

# FAITH AND VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



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### I AM THE DOOR

*John 10:9*

I am the door; if any man  
By me shall enter in,  
He shall be saved and shall go forth  
A conqueror over sin.

In pastures green his soul shall feed,  
Beside still waters lie;  
And nothing shall he ever need,  
For God is his supply.

I am the door, I know my sheep  
And I am known of mine;  
Within my book their names I keep,  
My fold is all divine.

Though robbers create other folds  
To lead my sheep astray,  
And many say, "Lo here, lo there,"  
I yet remain "the way."

I'm the good Shepherd—hear my voice  
And follow me today;  
Leave all behind and make thy choice  
Within my fold to stay.

I'll join your heart to all my sheep  
Whose names are kept above;  
With them thy soul shall find delight  
In my redeeming love.

I am the way, the truth, the life,  
In me ye are complete;  
My Spirit brings an end to strife,  
And pleasures pure and sweet.

Why not throw off the yokes of men  
And leave their folds behind?  
Yoke up with me and learn of me,  
And rest your souls shall find.

I am the door, I have one fold—  
And all who dwell in me  
And I in them are in my fold;  
Their spirits all agree.

—Harlan Sorrell

### How Valuable Are You to God?

In Ephesians 1:18, the Apostle Paul writes: "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints." Popular paraphraser Kenneth Taylor renders this verse as follows: "I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can see something of the future He has called you to share. I want you to realize that God has been made rich because we who are Christ's have been given to Him!"

We've always thought of a Christian as being rich by having God in his heart and life as his greatest possession, but have you ever realized that God has been made rich by having certain human beings in His possession? We all know that God is almighty and all-wise, that He has more power than anything else in the universe, that He owns everything, even "the cattle on a thousand hills," etc., but His most treasured possessions are those people who, by placing themselves at His disposal, belong to Him entirely. Such people God Himself calls His "jewels." (Mal. 3:17)

Among the human family, God can use only what He controls. There are billions of people on this earth, but God can use only those few who through love give Him the privilege of manipulating their lives for His glory. Only a relatively few will obey Him and allow His will to be done in them. He does not force His way and will on people. They must offer themselves voluntarily. They must empty themselves of themselves, i. e., of their own selfish ways, plans, purposes, ambitions, desires, etc., and allow themselves to be filled with God's ways, plans purposes, ambitions, desires, etc. Only an empty vessel can be filled; only a vessel at His disposal can be used.

How much richer is God made by having you in the group? How well do you benefit Him? The answer to these questions does not depend on what gifts you have or how much you possess, but it depends on how much of you belongs to Him. A Christian's value to God depends not on how full he is but on how empty he can become. If you have the fewest talents and abilities of all but are the most open and

yielded to God, then you are the most valuable. "For if there first be a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." 2 Cor. 8:12. God regards a full heart and an empty pocketbook much more than an empty heart and a full pocketbook. For this reason, Jesus commended the widow's paltry penny instead of the rich men's \$100 offerings.

This same principle holds true for anything else we give or do for God. For example, suppose that God had a difficult, perhaps "impossible" situation in which He wanted to place one of His representatives to bring glory to His name and perhaps souls into His kingdom. This situation would involve much suffering and a whole lot of shame and reproach. Humiliation would be involved. It would require a lot of faithfulness and consistency, and the ability to keep one's eyes looking to Jesus rather than at the surroundings. Now let's suppose that God chose you to be His representative in that situation. Would He have made a wise choice, or should He have chosen someone else? There are situations in which God cannot trust "just any ol' Christian"—He must have a special representative. Can He trust you? Will you bring glory to His name by passing the test or will you murmur, complain, kick, and squall until He and the devil and the whole world would know that you are a failure? This much can be said: The depth of your consecration and willingness will determine what you do in that situation. And what you do in that situation will determine your value to God. Therefore, the depth of your consecration determines your value to God.

Just how common is entire consecration among the people of God? It is my observation that more than ever before Christians are saving themselves—for themselves. Also, more than ever before, there exists more things and more obligations having claims on Christians. Many Christians' lives are like my paychecks (and perhaps yours, too)—they are spent before they are ever received. No matter how big a paycheck may be, when the landlord, grocer, the credit union, utility company, gasoline retailer, department store, and all the other such claimants get through placing their claims on my paycheck, I am far from being a rich man! The same can be true spiritually. When all the obligations, heart ties, personal desires, people, etc., finish putting claims on their time, money, physical and mental strength, and on their lives in general, what is left—if there be anything—is usually not enough to make much difference even if it is given to God. All too often what is made available to God are leftovers, or something that God never said He wanted or would accept. Because such practices are so widespread, it can often be said of God that He is far from being rich. Indeed, God and His work are sometimes the poorest things around. This explains the general lack of consecrated workers, the lack of consecrated money, and the lack of spiritual entrepreneurship, that is, the pioneering, trailblazing spirit and burden that lead into new areas and types of needs.

The Church is built, not only upon Jesus Christ, but also upon the sacrificed lives of its martyrs (Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5). God's truth has survived the destructive efforts of Satan through the ages by being

lodged in the hearts of people who were willing to spend and be spent for it. Notice that Christians are to be spent for whatever God has in mind. 2 Cor. 12:15, says, "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you . . ." How many people want to spend themselves for God and the souls of others just as a person spends money in the store? One will never obtain the goods if he does not have the money to spend. Neither can God obtain the glory, the souls, and the other immeasurably precious spiritual commodities He desires unless He has some "spending money in His wallet." God's spending money is the consecrated lives of His people. Only with such can He save the world. Sad to say, God must sometimes go shopping with very little money in His wallet. What He comes out of the store with depends on how much money He took in. Maybe this explains the many complaints that "there are not many souls being saved now," or "there's a shortage of pastors and other workers," and other complaints that you hear nearly every day.

The question then is: Are you a \$1 bill or a \$1000 bill in God's wallet? Also, are you spendable or are you a dollar in God's wallet belonging to someone else? Remember: your value to God does not depend on your ability but your availability. It is in your power to make God an insignificant pauper or the almighty King that He really is. Which shall He be?

—Philip Matthews

## Victory Is Found In Service

Have you ever wondered about the teaching in the Bible of being encouraged **all the time**, and to have faith and thank God for **all things**—when life has so many hard places—times when things all go wrong?

Let us look back and see how God has worked in the past. God brought (delivered, set free) His people (the children of Israel) out of Egypt because they asked Him to, and He promised to give them the Promised Land (Canaan). In the wilderness, most of them had discouragement, troubles, and problems because they were not content to let God have His way; they did not have faith to trust Him. He sought to try them (Deut. 8:2-5). Does not God work the same with His people today? We get troubled and want to blame God when He is only perfecting, or trying to perfect, His people. May God help us!

God gave His people many great and precious promises. In Deut. 8:9, God said, ". . . thou shalt not lack any thing in it." God also gave warnings of what would happen if they did not keep His statutes and commandments.

In the Canaan land, God fought many battles for the Israelites (Joshua 10:8-10), and was with them in many more battles which they had to fight to gain the Promised Land (Joshua 10:42). Take note, however, that they suffered some losses in winning the victory. God was with them and helped them, but some lost their lives in the battle. Did the people give up because some died and others were wounded? Did they blame God for not doing more?

God has laid down a plan for man to live by. The plan is the same for everyone. Some detail may vary from individual to individual, but the plan is the

same. We must serve God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength—but He will help us. We still may get hurt, suffer pain, heartache, be mistreated, etc., but God has promised to see us through. If He should ask me to lay down my life so that the victory may be won, have I room to complain? God forbid! I should praise Him to be counted worthy. Read 1 Peter 4:12-19.

God blesses His people when they are serving Him. As long as the children of Israel were in the battle (taking the land), God blessed them and provided for them. But after the land was at rest, the people grew lax, and in time, drifted from God. There should be no rest from winning souls—from carrying a real soul burden. Let us learn a lesson from Uriah. David sent for Uriah in hopes that he could cover his sin. But Uriah, coming from the battle, still thought of the battle and his fellow men. In 2 Sam. 11:11, "And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my Lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink . . . ? as thou livest, and as my soul liveth, I will not do this thing." What devotion to duty!

