

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



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### Enter Into God's Rest

Hebrews 3 and 4

From the dawning of creation  
God ordained for man a rest,  
And He gave an invitation  
That the soul of man be blest.

How He yearned through all His dealing  
For that some would enter in,  
In the Sabbath day revealing  
Entrance for the sons of men.

From dark Egypt's bondage swelling  
Came the hosts of Israel  
To a rest in Canaan's dwelling  
Where with them 'twould all be well.

But in unbelief despairing  
Failed they to achieve the best,  
God in all His anger swearing:  
"They'll not enter into my rest!"

Once again in David calling:  
"Harden not your hearts today!"  
With His blessings 'round us falling,  
Dare we now to disobey?

"We that have believed do enter  
Into rest!" Oh, truth divine!  
Christ becomes the living Center:  
Sun of righteousness to shine!

And the rest God instituted  
In the morning days of time  
Find we wond'rously included  
In the gospel so sublime.

"Fear lest we shall come short of it,"  
Let us strive to enter in;  
All the truth, oh, let us love it,  
Cease from doubt, and strife, and sin.

Come to Christ, O weary mortals,  
He will give you peace and rest;  
He will open up the portals  
To that land of all the blest!

—Leslie C. Busbee

### Leaving Home With a Bad Attitude

It is my desire to write some about the prodigal son. In the fifteenth chapter of St. Luke, beginning at the eleventh verse: "And he [Jesus] said, A certain man had two sons: and the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry." Luke 15:11-24.

We have before us a picture of a boy who became dissatisfied with home and decided to leave. I get a picture out of this situation that I had never before noticed. I would like to use the thirteenth verse for a text. It says, he "gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country." We had always thought of his substance, as being his money or material accumulation, but I get a far deeper meaning of this. The young man had gathered together and accumulated a lot of things in his mind down through the years—accumulated a bad attitude, from being dissatisfied

with his home. No doubt he had a selfish spirit, a picking spirit, and a bad attitude. When he left home, these are the things he gathered together and took with him. No doubt it made the father's heart sad when he thought of his son's leaving home; nevertheless, that was the son's desire, and his father gave him the desire of his heart.

I get a true picture here of a person who has been acquainted with the truth, been with the saints, known the doctrine and what it means, but he begins to accumulate some things in his mind. He becomes dissatisfied and unwilling to measure to the truth, believing in his mind that these things are not necessary, so decides, "I will get out of this place and go where I can have my liberty and freedom, and do as I want to do. I won't be under bondage!" He has accumulated these things in his heart and mind through a space of time; he reasons in his mind and decides he wants to leave the truth. He takes his journey! Oh, what a sad picture to think about leaving Father's house—leaving the truth, leaving the doctrine, leaving the saints, leaving the precious true Word of God that makes us free and happy and has brought us to this place where we have liberty and freedom in the Lord. Nevertheless, he has gathered these things and taken his journey into a far country—another country—out into the world, and into sectism.

We have noticed among the saints people who have been taught and reared in this truth, who have gathered together their own thoughts, ideas, and opinions. They think that they can go out and join up with some denomination which is man-made, and have their freedom and do as they please. They go their way, but it turns out that it isn't like they thought it would be. They take their many thoughts and ideas, go out and wander from mountain to hill, seeking rest and finding none. There is no rest outside this precious truth! Many times they are turned over to a reprobate mind because they believe a lie and are damned. There are some who come back to the truth like the prodigal who came back to Father's house. That is good and we are thankful when they do, but so many times they do not return.

Dear ones, if you are out there on some mountain or hill joined up with some sectarian group, or somewhere out there in a backslidden condition, I hope you will come to yourself and drop all of your thoughts and ideas—all your fault finding, your bad attitude, and that dissatisfied condition. Be like the prodigal boy and return and say, "I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight. I've done the saints wrong. I've had a bad attitude, a bad spirit, and I've accumulated a lot of bad things. Now I'm sorry about it. I am repenting of it all." Lay them all at Jesus' feet, and come back to the Father.

It was wonderful how the prodigal saw himself—his attitudes and his ideas that were wrong. It wasn't his father who was wrong, but it was he himself. He found himself to be in a sad condition and a sad plight. He had landed in a swine's pen, feeding with them, but he began to think about his father's house,

and of all that he was missing. There was bread there to spare and there was a good atmosphere in Father's house. So he said, "I've sinned against heaven and am no more worthy. I'm going back and ask forgiveness. I will repent of this thing and tell him I'm sorry." Oh, we find Father looking for him—having that longing for him to come back. He saw his son a great way off and ran and embraced him. He told his servant to kill the fatted calf, put shoes on his son's feet, and a robe on him, for he had returned to the fold.

Now dear ones, today if you have failed, left God and the saints, left the truth, left the doctrine, and have gone off with your accumulation of ideas and opinions, please lay them down today. Do you not remember or think of all the precious truths that you've been taught down through the years, and of the wonderful abiding peace and fellowship you enjoyed with the people of God? Why don't you give up? Why don't you turn down everything except Jesus, and return? The saints will have wide open arms to receive you back into the fold of God; the dear Lord is waiting to accept you back Home. But you must come to the place that you are sorry for your sins; sorry for your bad attitudes, sorry that you found fault with the saints, and sorry for the wrong thoughts that you had. You must repent of these things and throw them all aside. Then you can find peace and rest to your soul. In Jeremiah 6:16, it says, to "ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." —Murphy Allen

### THE SHEEP ASTRAY

'Twas a sheep, not a lamb, that strayed away,  
In the parable that Jesus told—

A grown-up sheep that had gone astray,  
From the ninety and nine in the fold.

Out in the meadows, out in the cold,

'Twas a sheep that the good shepherd sought,  
And back in the flock, safe in the fold,

'Twas a sheep the good shepherd brought.

And why for the sheep should we earnestly long,  
And as earnestly hope and pray?

Because there is danger if they go wrong,  
They will lead the young lambs astray.

For the lambs will follow the sheep you know,  
Where ever the sheep may stray.

If the sheep go wrong, it will not be long  
Till the lambs are as wrong as they.

And so with the sheep we earnestly plead.

For the sake of the lambs today,  
If the lambs are lost, what a terrible cost  
Some sheep will have to pay!

—Unknown

He does not love us truly who does not love us well enough to tell us our faults. To love one another is to have an intense desire to see one another free from faults.  
—C. E. Orr

## "In My Father's House Are Many Mansions"

John 14:2

This verse of Scripture has been a comfort to God's people through the years, looking forward to a mansion somewhere out in the future, and no doubt many place this Scripture as taking place in heaven. We who are saved are looking forward to that day when we can gain our crown and eternal home in heaven. We would like to present another line of thought on this point of Scripture by the Word of God, and trust that God will anoint.

The first part of this text reads, "In my Father's house." Let us consider what God's house is; and what it consists of. In Prophecy, Isaiah 2:2, 3, reads, "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." This is a direct prophecy of Christ building His Church, the house of the God of Jacob, or Zion, which is the Church. In Heb. 3:1-6, we have two houses mentioned. Moses got the pattern from God to build the first dwelling place for God among His people. (Ex. 25:8, 9) In Heb. 3:6, it reads, "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." This speaks of the house that Christ is over; we, God's people are this house according to this Scripture. In 1 Tim. 3:15, it reads, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." The house of God here is called "the church of the living God." 1 Pet. 2:5, speaks of "a spiritual house" (which is the church). 1 Pet. 4:17, reads, "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God [which is the church]." Eph. 2:19, speaks of "the household of God [which is the church]." Gal. 6:10, speaks of "the household of faith [which is also the church]." These Scriptures should explain what God's house is—the Church of the living God.

