

# FAITH AND VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



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### From the Manger to Glory

Behold the Christ, the Son of God—  
The little holy Babe,  
Was born in ancient Bethlehem,  
And in a manger laid.

The shepherds came with haste to see  
That which had come to pass.  
Around them there had shone a light;  
They found the Child at last.

He grew to manhood, and for right,  
And for the truth He stood.  
And for His Father's business,  
He went about doing good.

He healed the sick, the blind, the lame,  
And cast out devils, too;  
And when the lepers came to Him,  
He cleansed them through and through.

He taught against all kinds of sin,  
And every evil way.  
The Pharisees did hate Him, then,  
And sought the Christ to slay.

At last they nailed Him to the tree,  
His blood for sin was shed.  
The guiltless for the guilty died,  
And suffered in their stead.

His task complete, His work was done,  
They laid Him in the tomb;  
But early on the third day morn  
He rose to life again.

Some blessed day He shall return—  
Oh, what a blessed thought!  
To take the blood-washed nation home  
He with His blood has bought.

—Ulysses Phillips

### No Room for Christ

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for him in the inn." Luke 2:7. Here we learn that at the very first advent Jesus made in this dark, unfriendly world there was no room for Him. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." John 1:11. He came to save the world, but they would not be saved; He also came to comfort the world, but they would not be comforted by Him. It was not what the Jews looked for. If Christ had come with all the pride of the world, doubtless they would have received Him, but the salvation of Christ is not popular, nor has it ever been, but praise God! it is something not to be ashamed of. People often remark that if they had lived at the time Jesus was here, they would have received Him.

Dear reader, though you have not the privilege of opening up your home to the Son of God, as those in that day, yet you have the privilege of opening your heart to Him, and He will come in and make His abode. But remember He only comes to the hearts of those that invite Him. See Rev. 3:20. It is sad to behold the human family on a swift march to eternity without a hope of future happiness. Many have taken their lives and their families' lives, and caused great disaster; all these things happened because there was no room in their heart for the Son of God. So many make room in their hearts for things that are detrimental to them, but oh, so few have room for Jesus. Just think of poor, dear ones who have room for envy, strife, etc., which will destroy their happiness while here and give eternal misery in the world to come.

Why should I make room for Him? Because of duty, since we are not our own, but have been bought with a price. 1 Cor. 6:20. It was the life of Christ that brought in this glorious freedom and victory to live above the world. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins, hence our freedom cost the blood of Christ. He will do something nothing else can do—satisfy. See John 4:14; Joel 2:26. Also many other texts prove He is a satisfying portion. You may

run to and fro to find satisfaction in the world, but it is only momentary. Even riches cannot satisfy. Think of Vanderbilt with all his wealth, when brought to death's door, turning to his weeping wife and repeating the old verse, "Come, ye sinners, poor and needy." It is said this noted man died a beggar when it could have been otherwise had he made room in his heart for the Son of God. Wilmont, a noted infidel, said in his dying hour, "The Bible is all right; it is men's lives that are wrong."

Reader, do make room for Him. Some say that boys and girls want to enjoy life, and that you can't put old heads on young shoulders; but thank God, He can satisfy the young. Psalms 90:14. You need not live in sin and sow wild oats, to reap in the lost world. May God awaken our young people and help them to see that Christ can satisfy us early with His mercy and we can rejoice and be glad all our days. Think of the young men in jails, etc., our girls in houses of ill-fame, all because they failed to make room for Christ. "The way of the transgressor is hard." How true, how true! The unhappy homes—wives, mothers, and children suffering in different ways, all because they transgressed the law of God. But amidst all the confusion of this world, we find a few that have opened their hearts to Jesus. We find many who have a name to live, yet are dead. They profess they have let Christ in while in reality they have not. Christ said, "By their fruits ye shall know them." We are taught that man must obey all the Word of God—to the best of his knowledge. See Matt. 4:4; Luke 4:4. Those who claim to have Christ and go to the world for pleasure—which the Word condemns (1 John 2:15-17); also dress like the world (Rom. 12:1, 2); and wear gold, which is forbidden (2 Tim. 2:9; 1 Pet. 3:3, 4), are not bearing fruit for God. Many smile at the idea of giving up all for Christ. Read Luke 14:35. It teaches us very plainly we must give up all. Some pay no attention to the Word or law of God and yet they seem to think they can keep Christ. This is a mistake—rejecting His Word and also rejecting Him. See John 12:48. Thank God for the privilege of making room in our heart for Christ and His Word. "Thou art my portion, O Lord: I have said I would keep thy words." Psalms 119:57. When we behold the wonderful things that Christ has done for man, we do not wonder at the expression of Paul, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." He will supply all the needs of man when the conditions are met—making room in your heart for Him. He will give peace, comfort, help, rest, joy, happiness, and we can say as the poet, "He is everything to me." Reader, make room for Him and He will be to you a rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm. In the saddest trials of life He will be there to encourage, and when you cross the river of death He will be there to comfort you. The question is asked, What will you do with Jesus? When you meet Him at the judgment the question then will be, "What will He do with thee? Make room now while you have the opportunity."

—J. M. Harrington, in Gospel Trumpet, 1900.

## The Whole Duty of Man

In the world in which we live today, speed is the general trend. Modern appliances at home, advanced machinery and equipment in every field of employment, computers for many jobs, new vehicles in scores of styles, fast jet airliners . . . and so the list could continue on and on. Modern technology is geared for more speed with less labor and a higher production rate. This haste and speed have even slipped into people's life style where today everyone seems busy going—going somewhere. Even at home people seem to have a hurried, unsettled feeling. Rush, hurry, rush—it is all around us and if we aren't careful, it will get in us. A rush, hurry spirit inside will cause one to grow impatient, tired, and frustrated with others, with circumstances, and with one's self. It will bring pressure and worries to the mind that will weary the body of an individual, making it an effort to spend time in spiritual things. In order to grow in godly wisdom, we must slow down to commune with our heart and with God very often throughout the day.

The devil himself is as a roaring lion walking to and fro seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8). It is his delight to keep people too busy to talk with God and learn of His ways. Natural, financial prosperity is not the problem, but the spirits behind it can be. Turning to the ancient Word of God which abideth forever, we learn that generally speaking, mankind has always craved prosperity and that God wants to help His people prosper. King Solomon was and still is acknowledged as the most prosperous, wisest, and wealthiest man of all times. God granted King Solomon this blessing when he asked God for wisdom instead of riches or personal benefits. In the book of Ecclesiastes, King Solomon considers wisdom, education, pleasure, happiness, power, influence, and other human pursuits that are always present in the world. What does he say about them? "Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity." Ecclesiastes 12:8. Vanity means: any thing or act that is vain, futile, or worthless. In the last two verses of this book we read: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **fear God, and keep his commandments;** for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Here we find stated the whole duty of man ever since creation: "Fear God and keep his commandments."

The nature and personality of God is not one of hate. God is slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. (Psalms 103:8). One day is as a thousand years to Him. (2 Peter 3:8). God's ways are not our ways, but His ways and thoughts are higher than ours. (Isaiah 55:8, 9). Patience is a necessary virtue in living for the Lord. The children of Israel suffered many times because of impatience and lack of faith. During the exodus from Egypt, they were soon short of patience with God and consequently punished. Short of patience with God—what a sad condition this leads to! Through miracles, God had brought the Israelites out

of bondage, helped them to prosper, and now promised them a land flowing with milk and honey. Then in ignorant haste they made a molten calf of gold to worship while Moses tarried on Mount Sinai communing with God. The Lord saw this and was stirred to anger. He told Moses: "Let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them. . . ." Moses besought the Lord for the people that they might not be totally destroyed; however, "the Lord plagued the people because they made the calf." (Exodus 32:7-35). They were too quick in judging God's ways; His ways are higher than our ways. God was laying out precise laws and ordinances for a prosperous nation to withstand the changing of countless centuries but they were living with only "today" in mind. God was thinking in the span of a thousand years or so to a plan of perfection but they were concerned with no farther than "tomorrow." How shallow their ways seem to us today. Yet, how about us? Do we sometimes feel impatient at what may seem slow prosperity when waiting on the Lord?