As we learn how to serve God with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength, we find that there are many battles and struggles, especially with self. As we look at the overall picture, we see that the daily necessities of life are immaterial, but to be close to God and understand more of what God would have us to do, we find that the harvest of souls is of primary importance.

Victory is found in serving! —Kinney Farris

## A Still, Small Voice



When the sinner becomes fully awakened to his own condition, a feeling of alarm arises; a serious meditation takes place as the words of the gospel ring in his ears: "What is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?" Luke 9:25. The pleasures of earth vanish away like a vapor before the burning rays of the sun, as the scene is presented to him in the light of eternity. This is when life is considered as vanity, and worldly show and worldly wisdom a light matter, and swept away as chaff before the wind.

As he looks out into the dark chasm of hopeless despair into which his pathway leads, every sign-board seems to point to perdition as his doom. Many, as they stood and faced this great precipice of despair, lost all hope and plunged into the depths of sin to drown their misery, but only increased the darkness and woe. Others have stood upon the brink, and as hope was lost amid the dark and gloomy surroundings, have put an end to life, only to meet their doom in eternity in a far worse state of affairs among the ceaseless wailings of the lost. To put an end to life here on earth because of trouble and sorrow does not bring deliverance from such, but brings the sting of death upon the soul, which is far more to be feared than the deadly touch of the adder or the asp; and the step can never be recalled, nor the sting removed after death has severed the thread of life and the spirit has taken its flight from the body.

While some rush heedless into the jaws of death, purposely, fearless and bold, others are accidentally hurled into eternity, without a moment's warning. Alas! their doom is sealed.

I have stood by the cold, lifeless form of a once bright young man, who, a few hours before was in the bloom of health. On his face was depicted the words, "sorrow, disappointment." In his pocket was a letter written before the suicidal ball was spent, and there were the same words penned with his own hand, with these words also to his friends: "Meet me in heaven." Then taking the murderous weapon ended his life only to meet his doom and read words that cannot be erased throughout the ceaseless ages, "disappointed." Imagine his horror and astonishment to find that he had no inheritance in heaven, but was banished from the presence of God to abide His wrath forevermore.

I have lifted the dying form of the aged as the last breath of life was taking its departure from one who was hurled into eternity, by a runaway team while he was under the curse of rum, and death found him with gray locks and a heart stained with sin, unprepared to meet his God.

I have lifted the lacerated form from the railway track of one in the prime of life, as death was closing the scene here on earth to unroll and sketch a scene beyond this vale of tears.

But we turn again to the brink of this awful chasm where sin has widened the gulf between the wandering transgressor and God. See him as he has been rushing down the dark way now, almost hopelessly groping along in the darkness of despair. Hark! Listen to that voice behind you, O despairing one; hear the words: "This is the way, walk ye in it." Isa. 30:19. But he says, "Could that mean me?" Yes; it means you. When you turn to the right, or to the left, that voice says, "This is the way, walk ye in it." It is a voice from heaven pointing out the way for the salvation of your soul. What will you do?

At this point is where the faint rays of hope appear, yet all in the spiritual sky is darkness. Satan whispers, "It is too late with you; there is no mercy now, and to reform is impossible; all hope has fled away." But that sweet voice continues and not only points out the way, but says, "Look and live." "He that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out." The sinner says, "I cannot come; I am lost, undone, bound by fetters from which there is no deliverance; all is darkness around me."

But hear that voice again: "I am the way." "I came to seek and to save the lost."—E. E. Byrum  
(Taken from *The Secret of Salvation*)

Faith advances right out on God's word, counting it true whether it looks that way or not. Faith is "the evidence of things not seen." Then it precedes the blessing desired, for it is the "evidence" of it. "He that believeth . . . hath the witness in himself." As soon as we believe it becomes a fact in us. Faith is arms and eyes and ears to the soul. It reaches out into seeming dark and plucks rarest treasures; it sees the invisible; pierces the blackest cloud and sees a pathway through.

—R. L. Byers

Selected from *Gospel Trumpet* 1911.

# 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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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.

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## EDITORIALS

Greetings to each of you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. God's truth is still marching on victoriously. It prevails over every foe—even "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt. 16:18. Satan is gathering all the forces together that he possibly can to destroy the Church of God, but he is fighting a lost cause. Yes, it's true that the enemy is encircling the camp of the saints and drawing the bands tighter, but one day God is going to say, "It is enough," and take His Church out of this world to be with Him forever in eternity, and the devil and his angels will be cast into the lake of fire for ever and ever.

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Thanksgiving is being offered to God for sparing the lives of Sis. Grace Lassche (one of our co-workers) and Tea Cea Meek who were involved in a serious automobile accident on Sat., Sept. 17. Sis. Grace's car was struck from behind by a tractor-trailer truck. The extent of injury is not fully known, but we are thankful for God's mercy extended to them and that both are able to be back home. Pray for their complete recovery.

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

Larry Eck, son of Sis. Beatrice and the late Bro. Waldo Eck, was seriously injured while working on an oil drilling rig recently. One leg was severely crushed and one arm was broken when a heavy piece of casing fell on him. He has been in much pain since the accident. He greatly appreciates the prayers of the saints in his behalf. His address is: Larry D. Eck, c/o Presbyterian Hospital, Room 517, N. E. 13th and Lincoln, Oklahoma City, Ok. 73104.

—Randall Flynn

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

Due to the undependable condition of the folder which has been used for the *Faith and Victory* paper since the machine was purchased in the late 1940's, we have invested in a used collator to replace it. In place of glue to hold the paper together, the collator will stitch the pages and eliminate the need to trim off so much paper. This in turn will provide the equivalent of an extra page of print, and should speed the whole process of the operation.

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There are many needs in the Church, and while we do not wish to burden our readers for financial support, we desire that you be aware of several funds that are maintained at the Print Shop: a missionary fund for those laboring in foreign lands; and a gospel fund for those in the ministry and other needs here in the States.

Also, there are many other areas in the Church that need our support. There are a number of Christian schools being operated by the saints which need much financing. There are several building projects among the saints that need our support. Seek God for what He would have you do in His kingdom to help souls.

I believe that our first duty is to our local congregation and those about us. Then, as the Lord prospers us, we should broaden our view to help the needy and suffering in other areas.

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully

shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:6, 7.

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In stock and available for the price of \$1.50 each, are 1984 wall calendars. Each calendar measures 7 1/4 by 13 1/2 inches and includes a colorful nature scene for every month. Remember to include 75¢ for postage and handling.

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We hope to have available in the month of October, two books which we are in the process of reprinting. Effie Williams is the author of a 118-page book entitled *A Hive of Busy Bees*, which contains interesting and instructive stories, and sells for \$1.00. *Our Darlings' Bible ABC Book* by Isabel Byrum will have approximately 60 pages and will sell for 50¢. This book is appropriate for young children and is directed toward teaching the ABC's in accompaniment with Bible stories. Both books make excellent gifts for grandchildren and friends. Postage should be included with your order: 65¢ for the first dollar and 7¢ for each additional dollar of the total order.

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"Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled." Titus 1:15.

The conscience is a God-given asset and should be tended with delicacy and diligence. It is for the purpose of prompting man to make the right choice after he has received instruction as to what is right and wrong. Consequently, it is important that it be educated wisely and then paid attention to.

Our conscience is given to warn, not uphold us. Just as Sampson placed his head in Delilah's lap, many people place themselves in the lap of temptation and hope that their conscience is forceful enough to preserve them from the wrong.

There are those who have seared their conscience and thereafter traveled the road to hell in apparent unconcern. Some have even gone so far as to consciously serve the devil.

I urge each one to search the Scriptures and find what God requires of man. Don't put all the responsibility on the preacher to shape your conscience, but become convinced within yourself of the life that God demands. God is calling His people to holiness, and every individual must have it instilled within his heart.

Someone wrote that "the conscience is that still, small voice that makes you feel still smaller."

—Wayne Murphey

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## Partial List of Items Available

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**German translation of the excellent book, Bible Readings for Bible Students** by Speck and Riggle. This German edition of 360 pages is bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$4.00 each.

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He who will listen to any words of levity, jesting, foolishness, tale-bearing, tattling, and show no disapproval makes himself a partaker of the sin.

