

FAITH AND VICTORY

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From Calvary's Cross

From Calvary's cross in rays of gold,
A light is shining in my soul;
While walking in this light divine,
Sweet fellowship with Christ is mine.

Sweet fellowship, sweet peace, sweet joy,
Sweet holy bliss without alloy;
My Saviour purchased this for me
Upon the cross of Calvary.

Although unworthy I had been,
Reveling on in pride and sin,
He stopped me in my wild career
When I His gentle voice did hear.

Forlorn and weary, worn and sad—
A sinful record all I had—
But still He called in tender love:
Come! I'll write your name above.

He who died on Calvary's cross
To save a world of sinners lost,
Bade me cast on Him my load,
And walk with joy the narrow road.

In darkness and in deep despair,
I lifted up my voice in prayer;
Then from the cross a light did shine
In this poor little heart of mine.

And Jesus spoke the pardoning word
That made me know my prayer was heard.
He turned my darkness into light,
And now my path is ever bright.

Light from the cross, what joy divine!
To know that Jesus Christ is mine—
And I am His! He purchased me
With His own blood on Calvary.

O blessed light of God, shine on,
Until my work on earth is done;
Then in that land where comes no night,
Shine on forever, thou golden Light.

—Ulysses Phillips

The General Resurrection

"There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust" (Acts 24:15b). How many resurrections? One, "a resurrection of the dead." And this one resurrection of the dead is to include both the just and the unjust. In this writing we shall see that those plain texts which are not involved in prophetic interpretations utterly preclude the idea of two literal resurrections in the future. In the present text it is simply "a resurrection," which includes both just and unjust.

But this text does not state when it will take place. In Rev. 1:7 we have the time stated: "Behold *he cometh* with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him." At his coming "every eye shall see him." This proves the fact of a general resurrection; and that this resurrection includes the wicked also is shown by the statement that even those who "pierced him" will see Him when He comes. The idea of two literal resurrections—one of the righteous and the other of the wicked—is utterly demolished by this text; for when He comes, "every eye"—including the wicked who pierced Him—shall be awake and see Him.

That the resurrection is one, but includes both classes, is shown by the words of Christ Himself: "Marvel not at this: for *the hour* is coming, in the which *all that are in the graves* shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:28, 29). Both classes—good and bad—come forth from their graves in the same "hour."

1 Thess. 4:16 is sometimes referred to as teaching two resurrections—the "dead in Christ shall rise first." But it teaches no such thing, as even a hasty examination shows. The word "first" does not refer to other dead people at all. The text, with the context, simply shows that those who are living on the earth when Christ comes will not ascend to heaven *before* those who are dead in Christ, but that the dead in Christ shall rise *first*, and that then they will both ascend together.

So also Phil. 3:11—"If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead"—is sometimes perverted in order to sustain the false doctrine of two future literal resurrections of the dead; for, it is argued, if there were only one unconditional resurrection, Paul would not have sought to attain it. But the Bible represents the single resurrection of the dead as composed of *two classes*, the one receiving the resurrection unto eternal life, and the other a resurrection unto eternal damnation. The object and effort of Paul was to attain to this resurrection of life, which can be obtained only by proper effort; for it applies only to those who are the saved of earth. The context shows this application. In verse 19 he mentions one class "whose end is destruction"; while in the two following verses he speaks of the other class, to which he belonged, and says, "... We look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body. . . ."

When Lazarus was dead, Jesus said to Martha, "Thy brother shall rise again. Martha said unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day" (John 11:23, 24). Now, Lazarus was a good man, and his sister had the idea that his resurrection would take place at the *last day*. Does this accord with the idea of two literal resurrections? No. The millennial idea of two resurrections places the resurrection of the righteous first and the resurrection of the wicked last—one thousand years later. But Martha says, "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the *last day*."

Where did Martha get this idea that the righteous would be raised at the last day? Evidently from the words of Christ Himself; for He affirms this four times in one chapter. "And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the *last day*" (John 6:39). "Every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the *last day*" (verse 40b). "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the *last day*" (verse 44). "Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the *last day*" (verse 54).

—F. G. Smith

The Word of God is the food the soul needs. It must have it. This does not imply that we must open the lids of the Bible and read so much each day, but we must often meditate upon the law of God. We should read the Bible as much as circumstances will permit, but should circumstances not permit for a time we can keep in good spiritual vigor by meditating often upon what portions of the Word we may know. We should beware of the carelessness and of the busy cares of life for they cause us to be neglectful of the Word of God. We would hardly allow anything to prevent us taking food for the physical body. We can always find time to eat. How much more should we not allow the busy cares of life to prevent us taking plenty of food for the soul. —C. E. Orr

Christian Adornment



The subject of Christian adornment is one of great importance, since our lives are closely watched by people of the world.

It is our solemn duty to see that those who behold us and are more or less associated with us do not become disappointed in their expectation. The world expects much of the man or the woman that professes to be a Christian; and well they may, since such a profession is the highest that one can make in life. The non-professor, though void of the grace of God, has an idea of what the Christian life is, and especially of how the children of God should walk. He knows something of what the Bible teaches and expects those who profess, to live accordingly.

Since Jesus has said, "Ye are the light of the world," we as Christians, must not be indifferent as to how we appear in the sight of others. The Word of God holds out the idea that the Christian life is a beautiful life. It even gives instruction as to how the saints of God should adorn themselves. Hence it is good that we understand of what this adornment consists, so that we may be able to glorify Him "in our bodies and spirits, which are God's."

The apostle Peter, in his first epistle, mentions this matter, and in speaking of the saved says, "Whose adorning, let it not be that outward adorning . . . but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." "For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands." 1 Peter 3:3-5.

The adornment recommended in the foregoing text pertains to the inner man and is very essential. We find that it is in obedience to this injunction that the wife is to win her unsaved husband to Christ. Her life is to be so ornamented and beautified by humble submission coupled with fear that his hard heart will finally yield, being captivated by the sweet influence of heavenly graces. This is true charm and beauty. There is nothing on earth so lovely as the Christian whose heart is filled with the Spirit of God. One may possess no marked personal attraction, the form may not be graceful or the features handsome, yet if those heavenly virtues and graces be not wanting, that person is indeed beautiful.

This is a matter of the greatest importance, inasmuch as it has to do with practical Christianity. It is easy for one to testify to being saved, but the thought that should enlist our earnest inquiry is: Am I manifesting the life of Christ in my daily conduct? Is my life adorned by the graces and fruits of the Spirit? If after self-examination we find that such is the case, we may feel assured that God's smile of approval is resting upon us; but if not, there is need of our digging deeper.

"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel." Such is Paul's

instruction in 1 Tim. 2:9. "But," says some one, "I can see no adorning in that which is modest and plain." The apostle could. To him modest apparel was beautiful, and so it is to all who truly are spiritual-minded. He who can see no more beauty in a neat, plain dress than in that which is worldly does not yet see as God sees.

Opinions may vary as to what is meant by "modest apparel," but from what follows, it is evident that it admits of nothing put on for show or merely to attract attention. This is a point where we need to guard well our motives. When we make a purchase of some article of dress, we should be sure that it is not selected with the purpose of making ourselves attractive in a worldly way. The Word gives no room for such outward adornment.

"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel." 1 Pet. 3:3. Here the apostle speaks clearly and specifies certain things which were worn among the Orientals for the purpose of adornment. Of course, other articles could be added to the list, but what should concern us is not merely to know and designate certain things to be avoided in our apparel, but rather to know that we are free from the spirit of pride and worldliness, which calls for things not modest and becoming to one professing godliness.

