailed throughout, and they had a large image of the sacred bull at the entrance of some of their temples.

It was customary for the priests at their heathen altars to take some of the ashes of the sacrifice and throw into the air. They believed this would protect them from and ward off any evil. When Moses at God's command took ashes and cast into the air, it became a very fine dust throughout all Egypt and produced boils on the bodies of all the people of the Egyptians, thus turning what they believed to be their protection from evil into a very painful and grievous torment to them.

Thus the whole idolatrous system of the Egyptians with all of its gods was judged in this operation as well as the nation of Egypt who had oppressed and afflicted the Israelites being judged and destroyed. At the same time, a separation was made between the Egyptians and the land of Goshen where the Israelites dwelt, and none of these things were happening over in Goshen, but the Israelites were only beholding these things with their eyes. This surely should have confirmed to them that their God was above all other gods and there was none beside Him, and that the true God of their fathers was their refuge, strength, defense and protector.

Suppose this chain of events would have been interrupted at any point and not have been carried through to its conclusion. There would have been some of the idol gods who would not have been judged, and therefore the Israelites would have come out with perhaps as much reverence for them as the true God of their fathers. Therefore it was absolutely imperative that Pharaoh remain adamant throughout the entire operation and not capitulate at any point.

Therefore, God kept hardening his heart that he would not surrender until God's work was finished and His objectives gained. God had raised up Pharaoh for this special time and purpose (Ex. 9:16). Again, God said He would have mercy on whom He would have mercy and whom He would He hardened (Rom. 9:18). But let us not make the serious mistake of questioning God's sovereign rights to deal with every individual as He sees fit because He is the One Who searches all

hearts and tries all reins and knows exactly what is in men's hearts, and we don't. And He possesses the power and ability to make even the wrath of men to praise Him, and when He is dealing with someone who is obstinate, rebellious and defiant against Him, He can use him in whatever way necessary to accomplish His purposes and be justified in it.

The Consequence

"For to be carnally minded is death . . ." These words still burn in my soul as they did some time ago when my Bible fell open to the eighth chapter of Romans. Since then, I have been asking God more than ever to guide me with His Spirit and by His grace, and to show me any carnality in my life. He has made me to know that this is a serious, life-or-death matter.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. . . . For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; . . ." Rom. 8:1-6, 13.

By the help of God, I will endeavor to show some of the consequences of living after the flesh. Oh, everlasting, eternal death! The Scripture plainly tells us that if we live after the flesh we shall die, eternally and spiritually. Paul also said in the sixth chapter of Galatians that if a person sows to the flesh, he will of the flesh reap corruption.

Dear reader, if you will persist in sowing to the flesh, on the authority of what God has said, if you do not turn around, your end is the inevitable—you will die. The greatest tragedy of all is that not only will hardened sinners be found in that dark place, but among them professed Christians who, in many people's eyes, were just fine. Somewhere in their experience we can see that self was allowed to live and the flesh was minded more than the Spirit.

Dear Christian, whether or not you make heaven depends on what you are doing right now. Are you minding the Spirit—or the flesh? "To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, ETERNAL LIFE: 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 of the Gentile." Romans 2:7-9.

Eternal life is yours, Christian, if you follow the Spirit, moved continually by its beckonings.

But if your footsteps begin to follow the flesh, wrath, tribulation and anguish are sure to be yours. If a born-again, sanctified saint of God fails to follow the Spirit's leadings, provides openings for the flesh to abide, brings to life *Self*, and does not immediately repent, his mind will be programmed by the flesh and not by the Spirit. Eccl. 8:11, "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." If I do not kill a carnal thought instantly, when the same idea appears again, it will most likely lodge in my mind and become a part of me. Thus, I have become corrupted.

Because the devil is so subtle, this takeover is gradual and many times unknown to the individual. The person has been following the flesh for so long that he does not realize when the Spirit leaves. This is the reason why it is so dangerous. In Hebrews 6:4-8, this type of person is described and his end told. The consequence is that he will lose his salvation, and, sad to say, his condition is worse than it was before he was ever saved.

One of the consequences of following after the flesh is that you will lose the fellowship of the saints—of spiritual people. Fellowship is the blending and uniting of one's spirit with another. If your spirit is corrupted by the flesh, is it any wonder why you feel you don't belong any more? Is there any wonder why you can't understand your brother?

Minding the flesh will remove all the joy and natural flow of devotion and praise out of your life until you must resort to other sources to "pump up" your joy. Your emotions take the place of spirituality, and since emotions go up and down like an elevator, when you reach the bottom floor you'll begin saying, "Is this salvation?"

Since you'll be trying to cheer yourself up all the time, you will have no time to help those around you. Besides, you feel ashamed to say anything about God to anybody. Sin brings a shame upon a person, and though he may try to cast it aside and "chin up," it is still there. He knows his salvation is not what it used to be.

Another consequence is that the things of the world will begin to look better and better to you, because salvation just doesn't satisfy you anymore. Since the temptation to *think* about these things was not resisted the first time, it is easier to yield now. James 1:13-16. Whether or not I have been walking after the Spirit will affect the way I will be able to face these temptations. There will always be temptations to the saint, but these are from outside influences and cannot harm him if he stays near God. The trouble lies in the person's heart. When a saved and sanctified person yields to sin, it is because something akin to sin was first allowed in his heart, a little at a time. With outside influences pulling, and with the inside weakened and something "pulling" down there, the person is soon conquered.

The last part that I would like to deal with is the fruit produced by walking after the flesh. What kind

of fruit are you bearing? James said, "The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace with them that make peace." Read Galatians 5:16-26. The Scriptures here are vital to our daily lives. Compare and contrast the fruits of the Spirit with the fruits of the flesh. Can you imagine such evil fruits in the life of a saint? But how beautiful the person who is bearing the fruits of the Spirit! Friend, the emphasis and whole matter rest on whether we are walking after the Spirit. If we are, the Spirit will become such a part of us that all self will be slain. Our fruits are determined by what is inside producing the fruit. If the Spirit is there, unhindered by self, all that will be produced will be fruits of the Spirit. If self is there, however, those fruits we bear will be unlike Christ.

Eph. 4:29 says, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, [If it comes out of the mouth, was it not first in the heart?] but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." 1 John 4:20, "If a man say, I love God and hateth his brother, he is a liar." (Where does hate come from?)

1 Cor. 1:10, "Now I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

Dear reader, as I read these verses and many more in the Bible, I am more and more persuaded that **everything** that the Church of God teaches, **everything** that salvation through Christ has given us, **everything** we as saints of God strive for, will be affected and destroyed if we walk after the flesh. If we walk and follow after the Spirit, a happy, holy, sinless life is ours.

The choice is yours. Will you not seek the Lord earnestly, and ask Him to forgive you for walking after the flesh? If you have been having this type of problem, I beg you to begin a self-denial right now, and put to death all those fleshly things and self that have been making your life so miserable. Let go of yourself, and enter into the joy of the Lord.

—Angela Busbee

BULLETIN AT PRESS TIME . . .

Sister Herschel Hargrave of Goulds, Fla., phoned today (Feb. 23), and was overjoyed to report the miracle which the Lord had performed on their daughter Rachel. She had suffered brain damage during surgery which was performed under the protest of the parents, and the doctors said she would have to take medication the rest of her life. Sister Hargrave said that Rachel was taken to the hospital today for an examination, after which the doctor wrote a statement to the effect that Rachel was doing well in this post-surgery period and that very soon she would not need any more medication. This is an answer to prayer, and Sister Hargrave wants the Church to know of this great victory, and to rejoice with them in praises to God.

—Editor