

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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"Without the Camp"

Heb. 13:11-14

The bodies of those beasts whose blood
Was sacrifice for sin
Without the camp were burned, destroyed:
A type for times back then.

Christ shed His blood to sanctify
And wash our sin away;
"Without the gate" He went to die,
Redemption's price to pay.

"Without the gate!" O ponder well
Just what it all did mean
To suffer like a criminal
And hang two thieves between!

Rejected by the praise of man:
Cast out, refused, denied—
A victim of a heartless ban
Of mortal's foolish pride.

In light of this, where do we stand,
What course are we to take
Who claim the shelter of His hand
And suffer for His sake?

Let us go forth now unto Him
"Without the camp" once more,
Bear His reproach through shadows dim
And own the cross He bore.

Be not afraid to suffer shame,
The scoffer's ridicule:
'Twas done to Him, 'twill be the same
For all who bear His rule.

For here have we no city built;
We seek for one to come.
Our hope is by the blood He spilt,
And heaven is our home.

Some day our sorrows will be past,
Our shadows flee away;
Oh, let us to this hope hold fast:
Our loss will He repay.

—Leslie Busbee

Perfected Love



God has given to mankind His ultimate gift of perfect love to fulfill the greatest need that mankind ever had or ever will have—what he has the deepest longing for, even though he may not be aware of it. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed on us, that we should be called the sons of God. . . ." 1 John 3:1. This is the perfect love of God that we want to look into. There is no greater.

In the New Testament, God has given us a new dimension of His love. It is different than the love for God or the love expressed in the Old Testament. John 3:16, says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Rom. 5:7, 8, says, "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." This is the love that the world does not know, "because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Rom. 5:5. Without the Holy Spirit we cannot understand this kind of love because it is different than the kind of love that the world knows about.

Our language is very inadequate in describing the different kinds of love there are. The Greek language has at least three different words to describe this feeling or emotion we call love. The Greek "eros" describes the love moved by attraction, or erotic love as in the attraction of a young man for a maiden, or vice versa. This is an emotional attraction which draws people together for the God-given purpose of forming a family. This love without the love of God in our hearts too often does not hold up after the first attraction wears off.

A second kind of love is "philia" which is the love of parents for their children. This love also must be tempered by the "agape," the third type of love which the New Testament speaks of. This is the kind of love that comes only from God, the kind Paul speaks of in 1 Cor. 13:4, which the King James Bible

translates as "charity." It seeketh not her own. This spontaneous, uncaused, self-giving love has a real concern for others without any expectation or desire for anything in return. As John says in 1 John 3:18, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." This "agape" is due to the character of the one who loves and not to the one being loved. "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Matt. 5:44. It is a giving love: "Husbands, love your wives even as Christ loved the Church and gave himself for it." "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." 1 John 3:16. We are able to love, "because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19. "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." 1 John 4:8.

Agape love is not native to man's soul or the nature of man. Self-existing rather than self-giving is the character of human nature until one has become a new creature in Christ (2 Cor 5:17). Sometimes this becomes a point of tension in homes when one partner feels the other one is spending too much time helping others to the neglect of the home. This can be true and needs to be evaluated by both husband and wife, as our home is the primary responsibility for both parents.

Great emphasis is placed upon our love for our neighbor in the New Testament, with the Lord clarifying who is our neighbor by the parable of the good Samaritan. Paul also says that all the commandments are comprehended in this; "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Rom. 13:9. It is the fulfilling of the law. "He that loveth another hath fulfilled the law." We are not only to "... love the Lord, thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind," and "thy neighbor as thyself," but we are also to love the brethren. "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." 1 John 3:14. Jesus made it plain in Matt. 12:49-50, who our brethren are. "Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." We have a special duty to love (agape) our Christian brethren—to be concerned about him in all circumstances—to hold him up in prayer for all his needs. "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." 1 John 4:11. We even go so far as laying down our lives for the brethren, if necessary, as Christ died for us. Read 1 John 3:16-18. "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep his commandments." 1 John 5:2.

God always wants us to be perfected in love as we grow in grace. "If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us." 1 John 4:12. We are perfected in love as we obey His Word and let His love have full exercise in our lives. It is only with God's love (agape) dwelling in our

hearts that we are able to love others. People of the world do not have love or concern for other people because they do not have this love in their hearts from God. "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love [the very source of agape]; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect . . ." 1 John 4:16, 17.

Perfect love casts out fear, for perfect love brings perfect trust, and perfect trust brings perfect assurance that God is in control of every situation. "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 4:18. If there is a spirit of fear in our lives, it is not from God but comes from the enemy; it should be rebuked, and we should stand on the promises of God. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Tim. 1:7.

May this perfect love of God be in the heart of every one of His dear children that there might be perfect unity and accord in the whole family of God. This whole world is in need of not only salvation, but of this love (agape) perfected in their hearts. May God bless each one of us with more of His precious love, and let it be fully perfected in us.

—Bro. George Hammond

Respect



As we survey the condition of the world today, we find very little genuine, old-fashioned respect in our society. Individuals do not respect authority or each other. There is a reason for this. A hasty explanation would lay the blame at the door of those who fail to show respect, but a more careful analysis would indicate that many people actually are not deserving of respect. Numerous officials are involved in political corruption and it is becoming difficult to find a person who is reliable and faithful to his word.

If we are not careful, we may become influenced by such tendencies. We should not live a careless, shady life. The Bible teaches that our lives should demand the respect of God, our brothers in Christ, and people in general. Some individuals demand respect by their words alone. This serves only to frustrate and confuse, for true respect is gained by a worthy life.

Respect means to show consideration for. The Old Testament bears record that God had respect unto the children of Israel. As the omnipotent God views our actions, or the things that make us what we are in daily life, is He stirred to show respect unto us? Undoubtedly each of us will face a time in life when we will hope for His consideration.

"Though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off." Psa. 138:6. It is the life that is lived in quiet steadfastness and holy sincerity before God that brings His respect, not in doing deeds to be seen of others or commended of men.

The newspaper cartoonist, H. T. Webster, once amused himself by sending telegrams to twenty of his acquaintances whom he selected at random. Each message contained just one word: "Congratulations!" As far as Webster knew, not one of his friends had done anything special for which to be complimented. Yet each person was so flattered that he immediately wrote a letter of thanks. All twenty assumed that they had done something worthy of a congratulatory telegram. This is somewhat amusing, but it illustrates the deceptive nature of pride. It is through lowliness of mind and heart that we are made recipients of God's consideration. It is by considering ourselves as unprofitable servants.

As we gain the favor of God, we also attain the respect of His saints for the constant life we live. Respect does not develop overnight. Paul, in writing to the Thessalonians, said, "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves." 1 Thess. 5:12, 13. In Rev. 3:1, God said to tell Sardis that, "I know thy works." God determines the sincerity of man's heart for He is omnipotent. We, however, are hampered by our humanity and therefore must use discernment. That is why we are told to "Try the spirits whether they are of God." This may take a process of time, but as this is applied and put in action, esteem and honor come to those who are worthy.

The qualifications of a bishop, according to 1 Tim. 3:7, are that "he must have a good report of them which are without." This is applicable to saints in general. To be a saint is a high calling, and therefore we are to live so that the world recognizes it. If the world finds saints squabbling and disagreeing among themselves, the Church suffers a loss of respect. The Spirit of Christ brings about a unity of God's children.

The respect of outsiders is not attained by a show of harshness or severity among God's people even though the doctrine itself is correct. Bro. D. S. Warner once wrote, "Even the 'sons of Sceva,' vagabond Jews, exorcists, could 'stir up the devil' and get a good flogging for it, so to report that souls turned to righteousness is a far better indication 'that ye are born of God' than simply the report that the 'devil was stirred.'"

The respect of the world will be directed toward those who are living a consistent life of dependability, purity and holiness. Sinners will show their consideration by refusing to tell sordid jokes in your presence, taking your side when others oppose you, and respecting your beliefs in general.