It is enough that the people of God dress in neat, becoming apparel. Carelessness and untidiness in our appearance and clothing are as far from the Bible standard as is worldly conformity. God's people should be exemplary, not only in their manner of living, but also in their general appearance. It is not inconsistent for them to select such articles and such colors as would render their appearance neat and becoming. There is no set rule to which all must conform. All have liberty to exercise their choice and preference as long as they stay within the bounds prescribed by the apostles. But "costly array," articles of adornment, and clothing to incite lust are certainly inconsistent with modesty.

If we live close to God, and keep filled with His Spirit, we are not likely to experience much trouble in the matter of dress, neither shall we be so much inclined to pattern after others at the expense of our own conscience. Thank God! there is perfect liberty in Christ, and those who fully enjoy this liberty realize no inclination to compromise with the world, but are rather desirous that the inner man be adorned with the beautiful graces of the Spirit of God.

—G. Q. Coplin

In Zechariah 14:20 it says, "In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; . . ." This is the standard we are to lift up for the people. This is the law of God's house. Ezekiel 43:12 says, "This is the law of the house: Upon the top of the mountain the whole limit thereof round about shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house."

—O. B. Wilson

"IT IS ON THE INSIDE"

While walking down the street one day, I passed a store where a man was washing the large plate glass show window. There was one spot which defied all efforts to remove it. After rubbing hard at it, using much soap and water, and failing to remove it, he found out the trouble, "It is on the inside."

Many are striving to cleanse the soul from its stains. They wash it with the tears of sorrow, they scrub it with the soap of good resolve, they rub it with the chamois of morality, but still the consciousness of it is not removed. The trouble is, "It is on the inside." It is the heart that is bad. If the fountain is bitter the stream will not be sweet.

Nothing but the blood of Jesus applied by the mighty hand of the Holy Spirit can cleanse the inside, for God's Spirit alone can reach the inside.

—Selected

TV Guide and the Bible

On the tableside by side;
The Holy Bible and the TV Guide.
One is well worn but cherished with pride,
(Not the Bible, but the TV Guide).
One is used daily to help folk decide,
No, it isn't the Bible, it's the TV Guide.

As pages are turned, what will they see?
Oh, what does it matter? Turn on the TV.
Then confusion reigns; they can't all agree
On what they shall watch on the old TV.
So they open the book in which they confide
(No, not the Bible, it's the TV Guide).

The Word of God is seldom read,
Maybe a verse e'er they fall into bed,
Exhausted and sleepy and tired as can be,
Not from reading the Bible, from watching TV.
So, then back to the table, side by side,
Are the Holy Bible and the TV Guide.

No time for prayer, no time for the Word.
The plan of salvation is seldom heard.
Forgiveness of sin, so full and free,
Is found in the Bible, not the TV.

—Sel. by Cheryl Yocum

Perseverance

"Perseverance counts much with God as well as with man. If Elijah had ceased at his first petition, the heavens scarcely would have yielded their rain to his feeble praying. If Jacob had quit praying at decent bedtime, he would not have received the blessing. If the Syrophenician woman had allowed her faith to faint by silence, humiliation, repulse, or to stop midway in its struggles, her grief-stricken home never would have been brightened by the healing of her daughter."

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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 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.

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EDITORIALS



"Because I live, ye shall live also!" . . .

JESUS GAVE HIS DISCIPLES this exceeding great and precious promise when He informed them that He was going away and would come again to comfort them in the person of the Holy Spirit. In this same discourse Jesus also gave them this comforting promise: "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:2b, 3.

Soon after the above occasion, Jesus was arrested, given a mock trial, and condemned to death on the cruel cross where our precious Saviour paid the ransom price for the sins of the whole world. He "tasted death for every man." (Sinner friend, you can look and live!)

After Jesus shed His precious blood and died on Calvary's cross, kind friends took His body down from the cross, prepared it for burial, and laid it in a new, borrowed tomb in the garden near the place where He was crucified. (Jesus would not occupy the tomb very long.) Joseph, one of Jesus' disciples, rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre. Pilate, the governor, commanded the stone to be sealed, and guards to be set around the tomb. On the following third day, in fulfillment of Jesus' word, "as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." Matt. 28:1-6. Yes, truly Jesus came forth a conqueror over death, hell, and the grave, and because He lives, we shall live also. That is the blessed hope of the righteous which is an anchor to our soul. Praise the Lord!

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming." 1 Cor. 15:20-23. To this agree Jesus' own words, "Because I live, ye shall live also." Thank the Lord!

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One who obtains the experience of salvation must not only believe in Christ's sacrificial atonement for his sins, but he must also believe on the Father who raised Christ from the dead. It is not enough to believe only that Jesus died for his sins. The Apostle

Paul writes that righteousness is imputed by faith, "if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification." Romans 4:24, 25. Again, the Apostle writes in Romans 10: 8, 9: "The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Believing with the heart that God raised Jesus from the dead is an essential requirement for one to obtain salvation. Without that ingredient one cannot be delivered from sin. A doubt on this point will bring defeat to one who is seeking God's salvation. Let us believe Christ's sacrificial atonement and His miraculous resurrection which is the cornerstone of our faith and hope for our future resurrection which is the "redemption of our body." See Romans 8:23.

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Just off the press is a 16-page booklet of the true, inspiring story, titled "A Saloonkeeper's Daughter Saved," written by Bertha Mackey. It is a chapter from the book, "Startling Incidents and Experiences in the Christian Life" compiled by E. E. Byrum, and which is not in print anymore. The price on the booklet is 15c each, or seven copies for \$1.00, plus 65c for postage and handling. Order TODAY!

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Evangelists Laboring For Souls in Homeland . . .

The ministers in the evangelistic field kept moving and holding services through the winter. Bro. Tom Melot and company held a meeting in Ontario, Calif. Bro. Carl Shaffer and Bro. Egbert Allen held meetings in Bakersfield, Fresno, Orland, and Pacoima, Calif. Brother Mart Samons held meetings in Davenport, Fla., Loranger, La., Oklahoma City, and Guthrie, Okla. Bro. Curtis Williams was in some services in Ontario and Pacoima, Calif., and also held meetings in Jefferson, Ore., Chilliwack and Prince George, B. C., Canada. This week (March 21-28) he is holding a meeting at Enid, Okla.

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Bro. Paul Sorrell and family, formerly of Guthrie, Okla., write that the gospel work is moving forward in Chilliwack, B. C., Canada. They had been very busy holding cottage prayer meetings, singing at the mall, and passing hand bills in preparation for their revival meeting which began on March 10 with the Lord using Bro. Curtis Williams in the preaching. The meeting brought good results and much encouragement to the group of saints there.

Bro. Paul Sorrell has a new address which is: 6407 Mt. Baker Hwy., Deming, Wash. 98244. Continue to pray for and support the gospel work in Chilliwack, Canada.

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The Lord anointed Bro. Mart Samons in preaching the Word in a revival meeting held at Guthrie from March 14 to 21. A number of souls found help

at the altar of prayer, and the saints were much encouraged on this holy way to heaven.

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Our prayers and best wishes go with the couple, Byron Loftis and Debora Porter, who were united in marriage on Saturday, March 20, 1982, at the Guthrie Church of God chapel with O. C. Porter officiating.

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Since I am not able to answer every one, I take this means to express my sincere appreciation to all those who have sent cheery get-well cards, letters of encouragement, personal offerings, and for the telephone calls of concern, and for the sincere, earnest prayers for my healing. May the Lord bless and reward each one.

The Lord does give me strength each day to work here at the office, but there is almost constant pain, and sometimes it is so severe that I cannot concentrate on what I am doing. Yet I am still holding to God's precious promises for the miracle of healing to His glory. Let us pray and believe!

—Lawrence D. Pruitt

In Memorial

Thelma Jewell Sprague was born January 2, 1916, in Cobden, Illinois. She passed from this life March 8, 1982, at the age of 66 years, 2 months, and 6 days in Guthrie, Okla.

