

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



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### How To Pray

Each one is valuable in the Lord's eyes,  
Ah, this one truth we know;  
But do we realize  
The God of the skies  
Has power over us below?

We may verbally acknowledge 'tis true,  
(Some think this question odd)  
But how about you;  
Do you remember it's true  
When you ask favors from God?

Are your favors demanding, said with a pout?  
("Never—not me!" says I.)  
Or turn it about—  
Do you hasten to doubt  
And whisper your prayers with a sigh?

Talking to God is not merely play;  
He heeds each word you utter.  
The Lord has a way  
He wants us to pray;  
And how we pray does matter.

We read in Hebrews, chapter eleven.  
(Open your Bible, please),  
That faith is the substance  
That makes all the difference—  
Whether or not on your knees.

Steady faith gives sincere grace to prayer  
That nothing can copy or cover.  
Faith takes special care  
That "Thank You" is there  
Before even receiving the favor!

Stay faithful to carry on through today,  
Tomorrow, and each day thereafter.  
Remember this way  
You were bidden to pray  
When asking from God a favor.

—Connie Sorrell

### In God We Trust

Praise God for the **Rock** of our salvation! Our faith is fixed upon the One who died on Calvary's tree, and then rose victorious from death, breaking asunder all of the powers of evil. Glory to God, we have a strong anchor—one that cannot be tossed to and fro by the winds of change. It is Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and for ever.

We have a sure and safe retreat. When the raging storms of life beat upon our fragile bark, we can have sweet rest in a tranquil harbor, for He said, "The peace I give you, the world cannot know." We are safe, hidden securely under His wings. Oh, how small and frail we are—so much like nestlings. Our only refuge is our dear Father who watches over us so jealously, fulfilling our every need, many times before we ourselves even know.

Can we simply trust? Not knowing if He will deem it in our best interest to do that which we feel is needful, can we put all into His capable hands? How can we not give everything over to Him? He has done all things for us; He is our life. "Be still, and know that I am God." It is not necessary to struggle. The only answer is that His grace is sufficient for all things. It is not ours to question why, as for now we can only see through a glass darkly.

He is pure and lovely. He is our God, the author and finisher of our faith. We are His people. In God is our salvation and our glory, the rock of our strength, and our refuge is in God. Trust in him at all times, ye people, pour out your heart before Him. God is a refuge for us.

The evil in this world is increasing daily. We are a holy people, and it is necessary that as the stench of wickedness increases, so should our love for purity increase. We must stand firm, knowing that no temptation that comes upon us is strong enough to overcome us. The powers of darkness have been defeated! We have the victory if we claim it, for our God is enough. We can rest securely in the heat of the battle, and triumphantly declare, "In God we trust."

—Elizabeth Whittall

**Attend National Campmeeting, July 22 to July 31, Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo.**

## The Sculptor's Work

One day years ago, as I was walking along in the suburbs of a city, I came to a large shed with wide-open doors. My attention was attracted by the sound of blows; and as I came opposite the door, I saw some workmen at the back end of the shed busily at work. Near the door on a small platform stood a large irregular piece of stone. Standing by it was a man with a large chisel in one hand and a heavy mallet in the other. As I looked he walked up to the stone and began to knock great pieces off it with chisel and mallet. I paused to watch him, my curiosity aroused to know what he was doing in his apparently aimless work.

As I watched, he continued breaking large flakes and pieces from the stone; and so far as I could see, he was just simply breaking it to pieces. I wondered what he wanted such pieces of stone for. But presently he began to kick them out of the way as if he had no use for them, and so I wondered still more what he was doing. After a time he stepped over to his work-box, took another chisel and a lighter mallet, and began to knock off more pieces of the stone. For a long time this continued. I could not tell what the outcome would be. So far I had seen nothing but destruction. From time to time he changed tools; but still he cut away pieces of stone in the same seemingly aimless fashion. At length he began to cut depressions into the stone here and there.

A long time I watched him, still wondering. At last he made a few quick strokes on one end of the stone, and I saw the outline of a head appear. A few more strokes and I exclaimed within myself, "A lion!" I watched until the head became more distinct and life-like. Then under the quick strokes of the biting chisel, one paw appeared, then another; and as I watched, the whole figure took outline, and I knew that what had seemed to be only an aimless work of destruction was instead the skilled work of a sculptor.

I had seen only the block of stone; but within that block of stone he had seen the beautiful figure of the king of beasts. The work that seemed to me to be without purpose, now proved to have been full of purpose. The pieces of stone cut off were merely so much waste-material that hid the beautiful statue.

I knew now that what would be left of the stone after the sculptor had completed his work would go to adorn some fine building and to be looked upon and admired by many people. No one had admired it in its former state. It was only a block of stone, unattractive and of little value. But it would now be a thing of beauty to be treasured. Yet that change could take place only when the sharp steel had bitten away all useless parts.

I went away thoughtful. I realized that that was a great allegory of life. The great Sculptor sees in every human being, no matter how rough and irregular, great possibilities. Whereas we can see only the exterior, He sees within the potential image with which He would adorn His glorious building above. Man was created in the image of God, but that image

is now obscured by sin and its results. And so the divine Sculptor must do with us as the sculptor did with the stone. He must bring to bear upon us the sharp chisel of circumstances, of disappointment, of trial. It seems that these things will destroy us. It seems that these things are evil, and we shrink from them. Some think that God is not just toward them. Some cry out in pain. Some mourn and lament. Some cry to God to stay His hand. And many, oh, how many! rebel. They cannot see what it means. They feel it is all wrong.

You want to be in His image, do you not? You desire the beautiful lines of righteousness, purity, truth, meekness, faithfulness, and kindness to appear in you. You want to be a part of the adornment of the heavenly temple. If you would be not a mere block of stone without form or beauty, but the image of the Creator, you must let Pain do her work in you; there is only one way. Christian character comes only through pain. If you shrink and murmur or if you rebel, that image may be marred forever.

Think not that God will let your life be ruined. He wants you for the adornment of His palace. So when pain comes—the pain of sorrow, of bereavement, of temporal loss, of being reproached and having your name cast out as evil, of being wounded by the tongue of slander—in whatever form pain comes to you, hold still; bear it patiently; it will work out in your life God's great design.

Would you have patience? You must have many things to try your patience. Would you have meekness? You can obtain it only through endurance. Would you have faith? You must meet and overcome many obstacles. God puts in us latent qualities of good, but these can be brought to view in the solid structure of the Christian character only by long and continued chiseling. "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you" (1 Pet. 4:12). "Which is to try you"—did you ever notice that? It does not say which *may* try you or which *probably* will try you; it says, "Which *is* to try you." That signifies that it was *intended* to try you. It was meant for that purpose; it does not come by accident. Trials are necessary. If you are ever to be what God wants you to be, you need trials, you must have them; you can never be strong or patient or meek or brave or possess any other virtue God wants you to have unless you stand the test. "Many shall be purified, made white, and tried." God will do the purifying; and He will also see that we get our "trying." "After that ye have suffered a while," Peter says, God will "make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."