Let us now consider the second part of this verse which reads, "are many mansions." The word *mansion* in the King James version, is not in the Greek text. The Emphatic Diaglott translating from Greek to English reads, "are many dwellings." A dwelling is a place of abode, to live in. In John 14:23, Jesus said, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." This Scripture tells me that each one of us who is saved is an individual mansion (King James version) or a dwelling (Greek text). Jesus said in the above text that if we loved Him, we would keep His Words, and He (Jesus) and the Father would

come and make their abode with us. Therefore, this would make us a dwelling for the fullness of the Godhead to dwell in. This takes place when we are sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost. 1 Cor. 6:16, reads, "And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." Rev. 21:2, 3, reads, "And I John saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God." "Not in the temples made with hands, tho' beautiful by art; but God in mercy condescends to dwell within my heart. Oh, glory to Jesus so sweet in me; my body, thy temple shall forever be." May God bless these thoughts to each heart.

—Bro. Earl L. Sharp

## Drinking the Bitter Cup

"The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" John 18:11 b.

These words spake Jesus as He was being betrayed by one of His chosen disciples. As He entered into His last trial, He was willing to do His Father's will, knowing it would bring suffering to His body. As some looked on, they may have thought, "If He is the Christ, why doesn't He or His Father do something at this point?" But being all wise and willing to bring salvation to mankind, Jesus suffered; not regarding what man would think or say, but willing to drink His bitter cup for us. What a wonderful Savior!

We can see this image of our Savior being manifested as we see our dear sisters and brothers bearing cancers, tumors, and many other visible diseases on their bodies—being willing to drink their bitter cup. Jesus, that great Son of God, was our example in suffering. To see His face in peace will surely be worth all the pain, trials, scoffs, and ridicule because you do not turn to medical aid. May His abiding peace be with each of you and may your courage be renewed as you drink your bitter cup. It will soon be past. God is still on His throne, and prayer changes things. We are not one bit discouraged when we are not healed.

We thank God that He has some saints that He can trust to suffer for His sake, leaving an example for the youth to follow. We are sure the cup gets bitter and the dregs hard to swallow, but keep looking up to our God. He has not forsaken one of His dear children. We are sorry we cannot visit each one, but may this encourage you to keep holding on in Jesus' name.

—Theresa Gaines, Tulsa, Okla.

The nearer you live like Christ, the nearer you live like you ought to live. The more you love Him, love with Him, and love all things for Him, the more you will be like Him.

—C. E. Orr

# 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 Randall D. Flynn, assisted by Wayne Murphey and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044 (USPS184-660)

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

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

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

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## EDITORIALS



Greetings to each of you once again in the precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. There can never be enough praise and thanksgiving offered unto our God for the wonderful, perfect, and complete plan of salvation that He has provided for mankind. How wonderful it is to be set free from the clutches of sin!

As it has been our usual policy, this paper was not published for the month of August. By so doing, the work load is lightened here at the office allowing the workers some time off to attend a camp meeting or two, or to make other trips during July and August. Nearly all of the workers here at the print shop were privileged to attend part of at least one of the camp meetings held this summer. We appreciate God's protection to each one over the many miles that were traveled. All have now returned and are busy at their respective posts of duty.

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Bro. Bob and Sis. Irma Saltee are very thankful for the Lord's special blessings to them while on their trip this summer. Sis. Irma became seriously ill and suffered intense pain for several days, but the Lord faithfully manifested His healing power in their behalf. They spent several days at Bro. Mancil Doolittle's in Green Bank, W. Va., while she recuperated and gained strength for the trip home. They arrived home safely on August 15. Bro. and Sis. Saltee send special thanks to all the saints for the many prayers offered in their behalf, and for the many phone calls of love and concern.

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Sis. Grace Lassche of Ontario, Canada, has felt a burden to help here at the print shop in the publishing of the gospel literature. She arrived here at Guthrie on June 26, and has been efficiently learning and working in different phases of the printing and office work. We trust the Lord will richly bless her for her burden and consecration to the work of the Lord.

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Word has been received that Sis. Woodrow Warren passed from this life during the night of Aug. 16, following a lengthy illness. Sis. Warren was the wife of Bro. Woodrow Warren, pastor of the Church of God congregation at Okmulgee, Ok. We pray the Lord will provide the family all the comfort and strength needed during this time of bereavement. Bro. Warren's address is: 810 N. Porter, Okmulgee, Ok. 74447.

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In the process of being printed is a book written by Bro. Murphy Allen entitled *Guided by the Unseen Hand*. Bro. Allen felt inspired to write of some of the many experiences and inspiring answers to prayer during his life and especially during the forty-four years of his ministry in the gospel. The book closes with a message entitled "Earnestly Contend For the Faith Once Delivered to the Saints." The book will consist of 84 pages bound in a heavy paper cover, and will sell for 75¢ each, plus 65¢ (85¢ to foreign countries)

for postage and handling. We plan to have the books completed by September 15. Send your order today for one of these interesting and encouraging books.

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The Path of Life Christian School here in Guthrie began its fifth year of operation on August 17 with 35 students enrolled. No doubt the other Christian schools located in different parts of the country will begin soon. Pray the Lord to especially bless this very worthwhile effort, and that special divine guidance and wisdom be given to each one that labors in these different schools.

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We received word that Bro. Curtis Williams' mother passed away on Aug. 17. Sis Williams had been in failing health for several years and had been requiring constant care for the past several weeks. May the Lord comfort and give added strength to the family in this time of bereavement. Bro. and Sis. Curtis Williams' address is: Rt. 1, Box 656, Morehead, Ky. 40351.

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It has been very grievous to see Bro. Lawrence continually weakening to the point that he is now confined to his home. He has not been able to be here at the office since the first week of August. He and Sis. Maybelle wish to extend their sincere appreciation and thanks for all of the cards, letters, phone calls, and prayers in their behalf. Sis. Maybelle is not able to acknowledge each card and letter, but wants you to know they are thankfully received. Bro. Lawrence's faith in the Lord is strong and unwavering, yet resigned to God's blessed and perfect will.

We deeply appreciate the example of patience and steadfastness Bro. Lawrence has manifested in this affliction. Surely he will be greatly rewarded. Continue to remember them in earnest prayer.

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Construction of the new storage room here at the publishing house has been completed. It is proving to be a real blessing and convenience. We deeply appreciate and pray the Lord to bless each one who contributed to this need.

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We appreciate the access we have to the old *Gospel Trumpet* papers from which we are able to select articles for reprint in this *Faith and Victory* paper. We also appreciate the contribution of testimonies and articles from you, our readers. It is very needful for the Word to go forth in the printed page as well as to be preached from the pulpit. We would like to encourage you to continue sending material for publication as the Lord would direct.

It is necessary that your notices, articles, etc., be in this office by the 15th of the month prior to the month of publication. At times we have more copy than we have room for in one issue, so if your writing should not appear soon after you send it in, please bear with us and watch for it in a later issue. Dated material will be printed at the required time.

Your faithful prayers and support for this gospel publishing work are greatly appreciated. The Lord has a place for each of us to fill in His vineyard. Not everyone can go out and work in the ministry, or at the print shop, or go to some foreign country as a missionary, but we all can have a part in the great work of the Lord. Prayer is a vital ingredient; this is something that we can all take an active part in. Those of us who are not able to go out in the field like some, may be able to help in material ways. It is through all of our working together in the respective positions that God has placed us that things can be accomplished for the Lord. We desire your prayers that we be faithful to fill the responsibility that God has placed upon us.

—Randall Flynn

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In the October issue of this paper, we hope to begin a regular column dedicated to "HOME LIFE." We are soliciting articles and letters containing sound Christian advice from our readers, pertaining to this subject. The purpose of the column is to pass on valuable experience and knowledge to the present day generation and those to follow.

We have access to a number of articles and out-of-print material on this subject, but feel assured that there are some competent writers among the saints who could contribute valuable and timely instruction.

Subject matter for the "Home Life" column might include: the role and responsibilities of Father and Mother; guidelines for correcting children; relationships between parents and married children, and in general, the art of establishing a harmonious Christian home.

If you feel there's a need for such practical instruction, begin now asking God to inspire you with something to contribute. Address all correspondence to: HOME LIFE, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, Ok. 73044.