She was united in marriage to George Edwin Sprague, and to this union ten children were born. Her husband and three children preceded her in death.

At about the age of 22 she felt her need of God's love and salvation. She was instructed by a minister of the Church of God that one can know that they are saved and right with God. She sought the Lord Jesus Christ with all of her heart and found Him precious to her soul. She held fast her confidence, and lived a faithful and consistent Christian life the remainder of her days.

In 1973, she moved to Guthrie, Oklahoma, and became a loved and faithful member of the congregation of the Church of God who worships at 6th and West Warner in Guthrie. She was always ready to take an active part in the service of God, in prayer, testimony, and backing up the preached Word of God. She also assisted in the work of the Faith Publishing House in proof reading, contributing articles for the *Faith and Victory* paper, and for a time prepared meals for the workers.

She possessed a meek and quiet spirit, winning the love and affection of all that knew her. She was a woman of great faith and full consecration to God. She gave a clear testimony of her readiness to meet her Lord, and was willing and desirous to rather be absent from the body and to be present with Him.

She is survived by three sons: Gary and Timothy Sprague, both of Guthrie, and Glen Sprague of

Carterville, Illinois; four daughters, Mary Murphey and Linda Craddock, both of Guthrie, Betty Millard of Makanda, Illinois, and Vesta Ward, of St. Charles, Missouri; her mother, Nellie Odom of Illinois; three brothers, Glen Odom of Alabama, and Martin and Bill Odom of Illinois; 18 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren, besides a host of relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Willie Murphey and Leslie Busbee on March 11, 1982, at the Smith Funeral Home, Guthrie, Okla.

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Bro. Andrew Senti was born in Brainerd, Minn. on Jan. 16, 1887, and departed this life to be with the Lord after a short illness on Feb. 18, 1982, in Minneapolis, Minn., at the age of 95 years.

Bro. Senti was saved many years ago and embraced the truths of the Church of God. When he was able, he attended the National Campmeeting at Neosho, Mo., and over the years he had faithfully passed out gospel literature in the city of Minneapolis. When the Lord called, he was ready and willing to go to receive the blessed reward of the righteous.

Survivors include a son, Andrew E.; two daughters, Mrs. John J. (Florence) Symanitz and Mrs. George (Marion) Smith; three grandchildren and great-grandchildren; two brothers, Jacob and John Senti, and many friends and brethren in Christ.

The funeral service was conducted by his grandson, Elder Frank H. Livingston, and interment was in the Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis, Minn.

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Bro. Elizer Esters of Olla, La., who was born on March 17, 1891, in La Salle Parish in Louisiana, passed away to be with the Lord on March 5, 1982, at the age of 90 years, 11 months, and 12 days.

Bro. Esters was faithful to the Lord unto death, and left this life with a rich and full testimony of salvation and deep love for God.

He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Eva Schalzle; three sons, Willard, Leo, and Stanley Esters, 22 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren, and 11 great-great-grandchildren. Bro. Esters was preceded in death by his wife, Sis. Millie Esters, and by two sons, Homer and Otis Esters.

The funeral service was held at Rison and Son Funeral Home in Columbia, La., and conducted by Bros. C. C. Carver, Merrill Williamson, and Stanley Dickson.

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NOTE OF APPRECIATION

We wish to thank every one for the cards, letters, love gifts, beautiful flowers, the many deeds of kindness, and for the comfort and strength of your prayers at the passing of our dear companion, Chalmers Bowers. Oh, how very much your prayers are appreciated in our time of need! May the Lord richly bless each one.

"O God the Lord, the strength of my salvation, thou hast covered my head in the day of battle." Psalm 140:7.

—Sis. Doris Bowers and family

Campmeeting Dates For 1982



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.

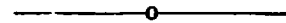
Myrtle, Mo.—August 2 to 8.

Bakersfield, Calif.—August 6 to 15.

Boley, Okla.—August 20 to 29.

Durham, North Carolina—August 21 to 29.

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



MEETING NOTICES

MEETING AT MYRTLE, MO.

The saints at Myrtle, Mo., expect to have a meeting there from April 7 to 11, Easter Sunday. On Saturday night there will be special singing, and all-day services on Sunday. Lord willing, Bro. Curtis Williams will be in that meeting.

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MEETING AT SAPULPA, OKLA.

Bro. O. B. Wilson, pastor at Jefferson, Ore., will hold a meeting at Sapulpa, Okla., Lord willing, from Sunday, April 4, through Friday night, April 9, 1982. The chapel is located on Old Sapulpa Road. This announcement is from Bro. Richard Madden, the Sapulpa pastor.

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REVIVAL AT NEOSHO, MO.

The congregation at Neosho, Mo., plans to have a revival meeting, Lord willing, at the Church of God chapel located on Freeman Rd. or HH highway, which is in the east part of town, beginning on Friday, April 23, and continuing through May 2, 1982, with all-day services on the first Sunday of the meeting.

We are trusting the Lord to send the ministers of His choosing, and ask the saints to pray for the success of the meeting. A welcome is extended to all to come that can. Bro. Mart Samons expects to be in this meeting.

For further information, call Bro. Dale Doolittle, phone (417) 451-2542, or Bro. T. V. McMillian, phone (417) 451-0278, Neosho, Mo. —Bro. T. V. McMillian
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BOLEY, OKLA. SPRING MEETING

The annual spring meeting of the Church of God, Lord willing, will be held at Boley, Okla., from April 25 to May 2, 1982.

We extend to all a very hearty welcome. "Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord."

We are looking to the Lord to send ministers and workers of His own choice to help in the meeting, and are desiring the Lord to give us a meeting filled with the Holy Ghost, and that conviction will be in each service to the extent that the lost will feel their need of a Savior and seek the Lord to be saved.

Dear saints, will you come praying that the anointing of the Lord will be upon His Word and upon hearts to receive it to the good of every precious soul?

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

—Katherine Williams

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MEETING AT COFFEYVILLE, KAN.

Kansas—Dear saints scattered abroad: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. We are so happy in knowing that our Redeemer loves us, and wants to help us through this life. We are glad we forsook all to follow Him.

The Coffeyville congregation wish to announce, Lord willing, a revival meeting (hopefully a tent meeting), starting with a singing on the night of April 17 with the meeting running through April 24 at the chapel, Eldridge and Willow. We are praying the Lord to burden the saints and ministers to come and help us in this outreach for lost souls.

We would like to see the Lord open doors for the evangelistic tents to be kept busy this summer. There are many requirements and lots of ground work to be done when a tent is to go up in cities. They require a permit, and have to appear before zoning committees, and provide sanitary facilities.

May the Lord help us all to get a vision of the lost and redouble our efforts to rescue the perishing. My heart was moved by Sis. Sandra Whitson's article in the February issue, also by Bro. C. E. Orr's statement, which I repeat: "There will be many souls lost in eternity because they were not loved on earth, as they should have been." The Scripture reads, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Prov. 29:18. We must keep that first love abounding in our hearts that will move us on in rescuing souls.

We appreciate everyone who has supported the National Missionary Fund through the years. We want to say Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons, who have labored with one tent in past years, feel they would like someone younger to take the tent and equipment

and go into the great harvest field. Maybe the Lord has a ready, prepared servant. Let the Church pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth more laborers. May the Lord bless His Word as it goes forth.

Yours for lost souls,

—Bro. Ralph and Sis. Inez Beisly

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Anniversary Service—April 3 & 4, 1982

The anniversary service of the Golden Rule Home at Shawnee, Okla., will be held the first weekend of April. We are praising the Lord for 19 years of operation.

Lord willing, there will be a singing at the chapel in Shawnee on Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at the Home on Sunday, and the afternoon service will be held there. Places will be found for all those desiring to stay over Saturday night.