Let us strive more earnestly to manifest the fruits of righteousness that will secure the regard of those about us, and glorify the One whom we are seeking to honor.

—Wayne Murphey

Peace is a gift from Heaven above
That flourishes in hearts of Godly love.

—Effie Miller

Come Out of Babylon

Calif.—Dear saints: We have continued to remember you in our prayers here in the Ontario congregation, and trust that the Lord is having His way with you. We write concerning the burden of our heart, which is to call people out of sect Babylon.

In Jeremiah 50:4, 5, it says, "In those days, and in that time, saith the Lord, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the Lord their God. They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten." So many people are lost and wandering in denominations and sectism, and are looking earnestly for God. I know, because I was one of those people. In verse 6, the Lord continues, "My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their restingplace." These people are horribly lost in the mountains of Babylon; the shepherds are preaching false doctrines, half-truths, watered-down philosophies, and personal opinions rather than the Word of God! The only hope they have is for the saints of God to "call and compel them" to come back to their native land, and to flee sectism and denominationalism. All through the Word we find God bringing His scattered flock back to Zion, not merely denominations holding hands, but the truly saved "coming out" of these devil-organized religions. It's my experience that Babylon is not only confusion, but truly "the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." Rev. 18:2. That encompasses an awful lot.

I was never told at the First Church of God that you have to live a holy life free from sin. I couldn't go to sleep at night without asking God to forgive me if I had done anything that day that might have been sin. My conscience wasn't clear. I could have lost my soul there! But, praise God, He's faithful! I have it all settled now! My concern is that we, as saints of God, teach and preach the whole Word of God—and that includes the "Come Out Message." Many honest souls are spiritually dying in the "wilderness," and we have what they want so desperately to hear. The Church can't slumber while there are people in such need. In this Evening Light time, if we lose this message, I fear we might become just another group as the enemy would have us be.

Please pray for me, and that God would direct my path.

In His service,

—Sis. Diana Kissling

THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT

The God of all comfort will sustain
Our every heartache, our every pain.
His love and blessing never end;
He is the God of all comfort, my friend.
—Edward M. Brandt

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.

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EDITORIALS

With thankful hearts to God for the many blessings He has bestowed on us, we greet you once again in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As has been the custom in past years, the August issue of this publication was omitted to allow the workers here at the office some time off. Some of us were able to attend some of the camp meetings and visit other places. We are truly thankful for God's protecting hand over each one giving traveling mercy.

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The camp meeting season for 1983 is fast drawing to a close. We appreciate the burden and consecration of the ministry who labor in these meetings, not for temporal or financial gain, but for the interest of bringing souls into the fold of God. We are thankful for each one who, being convicted of their sinful life, sought forgiveness at an altar of prayer and received pardon and peace to their soul. But then, with sadness we think of those who refused to yield to the pleading and conviction of God's Spirit. Oh, dear soul, why do you continue in your sins knowing that the end will bring nothing but pain and suffering in a devil's hell? "Oh, how sad to face the judgment, unprepared to meet thy God."

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The Christian schools located at different congregations over the country are being prepared for the beginning of another school year. Let us pray earnestly for those who are involved with the responsible tasks of operating these schools, that they be bountifully endowed with divine wisdom and understanding in guiding and dealing with the students in attendance.

The Path of Life School here at Guthrie is, through the blessings of the Lord, beginning its sixth year of operation. It was not possible to have the new building completed in time, therefore classes are starting once again in the dining hall on the Okla. State Camp Ground. Work is continuing on the new building (which is less than 50% complete), and we are trusting the Lord to bless and supply the needs for the completion of this worthy project.

—Randall Flynn

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We have been notified of the approaching marriage of Bro. C. C. Carver and Sis. Nellie Key. Lord willing, the ceremony will take place Sept. 17, 1983, at the Fellowship Tabernacle which is located on highway 380, 3 miles south of Xenia, Ohio. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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On Aug. 6, Bro. Alferd and Sis. Margaret Classen celebrated 50 years of marriage. In an age when divorce is as common as marriage, how refreshing to find those who have included God in their lives and remained faithful to each other. We wish for them many more fulfilling years together.

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We were privileged to attend some of the Boley Camp Meeting which began Aug. 19, and continued

through the 28th. We trust that seed was sown there that will profit souls through eternity.

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We are in the process of printing some books especially for children. Hopefully, next month's paper will contain more information as to when they can be purchased.

—Wayne Murphey

In Memorial

Aaron Eugene (Gene) Harmon, son of George and Vienna Harmon, was born Feb. 9, 1894, at Tyronne, Missouri, and went home to be with the Lord from his home in Orland, California, on Aug. 4, 1983, at the age of 89 years, 5 months, and 26 days.

In 1919, he was united in marriage with Beulah Ellen Seddon at Clovis, New Mexico. To this union four children were born. The first born son, Ralph Eugene, died at the age of two years. They moved to Glendale, California, in 1920, where they lived for 48 years until Beulah's death in 1968.

In 1969, he was united in marriage with Loretta Miles. They located in Orland, California, and lived there until the time of his departure.

Both Brother and Sister Harmon were saved in a tent meeting at Duarte, California, which was held by his father, Bro. George Harmon, and Brother L. E. Davey. This was probably in the early 1920's. They accepted the truth as taught and practiced by the Church of God (Evening Light Saints) and remained in that faith throughout the remainder of their lifetime. Not long after his conversion he was called to the ministry and served God and His Church in that capacity for nearly 55 years.

He was active in the ministry throughout the southern California area as well as in other parts of the country for several years and then became the first pastor of the Glendale Church of God. He served in that pastorship for a number of years. In later years he worked extensively with the Church of God of Jefferson, Oregon, and also did considerable building work for that church as he was a builder by trade. He served the church at Orland, California, for a time after going there, but before long, advancing age and failing health forced him out of active service there.

He is survived by his wife, Loretta, of Orland, Calif., one daughter, Virginia League, of Canyon City, Calif.; two sons: Gerald Harmon of Loranger, La., and Richard Harmon, of Sugarland, Tex.; two stepsons: Jim Miles of Beaverton, Calif., and Sam Miles, of Orland, Calif.; 8 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and 3 step-grandchildren.

Funeral services were in the Church of God chapel located on the saints' camp ground in Pacoima, with Bro. O. B. Wilson officiating on Wednesday morning, August 10, 1983. Burial was in Grandview Cemetery in Glendale, California.

Rosilda Adeline (Addie) Venn MacEndree was born March 29, 1898, near Lamoni, Iowa, being the second daughter of George and Clara Venn. Sis. MacEndree passed from this life at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Esther Mulaney, in Lamar, Colo., on June 28, 1983, at the age of 85 years, 2 months, and 29 days.

On July 13, 1918, in Springfield, Colo., she was united in marriage to Edward Robert MacEndree. To this union five daughters and one son were born.

Sis. MacEndree was a kind, gentle, loving lady. Having been reared in a Christian home, she accepted Christ as her personal Savior at an early age, and lived a faithful Christian life. Sis. Addie was a loving wife and mother. She filled her hours joyfully fulfilling the needs and desires of her family.

Survivors include four daughters: Mrs. Robert (Evelyn) Dean, Mrs. Wilfred (Audrey) Kincade, Mrs. Harley (Darlene) Manly, and Mrs. J. C. (Esther) Mulaney, all of Lamar, Colorado; one son, Dale MacEndree of Republic, Mo.; 14 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great-grandchildren, one brother, six sisters, and other relatives, friends, and neighbors. She was preceded in death by her husband and one daughter.

Funeral services were conducted by Willie Murphey and Leroy Guyett. Burial was at Fairmount Cemetery, Lamar, Colo.

A Tribute

Mother, so many times we've heard you say, "Oh, but you've done so much already, just quit—I know you're worn out!" Yes, Mother, we were tired, but I often wondered if you never tired in doing for us.

You gave us life, training, food, a Christian home, many hours in the old rocking chair, kissing all our hurts and our tears away, making us happy when we were sad, mending our torn clothes and broken hearts. Mother, you could make everything right again by just a smile, a touch, a hug, a kiss—really just by sharing your love with us.