—Wayne Murphey

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## MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

### NATIONAL CAMP MEETING REPORT

The National Camp Meeting at Monark Springs, Mo., convened on July 23 and extended through August 1. The Spirit of the Lord was in attendance and blessed the camp of the saints with anointed messages of holiness and truth. Earnest souls who attended the meeting received a full measure of spiritual blessings. The Bible doctrines of salvation and sanctification were preached with Holy Ghost anointing and the joy of unity of the believers was shared.

In a number of services, the songs of Zion were especially uplifting and beautifully harmonious to both heart and soul. The singing alone was sufficient reward for attending the meeting. The altar was filled several times as souls sought help from God.

God worked among the camp on healing day, as several testified of a definite physical touch. One brother stated it this way. "In the song 'He is just the

same today', it says that Jesus healed in Galilee. Now it can be said that Jesus healed in Monark Springs."

If you were not privileged to attend the good meeting this year, make plans to be at the 1983 National Camp Meeting, which, Lord willing, will begin July 22 and continue through July 31.

—Wayne Murphey

#### FRESNO, CALIF. CAMP MEETING REPORT

The Fresno Camp Meeting season for 1982 has passed, leaving us thanking God for His favor and blessings upon us one more time.

There was such a sweet spirit throughout the meeting, extending from the pulpit to the kitchen. The early morning prayer services were truly anointed and we feel they contributed much to the success of the meeting.

God was so good to send ministers of His choosing, with their swords bathed in heaven, to give us His Word. It caused fear and trembling among the congregation, and many sought help and some sought salvation.

We thank God for answering our prayers for ministerial help; also for every one that helped us bear the burden of the meeting. May God richly reward each one.

To tell all that transpired in this meeting is the desire of the writer, but I recognize my inability, so may it suffice to say, God was faithful to us. My prayer is that we will be faithful to Him.

—Lavern Moles

#### REPORT FROM TULSA, OKLA. CAMP MEETING

We surely do appreciate God's blessings in the camp meeting at Tulsa. God sent ministers of His choosing. Souls were saved, one was sanctified, and others were helped in different ways. There were eleven that went down into the water and were baptized.

Continue to pray that God will bless the congregation here in Tulsa. —Sis. Eva Hardman

#### OJOS NEGROS CAMP MEETING REPORT

We surely thank the Lord for the way He blessed in the Mexico camp meeting this summer. Although there was a smaller attendance than usual, the presence of the Lord was in every service.

Two souls were saved and one desired a closer walk with God.

One of those saved was a young girl who had never before heard the truth. She had lived a wicked life, but truly and fully gave her heart to God. She became such a sweet saint. She just wanted to be part of all in helping, whether preparing for services, meals, or whatever. Much to our surprise, she led out on a hymn at the opening of a service. The first thing she desired to do after camp meeting was return to her mother's and ask her forgiveness for all she had done

against her. The Lord made it possible for her to make the trip. (Her mother lives near Mexico City which was a 2-day train ride).

May the Lord bless each one who contributed in any way for the furtherance of the meeting.

—Sis. Opal Kelly

#### MISSOURI STATE CAMP MEETING REPORT

The Missouri State Camp Meeting of the Church of God at Myrtle, Mo., August 2-8, was a great success and a blessing to many. Saints from many states and Canada attended and enjoyed sweet fellowship in the Spirit. A goodly number of souls were saved. The Word of God was preached with power and anointing, and the Church was edified. We trust that the good which was done in this meeting will continue to work like leaven to the up-building of the kingdom of God far and near.

The presence of all who came was appreciated and also the assistance of those who helped in the temporal duties on the camp ground. May God reward each one for their labors.

We hope all will come again, and we look forward to another glorious meeting next year, Lord willing.

—Harlan Sorrell

#### MEETING REPORT FROM CHILIWACK, B.C., CANADA

We did have a wonderful meeting! The devil fought souls coming out, but there were four new ones that expressed a desire for truth. We need wisdom to know how to help these come all the way. There were several others that came out, and others that received definite spiritual help.

The last Sunday morning of the meeting, the Lord worked in a wonderful way. We did not have preaching, as several were giving really inspiring and touching talks. Then we sang, and closed by greeting one another. It was such a good meeting and so rich!

—Bro. Paul Sorrell

#### YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEETING LABOR DAY WEEKEND

On Saturday, September 4, there will be a young people's meeting at Bro. and Sis. Donald Eck's near Bartlett, Kansas. Supper will be served at 5:00 p.m., and service will be held at 7:00 p.m. There will be regular services on Sunday in the chapel at Four Corners. The chapel is located 11 miles north of Vinita, Ok., on Hwy. 2, or six miles south of Welch, Ok.

All young people and any others who are interested in working with the young are cordially invited and encouraged to come and be with us. All who come will be cared for. If you have sleeping bags, please bring them.

For more information, you may call Bro. Donald Eck at (316) 226-3368, or Sis. LaVerna Probst at (918) 784-2599.

—LaVerna Probst

**AUTUMN MEETING AT PRINCE GEORGE**

A fall meeting at Prince George, B. C., Canada, will be held, Lord willing, October 1-4, 1982, or longer as the Spirit leads. There will be two services daily. Food and lodging will be provided.

All who have a burden for souls please come. Come praying and willing to do outreach work each afternoon.

For more information contact: Sis. Daisy Rabel, phone 282-604-963-7093, or Bro. Ed Schiers, phone 282-604-562-2142.  
—Sis. Daisy Rabel

**AUTUMN SINGING AND ALL-DAY SERVICES AT MYRTLE, MO.**

Lord, willing, the Church of God at Myrtle, Mo., will have its annual gospel singing on Saturday night, October 2, 1982, followed by all-day services the next day.

We extend a hearty invitation to all to come and be with us. We are looking forward to a rich time in the Lord on this weekend and the fellowship of His saints. May you come to get a blessing and to be a blessing.

—Harlan Sorrell

**FALL REVIVAL AT OKMULGEE, OK.**

There will be a revival meeting of the Church of God in Okmulgee, Ok., Lord willing, starting Monday night, October 18, and continuing through Sunday night, October 24. Services will be nightly at 7:45 p.m. There will be noon-day prayer meetings Tuesday through Friday. On Saturday and Sunday there will be morning services at 11:00 a.m.

Everyone is given a hearty invitation to attend this meeting. Please pray that the meeting will be so anointed of the Lord as to stir lost souls to seek Him, and that the ones already saved will receive any spiritual help they might need.

The address of the chapel is: 1002 E. McLagen, Okmulgee, Ok. For further information, call Bro. Woodrow Warren at (918) 756-6425.

—Sis Irma Johnson

**CAMP MEETING TAPES AVAILABLE**

Bro. Clifford Smith of Salem, Ore., was privileged to record nearly all of the messages at the National Camp Meeting held at Monark Springs, Mo., this year. He is offering to loan these tapes to anyone interested in hearing some of these messages.

Bro. Smith has also compiled two tapes, 90 minutes each, entitled "Sounds and Songs of Monark Springs Camp Meeting of 1982." These are high quality, stereo, cassette tapes, and are being offered at a cost of \$2.00 each, plus postage.

You may write to Bro. Smith for a complete list of tapes he has available which include over 300 sermons by Bro. Ostis Wilson. Address your mail to: Bro. Clifford Smith, 4795 Gardner Road, S. E. Salem, Ore. 97302.

—Editor

**NEW PASTOR AT FOUR CORNERS**

The saints at Four Corners congregation are thankful for the Lord burdening Bro. and Sis. Clifford Wilson to assume the pastoral duties of the congregation of the Church of God at Four Corners (located near Vinita, Ok.). Bro. and Sis. Wilson moved to Vinita, Ok., from Shreveport, La. Their address is: Bro. and Sis. Clifford Wilson, 234 S. Foeman St., Vinita, Ok. 74301. Phone (918) 256-3568.

—Sis. Margaret Eck

**Prayer Requests**

Iowa—"I need prayer for a sore on the side of my leg. . . I am trusting in the Lord for healing."

—Bro. Charles W. Mason

Calif.—"Please pray for a lady whose family all left because her life is overpowered by the devil. She causes much unrest to an aged couple next door and around the neighborhood."