Several spaces are available in the Home for the elderly saints who need care and a home until God calls them to their heavenly Home. For further information, contact us at the Golden Rule Home, Rt. 6, Box 10, Shawnee, Ok. 74801. Phone numbers 273-7106 or 275-6686.

Christian love,

—Janyce Porter

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Proposed National Ministers' Meeting

Several ministers have suggested the need for a National ministers' meeting, and the logical place to hold it is here at Guthrie as it is a central location. This writer has proposed that it be held here, beginning on Monday, June 7, at 10:00 a.m., following the Guthrie campmeeting which closes on Sunday, June 6, 1982. The dining hall and dormitories will still be set up from the campmeeting, and available for use by the ministers. A meeting cannot be held during the school term as the Christian school occupies the dining hall.

Other ministers should express their opinion on this proposal, and the decision and final announcement will be made in the May issue. —L. D. Pruitt

DISCOUNT ON BIBLES

All King James Bibles, including the Thompson Chain Reference Bible, are available at a 10% discount. We pay all postage and handling. You may contact me at the following address or phone number: Bro. Jack Morrison, Rt. 2, Cheney, Ks. 67025. Phone (316) 542-3937.

—————o—————

I FOUND ALL THIS

A room of quiet, a temple of peace,
The home of faith where doubting ceased;
A house of comfort where hope is given,
A source of strength to make earth heaven,
A shrine in which to worship, a place to pray—
I found all this in the church today.

—Mrs. Elmer Fingerle

Prayer Requests

Texas—Pray for Sister Gladys Morgan who suffered a stroke recently. She cannot see to read, and can hardly walk about.

Calif.—Pray for Jack K. Sudduth, the grandson of Sister Margaret Hall. He has had seizures over the years. He writes, "Through this, the Lord has called me to preach His Word. He also promised He would heal me. Praise God, His promises hold fast. I ask your prayers that God's will be done in my life."

Indiana—Pray for Sister Mary J. Rogers who has back trouble. She is trusting the Lord to heal to His glory.

Indiana—Pray for Sister Betty Baker who suffers with neck trouble. The Lord has helped her much since a year ago, but she is looking to the Lord for complete healing.

Indiana—Bro. Nathan Mobley requests prayer for his healing of heart trouble, for his son George who has cancer in his throat and stomach, and for his brother who had a light stroke and his sister-in-law who is sick.

Florida—Bro. and Sister Hargrave of Goulds, Fla., report that the court trial has been postponed but still pending. Their daughter Rachel was taken from them last year by court order, subjected to a brain tumor operation and placed on medication under the protest of the parents. Rachel is undergoing the final medical tests, and they will be completed in two weeks. She has not taken any hormones for several weeks, and seems to be doing well. Bro. and Sister Hargrave desire continued prayer that the court case will be dropped and the whole matter overruled.

Kentucky—Mrs. Wm. Moseley requests special prayer of all the saints for their 12-year-old son Billy who has trouble learning to read and he can hardly do his school work. He takes his Bible to services every Sunday, but he can't read. Please unite in prayer for Billy that God will open his mind to reading and answer the urgent prayer of this mother.

La.—Remember Nathan Carver in prayer. He desires the Lord to heal him of a skin problem from which he is suffering.

UNTO THE CHURCH OF GOD

Church of God, Thy truth upholding,
Victory at last is nigh.

To the end, be not withholding
Needed life for which they cry.

Though the battle press you sorely,
And thy courage almost gone,

When they treat you, oh, so poorly,
Pilgrim, press the battle on.

Church of God, thy truth proclaiming
Till the day of wrath shall come,

And His holy Church reclaiming
Chosen vessels all made one.

—Henry Willey

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Feb. 20)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints everywhere in America: Our Christian love and greetings to all again in the precious name of Jesus Christ.

Thank you very much for your kind letter dated Feb. 1, 1982, and the enclosures were noted with much appreciation.

By the grace of God the church activities and all things here are going on well. Sister Keiser is doing fine. We still have some more meetings in the north and south, and after those meetings she will leave for her home the last of March. This week we go north for a meeting at Kodassery and Kolazi, and for the dedication of the new chapel at Kodali.

We are unhappy to know that your physical condition seems to get worse. In our fasting and prayer meetings we especially pray for you. We appreciate the special grace you have to hold fast to the faith and promises. . . .

This is the time for the Church of God to obey the missionary spirit and Jesus' divine commission. There is no more time for us to sit at ease in Zion. Christ is at the door.

Yours in Him,

—John Varghese

SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

Many requests are received often for Spanish literature, in Mexico, South America, and especially Central America. It seems that Central America has more freedom to distribute tracts than other Spanish-speaking countries. We would much rather that the tracts be in the hands of the people hungry for God, than on the shelves. Each package is sent with a prayer that each one will get into the hands of honest souls.

More material is being set, corrected, paged up, and readied for printing as time and strength allow.

My desire is to be faithful to precious souls. Pray for me.

Christian love,

—Sis. Opal Kelly

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (Feb. 23)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints abroad: Greetings in the praiseworthy name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are in Christ's service submissively, rendering the greatest service we can to those around, which is to confess with the apostle Andrew, "We have found the Christ." It is our vow to ever remain model disciples in showing others that we are saved to save them. The same searching question put to Apostle Peter is reaching our hearts, "Lovest thou me more than these?" We come to love much because, like the woman that bathed Christ's feet, we have been forgiven much.

Thank you for your letter dated Feb. 1, 1982, the contents of which were duly noted. We are greatly disturbed to be advised that your health is taking a worse turn. . . . May God hear our prayers to avert floods of tears that cannot be controlled. . . .

The Lord, as the Divine Potter, is molding His followers to the supreme task of evangelism. He has the sole responsibility of shaping us to His purpose as we submit to Him. We are telling nothing of ourselves, but the One who has done so much for us is being exalted. Our chief prayer request is that we may shine as lights in the world (2 Cor. 3:3).

The Okpai congregation is growing nicely with the membership submitting to the doctrines of the Bible and firm faith in God. Okpai is a community on the bank of the Niger River. Bro. Alphonsus Okwosha has moved to Okpai for the pastoral care of the congregation.

Yours in Him, —Titus U. E. Enu

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MISSION REPORT FROM SIS. KEISER

S. India (Feb. 16)—Dear Bro. Pruitt, and all saints everywhere: Greetings again in Jesus' dear name from faraway India.

The sun gets hotter and the rice harvest is on, which is a very dusty process. The courtyard teems with harvesters much of the time, men and women, young and old, from early till late. The harvest of rice is plentiful this year, for which everyone is thanking God.

The Kottarvilla meeting, which convened Feb. 5-7, was very precious. The Holy Spirit prevailed over all. Remembering that the teaching of sanctification is generally new to the people in India, there was much interest shown in the chart and the message which was brought. There were a lot of people listening. While there didn't seem to be much move at the time, the Holy Spirit was talking to hearts. The doors of heaven were open, and the truth settled in. I have found that the Indian doesn't always express himself right away, but he will come to you in time with his thoughts and decisions. Time will uncover much good from this meeting. . . .

Two Sundays ago we had a wonderful lesson from the Bible Story Picture Roll on Nicodemus coming to Jesus by night, and how necessary it is to be born again. After the lesson, the Spirit was right for an altar call. There were at least 65 little boys and girls in the service, and that many little hands went up letting us know they wanted Jesus to come into their hearts. They knew what they needed to do. We prayed for them, and then they prayed for themselves. It sounded like a hive of bees swarming for a few minutes. I wish all of you could have heard those little ones pray. . . . My constant prayer is that God will keep them, and raise them up for His service.

There will be at least three meetings in North Kerala during the last of Feb., and the first week in March. On March 3, there will be a dedication service of the new building at Kodali. There will be a number of one-day services close by here before the

convention season closes. I am planning to be here through the season. . . .