We could never match your giving no matter how we tried—you always gave us so much more.

You've only been gone a few hours, but in missing you, it already seems an eternity! When Daddy passed away we felt we had to be strong for you—now you've gone to be with him. When our grief seems impossible to bear, suddenly there comes a memory of you two: the tenderness, kindness, the caring, and the love you shared. Then we have the strength to go on.

Thank you, Mother, for sharing each moment of these years and giving us these many memories of time spent with you. We will cherish them forever. We love you, Mother!

—Your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

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If the human soul would grow in moral stature and moral beauty and fruitfulness, it must keep open to the light of God and absorb that light as it falls upon it.

—C. E. Orr

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

FRESNO CAMP MEETING REPORT

The Lord's presence was truly manifested in our camp meeting this summer. He has been so gracious to us this whole year to repeatedly send us His Word, encouraging us to be faithful, and also warning us of the consequences if we fail. It seems His Word simply "thundered" out over the congregation this year. Time is so short and God is doing all He can to get us ready for heaven. Oh! I pray we will heed the warnings; they are so plain and simple. We have no excuse if we miss heaven.

We thank God for the ministers that labored so faithfully to bring us God's Word, as well as those who labored in prayer and song for the benefit of souls.

Also, we thank the Lord for those who did heed the Word of God and humbled themselves at the altar of prayer. May all of us be found faithful to the end is my prayer.

—Lavern Moles

MISSOURI STATE CAMP MEETING REPORT

We thank the Lord for another good camp meeting at Myrtle, Mo. once again. The Lord was faithful to send us Holy Ghost anointed messages through His chosen vessels. The messages were very heart-searching and appropriate to prepare our hearts for the soon coming of our Lord. The fact that so many sinners and lukewarm professors seemed to be sleeping a perpetual sleep, out of which the very thunders of God's Word could not awaken them, alarmed our hearts and makes us realize that the coming of the Lord is very near. We are standing on the very brink of eternity. Oh, may God keep our hearts stirred lest coming suddenly He find us sleeping. We are living in a sleepy age when the devil is trying to lull every soul into a spiritual stupor. May God help us all to "watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." "For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth." See Luke 21:34-36.

If the Lord tarries His coming until Aug., 1984, we will hope to see you at the Missouri State Camp Meeting again, otherwise around the throne of God in Heaven.

—Harlan Sorrell

REPORT OF MEETING IN MEXICO

Dear ones: Greetings of Christian love to all. We are so happy to report that the three-day meeting in Chalpultepec, Baja, California, Mexico was not only a good meeting, but owned and anointed of the Lord and laid the foundation for a new mission in Baja, Cfa.

Sis. Amparo Garcia, who desired the meeting, due to interest already shown by some, was saved in Ojos Negros 8 years ago. Her husband and brother-in-law

were saved in this meeting, and a young boy living with them, was sanctified. Another small boy was saved.

Bro. Mayarino Escobar has been having services with this family for some time, as did the former worker there.

The first day, services were held in Amparo's crowded living room. A new house had been built next door and was unoccupied. Though the owner was away, permission was reluctantly granted by her sister who was a Jehovah's Witness, to have service in the larger house. How we do thank the Lord for working it out.

Efforts are being made to either buy the house or find a lot on which to build.

May the Lord bless each one who made a sacrifice to further the efforts of this meeting.

Pray with us for a consecrated resident-worker for this new mission in Chapultepec, and the saving of more souls.

Christian love,

—Sis. Opal Kelly

TENT MEETING AT SPRINGFIELD, MO.

We plan to have, Lord willing, a tent meeting here in Springfield, Mo., beginning Sept. 25, and continuing through Oct. 2, 1983. Bro. Tom Melot plans to be in this meeting, and we invite anyone who has a burden to come: young people, singers, ministers, etc. We have hopes that a number of the local people will attend, so any of the saints who want to be an encouragement are heartily invited to attend this meeting.

The probable location of the tent will be, Lord willing, in Bro. James and Sis. Patricia Bell's yard. Their home is located 4 miles north of Interstate 44 on highway H.

For further information please contact Bro. James Bell at Rt. 1 Box 928, Springfield, Mo. 65803, phone 417-833-1901.

FALL REVIVAL AT GREEN PASTURES

The Church of God at Green Pastures (located near Spencer, Okla.) will hold its annual fall revival meeting beginning, Lord willing, Friday, Sept. 30, at 7:30 p. m., and continuing through Sunday, Oct. 9, 1983. Everyone is cordially invited to attend this meeting. Pray with us that this meeting will be a success with souls being rescued from the clutches of Satan.

For further information you may contact Bro. Charles L. Chandler at 740 N. E. 81 St., Okla. City, Okla. 73114, phone 405-478-1653.

ANNUAL AUTUMN SINGING AT MYRTLE, MO.

Lord willing, the Church of God at Myrtle, Mo., will have its annual autumn singing on Sat. night, Oct. 1, 1983, with all-day services on the following day. We are looking to the Lord to send us some help

in this weekend meeting — singers, ministers, or anyone with a testimony for the Lord, that the services will be a blessing to all. If the Lord has given you a voice to sing for His glory, the use of your talent would be a blessing and greatly appreciated. Please come praying, and to be a blessing and to receive a blessing.

—Harlan Sorrell

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

We want to thank each of the dear saints who sent cards, offerings, and phone calls for our 48th anniversary during the Monark Springs Camp Meeting. Also, we want everyone to know that we deeply appreciate your love, concern, and the many prayers in our behalf during this period of affliction. God bless and reward you all.

We love and appreciate you.

—Bro. and Sis. Murphy Allen

MONARK TAPES FOR SALE

Bro. Clifford Smith has made available for sale cassette tapes from the 1983 Monark Springs Camp Meeting.

Available are two tapes of singing, which contain a number of special songs by various groups, and also sermon tapes. The charge for each tape is \$2.00. This includes the cost of postage.

Also offered for your listening on a loan basis are over 400 different cassette messages by Bro. Ostis Wilson, pastor of the congregation at Jefferson, Ore.

To obtain any of the above, address your correspondence to: Clifford Smith, 4795 Gardner Rd. S. E., Salem, Ore. 97302.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Preparation of a book on the life and labors of the late Bro. Sam Barton of Tulsa, Okla., is underway. Will those who worked with and knew him and his wife Hettie, please write or send cassette tapes of their remembrances, incidents, etc. If dates or approximate dates are known, this information will help with the compilation. Also desired are tapes of sermons by Bro. Barton. Cost of duplication of these tapes of sermons will be reimbursed to the owners. Please send these as soon as you can.

Thank you, —Vesta-Nadine (Severs) Robertson
109 W. Larry Road, Shawnee, Ok. 74801

NOTICE

During recent months the Dayton, Ohio, congregation has been selling cassette tapes of special singing with the proceeds from the sale of said tapes going to a building fund for a new chapel. It was discovered recently that due to equipment malfunction of our supplier and other causes (circumstances beyond our control), the quality of our tape was

greatly reduced. A large number of these tapes were recorded prior to the Monark Springs Camp Meeting. We would like to express our sincere apology for this error. Anyone who has purchased a tape and is not completely satisfied may return it for a full refund with return postage guaranteed. We would appreciate receiving all returns by Oct. 30, 1983. Again we apologize for the error. Pray for us as we strive to make heaven our home.

Sincerely,

—Bro. Kenneth Abbott, Jr.

512 Conard Dr., Xenia, Ohio 45385

BOOK DISCONTINUED

We are out of stock on the book "Secular Humanism: The Most Dangerous Religion In America" by Homer Duncan. There are no plans at this time to continue carrying the book.

Prayer Requests

Ind.—Bro. Nathan Mobley and his wife both need prayer for heart trouble.

Miss.—"We are writing for prayer. We live in an isolated area. . . . We desire that all the saints pray for us that we will grow stronger in the Word of God, and that we stay faithful to the Lord. . . ."