—Sis. Margaret Hall

La.—Bro. and Sis. Harold Purvis are not well in body. They would appreciate the prayers of the saints.

Okla.—Bro. and Sis. Hyrum Ray are still much in need of prayer. Pray that the Lord will give them a healing touch.

Kans.—Bro. Randel Bradley has been suffering from a serious affliction for a number of months. Pray earnestly for his healing.

Okla.—Tommy McMillian needs prayer for the healing of a severe spider bite.

Continue to remember those whom we have had on our prayer lists and are still in the furnace of affliction. Among those are Bro. Murphy Allen, Bro. Lawrence Pruitt, Sis. Evelyn McCoy, Bro. and Sis. Ostis Wilson, Bro. Archie Souder, Sis. Eva Lou Gaines, and others. Some of these have been sorely afflicted for quite a length of time and are depending on the prayers of the saints.

Let us not grow weary in bringing the sick and afflicted before the Lord in earnest prayer. The devil is always present, trying to discourage the saints. He would like for you to think that God does not hear your prayer and that He is not healing any more. Remember: Satan is your enemy and he is not going to do one thing to encourage you in your trusting the Lord. On the other hand, God's Word is forever fixed and settled in Heaven. In Luke 21:33, Jesus tells us, "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." Do you remember the words Jesus spake to the sick while He was here on earth? To the blind He said, "Receive thy sight." To the leper He said, "Be thou clean." To the lame He said, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." These Words of Jesus' have not passed away; they are still for us today. Therefore, may your faith mount up and take hold of the Word of the Lord. As Jesus told the centurion, "Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee." Matt. 8:13.

—Randall Flynn

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## FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

### NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Nigeria, W. Africa: Dear Bro. Pruitt, and saints of God: Greetings in the glorious name of the Lord Jesus, who causes us to triumph over our enemies. Praise and honor unto Him forever!

Glory be to God in the highest that you are still around and strengthened to communicate with us once again. Your letter dated July 2, 1982, arrived greatly behind schedule. The Lord is aware of the saints' desire for His approval of more years for you. It is intensely encouraging, however, to find you standing submissive to His will. We share with you the realization of the divinest joy the soul can have—the joy of sins forgiven. It points to the fact that a true seeker after God's decision shrinks from the gaze of the world for flexible surrender to his Master's choice for him.

All is going well in the spread of the good news of Christ's kingdom. Hands are on the plough unitedly, realizing that we are chosen to serve and not to be served. Christ is our most valuable possession. As the demand to hear about Him is becoming more widespread, we the laborers must avail ourselves to cope with the growing demands for the hearing of the gospel. We are urged of Him to go forth and labor without carefulness, relying on Him for the necessities of life.

The flooring work of the chapel at Kwale is about to be completed. Thank God for the steady adhesion to the work of this chapel by Kwale brethren, especially at this difficult time when nearly every home in Nigeria is going austere; arising from economic crisis in the nation which has been biting very hard.

Expansion work to the existing chapel at Tombia is being carried out. Brethren of the congregation are cooperating praise-worthily to meet the financial demand of the expansion. Bro. F. Naths-Igbani, minister at Port Harcourt, has written expressing his desire to pay a visit to us soon. God is our Guide, our Shield, and our Provider.

Yours in Him, —Titus U. E. Enu

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### MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India—Our dearly beloved Bro. and Sis. Pruitt, and the dear saints everywhere: Greetings of Christian love to you once again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places. "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will." Eph. 1:11.

Thank you very much for your kind letter dated July 5, 1982, and the enclosures were noted with much appreciation. Also I received the letter with the checks from the van fund. We are still in search for a suitable van or mini-bus in good condition that will give us good service for many years. Many thanks for

your advice and help.

The Church in India is moving on every day with daily blessings and soul-winning projects. The chapel building at Athani is progressing slowly, due to the financial problems. Several new centers are being opened for our work, but little means to provide for these works.

In our fasting and prayer meetings we especially pray for you and others who are in the furnace of affliction. Let us see through the eyes of prayer. You are in my mind always.

Yours in His service,

—John Varghese

o

### From the Mailbox . . .

La—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt and Saints of God: May the good Lord ever bless and keep you is my prayer. My heart surely goes out to God in behalf of Bro. Pruitt in his affliction.

My health has been very bad the past years. Just one thing after another—things I never thought of. God only knows. I have searched myself to see if there is anything wrong in my life. I am living the best I know to the knowledge God gives me. I surely do not intend to miss heaven. This life has not been a bed of roses, but God has always been my helper in time of need. He is my all in all in time of need. I do not know of anything that would be in my way to keep me out of heaven should I go into eternity. I have been doing a lot of reading and praying. I enjoy reading about and living for my blessed Savior. I live alone, and I will be seventy-five July 14, 1982. I still do the best I can for myself, with God's help.

Pray for my children that are not saved.

Yours in Christ Jesus, —Mrs. Beulah Johnson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ohio—Dear Saints at the Faith Publishing House: Greetings in Jesus' name. I pray this finds you able to be doing the Lord's work. There is no greater satisfaction than doing that which pleases our Lord and Saviour, and to have His approval on our lives. Surely God is good to us and loves us.

I pray you are better, and I covet your prayers for me as my heart seems to be getting worse, but then I am living on borrowed time. I will soon be 83 years of age.

I am sending my offering to help carry on the gospel message. If ever the truth were needed, it is now. So many are called but few are chosen as Matthew 20:16, tells us.

Please remember me in your prayers.

One who loves God's Word, Mrs. Carrie Ross

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ky.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and workers at the Print Shop: Greetings in the name of Jesus. I hope that you are feeling better, and that our blessed Lord will give you many more days to do His work and get the gospel out to a lost and dying world.

If there was ever a time that we need the pure, clean gospel, it is in this day and time in which we are



living. If there was ever a falling away from the truth it is now. Preachers have compromised with the Word of God, and about all they can talk about is some sport or something of this world. Many have laid down their Bibles and exchanged them for a bag of golf clubs, balls, etc.

I am anxiously waiting and watching for Jesus' coming. God has been good to me; He has given me 89 years of this life, and I have lived 47 of them for Him. Pray for me. Bro. Frank Dunaway.

## Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Kans.—Dear saints at the Print Shop: I am happy to report that "I feel like traveling on." These are really some troublesome times with so many things going on around us. But God still lives and has control and we can trust Him to keep His eternal Word and be with us unto the end of the earth. He has certainly promised not to leave nor forsake us, so we must take courage by force and keep on pressing toward the mark of the high calling in Christ Jesus.

Many things are perplexing to us in these days, but we cannot be deterred nor stopped by them. We must keep looking up and trusting God and just let Him lead us. God is our refuge and strength, and we must lean on Him in order to be able to go through with victory.

Keep on pressing, Bro. Lawrence; you are an encouragement and inspiration to many. You are being an example like Job—one who will still trust God and glorify His name even though you are continuing to be in the furnace. The Word says that God sits as a refiner, so we know He has not gone away and forgotten you, nor left you unattended. Just keep looking up and praising God's name and thanking Him for His goodness and faithfulness unto man. The saints love and appreciate you, and are holding you up before the Lord. We still desire your healing and are not afraid nor ashamed to beg God for it. Just keep the faith and wait patiently on God.

May God bless and reward all of you that have consecrated to give of your time and talents for the work of the Lord in getting the printed Word of God and His ways out to the people.

Christian love, —Shirley Knight

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

Okla.—To each one scattered abroad: Greetings! This finds me still pressing onward and upward. A heavenly home awaits the faithful and true, and this is what I am working for every day. If we miss it we have missed it all. By His grace I want my life each day to prove the gospel story. The sufferings and toils of the way will seem but nothing when we reach the end of life's way.

I was permitted to attend the Guthrie and Monark camp meetings. Oh, how good the Lord is!

The longer I live for the Lord, the closer I see we must live in this life if we expect to hear Jesus say, "Well done." The devil is after every one, but we

must lift up the shield of faith and keep battling on. I'm encouraged to be true—I just refuse to be discouraged. I only want to live so I can help others. I cannot go and take this truth to others like my companion and I once did, but I can still write letters and send them out in every direction. It is my desire to help every precious soul I can.