—C. E. Orr

## In Memorial

**Kay Darlene Brown** was born July 31, 1947, in Akron, Ohio. She passed from this life June 30, 1983, at the age of 35 years and 11 months.

She was united in marriage to Frank D. Williams, Sr., and to this union three sons were born.

She gave her heart to the Lord in 1964, and was born into the Church of God. She worshipped with the saints in Akron, Ohio, and had their respect and confidence. She was a faithful follower of the Lord through all the trials of life. She was called to the ministry, and labored effectively and faithfully. She was very conscientious before God, living a careful life. She manifested great faith in God and was true to her Lord unto the end. She gave until there was nothing else to give, and it can be said of her as Jesus said of one who ministered to Him: "She hath done what she could."

She is survived by her husband, Frank, and three sons of the home, Todd, Frank, Jr., and Tobias; her father and step-mother, three brothers, two sisters, her grandmother, and a host of other relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were held in Akron, Ohio, and interment was in Greenlawn Cemetery, Akron, Ohio.

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**Sis. Rubye Quave Signorelli**, born Dec. 11, 1906, in Draker, S. Dakota, departed this life and went to be with Jesus on August 3, 1983, at the age of 76 years, 7 months, and 27 days. She had been a resident of Hammond, La., for many years, but was living at the time of her passing in the Golden Rule Home at Shawnee, Okla.

She was married to Frank Quave on May 31, 1930. To this union five daughters and four sons were born. Her husband, Frank, preceded her in death on Nov. 21, 1941; she was also preceded in death by one daughter, Theresa Quave, and by her second husband.

Sis. Rubye was born into the family of God (The Church of God) of which she was a member in particular for some forty years or more, and lived a life of faith and trust in God as she earnestly contended "for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." This was the theme of her life.

She is survived by four daughters, Mrs. Harry (Betty) Hodges, Mrs. George (Joyce) Griffin, Mrs. Lee (Patsy) Chestnut, and Mrs. Charles (Ruth Ann) Scott; four sons, Victor, Jerry, Roger, and Frank Quave; four sisters, one brother, nineteen grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Max Williamson and Bob Forbes in the Harry McKneely and Son Funeral Home, Inc., in Hammond, La. Burial was in the Oak Grove Church of God Cemetery near Loranger, La.

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**Brother Eugene Hardman** was born in Tulsa, Okla., Aug. 19, 1905, to Joseph and Nancy Hardman, and departed this life Aug. 24, 1983, at the age of 78 years.

On July 5, 1936, he was united in marriage to Eva Williams, and to this union six children were born; five daughters and one son. Two daughters preceded him in death.

From the time he professed a hope in Christ, he lived faithfully in the Lord until his death. "Hallelujah, hallelujah! My soul is now free! For the precious blood of Jesus cleanseth even me" became his testimony.

He leaves to mourn his passing a loving and faithful wife, Eva Hardman; three daughters, Doris Clay of Goulds, Fla., Geraldine Dews and Rosella Hill, both of Dallas, Tex.; one son, Raymond Hardman of Tulsa, Okla.; two brothers, two sisters, sixteen grandchildren, and a host of other relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Lewis Williams assisted by others. Burial was in Green Acres Memorial Gardens.

#### Note of Thanks

We want to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to you, our friends, who have shared your time, cards, flowers, calls, and your prayers during this hour of bereavement. May God bless you and keep you. Your friendship has been comforting to all of us.

—The family

## MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

### REPORT OF BOLEY, OKLA. CAMP MEETING

We are very thankful to the Lord for blessing in the Boley Camp Meeting, and for the ministers and workers He sent to help fight in the battle against sin. There were several ministers from other states as well as a number of local ministers in attendance. The Word of God was preached under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The messages were very stirring and convicting. A few souls made their way to the altar, were saved, and later baptized. Others sought the Lord for other spiritual help. Much of the Word was to the Church, exhorting us to be honest, faithful, and keep our experience clear with the Lord.

The ordinance service was very solemn. We felt the presence of the Lord as we remembered His death and suffering for the salvation of our souls. Praise the Lord!

We appreciate those who labored in the kitchen to cook and serve meals; also Sis. Vera Chapel who prepared food in her home and brought it to the camp ground to help serve the saints. May the Lord bless every one for their labor of love.

On Sat., Aug. 27, we were blessed to have forty-two ministers and workers on the camp ground, who met in the chapel to discuss the relationship between *The Evening Light* and *Faith and Victory* papers, and agreed fully to bid God's speed to both and to all other pure, Spirit-filled, gospel publishing efforts.

Again, we thank the Lord for all that was accomplished in the meeting—for the precious spirit manifested and the sweet fellowship of the saints, and for the unity of love that was manifested in the ministers' meeting. We give God all the honor and praise.

Yours in His great name, —Katherine Williams

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### REVIVAL AT HOLLY HILL, S. C.

The Church of God congregation at Holly Hill, S. C., is planning, Lord willing, to have a revival meeting Oct. 10-17, 1983. We are praying for the Lord

to send ministers and workers of His choosing. A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend.

For more information contact Bro. Utson Platt at Rt. 1 Box 34, Holly Hill, S. C. 29059.

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### ANNUAL FALL REVIVAL AT OKMULGEE, OK.

The Okmulgee Church of God annual fall revival meeting will begin, Lord willing, Oct. 17, and will continue through Oct. 23, 1983, with services at 7:30 p. m. each night. We're praying for the Lord to send ministers and workers of His choosing. A hearty welcome is extended to all.

The chapel is located at 1002 E. Martin Luther King Dr. (formerly E. McLagen St.).

For more information contact Brother Woodrow Warren at 810 N. Porter, Okmulgee, Ok. 74447, phone 918-756-6425.

—Sis. Erma Johnson

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### NO ASSEMBLY MEETING AT LORANGER, LA.

Although much progress has been made and the new chapel is nearly completed, there will not be an assembly meeting held this fall at the Oak Grove Church of God near Loranger, La. Many things necessary for an assembly meeting this fall will not be completed in time. The prayers and support of the saints in this project have been greatly appreciated and thankfully received.

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### DORMITORY NEEDED

The saints at Green Bank, W. Virginia, are desiring to build a much needed men's dormitory. The camp meeting there has grown to the point that there is quite an attendance. In the past the men have been dependent on staying in the homes of several different ones, which is rather inconvenient. By building a men's dormitory on the church grounds, several problems would be alleviated.

If you have any contributions that you would like to make to this project, address it to: Bro. Mart Samons, P. O. Box 127, Green Bank, W. Va. 24944.

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## Prayer Requests

Idaho—Sis. Ruby Marken requests prayer for healing, and also for her sister.

Ill.—"My mother and sister are in a nursing home; they need prayer for soul and body."

—Sis. Wilma Sanders

Tex.—Sis. Nellie Lovell requests prayer for her two daughters.

Ala.—"Please pray for my unsaved loved ones."

—Leora Frink

Ok.—Sis. Ruth Murphey needs prayer for healing.

Ill.—Sis. Nina Champion is in need of prayer, and she also requests prayer for two children, ages 2 ½ and 1 year old, who have leukemia.

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Phil. 4:6. "With thanksgiving" is something we should take special care to not overlook. When we are burdened with problems, afflictions, perplexities, etc., if we are not



careful, we will forget to offer the thanksgiving and praise that are due God. Thanksgiving and praise are **always** in order—not just when God has answered our prayer. What are we to be thankful for? First of all for God Himself; for the plan of salvation, and for Jesus Christ Who offered Himself as an eternal sacrifice for sin. We should continually offer thanksgiving for all of God's past blessings and answers to prayer, and that He is just the same today, and will stay the same forever. And, yes, we can be thankful that we have been accounted worthy to suffer for righteousness' sake. "If I had ten thousand lives in which to praise Him, I could not enough my blessed Lord adore."

We do not want to forget our dear brothers and sisters who are still suffering affliction. Let's keep them before the throne of God daily until deliverance has come. We should also pray for the Church in general—surely we are all needy creatures before God.

—Randall Flynn

## FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

### SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS REPORT

Okla.—Dear ones: Greetings in Jesus' sweet and precious name. The Spanish literature work continues to progress with more tracts being printed for distribution to Mexico, Central America, South America, and Honduras. We thank the Lord and all who are sending in support for this work to be extended to more and more souls.