—Allen and Frances Reed

Va.—"Pray that my loved ones and yours will turn to the Lord. . . . Please pray for my grandsons in the navy."

—Mrs. Olyer Turner

Wis.—"I need some prayer support for complete deliverance of alcohol and smoking."

W. Va.—"Please put me on your prayer list. Also pray for my unsaved husband."

—Queen Luzador

Pa.—"Please pray for my unsaved family."

—Eva Cox

Fla.—Sis. Anna Rouse is weak in body and desires prayer.

Ore.—Mary Jones requests prayer for different needs and also for her sister who has a heavy burden.

Okla.—Sis. Floy Woolery desires prayer for complete healing, and Bro. Charles Smith is in need of a healing touch from the Lord.

Calif.—Sis. Helen Carson requests prayer for her son and herself; also for her brother, Amos, and his wife.

Through His infinite wisdom and mercy, the Lord has released some of His children from the hand of affliction and taken them Home to be with Him. There are others, however, that the Lord has not seen fit to deliver them from their affliction. Bro. Murphy Allen, though greatly weakened in body, is still fighting the good fight of faith. He still carries a burden and concern for the welfare of the Church, and is earnestly looking to the Lord for deliverance. Sis. Eva Lou Gaines is still sorely afflicted; pray that her hope and faith in God be renewed day by day. Sis. Evelyn McCoy has been suffering much lately

with her eyes and other conditions. Bro. Nathan Carver and Bro. Harold Purvis are still in need of a divine healing touch from the Lord. Bros. Cecil Carver, Mart Samons, Curtis Williams, and Ostis Wilson all need complete healing.

God's timing is perfect, and we must faithfully trust His wisdom as well as His power. If we cannot do this, seeds of doubt will be sown and our faith in God weakened. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Matt. 24:35. "For I am the Lord, I change not; . . ." Mal. 3:6. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth ALL thine iniquities; who healeth ALL thy diseases." Psa. 103:2, 3. Notice the positive tone of these Scriptures—and not only these but all of the Word of God. It leaves no place for question or doubt, but is true, solid, and everlasting. It will not and cannot be destroyed. Praise God! —Randall Flynn

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

Dear ones: Greetings in Jesus' sweet and precious name.

Since the electronic typewriter is in my home, so much more material can be set, corrected, pagged up, and ready for printing. We owe all our thanks to the Lord for so wonderfully providing this means through His children, whereby this could be done. We appreciate each one who contributed to the purchase of it as well as all other phases of the Spanish literature work.

Recently, the Lord made possible the setting of seven tracts in German, also.

About three thousand Spanish tracts were left with Sis. Amparo and family after the three-day meeting in Chapultepec, B. Cfa. Mexico, for distribution. We are praying that their contents will find lodgment in honest hearts and they will find real Bible salvation.

We trust that all prayer warriors will continue to pray for all phases of the Spanish work, here and in Spanish-speaking countries.

Christian love, —Sis. Opal Kelly

REPORT FROM GHANA MISSION

Dear Bro. Hammond, and all the dear ones abroad: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. Thank you for your letter and enclosures. Its contents along with the *Faith and Victory* paper were read by the whole congregation with much special attention.

My cup is still running over with the many spiritual blessings I received last week at the riverside where twelve new converts were baptized to the glory of God. It gives me great pleasure to give thanksgiving to God for making it possible for us to win souls who were dying in the clutches of Satan. We are waiting for another baptism where six souls are prepared to be baptized. Praise the Lord! . . .

It is evident to see that the Lord has put His approval and hand of blessing upon the work here at Akumadan-Ash. We are all praying for its continual establishment, and that God will continue to increase us with knowledge, understanding, and a double portion of His Holy Spirit.

Prices of goods have gone up and we are doing what we can to get the buildings started. Prices increase day by day. I have therefore bought some building materials with the amount we had in the bank. It is not easy to build a house in Ghana. . . . We trust our little efforts are profitable to you dear ones.

Our prayers are that those who sought the Lord for salvation shall ever stay true. God is faithful to His Word.

Through the means of this publication, I send my love to all who donate towards this new work here. The Church sends love to all.

I am yours always,

—Jim Akwasi

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REPORT OF MISSION WORK IN INDIA

S. India (June 20)—Dear Sis. Maybelle and all the other dear ones at the Print Shop, and everywhere in the U.S.A.: We send our Christian love and greetings to you dear ones again in the most holy name of Jesus Christ. Thank you very much for your kind letter and the enclosures were noted with much appreciation and heartfelt gratitude. May God bless each donor.

The drought in our state is still in the same situation. . . . The government declared a 90% electricity cut in the state. No electricity supply in the day time . . . almost all the factories were closed due to the power cut; hence many are without jobs now. We pray God to send some heavy rain soon.

By the grace of God there is not much hindrance for the activities of the Church here. Very recently God opened a new station for us at Poomala in North Kerala. One brother got a special burden to go over there and work, and as a result twenty souls were saved from the Catholic church. These new converts need a place to assemble to worship. A temporary shed made of bamboo rod, coconut leaves, and mud walls is needed now. It will cost \$200 to build such a temporary shed which may last for two years. As they were excommunicated from the Catholic church, they need a separate cemetery of their own. It costs \$300 to buy a cemetery. These are some urgent needs of these poor, new converts. May God open the hands of someone who loves the work of the Lord.

(July 18)—Finally it started to rain here last week. Surely, this is a delayed blessing for us. "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." James 5:7, 8. We appreciate the earnest prayer of the saints in America for rain in India. . . .

I received invitations from North India to open new stations there. This is a challenge to my heart, but I cannot go to N. India without support. N. India is full of Hindus. As William Carey said, "I will descend and dig, but you at home must hold the ropes." . . . If anybody is interested in the work of N. India, please let me know. If the interested saints come over here, we will go together and open new stations there. Also, we invite the saints there to attend our 18th general convention at Karikkom in January, 1984. . . . Please get ready and come over to India. We will pray for you.

Yours in Him, —John Varghese

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

PHILIPPINE MISSION REPORT

Philippines—Dear Bro. Hammond: Holy greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ, the Provider of our needs and our High Priest that can be touched by our infirmities. Glory and praise belong to Him forever.

Thank you for your letter and sacrificial offering you sent for the gospel work. We thanked God with joyful tears for the blessings He gave us through you and the saints there. Yes, God has His own timing; He is never late in extending His arms to help His dear children.

With much prayer, God has led us to Cagayan de Oro City, a place here in Mindanao about three hours' ride in a bus from Gingoog City. Wife and I saw great opportunities there. We have a good chance to open a radio broadcast ministry. This city is a peaceful one because rebels and terrorists cannot easily enter because of tight military security. Most of the people from troubled areas evacuate there. . . . We are glad that people there in Cagayan de Oro City are receptive to the Word of God. Last week two families accepted us to hold Bible study in their homes. They are interested to know the truth which is being heard by them for the first time in their lives. We ask you to stand with us in prayer that God will lead more souls into His kingdom, the Church.

We prayed for your health, Bro. Hammond. God bless you for your kindheartedness. Thank you for your continued cooperation in the Lord's service.

Your brother in the Church,

—Xavier Prado and family

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REPORT OF MISSION WORK IN GHANA

Okla.—Dear Bro. Flynn, workers in the Print Shop, and all saints everywhere: Greetings of Christian love to everyone in the lovely name of Jesus.

Once again I come your way on behalf of the work of the Church of God in Akumadan-Ash, and Afrancho, Ghana, West Africa. Bro. Jim Akwasi writes that the work there is coming right along with the adding of new converts into the household of God. . . . Money that has been sent to them from the saints in America for the building of a chapel has been going into the purchase of supplies for the

building. They are looking to Nigeria for some of their needs as supplies are scarce and high-priced in Ghana. Pray that God will guide them.

Food is still scarce. They have at least part of the seed which was sent to them, and it has adjusted to the soil and climate of Ghana. Harvest is in the month of September, and we are looking to God for a bountiful crop of fresh food to go with their yams and tapioca.