This is such a careful way—a kind and loving way. God's people are so understanding and easily entreated. May the Lord help us all to be greater lights than ever before—calling for the old paths and walking in them. (Jer. 6:16)

God is giving me courage and strength day by day to live for Him, do my work, and care for myself. For all of His blessings I thank Him and every one who daily remembers me in earnest prayer.

—Sis. Evelyn (Gibson) McCoy

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

Ore.—Dear Ones: You cannot imagine how it breaks my heart to know Bro. Lawrence has had to undergo all these awful afflictions. I do not know why God has permitted him to undergo such suffering, but I am still holding him up and know all the saints who know of him are doing the same. May God bless and comfort his heart and yours. Surely the victory is in sight. There is a long list of saints, soldiers of the cross, who are going through great sufferings of afflictions, but so are many unsaved also, and they do not have the Lord's help and grace. Some commit suicide and many are filled with antibiotics to ease their pain, but there is nothing like Jesus in our hours of trial and sickness. Surely there is great reward waiting for the faithful. I believe there are martyrs that die for God in afflictions as much as those who were burned at the stake and died in many torturous ways at the hands of sinful men.

I, too, have suffered many things these past months. I am still suffering from back and leg pain. It hurts me to walk, but I do it and am not using my cane. God has helped me and given me grace. I feel I am a little better. My nerves bother me more than other pains as I fight depression, which often seems to almost threaten a nervous breakdown. . . .

I enjoy the little paper so much. I know it has been a life-line to many on this old planet—especially to the isolated ones.

May God's loving hand be over you and the publishing house there.

Christian love and prayers, —Sis. Grace Jones

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

Ind.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: I felt I should write you at this time and share something with you. I have read in the *Faith and Victory* that you have a serious affliction. Thanks be to God; there is nothing too difficult for God to heal. I am sure He will do that which is according to His good and perfect will. (Rom. 8:28)

I just want to tell you of my experience of a few years ago. In January 1958, I was born into the glorious Kingdom of God. I was deeply involved in many sinful activities at the time. When I came

forward that night to an altar of prayer, I was desperately searching for peace in my soul. I found that for which I was seeking—peace with God. I began seeking for truth and it seemed that I could find no great help in my congregation other than two or three older saints who soon passed away. Yet the hunger inside for truth seemed to intensify. Then my wife desired to visit her sister who lived on the East coast, and since I had a job that would not permit me to take time to go with her, I sent her on a bus to see her sister. We had to go to Fort Wayne, Ind., to catch the bus. After she boarded a bus I was about to leave the depot when I noticed a small paper lying in the window of the bus station. I picked it up, glanced at it, and saw it was a religious paper, so I put it in my pocket and took it home to read. I found it to be a *Faith and Victory* paper, and read of things in it that thrilled my soul. Some time later I subscribed to the paper along with some of the books written by some of the pioneer ministers of the Church of God, which I was fortunate enough to obtain. I began to find that the hungering in my soul was being satisfied. To this day, when it is difficult to hear the truth, I still rely on your paper and the books I have for soul food.

I just wanted you to know that your paper has been a source of comfort and inspiration to me over the years.

My sincere prayer is that Christ will intercede on your behalf according to His infinite wisdom.

In Christ,

—Donald L. Jones

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

Canada—Dear Saints: I would like to glorify God by telling how He saved me from a life of sin. I am twenty-two years of age in the eyes of the world, but in our Lord's, I am but a babe. These past few months since I have been with God's people have been the happiest of my life. Thank the Lord!

My father is in the Canadian Military, so I have always travelled around the country with my family. I went to different schools every few years and had to make new friends all of the time. They didn't come to me, so I went to them. I needed to be accepted, and sometimes I would do things I knew were wrong. When I was about fourteen, I started to habitually smoke cigarettes. My friends called me square when I first refused. They wouldn't be nice to me, so eventually I just followed the crowd. Soon all my girlfriends started running around with boys, so I did too. The boys were older, and most of them drank liquor. Some of us would get drunk once in a while. I started stealing pills from my parents' medicine chest.

Our family, minus our father, moved to England. There, young people can go to the pubs [taverns], so I had no problem getting liquor. Later we moved back to Canada and that was when I started to get into real trouble. I ran away a few times, drank a lot, and started to experiment with drugs.

I missed a lot of school and can remember going to my final French exam drunk. People always thought that I was strange and I did my best to help them think that. I thought life was a big game. One

time when I was drinking, I took over 50 aspirins; I just about fell off a cliff because I thought I could fly. I was emotionally unstable, and would let my emotions carry me away until I couldn't control myself.

When I was seventeen, we moved to the Arctic (Inuvik, North West Territories). The young people there are wild. Most of the time, the police didn't even bother to arrest people; so naturally, there were lots of drugs. I fell in line with the wildest bunch. I started to smoke pot and experiment with LSD. It was around this time that I started to think about spiritual matters. Because of the people I hung around with, I picked up some pretty strange ideas, mostly from the mystic religions. I was searching for something to satisfy my soul. I wrote a major essay in grade 12 on Jesus Christ, upholding Him as the Son of God. My teacher laughed at me and gave me a C—. He said it sounded like a tract little old ladies give out on street corners. That really discouraged me.

I managed to get a job working with CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation). The people there thought I had potential, so they sent me to BCIT (British Columbia Institute of Technology). It was an excellent opportunity, but by this time I was starting to depend on liquor. There was a bar on campus, and I spent most of my time drinking. At winter break, they asked me to leave. I was crushed, and I lost my ambition to do anything. I went back to Inuvik, and started to get serious about drugs.

All of this time I knew what God thought of me, because when I got depressed, I would read my Bible. I knew what kind of woman I was and it sickened me, but I still didn't change. A friend was checking his salmon nets one day, drunk, and he fell into the river and got carried away to the sea. His body was never found. I knew that he had gone to hell, and I couldn't handle it. I lost my mind, and by the time I regained my sanity, I had done a lot of damage. A few days later I found out that my parents had moved to Chilliwack; so I got in touch with them and they bought a plane ticket for me, so I left the Yukon.

By this time, I figured I had learned my lesson . . . but was soon drinking and doing drugs again. I knew that by living the way I was, I was worshipping the devil as God. I started to read my Bible and began calling myself a Christian. I managed to stay straight for six months and then went back even worse. I couldn't stay away from liquor. Then one night I got down on my knees and cried out to God to help me stay straight and I dedicated my life to Him. I joined the Salvation Army, even though I knew that some of the things they did were wrong. I also studied with the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Mormons and I got really confused. One afternoon after a study with the Mormons, I went to my room and asked God that if there was a true way, to show it to me. It didn't matter what I had to give up or change, I was prepared to do it.

A week later I met someone who knew the saints. When he told me about them, my heart jumped. He told me of their standards (i.e. dress, living above sin,

etc.) and I knew it was right! I threw away my cigarettes, took off my ring and necklaces and two days later started wearing dresses. The next Sunday evening, he took me to a saints' meeting. As we walked up to the little chapel, I could hear the singing. It sounded like angels to me! I remember the service was so special! I knew that what was preached was true, because God's Spirit witnessed it to me. After the service, I was talking with the Sisters and we were all so excited. Sis. Anne Walter was holding my hands and she kept saying, "This girl has truth!" I just couldn't believe what was happening. We went into the kitchen and everyone started singing. Sis. Betty Snell brought in songbooks and we must have sung for an hour. Bro. Paul Sorrell asked me if I knew the songs because I sang them like I did. I knew them in my heart! It was all so wonderful that I just can't describe it. . . .

I have been growing much in the past few months. What God has taken me from, and where He has brought me to is hard to comprehend. I am amazed at His mercy towards me. There is nothing I would ever hold back from my Saviour. At the beginning of the Jefferson, Oregon Camp Meeting, the Lord let me know that I was going to go through some trials. I knew that I needed to go through the fire to become like gold. Through this time, I began to learn what it means to trust and obey. As soon as I got victory over one thing, another was there in its place. Tonight though, I can claim full victory, through the grace of God. I have been at rest for a couple of weeks, and it is a wonderful, sweet rest. I only want to see Christ before me.