The chisel pain must do its work. Even Jesus was "made perfect through suffering." Let us bear it manfully, yea, joyfully, knowing that it will leave its mark upon us, even the mark of our Lord Jesus Christ. It will bring out the beauty and richness of the Christ-life and fit us to be in His presence forever.

—C. W. Naylor

(Taken from the book *Heart Talks*)

## "Believe"

There are many professed "Christians" today in the sect world of churches who say that one needs only to "confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and . . . believe in thine heart that God hath raised him [Jesus] from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Rom. 10:9). They use this verse as an excuse so as to say that because they "believe" that Jesus was raised from the dead, they are saved and ready for heaven. They read this Scripture and go away soothed and satisfied that they believe because they confessed with their mouth. They never dream that God requires a "belief" of the heart—a strong, firm conviction that Jesus is the Son of God and that He has laid down certain rules to live by.

One definitely has to believe that Jesus was raised from the dead. One definitely has to "confess with thy mouth." But another verse says to "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ." To "believe on," according to Webster's Dictionary, means "to accept implicitly as an object of religious trust or obedience." We must obey *all* that Jesus taught. We *cannot*, as so many people believe, have differences of opinion on doctrinal points. We must all believe that Jesus said to do certain things certain ways.

Let's take special notice of some of the Bible teachings:

**Salvation**— To make heaven our home, we must be saved from all committed sin. There are many Scriptures that bring this out and there are *none* contrariwise when properly understood and applied. "Behold, thou art made whole: **sin no more.** . . ." (John 5:14b). What can be plainer?

**Sanctification**: This seems to be a major question mark in some people's eyes. Yes, sanctification is a part of God's plan, and it is a second, complete, definite work of grace. It is the infilling of the Holy Spirit and it is experienced *after* justification (not before or at the same time). Sanctification takes out the very *nature* of sin, and makes the child of God more powerful to resist temptation. ". . . ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." (Acts 1:5b).

**Baptism**— This is a doctrine that Jesus taught also. It is necessary after salvation and we preach, teach, and believe in baptism by immersion. Why? Because that's the way Jesus was baptized. (Mark 1:9, 10).

**Healing**— It is a definitely proven and widely-accepted fact that Jesus healed while He was on earth. But did you know that He is still healing *today*? "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

**Modesty**— This is enjoined by Jesus today. If we are to portray His image to the world, we must dress modestly. I cannot see Christ dressed in immodest clothing; can you? Of course not! He came with one purpose in mind; and that was to do His Father's will. Oh, let us be like Him—pure and holy in every aspect of our lives!

There are so many things we need to "believe"

about Christ. Basic points that we, as saints, take for granted, prove to be stumbling blocks to others. Christ was born of a virgin. (Matt. 1:23). He was the promised Messiah. (John 1:41). He died for *everyone* who wants to be saved. (John 3:16).

One other point that needs to be considered is that Jesus is King of kings, and on the Judgment Day He will judge the world. If you have lived righteously and without sin in *this* world, you will inherit the kingdom of heaven. If, however, you have been deceived and have believed that you can sin every day, you will find that "sin can never enter there."

There is no millennial age to come. Many Scriptures in the Bible tell us that the world will be burned up (not burned over). If we are saved, on that Judgment Day we'll go to heaven; if not, we'll go to hell for all eternity. It's that simple.

This is plain truth! Oh, surely it's obvious to all! Cast aside the "vain traditions of men" and follow Jesus! Study the Bible and see if your minister measures up. If not, "Come ye out of her, my people!" Jesus was our perfect example and He told us, "Be ye holy, even as I am holy." Do you measure up? Can you say, "I am as holy as Jesus"? If not, you need to be saved. It is possible to be and live holy in *this* world!

Do you "believe" all that Jesus taught? Do you "confess with thy mouth"? Do you believe in *your* heart?

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. . . ." (Acts 16:31). —Grace Lassche

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matt. 7:13, 14.

The King James Bible has proven its superiority again in the above passage. Notice the word is spelled *strait* and not *straight*. The meanings are vastly different. A quick look in the Greek word studies will give you the following information: *Strait*—(a) filled with tribulation, affliction, and troubles. (b) suffering due to the pressure of circumstances. (c) suffering due to antagonism from others. *Narrow*—to groan, be pressured, and cramped.

Does this describe your life? The way of true holiness is the way of the cross. With today's easy religion, one wonders what happened to the preaching of the cross. As Christians, our lives are a series of tests and trials. The Refiner stands over us to see our real worth. These present distresses remind us that the way is indeed *strait* and *narrow*.

The time of preaching "easy religion" should cease. The time of compromising the gospel must be rejected. These are the days to be confronting sin and unrighteousness. We cannot evade the cross by compromise. Let us drink the bitter cup; fight on in Jesus' name.

—Henry N. Wiley, Jr.

# 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

It is with grateful hearts to God for the rich blessings He has bestowed upon us that we greet you once again through the printed page. What a wonderful blessing to have the Light of God's love illuminating our pathway, showing us the way to walk in our Christian journey. "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12. Praise God for that Light!

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Time has been extended to the extent that once again we have approached the summer camp meeting season. There are several camp meetings scheduled to be held in different areas of the country. We trust that you will be able to attend at least one meeting in or near your area. It is truly a blessing to be able to assemble together with the people of God and worship our heavenly Father "in Spirit and in truth." There are a number of saints who are isolated and do not have the privilege of being in regular services throughout the year, but are able to attend a camp meeting or two during the summer. These are truly times of spiritual refreshing and encouragement. As we are privileged to attend these meetings, may each of us go with a heart open to God's truth, willing to be taught, willing to say, "Yes, Lord," and striving to be a blessing one to another.

The National Camp Meeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo., is scheduled to begin, Lord willing, July 22. We trust that many of you will be able to attend this meeting. These meetings are not held for temporal gain or benefit, but with a burden for souls—for the saving of sinners, sanctification of believers, healing of the sick, and the general encouragement of the saints.

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The Okla. State Camp Meeting at Guthrie, Ok., closed on Sunday night, June 5. Attendance was good throughout the meeting and a number of states were represented. The Word of God was preached under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and although there were not a lot of visible results, we feel that the meeting ended with victory. We pray the Holy Spirit will continue to follow and convict those who did not yield to the call from God.

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Congratulations are extended to Bro. Hyrum Ray and Sis. Thelma Busbee whose lives were united together in Christ on June 26, 1983. Bro. Hyrum and Sis. Thelma are both members of the Church of God congregation here at Guthrie. We appreciate their godly lives, and trust the Lord will bless their union with many happy years together.

We also extend congratulations to Bro. Tim Cox and Sis. Connie Addis of the Dayton, Ohio, congregation, who were united together in holy matrimony on June 4. We trust their lives will be richly blessed of the Lord, and that their home will always be centered

around an altar of prayer. Sis. Connie is the granddaughter of Bro. Earl Sharp.

We desire the blessings of the Lord on the union of Bro. Byron Wittenborn and Sis. Alberta Cook, who were recently united in marriage. Sis. Alberta is the daughter of Bro. Sam Abbott.