Let us not stumble in their footsteps. The Lord has a better plan for us today. James 1:4, tells us: "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." Jesus "wanted nothing." He had nothing of earthly gain but He knew His purpose in life—His reason for living. He had a divine destiny. Jesus didn't burden Himself down with financial cares and the pressure of prosperous living. Very early in life He wanted to be about His "Father's business." Jesus tells us not to lay up treasures on earth but in heaven. (Luke 12:33). He tells us not to worry about our material needs as the Father knoweth we have needs. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33. Jesus was One of wisdom. He didn't get impatient with God about prospering on earth. He knew the whole duty of man: "Fear God and keep His commandments." Even at the last, Jesus prayed to the Father: "Not my will, but thine, be done." Luke 22:42.

When the busy cares of life come against us and the devil tries to keep us too busy for spiritual matters, worried about earthly things, and impatient with life, just remember the whole duty of man: "Fear God and keep his commandments." Advancement and prosperity will be blessed by God when He is put first. "Delight theyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Psalms 37:4. The rush, hurry, rush, that we feel around us today—what is it all for anyway? "Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity."—Connie Sorrell

If you are not showing to the world around you that there is something better than wealth, honor, position, earthly pleasure, and the good opinions and praise of men, you are not showing forth the life of Christ.

—C. E. Orr

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## Love, Our Highest Attainment



To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength is the first and greatest of all the commandments of God to man. Not the first in numerical order so much as the first in importance, and the greatest because it comprehends all that God requires of any of His creatures, either angels or men. It is not only all that is required of men, but it is all that is possible for one being to render to another.

The second most important obligation divinely imposed upon us is to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Mark 12:29-34. The gospel not only reveals to us under what obligations we are to God and to our fellow men, but it also shows us that the power and ability to fulfil these obligations may be obtained by the grace of God.

Paul, in referring to his inability to perfectly fulfill his obligation to God while serving under the law, described correctly the state of even the most religious without grace from God. "For to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not." Rom. 7:18b. The gospel of Jesus Christ provides the "how" to perform that which is good. Full salvation cleanses the heart from the "sin that dwelleth in me," and the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire, and we are then given abundance of grace to enable us to "reign in life by one, Jesus Christ." We can now love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and love our neighbor as we love ourselves. This is perfect love. This gives us holy boldness before God. We have no slavish fear; no fear of meeting God at the judgment. Perfect love excludes all sin from the heart: hence we are pure from sin when we are made perfect in love.

"Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." 1 John 4:17, 18. Perfect love is the highest attainment expected of us in the realm of divine grace. Love is the greatest of spiritual gifts, and to manifest this love to others is termed "a more excellent way." 1 Cor. 12:31. This is fully described in chapter thirteen of the first epistle to the Corinthians. If we look beyond for something higher than love, we are aiming wide of the mark. As we have our hearts enlarged, we need to keep them filled with more of this pure love. Let us manifest this most important gift to our fellow men.

—J. C. B.

Selected from *Gospel Trumpet* 1911

**NOTICE:** We are sorry that we were not able to include in this month's issue all of the testimonies and mailbox items that were received. If your writing does not appear in this issue, please bear with us. We hope to be able to print them in future issues as the Lord directs and space is available.

—Editor

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## 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 OF CHRISTIAN LOVE** are extended to all of our readers during this holiday season from all of the workers here at the Lord's Print Shop. We trust that each of you have been thankful recipients of many of the Lord's bountiful blessings during this year, and that you have prospered much in spiritual things as well as in physical and temporal things. The apostle John wrote, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." 3 John 2. Notice how this verse is worded: the emphasis of prospering and being in health is placed on the condition of "even as thy soul prospereth."

In the sermon on the mount, Jesus instructed, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33. How sad it is to behold the great multitude of people who have allowed their physical and temporal needs to take top priority in their lives, placing the kingdom of God and His righteousness as items of lesser value, or in many cases being crowded completely out of their thoughts and lives. May the Lord help each of us to keep a clear vision of the value of spiritual things, why God created mankind, and what our life is. "...For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." James 4:14.

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We are entering the season of which many have chosen as the time to recognize or celebrate the birth of Christ. As the date of December 25 nears, we notice a great increase of activity and much hustle and bustle in the towns and cities. Is Jesus Christ the center of all of this activity? Do we generally hear people praising God for the gift of His dear Son through whom we are redeemed from sin? I'm afraid that we have to sadly answer, "No." What do we find? We find much decoration of tinsel, lights, and Santa Claus. We hear songs of "Jingle Bells," "Deck the Halls," "Here Comes Santa Claus," etc. We find people buying and buying—not necessarily for someone in need or because of love or concern, but with the motive, "You buy something for me and I will buy something for you."

But let's not dwell any longer on this train of thought. May we rejoice! There was a day nearly two thousand years ago on which Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, the Saviour of the world was born. It is through this Son of God, Jesus Christ, that we have access to the forgiveness of sin from God the Father. Praise be to God that He was willing to send His Son to this world! Praise be to Jesus that He was willing to come to this world and take upon Himself the form of a man and become the eternal sacrifice for sin, through whom we are able to inherit eternal life! May He always be the center of our lives; may all of our aims and desires be directed to Him.

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In the early morning hours of Oct. 30, 1982, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marsha Corteway, along with their

three children, were involved in a very serious automobile accident. One of the children was the only one of the family to escape injury. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marsha were severely injured. Thanks be to God, their lives were spared and all have been released from the hospital. Bro. Jerry has been out of work for a number of weeks. They are very worthy of your prayers and support. A card of cheer would be kindly appreciated. Their address is: Bro. & Sis. Jerry H. Corteway, 3401 Elizabeth Ave., Choctaw, Okla. 73020.

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As Bro. Lawrence Pruitt requested, his wife Sis. Maybelle Pruitt has assumed the responsibility of President of Faith Pub. House. Bro. Wayne Murphey is assisting as Vice President. May Sis. Maybelle and Bro. Wayne be endued with divine grace, wisdom, and understanding as they endeavor to guide the operation of this gospel publishing work; that we all as co-workers together may be able to strive and work together in the divine order and plan of God.

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Bro. Curtis Williams held a revival meeting at the Crutch Church of God in Oklahoma City during the week of Nov. 7. We trust the preached Word found lodging in many receptive hearts. We trust the Lord will also bless and prepare hearts for the revival which Bro. Williams is scheduled to hold in Enid, Okla., beginning Nov. 15 and continuing through Nov. 21.

—Randall Flynn

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It was a special privilege to attend the Assembly Meeting at Jefferson, Oregon, once again and to share the fellowship of the Spirit with the saints from that locality and also those from Canada and other places.

We thank the Lord for His presence in the meeting. Much encouragement was offered the soul through the means of songs, testimonies, prayer, and the preached gospel.