We also want the Lord to bless all who have contributed to the purchase of the building and lot in Chapultepec, B. Cfa., Mexico, for the beginning of a new work in winning souls to God.

Yours in His service and for the saving of souls,  
—Opal Kelly

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### REPORT OF MISSION WORK IN GHANA

Okla.—Dear Bro. Randall: Greetings of Christian love in the name of Jesus to all the saints here and scattered abroad.

Once again I come your way with a report concerning the Church of God work in Ghana, W. Africa. Souls are being saved and baptized; the floor and the walls of the mission house have been constructed, and the roof goes on next. As funds continue to come in they will be able to finish the building.

I am preparing to return to Ghana in Jan., 1984, but I have been a little concerned over a Ghana advisory report from Washington, which appeared in *Travel Weekly*, Sept. 15, issue. I quote: "The State Department has advised that U. S. Citizens not travel to Ghana except for essential reasons, . . . chances are great for considerable inconveniences, including strict security checks and other travel restrictions for arriving and departing passengers." The report almost persuaded me to give up plans to go, but since that report came to my attention, Bro. Jim Akwasi got me out of bed the other morning with an international phone call from Accra, Ghana, telling me to come on a two-week visa as I did before. After I get there I should be able to get a 6-months or a 12-months permit to stay on the mission field. Before the day

was over I received a cable from him giving me the same instructions.

Unless God would intervene, I can't turn these instructions down. What reason could be more essential than taking the gospel into Ghana? Bro. Jim's Uncle Duku, who is a man of some authority, will meet me at the airport and conduct me through customs, and also in departing. . . .

I desire that all the saints pray that my every effort will be anointed and count for the winning of souls. This could be the past personal contact I shall ever have with them.

Yours for souls, —Dorothy Keiser  
Rt. 6 Box 8 B, Shawnee, Ok. 74801  
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### BUILDING PURCHASED IN MEXICO

Calif.—Dear Sis. Maybelle and workers: We greet you lovingly in the precious name of Jesus.

We wanted to tell you and the saints that we have purchased a house in a little town south of Ensenada, Baja Cfa., Mexico for a chapel. There is a saved family living there and others interested in the truth who for some time have wanted services there. This house is right next door to the saints' home and was for sale. The price was \$4500 besides the cost of changing titles, etc. This price includes a fair-sized lot [approx. 52 by 82 feet]. Since the government of Mexico bought our little village in Ejido Patzcuaro and paid for the chapel that we had there, we put the money in the bank in investments. After much prayer and with several of the saints concerned about this matter, we felt agreed to attempt to buy this house with the money from the chapel in Patzcuaro. We used the money from the chapel and also borrowed \$1723.00 which we need to return. The house is paid for and is in the names of my husband and the pastor in Ojos Negros, Bro. Mayarino Escobar. The names of American citizens cannot be on property there. The house is not finished. It needs sealing of the roof, doors, windows, electricity, plumbing, paint, and other small things. We will begin all of this after the loan is paid off.

The folks there in the place where we bought the house for a chapel wonder who will come to be the pastor or help them. We had nothing to tell them except that the Lord knows the need; He has worked it out about buying the house and we are sure that He will call someone to come and help them. They are a very sincere family and are eager to learn. Surely, the Lord is calling someone to a service of love to teach these little ones in the good and right way. We ask an interest in your prayers for all of the work of the Lord in Mexico—where we once lived, in Ojos Negros, and all of the other contacts.

I trust I have explained this well enough so all can understand it. If any are interested or have some questions, please feel free to write to us and I will try to explain it better. Please help us pray for this new work and for the finishing of the house to make a chapel. As of now we have \$300 to pay back on the loan. We want to thank you for all the help you have sent to us and for your prayers. We trust that the Lord will bless one and all for your love and sacrifice.

In Christian love, —Edith Cole Lara  
P. O. Box 824, Thermal, Ca. 92274



**REPORT OF MISSION WORK IN INDIA**

S. India (Aug. 20)—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt, the dear ones at Guthrie, and all the saints in America: We send our greetings of Christian love to you again in the precious name of Jesus Christ. Thank you very much for your kind letter and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude and appreciation.

I am very glad to note that the National Camp Meeting at Neosho, Mo., was precious and blessed with large attendance and good altar work. If the Lord gives me another chance, I would like to attend the camp meetings there next year or so.

By the grace of God we have good rain now, and have much water in the wells to drink and in the fields to plant rice. Praise the Lord!

During the second week of August we had a crusade at Anayam which was blessed with good results. The new chapel at Athani, which is in North Kerala, was dedicated for the service of the Lord on Aug. 15. It is a nice chapel for the saints in that locality to assemble for worship, and we expect the salvation of many Catholics in that area.

But here is some sad news. We have a chapel at Chalekudy, the roof of which was not strong as it was made of bamboo rods. At that time, due to the shortage of money, we could not build its roof with lumber. Last night the roof of that chapel fell down. The pastor and family were sleeping in the side rooms, but nobody was injured. God protected them under His wings. We have to buy lumber and build the roof again. The foundation and walls are very strong. Approximately \$800 is needed for this urgent repair. . . . We request the prayers and support of the dear saints.

We once again invite the dear ones in America to come and attend our camp meetings which start in Jan., 1984, and continue to April. The general convention at Karikkom is scheduled to be conducted in the third week of Jan. Please come and enjoy the meetings and help us with spiritual blessings. We remember you all in our prayers every day.

Yours in Him, —John Varghese  
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**MISSION REPORT FROM NIGERIA**

W. Africa (Aug. 3)—Dear Bro. Hammond and saints of the Most High: Greetings in the purifying name of the Lord Jesus—our Saviour, Sanctifier, and Healer. We are thankful for our great Physician who made atonement for our souls and bodies. Praise the Lord!

Thank you for your letter dated June 30, which traveled at a snail speed and was received only on Aug. 1.

We rejoice for the testimony of a great many to the goodness of the Lord as He stretches forth His healing hand to heal, save, and sanctify. The Church of God congregations here are on higher ground being blessed of the Lord. It has pleased the Lord to inculcate in the young people the spirit of mobile evangelism. . . . Plowing the fields and scattering good seeds over the land, and trampling Satan under their feet at each turn has been their major occupation. . . .

Even though cassava worth \$400 was stolen from the church farm, this 1982-83 experimental farm has

yielded enormously. Proceeds from the sale of its harvested crops is hoped to provide the fund for the entire needed seats in the new chapel at Kwale.

Satan, who has been evil from the beginning, is so worried about the loss of his followers to Christ that he entered the heart of unknown thieves who made away with the church generator used for evangelistic meetings and indoor activities. Sad enough for him (Satan), the open-air preaching scheduled to be held at Ezionum, will still be held for three days, beginning with Aug. 26. Obstruction from this arch enemy of souls will not halt the positive advancement of the sanctified children of God.

Blessings from above did accrue in the revival meeting held at Umuguma-Owerri in the month of July. The meeting closed with victory over the combined kingdoms of sin and darkness.

Yours in Him, —Titus U. E. Enu  
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**REPORTS FROM PHILIPPINE MISSIONS**

Surigao City (Sept. 3)—Dear Bro. Hammond and all the saints: Greetings in the truly precious and blessed name of Him who loved us first while we were yet sinners with the prayer that you, your loved ones, and all the saints of God are fine physically, and more important, spiritually.

We are so happy and thankful again to receive your kind letter full of love and encouragement. We do appreciate it and accept again our most heartfelt thanks for the enclosures.

As we continue our work among the cultural minorities, everything is going smoothly; more souls are added to our flock. The native church building where we hold our services is now overflowing with the worshippers every service and they can no longer be accommodated therein. We are still longing to have a bigger one and we are fervently praying for it. . . . How we wish that some of you will be able to witness personally the services and fellowship we have here. It thrills our hearts to see these mountain people in darkness being brought to the Light of the world. Lord, be with us always. . . .

May God bless you all,

—Bro. and Sis. Idle Detuya

San Jose City (Sept. 1)—Dear Bro. Hammond: Greetings of love in the precious name of Jesus. Hope this short letter finds you well and happy in Christ's service.