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We can't help but notice the appeals that come in month after month from foreign countries pleading for missionary help. May we as the Church have the burden that we should for lost souls around the world and may the Lord burden and prepare a vessel of His choosing, meet for the Master's use, to help answer these calls.

—Randall Flynn

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"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" Rom. 8:32. I find this to be a very encouraging verse. God was willing to deliver His best by sending Christ, and that sacrifice should serve as an encouragement for us to ask in confidence for all other needs.

I read a story once that will help illustrate this verse. A man who lived in Dundee, Scotland, had broken his back as a boy of 15. For 40 years he was confined to his bed and was unable to move without experiencing excruciating pain. However, he managed to maintain a bright outlook and found that God's grace was sufficient. One day a friend asked, "Doesn't the devil ever tempt you to doubt God?" The answer was, "Oh, yes, he tries to make me question His providence, especially when I have to lie here and see my old schoolmates drive by in their cars, having a good time with their families. At times Satan whispers, 'If the Lord is so good, why does He keep you here? Why did He permit you to break your back?' " The visitor then inquired, "What do you do when the devil sows those seeds of discontent?" The victorious invalid exclaimed, "Oh, I've found a wonderful way to deal with him. I point him to Calvary, and show him the wounds of my Savior. Then I say to him, 'Doesn't he love me?' He can't answer that, so he flees every time."

Each of us can look back to Calvary for encouragement and see the greatness of God's love. His love remains the same. Faith in God glorifies His name, but doubt delights the devil.

"I will not doubt though all my ships at sea

Come drifting home with broken masts and sails;  
I shall believe the hand which never fails,

For seeming evil worketh good for me."

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This issue of the *Faith and Victory* contains a partial list of books that are kept in stock here at the office. They offer much beneficial reading matter. The Lord willing, Aunt Maybelle Pruitt, along with the help of others, will operate the bookstore on the Monark Springs camp ground during the July meeting. Many books will be stocked there, also many of our tracts. By buying there, you can save on postage

and handling. The bookstore will be open between services.

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For those who may be unaware, we print quarterly issues of a Sunday School booklet for adults. The *Bible Lessons* booklet is ideal for those who are isolated, as well as useful in congregational studies. The cost is \$2.00 per year, and we print them every three months.

Also available are quarterly issues of *Beautiful Way* papers for children. This consists of a lesson for primary children and also a lesson for juniors. These papers are \$1.40 for one year and are printed quarterly. Sis. Dorothy Wilkins is editing the paper. We are sorry that the quality of the printing on the last issue was not quite what it usually is, but we are taking steps to improve it.

We trust these publications prove a blessing to you.

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As it has been our custom in past years, this *Faith and Victory* paper will not be published for the month of August. By doing this it allows those here at the shop to attend the National Camp Meeting at Monark Springs, Mo. However, the shop will be kept open and business taken care of as usual.

—Wayne Murphey

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## Partial List of Items Available

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

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A certain man who had a large field of ripened grain, sent out his reapers and provided water-carriers and cooks to supply them with the necessities of life. By and by, however, as the reapers were toiling faithfully on, the water-carriers became negligent, and the reapers thirsted. The cooks also became careless, and when meal time came no food had been prepared for the reapers. So some of the reapers were obliged to delay their work in the field and go home and get food. Meanwhile an awful storm came up. The man, seeing that his grain might be destroyed, strongly upbraided the cooks and water-carriers for their negligence and hurried them back to the field. They all toiled hard, but before the grain had all been garnered the storm came, and the loss was very great. What do these unfaithful servants deserve?

—R. L. Berry

Selected from *Gospel Trumpet* 1911.





We are looking to the Lord to send ministers and workers of His choosing. Dear saints, come praying that the Lord will give us a Holy Ghost filled meeting and that souls will be saved to His glory. Let us remember the Lord's request: "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." Luke 10:2.

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

—Katherine Williams

## In Memorial

Osceola A. Williams was born Feb. 26, 1898, in Langston, Okla., to Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Williams. He departed this life on April 13, 1983, in Okla. City, Okla., at the age of 85 years.

He was married to Sally Harkins on June 10, 1922. To this union were born two daughters and two sons. One son preceded him in death. He was saved in the Church of God for many years.

He leaves to cherish his memory a loving wife, Sally Williams of the home; one son, Cecil Williams of Los Angeles, Calif.; two daughters, Rosie L. Alexander, and Dora M. Adams, both of Okla. City, Okla.; one sister, Burnett Love of Bakersfield, Calif.; two brothers, Thomas Williams of Kansas City, Kans., and Alfonso Williams of Tulsa, Okla.; nine grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Herman Kelly, assisted by others at the Church of God chapel in Okla. City.

### NOTE OF THANKS

We, the Forbes family, would like to express our sincere thanks for the prayers and cards after the untimely passing of Glenn Forbes. May God bless Bro. Wilson for making the trip to Calif. to conduct the service and writing the obituary for the paper. The family appreciates the hospitality of the Pacoima congregation and for the singing. Many friends and saints traveled distances to attend, and the heartfelt sympathy expressed by all is appreciated. Glenn will be greatly missed as he was one who walked amongst us doing good.

God bless you all, —Elizabeth, Warner, Ivan, Sylvia, and our families

### Note of Appreciation

We are deeply grateful to the saints far and near for all of the love, care, and support shown to us in every way during the brief illness and loss of our loved one, Bro. Zedore (Papa) Francisco. This meant so much to us during those trying hours. The Lord was truly gracious unto us and we thank and praise

Him for that, also. We sincerely ask your prayers as we travel on toward the goal that Papa has already reached.

—From the families of Bro. Francisco

## MEETING REPORTS

### MEETING REPORT FROM COFFEYVILLE, KANS.

Dear Sis. Maybelle: Greetings in the love of Jesus to whom be all the glory for saving our souls and keeping us by love divine.

We are thankful for the meeting we had. The results are with the Lord. There were some outsiders who came, and we pray the Lord will let the Word follow them. We are aware of the fact that most people are in a satisfied state. Noah preached for many years and the Scripture says that as it was in the days of Noah, so would it be at the coming of the Son of man. The Word was rich to us who believe; it went forth with power and anointing. . . . The first message was about preparing our hearts for the coming of the Lord and the last message was on "His yoke is easy and His burden is light." . . . We were happy to have the saints from various congregations come to help us. We must say it has been a time of refreshing for us. We pray the Lord to keep a burning desire in our souls for the lost and that we will do what we can.

We hope and pray the blessings of the Lord to rest on all who labor in the Lord's Print Shop. Pray for us as we labor on here.

Yours for the truth,

Bro. Ralph and Sis. Inez Beisly

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### FRESNO, CALIF. SPRING MEETING REPORT

Our spring meeting was again blessed with the anointing of God, in songs, prayers, and the preaching of His Word. In answer to prayer, God sent several ministers of His choosing to spread us a feast from His table. It wasn't "dessert," but good, wholesome food to strengthen and make us strong in God if we would receive it. Surely, He is trying to build us up and prepare us for some real battles of faith. The Word was teaching us to consecrate ourselves more fully by dying out to all but the will of God. We should follow Christ, who is our example, "as close as we possibly can," so that we may reflect His image for others to follow. Many recognized needs, and sought help and salvation at an altar of prayer.