While there, I enjoyed the hospitality of my sister, Patsy Smith, her husband, Clifford, and their children. Clifford was called away to California to be near his mother, who is in a critical condition linger-

ing between life and death. Clifford made the statement that he is not asking God for her life, but only for her soul. Pray for this urgent need.

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“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Eph. 4:1-3.

The unity of the Church is a wonderful thing to behold. It is inspiring to view a contingent of men moving as one; all steps taken together and all turns made in unison. This is also the manner in which God designed the Church to operate. He intended that His saints walk together, step by step, and when confronted by a foe, for them to face the same direction—toward Him. When a member loses any one of the qualities of lowliness, meekness, longsuffering, forbearance, or love out of his heart, he will automatically fall out of step. When one member falls out of position, it is likely to confuse, distract, and disrupt those around him.

The way to preserve unity is to make the Word of God our only rule of faith and conduct. A denomination, or sect, is established when man peruses the Bible, labels some things as essential, others non-essential, adds a few personal ideas, interpretations or doctrines, and then declares it a standard of teaching. The true saint must accept the unchanged Word of God as the only standard.

After concluding that the Bible is our rule of faith, then the question arises, “Who shall interpret for us the ‘things hard to be understood’? Who shall set the pace and make plain the standard?” In John 16:13, we read, “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.” “But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.” 1 John 2:20. What better teacher could one desire than the Holy Ghost? There are also ministers whom God has ordained to instruct, encourage, and edify His people. These are not necessarily those preachers who are well educated or who are able to “speak with the tongues of men and of angels,” but those who are filled with the qualities already named.

When a group of people lose these qualities from their lives, they tend to become clannish, self-centered, proud, and intolerant of others. We find that the Jews in Christ’s time were proud that they were of the seed of Abraham, yet they were unwilling to accept the teaching of the gospel. The New Testament bears record of the Pharisee who prided himself on his creed, yet lacked the lowliness, meekness, longsuffering, and forbearance that was so vital to his soul.

It is a blessed experience to serve God, and a great privilege to associate with the saints of God. Let us endeavor daily to retain the qualities of God within our lives. As we do so, the Church of God can move forward in such a way that even the gates of hell will not be able to prevail against it. —Wayne Murphey

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## *In Memorial*

**Bro. Merrill Alfred Williamson**, the son of Oscar and Etta Williamson, was born May 22, 1921, near Loranger, La., and went home to be with the Lord on October 16, 1982, from his home near Jena, La. He was 61 years of age.

While in the military service in 1943, stationed at Battle Creek, Michigan, Bro. Merrill was wondrously saved, and the rest of his life was dedicated to the service of the Lord. Shortly after his conversion and after much prayer, doctors found a hearing defect and he was granted an honorable discharge from the army. Shortly after his discharge, he worked a few months at Faith Publishing House. Later in life he served nearly 10 years as pastor of the Webb City, Mo., Church of God; he then moved to Jena, La., where he faithfully labored as pastor of the Midway Church of God for 23 years.

On Jan. 23, 1944, Bro. Merrill was united in marriage to Ruby Ellen Doolittle. To this union was born one son, Murray Don. The Lord called Sis. Ruby home in 1976.

On April 22, 1982, Bro. Merrill was married to Sis. Violet Watson of Vinita, Ok. He was a loving father to her children, Diane and George.

Bro. Merrill is survived by his wife Violet; two stepchildren, Diane and George Watson; one son, Murray Don Williamson of Dallas, Ore.; one brother, Leroy Williamson of Hammond, La.; seven sisters, Myrtis Flynn, LaVern Manuel, Alta Flynn, Cwilla James, Katherine Harmon, and Shirley James, all of Loranger, La., and Hazel Savage of Shingletown, Ca.; three grandchildren, many nieces, nephews, saints, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Louella Naretta.

Funeral services were conducted at the Oak Grove Church of God chapel near Loranger, La., by Bros. Tom Melot, Cecil Carver, and Charles Smith. Burial was in the church cemetery.

### **Note of Appreciation**

We, the family of Merrill Williamson, would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all of the saints. We deeply appreciate the way everyone

stood by us. Thank you for the love expressed through your offerings, flowers, food, telephone calls, cards, and all of your prayers. The prayers are what kept us going. Merrill's death was so sudden and unexpected. We know God's ways are above ours, and He does what is best for all of us.

Thank you for everything.

Christian love and prayers,

—Violet Williamson and children

—Don and Annetta Williamson and family

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## **Sweet Mary Lounds**

Sweet Mary Lounds has left our midst

To dwell in heaven's portals;

Her lovely voice is lifted now

With angels and immortals.

Her love and mercy; tender care

To all the dear ones here

Will ever be a shining light

We all shall hold so dear.

We'll miss the beauty of her soul

She spread so abundantly

In word, and prayer, and labor gave

She ever constantly.

She carried faithfully and true

The burdens of her soul.

Her faith was fixed, her mind was set,

Her heart was on the Goal.

Her voice now sings with angel band

Around the great white throne.

Her life—a benediction here

Will help us to our home.

—Bro. George Hammond

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## **MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES**

### **WICHITA MEETING REPORT**

Glory to God in the highest, and all thanks and praise to Him for being so faithful to us here in Wichita, Kans. He truly anointed and blessed our meeting in a very special way and all glory goes to Him for the victories won.

Several souls that had given up the Lord were heavy on many of our hearts and much prayer had been offered for them. We are so thankful to be able to report that four of those souls came back to the Lord during the meeting, and one the morning after the meeting closed. We also praise the Lord for the soul that sought for salvation who had not previously been with the saints.

The night after the meeting ended we had a baptismal service as well as The Lord's Supper and feet washing. The services were precious.

The Word that the Lord sent throughout the entire meeting was just precious and needed by all. We appreciate the ministers that followed the burden God gave them for us here. We all rejoice in God's



mercy and goodness and mean to press forward with renewed vigor and remain "steady as we go."

—Shirley Knight

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### OKMULGEE REVIVAL MEETING REPORT

Again we give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good and His mercy endureth forever. The revival meeting held here at Okmulgee, Okla., Oct. 18-24, will long be remembered. The power of the Holy Spirit came down in a great way. The saints rejoiced in the Lord. The "axe" was laid, the cry went out to the lost. The Word was quick and powerful; it went forth like a hammer. Those who rejected it will be weighed in the balance. Those who had the victory praised God, shouted and sang the victor's song in spirit and in truth with the understanding. "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together." Psalms 34:3.

Saints from California, Texas, Kansas, and Oklahoma were truly a blessing to the meeting. Attendance was good from the beginning to the end.

May we be true and faithful, watching, praying, trusting and obeying; for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. . . . May God help us to hold on by faith for the precious souls of men and women. Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Gratefully, —Sis. Erma Johnson

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### DEDICATION SERVICES AT SAPULPA, OKLA.

The congregation at Sapulpa extend a hearty invitation to all to attend the dedication services of their new chapel the weekend of Dec. 4 and 5, 1982. There will be a special service of singing on Saturday night, Dec. 4, at 7:30 p.m., and all-day services on Sunday, Dec. 5.

—Editor

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### OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 76th annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Guthrie, Okla., on Dec. 24, 1982, to Jan. 2, 1983, inclusive. A hearty invitation is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U. S. A.

The chapel is located on the corner of 6th Street and W. Warner Ave. The dining hall and dormitories are in the same block for your convenience. All who come will be cared for. The expenses of the meeting will be met as usual by freewill offerings.