Soon after I returned from Ghana last January, a precious young sister threw her arms around me and said she would like to go back to Ghana with me. I do believe that we have a young missionary in the making, but it doesn't seem that now is the time for her to go. I love her very much and appreciate her missionary zeal, and her time to go for God will come.

No other person has talked to me seriously of going to Ghana as a resident missionary. After being there and seeing with my own eyes their needs—experiencing hunger along with them, seeing a spiritual reaching out for the gospel, and the open door set before us—I am constrained to go back to them for a while. I have started to make preparations to return to Ghana in Jan., 1984. I know that world conditions could change things over night, and things within Ghana could close the door forever, but I have fully committed this into God's hands and I press forward. I ask for the prayers of the saints everywhere for His protecting hand upon my going in and out, for my health, and that a harvest of souls will be forthcoming from this missionary effort.

Yours for souls around the world,

—Sis. Dorothy Keiser,

Rt. 6 Box 8B, Apt. 19, Shawnee, Ok. 74801

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PRAYER REQUEST FROM NIGERIA

(Aug. 3)—Dear Bro. Hammond: I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. . . .

I am seriously sick and cannot do anything as it renders me so weak. This reply is made possible by the help of a brother taking my dictation. For my healing therefore, I am requesting you to pray for me. It is my desire also that this prayer request be made known to the household of God through the *Faith and Victory*, believing that the Lord will show mercy.

Yours in His service, —Bro. B. Ben Taylor

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God's Law in Man's Mind and Heart

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

From the Mailbox . . .

Texas—Greetings of Christian love in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and King of kings. I'm so glad I learned to trust Him. I'm thankful He saved my soul, sanctified my nature, and gave me faith to trust Him for everything. What a mighty God we serve! He supplies all our needs according to His riches in glory.

Thank the Lord for the Bible, the Word of God. God's Word was in the beginning and still stands today. Bless His holy name forever! . . . I thank the Lord for letting me know His will and that I can please Him.

May the good Lord keep you by His keeping power in the center of His will to do the things He has called you to do. Pray for me.

Christian love and prayers, —Nellie Lovell

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

Calif.—Dear Sis. Pruitt: Greetings to all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is my Light, my Salvation, and the Strength of my life.

We are rejoicing this morning for the wonderful blessings the Lord bestows on His trusting children. I just returned home from the National Camp Meeting at Monark Springs, rejoicing for the wonderful Word of God that was anointed and preached for the salvation and edification of souls. My soul was enriched by the grace of God (2 Cor. 9:8). I also came home from the camp meetings with a deep responsibility to continued fervent, supplicating prayer for precious souls and afflicted bodies.

We trust the Lord is blessing abundantly there. Pray for me as we agree for each other.

Much Christian love, —Sis. Hazel A. Clark

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

Calif.—Dear Bro. Flynn and workers at the printing office: We send greetings of Christian love in Jesus' dear name. This leaves us with victory in our souls and trusting God for the healing of our bodies. We do appreciate salvation and what it means to us in every walk of life. We trust you folks are well and that God is blessing there in a mighty way. . . .

With our love and prayers,

—Bro. & Sis. H. P. Huskey

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

Ind.—Dear Bro. Murphey: I greet you and all the dear saints everywhere in the lovely name of Jesus our dear Lord. I hope all is going well at the print shop, and that everyone is well and happy in the Lord.

As for wife and I, we are very well, but both have heart trouble and need prayer very much. Please put us on your prayer list. I never was more determined to live for the Lord than I am now. I do believe His coming is soon. . . .

Your brother in the one family, —Nathan Mobley

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

Ala.—Dear Sis. Maybelle, and all the dear saints: I greet you in the precious name of Jesus. I trust you are all well in body and happy in your soul. It was so good to see you and all the dear ones at the camp

meetings this summer. I was privileged to attend most of the Monark meeting, also the Myrtle meeting. The beautiful singing was so sweet. It also seemed that God used His vessels to bring forth messages direct from heaven to His dear children that each one might draw closer to Him, resist the devil more, and be ready for His coming. Also, the trumpet was sounded to warn the wicked to flee to Jesus, call upon Him for mercy, and turn from their wicked ways before it is too late. I am praising and thanking God for His mercy and love toward us all in letting each one attend all the meetings, and for giving us traveling mercy.

I am now back in Jasper, Ala. . . . Having been gone five weeks in all, I arrived home to a very grown up yard. . . . As I was mowing, God brought to my mind the parable found in Matt. 13, of the seed being sown and how the thorns sprang up and choked them. This shows us how that after we have been born again and the seed sown in our hearts, if we do not cultivate the ground, so to speak, we could also be choked out with the cares of this life and not be fruitful for Him. We should read and study the Bible daily, seeking to be filled with God's righteousness and love, and we should pray daily from our hearts, thanking Him for His blessings and ask Him to lead, guide, and direct our lives for Him.

Let us all be very careful that we bear fruit for Him. I love all of you and pray for you often. Do pray for me that I will ever be a shining light for Jesus.

Your sister in Christ, —Pearlene Whitson

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

Idaho—Dear Brethren: Greetings in Jesus' dear name, the One who is a present help in time of need and who supplies ALL my needs.

I have moved . . . and would appreciate having my paper sent to my new address. I am 88 years old, and do enjoy reading the paper. . . . I was saved, completely cleansed and made a new creature in the year of 1914. My name was written in heaven, and I'm sure it is still there.

I'm praying God's blessings on the paper and the workers. May God bless you all.

A sister in Christ, —R. M. Braselton

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

Ala.—Dear Christian friends: I want to keep praising my precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for all He has done for me. The most wonderful thing in all the world was when He reached down His precious hand and lifted me out of the mire of sin and set my feet on the solid Rock which is none other than Jesus Christ the precious Son of the true and living God.

When I look back and see where He brought me from and where I could have been, had it not been for the love and care He had for me, I praise Him day in and day out. This world holds nothing for me any more. I seek to obey His holy commandments and honor His statutes and judgments above anything in the world. The old devil can't put enough in front of my eyes to cause me to ever go back into the ways of

the world. The greatest pleasure on earth I have ever found is serving God and His blessed Son. I only wish I knew how I could get people to see this way, but if this world is what they want, let them have it, but give me Jesus any time, every time, and all of the time.

Please continue to pray for me.

—May Bell Dunaway

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Ala.—Dear ones: I just want to tell this, for God's glory and the encouragement of the saints. On Thursday morning, July 26, I got up and started to the bathroom. My legs were shaking and I grabbed the side of the doorway, but with all the holding and trying to stand up, my legs gave way and I could not walk. I crawled about that day and in the afternoon I tried to call the Faith Pub. House but could not get an answer. Finally, I realized that they must be somewhere in camp meeting, so Friday morning I called Sis. Hightower and asked her to request prayer at Monark Springs Camp Meeting. I didn't seem to make much improvement, so the next morning, I called again and I soon began to get strength. By the afternoon I found that I could walk some by using a stick. I went and watered the garden. After a while I forgot my stick and was walking without it, but when I thought of my stick, the weakness came back and I had to get it. Now I confess my lack of faith and ask God's forgiveness. Please pray for my complete healing; I am trying to exercise healing faith. They wanted to take me to the doctor, but I refused to be taken and by God's grace managed to stand out against their arguments. I walk some now without the stick. . . . I know it pays to trust God and His people. Oh, how we need to love one another and serve and obey our God.

I am 81 years old, and in my condition, cannot do much, but I know I can tell of God's goodness and praise the Lord.

—Ray Long

Okla.—Dear saints: Diann and I would like to share some of God's gracious dealings with us, especially concerning the birth of our second son, Naron. It was a time of great rejoicing and a deeper revelation of the special love that God has for His children here below.