We thank God for His consecrated ministers and all that helped in our meeting; whether small or great was the place they filled, all will receive their reward.

Pray for us here in Fresno, that we will continue to follow the Lord faithfully in whatever way He may lead us. We want to hear Him say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of the Lord." Amen.

—Lavern Moles

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## Prayer Requests

Pa.—Sis. Avis Tinsley requests prayer for the healing of her body, and also her husband, Earl, needs a healing touch. She also requests prayer for her brother who has had two strokes, her sister with arthritis, others in the family who need help spiritually and physically, and a friend with heart trouble who is going blind asked for prayer.

Miss.—Sis. Ethel Lowery is still much in need of help and earnestly desires the prayers of the saints.

Pa.—Sis. Bernice McKenrick is suffering from heart trouble and other ailments. She desires prayer for healing.

Okla.—Sis. Frances Deforth has been suffering for a number of months from a cracked bone in her heel. Pray that the Lord will cause this to heal as it should.

Mo.—Bro. Norman Allen is in need of much prayer. He has been having trouble keeping food in his stomach lately, and also has some other serious ailments.

Okla.—Sis. Carmen Simpson is still seriously afflicted. The Lord has done a lot for her, but she still needs complete healing.

N. Y.—Word was received that Bro. Earl Langley has suffered a stroke. Pray for his recovery.

Okla.—Remember Jeanne Busbee in prayer for the healing of a growth on her right eye.

Kans.—Pray for the recovery of Bro. Sam Sorrell who is suffering injuries from a recent car accident.

Let's pray that the Lord will have mercy on those in foreign countries who are suffering from the effects of fire and famine. I'm thinking especially of the reports from Ghana and India telling of the critical shortages of food, water, etc. Pray that the Lord will give relief from these conditions.

We want to be faithful to hold our dear brothers and sisters before the Lord in prayer who have been in the valley of affliction for so long. Though it may seem to us at times that the answers to our prayers are long in coming, we must not lose courage or faith in God. We are trusting in the supreme, eternal God. There is no other. This is the same God to whom Elijah prayed. He answered Elijah's prayer by sending fire down from heaven which consumed the prepared sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. "And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God." 1 Kings 18:39. What a great and blessed privilege we have to be able to trust, fully trust, the only true God, the One who changes not. "For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." Mal. 3:6. —Randall Flynn

**AT PRESS TIME**—Word was just received that following a brief illness Sis. Addie McEndree passed to her eternal home on June 28, 1983. Though isolated for many years, Sis. McEndree lived a devout Christian life, remaining faithful unto death. We pray the Lord will comfort the bereaved family.

## FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

### PHILIPPINE MISSION REPORT

Dear Bro. Hammond, and loved ones in the Lord: Greetings again in Jesus' most wonderful name. Praise God from whom cometh all our benefits and goodness.

Received your letter and all the reading material you sent with your gift to our ministry. Your love and generosity have been a source of great encouragement and inspiration for us to serve Him faithfully though there are many trials and persecutions that come our way. Yes, how great is He that guides His children in the righteous way. . . .

As we continue our Lord's work we are so thrilled that it is progressing very much. We have several out stations now that we can hardly have time for every Bible study, prayer meetings, and services. We are in the last days so we should lose no time to win those lost souls. . . .

We are praying for God's rich blessings to each one of you dear saints abroad, both materially and spiritually, that you can continue peacefully and joyfully your good works for Christ's cause before He returns to take us to heaven. . . .

In His love and service,

—Bro. Ilde Detuya and family

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### MISSION REPORT FOR NIGERIA

Nigeria, W. Africa—Dear Bro. Hammond and all of the holy city: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus Christ "Who was delivered for our offences and raised again for our justification." All honor and praise unto Him!

We owe God immense thanks for divine handling and development of His chosen ones Himself. As a result, formalism is given no room to rear its ugly head and bring in its train of spiritual famine and stagnation. . . .

There is remarkable response and going forth as messengers of the Master, heralds of the Highest, receiving power over all kinds of diseases, and rejoicing that even demons are subject to us in His name. Come life, come death, we will not forsake the great Creator who became our Savior, seeing that we are bound to Him by a bond of deep and enthusiastic love.

Persecution of members of the Church of God at Obetim-Uno has come to an end. David and not Goliath won the day. The long standing decree of idol worshipers which got the saints indirectly involved in bowing to the feasts of idolatry, became crushed and subdued through the constitutional battle led by this writer against the idol priests and priestesses and their followers of Obetim-Uno community. "They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth forever." (Psa. 125:1). "Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: . . ." Zech. 4:7.

Yours devotedly,

—Titus U. E. Enu

## REPORT OF MISSION WORK IN GHANA

Ghana (May 15)—Dear Bro. Hammond, the dear saints, and workers at the Print Shop: Praise the Lord Almighty for giving us all blessings. The brethren and I felt very happy when your letter arrived. Thank you very much for your kind letter and the enclosure which was noted with much appreciation and gratitude. Also, in the same mail was a letter from Sis. Keiser. . . . God is so wonderful to guide all of these letters and their enclosures to us safely. . . . I have faith in the Lord that whatever is sent would be in safety. He knows what it is coming here for. Our sincere thanks go to all who have donated toward this work here. God bless them.

I am so happy to report to you that some serious and faithful souls from their individual churches have begun coming out from "them" and have joined the true Church of God. I am rejoicing much because an elder and his wife of the Christ Apostolic Church are now with us. They are all labouring hard to win souls to the glory of God. We are rejoicing because there are many more who are willing to be with us. . . .

A new budget was read out by the government of Ghana, and prices of goods have really tripled. Everything has gone up. It's affected the material for building; we shall very soon start with the buildings if the materials are received. We are still waiting for food aid to help relieve us from this total starvation. Rains aren't constant, and crops are in retrogression.

We are still praying for missionary volunteers to come. We do pray for the Lord's work all over the world.

In His great love and mercy, —Bro. Jim Akwasi  
[Sis. Dorothy Keiser reports that she received word from Bro. Akwasi that some of the garden seed that she sent to them had been planted and were growing very well. She writes, "He is asking for more seed: okra, tomato, and onion in particular, and for powdered milk and artificial sweetener. . . . I understand that if weight is kept under four pounds, it can go as 'Air Parcel Post' some cheaper. Food is very scarce; some places are in famine conditions, and some of them are restrained to one meal a day because of the food shortage. I am still looking to the Lord of the harvest to send someone to Ghana to help them out. One-year resident missionary visas are available. The door is open, souls are hungry—"who will go?"

—Editor]

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## LETTER FROM NIGERIAN PASTOR

Nigeria—Dear Bro. Hammond: Greetings of love to you and all the saints in the precious name of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your kind letter and the enclosures were noted with much appreciation. Here in River State in Nigeria, food is scarce and everything is very highly priced. Please pray for us.