I have been receiving some questions in the mail: Do the people really receive Christ by just raising their hands? When do they repent and cry to God for forgiveness? Why don't the Indians go to an altar and let the ministers pray with them? How do they get delivered from bondage of Satan's spirits?

You and I have been taught basically that the altar is the place to go to get saved. We look for it, and we could think this is the only way to do it, but God is not limited in His ways of working with the hearts of men. He uses methods and ways that would astonish us if we could but see the way He works with the hearts of men to lead them to repentance.

The Indian is a very religious person. One can see this by the many shrines, temples, and church buildings that dot the land. His religions are wrong, but he takes them seriously. When he comes to a public meeting, his mind and heart is open to listen to what is said, and to ponder over it. He hears the truth preached from the Bible, the Spirit brings it to his open heart and he gets quiet and thoughtful. By the time an Indian raises his hand in a meeting, he has already repented of his sins, forsaken them, and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness. He has prayed and made his own decision to follow Christ. His changed life will prove it. He will seek the pastor for instruction and to answer his questions. He will want to be baptized and will come with the saints. If God can find a humble, penitent, and willing heart, it doesn't take Him long to break the power of the devil, set him free, and forgive him.

Saul of Tarsus was a hard-hearted man. He was set in what he thought was right, but it didn't take God long to change him about face, and make a solid believer out of him. I have seen people go to an altar, and so have you, with half a dozen preachers gathered around them, praying with and for them, and yet they get up and go away dry-eyed and unsaved. Whether a person stands with upraised hand that the work is done in his heart, or whether he kneels at a public altar and prays through, or lies on a sick bed, or is driving a car in heavy traffic, I can receive his testimony of being saved by the life he begins to live. . . .

I recognize that I am in India by God's appointment, and I believe I am accomplishing His purpose for my being here. The Lord willing, I will return home when my Visa expires, around March 20. More can be accomplished for the work in India by my being in the campmeetings this summer than by my staying here for another three months.

I have enjoyed the freedom of the Varghese home, and their kind hospitality which has been extended to me another time. I want to thank Bro. John for his faithfulness in interpreting the words from my mouth into the Malayalam language for the people. Without this, my words would have been void.

I want to thank everyone for their encouraging letters, prayers, and offerings, which have helped

make this trip possible. Pray for me always, and for a safe trip home.

Yours for souls in India and everywhere,

—Sis. Dorothy Keiser

[Editor's note: Sister Dorothy Keiser arrived home safely in Shawnee, Okla., on March 20, from her three-month mission to India.]

From the Mailbox . . .

Ark.—Time and trials often press hard and unfavorably, but the God of all grace is the strength of my life. Praise His dear name! Let us expect greater things yet. There are no failures in our Lord. He is capable of doing anything and cares for every need. What more could we ask for? Our faith must not vacillate.

We need your prayers that God will give us a mind to work, wisdom and plenty of love to share. Thank you and may God bless all.

—Alalue Bray

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

Mo.—Dear saints: Greetings of Christian love to each of you. I wanted to let you know that I appreciate your prayers for me concerning this affliction that I am battling. I have received many good letters and cards. They have all been encouraging to me. I would like to answer each one personally, but since I am not able to write at this time, I want to take this means to let you know that I do appreciate each one and I thank you. May the good Lord bless you for your concern for me.

At this time (March 11) I am being severely tested, but I am walking by faith and not by sight, still expecting complete deliverance. Let us keep believing to see as the psalmist David said in Psalm 27:13. "I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."

—Sis. Eva Lou Gaines

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

Mo.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: As I was reading the different testimonies in the paper, I was impressed with a certain Scripture and received so much good from it, that I wanted to share it with the saints and others.

It is found in 1 Kings 9:3, "And the Lord said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually." It was encouraging to my heart to think that God's heart was with us. The Temple at Jerusalem was a type of the Church today. Solomon dedicated the Temple and offered sacrifices. Jesus built and dedicated the Church, and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us. The 17th chapter of St. John is Jesus' prayer of dedication. Just as God said He had heard Solomon's prayer, and had hallowed that house, and had put His name, His eyes, and His heart there perpetually, so God has heard Jesus' prayer, and has hallowed His spiritual House,

("Whose house are we") Heb. 3:6, and put His name, His eyes, and His heart there for ever. It is so encouraging to think God's heart would be with us for ever. Thinking of Him as an almighty, all-wise, and loving heavenly Father, and then have this heart with us continually is very encouraging.

We have a good example of Jesus' heart being with His people in the case of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus in the 11th chapter of St. John. Jesus heard the request of Mary and Martha. He loved them, and He sorrowed with them. "Then said the Jews, Behold, how he loved him!" Jesus' heart was with them. Jesus' heart and presence is with us today when we love Him and live for Him. He is able to comfort us and willing to help us as our faith takes in His precious promises.

May the Lord bless all of His people everywhere.

—Bro. T. V. McMillian

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

Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the saints: Greetings in Jesus' precious name.

We are pressing on one step at a time. We mean to go right on until the crown is won.

I look around us and see the world conditions and know that the end of time is near. Only God knows when. Jesus told us that when we see all these things come to pass, the time is near. He has been so good to us and I love Him.

Enclosed is a check to help in God's work. I am still praying for you and all that are afflicted.

Pray for us and our family.

Christian love, —Sister Lois Underwood

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

Okla.—Dear saints: I enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory* paper. We appreciate the kindness of a gift subscription of some wonderful brothers and sisters, who made it possible for members of our inmate fellowship to receive monthly issues. Praise God for that kindness and attitude of love!

I thank you and all the saints of God who have taken an interest and concern for men and women in prisons. We cherish every contact of fellowship. . . .

I have a young cousin, age 13, who was born with brain damage, and is an invalid for life. This child, Mark, is now hospitalized with pneumonia. The doctors gave no hope of recovery, but through prayer Mark has gotten better and is breathing on his own. I solicit each of you to pray for Mark's recovery and healing to the glory of God. I believe this child will receive a miracle.

Love in Christ, —Bro. Harold Brown

—o—
HE LIVES!

He lives! He lives!

Earth's joyous cry,

Christ the Lord

Reigns on high!

—Edward M. Brandt

—o—

"The time to make friends is before you need them."

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Canada—Dear saints of God: Greetings in the name of Jesus! I thank the Lord for being saved and sanctified and satisfied. I would like to tell what the Lord has done for me. Some time ago, I started having stomach problems. Just what it was I don't know, but it seemed I could hardly eat and when I did, I got terrible stomach pains. This happened nearly every time I ate. Also, I contracted colic and then could hardly gain my breath.

Then in Nov. 1981, we had some meetings with Bro. Curtis Williams and some other brethren, including Bro. Mancil Doolittle. On Sunday afternoon, I requested to be anointed and prayed for, and the Lord definitely healed me. The next week, my stomach pains were gone, although the enemy tried to bring them back, but he was rebuked. Since then I've had no problems with this ailment and have been able to eat very well. Praise the Lord! We have an Almighty God. His Word says, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things." (Rev. 21:7) We shall inherit all the promises of God, including divine healing, if we overcome sin and the world.

Pray for me that I'll be true and faithful. I am still trusting the Lord for complete deliverance of arthritis.

Your sister,

—Betty Friesen

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

Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the name of Jesus. I trust everyone there is pressing on for God.

By the help of the Lord I would like to give our testimony of how God has worked in the case of our retarded son Daniel. [He is about 11 years of age.]

Due to my husband's illness, in September of 1981, a lady, Mrs. Spotts, was caring for our son Daniel because she has special training in caring for retarded children. One night he became ill with symptoms of appendicitis, and Mrs. Spotts rushed Daniel to the hospital. Tests were run and it was decided he did not have appendicitis, but they wanted to run more tests.