With God's help the gospel work here is moving forward in spite of strong opposition of the adversary. Last Sunday afternoon two precious souls from barrio Palistina were baptized in Caridad River. Some are scheduled to be baptized this coming Sunday also. Thank the Lord for penitent believers desiring to be baptized.

When we went home after baptism last Sunday afternoon, the tricycle on which the young people were riding met with an accident on a bridge in Palistina. All our seven young ladies were wounded, but five were just slightly injured. My daughter, Miriam, was thrown into the canal, but was not seriously injured except for a scratch on her knee. The two are still on their bed, but they waid with a smile that they will continue to witness for Christ as soon as they get well.

Ruth, with some young people, is preparing to go to Puncan today. She went there last Monday morning visiting the saints and had Bible studies in the homes of several prospects. She said that three are desiring to be baptized. Ruth is praying for a way for her to go to the States to attend camp meetings. She is anxious to have fellowship with the saints, and especially with the young people there. She said, "May the Lord help us to bring the truth to the 53 million Filipinos before the end comes, and if possible extend the truth of salvation to other neighboring countries."

We are all praying for you. Please pray for us.

With much love, —M. S. Tangunan and family

## From the Mailbox . . .

Okla.—Dear saints everywhere: Remember Sis. Lizzie Jordan in your prayers. A pit bulldog bit her right leg pretty bad. The Lord is blessing and she is thankful and encouraged to press on in Jesus' name. Most of the soreness and swelling is gone. Her love goes out to the saints and their families. She desires your prayers.

There has been a death in my family. My sister was buried on Tues., Aug. 30, in Los Angeles, Calif. We're thankful for the prayers, words of sympathy, and every act of kindness.

We hope some of you will be able to attend our revival meeting next month.

Let us ever love each other.

—Sis. Erma Johnson

Ore.—Dear Sis. Maybelle and workers at the Print Shop: We greet all of you in holy love in the name of the Holy Child Jesus, God's only begotten Son and our Saviour and Redeemer. . . .

We returned last week from the California State Camp Meeting and I will say it was one of the best we have known for many years in Pacoima. Attendance was better also. We hear that same report all around the country. Our meeting at Jefferson was the same way and also at Chilliwick. We also heard it was that way at Monark Springs, Myrtle, and Green Bank. It just seems this was a special year all around.

The last day at Pacoima was one like I have never seen before in my lifetime that I recall. It was Sunday and the closing day of the camp meeting, but there was no message given in any of the services all day long. People started coming to the altar during the song after prayer, and they just kept coming and the saints just kept singing. That service (Sun. morning) continued right on through until ten minutes before 2:00 p. m., with numbers at the altar all the time. They recessed for about an hour and started the afternoon service; it went the same way with numbers at the altar. That service continued to a late hour and then recessed for supper. The night service was totally singing, both specials and congregational, with a good number at the altar, and it continued until 11:00 p. m., or after. They just simply did not need any message. Oh, of course, as Bro. Lewis Williams says, "There's a message in every song," and on that basis there were many, many messages that day.

Another thing about the afternoon service—we had an ordination service during the afternoon service and ordained Brothers Adriel Bowman and Daniel

Layne as elders in the Church of God. I never remember seeing an ordination service turn out like that one. It just seemed that God put His seal on it and poured out a good blessing on everybody. After the ordination ceremony, Bro. Calvin Hobbs requested that all the California ministers come and kneel around the altar for special prayer. They did this and the Spirit of the Lord came down upon them and broke them up and they wept, rejoiced, fell in one another's arms and embraced—some of them several times. I have never in all my lifetime and more than 50 years in the ministry seen an ordination service like it. . . .

May the riches blessings of the Lord be upon you all in both soul and body, and may He give unto all of you all things which pertain unto life and godliness through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Yours in the Master's service,

—Ostis and Evelyn Wilson

Canada—Dear ones: Thanks be to God for His loving kindness unto us. In these last days the battle is growing hotter. The enemy is doing everything in his power to drag the saints of God down, but, glory to God, He enables us to stand in the face of the strongest onslaught. Through Jesus Christ we are able to gloriously triumph. Thank the Lord!

We thank the Lord for the services you make available to the saints. We pray for the Lord to lead you according to His will. Pray for a greater burden for souls that are lost and on their way to eternal damnation. Let us do whatever we can as the Lord leads.

Your sister washed in Jesus' blood,

—Elizabeth Whittall

S. C.—Dear saints at the Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am happy to say, "Praise the dear Lord for saving grace," and to report that He is continuing to bless our meetings here at Holly Hill, S. C. We are full believers of the truth, and are praising God for the truth. Although Satan is working very hard and causing some to notice him and turn aside, thank God there are some that will not heed his cunning ways. As we read in 2 Tim. 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Yours in Christ,

—Utson Platt

La.—Dear Sis. Maybelle and all the workers at the Lord's Print Shop: We trust this finds all of you well and happy in the service of the Lord. We are doing very well and enjoying the many blessings the Lord bestows upon us.

We're enjoying the cooler weather. It has rained three or four days this week. . . . We hear it is hot and dry in so many places in the world. We do pray the dear Lord will soon send rain to every needed place.

Some here are not very well in body, . . . and the Lord is blessing some with a healing touch. The dear Lord heals me so many times of aches and pains. . . . I'm thankful how He keeps me up and going as well as what I am.

Enclosed is an offering for the *Faith and Victory* paper. May God bless His work there and also the laborers, and keep each one encouraged. We are looking for the soon coming of our dear Saviour. Pray

for my unsaved loved ones. Pray for me that I'll be what God is calling me to be. . . .

With Christian love, —Effie Miller

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N. Mex.—Dear Sis. Maybelle, and all the other saints: Greetings of love in the lovely name of Jesus. I'm trusting and believing that all is well with everyone there.

The *Faith and Victory* paper is so good; I love to read it over and over. I love all you dear saints. . . . I thank and praise the dear Lord to feel well enough to be able to do my duties.

May God bless and help all of you is my prayer.  
Christian love, —Ruth Doolittle

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## Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Ky.—Dear saints abroad: Greetings in Jesus' precious name, Who has redeemed us from all our sins. I thank the Lord for His love and goodness this morning. The Lord loves each one of us. He loves each sinner and His only goal and aim is to bring each one of us through to heaven. What a kind, loving God we serve! He is not harsh and grating, but patient and "longsuffering to usward." Thank the Lord! My only desire this morning is to please God in everything. I always pray that He will keep my heart honest and humble before him so that I can always be open to whatever He would reveal to me.

I love the saints of God this morning, and I cannot be thankful enough how they have stood by us in our severe circumstances. We thank each one of you for your prayers, letters, cards, and offerings. I pray that God will richly reward every sacrifice made. I want to especially thank the dear saints for the offering that was taken at Monark Springs Camp Meeting. We cannot adequately express our sincere thanks. We sincerely appreciate how the Lord saw it good to use Bro. and Sis. Curtis Williams in helping and standing by us in so many ways. They have made many sacrifices in our behalf, and we are grateful for their labor of love.

Betty is yet severely suffering, but is much encouraged in her spirit. The Lord has given her wonderful victory, and she is fully trusting in God; she has not resorted to the arm of flesh. God has the grace for each one of us to fully trust Him no matter how severe our case may be. Betty's life and trust in God has proven this. She feels her battle will not be too much longer, but she says if the Lord sees fit to take her Home, she is ready to meet the Lord.

Continue to pray for us.

—Agathe Friesen

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W. Va.—Dear saints: Greetings in the name of our Lord who died for us. The Lord has blessed us so much that we thought we should share it with you.

On Sunday morning, August 28, Brother Mancil Doolittle brought a message on what we are and why things happen to us. I just sat there wondering why things were going so smoothly for us. It had been awhile since we had been through a trial, . . . so I asked the Lord to send something to help us know where we stood and that would make Him more real to us.

On Sunday night after service I was talking to someone when another individual came up to me and said, "Keithie fell off the fence and his arm is broken." I didn't know what to do—I just stood there. The first thing that came to my mind was my prayer that morning. So I said, "Thank you, Lord." I looked up and saw Keith carrying Keithie inside the chapel and the saints were following him. Keithie was crying as though he were in terrible pain. I could hear the saints praying and begging the Lord to come on the scene and help. I didn't hear Keithie crying any more and finally went inside. . . .