This life is so short, and eternity is endless; is there anything that we can hold back from our Lord? God loves us so. . . I have given my heart to Him out of love. Ezekiel 34:11-16. Matthew 6:19-22. Matthew 11:28-30. Revelation 22:17.

Pray for me, that I may be strong, and that I might forever please my Saviour.

Your sister in Christ, Elizabeth Ann Whittall

### TRIBULATION'S FIRES

*Copyrighted June, 1982*

Will the fires of tribulation as they burned of old,  
Be rekindled on our nation as the prophets told?  
Will the Church of God go forward with its message  
plain,

Or play the lowly coward when they face the flame?  
As from its small beginning, hath now and ever been,  
That rescued souls from sinning, must leave their  
kith and kin.

To walk the paths of persecution; drink the little that  
remains,

Though it be life's execution, to fight on in Jesus'  
name.

Strengthen, Lord, thy children, these days we're sorely  
tried,

And fit us now for heaven; we would with Thee abide.

—By Henry N. Willey, Jr.

### A Blessing from the Camp Meeting

I was blessed to go to the National Camp Meeting at Monark Springs, Mo. There were saints there from many states, also from British Columbia and Ontario, Canada, and even from Honduras. The fellowship was sweet and precious; it was just a foretaste of what heaven will be like. The singing was so blessed by the Holy Spirit; it was just glorious! At times I would just keep still and listen to the harmony of that large audience—from the front pews all the way to the back ones, and also the ones that had to sit on benches on the outside. Oh, how it would thrill my very soul! Then I would keep still no longer and I would join in again with the singing. Many of the saints lifted holy hands in testimony to the words of the songs that were true in their own lives.

There was a large number of precious young people who had left all the world to follow Jesus. Many times both old and young were inspired with a testimony during the song service. Oh, the freedom and anointing of the services was sweet from the beginning to the end!

We could feel the power of God and the holy anointing of the ministry as they preached the Word of God to us. The preaching had its effect upon the hearts of the lost. Many souls found help at the altar of prayer. One that got saved said, "I am tired of being a hypocrite." God's Word is quick and powerful; it will uncover us if we let it.

There were many that consecrated their lives to God and presented their bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. The Lord sent the promise of the Holy Spirit and filled their beings with the holy fire from heaven. Many also received water baptism.

The day of fasting and prayer for the sick was wonderful. I, for one, received a very definite touch. As the minister was preaching and reading from Luke 18:35-43, it told how the blind man asked for mercy, and Jesus said, "What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? He said, Lord, that I might receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight." Those words inspired my faith, and I received my healing right then and there sitting right in my seat. I had been having heart attacks. My chest felt very tightly squeezed and so tired, with severe pains at times. My breath was short and hard to get. But praise God, since that day, God gave me freedom from it all. One night the devil tried to impose it back upon me, but by faith in God's Word I told the devil I would not have it—he could not impose it back upon me. The Lord immediately eased the pain. I went right back to sleep. Praise the Lord!

After healing service, we had the ordinance service of Feet Washing and the Lord's Supper. It was a very precious service. How we thank God for His love to us.

The ministers' meetings held each morning from 7:00 to 8:00, was a time of melting our hearts together in love and tenderness, and seeking God to be more able ministers of the gospel.

There was such sweet harmony in the kitchen with well qualified cooks and helpers to carry on the hard labor of feeding the large crowds three times a day. That is a very strenuous part of the work, but we trust God has richly blessed each one. One brother said he had never had such a joyful time washing dishes as he did that day, as they were all singing while they washed dishes.

Nothing but heaven will be sweeter than what the camp meeting was this year. Thank God I was there!  
—Sis. Margaret Eck

## Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

**Question:** In Matt. 27:52, it says the saints rose and "came out of the graves after his [Jesus'] resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many." Where was this holy city; and how long did these saints remain alive?

**Answer:** It seems according to the way these verses read that at the death of Jesus the rocks were rent and the graves were opened at that time. Graves at that time were hewn out of rocks and the bodies of the dead were placed in them and they were sealed with a stone at the entrance. The earthquake which occurred at the time of Jesus' death and rent the rocks would naturally open graves which were in those rocks. However, the arising of the saints to life and coming out of their graves did not occur until after Jesus' resurrection. Apparently their dead bodies just lay there in open graves until Jesus' resurrection, then they came forth to life, left their graves, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

Jerusalem is the city that was called the "Holy City" in that time. We read in Nehemiah 11:1, "And the rulers of the people dwelt at Jerusalem: the rest of the people also cast lots, to bring one of ten to dwell in Jerusalem, the holy city, and nine parts to dwell in other cities." The first 19 verses of the 11th chapter of Nehemiah gives a list of the dwellers in Jerusalem and the remainder tells of those living in other cities. In verse 18 it says, "All the Levites in the holy city were two hundred fourscore and four." These two verses (1 and 18) make it clear that Jerusalem was known as the holy city. Psalms 48:2, says, "Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, the city of the great King." In Matt. 5:35, Jesus said that Jerusalem is "the city of the great King." Psalms 46:4, says "There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High."

It was in Jerusalem that the temple (tabernacle) of God was built. Regarding the tabernacle which was the forerunner of Solomon's temple, God said in Exodus 25:8, "Let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them." During the forty years the Israelites spent wandering in the wilderness and moving about with no certain dwelling place, God's

sanctuary was a portable tabernacle which could easily be moved with them. When they became established in their own land and their wanderings were over, then the tabernacle was replaced by a permanent, magnificent temple which was God's dwelling place among His people. This temple was built in Jerusalem and 1 Kings 14:21, tells us that God chose Jerusalem out of all the tribes of Israel to put His name there. His name was there, He dwelt there in the most holy place of the temple, and this was the city of the great King—the holy city.

It was on the outskirts of this city on Golgotha's Hill where Jesus was crucified. Near that place was a garden with a tomb in which He was buried. After His resurrection, these saints arose and went into the city (Jerusalem) and appeared unto many bearing confirmation to the resurrection of Jesus.

If you are thinking of the "holy city" which John saw coming down out of heaven from God (Rev. 21:2), I would remind you that that city, which is the New Testament Church, was not yet in existence at that time so it could not have been that city these resurrected saints went into. That city was not established and set in operation until the Day of Pentecost about fifty days after this.

The last part of this question (How long did these saints remain alive?) has me totally stopped. I know of no other reference to them in the Scriptures. If any one out there who reads this has any scriptural information concerning this point, I would appreciate hearing from you. I am sorry I cannot give the inquirer a better answer and more satisfaction than this on this part of the question.

However, while this question is up, there are some interesting observations that I might point out. First: these people were saints—Old Testament saints—not born-again saints according to New Testament standards to be sure. That had not yet come to pass when these people lived and died. But all through the Old Testament times there were many who loved God and had faith in the promise made by God Himself of a coming Messiah, Redeemer, and Saviour, and these people God loved and respected. His power worked mightily in them. The writer of the Hebrew Epistle gives a long list of these champions of faith and what they accomplished under God through faith; it was wonderful, illustrious, and glorious. In Chapter 11, verses 32 through 35 gives a description of the glorious victories many obtained; verses 36 and 37 describe bitter, and severe persecutions and experiences many went through, and verse 38 says the world was not worthy to have such people as these in it. Verses 39 and 40 say of this whole company from one end to the other of the list, "And these all, having obtained a good report through faith; received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect." The promise these folks did not receive was the promise of the Messiah who was to bring a full and free and uttermost salvation—saved from sin and sanctified holy and wholly; with the power and dominion broken and

destroyed out of the life and in which salvation we could live victoriously and triumphantly over all sin. Actually Christ was a "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev. 13:8), and His redemption reached backward as well as forward. Those of the Old Testament times who believed in God's promise of a Redeemer were people of God. Hebrews 9:15, says that the death of Christ was "for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament." So we see the atonement of Christ covered them as well as us.