We have read what the Lord has done for Ghana through Sis. Keiser. Now the Lord is with us; His protecting hand is upon us and is helping us.

We still need your prayers that someone may come over here and help spread the gospel with us in the future. . . . Please try to send the *Faith and Victory* papers to the church here at Tombia and Port Harcourt.

We do think of you from time to time, and we pray God's blessing upon you, knowing that as you live faithful, righteous, godly lives the Lord will work through you and bless your ministry. We shall continue to remember you all in prayer.

Yours in Christ,

—B. Ben Taylor

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## REPORT FROM MISSION IN INDIA

S. India (May 20)—Dear Sis. Pruitt, workers at the Print Shop, saints at Guthrie and everywhere in America: Our greetings of Christian love to you all again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ, "the Apostle and High Priest of our profession . . . Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house." Heb. 3:1, 2.

Thank you very much for your good letter, and the enclosures were noted with much appreciation and gratitude. Though we expect it to rain in June, the after effects and consequences of the six months of drought in S. India this year will be terrible and the worst. The land is almost like a desert, and people lost coconut trees, plantain and banana trees, black pepper, rice, and all fruit trees. Your prayers are needed for the deliverance from the famine.

Last Saturday God blessed us to open a new field for the Church of God at Kizhakketherauu. We started a new congregation there with ten families. Praise the Lord! The new believers who came out of sectism in that place built a temporary shed with bamboo and coconut leaves and they worship in it. We are so happy that we have one more new station. Please pray for the needs of this new station and the saints there.

The church is passing through a financial crisis in these days. The supports and funds are getting down. Please don't forget the Church of God in India. . . . May God open some hands for the needs of India. We are getting Macedonian calls from several new stations, but who will push us forward with prayers and support? May God give vision to the saints everywhere for the work of the Lord.

Yours in His service,

—John Varghese

—  
"There is a great temptation before everyone to trust in the flesh and the things of this present world rather than to seek to be led of the Holy Spirit and maintain faith in God. But a wise man will not be caught in this snare, but will learn the great secret of waiting on God and trusting fully in Him.

—Leslie Busbee

—  
Grace is stronger than sin. He who opens his heart and lets the light of heaven come in will find that sin, despair, and conflict have to flee.

—Sis. Marie Miles

## From the Mailbox . . .

Calif.—Dear Bro. Randall: Greetings in the name of our Redeemer. Oh, what a mighty God we serve! He gives us strength each day to press on to glory. Praise Him for the victory over sin and Satan.

We are glad that God has opened a way to send out the truth by the printed page. May He ever be near you and yours is our prayer.

God is blessing us in soul and body. The way grows brighter as we press on.

With our love, —Bro. and Sis. H. P. Huskey

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La.—Dear Sis. Maybelle, all the office workers, and saints everywhere: Thank the Lord for peace we can have in the Lord. It is a peace the world with all its wealth and pleasure cannot give, and, thank God, cannot take away. In John 14:27, Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you." Praise His name forever!

Thank God for His blessings that make us rich. Sometimes it is hardships and trials that bring the richness of the increased knowledge of God. He tells us to grow in knowledge and grace. Praise Him for the wonderful opportunity to do so.

Trust the Lord is blessing and supplying all the needs there, and that the work is continuing for the good of the saved and the unsaved. Please keep the paper going to all of my family.

We each need to lay hold on all God has for us today, and stand against all opposition that is existing, and that will continue to exist and increase. God's grace is sufficient for us to abound unto every good work at all times.

Enclosed is a small offering to help in the work.

Love and prayers, —Sis. LaVern Manuel

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Calif.—Dear saints: Greetings of love. Yes, the Spirit is glowing in my heart today. I can truly say that I "feel the burning love of God in my bosom day by day." The Lord has taught me what it means to actually have divine love working in my heart. I wouldn't take anything for this knowledge. I have learned that things must be exercised to grow properly. I'm thankful for the joy of the Lord that fills my soul.

Pray for me always. God bless all of you is my prayer.

—Tora Mae Jensen

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N. C.—Dear Bro. Flynn and co-workers: For some time I have been impressed to write something concerning the article written several years ago by Bro. Mart Samons, "Who Will Go?" First of all, I was reared in sectism. This was all I knew until one day when I was pondering over my life, God spoke to my heart and caused me to see where I stood in His eyes. This was after I had married and had a family. I had a good husband and we lived morally decent lives, but we were not saved. After the Lord saved us from sin, for awhile we continued to go to a denomina-

tional church, but very shortly the Lord brought us out of it. My husband was working with a saint who had been talking to him concerning the Church of God, and gave him some tracts. He also invited my husband to service and he went several times without me. He wanted me to go also, so I did, and immediately felt at home with the saints. We were having services in the basement at the home of one of the brethren. We had some good services, but we needed a pastor. There were a lot of things we did not know and needed someone to establish the congregation. Every once in a while one of the ministers would come by, and that was good, but we needed someone to come and stay. Much prayer was made for someone, but no one came.

"Who Will Go?" Go where? Go where the need is the greatest. What if it is a place where there is just a handful of people, away from family and friends? What about Abraham? "Now the Lord said to Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee." Gen. 12:1. Just suppose he had said, "I don't want to go away from my friends and kin people, and go into a strange place that I know nothing about," or suppose some of the pioneer ministers had felt that way. . . . May the Lord help all of us not to put what I call "creature comforts" before our duty and go do what is needful. The pioneer ministers had to make great sacrifices to do the work of the Lord. Can we as saints do any less? The sad part is now that most of our congregation have gone their own way. How my heart is burdened for all the young people who have gone away from the Lord.

Since we know it is not the Lord's will that any should perish, I cannot believe the Lord wants four or five ministers in one congregation while there are others perishing without anyone to help them. Someone is going to stand in the day of judgment for this. There is still a need here as well as at other places. We are still praying for the Lord to send someone.

May the dear Lord stir our hearts to do all we can. There is not much time left, and the devil is going about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. We love the Lord as well as all of the saints, and we desire that we may always be what the Lord would have us be.

May the Lord bless all there at the Printshop who are laboring for the Lord.

Your sister in Christ,

—Sis. Genevieve Lottahall

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Mich.—Dear ones: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus our Jewel of life. I pray you are all well and happy in the Lord's work.

Thank you so much for all of your precious prayers for my dear mother. The Lord took her home Sat., June 18. I am now in deep sorrow but happy that she is in heaven where she isn't suffering any more. I know I will see her again up in heaven. My father doesn't realize she's gone, and I do need your prayers at this time.

I love you all and God bless each and every one of you richly in body and soul.

All my love and prayers, —Sis. Olive Gettersson

## Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Ohio—Dear Bro. Randall, and all the dear saints of God: I greet you in the precious name of Jesus. I surely love the dear Lord and I want to be faithful and fill my little post of duty in the great kingdom of God. God is so good to us in so many ways. Praise and thanksgiving are given to God because He is worthy of all.