Even though I was very upset, I saw a very beautiful picture. The children of the congregation, from the youngest to the oldest, were all around the altar agreeing in prayer. The Lord blessed and gave me much comfort.

I knelt down at the back bench as they started to pray again. The Lord reminded me that it took Him to give us this child, and of the time that a vice fell on his foot when he was about 18 months old. At that time the saints prayed for him even before taking his shoe off, and when they did take it off, there wasn't even a bruise. The Lord let me know that He could handle this, too. . . . I looked up and Keithie was moving his hand and said it didn't hurt any more. . . .

When we came in the house that night, Keithie was carrying a can of pop in the hand of the arm that was broken. He has used the arm ever since. Different ones of the congregation said they really believed that his arm was broken. My sister, Cathy, said that when she picked him up his arm was hanging sideways. We know the Lord worked a miracle. Thank the Lord, He is the same yesterday, today, and for ever!

Pray for us; we feel like unworthy servants.  
Christian love,

—Keith and Billie Jean Beverage

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Okla.—Dear saints: I'm so thankful to the Lord for His blessings to me. He has blessed me with so much that I'm constrained and determined to live the rest of my life for Him.

I would like to testify of God's goodness to me recently. On Sept. 17, I was traveling north near Chetopa, Ks., and was in the process of turning left onto a gravel road when the left rear part of my car was struck from behind by a transport truck. My car was forced off the road and we just escaped being killed. (There was one other passenger in the car: Tea Cea Meek.). The car was "totaled," and we were thankful to be able to crawl out of there alive.

We were jostled quite a lot and suffered some bruises, but we suffer them gladly, being grateful to the Lord for sparing our lives. My head struck some part of the car during the wreck, and I guess I went into shock. Bro. and Sis. Randel Bradley lived nearby and they came to the scene of the accident. On the way to their home, my head started hurting severely, and my stomach felt queasy. They called for some of the saints to come for prayer, and the Lord eased the pain.

I feel like I've been healed all over my body. So many things could have happened: we could have been maimed for life, suffered brain damage, or even killed. It just seems so good to be alive! I didn't even

have time to pray. I don't remember being hit at all, and had no time to even think, "This is it." Oh, I'm so glad to be saved! There was absolutely no time to ask the Lord to forgive me of anything, had that been necessary. Dear people, let's live our lives to be ready to go whenever the Lord calls for us.

I have not completely recovered from the accident (I have headaches every day), but I'm trusting the Lord to take care of those, too. Pray for me that I'll always be what the Lord would have me to be.

In His love and goodness, —Grace Lassche

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Canada—Dear Grace: Thanks so much for your letter and for all the work you went to concerning the information I had requested. . . .

I was able to attend the Pacoima camp meeting. It was one wonderful answer to prayer all the way down and back. The Lord really blessed and I am very thankful.

An incident happened during a family outing before I went which may be an inspiration to parents and children concerning the answering of prayers. We camped out at a nice provincial park, and the girls (ages 6 and 4 ½) and I walked down to the lake (approx. ¼ mile) from our campsite. On our way back, we took a nature trail through the trees instead of sticking to the road. The trail seemed to be about a mile as it twisted and turned through the woods. When we came out I was completely turned around and didn't know in which direction our campsite was. After a few moments of wandering, the girls spied our car and ran to it. The next morning they wanted to walk down to the lake themselves. Their father and I were busy packing up to leave, so it seemed all right. We could see the lake through the trees, so figured the girls could find it all right. They weren't back in an hour and I started praying. Shortly afterwards they appeared, looking relieved to be back. The oldest girl told me afterwards that they had decided to take the nature trail on their way back to the campsite. They must have become confused by all the side trails, or may have even wandered off on one of them, but the oldest girl knew they were lost. I have been saved only a year, but the Lord in this short time, allowed the girls to pick up something on the value of prayer. These two girls knelt in the trail and asked Jesus to help them get back to the campsite. They then turned around and found a trail leading out to the road and walked up safely. Praise the Lord! I would not have known where the girls were if I'd tried to find them, but God knew. I'm thankful to be serving the living God!

—Phyllis Mader

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

Mo.—Dear saints: Greetings! I'm happy in the Lord this morning, and feel good in my body most of the time. The Lord provides my daily needs. The Lord has always been good to me, but it seems He has been especially good to me in the last 15 months since He took Eldon to Himself.

I'd like to tell some of the highlights of what the Lord has done for me. On Wed. night after Eldon's funeral, I was in prayer meeting in Neosho. While in prayer the Lord gave me a vision of comfort. I was in the cemetery where Eldon's body is awaiting the resurrection day. A large crowd was with me. I was near his grave when a voice spoke to me saying, "He

is not in that grave (suddenly my attention was drawn to a locust shell near by) any more than that locust is in that shell." With the grave to my left, my attention was drawn across a deep, swift, cold river. Looking across that river, I saw Eldon. He had just made the crossing and was safe on the other side, but he was looking to us, encouraging us to be sure and make a safe landing at any cost.

A short time later at Monark Springs Camp Meeting, during prayer at one afternoon service I saw Eldon again. This time he was near the same place as before, but he was not paying any attention to us on this side. He was busy visiting with Bro. Waldo Eck. It seemed that Bro. Waldo was telling him of all the splendors of the place they had reached. Bro. Waldo had passed away about a year or so before Eldon did.

The saints were so good to me last summer during the camp meetings. I recall one little child putting his arm around me and saying, "Oh! Sis. Rhoades." It seemed that was all he could say, but it meant so much to me. Another time I was trying to eat; Sis. Clark reached her hand across the table to mine and said, "I'm going to pray for. . ." Then I heard footsteps and others were kneeling behind me also in agreement of prayer. . . . This last camp meeting at Guthrie a sister in her late teens came to me and inquired about my welfare. . . . There are no people like the saints. Others may be kind and helpful, but they just don't know how to get hold of the Lord in time of real need.

The Lord has helped me so much and I can lead a reasonably normal life again. There was never any question of Eldon's being ready to go. The Lord was good to give me these visions to help me on. This is the second time the Lord has taken my companion. The grief of the union being broken is the same, but the circumstances are quite different. . . .

I was privileged to attend three camp meetings this summer, and also was able to go to the young people's meeting at Monark Springs over Labor Day weekend. I enjoyed listening to the young people sing, pray, preach, and testify of the goodness of the Lord. I do appreciate the young people. . . . Young people, stay true to the Lord. It's the only life that pays in this world or the world to come.

Pray for me.

Your sister in the Lord, —Alice Rhoades

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

Kans.—Dear saints: This testimony is long overdue. I have testified to many personally and also publicly, but the Lord has shown me that I should also put my testimony in the paper.

On Jan. 25, 1982, I fell on the ice while skating with my girls. At the time, the thought never entered my mind that I had cracked or broken my hip even though it did hurt very much. In a couple of days I took sick with the flu and was sick for several days. My hip (my back and all down my leg were affected) hurt me considerably. We decided that it was sciatic nerve trouble.

At this time we were building an addition to our house so felt that I just had to keep going. When I would go to town for supplies, I could hardly get in or out of the truck. I experienced a lot of pain during this time.

Some may say that I could not have kept going on a broken hip. I will inject here that we didn't have any X-rays or have a doctor examine me, but no one could ever make me believe that it wasn't. I do feel that when I fell, I possibly cracked the bone. Then on Mar. 7, I was in the truck giving Randel a pull to start the tractor. It jerked me and when it did I felt something give and pull apart in my hip. On Sunday my father asked me if I hadn't fallen on the ice. We looked it up on the calendar and realized that was the beginning of my trouble.

On Mar. 10, I went to bed and had to stay there for eight weeks. Those days that followed were not easy, but many were the lessons that I learned. God saw that I needed to be quiet so He drew me aside. It was a precious experience.

I could have gone and had my hip X-rayed, but I was sure they would want to operate, to which I could not conscientiously consent. Most of all, I knew in Whom I believed. Some tried to bring fears that if it didn't grow back just right I could be troubled the rest of my life. However, when God does something, He makes no mistakes. Our neighbor boy broke his hip, and I'm sure the doctors did all they could for him, but he still limps. My Doctor took the limp away!