The second observation is that these people did not only confirm the resurrection of Jesus, but attested to His power to resurrect all the rest of us. Jesus said, "Because I live, ye shall live also." (John 14:19), and here is living confirmation and proof of it. Paul said to Agrippa in Acts 26:8, "Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?" There was definite, unimpeachable proof of this which even this heathen king could not doubt. And surely we who have the first fruits and earnest of the Spirit in our hearts should be firmly established in this faith and live out our lives in the strong hope of this consolation.

### "If Any of You Lack Wisdom . . ."

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." James 1:5-8.

Dear ones in the Lord Jesus, we must all at times remember that some people lack wisdom, and that they are looking at our walk in the Lord. We must be living windows through which such people can see the narrow pathway to heaven. I, for one, was looking for more wisdom. Then I asked someone: "By whom and how can I obtain more Bible wisdom?" He gave me the above text. The last word in verse 6 is "tossed." I pray for those who are easily "tossed" from one doctrine to another—in some cases without knowing what is really going on. These false doctrines are man-made, and we all should know by now that man is nothing without the Lord's help. Verse 7 says to me, "If you are being 'tossed' from one doctrine to another, you will not receive the wisdom that only the Lord can give by asking through prayer." Verse 8: Let us not be by any means doubled minded or deceived. This is a truth in the Word of God we all should know.

Oh, my God, have mercy on people that make up their own doctrine to fit their own needs.

Thanks to prayer and fellowship with God's wonderful saints, I have found out not only that God is well balanced, but that He does love us all. May we all be in prayer for wisdom, not only for all of us in the faith, but for those who are out of the ark of safety. Let's all remember to "Praise the Lord always in all ways!"

—Rick Strey

### "And Ye Shall Be Witnesses Unto Me..."

In Gen. 21:30, Abraham gave seven ewe lambs to Abimelech as a tangible witness that he had dug the well that Abimelech had taken. This was done as there was little letter writing in the ancient days. The word "witness" in Greek is *martus* or *martur* and signifies one that gives testimony to the truth at the expense of his life. It is in this sense that the word is used in the New Testament and we can see where the early Christians who gave their lives as a witness to the truth were called martyrs. Is our calling any less today than it was then? A number of saints today are literally giving their lives in suffering for the truth rather than putting their trust in the arm of flesh. Paul said in Rom. 5:3, "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope; and hope maketh not ashamed." We can trust the Lord to work good out of every trying situation.

When Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection, He affirmed this purpose in their lives as well as every follower of His, afterward. Luke 24:45-48, "Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, and said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things." In John 15:27, Jesus said, "And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning." In Luke 24:49, Jesus said, "And behold I send the promise of my Father upon you..." This was the promise of Joel 2:28, "I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh." All flesh has never accepted His Spirit, but those who do are to be His witnesses throughout the world.

Jesus said in Matt. 28:19, that the outreach of the gospel was to be to "all nations." God's love for man extends throughout the world, no matter what the race or color is. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth on him, should not perish, but have everlasting life." 2 Peter 3:9, says, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." It is only because of the longsuffering of God that the day of wrath has not already come upon the earth.

Paul says in 2 Cor. 5:19, "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespass unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ..." Is not this God's desire and design for us still to be His ambassadors until Jesus comes again? Jesus said in Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Peter says in Acts 10:34, "I perceive that God is no respecter of persons..." and so it should be with us. The Spirit of Christ can work the

same work of redemption in any man anywhere in the world if he but accept the truth. We are to witness first in our home town community and then reach out to all parts of the world as the Spirit gives direction.

We see in Acts 13, a good example of the praying and fasting Church to whom the Holy Spirit was able to speak and empower to go where He wanted them. It seems that God responds to the Body of Christ who fast and pray and seek His face. He wants all men to pray but He said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matt. 18:20.

There was a great unity in the new born Church which gave them great power and favor with God. In Acts 2:41-47, we see where more than 3000 souls "continued steadfastly...with gladness and singleness of heart." John 15:8, says that it is our Father's will that we "bear much fruit." We are to bear "the fruit of the Spirit" in our lives (Gal. 5:22-23), and then we will bear much fruit in the Spirit for our Lord, as a witness in the world.

In Luke 10:2, Jesus sent the seventy two by two, and told them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." This is the burden that Jesus left with His Church and will remain until He comes again. We have the same urgency today as they had in the morning time Church to spread the restoration truth throughout the world before the Lord returns.

It is hard for the native pastors to learn and get settled in the truth as the sect spirit is very strong in these foreign countries. Satan has many snares set to "preach the gospel for filthy lucre." God is able to supply the ministers' needs from the people he serves as His Word says that the laborer is "worthy of his hire."

There is a great need today for laborers to take the Evening Light truth to them and "teach" them this truth. Missionaries as such are unable to go to every country today but we are able to travel freely as tourists. China is also opening up to the gospel and about the same situation is found there as in Russia—that many of the saints have held onto their faith in God though greatly persecuted. God is opening up opportunities in these last days to spread His precious Word while there is yet time. It is expedient that the whole Church get under the burden for a spirit of missions and God will reward our efforts with the harvest.

George A. Hammond

O beloved, let us humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God! In these evil days there is no other place of safety against the awful powers of the devil, who is walking about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. The mighty hand of God is our sure defense; but it cannot so be if we do not put ourselves under His power.

Through the depths of humility we enter and abide under this glorious defense where that wicked one cannot touch us.

—J. W. Byers

## Beware of Giant Despair

In *The Pilgrim's Progress* we read, where, upon their pilgrimage, Christian and Hopeful came to "the river of God" or "the river of the water of life." (Psa. 65:9 and Rev. 22:1, 2) Here the two rested from their travel and enjoyed the good things God had ordained for their pleasure. They drank sweet water from the river and ate delicious fruits from close-by healthy trees. This was a refreshing, happy time of many days and nights in which the two of them praised God and gained more strength for their journey. Then, too soon it seemed, they had to start on their path again and it did somewhat sadden them to depart from such a pleasant place.

This passage in *The Pilgrim's Progress* reminds me of camp meeting time when the saints are able to gather in and renew their bond with each other and with God. What a happy time it is! At camp meeting time, some are saved, some are sanctified, and some are baptized. The songs, messages, and fellowship refresh souls, encourage hearts, and uplift spirits for the Lord. Then, too quickly, it seems, there comes the time for "good-byes" and all depart for home.

Now each child of God must continue in the narrow way just as Christian and Hopeful did. Therefore, let us take heed to a sign these two pilgrims put up for other pilgrims to read. It is a sign warning against Doubting Castle and Giant Despair. After having such a pleasant time, Christian desired an easier way to travel, so persuaded Hopeful to take a nicer path laying for a while by the narrow way. Then the night came, and the rains fell, and eventually Giant Despair took them captive to Doubting Castle. For days they stayed in a dungeon, taking the beatings from Giant Despair, who showed them the bones of other pilgrims whom he had crushed when they were in his power. Giant Despair discouraged anyone who came his way—to give up pressing for the Celestial City. His grounds seemed pleasant at first, but pilgrims must take heed lest Doubting Castle hold them tight. Christian and Hopeful escaped only when Christian remembered a key in his pocket that opened any gate or door in Doubting Castle. It was the Key of Promise. Giant Despair attempted to pursue them, but he lost the use of his arms and legs when they reached the sunlight; therefore, the two pilgrims escaped Giant Despair.

The path of a Christian is a narrow way. (Matt. 7:13-14) Each child of God has his own personal trials and conflicts to surpass and overcome. Sometimes the flesh recoils before the cross as the Scripture says: "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matt. 26:41 and Mark 14:38) Yet, do not give up! We must not give up! Remember God's promises to those who follow after Him. Not only does God's holy Word promise the pure and faithful a place in heaven (Matt. 5:8 and Rev. 2:10) but the Lord promises never to leave us (Heb. 13:5) and promises to help all along the way, those who look to Him for help.