We are praying and expecting the Lord to send Spirit-filled ministers to preach the Word with anointing from heaven. All hungry souls seeking light or spiritual help, come, and God will meet you here. If you are sick in body, come and be healed by faith in the Great Physician. Saints, come praying with a burden for the unsaved and for all who need help in soul and body. These are perilous times, and we need to be about our Father's business, doing all we can to

rescue lost souls.

Please send all contributions for this coming State meeting directly to Sis. Frances Deforth, Rt. 5, Guthrie, Ok. 73044. For further information, contact the pastor Bro. Leslie Busbee at 417 N. 11th, Guthrie, Ok. 73044, phone (405)282-2421. The phone number at the chapel is (405)282-5499.

—Editor

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### CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at the Pacoima, Calif. Campground beginning December 24, 1982, and continuing through January 2, 1983.

The campground is located at 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, Calif. 91331, phone (213)899-9021. For further information or assistance, contact Bro. Robert Sherman, phone (213)896-7593, or Bro. James Pierro at 11316 Glenoaks Blvd., Pacoima, Calif. 91331, phone (213)896-5331.

—Edward Sorrell

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### CHANGE OF MEETING DATES AT WICHITA

The saints at Wichita, Kans., desire to change the times of our annual Spring and Fall meetings, hoping to hold them at a time when the weather will be more favorable. We wanted to announce this ahead of time in case other places need to be aware of this before setting their meetings.

We would like to change the Spring meeting to mid April—starting about the third Friday. We desire to change the Fall meeting to mid September beginning about the third Friday. Thus, the April meeting in 1983 will be April 15-24. Of course, we will send in another meeting notice near time for the meeting.

—Shirley Knight

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### Prayer Requests

Mich.—"I request prayer for my mother's foot which has been very bad with ulcers. My father needs the Lord; his mind is not good. He is very much disturbed and his body isn't well. I also request prayer for the Norman Simpsons that the Lord will heal Sis. Carmen completely and give Bro. Norman a good job."

—Sis. Olive Gettersson

Texas—"I went to have my eyes checked and got a very bad report. The pressure was up very high in my eyes . . . I need prayer very much. Please pray and ask prayer for me at all the meetings and please put my request in the *Faith and Victory*."

—Louise Strickland

Calif.—Sis. Amelia Smith is suffering severe pain in the small of her back and side. She writes: "The Lord has healed me of many afflictions, and I know He can heal this. It is very painful."

Okla.—Sis. Cheryl Doolittle needs prayer for a place on her neck. She would appreciate the prayers of the saints in her behalf. Her faith and trust are in the Lord.



Ariz.—“I have an eye problem and other physical problems. Please pray that I will be healed by the Lord.”  
—Laverne A. Nelson

Calif.—“I have a five year old daughter . . . Please agree with me in prayer that God will grant me full custody of my daughter that I may rear her in the fear and nurture of God.”

—Derik R. Sudduth.

Va.—“I want you to pray for my husband. He had a heart attack . . . I know the Lord can heal him.”  
—Mrs. Myrtle Hammock

W. Va.—Bro. Tom Carpenter has been suffering from some type of allergy or poisoning from varnish. Pray that the Lord will remove all trace of this from his system.

In Luke 18:1-8, we find the parable of the widow and the unjust judge. We see how the unjust judge was moved by the continual coming of the widow: she kept pressing her case before him. What if she would have become discouraged when she first approached the judge and found him to be hard and unjust? What if after the second or third time she went to him that she would have decided, “There’s just no use—no hope”? You know the answer—her petition would not have been granted. Jesus said in verses 7 and 8, “And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” Saints, do not become weary in bringing your requests to the Lord. May your faith be increased as you look earnestly to God for your need. He is nigh at hand and not a God afar off.  
—Randall Flynn

## FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

### MEXICO MISSION REPORT

Calif.—Dear Saints at Faith Publishing House: Once again this side of eternity we have the privilege to greet each other and we do it lovingly in the precious name of Jesus. I am so glad to have the assurance of my sins forgiven and feel and enjoy the sweet soul rest that His peace gives.

We were so sad and still feel a great loss to know that God has called Bro. Lawrence home. We were so in hopes that the Lord would see best to heal him and let him stay with us a little longer. Seems we needed him so much. But we know that the Lord knows what is best and He doesn’t make mistakes. We know that you folks feel it more than anyone else and we are praying for you that the Lord will give you the daily grace, courage, and wisdom to go ahead with the many needs and the great responsibilities you have before you to send the gospel out to the multitudes.

We want to thank you and each one who had a part in sending us the offering. We appreciate it very much and the love and concern for the work of the Lord. We are endeavoring to be led by God’s Spirit and to be obedient to His bidding. Since we live only 80 miles from the Mexican border, we go often to be

with the people we used to live near. It is hard to be with them all because they live so scattered now. We have services in the homes of the different ones. We usually go early Saturday morning and return usually real late that night. We do this because we have services in our home on Sunday with the family and anyone who will come be with us. We have invited our neighbors and some have come but not many.

We are planning a trip to Ojos Negros the first or second week in Nov. It is about 250 miles from here. Bros. Jim Kutra and Carnell Montgomery, and Bro. and Sis. Sherman plan to go at that time also. We need to go because Bro. and Sis. Pedro Rosas have given a lot to the saints there in Valle de Trinidad and we need to see about what and when we will start on the building. We were there not many weeks ago and visited around among people who used to go to meeting there, and some seemed real happy to think they might have a meeting house again and told us they wanted to be in meeting. It just thrilled our hearts to see the interest they manifested that day. We ask an interest in your prayers that we will understand and do the will of the Lord in that place and be faithful to souls.

I must close at this time by again thanking you for the offering and your prayers. The money people give us is being used for gasoline and any need we may see down there. May God bless you each one is our prayer.

Christian love,

—Edith Cole Lara

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### MISSION TRIP PLANNED TO GHANA, W. AFRICA

It was my thoughts to go to India again this year, and I had been saving towards that end, but the Lord has rested me from the trip this year. I would like to return to India again, if the Lord permits.

For perhaps two years I have been corresponding with a young man who has a wife and two children; they live in Ghana, W. Africa. His name is Jim Akwasi Kunadu, Yiadam. I believe he has received literature from the Print Shop; I have also sent him literature on the true Church of God. The man writes good letters; every letter has been on spiritual things, and I surely have done the best I know how to instruct him in the truth. He wrote once that they didn’t have a Church of God in Ghana like I write about, but if one ever came to Ghana, he would be a “premium member.”

I wrote to him asking how one (even a woman like myself) would be received in Ghana. (I preferred my brothers to go if a door would be opened; I would even have helped with the ticket.) His answer was, “If you want to come, we will be delighted; you are welcome in our home.” I understand Ghana is quite modern—much like the U. S.

With a real burden for souls there, I am planning to go. My flight is scheduled for Jan. 9, 1983. It is now a matter of waiting for my visa to Ghana. It could come through in 8 days, it could come at the last minute, or I could be turned down. Surely God can close the door if it is not His will for me to go. I have made all preparations to go; it is all in His hands. I

will have just two weeks on this flight. If it would cost too much more to get the visa extended for my flight home, I will have to settle for the two weeks. I was able to talk with Bro. Lawrence personally about this trip just a few days before he passed to be with the Lord. His words, "May the Lord bless you if you make this trip," I shall not forget.

I desire the prayers of the saints everywhere. I believe that God wants to plant some righteous seeds in the hearts of precious never-dying souls in Ghana. I desire that my self will be so lost in God till His perfect will be done through me.