Saints, do not be afraid to trust our God, the One who made the heavens and earth, and created this body in which we dwell. Healing of the body is a small thing compared to the cleansing of the soul. That was the greatest healing I will ever receive. He gave me a new, clean heart, new mind, and new goals in life.

We also want to thank the Lord for touching Sheila at Monark this summer. She got overheated while walking one day. I suppose she came near to having a sunstroke. When I went to her in the trailer, her speech was slow and she said her right side felt asleep. Sis. Glenda Beisly came in and we prayed earnestly for her. The Lord soon cleared her speech and took away the numbness. She did have a headache and fever for a few days.

Pray for me. I never want to fail my God or my people (the saints).

Just one of the family, —DeLoris Bradley

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

Mo.—Dear ones: Greetings to all the saints in Jesus' dear name. I am happy the dear Lord saw fit to receive me back into the fold. Praise the Lord! I was saved and lived for Him for several years before I drifted away. I was in sin too long, but He gave me another chance. Praise His name! It wasn't any goodness on my part, but His love and tender mercy that called me back. Pray that I will stay in the center of His will.

Your brother in Christ, —Arthur Johnston

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

Okla.—Dear saints everywhere: Holy greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I am saved, sanctified, and satisfied in Jesus. He is so good to me.

I would like to tell of how the Lord has healed me of some afflictions which I had for many years. Thanks be to God our Father, I am healed of them today. I want to take this opportunity to thank God for His goodness to me, and thank all the saints for praying for me.

I had a growth between my neck and my left shoulder as large as my hand, and had not been able to sleep on my left side for 15 years. Another growth had been in my right side for 27 years, which made it very difficult for me to sleep on my right side for any length of time. So many times I would have to take my hand and move the big growth from under my ribs so that I could get some rest. Thank God, He saw me through my long period of suffering those two afflictions.

In July, 1983, my daughter and her husband were expecting a new baby in their family. I felt the leading of the Lord to go be with them to be of help and encouragement to them as they already had three small children. My affliction had reached the point that it was very difficult for me to sleep at night, but I knew the Lord was leading me to go spend some time with them. Prayer was requested of the dear saints for my strength and healing. . . . While visiting with my children and grandchildren, doing what I could to be of help to them, the Lord healed me of both growths. I fell asleep one night and when I awoke the next morning I realized that I had slept on my left side all night. I felt for the growth and it was gone! I said, "Praise the Lord, the growth is gone!" Before the Lord healed me, if I tried to sleep on my left side for just one or two minutes, pain would extend from that growth to my heart and would be so painful that I would have to change sides.

The Lord gave me the Scripture in Psa. 68:28a, "Thy God hath commanded thy strength." It was so encouraging to me because I was so weak. The Lord knew I needed strengthening. He knows what we stand in need of even before we ask. Each day from July 5-9, God gave me some encouraging Scripture on strength. He didn't only give me the Scriptures, but He also gave me the needed strength day by day.

The next night or two I slept on my right side all night. After awakening the next morning and my sleep had been so restful and sweet, I thanked the Lord for my being able to sleep on my right side. I felt for the growth and that growth was gone, too! I don't know where they disappeared to over night, but I know they are gone and I am free, free of those afflictions. Praise God! . . .

I can truly say with the poet, "My home is on the Rock." I truly thank God for the patience He gave me through my long suffering. It also proves to me that my house will all the storms withstand. It's not built on sinking sand, but my home is on the Rock—the everlasting Rock. I do not fear when storms are near; my home is on the Rock Christ Jesus for ever.

Yours sister in the Lord, —Clara Barnett

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

Nigeria—Dear Bro. Hammond and the saints: I was so very sick in July and August. You prayed for me and God has healed me. I truly thank all the saints for their prayers. I have gained my regular weight back, and I am able to do most of my duties. Praise the Lord! To God be the glory!

Recently we held a pastors' meeting at Tombia on the 12th and 13th. Bro. Titus Enu from Bendel State and pastors from other places were there. God blessed us spiritually. Continue your prayers for us that God may bring all of His people into the same fold before it is too late.

May the Lord bless you and the good work you are doing.

Yours in Christ,

—B. Ben Taylor



## Law in the Home

by Mabel Hale

Every part of the universe moves under law. Each planet in its orbit, each star in the great heavens, the sun, the moon, the earth, everything that God has made is set to law and moves in a definite course, or remains stationary, as prescribed by that law. All nature is ruled by inexorable laws. The seasons come and go with unchanging regularity, bringing seed-time and harvest, cold and heat. Every seed brings forth of its kind, and every beast of his kind. Everywhere there is law.

Mankind has found from the very beginning that government and law are necessary to his happiness and prosperity, so he has formed nations with their laws and rulers. Wherever law has been broken down, anarchy and chaos have been the result.

The smallest of all communities, and yet the nucleus of all human government, is found in the home. Here are a little company of people who are bound together for their own good and happiness by cords of love—the strongest ties of nature—each dependent upon the others, and whose interests are inseparably interwoven. Here is a little universe to itself.

Suppose that one star in the heavens should break away from the established law of the universe and go careening through space, what would be the result? Catastrophe after catastrophe would follow. And shall we wonder then if a member in the little world of home who is allowed to run contrary to law and order brings upon himself and the family untold trouble and anxiety?

Home at its best is a place of order, regularity, and justice, coupled with love and mercy. If any of these things are lacking, the harmony and peace of the home is marred. Order, regularity, and justice can only be the results of law.

To acknowledge law there must also be an acknowledgment of authority high enough to make and enforce law. In the home this power rests with the parents, and particularly with the father. Parents should be obedient to the laws they have made, and should require obedience from the children.

It is better to have few rules and have them kept than to have many rules and restrictions and have them continually broken. Some of the rules which are good in every home are those which require the children to abstain from all impudent and saucy speeches, to be respectful and courteous to all older people and to their parents, to play without quarreling and fighting, to respect the right and properties of all other members of the household, to be quiet and

respectful in family worship, and to do their part of the household duties regularly. And every one of these rules, if parent would have a moral right to require obedience in their children, have a reflex requirement on the conduct of the parents.

How can we expect our children to leave off impudence and sauciness if we speak to them and to each other in that manner, or how dare we demand of them a respect they do not see in us? If we cannot get along without contentions, why should we expect the children to do so? And if we disregard their rights and properties, how can we consistently require them to do differently?

The laws of the home are in their nature more flexible and adjustable to the circumstances of the individual than other laws, but their moral and restraining force must be felt in every home that would be happy and prosperous.

## Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

**Question:** Please explain 1 Peter 5:1-3; especially the part of verse 3 which says, "Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock." How could a pastor or minister be a lord over God's heritage?

**Answer:** 1 Peter 5:1-3, reads: "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock."

The reference here to "elders" refers to the office in the church (pastor, bishop, presbyter, overseer). The first thing I wish to notice is how different this actually is from the claim of the Catholic church that Peter was the first bishop or pope (official head of the church). He presents himself here as just an elder among other elders, and makes no ambiguous claim to any special position among them at all. His only claim of distinction is that he was a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed. This was the requirement for apostleship (Acts 1:21, 22), and Peter was one of the twelve apostles. Perhaps the other elders he addressed here were not, which gave him a degree of distinction among them. But it still remains that he presented himself as an elder among elders and made no reference to his being an apostle. There was an humble quality among those first ministers of the Christian church. Jesus taught His disciples this. In Matt. 20:25-27, we read: "But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant." Then in verse 28, He presents Himself as the pattern, example, or model and said, "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and



to give his life a ransom for many." The idea of promoting one minister above others and attaching clerical and ecclesiastical titles to his name was reserved for the apostate church in a later time as it slipped into apostasy on its way into the dark ages and the establishment of the "man of sin" (2 Thess. 2:3-4) as the universal head of the church. Exalting of ministers above other ministers was the path that led to this. Paul referred to it as "the mystery of iniquity" in 2 Thess. 2:7. John referred to one, Diotrephes, who loved to have preeminence in the church (3 John 9), and denounced him for this.

In 1 Pet. 5:2, Peter gives this charge to these elders: "Feed the flock of God which is among you." It is the duty of all pastors to feed the souls of his congregation on the pure, unadulterated Word of God. In John 21:15-17, Jesus charged Peter three times to feed His sheep and His lambs. In Acts 20:28, Paul charged the elders of Ephesus, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." Therefore, it is clearly the pastor's duty and responsibility to feed the souls of his congregation.