The Lord said unto Abraham, "Is any thing too hard for the Lord? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son." Gen. 18:14. In this experience the Lord revealed Himself as a deliverer who is able to overcome any difficulty and bring victory to His children. This story has its beginning in the delivery of our first son Matthew. Due to severe complications it became necessary for him to be delivered "c-section." That experience caused us extreme spiritual distress, soul searching, and a hungering for a deeper faith and fuller measure of victory. In the midst of that

trouble, God still glorified His holy name. The doctors determined that Diann had a life-threatening infection that could only be cured by medicine. We indicated to them our desire to trust the Lord. They listed the sequence of symptoms that would follow this infection, with the last one being death. We took our stand and Diann chose to leave the hospital against medical advice. Step by step the symptoms began to develop as they had predicted, but God intervened and gloriously delivered before death could come. The news of Diann's decision spread throughout the hospital staff, and the attending physician was astonished to find that Diann did not die.

Upon returning to this physician for a final post-delivery exam, we were warned that we probably would be unable to conceive more children because of our decision to refuse medical aid. However, the Lord revealed to Diann's heart that another child would be born. After the second conception was certain, we contacted the physician group which oversaw the birth of our first son. We were refused any opportunity for service unless we would agree to a pre-planned "c-section." Afterwards we received a letter warning us of the dangers involved in a normal birth, and disclaiming any responsibility for the consequences of our action. The next physician we approached for help reluctantly agreed to take our case temporarily. He requested and received a copy of the medical report on the first delivery. After reading it he decided he could not offer us any help. The report was very grim in its graphic description of the complications that developed with the first birth, and it caused some careful examining of our position before God. Diann was strengthened with a calm assurance from God that everything was going to be all right. I was awakened the morning after reading this report with the words, "The soul that on Jesus doth lean for repose, He will not, He will not desert to his foes."

We were rejected by two more physicians in our attempt to find help with this delivery. However, through a connection with a man (who belongs to a conservative religious group) on my job, we were able to obtain two midwives to perform the delivery. During the time of travail it was most comforting to know that saints all over the Monark Springs Camp Grounds and in congregations around the country were laboring in prayer for us. When Diann's travail became most intense and it appeared that complications would develop, we contacted the brethren at the National Camp Meeting who were continuing in prayer for us during the early morning hours. One of the brethren asked if we desired for him to come. While awaiting our answer, he received a special witness from the Lord that deliverance was near, and he stated that he was giving the child 30 minutes to be born. Within 15 minutes deliverance had come. A sister in a local congregation testified that during the time of Diann's travail, she was inspired hourly with words of prayer for her deliverance. However, about 3:00 in the morning she arose with words of praise in

her heart. The baby was born at 2:17 a. m. A sister in another state testified to being literally lifted out of bed and placed on her knees to pray for Diann's deliverance between one and two o'clock in the morning. This was the period during which her travail became most intense. During this trial there were two key Scriptures that served as the bulwarks of our faith. For Diann it was Matt. 7:7-8, "Ask, and it shall be given you; . . ." For myself it was Rom. 4:18-21. In particular I found verse 20 most encouraging, "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God." We surely thank God for his delivering power.

Finally, we want to tell of God's healing of our son, Matthew, of an apparent case of tick fever. During the early part of June he was bitten by a brown spotted tick. About two weeks later, we saw a progressive development of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever symptoms. He suffered severe headaches, high fever, joint pain, and other symptoms that accompany this disease. At one point his temperature went above 104 degrees. In answer to prayer God healed him and we praise His holy name.

We want to thank all of the saints who prayed for us during these trials, and we desire your continued prayers that we will be faithful to the Lord.

—Charles and Diann Chandler

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

Okla.—Dear Sis. Maybelle: "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name." I am finding that in a world of much confusion and trouble on every hand that "on Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand."

Just recently I slipped on something in a parking lot and twisted my foot. I could feel the bones cracking, and one of my first thoughts was, "I've broken my foot." The devil was right there to discourage and make things look very dark, but God assured me that He would heal me. I purposed in my heart right then that my trust would be anchored in God. No bones appeared to be broken, but my foot began to swell considerably, and it became very painful to walk on. I had planned to go to Bible study that night, and had scheduled time off at work for vacation the next week to be in part of the Monark Springs Camp Meeting. I thought, "I'm not even going to be able to walk." I prayed and submitted my plans to the Lord and asked for God's will to be done. On returning home, I found I had received a letter from one of the saints; she was praising God for something special the Lord was working out for her. That letter gave my faith the extra boost it needed to ask God to take away the swelling in my foot. Within hours, praise God, it was gone! The soreness was still there making it difficult to walk, but the Lord let me know that I was to press over that. The more I walked around, the better my foot felt. I told the Lord I would glorify Him for what He had done. The devil said that if I did go to church and testify, knowing that my foot

wasn't completely healed, the swelling would come right back. I told the devil that even if the swelling did come back, I was still going to trust God. I went to Bible study that night, and as I was testifying, leaning over on my foot, there was no pain! A sister told me that if the pain came back to just "Resist the devil." The devil was back all right, but I had already claimed my healing even though I could feel pain as I walked around. I felt a real thanksgiving in my heart that the victory through faith was already mine. Today I can walk without limping, and having only the slightest pain. I'm still claiming victory for my complete healing in Jesus' name.

"There is no limit as to what God can do with a man, providing he will not touch the Glory." (Taken from *Streams in the Desert*).

Serving a mighty God, —Shelia Hawkins

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

La.—Dear Bro. Randall and co-workers: We send our love and sincere greetings in the name of Jesus our precious Saviour, who gave Himself for us to be fully saved from our sins. We owe Him so much for His willingness to die for the sins of the whole world. All glory and praise belong to Him.

I want to say that I'm thankful that I was able to spend some time with my cousin, Fern Rutherford, who was dying with cancer; I'm also thankful for Sisters Ruth Murphey, Marilyn Eck, and others who took part in helping in this need. We were there over three months, and every day spent was a blessing to see how she was gaining strength in the Lord to see her need. Truly, the dear Lord dealt mercifully and led her to see that salvation is the sweetest thing this side of heaven. We received witness that she made her peace with God and left nothing undone. How wonderful it is that God should be so gracious as to save unworthy creatures on the merits of Jesus' blood. We want to express our thanks and appreciation to all who had part, and especially for the many prayers that were offered in her behalf . . . one honest soul is worth more than our minds could ever take in. . . . She passed to her eternal home on June 28, 1983, at her home in Iantha, Mo.

Pray for us as we pray for you all.

—Sis. Wanita DiDio

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

Ohio—Dear saints: I want to take this opportunity to thank the Lord for all He has done for me. Most of all I thank Him for salvation. I just look at my life now and marvel how the Lord can change a worthless being into a child of God. The Lord has really changed my life. I feel like I don't deserve His blessings. The Lord is so good to forgive and forget.

In my Christian experience, I have found myself fighting depression during the times when I should be the happiest. The enemy was only trying to convince me that if we can't be happy living for the Lord, then why go on? If I would have listened to the enemy it would be hard to tell where I might have ended up. I said to myself, "No matter how I feel or what I see, I'm going on by the help of the Lord." I

think of the song that says, "This world is not my home, I'm just a passing through." I don't know what I would do without the Lord. I depend on Him so much.

I often think of the dear ones who are in the battle of affliction. The enemy would like for us to look at things with the natural eye and be discouraged. I was confused about this and wondered why the Lord would permit such afflictions as he has. As I opened my Bible to read, the Lord led me to 2 Cor. 4:16-18. "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." That really encouraged me.

Pray for me that I will be *all* the Lord wants me to be. I want to measure to all of the Word of God.

Your sister in Christ, —Connie Cox
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

New York.—Dear Bro. Murphey and other dear brethren: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I'm taking a chance on your being able to read my writing as it is still very imperfect. Probably, I have experienced about a 70% recovery from my illness and I am most thankful to our great God that I am able to function as well as I am. God, as ever, has been precious to me. He has always proven to be "a very present help in time of trouble." If possible, my love grows for Him beyond every bound; nothing I could say would be adequate to express it.