Yours for a harvest of souls,

—Sis. Dorothy Keiser

Rt. 6 Box 10, Apt. 19, Shawnee, Ok. 74801

## From the Mail Box. . .

Ala.—Dear ones: Greetings in Jesus' name! I was sorry to hear that Bro. Pruitt has passed on, but so happy to know of the good testimony he left behind and that now his suffering is over. He is enjoying the glories of heaven and having fellowship in person with Jesus and loved ones who have preceded him. Let us all search our hearts to be sure that we are ready when Jesus comes or calls for us by death, for it could be even today.

Yours in Christ,

—Leora Frink

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Illinois—Dear saints: How we praise the Lord that He directed us to people who know and proclaim the truth of God's Word! In times past, both my husband and I have been under the teachings of false doctrine, and those who profess to know the truth but do not. Praise to the Lord that He has shown us what truth is! We have only begun to learn what the Bible really teaches and we desire and are hungering to know the whole truth. We have been praying about the possibility of moving to Guthrie so we can learn more of the Word and to have the fellowship of the saints. We have two daughters we want brought up in the truth—not learning false teachings, but what God's Word says. Please pray for us that we will know and follow in the Lord's will.

We are praying for our families and friends that they will come to the salvation of Jesus Christ. We enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper and receive many blessings from reading the testimonies and articles. We are trusting that the truths printed in this paper will help our families and friends to come to know Jesus as their Savior.

Thanks be to God for the Word He has given us.

—Bro. and Sis. Mike Frazier

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N. Y.—Dear Bro. Murphey: I thank you for your cordial, friendly letter relating the sad news of our dear Bro. Pruitt's passing. Though it may have been anticipated by those of you who were near to him, yet I am sure that many of us were still looking for that divine healing touch which God, in His great mercy and fathomless knowledge, purposed to with-

hold from him. A portion of Scripture which I have just finished reading seems to be appropriate here: "According as his divine power hath given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue." 2 Pet. 1:3. By these same prerogatives it has been His good pleasure to take our dear brother from us to Himself. When we reflect a moment upon the suffering our brother was experiencing, we can see this as an act of infinite goodness and love both to him (Bro. Pruitt) and to those who knew and loved him. Praise God for His great mercy that endureth for ever! Bro. Pruitt (as well as many other devout souls) will be missed as long a time as God lets us live.

Now we are faced with carrying on the unfinished work that our brother left behind. We used to sing a song that went something like this:

"The great work must go on and on,  
Til we come to the breaking of dawn;  
Greater victories must be gained,  
Greater heights in love attained  
Til the glorious day of God shall dawn."

So now we must resolve to put forth greater effort; resign ourselves to greater sacrifice, if need be, and look forward to greater victories if we are to accomplish the great work God in His wisdom has entrusted to us. . . .

I trust and pray that our great heavenly Father will encourage and provide every support for the furtherance of His gospel; and to you who are committed and dedicated to carrying on that end of it in Guthrie, I know He will. You have my humble prayer of encouragement and my support. God bless you!

In the love of Jesus, —Bro. Earl Langley

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## Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Ore.—Dear saints: It would be good if the saints of today would write more articles for the *Faith and Victory* paper. We love to read the good testimonies of God's working among us now.

I want to thank the Lord for healing me the other night. It looked like I was taking a cold and it hadn't been long since I had recovered from a bad one. A sister and I agreed in prayer that the Lord would rebuke that cold. Then I resisted it in the name of the Lord. He heard our petition and I never had to wipe my nose one time during the night! Praise God; He stopped that cold that very hour!

I feel that many of us have more power than we realize in touching God on His throne. He told us to "come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb. 4:16. We have a great High Priest who was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin. (Heb. 4:14).

One time I had a vision of being in a parking lot at a market where people were standing on all sides of me and were pointing their fingers at me. They tried to touch me but could get only so close and

never did touch me. The parking lot was all paved with asphalt, but as I looked down at my feet, I was standing on a circle of solid rock. When I awoke I felt the Lord had shown me that I was standing on the rock, Christ Jesus, and He was protecting me, keeping me from being hurt by people around me.

We can depend on the Lord to heal the children of bad tonsils as well as many other diseases. I used to have tonsillitis almost every year. After I married and was in sin, my husband took me to a throat specialist. The doctor said my tonsils were diseased and should be removed. He treated me and said to return in two weeks. My mother was very concerned and prayed earnestly for me. When I returned to the doctor he said that one tonsil was perfectly all right and the other one was not so bad, so we left the office. That was the last time I ever had any trouble with my tonsils. Many thanks went to the Lord and my mother. Space here will not permit me to tell of the many times I have been healed in answer to the prayers of my mother.

Please find enclosed an offering; we want to keep the *Faith and Victory* paper in circulation.

—Sis. Lucille Trimble

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Okla.—Dear saints of God: I have much to praise the Lord for this morning! I have just been through a serious and painful sickness. God was faithful to hear and answer prayer and I can report victory today!

I do not know exactly what was wrong with my body because I did not have an examination. One thing I do know is that God has removed the pain and I sleep well at night. Many times in the past 25 years I have been awakened by pain.

Nearly 25 years ago I started having pains in my stomach and have suffered quite a lot. I have received help at different times, but the Lord did not see fit to completely heal me. Around the first of Sept. of this year, my problem worsened until I was in pain almost continually. In this sickness I was unable to eat for almost a week. For several days I was not able to drink and the only liquid I received was from crushed ice. I had reached the place where anything I swallowed caused severe pain.

First, the Lord answered prayer and stopped the pain. Then He made me able to eat again after I was anointed especially for that purpose. I am still weak, but am gaining strength daily. I am also able to eat more and different kinds of food each day. . . .

I am thankful for the experience of trusting completely in the Lord. There was much pain, but I know that there is pain in the hospital, too. I reached the point where I expected to die, yet I had no fear and the warmth and love of the saints along with the feeling of complete confidence in God was a rewarding experience. I highly recommend trusting God!

I especially want to thank all of the saints for their love, prayers, and support. It means so much to me. Every card, phone call, prayer, and visit helped gain the victory. The saints sacrificed much and carried such a burden for my healing that I feel I will

never be able to repay them. The family of God has a much deeper meaning to me now.

I am so thankful that God has answered prayer. . . . My prayer is that I will live in such a way that I will be worthy of this wonderful gift.

Christian love, —Anecia Wall

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Canada—Dear Saints: I praise God that I am saved and sanctified. I thank God for all of your prayers.

I would like to testify how the Lord answered my prayer. My parents would not let me worship at home. I felt the Lord wanted me to leave home. I did move into the home of Ron and Ann Walter. I really thank the Lord for them. We had been praying for my parents that they would let me come home and worship God and go to church. For one week I phoned my family and told them I loved them, and that I wanted to come home. I wasn't allowed home unless I gave up God. I praised God. I phoned home today [Sept. 22] and my mother said, "You can come home and will be able to go to church. You won this far." I knew in my heart that I didn't win—it was God who won.

I am so happy serving a living God. I would like to have you pray for me for God to give me grace and that I may be a good example at home. Please pray for my family.

I hope to meet all of you—if not here, in the heavenly home.

Love in Christ, —Kathy Coish

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Calif.—Dear Bro. Randall: Greetings! This finds me still saved. It will be three months Oct. 28. That is a real miracle! I had no intentions of getting saved at Monark this year, but the saints showed so much love, care, and concern, plus the Holy Spirit's convicting power—I couldn't resist any longer. The Lord really gave me a new heart. Praise His holy name! I've been so happy and contented. I appreciate all the prayers and concern. . . . A big comfort to me is that song, "One Day At a Time."

My sister, Ruth, has come to church with me two different times. Her heart is tender. She has told me several times, "Gus, you are different." Pray for her.