I want to thank everyone who prayed for me when I was afflicted in body earlier this year. I don't know what caused the condition that I had, but I fully trusted God. I had severe dizzy spells, and one night I got real cold in my body, and my chest and head had a clammy coldness; it almost felt like death had started to take hold of my body. I fell back twice in bed when this dizziness was upon me. One time I fell back hard, but I was down far enough in bed that I didn't strike my head on the headboard. The devil was present to paint dark pictures at times and shoot his fiery darts, but the dear Lord did not forsake me—He brought me through. I asked the Lord not to let me fall into the hands of man. I could not lay on my right side or back during this time, as I would get very dizzy, and lying on my left side caused soreness in my left shoulder and arm. I missed very little work during this time, and depended on God to take care of me. I searched my heart and God showed me a fault in my life which I needed to correct. As God shows us these things, we need to get busy and work on and correct what He has shown us.

I love the truth and all of God's people, and want to be always a part of the blood-washed. I feel that my affliction was very small compared to what some of the saints are going through. I pray often for the dear saints that are so sorely afflicted. We surely need to hold each other up in prayer.

May God bless the Church as she marches forward holding up the blessed truths of the precious Word of God.

Your saved brother through the blood,

—Earl L. Sharp

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Canada—Dear saints everywhere: How we praise and exalt the name of the Lord! He is so precious; He's all and more than we could ever imagine Him to be as we commit fully to Him and His will.

I feel so unworthy when I think of Almighty God stooping down to this insignificant piece of clay, wandering around in confusion, groping for something real in Babylon. Praise God, He saw me there and picked me up and out of the ruined, fallen city, washed me clean with His blood, sanctified my nature, and sent me on my way rejoicing in His power! No more constant falling, but we are kept by the power of Almighty God (Jude 24). I don't much

like that song that says, "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love." I'm not prone to go back to the unstable, restless life I lived. I'm determined by the grace of God to keep on the narrow way of self denial, and follow Jesus to the end.

I would like to recommend the little booklet *Helps to Holy Living*, by Bro. C. E. Orr, to any struggling saint. He really spells out clearly the holy inner life.

I thank the Lord for considering us faithful to work in His vineyard, seeking to glean precious souls for Him. Although the Lord blesses us with His Word each Sunday, we feel very inexperienced and incapable to be as effective as we should be. We are therefore petitioning the Lord to send us an older, experienced couple to work in His vineyard here. There are many needy souls here in Prince George. Please pray that God will work mightily in these last days and for the need mentioned above.

In Christian love, —Sis. Daisy Rabel

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Okla.—Dear Ones: I want to share with you some of God's gracious blessings to me.

About a year ago I had an experience with saliva stones. God was so precious to me then and I claimed my healing. I wrote my testimony at that time.

This past Christmas I had a second attack. When I was anointed on a Sunday night, I felt the Lord was really going to undertake for me; however, when I ate crackers and milk after church, my jaw swelled up larger than ever. On Tuesday morning I felt definitely the Lord had healed me. I decided to fix fried chicken for my granddaughters. Oh, how I wanted a piece of chicken, too! The devil told me: "You know it's going to take a long time to chew that chicken. Saliva will not get past the stone. Your jaw will swell bigger and burst." Waves of fear gripped me. I didn't want to go through that pain again as I knew what the pain would be like. My Bible was lying open on the table and my eyes fell on two words: "Fear not." Every bit of fear left me! Oh, how wonderful it felt to be free of fear. I ate the chicken and my jaw didn't puff up. Praise God!

Some time after that a hurting started in my chest. It seemed that different things would cause the hurting; it was quite painful. Once I opened my Bible to Jeremiah 30:17: "For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord." This verse caused such a rejoicing in my soul to know that God would restore health. I was so happy! I can't tell exactly how I felt but an assurance came over me as the Lord said this verse was for me.

Another time when my chest was hurting so, I called some of the saints. The husband and wife were on two extensions and prayed for me. Immediately after the phone call I read Romans 16:20: "And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly." When I read this verse I again became very happy, as I was assured that it wouldn't be too long until God would stop the hurting. He made me to know that I'd have these times of hurting but He would send relief. I try to be careful what I do, then

when the pain does come, I rebuke the devil with these Scriptures.

Satan told me once that the Scripture in the Old Testament wasn't for me. I told him that all the Scriptures are good for us. So he left me alone. Dear saints, we must resist Satan and remain steadfast in the faith.

Yours in Christ, —Mae Norcutt

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Ill.—Dear Bro. Wayne and workers of the gospel: Greetings in the name of our saving Lord! Hope this finds each one doing well and working for the Lord.

Just a line to let you know that I am thinking of and praying for the saints at Guthrie. Although I did not get to attend the camp meeting, I was there in thought and prayers.

I just want to praise the Lord for life and breath, and for keeping me in perfect peace. It is such a blessed assurance when a saint lies down at night and can know that he is in the almighty hand of God.

Just now I was listening to the Sorrell Quartet sing, "It Is True Within My Heart." What a blessed song! This song should be the testimony of every saint. Verse two says, "How I need not still do evil and repent from day to day, but should find His grace sufficient, keeping sinless all the day." Praise God! I am so glad that I can truly say I am saved, sanctified, and living for Jesus. What a blessed thought it is to reign over sin. So many people are misled, but praise the Lord for the truth! I'm sure that all the saints feel as I do—that you just can't praise God's name enough. At work many foes arise and Satan is right there to try to get us to stumble, but Jesus watches His own. . . .

Hope to see you soon at the coming meetings.

In Christ, —Scott Tucker

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Okla.—Dear saints abroad: I greet you in the name of our precious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who out of His great love to me lifted me out of a horrible pit. Praise God! It is the divine love and grace of God that keeps us going day by day.

I desired to write my testimony of God's great love to me. Most of the saints know that about 2 ½ years ago, I was stricken with a serious kidney problem, resulting in the loss of my right kidney. The kidney still remains in my body (non-functioning), and swollen to an abnormal state. The poison and infection that filled my system caused great pain, dehydration, constant vomiting, great weight loss, and other deficiencies which caused other serious problems to exist. Praise God for His precious Word! Isa. 43:2, says, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

The Father kept His Word, indeed! About Aug., 1981, the Lord opened a place in my back near the dead kidney. This place drained constantly for al-

most two years. The swelling continued, causing great pain and sleepless nights. The kidney would swell as large as a grapefruit and remain in that condition for as long as three weeks at a time. During this time I would pray earnestly and get as close to God as I could.

The Lord caused another opening to form, right in the bend where my right leg and hip join. The enemy of my soul tried his best to bring me down, but when you're trusting in God, you can't go under for going over. Praise God! The passage of Scripture in Isa. 43:2, comforted my heart. The second drainage seemed to be more painful than the first, but the Lord stabilized that, also. The first opening has ceased to drain and the other one drains full time, and plenty. Before these openings occurred I was a very sick woman. God has a way of working on our bodies that is a marvel to the human mind.

I praise God for the many saints who have carried a burden and prayed for me. God never has and never will fail. Pray for me that I'll prove my love more for the Father and Jesus my Lord as I live in this world. Also, pray for my husband, Norman, as he is short of work. He is still trusting the Lord and standing on His promises.