My husband and I called the saints in Pacoima, and some of them drove down that night. They anointed Daniel and prayed for him there in the hospital.

After the tests were run, the doctor said that Daniel was born with only one kidney, and that the kidney he did have was larger than normal and in a poor condition. He said it was functioning at only 30%. Also, the tube leading from the kidney to the bladder was deformed. The doctor said they must operate and replace the tube and do some reconstruction. He said that without the operation Daniel would have only a year to live.

Daniel was released from the hospital because the operation could not be carried out until his infection was cleared. When we told the doctor that we intended to trust God for healing, he was upset and took us to court. . . . Daniel was taken into protective custody, and we appeared in court. The doctor testified that it would take three months to clear the infection with antibiotics, and that he must wait another three months to keep him clear of infection before operating.

He said Daniel would probably have to be on medication the rest of his life. Daniel was taken from us and placed back in the care of Mrs. Spotts. . . . Mrs. Spotts began immediately giving Daniel the antibiotics, and within four days the infection was completely gone. We knew God healed him. . . . We then began the three month waiting period. . . . We went through more hearings. Bro. Ostis Wilson came and went to court in our behalf. He testified to several cases of divine healing with which he was personally acquainted. The judge set the date for surgery, but felt that the court was not the place to handle this kind of religious decision. We consecrated Daniel to God. . . .

We were not allowed to see Daniel in the hospital before or after surgery. This was hard, but God gave us grace. We were able to keep a meek and quiet spirit. We did go to the hospital the day of surgery, and as they were rolling him back to his room, I did see him, although he did not see me. . . .

Mrs. Spotts told me the doctor said that when he got inside Daniel, he had a lot less to do than he had anticipated. Praise God! That's because God healed him. He didn't even have to replace the tube or do the reconstruction. Before he left the hospital, x-rays showed his kidney to be in normal condition. Praise God!

Daniel is now under temporary foster parent supervision, and supposedly will be for four more months. When he is off medication, we will have to go back through court to get custody of him.

We are looking to God to give us custody before the end of the next four months, but we want to be submitted to God's will. Please pray that God will work in our behalf. . . .

Christian love,

—Bro. K. C. and Sister Candice Rich

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

Mo.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt and saints: Greetings of love in the precious name of Jesus. This leaves me still encouraged to live for the Lord and trust Him for my every need.

It has been two years since I had pneumonia and I was unable to do my work for about two months. Gradually I got stronger, and now I feel that I am healed and I want to give God all the praise. I was able to help raise a large garden last year, and did lots of canning. Lord willing, I hope to do the same this year.

Recently I woke up about 3:00 a.m., and my ears felt like they were getting infected. I asked Jesus to take the soreness away, and I would send in my testimony. I went back to sleep, and when I woke at 6:00, all trace of soreness was gone. I am still feeling fine. It is so sweet to trust in Jesus. He has answered my prayers so many times, I can never praise Him enough!

I love to read the *Faith and Victory* paper, and I get lots of encouragement from it.

Bro. Lawrence, I have been praying for the Lord to completely heal you, if it be His will, as I know you have been a faithful servant for many years.

Please pray for my unsaved loved ones that they might seek salvation before it is too late.

Christian love, —Sis. Violet Sinkhorn
o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Al.—Dear ones: I am thanking God today for that blessed hope we have of a home in heaven where there will be no more sickness, suffering, sorrow, or death. There will be no violence, no pestilence, or war. Praise God!

Some day all these clouds will be lifted,

Some day these heartaches all will cease,

Some day we'll be at home with Jesus

And then we will have eternal peace.

Yours in Christ, —Leora Frink

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints of the Most High God: This is a brief report to let everyone know that the battle is still being fought here inside the Oklahoma State Prison. Although we haven't written for some time, we still are struggling to lift up Christ to lost and dying souls. Death is ever present here, and walks these corridors searching for some soul to plunge into eternal torment. Yet, praise God, we have One that is willing and able to give us power over Satan and his designs against the Truth: Jesus Christ is the unconquerable Champion of the Kingdom of God!

We desire your prayers for the work here, especially for me, that I might walk pleasing to God EVERY day.

Bro. Madden and the faithful Sapulpa brethren have held on, and held us up amidst confusing and bewildering circumstances. Thank God!

—Bro. Elbert Johnson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

La.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints abroad: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus.

Isn't it wonderful to have a divine Physician who never prescribes the wrong medicine and never gives a discouraging diagnosis!

I have never written my testimony since receiving my first *Faith and Victory* in March, 1980. I thank the Lord for this blessed publication.

Today I am able to claim complete healing from the Lord. Last Friday I noticed small boils breaking out on different areas of my body. One was in the joint area behind my leg, another one was on my upper pelvic region, and the other was on the lower left buttock. By Sunday the third one became large and infected. By Monday it was the size of a tennis ball, which made it very painful to walk.

My wife became alarmed and said that I should go to a doctor, but I told her, no, and I took hold of the promises of the Lord for my healing. On Tuesday, my condition was a little worse. I was tempted to squeeze the boil, but decided to let the Lord have full control. The Lord began His surgery. On Wednesday morning, when I was getting ready for work, the boil broke and began to drain. That same morning I went to work with a cold. That night I had a fever. My wife told me to take something for the fever, but I

said the Lord was using the fever to remove the infection. Now the cold and the boils are all gone, and I am glad to claim total victory in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pray for me, as I get very lonely for Christian fellowship.

In Christian love, —Michael White

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear saints scattered abroad: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." 1 Peter 2:24.

We can never tell it all, but we praise and thank God for all He has done for us. At the end of January, L. D., my husband, contracted dust pneumonia again. He had it very bad four years ago, and the Lord was so very good to help us through the rough places and made us to know He would heal him. One night the Lord gave him a real touch about 3:00 a.m., and he said to me, "The Lord is operating." He was kept in about all that winter, but this time God brought him through sooner, and he is back at work. What a mighty God we serve!

Last June, when we went to the tent meeting in Pa., I hurt my leg just above the knee. A very large bruise appeared, and I could hardly walk without limping. At the end of the meeting I was anointed and prayed for. We returned home, and someone asked me why I was limping. . . . I was up in the night and noticed my leg didn't hurt, and the next morning all pain was gone. It had been two weeks and two days since I hurt it, and it seemed God healed it overnight. Praise God!

This is just a very small thing compared to what some of you dear ones are going through, but do keep encouraged and looking up. God is faithful and will not fail us. We remember all of you in prayer.

God took our little boy to Himself nine years ago the 12th of March, but we know he is in a better place, and by the grace of God we want to live so that we can go be with him and Jesus and all the saints when we leave this old world. Oh, dear ones, let us keep our eyes on Jesus. Heaven will surely be worth it all.

Remember us in prayer, —Lois Chrisman

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Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings to you and all the saints in the name of our Lord Jesus. I am writing to you with joy in my heart.

My name is Bro. Mark Hansen. I am Bro. Rik Strey's brother-in-law. I became a part of God's wonderful family on Dec. 1, 1981. He has blessed me so richly in the last few months I can scarcely believe it; nevertheless, it is true. Before I came to know the Lord I was the lead singer of Scavenger, a Rock and Roll group. The music we were playing was very satanic, and the devil was preparing for us a lot of jobs in Hollywood. In the world's eyes we were doing pretty good.

My precious sister and brother-in-law were constantly praying for me, and needless to say, the

Lord sent His mighty power of conviction down on me. At that time I was caught up in all kinds of drugs and women. (I am married, but separated. My wife is living with another man.) The devil had me thinking that I had really arrived, and in a way I had; I had arrived at the lowest part of my life. But thank God, the Lord had better plans for me, and I heeded His call. I am so glad to say that on Dec. 1, 1981, I gave my life to Jesus, and a week later I got sanctified. I attend the Church of God in Ontario. Bro. Daniel Layne is such a blessing. The good Lord is using him in so many ways.