So sorry to hear of Bro. Lawrence's passing. He suffered so much, but he is at rest now.

Enclosed is a small offering. I would appreciate your continued prayers.

Your saved brother in Christ, —T. Gus Poulos

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Okla.—Dear workers at the Print Shop, and saints everywhere: There is victory in Jesus! I'm so happy with Jesus; He has done great things for me and my family. He has worked some things out that stand out in my mind as miracles.

Just before our meeting, a breaking out of some kind appeared on my chest. The enemy of my soul tried to blow it out of proportion. I was reminded of the Scripture, "Is any thing too hard for the Lord?" Gen. 18:14; also in Jer. 32:17, ". . . and there is noth-

ing too hard for thee." I began at this point to examine my life, my attitude, and my love for God. The Spirit led me to Luke 18:29, 30, and to the song, "I Must Tell Jesus." One phrase of this song says, "In my distress He kindly will help me." Another Scripture of encouragement was Psa. 120:1: "In my distress I cried unto the Lord, and he heard me." . . . And last but not least, the Scripture in Psa. 16:8, which says, "I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved." Praise the Lord! I took hold of these exceeding great and precious promises and I began to feel the surging power of God penetrate my body from the crown of my head to the sole of my feet. Other ailments were also healed at this time.

Our God is real! He bore the stripes on His back for the healing of the nations. Healing is the children's bread. I'm healed; I know. However, I must fight on. "My soul, be on thy guard, ten thousand foes arise." We do serve a mighty God who reigns supremely in my life.

Thank the Lord! —Sis. Erma Johnson

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La.—Dear Bro. Flynn and all: Love's greetings in the all prevailing name of Jesus, the name which is above all names; by the which we are saved, and by whose stripes we are healed. He is our Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, Keeper, and all that is named under heaven. It is He who has delivered from sin's awful depravity and ruin; from that brutal inherited nature, that carnal spark, that Adamic flint that doth so easily beset and upset those who have not experienced a gentle birth to become the gentleness of Christ. I thank Him for every fiery trial and durable suffering for His name's sake. Suffering is heaven's seasoning salt though bitter it may seem.

Brother, we want to report that the past evangelistic tent revival which was held in the New Orleans-Kenner area will long be held in remembrance. Saints and ministers were faithful to attend. The Word of the Lord was glorified and had free course. It was a seed sowing time, and there were some saved and some baptized. . . . The Word and the Spirit agreed; and so light rates responsibility to all that heard it. If any went away empty, it was because they were full of themselves.

We are living in a day of obstacles, and the devil, well known to be a supreme artilleryman, is out in full attack. His sugar coated bullets have penetrated many faint hearts for sweet surrender to his carnal demands. We see too many yielding to his unholy impulses and wicked commands. Oh, how cunningly sin transforms and works over backsliders to reshape their souls into its awful image.

Bro. Merrill Williamson's funeral was one of the most impressive services I have ever witnessed. It carried an emotion of grief which gave vent to much weeping for our departed brother, as Bro. Tom Melot expressed it in his message that day. The closing remarks by Bro. Charles Smith has yet a lingering effect for the blessed hope he expressed in the resur-

rection. We shall greet our precious brother in that glorious event if we stay faithful as did our brother to the end. We shall all miss his service in the gospel. May the Lord graciously supply the little flock he pastored many years with another true shepherd that will love the sheep.

Yours for the gleanings of souls,

—Bro. Salvatore DiDio

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Ohio—Dear saints: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I would like to take this opportunity to tell what the Lord has done for us.

Our oldest daughter, Rachel, had the whooping cough. We thank the Lord how He has helped her.

A short time later, our youngest daughter Amy (3 ½ months old) took the whooping cough. She had some pretty bad coughing spells. We called for prayer different times and the Lord came to her rescue each time. One evening she had a real hard coughing spell, and because of her not being able to get her breath, she started turning blue. We called for prayer; after a little while she started breathing again. Thank the Lord! At this time we felt that she could not stand very many more of those bad coughing spells. Later that evening my husband had gone to bed, and my mother and I stayed up with Amy. We noticed that she looked brighter. We felt like the Lord had come down and touched her for we could feel the presence of the Lord. Since that time she has been on the mend. "What a mighty God we serve!"

It is so wonderful to bring our burdens to the Lord and to know that He hears and answers prayer.

Pray for us that we may stay true and faithful to the end.

Christian love,

—Dianna and Rick Cox

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Canada—Dear workers at the Print Shop, and saints abroad: Greetings of deep, unfathomable, Christian love to you all! God knows how much I love all His saints! There is nothing sweeter on earth than fellowship with God's children. My heart is deeply saddened to hear of different saints who are going through such battles of affliction. God knows what is best for each of us. Let us all keep encouraged for soon the toil and strife will be over and we will be blessed to dwell in God's sweet presence evermore.

I thank the Lord tonight for full salvation. There is nothing better in this sinful old world than to live for God. I thank God for the true Church of God. I cannot express my deep appreciation to God for revealing His Church to me and making me a part of it. Praise God! I, too, was once in Babylon confusion. I even got saved there and struggled to live for God, but could never obtain what my soul deeply longed for. But, praise God, He saw the longing and has filled it. Thank the Lord! Now, I am happy and free! . . . Yes, "some think I've done wrong by leaving the throng, who abide in sectarian strife, but I've only come back where God's people belong; from Babel I fled for my life." Oh, if people would only be humble and submit themselves to God's Word and truth!

I deeply appreciate the older saints who left us with a godly example, who held the standard up—taught it, lived it, and are giving their life for it. I desire with all my heart to cleave to the old paths. I pray God to keep me from compromise. It's so easy to give in a little, or let down a bit, but I want to contend for the **faith** (singular) once delivered to the saints. . . .

I would like to report that we had some meetings here in St. Thomas the last weekend in October beginning on Thursday night and continuing through Sunday. Bro. Curtis Williams came and preached the Word to us. The Lord richly blessed and strengthened our hearts. We heard very timely messages on healing, faith, the Church, forgiveness, etc. We learned much. Sunday night we had a Bible lesson on the Scriptural teaching on divorce and remarriage. This to me was very instructive. . . . One outside couple from town here attended.

Continue to remember us in prayer, as we remember the saints.

Yours in Christ, —Agathe Friesen  
o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

La.—Dear Sis. Maybelle, Sis. Grace, and all the workers at the Lord's Print Shop: This leaves me encouraged to go all the way with the dear Lord. The Lord saved my soul about 50 years ago. This great salvation was so sweet to me and it still is; it grows sweeter all the way. It is wonderful how the Lord changed me. He forgave my sins and He didn't stop there—He delivered me from them. . . . He made me a new creature in Christ Jesus; transplanted me from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. What a miracle!

We want each of you to know that we appreciate what you are doing in the service of the Lord. We are praying for all of you and trust the Lord will bless the work there and also the laborers. The harvest is white but the laborers are few. But thank God for the few.

The Lord blessed here with a wonderful revival that Bro. Danny Layne and Bro. Tom Melot were permitted to hold. The Lord richly anointed every message and many souls were at the altar for help in various ways. I surely did enjoy the messages and the sweet fellowship. I feel I received much good from the meeting. We do appreciate God's ministers who will declare the whole counsel of God and preach the Word in its fullness.

We covet your prayers that we be faithful unto the end just like our dear Bro. Lawrence, Sis. Marie, and many other dear saints that have passed on with victory.