Pray as we both press into the kingdom.

Your sister in Christ, —Carmen Simpson

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Calif.—Dear workers at the Print Shop, and all the saints: We greet you in the most precious name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. How good and mindful He is of His trusting little ones!

I want to give my testimony of some recent healings to my body. When Bro. and Sis. Samons arrived here a month or so ago, I was sick with the flu. I got out of bed to visit with them, and they anointed and prayed for me. The next day I went about my duties completely healed. I also attended one night of the meeting while they were here, and was anointed and prayed for concerning a serious affliction, and the Lord healed it.

After Bro. and Sis. Samons left, I sat down in a camping chair. The fabric split, letting me fall down on the cross pieces of wood. I fell so hard and was injured so that I couldn't get up. My children had to lift me bodily. My back and tail bone were so injured that I could hardly walk, and could not lay on my back or hardly sit for three weeks. I was anointed and prayed for, and the Lord healed me of that injury.

I was prayed for recently for arthritis in my right arm and elbow. The awful soreness is gone from the bone, but I still have some soreness in my elbow. I'm looking for and expecting complete victory over this, also. I truly thank and praise the Lord (my Father) for all He is doing and is going to do for me, and for the healing and blessings He bestows. . . .

I have been trusting the Lord for over 30 years, and I know that He can and does do, and know that He can do more. He will do for all that we can trust and believe Him for. Jesus said in Mark 11:24, "There-

fore I say unto you, What things soever you desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Also, in John 15:7, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." There are many more promises, and if we live to please Him, we can claim them all. He gave us these promises and it is up to us to believe. . . .

When the children of Israel were asking for meat, it seemed that it was hard for Moses to take it in when the Lord told him He would give them meat—not just for one day, but for a whole month. Moses began to question the Lord as to how He was going to do this. The Lord did not tell Moses how He was going to do this, but asked Moses a question instead: "Is the Lord's hand waxed short? thou shalt see whether my word shall come to pass unto thee or not." Num. 11:23. . . . Lord help us just to take you at your Word, and not question.

May the Lord continue to bless all His saints and increase faith.

Sincerely in Christ, —Sis. Loretta Harmon  
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Canada—Dearest saints: I am so glad I am in the truth and that I can trust the Lord for my soul and body.

I was healed of a severe internal sickness about three months ago. I didn't go to a doctor to find out what it was, but I knew that it was very serious—possibly cancer. Praise God, I trusted in Him. My daughters (Ann Walter and Betty Snell) called the saints for prayer. I left it alone for a couple of days, and then I noticed that it was gone! Thank the Lord, it has not come back.

About the same time, He healed me of bad chest pains. I had a lump on my chest that I thought was cancer. I woke up one morning and it was gone. I was so happy to feel good again. I could walk and talk easily, and I knew that Jesus had completely healed me.

I had a bad patch of cancer on my nose, and it felt like it was spreading to my lips and into my throat. One day I saw that it was gone! I wanted to jump and shout and praise God, but I live in an apartment for old people, so I had to be quiet; but inside I was jumping and shouting! The devil kept telling me that if I would testify to being healed of cancer in my throat that he would bring it back, but I know he is a liar and is a defeated enemy. God has protected me from all danger. Praise His holy name!

At the Jefferson, Ore., camp meeting in 1982, I had a stroke late one evening. I called for the sisters who were staying in the dorm and for Bro. Sorrell, our pastor, to pray for me. Right then God healed me! The stroke reoccurred after Christmas and my sons told me to go to a doctor, but I told them I was trusting God . . . I held on by faith and claimed my healing. You can't go wrong trusting God.

I'm getting older now, but every day brings me closer to heaven and being with my dear Savior. I will stay true unto the end, through the grace of

almighty God, our Father. Thanks to all the saints who pray for me.

Love always,

—Sis. Maria Koethler

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Illinois—Dear Christian friends: I enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory* paper very much. I have been receiving it for a long time—about 20 years or more. It is real soul food to me for it is Bible truth. . . . I was very impressed with the article in the June, 1983, issue, "Distinguishing the Church." . . . May God bless you people much in printing the paper and the gospel, and in all your work for Him.

I am 75 years old and not in very good health. I've been pretty sick for the last year and a half with stomach and gall bladder trouble, but am a lot better because God answered prayer. Pray for me that God will heal me completely for His glory. I am a shut-in as I do not have a car or driver's license. I can't go anywhere unless my son and daughter-in-law take me. They have been very good to me for which I thank God.

There is not any real Bible Church of God here anywhere that I know of. . . . I love God and His Word and study my Bible and pray a lot. God blesses my soul.

I am alone now since my dear wife went home to be with Jesus two years ago. I am expecting to meet her again with Jesus when He is through with me here. . . .

God bless you all very much. Pray for me.

Christian love,

—Curtis McEwen

HOME



LIFE

## A Rich Heritage

by Jeanne Samons

(continued from last issue)

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6.

I have been thinking a lot about the word "train." According to the dictionary, it means: to guide the growth of, to guide the mental and moral development of, to instruct so as to make proficient, to make fit for a contest.

What bigger race is there than that of obtaining heaven? And our children are going to need some strong training to help them win. From the time a child is bestowed as a precious gift from God, it should be our main desire to begin then and there to prepare and guide him into choosing right and the way of the Lord. We should begin then to entreat God

for wisdom and understanding in the training of our child. This takes so much time and effort, often we are tempted to give up. But any time we are involved in training anything, it doesn't just happen.

From the very beginning, we should work to develop a "close" relationship with the child. Not a type of indulgence in spoiling a child, but a relationship of love and affection with respect. This comes only through spending a lot of time with the child, having patience with him, correcting and guiding him always. Help him to develop a real respect for authority, yet temper it with love, not fear. A parent's attitude toward a situation almost always turn out to be the child's attitude. If you have a tendency to raise your voice, that child will learn that trait. If you are nervous and irritable, that child will be, also. If we fail to show love and open affection, that child will not learn to be affectionate. Above all, when we feel we have failed, the parent should be quick to say, "I'm sorry." A lot of barriers can be broken down by simply presenting a humble attitude.

If a child can learn when they are young to confide in and seek out a parent in time of trouble or need, it will be easier for him to learn dependence on the Lord later. And when the child has sought counsel, always point him to the Bible and God's answer to the problem. I have found through my own training and that of my children, that the most effective way of helping a difficult situation is by you and that child going to prayer. The Lord will give guidance to the parent and also use prayer as a means of touching the child's heart. It also points the child to the Lord.

When you think of an athlete training for a race or game, it is a constant workout. They are taught self-denial and good habits so they will be in better shape to win. It is the same way with our children. They need to be taught self-denial, consideration of others, and above all, a fear of God and doing wrong.

I think of the many times my husband and I have been faced with decision to make for our future. At times, in our human thinking, to do a certain thing would better us in so many ways. But our minds always return to what we have both been taught: **the will of the Lord first**. It has brought us much satisfaction and happiness in serving the Lord, because we have striven to acknowledge the Lord first.