"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works; Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Heb. 10:23-25) So when the joyful gathering of camp meeting time is past, let's not get weary of the way when the going again seems harder and lonelier. With the Key of Promise (BIBLE) tucked within the bosom and ever ready when needed, each child of God can stay upon the narrow way until the next camp meeting time. —Connie Sorrell

## Officers of the New Testament Church



When Jesus built the Church of God He organized it and set in it the proper officers necessary for its edification and extension. These we will consider. "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts. . . ." 1 Cor. 12:28-31.

In the chapter referred to, the apostle speaks of the human body as analogous to the Church of God. The human body has ears, eyes, feet, nose, hands, etc., all different members having different functions, yet all are one body, and he says, "so also is Christ," that is, His body or Church. The human body is not composed of eyes alone, nor of any other one member, and so the Church of God is not an immense army of apostles alone. All offices in God's Church are divinely arranged and appointed, therefore an apostle is one, not because of some human ecclesiastical appointment, but because the Holy Ghost made him such. "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Eph. 4:11, 12.

The above quotations show that the various offices are treated as gifts distributed by the Lord Himself unto those who are to make the proper uses of them according to the will of God.

As members in the body of Christ, we have divinely set in it (1) apostles, (2) prophets, (3) evangelists, (4) pastors and teachers, (5) ministers, (6) exhorters, (7) helps, (8) counselors, etc. Some of these offices are more important; but not one is above the other. No person has a more exalted place than another, and no one is divinely appointed master over another. No *apostle* ever usurped authority or lorded it over a single member of the body of which he composed a part. To prove this I will use the voice

of inspiration. "And he [Christ] is the head of the body, the church. . ." Col. 1:18. One head is enough. Two or more heads would be spiritual deformity, confusion, and the grossest inconsistency. "We are many members, yet but one body," therefore there is but one *head over all*, and this head has equal direction in the spiritual action of all the members in the body. There are local congregations, but not a plurality of bodies (local), hence not a plurality of little heads, bishops, or lords in the Church of God. While there are a number of different offices, yet there is but one rank—"all ye are brethren." The term "elder" is applied to apostles, prophets, evangelists and pastors alike; and the titles "elders" and "bishops" are used interchangeably and applied to the same persons and offices. Examples: "And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church." Acts 20:17. In the midst of his exhortation to them Paul said: "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God," etc. Verse 28. "For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: if any be blameless, . . . For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God. . . ." Titus 1:5-7. Here we have it plain that elders are bishops and vice versa, and that a plurality of them existed in these local congregations; one being at Ephesus and the others in the various cities in Crete.

In the above we have "elders" applied to local officers, most likely pastors, teachers, and those possessing gifts of healings, whose charge was to "feed the flock of God." In his first Epistle, Peter introduces himself as "an apostle of Jesus Christ," and in Chap. 5:1 he addresses the elders, applies the simple and common title to himself, and then gives them a humble exhortation to "Tend the flock of God." Here "elder" is applied to an apostle. Thus we see that apostles, pastors, and teachers are elders. The apostle John also addresses himself as "elder" in his epistles.

Paul was an apostle, "not a whit behind the chiefest" of them, and yet he had no authority over those who traveled and labored with him. He took certain ones with him, called others to him and exhorted, laid plans, and made arrangements for ordination of elders, etc; and yet nothing was by compulsion, and when some failed to comply with his wishes and instructions, he had no power to excommunicate them, change their office or work, or in any way affect their spiritual standing. Examples: Paul and Barnabas at one time had John Mark with them for a season, but he, for some unrevealed cause, did not continue with them as they had expected, but returned to Jerusalem. Later, Barnabas wanted him to go with them again, but Paul thought it not good because of his former unfaithfulness, and so they, at their own will, separated, selected other companions without a conference or any other modern ecclesias-



tical form of episcopacy, and went their way. Paul said to the Corinthians: "I greatly desired him [Apollus] to come unto you with the brethren; but his will was not at all to come at this time. . . ." 1 Cor. 16:12. This is the language of the whole New Testament. Paul and Barnabas, though they were both Apostles (Acts 14:14), were just as obedient to others as any other elders or helpers were to them. In Acts 13:1-4 we have an example of this kind, when other elders, younger and less eminent, "laid their hands on them and sent them away."

Of all the offices mentioned in the Word of God belonging to the Church, not one resolves itself into a head, for that is attributed to Christ alone. Earthly episcopal heads had their origin in church apostasy, and not in the primitive Church. Without my head, none of the members of my body would know *when* and *how* to perform their allotted functions. Their exercise is due directly to the knowledge and authority of the head alone, and this is why there is no clash and awkward and "balky mixups." Christ is "chief Shepherd" and "Bishop" of every soul in His universal kingdom. —J. E. F.

### "It Shall Accomplish That Which I Please"

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Isa. 55:11

"The life is not in the sower, but in the seed. Even if an infidel scattered the Scriptures, he would only be exploding his own battlements.

"For in scattering divine literature we liberate thistledown laden with precious seed, which, blown by the winds of the Spirit, float over the world. The printed page never flinches, never shows cowardice; it is never tempted to compromise. It never tires, never grows disheartened. It travels cheaply, and no rented room; it works while we sleep; it never loses its temper; and it works long after we are dead. The printed page is a visitor which gets inside the home, and stays there. It always catches a man in the right mood, for it speaks to him only when he is reading it; it always sticks to what it has said, and never answers back; and it is bait left permanently in the pool. The printed page is deathless: you can destroy one, but the press can reproduce millions; as often as it is martyred, it is raised. The ripple started by a given tract can widen down the centuries until it bears upon the Great White Throne. It's very mutilation can be its sowing."

When I read this, I also thought of the Scripture in Phil. 1:15-18. It seems that good can come out of the printing or preaching, even if the preacher is not where he ought to be. I think of these man-made movements. They may get help to some lost soul, someone who has never heard of the love of Christ. In the slums of our cities maybe many have never heard of Jesus and how He can save the soul and bring comfort to aching hearts. God can turn what

seems to be bad to us into something good, if that's the only way certain ones have to hear a little of the Word of God. Even if the Bible Scriptures go over the air by a false prophet, I believe God can, and does, plant that Word in some listening soul that has never heard the Bible, and sends conviction upon him. We need to pray much for this lost world, that God will send the Holy Word to enlighten their souls. There are not enough saint ministers to go everywhere to preach the truth to every soul. —Effie Miller

### "Not If It Were My Boy"

Some years ago the late Horace Mann, delivered an address at the opening of some reformatory institution for boys, during which he remarked that if only one boy was saved from ruin, it would pay for all the cost, care, and labor in establishing such an institution as that. After the exercises, Mr. Mann was asked: "Did you not color that a little, when you said that all that expense and labor would be repaid if it only saved one boy?"

"Not if it were my boy," was the solemn and convincing reply.

Ah! there is a wonderful value about "my boy." Other boys may be rude and rough; other boys may be reckless and wild; other boys may seem to require more pains and labor than they ever will repay; other boys may be left to drift uncared for to the ruin which is so near at hand—but "my boy," it were worth the toil of a lifetime, and the lavish wealth of a world to save him from temporal and eternal ruin. We would go the world around to save him from temporal and eternal ruin. We would go the world around to save him from peril, and would bless every hand that was stretched out to give him help or welcome. And yet every poor, wandering, outcast, homeless man is one whom some fond mother called "My boy." Every lost woman, sunken in the depths of sin, was somebody's daughter in her days of childish innocence. Today somebody's son is a hungry outcast, pressed to the very verge of crime and sin. Today somebody's daughter is a weary, helpless wanderer, driven by necessity in the paths that lead to death. Shall we shrink from labor, shall we hesitate at cost, when the work before us is the salvation of a soul? Not if it is "my boy"; not if we have the love of Him who gave His life to save the lost. —Selected

### God's Law in Man's Mind and Heart

"I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts." (Hebrews 8:10) To live holy lives we must have God's Word in both mind and heart. The same hand that writes it in the heart also writes it in the mind. Studying the Bible is good, but not sufficient. We must have written in the mind by the Holy Spirit what we read in the book or it will profit us little or nothing. The Holy Spirit never writes God's law in the mind except He writes it in the heart also. When it is written in the heart, man obeys.

—C. E. Orr