With Christian love, —Effie Miller  
o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mo.—Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ: In May of this year I made a telephone call to Guthrie and talked with Sis. Maybelle Pruitt. I told her of how the Lord had impressed me to set a time for the next day . . . to be anointed for healing of a terrible painful ailment. When at 4:00 p. m., Saturday, I was anointed

and prayed for, I felt no change, but felt confident in my own heart that God would take care of it.

Shortly afterward, my husband and I moved from Bushnell, Fla., to Cape Girardeau, Mo. In the meantime, God did heal me and I have told it again and again to the glory of God that healing was mine. Praise the Lord! I also testified at Myrtle, Mo. Camp Meeting about how wonderfully God has touched me. Now I feel that He wants me to write to you about it. Praise Him for saving me, for sanctification, for healing, and for the many blessings that come to me as a child of my heavenly Father.

Thank you one and all for your faith and prayers in my behalf. You are all remembered each time I pray.

Yours for Christ, —Sis. Ruby Blanchard  
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Okla.—My husband (who is not saved) and I were on our way to Bartlesville, Okla., in Nov. 1980. . . . I usually take along some reading material, so I decided to read. . . . After we checked into our motel room I continued to read. I was reading a tract, I believe it was on sanctification. I read a word that at the time appeared to be "Santa." I backed up in my reading because I knew this couldn't be right according to the context of the tract. After reading over the sentence a time or two again, the word appeared in its true light. The word was "Satan." In those few seconds my Lord had shown me the parallel of these two names—"Santa and Satan." The revelation was so awesome I immediately wanted to share it with someone. I thought of my husband . . . and decided to share it with him, and the Lord opened up his heart and mind to this. Praise God!

The beginning of the next week I started searching in my dictionaries I looked up Santa Claus, St. Nicholas, Old St. Nick, and only found the traditional definitions. It came to my mind to look up Nick. There it was—Old Nick—the devil. . . .

I thank my Lord and Savior for giving me light on this very important subject. The Lord had been dealing with me ever since I got saved about Christmas trees and Santa Claus. I've had quite a time with my friends, my husband, and working associates ever since I stopped having a tree in my home and started teaching my children the true meaning of Christmas. I was already persuaded in my heart that Santa Claus was an idol and therefore it was wrong to acknowledge him as the symbol of Christmas, but when the Lord showed me these things, it brought a tremendous blessing to my soul. —Darlene Jagers

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#### LITTLE AMY'S VISITOR

Ohio—Dear Saints: We send greetings of Christian love. We want to tell how the Lord manifested Himself in behalf of our granddaughter, Amy.

Amy was about 3 ½ months old when the Lord permitted her to take whooping cough. The saints here were concerned that the Lord would not let her take it, but He wanted to manifest His power and glory in her behalf. She had the cough about two

weeks and on Friday, Oct. 15, she began to have some pretty bad coughing spells. I went to their house on Saturday. That night around 9:00 p.m., she had a real bad spell of coughing. The saints were called for prayer; we all knew that God was her only hope. The next day (Sunday) she had several spells of coughing, and the Lord was always a present help. That night around 10:30, she had what we feel was the worst one of all. The saints were called, and we were begging the Lord to help her. He did come to her rescue again. A few minutes later she had another one which wasn't so bad. While we were preparing things to go to bed and were talking some, we began to feel something or Someone in the room. It is hard to put in words what it was like. We weren't discussing what we were feeling at this time. We could feel the Lord was doing something for Amy, and was taking away the fever; we could feel comfort and that He had spared her. We could feel His presence hovering in the room. I went into the kitchen, and Dianna came walking in with the baby. I told her to look at the baby. Her face was glowing with the glory of God. She was smiling. After that, we began to tell each other of what we were feeling.

We can never be thankful enough of how we do appreciate God's wonderful love, mercies, and His manifestations there that night. All the saints can rejoice in what the Lord has done.

We also thank the Lord for bringing our other grandchildren through the whooping cough. Kenny and Mary's little Janna was very serious, but the Lord spared her, and we all thank and praise God for all He has done.

—Sis. Lois Abbott

## HOME



## LIFE

### Husbands, Love Your Wives

Some one has said that love-making is a lost art, and that real marriage for love has given place to a business agreement form of matrimony. The unhappy marriages and the constant grind of the divorce courts would indicate that there is considerable truth in this statement. At least there is sufficient evidence on every hand that in very many cases men do not love their wives as they should.

The very success of the home life is based very largely on this one thing—love. No home life can be a happy life without love; no husband and wife can enjoy each other without genuine love; children get a wrong start in life and a wrong conception of home where love is absent. Love smooths out the rough places in life; love overlooks the faults and weaknesses of those around us; love overcomes difficulties and surmounts obstacles that nothing else can. "Hus-

bands, love your wives" comes to us with such potent force that we cannot resist it; and yet this wonderful text is seldom mentioned except casually in reference to the love Christ bore to the Church. The utmost thought in the writer's mind here was not so much the love that Christ bore to the Church, as the love that husbands should bear to their wives. He shows that as Christ loved the Church, even so husbands should love their wives.

There is nothing so destructive of real happiness as a constant nagging, scolding, criticizing, fault-finding spirit in the home, and especially between husband and wife. It is contagious, spreading to the children and other occupants of the home, and to the neighborhood, and affecting the very moral fiber of the being. Children who come from happy homes may generally be distinguished from those coming from homes where love is absent, their very countenance betraying the secret of their home life.

Mothers have gone down into the valley of the shadow of death to bear us children; many of them have given up life itself in so doing; yet, notwithstanding this great sacrifice, many men do not appreciate their wives, children do not appreciate their mothers, and the mothers are often subjected to unkindness, coldness, and abuse that are an abomination to God. Thousands of homes in the world today are destitute of real love. The poor wife is at home, doing the best she can to make a home for that man she has taken as her husband. She may be surrounded with every comfort from an outward standpoint; she may have plenty of good food, a good house, and grand furnishings, but oftentimes that husband is interested so much more in his club, his lodge, his "stag parties," and other follies than he is in his wife, that she sits at home, spending her evenings alone, worrying her life away for just a little of that love to which she is entitled.

When a girl accepts one particular man as her husband, she makes sacrifices that can never be estimated. She leaves her father and mother, brothers and sisters, her childhood home with all its pleasant surroundings and fond memories, her girlish associates, even giving up her name and losing her identity. She stakes all that she has, even all her future life, on the altar of love for that one man. And all that she asks of him in return for this great sacrifice is love. This should be sufficient argument to turn any man back from his club-life to a life of happiness at home with the woman he has chosen to be his wife.

Husbands, love your wives; love them as you have never loved them before; love them above every other earthly being, to the exclusion of all others; love them sufficiently to spend your evening and other unemployed time with them; love them enough to help them in their home duties, to help lighten their domestic burdens; love them enough to tell them you love them; back up your words with such acts of love that compel attention. If this beautiful text were obeyed more implicitly, thousands of homes would be brightened, burdens would be lifted, mechanical homes would cease to

exist, and the very atmosphere of home would be an atmosphere of love. This would be heaven indeed, and a true foretaste of what we may expect to enjoy in that home above.