Then I think of the Bible doctrines and how careful our parents were to impart them to us. The knowledge of the Scriptures has been the only thing that has been a sure foundation through these days of questioning and reasoning.

A simple trust in the Lord has been my greatest asset in life. I learned this through watching my own parents take every burden and every need to the Lord. I can remember the many, many times a **direct** answer came from simply trusting in the Lord. We were never encouraged to find an answer within our own strength.

The last time I visited my parents, I found my dear daddy was still being such an example in his suffering. My heart was filled with such gratitude to him, to Mother, and to God for the rich, rich heritage that has been given to me. I expressed to Daddy, as I have many times, that "the Way" he had chosen in his young life, and "the Way" he had raised us was something priceless to me. It is a heritage that has made me richer than I could ever be in earthly treasures. It is a heritage so rich that I am passing it on to my children, and I trust they will pass it on to theirs.

Let us who are young Christian parents use our Christian backgrounds and godly parents as a strong example in teaching our children. Those of you who don't have Christian backgrounds must strive all the harder to **build** a heritage for your children. May the Lord settle, establish, and strengthen us all in "THE WAY."

## Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

**Question:** Does God's Spirit dwell within the heart of a justified believer to any degree before he is sanctified (baptized with the Holy Ghost)? In what manner does Christ come into the heart of a person when he gets saved, or does He? Please comment on Romans 8:9, in regard to this.

**Answer:** Romans 8:9, is a key text for this whole question and perhaps a proper understanding of this Scripture will satisfy the mind of the questioner so I will proceed to discuss this verse in detail in the main to cover the entire question. This verse reads thus: "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His."

This Scripture has proved a stumbling block to some in that they identify the Spirit of Christ as the Holy Spirit and conclude that one could not be saved without possessing the Holy Spirit—hence the conclusion is that a complete salvation is obtained at one time and one receives the Holy Spirit when he is saved. But I do not interpret this Scripture in this way and for the following reasons:

We would certainly agree that Christ's spirit was holy. "Who [Christ] knew no sin. . . ." 2 Cor. 5:21. "Who [Christ] did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth. . . ." 1 Pet. 2:22. He "was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin." Heb. 4:15. Hence He was holy and possessed the spirit of holiness. Also, He possessed the Holy Spirit within Him (He came upon Him in the bodily form of a dove at His baptism) the same as we possess Him when we are sanctified or baptized with the Holy Spirit. BUT the Holy Spirit is a definite, distinct, and separate person in His own right and is always identified in His own person the same as Jesus, the Son, and God, the Father.



The Holy Spirit is a member of the triune God-head and is co-existent with God, the Father, and Jesus Christ, the Son. In Heb. 9:14, He is called the Eternal Spirit. And He is as distinct a person as the other two. Therefore it would be no more proper to refer to the spirit of Christ meaning the Holy Spirit than it would be to turn it around and say the Christ of Holy Spirit. In either case we would be failing to observe the proper distinction between distinct persons.

Now let us look at some other Scriptures which use the term "spirit of." In the one referred to in our question (Rom. 8:9), reference is made to the "Spirit of God" and the "Spirit of Christ". In the first part of this verse reference is made to the "Spirit of God" dwelling in us. This could possibly refer to the Holy Spirit (I hardly think so for the reasons given above) because that is the name of the entire God-head—God (God, the Father, God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit). Then the last part of the verse refers to all saved people having the "Spirit of Christ." The objective of this entire discussion is to explain this. The last part of this verse (9) says, "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Then the next verse (10) says, "And if Christ be in you," etc. It seems clear to me here that the "Spirit of Christ" in the last part of verse 9 and Christ Himself in the first part of verse 10 are used interchangeably.

This seems to me to correspond quite well with a couple of texts in 2 Cor. 3. Verse 6 says that God has made us able ministers of the New Testament, not of the letter but of the spirit; for the letter killeth but the spirit giveth life, and verse 17 says, "Now the Lord is that spirit." Here it is declared that the Lord is that Spirit and it is clear that it is not the Spirit of Christ but Christ Himself is the spirit, or heart, or life of the gospel message. Surely there would be no question in anyone's mind but that the spirit and the Lord are used interchangeably in these two texts.

But let us go farther in considering texts which make reference to the "spirit of". In Eph. 4:23, it says, "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind." 1 Cor. 2:11, says, "For what man knoweth the things of a man save the spirit of man which is in him," etc. 1 Cor. 2:12, says, "Now we have received not the spirit of the world," etc. In all the above texts we read of "Spirit of God", Spirit of Christ, spirit of man, spirit of the world, spirit of the devil, and spirit of your mind; but nowhere do we read of the spirit of the Holy Spirit. Again I say that He is a definite personage and is always identified in His own person and this distinction must be maintained to produce proper sense.

It would, no doubt, be easy for us to understand that the "spirit of your mind" would refer to the tendencies, disposition, nature, actions, and controlling influence of one's mind. The spirit of the world would refer to the natural tendencies, dispositions, controlling influences, and behavior of the world. Then the "Spirit of Christ" would refer to the nature, disposition, tendencies, and behavior of Christ.

In 1 Cor. 6:17, it says, "But he that is joined to the Lord is one spirit." This corresponds with Rom. 8:9, which says, "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Surely all who are saved and joined unto Christ are made partakers of His Spirit, which, as has already been observed is His nature, disposition, and characteristics of life and behavior.

The Spirit of Christ is declared to be the "Spirit of liberty." 2 Cor. 3:17. It is a spirit of obedience—Phil. 2:8, Heb. 10:9, Matt. 26:39, Matt. 26:42, John 4:34, John 8:29. We receive that same spirit of obedience when we get saved. John 14:15, says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:21, says, "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me." And Heb. 5:9, says that Christ became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him. The Spirit of Christ is a spirit of humility. Phil 2:5-8, Matt. 11:29, and many more. But we are instructed in Phil. 2:5, to let this same mind or disposition, or nature, or characteristic be in us. Jesus said (Matt. 5:3), "Blessed are the poor in spirit [humble spirit] for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Again, Peter says, (1 Pet. 3:4), "But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit," etc. The Spirit of Christ is a spirit of mercy. Matt. 12:20. This same spirit is to dwell in them who are joined to Him. In Matt. 5:7, Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy." Again, in Luke 6:36, Jesus said, "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father is also merciful." This comes in line with the very same thought as is dealt with in the 5th chapter of Matthew which concluded in verse 48 with these words of Jesus: "Be ye therefore perfect; even as your Father in heaven is perfect." It is the same thought and sums up to us being perfect in mercy and in our attitudes toward our fellow men. Jesus forgave His enemies and died to save them, praying, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." We must possess this same spirit of forgiveness to be a child of God because Jesus said, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matt. 6:14, 15.

(to be continued)

Only through the blood and cleansing power of God can a person be made a new creature and able to live a pure and holy life which is acceptable to God.

—Sis. Marie Miles

"Have no confidence in the flesh. Just when you think that you have it in control, beware of its sneaky arousal. Every day the fight and guard against its intrusions must be renewed. We want to be led by the Spirit, and not be motivated and controlled by the flesh. Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God."

—Leslie Busbee