However, I must write to thank you for your letter of encouragement and also for the notice in the paper requesting prayer on my behalf. That alone lifted my spirit and helped to bolster my faith. I wish it were possible to offer a personal thanks to any and all who took thought and time to offer prayer for me. I like to think that prayer is a unique privilege and observance of the Christian because he alone is in a condition to offer it. It is a function of the justified and obedient sons of God, "who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit." We are reminded of the blind man who said of Christ, "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth." John 9:31.

In the visions of St. John there is recorded a scene when the Lamb had taken the book to open its seals, the twenty-four elders fell down before Him, "having every one of them harps and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of the saints, and they sang a new song." I praise Him that I ever learned that song and I am singing it.

Yours faithfully, —Bro. Earl Langley
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Okla.—Dear Brothers and Sisters abroad: Greetings in the blessed name of Jesus. I thank the Lord today for being saved, sanctified, and I mean to go all the way.

I'm writing again to thank all the dear saints for the offerings, encouraging letters, and everything else that has been provided for the Simpson family. The Lord has really blessed in our time of need, and I'm very grateful for that. He has also blessed my mother. She is doing much better. Although the condition still bothers her, we claim her healing. It is good to know that there is a God who is a Healer, Supplier, and Blessor. What a mighty God we serve! I don't know how to thank all of you precious saints enough. May God richly bless you all.

Please continue to remember me and my family—especially me because I have an important role to play in the family of 12, being the oldest child and sister. I desire your prayers that I'll be a good sister, obedient daughter, and a faithful saint of God.

Love always, —Shannon Simpson
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Mo.—Dear saints: For quite some time I have been thinking about writing of the goodness of God to our family. He has blessed us and watched over and protected our children so many times from accidents. We don't want to fail to thank the Lord for it.

Last week it came to my mind again to write of when God spared us from a serious car wreck. A car had lost control on a two-lane road and was coming toward us. About 50 feet in front of us, it skidded broadside across the road and turned over in the ditch. We thank God that the man in the car wasn't hurt, and that we were not involved in the accident. God is so mindful of us. I had been delayed in the grocery store just before this, and that delay could be what saved us.

Around the first of this year, our oldest son, Brandon, was having trouble hearing. It seemed to grow rapidly worse until at times he would have to put his head on the cheek of the person talking to him to be able to hear. Needless to say, we were very concerned and burdened. We prayed earnestly about it and the Lord has helped him so that we don't notice any hearing problem at all now. Oh, how we thank God for His power!

There are so many things that arise in rearing a family. We feel so dependent on God for wisdom and help. Our earnest desire is to live pleasing to God and raise our family in the fear of God. We need your prayers.

We love and appreciate all of God's people. We are burdened for the Church that we can all work together in unity for the salvation of souls.

Pray for us, —Terry and Nancy Allen and boys
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Okla.—Dear ones: We send greetings of Christian love to each one; greeting you in Jesus' name, the One who paid our redemption price.

We want to praise the Lord for what He has done just recently for us. When Carl and I began making plans for our wedding, we earnestly sought God's guidance and help. Up until about two days before the wedding day (May 7th), it seemed that "everything" was falling into place just perfectly! God was

even taking note of the little things—things that we hadn't even thought of. Then that last Thursday before the wedding, things began to go "backward." I took a deep chest cold that evening and wasn't able to sleep much that night due to such aching and fever in my body. Friday morning found me quite miserable in my body. After getting up, the Lord touched my body and I began to feel like coping with some of the duties of the day. Even though the cold lingered, I was feeling much better by Saturday.

Since we had made plans for our wedding to be outside in the park, we had earnestly prayed that the Lord would grant us favorable weather. During the rehearsal the evening before the wedding, it was so very windy. We awoke Saturday morning to cloudy skies, cool temperature, and it was still windy. Around mid-morning there was a heavy cloud burst of rain! It looked as if the rain and clouds were here to stay for the day. That seemed almost more than could be accepted, but our hearts were fixed in Jesus to trust Him. I had been trying to learn to give thanks even when my "feelings" were in a battle. (1 Thess. 5:18). So we pressed for victory in this battle. After awhile God sent the rainclouds away and let the sun shine so very pretty and warm. By the time the ceremony was to start, we were able to go ahead and have the wedding in the park. Even the wind died down during the ceremony. To our human way of thinking, we really couldn't see any value in letting it rain, but God's ways are not our ways. Perhaps it was as one explained it to us. They had remembered our prayer for the Lord to be glorified in our wedding and thought this was God's way of being glorified for it was a great blessing how the Lord cleared up the weather. As I look back, I almost marvel at how God so fully took control of things. My heart just swells with gratitude and thanksgiving.

We also want to testify of God's healing power to Carl while on our honeymoon. Sunday night after the wedding, Carl took a bad headache and his fever seemed so very high. I was very concerned as I had heard of cases when the fever got too high and one got delirious. I knew that I had no experience nor would I know what to do in caring for one in such a condition. I had to fight some fear. I felt so alone, as we were in a large city and knew of no saints there. But we knew God and were acquainted with prayer. We felt in need of prayer, so called home for prayer. That afternoon we went to prayer and the Lord just inspired us and we spent quite a bit of time in prayer. During prayer Carl felt impressed to just get up and start praising God for healing. He had me to read some Scriptures to strengthen our faith and then have special prayer as the Word teaches. Then as he raised up to get out of bed, the severe pain left his head! From that time on he began to mend. It was slow, but he just kept gaining strength! Praise the Lord! This, too, has been a real blessing to us.

This next incident that we want to mention may seem to some as a silly thing to testify about. Some may say that it is just a coincidence. But, no, God takes note of small things, and is glad to give us

earthly pleasures, too. Psalms 107:8. While on our trip in the Smoky Mountains, Carl desired that I would get to see some black bears out in the wild. We understand that it is no longer common to see them roaming around like they used to do there. I had never seen any bears except in captivity, such as in zoos, etc. So one time in prayer he just asked the Lord to grant this desire to us. Yes, God did just that. Not only did we see one bear, but we saw four! Praise be to our God!

We surely appreciate God's goodness to us in starting our lives together for Him. God has so wonderfully blessed us through His people. We have tried to thank each one, but should there be someone that we have missed, please know that we did not mean to do so. We are so unworthy of such love, and we can never thank each one enough. We just ask God to richly bless each one.

We also would like to say that we, Sis. Eva Lou Gaines, and her family deeply appreciate the prayers, letters, cards, and concern given to us. We are still serving the true God—the One who has never failed and never will. Many things in this life we may not understand but we trust God anyway. We know He does all things well. We have had to marvel at how He has given us strength to keep on. We still need and desire your prayers and God's help. At this writing (June 15th) Eva Lou's condition is not good. We are thankful that even though she is in pain and discomfort most of the time, she is able to rest and sleep considerably well. We are still encouraged to trust in God. Also, remember her husband, Clayton. This is quite a strain on him, and he isn't in good health either.

Our desire and aim, by God's sufficient grace, is to be faithful at any cost at our posts of duty.

Since we plan to continue helping some in the caring of our dear sister, Carl and I will be living in Missouri part of the time. Our address in Missouri is: Rt. 2, Box 51, Thayer, Missouri 65791, phone (417) 264-7254. Our Oklahoma address is Rt. 3, Box 194-S, Edmond, Okla. 73034, phone (405) 771-4522.

In Christian love, —Carl and Rebecca Shaffer
o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Wash.—Dear Sis. Maybelle and all at the Lord's Print Shop: Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour. I surely thank and praise His dear name for all He does for me. I want to testify to the healing of my body many times, but especially in the last year.

For nearly three years I was afflicted with what I suppose was ulcers of the stomach. The Lord has healed me of them completely! About the last two years I had another affliction on my body that was a great trial to me, and the Lord healed me of that last spring. We are most grateful to Him for His love and concern to His trusting children. I never went to the doctor, so I can give God all the glory. Praise Him! We always ask the Lord to help us get the lessons to our soul as we go through these afflictions and trials. He is our helper in every time of need.