I want your prayers for my wife and me. We have been separated for over a year. We have two little girls, Destiny and Shannon. I get them on the weekends and take them to church. I know the Lord wants my wife and me to be back together, and I mean to hold fast in faith until it happens, or until I go to be with my wonderful Saviour.

On Monday, Feb. 15, 1982, I was at work and suffered a heart attack. I was rushed home at my request rather than going to the hospital. Bro. Daniel Layne, Bro. Rik Strey, and Sis. Crystal Strey anointed me with oil and prayed. As soon as they finished praying, I was completely healed. Thank the Lord! It is so wonderful to know the saints have an ever-present Physician.

Your Bro. in Christ, —Mark A. Hansen
o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Kansas—Dear Bro. Lawrence and other saints: Praises to our God from whom all blessings flow. In spite of the perils and dangers to our soul in these evil times, we are able to stand true and faithful to our God, because He is still the same—today as He ever was and never changes. He still has ALL power and is able to keep us from falling. His grace is certainly sufficient for us, and He enables us to keep on going onward and upward with our eyes still on the Lord and on our goal which is heaven. If we keep heaven in view, we will be able to keep pressing on because the solid desire to reach that place of bliss and peace is sufficient incentive to go right on until the crown is truly won.

I am encouraged today and happy in my soul, although the devil has been plenty busy right from the very start of this new year. But it has not deterred me in the least from going onward and upward. In fact, it has spurred me on to increase my pace and resist the devil more steadfastly and seek for daily power to defeat the old evil fellow. I have taken new courage, and most certainly feel like fighting more vigorously and valiantly in the army of my Lord.

Be encouraged, Bro. Lawrence, and just seek daily for the inner man to be renewed and strengthened. Just rejoice in your spirit, and keep thanking and praising God for being one of His chosen few. Just thank Him, praise Him, and glorify His name because your name is enrolled in heaven and God loves you with an everlasting love. Just let Him be glorified by your continued faithful stand of trust,

faith, and confidence in Him. Just continue to claim the promises of God, and let your soul rejoice and be happy in the Lord. . . . May God continue to keep you in the hollow of His hands.

Christian love, —Sis. Shirley Knight
o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mich.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints everywhere: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. May God bless all you dear saints in the office there who are laboring to spread the gospel, and I certainly want to help. I can never repay the Lord for all He has done for me. God is good and greatly to be praised. I want to show the Lord that I love Him in my deeds, not just in what I say. The Lord looks into our hearts, and He knows all about us.

Do pray for me, as I have burdens and desires before God. I am confident that He is able to help and deliver. By God's grace I'll keep pressing on, for I know that all other ground is sinking sand.

Christian love, —Lela Stewart
o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt: . . . I mean to go to the end for Jesus. No turning back. He has brought me too far to turn back now. I'm still working to help save this world, for the world in sin is lost, and people are getting worse and worse. We need more wisdom to reach souls.

The Lord will soon come bursting through the clouds in a few more days to take His people out of this troublesome world, and we want to be ready to meet Him in the air. All these tests and trials are just getting us ready for heaven. Be encouraged, He will see you through to glory divine. At the last I shall reap (we, the faithful) my reward. The devil is after the saints as never before, trying to overthrow us. But we can keep victory in our soul, and not give up. Many prayers are going up for you and all the afflicted ones of the saints.

Yours Sister in Christ, —Lizzie B. Jordan

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: What is the meaning of 1 Cor. 6:1-3? Especially deal with Paul's statement, "The saints shall judge the world." How much territory does this cover, and what does it not cover?

Answer: 1 Cor. 6:1-3 reads, "Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?"

The apostle here is giving out a strong reproof against the saints at Corinth for going to law one against another in the common courts of the land before the unbelieving (heathen) judges and putting

on display their strifes and disagreements before the world, whereas they should be showing to the outside world the picture of love, mercy, longsuffering and forbearance, charity and unity. He calls this a shameful thing, and surely it is a shameful thing and a reproach to the Christian profession. He argues that all their disagreements and differences should be tried before a select group of saints or even one who would have divine wisdom and be able to judge between his brethren. This is still good advice for saints today. We should never carry our affairs of any nature before the outside world to judge. A person who would not submit to the judgment of qualified Spirit-filled men of God would be wrong at heart even before he filed a case in court. Of course, it is a different matter if a saint is drawn into court by some one of the outside world through circumstances over which he has no control and should not be condemned by other saints for being in such a case unless he has given some occasion for it. If he has given such occasion or been at fault in the matter, then he should strive by all means available to him to correct his fault and settle the matter before it gets into court.

In verse 3 it says, "We shall judge angels." Apparently the apostle here is referring to himself and his brother ministers in this case and not the saints in general as in verse 2. I have not had any very good explanation or understanding on this statement. However, Adam Clarke says that "Angels" here is generally believed by Bible scholars and commentators to refer to devils. This interpretation has a foundation in the Scriptures in 2 Cor. 11:13, 14, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." Also in Rev. 12:7 of the dragon (Paganism; heathenism) which is also called the Devil and Satan (that great opposer of the truth, the gospel of Christ, and believers in Him) and his angels. This text makes it clear that Satan has angels the same as God. Adam Clarke further says that it was through the preaching of the gospel by Paul and his brother ministers (Holy Spirit-filled men) that these satanic angels (false apostles and prophets that spoke contrary to the truth) and also evil spirits of all kinds were exposed and judged and cast out. Thus "we" (the Holy Spirit-filled ministers of Christ) judge angels (the evil spirits and agents of Satan). I have followed Adam Clarke at this place and have no better explanation that I can give at this time.

Now, in 1 Cor. 6:2 it says, "The saints shall judge the world." This is where the special emphasis is in the question. Again Adam Clarke says that, "the world" is a term in the Scriptures which generally refers to the Roman Empire or some times to the Jewish State. But in my discussion here I prefer to extend it beyond those borders to the whole wide world, even though in its direct meaning it may refer

to a more restricted area. This is because I see it applying to our time also and in about the same way. In other words, the same Scriptures would apply in either case.

All will agree, no doubt, that the preaching of the gospel under Holy Spirit anointing and power is a judgment against all sin and unrighteousness. In Rom. 1:16 Paul says that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation. In verse 17 he says that in the gospel is revealed the righteousness of God, and in verse 18 he says that in the gospel is revealed the wrath of God against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men. The judgments of God through His Word liberates and saves all who will accept His judgments. They also condemn all who refuse to accept them. 1 Pet. 4:17 says, "The time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God." Isa. 1:27 says, "Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness." Isa. 4:4 says Jerusalem shall be purged by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning. Isa. 9:7 says the kingdom of God shall be ordered and established with judgment forever. Isa. 58:1 says, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression and the house of Judah their sins." All these Scriptures refer to the preaching of the gospel and its effects, and that the same judgments that will condemn and destroy some will liberate, establish, purge and save others. It all depends on our response and attitude toward it.

The 149th Psalm is a psalm about the saints and their joyful habitation and their position of holy power. They possess in their hand a two-edged sword (the Word of God—Heb. 4:12) to execute vengeance upon the heathen and punishments upon the people; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute upon them the judgments written; this honor have all his saints. This is exactly what they did when through the preaching of the gospel the works of the devil were exposed and the dragon bound and cast out. Devils were cast out of many by those whom Jesus sent out to preach and their successors after them. The kings and priests of the heathen world and pagan religions lost much of their influence with the people. It is also the same today where the pure Word of God is preached. He still honors His saints and confirms His word with signs following. In Isa. 2:3, concerning the kingdom of God and its establishment, it says, "... for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." This describes the Church of God in action executing the judgments written, and in this sense the "saints judge the world."