A. T. Rowe

—Taken from *Gospel Trumpet*, 1912

## Question and Answer Column

By Otis B. Wilson

**Question:** What are some of the signs or symptoms of "SELF" and how does it manifest itself?

**Answer:** SELF is a predominant part of the depraved nature which our father Adam received because of his disobedience to the direct commandment of God. By this means he lost the image of God (righteousness and true holiness) (Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:24). The image of God was defaced and in its place Adam received a fallen, depraved, sinful nature. Not only was this so, but all his posterity received the same nature that Adam had. Rom. 5:12, says, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." This text proves sin to be a universal thing and that is so because of one man's sin. Rom. 7:14, says, "For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin." But how did this come about? Who sold him under sin? The answer is clear from the above text (Rom. 5:12); it was Adam. Paul refers to himself (I) here, but actually he stands as a representative of the whole human race. We are all in that same condition—depraved in our nature. This depraved nature has a side loaded toward self and that is the side that keeps turning up in all unregenerated men.

Self and the depraved, sinful nature are so intertwined together that one cannot be destroyed without destroying the other also. They must go together. Let me give you an example. I knew a man who had a brain tumor. Surgeons opened up his head and performed an operation, but they reported that the roots and runners of the tumor were so intertwined throughout the brain that they could not possibly get it all without completely destroying him as a person and reducing him to a mere "vegetable." Therefore they just took off the top of the tumor, and as it grew and built up pressure in his head, they repeated the operation in the same way. The man underwent nine of these operations before his death. I once saw an advertisement of a cold medicine which said, "Kill a cold where a cold lives." Another place in the ad said, "A cold is an internal infection."

This is the way with the self-life. You have to kill it where it lives—in the depraved nature. It is all intertwined in there and one has to have that nature destroyed in order to get it. Rom. 6:6, says, "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." The "old man" in this text refers to that depraved, sinful nature. Rom. 6:11, says, "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto

sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Gal. 2:20, says, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Here is expressed life without the "I" or "self" in it. Gal. 5:24, says, "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." All of these texts refer to the old depraved, sinful nature and the self-life which is an integral part of it.

This experience [crucifying or dying out to self] is obtained through consecration and faith; in the Scriptures this is called "sanctification." Rom. 12:1-2, says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." And 1 Thess. 4:3, says, "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, . . ." Rom. 12:1-2, explains how one is sanctified.

Self is something we cannot serve God with. Jesus knew this; the very first condition of discipleship that He layed down was to deny one's self. In Matt. 16:24, He said, ". . . If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." The self-life is so opposite to the Spirit and nature of Jesus Christ that it is obnoxious to Him and we just cannot serve Him with it.

This all being true, let us look at some of the signs and symptoms of self:

1. It will seek its own (its own way, profit, welfare, pleasure, comfort, and satisfaction) rather than deny itself. In Phil. 2:21, Paul said this by way of lament, "For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's." In 1 Cor. 10:24, he said, "Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth." In Phil. 2:4, he said, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." We see in these texts that self-seeking, self-promotion, and self-pleasing have no place in the Christian life.

2. Self will demand the uttermost farthing (Matt. 5:26) rather than go the second mile (Matt. 5:41). Try to straighten up anything or seek a reconciliation with a man who has been hurt or offended and is dominated by self and you will find him "slapping you in the face" instead of turning the other cheek (Matt. 5:39). He will be very exacting, demanding, and hard to deal with. This is just the way self behaves itself.

3. Self will contend for its own way and if not pleased, just plain won't play rather than submitting and cooperating to make any given project a success. In Eph. 5:21, Paul says, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." This is the way of the Spirit and the way Christians are to behave, but Self will never behave this way.

4. Self will get its feelings hurt and pout when crossed, disappointed, or its proposals rejected, rather



than crucifying self and manifesting the Spirit of Christ who pleased not Himself (Rom. 15:1-3).

Self was manifested in the prodigal son in his seeking his own way, personal interests, and freedom to do his own thing with utter disregard for the feelings of his father and his father's household. The prodigal's brother sought to promote his own interests in another way, but showed the same contempt for his father and his father's feelings; in the end he was as obnoxious as his brother. He missed the kingdom of God, too. Self is always obnoxious, and all who follow its pernicious ways will miss the kingdom of God.

## Purpose and Prosper



In almost every vocation in life, the question of profit and loss is considered. "Does it pay?" enters largely into every decision to act, and "How can I make it pay?" is the thought that occupies the planning mind. Successful business men carefully calculate, then perseveringly ply the oars, in order to accomplish their purposes. The Church of God is the most glorious institution in existence, with highest aims, and noblest purposes. Its prosperity is of the most vital importance, and to be numbered among its membership, the grandest privilege. The higher the individual purpose of the membership of the Church, the firmer the resolve to effect this purpose, and the more persevering the effort, the surer will be the prosperity of Zion. Substantial success depends largely upon systematic effort—following correct rules laid down by the right authority.

The purpose of the Church is to carry the gospel message of salvation to a lost and ruined world. Preaching the gospel is God's chosen way to save them that believe, and "God hath ordained that they that preach the gospel shall live of the gospel." Now, is it necessary, and will it pay the Church to support and to keep in the gospel field the able ministers of the New Testament whom no one doubts that God has called and sent? The fact that many effectual ministers, singers, and workers "have fled every one to his own field," not because they were weary of the work of the Lord, but because they have gone with single eye and willing hand to preach a free gospel to the people, until unpaid bills for provisions and clothing for their families call them to secular employment, in order to meet their obligations, declares plainly a departure from the divine order.

Future happiness and reward depend upon present success, and present success depends largely upon our purposes, our resolves, our decision to do as the Bible teaches, and the degree of sacrifice and service manifested by the Spirit of Christ that dwells within us. Will it pay to let the gospel work lag? the ministry languish? the world go on unwarned by the sound of the gospel? and our own souls grow lean because of covetousness?—all this in order to use the

means once consecrated to God, for self and selfish purposes? We answer, no! As the individual members of the Church of God, we can not afford to let its glorious banner of love trail in the dust of selfishness, nor can we afford to "muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn."

The Lord has plenty of means to move this glorious cause triumphantly along, and pleading poverty will be no excuse when we face the great tribunal of eternal justice, when the unnecessary means we have selfishly spent upon our persons, or used in gathering together houses and lands we did not need for homes, go up in smoke and flames, and when we face the teeming throngs we might have helped to save had we had due interest in the prosperity of the cause of Christ.

With few exceptions, the saints of God are always able to get money to buy food and raiment, feed for stock, to pay interest, and to meet all their financial obligations. Have we any obligations for spiritual progress and development? If not, we are surely "none of His." Isolated brethren should do all they can to get the truth to their neighborhood. Local congregations should keep the truth ringing in the public ear. The Church should keep the largest possible number of workers running to and fro with the gospel message, and the message-bearer should be cared for the Bible way. What do our brethren mean when they report a meeting a success both spiritually and financially? Does not the preacher live by faith? Yes, he trusts the Lord, and sometimes gets more help from sinners than from stingy professed lovers of the Lord. Zion can never prosper until the individual members purpose to follow the Bible plan to evangelize the world. "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give. . . . 2 Cor. 9:7. "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him. . . ." 1 Cor. 16:2. —A. B. Stanberry

—Taken from *Gospel Trumpet*

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Struggles arise whenever two conflicting forces encounter each other. The struggle may be a "cold war" sort of thing, or it may be a "hot war" where actual manifestations of open hostility are demonstrated, but in either case the conflict is real and often deadly. When the struggle is taking place within the confines of a man's own heart, almost, if not always, some principles of right and wrong are involved. These two forces do not, have not, nor will they ever abide together without a struggle. Let both gain influence in a group and the group is soon split apart. But an individual cannot so easily be divided. He must arrive at some sort of conclusion within himself in order to relieve the distress of his soul. The complete and perfect solution is to yield himself completely to his Creator and follow Him to the saving of his soul. That puts all on God's side and cancels the conflict.

—Clifford Wilson