We remember you all in prayer.

Christian love,

—Sis. Violet Thomas

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.

Continued from last issue.

In Mal. 4:5, there is a prophecy concerning John the Baptist which comes in good place here. It says, "Behold, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord." To prove that this was John the Baptist we refer you to Matt. 11:10-14. "For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare the way before thee. Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the day of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come."

Now someone may say, "How could John the Baptist be Elijah or Elias?" Granted that in physical actuality he was not; but figuratively and in spirit he was. This is clarified in the statement of the angel to Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist in Luke 1:17—"And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children"

This makes the point clear and throws some light on the text in Rom 8:9. John came at a time of deep apostasy and great spiritual darkness such as at the time of Elijah, the most outstanding of all the prophets. He came to Israel and turned the hearts of the people to God as Elijah had done in his day, and manifested the same vehemence against error and the same zeal and boldness for truth that Elijah had shown. It brought a great spiritual awakening such as Elijah's work had brought. So it is said that he went in the spirit and power of Elijah in so much that he was called Elias.

This is the way I see us having the Spirit of Christ. It is in us possessing within ourselves that same vehemence and righteous indignation against sin and error, the same zeal and boldness for truth and righteousness, the same humility, meekness, gentleness, mercy, obedience, behavior, and every other characteristic of Christ Himself and doing His work.

Col. 1:27, says, ". . . Christ in you, the hope of glory."

Eph. 3:17, says, "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith. . . ."

John 6:56, says, "He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him."

The way, then, that I interpret having the Spirit of Christ is to have Christ living within us and the Christ life predominant in all of our behavior because "the Lord is that spirit." (2 Cor. 3:17).

This happens when an individual complies with all the conditions of God's Word for salvation, properly repents of all sin, believes the promises of God, and accepts and receives God's forgiveness for all his sins; Jesus Christ comes into his heart then to direct his life and give him power over sin to live a holy and righteous life free from sin. This is what constitutes conversion, being saved, being born again, born of the Spirit, etc. This experience is described by all these terms and maybe others in the holy Scriptures.

Then as one walks in the light as he is directed and led by the indwelling Christ in his heart, he comes to the point to present his body a living sacrifice to God and consecrate and dedicate his whole life and being to God for divine service and sacred use. When that consecration is complete ("When thy soul the perfect price hath paid; God will send the holy fire.") he is filled and baptized with the Holy Spirit, (wholly sanctified) who applies the blood to his heart, purging out that old depravity of nature received from Adam with which he was born, and purifying his heart by faith (Acts 15:9), and he is made holy in heart as well as in life. This is called in the Scriptures the baptism of the Holy Spirit and also sanctification. This is the perfection, completion, or fulfilling of one's salvation. (Heb. 10:14.)

In summing up, let me emphasize that in order to have a clear understanding of what Rom. 8:9, is actually saying and teaching, we must maintain a clear distinction between the "Spirit of Christ" and the "Holy Spirit". The Holy Spirit is not the spirit of any one or of any thing but is identified by His own name and in His own right. Jesus told His disciples in Acts 1:5, ". . . ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." Note Jesus said, "the Holy Ghost," (not the Spirit of Christ). On the day of Pentecost the disciples were all filled with the HOLY GHOST (Acts 2:4)—not the Spirit of Christ. When Peter preached Christ to the household of Cornelious, while he was yet speaking, the HOLY GHOST (not the Spirit of Christ) fell on all them who heard the Word. In the 19th chapter of Acts when Paul found certain disciples at Ephesus, (Acts 19:2) he asked them, "Have ye received the HOLY GHOST (not the Spirit of Christ) since ye believed?" Note that in all these cases the Holy Spirit is identified by His own name and in His own right as a distinctly authoritative person and not as the spirit of any body or any thing. We must render Him this same reverence.

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 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." Titus 2:11, 12.

HOME



LIFE

Wanted: Christian Fathers

Have you ever stood on a high promontory and gazed in awe upon a vast expanse of mountains and valleys, rivers and forests, and marvelled on the miracle of creation? I have, but in this article I wish to relate an experience that, if possible, even surpasses that splendid wonderment, in which my godly earthly father played a vital part. I was a boy of sixteen years with a Sunday School knowledge of God and His Word, and with no surprisingly great degree of faith. We were operating a small farm and it was the time of haying. The clover and timothy mixed hay in a seven-acre triangular field had been cut and, after a period of drying, had been dump-raked and hand-cocked, suited for pitching on a rig for drawing which we were about to undertake. While engaged in the process of harnessing the team to fasten them to the wagon, the sky darkened and, as we drove into the field, a heavy storm rapidly approached us. For a moment we were in a quandry as to whether to proceed or wait out the storm. We realized that there was no time to make up a load, and clover hay loses much of its nutritional value and palatableness and, also, it will sustain a loss of many of its leaves after it has become wet and dried again. What to do? Dad looked at me, and in serious reflective deliberation said, "Earl, let's ask God to keep this hay dry until we can get it into the barn."

If this arbitrary suggestion gave me a moment's hesitation and doubt, I quickly dismissed it in favor of the hope such a proposal offered. I had been brought up to believe in a miracle-working God and was mindful of the many articles portrayed in Scripture in God's dealing with His people. We dropped to our knees there in the middle of the field and, after we both had prayed, we arose and went about making our load as though there were no black, threatening and thundering sky above us. The storm broke and we could hear the heavy drops of rain falling, but we and the hay in the field were untouched. A little later, I traversed the entire perimeter of the field and, to my amazement, everything outside the hay plot was literally and liberally drenched with rain.

Some people make a great play on the word "utterance", but there is a spiritual glory whereby one is made speechless. I just stood there, emotionally enrapt in wonderment as my heart lifted up

to believe that God, too, had just visited this spot. He had actually heard our prayers and had answered! In later years I have realized that two predominant facts stood out in this experience giving me a more perfect realization of God: first, the incident presented to me, at least, a virtual monumental revelation—a spiritual awakening—a soul consciousness in the fact that "God . . . is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Heb. 11:6.) Second, it is to His eternal praise and my everlasting gratitude and good fortune that I had a God-wise father who, without benefit of eloquent sermon, theological discourse, or trumpet's blare, led me quietly into this unsurpassed knowledge of living faith in Jesus Christ which has stood by me through the years.

Though many are the flowers strewn at mother's feet and many the eulogies delivered in her honor expressing the feeling of loving universal humanity, and while, perhaps, fathers have not been known to be so universally adored, still, fathers, too, are very often loved and respected by their boys and girls, and fathers have an obligation—God ordained—to play out their vital role of spiritual leadership in the home. And what a soul-exalting privilege to know that you are monitoring these precious little lives to salvation and eternal life! But the day is far spent; times are perilous and there is no guarantee that we may have tomorrow in which to do the Father's work. So, in view of the incredulously temporal-minded wickedness and atheism in the world today, let me urgently entreat you fathers to rise up in all your manhood and dignity and assert the spiritual leadership in the home which God has charged to your account. I am convinced that as you draw toward the portals of life you will discover nothing more heart and mind fulfilling (not the love of money nor of fame) than the fact, possessed in the knowledge that you have tried, and with God's help, done your best.

Now I should explain that I have rarely given the foregoing testimony of dry hay versus the rain, and never before have I done so publicly. The public, generally, are not susceptible to supernatural phenomena and my testimony has not gone without skepticism and incredulity. To the "Greeks" it was "foolishness": "but unto us who are saved it is the power of God," (1 Cor. 1:17-31) as He witnesses His love and His care for His own. The only party who could have validated the account would be my father and he would gladly have affirmed its accuracy. He has gone to his reward many years past. But I positively do affirm that the account as I have given it is absolutely true. Now here I close with a dictum: To His everlasting praise, we Christians have the supreme honor of serving a miracle-working God. He ever has been, and He's just the same today.

—Earl Langley

Life has a language. To live holy is to have all our words and deeds to say, "Hallowed be Thy name."

—C. E. Orr