Psalms 1:5 says that sinners shall not stand in the congregation of the righteous. This introduces the thought that when sinners come into a congregation of the righteous where the saints are filled with the Holy Ghost and fire, and the Holy Spirit is anointing and reigning supremely, sinners and lukewarm professors are not able to stand there. They will be very uncomfortable and strongly convicted of their

sins and lukewarmness. 1 Cor. 14:24, 25 says, "But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth." The results of a good, spiritual service is a judgment against all unrighteousness and a conviction of sinners. In this way also the saints judge the world.

Also, individually a person who is filled with the Spirit of God and manifesting a holy life will be a sharp rebuke and bring a conviction against the frivolous, foolish, and evil ways of the world when he is in the presence of worldly people. In this way also the saints shall judge the world.

There are more ways in which the saints shall judge the world, and I will continue this later.

(Same subject to be continued in next issue.)

God Is Love



A Sunday school teacher one time gathered the little ones around her to hear their memory verses. As each one said theirs, the teacher tried to explain it to them so they would understand it better. One said, "Jesus wept," and the teacher explained it. One said, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." She explained that one also. Then one said, "God is love," and that one stopped the teacher. "God is love." That Scripture seemed too big to even begin to explain.

To know God is to love Him. God intended for man to serve Him in reverence and in love. We know God made man to love because He made him in His own likeness. Truly, God gave man a mind, a heart, and a soul at first as pure as He desired him to have. He also gave him the choice to prove his love by putting the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the garden. Then lust overcame Eve. God had put pure love in her heart, but she let a counterfeit "love" or lust overcome her conscience, and she sinned against God. She enticed Adam to sin also. James 1:14, 15, says: "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." We notice then that sin was brought to the human race through the avenue of lust. (Gen. 3)

In studying out the problems in life, it will be found that behind every sin, there is at least one lust or "counterfeit love" that is not of God. In 2 Tim. 3:1-5, there is a list of sins that Paul charges Timothy to turn away from. "For men shall be lovers of their own selves . . . without natural affection . . . lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; . . . from such turn away." In 1 Tim. 6:10, we read: "For the love of money is the root of all evil." Lovers of self, lovers of pleasure, lovers of money—these three "loves" alone are the foundation for many sins today.

God intended for His love to dwell in a person's heart, but if it isn't there, that person is not content. True love gives security to an individual. God gives security; remember, God is love. When anyone turns away from God's pure love, instantly the human nature seeks something else to replace it because everyone desires security. Love and security go hand in hand. The Scripture mentioned earlier tells us that "when he [man] is drawn away of his own lust . . . it bringeth forth sin." Let us guard our affections that they always stay pure.

In John 15:9, 10, 12, Jesus said, "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." Truly the Lord loved us! The Lord wants His love to be in us and around us. "If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us." (1 John 4:12) I am sure not one person can be found with too much love in his heart for others, but all of us need more godly love. It is a love to work for, to obtain, and to keep while daily nourishing that love no matter what stormy trials may come our way in life.

1 Cor. 13, defines the virtues of pure love one toward another. This is an excellent chapter to memorize and refer to often. Love will stop false accusations, back-biting, and criticism because "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth; . . . And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." On and on we could write from the Bible about love because through the Bible we learn of God, and God is love.

God's love is a powerful force, but it also has a gentleness about it no other love will have. It was here before we were and it will stay forever, even after we are gone. The book of Psalms often praises God for His lovingkindness because His mercy endureth forever. One song in the *Evening Light Songs* book says, "Oh, love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong! It shall forevermore endure—the saints' and angels' song." God is love—what more can be said? —Sis. Connie Sorrell

By the Lord's power and might
All sin we can overcome,
And win a shining crown
He's prepared for every one.

—Effie Miller

"Kind words are quickly said, but their echoes continue forever."

Prayers That Were Heard

"And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore. . . . And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli marked her mouth. Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. . . . Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him." 1 Sam. 1: 10, 12, 13, 17. Hannah prayed in the bitterness of her soul and would not eat, and the great, loving heart of God was touched when He saw her fervency. Faith was mingled with her earnestness; when Eli said, "Go in peace," she "went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad." Believing that her petition would be granted, she could rejoice.

Hezekiah was deathly sick. The prophet Isaiah came and told him that he should die and advised him to set his house in order. Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed thus: "Remember now, O Lord, . . . how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is right in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore." Isa. 38:3. The result of earnest prayer in this case was that the prophet returned with these wonderful words to Hezekiah: "Thus saith the Lord, . . . I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years." It takes just such fervency of soul to touch God.

Daniel knew the worth of prayer when he and his companions desired mercies of the God of heaven, and the result was that in the silent watches of the night the Lord revealed to Daniel the king's dream.

Let us look at the example of Jesus. How often we see Him going alone in earnest prayer before entering upon His duties! Before choosing the twelve apostles He went up into a mountain to pray and continued all night in prayer. He felt the necessity of being alone and praying earnestly to God. Paul says of Him in Heb. 5:7, 8: "Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayer and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered."

Our dear Savior has left us an example of true prayer. In the garden of Gethsemane He calls to the Father with all His heart. While the sins of the whole world are weighing upon Him, He prays. But once is not enough. He prays again and again. The loving heart of the Father is touched; the petition is granted; and an angel is sent to strengthen Him to stand before Pilate, to bear the scoffs and frowns of an angry mob, and at last to be nailed to the cruel cross of Calvary.

It is not a multitude of words that moves God to grant our petitions, but earnestness and faith. Ofttimes the Lord sees fit to withhold the answer for a while; but if we, like the Syrophenecian woman, keep our faith in Him, we shall have our desires.

—Lillie B. Thurmond

True Freedom

"If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Man, to a great extent, is a dependent creature. He is like some animals and plants, which can live only as they are in touch with necessary rocks or trees. Apart from God, man is helpless and unable to make any progress.

When you examine human greatness, you will find, in every instance, that the first cause, or principle, consisted in the person finding something that needed to be accomplished, outside of self, and surrendering himself to it. Some seem to believe that freedom consists in having their own way and living entirely for self, but that is a serious mistake. The person who follows out that course, will soon find himself a slave to the worst of masters; namely, his own appetites and passions.

True liberty is only to be found in recognition of law. Freedom, from any viewpoint is only a relative term, and simply means the renouncing of a bad master for a better one. Some have interpreted liberty to mean license. Such persons on the ocean we call pirates, and we count them as enemies of mankind.

Jesus Christ put on exhibition His greatness in a way that will never be forgotten, when He declared Himself to be "the servant of all." He was never independent. "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered" (Heb. 5:8), and thus became perfect and won a name above every other name.

Self is always striving for the mastery. Selfishness is one of the leading sins of our present age. Riding over authority, over the dictates of conscience, over the consciences of the brethren; disregarding admonitions from the brethren; seeking a name, applause, influence—these are positive symptoms of selfishness. Assuming to be humble and yet not BEING humble; preferring others to oneself in words, but not in actions. Humility never grumbles at the dictates of love, nor feels under bondage when fulfilling her commands.

I love the Church of God because she offers me freedom and protection—but only as I do my duty. Once I was in bondage, but Christ has set me free; in other words, once a servant to sin, but now a servant to Christ. In surrendering my time, will, soul, mind, and body to God, I am in return, made a master over everything that before had mastered me. I am a conqueror, yea, a king, in this life. Thanks be to God! I am crucified, yet I live; am dead, yet alive; am a master over sin, yet a servant of Christ and of my brethren.

Oh, blessed freedom! Oh, happy state! Free to worship God; free from the slavery of lust and sin, and from the yokes of men. The Son hath made me free, and I am free indeed. My soul is satisfied in being a servant of all. —J. Grant Anderson

It's good to have things settled by faith before they are unsettled by feelings.