Continuing on in verse 2, Peter states that the pastor or elder is to accept his office and responsibility of the congregation not by constraint (coercion or pressure), but willingly (God loves willing service). They are not to have money as a prime objective but are to serve with a ready mind. Paul also gives this as a required qualification for a bishop (1 Tim. 3:3) or elder (Titus 1:7) ("Bishop" and "elder" are interchangeable and the same Scripturally). In these two texts Paul says they are not to be given to or greedy of filthy lucre (money).

Then verse 3 says, "Not as being lords over God's heritage [the margin here says "overruling"], but being ensamples to the flock." The pastor is not to be a tyrant or despot or over lord, but is to be a shepherd, feeder, and helper of his flock. Paul says in 2 Cor. 1:24, "Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand." We see that we are not to domineer over them or dominate their lives and faith but are to faithfully teach them the standards of God's Word and then help them by every means available to us to grow and mature in their faith and experience, but in the meantime, while they are coming to the full standard, not be chastising them all the time for not being up to it.

The true pastor will teach his congregation the principles of truth in the New Testament. Then he will say to them, "This now is the instruction and this is how you do it. Just watch me now and see how it works." He is to be the example for them. Paul said in Phil. 3:17, "Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample." Again in Gal. 1:15, 16, Paul said, "But when it pleased God, who . . . called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; . . ." What a great truth is expressed here! Paul realized that he was not qualified to preach Christ until he could reveal Christ. Neither is anyone else. Again in Phil 4:9, Paul says, "Those things which ye have both learned and

received, and hear, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." Note: They had seen in him what they had heard from him. If a minister preaches a standard that he cannot produce a good example of but, at the same time, chastises his congregation if they are short of it, is an example of one of the ways in which he overrules or exercises lordship over them.

Read Ezekiel 34:1-10, and get a good, clear, concise picture of an unfaithful minister (pastor) who is a lord over God's heritage. Verse three says the shepherds eat the fat and clothe themselves with the wool but feed not the flock. Verse 4 says they feed themselves but feed not the flock. Verse 8 says they have not strengthened the diseased, healed the sick, bound up the broken, brought back those who were driven away, sought the lost; but they have ruled with force and cruelty. What a sad state for a congregation who has a pastor who does not take care of their needs and is always demanding more of them but actually doing less for them.

How different this is from the true, humble pastors whom the Holy Ghost appoints as overseers of congregations. They rule over them by guiding them (Heb. 13:17) and showing them how the gospel works out in their own lives.

## A Challenge



It is definitely not popular to declare anything "wrong" anymore. The old absolutes of good and evil have been diluted with humanist theology and gradually phased out to fuzzy obscurity. The sharp angles of right and wrong have been honed down and smoothed over while modern society has turned black and white into subtle gray.

He who dares to publicly maintain such outdated principles as taught by the Bible, becomes a target for abuse by those who "love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil." Satan has waged war against righteousness from the very beginning and the intensity of his desire to destroy every shred of goodness in the earth has not abated.

Christians, let us rise to the challenge before us. We face the task of maintaining righteousness in the earth. We are the preserving strength of our nation. Cling tenaciously to the principles of morality which the Word of God teaches. Don't be afraid to maintain them in the face of overwhelming opposition. Pray earnestly and often for a revival of righteousness in the land. Do what you can to preserve it in your home and community. Pray for God's Spirit and His sanctifying grace to fill you to capacity. Make use of every opportunity that comes your way, to uphold the right. When a national issue arises, such as abortion, homosexual rights, or ERA, take the time to write your lawmakers and encourage them to oppose what is evil. You have a part to play! You are an instrument for good or evil in this world.

Be encouraged, for God's justice will ultimately triumph, good will be rewarded, and evil rightfully punished.

Eccl. 9:18, declares that, "One sinner destroyeth much good." Therefore one righteous man can initiate the cause of holiness in the earth. Goodness must



begin with each individual. A quote I read declared, "We can do more good by being good than in any other way." Combine that with this exhortation from J. Wesley, and we can better the earth. "Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the souls you can, in every place you can, at all the times you can, with all the zeal you can, as long as ever you can!" Amen!

—Mary Murphey

## The Heavenly Dove

In the enclosure of the book of Job 29:17, 18, we read: "And I brake the jaws of the wicked, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth. Then I said, I shall die in my nest, and I shall multiply my days as the sand." Here Job is speaking in a parable using a figurative prophecy of Christ, the Heavenly Dove who died an innocent Dove and rose to multiply His days as the sand, no more to die.

In Lev. 14:4-7, we read of two birds alive and clean to be used in the order of sacrifice. One is killed in an earthen vessel, or basin, over running water, and the other bound with scarlet winding and hyssop to a cedar branch. The living bird is dipped into the earthen vessel where great drops of blood have fallen. This signifies the water and blood which came from Jesus' side for our cleansing from all sin.

Let us look closer at the nature of Christ's sacrifice. Here we have cedar wood, hyssop, and scarlet winding. Cedar has a sweet odor. This cedar wood is a figure of the cross to which Christ's body was fastened. Hyssop also has a sweet odor. It is a shrub which contains mint to flavor confections and also to perfume the air. "And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts. . . ." Ex. 12:22. See also Lev. 14:52, and John 19:29, where hyssop is mentioned in Christ's sufferings. As cedar wood and hyssop were used in sacrificial service for a sweetsmelling odor, so also was the sweet odor of Jesus' sufferings in the flesh. He gave "himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savor." The sweet odor of Christ's sufferings came up to Heaven's throne of mercy and touched the great heart of God and appeased His wrath. The Father of mercies saw the travail of Jesus' soul and was satisfied that He should bear our sins in His own body, thus making peace with God.

We read in the second chapter of Joshua of the scarlet line which saved the two spies, and of the faith Rahab had in hanging this scarlet thread in her window, knowing it meant deliverance for her and her household. This scarlet line is the lifeline of our salvation to remind us of the Heavenly Dove that died in His nest to cover us under His wings. He rose from the pains of death to multiply His days as the sand.

The living bird set free in the open field (Lev. 14:7) is the living, resurrected Christ loosed from the bands of death and from the hands of wicked men. On the day of Pentecost, Peter revealed to the Jews the painful news that they with wicked hands crucified and slew the Lord of glory. "Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it."

May we ever love Him with a pure heart fervently.  
—Salvatore DiDio

## TOO LITTLE CHILDREN

Said a precious little laddie  
To his father one bright day,  
"May I give myself to Jesus,  
Let Him wash my sins away?"  
"Oh, my son, but you're too little,  
Wait until you older grow;  
Bigger folk, 'tis true, do need Him,  
But little folk are safe, you know."

Said the father to his laddie  
As a storm was coming on,  
"Are the sheep safely sheltered,  
Safe within the fold, my son?"

"All the big ones are, my father,  
But the lambs, I let them go;  
For I didn't think it mattered,  
Little ones are safe, you know."

Oh, my brother; Oh, my sister;  
Have you, too, made that mistake?  
Little hearts that now are yielding  
May be hardened then—too late.

E'er the evil days come nigh them,  
"Let the children come to me,  
And forbid them not," said Jesus,  
"For of such shall my kingdom be."  
—Author unknown

## VISIT THE SICK

When someone's sick or sick at heart  
And has steep hills to climb,  
The nicest get-well present  
Is the gift of giving time . . .  
Time to write a little note  
That says you understand,  
Time to sit and chat a bit,  
Time to hold a hand,  
Time to bring a smile, a word  
Perhaps a hand-picked flower—  
Little blessings, gifts of time,  
And all have healing power!  
. . . I was sick, and ye visited me. . .

Matthew 25:36

—Alice Joyce Davidson  
(Sel. by Grace Jones)

**AT PRESS TIME:** Our hearts were saddened to receive word of the passing of Bro. W. R. Fox, minister of the Church of God. We pray the Lord will give special comfort and strength to his wife and family in this time of bereavement. Their address is Rt. 4, Marion, Ky. 42064.

We also received word that Bro. Sam Abbott apparently suffered a light stroke on Sept. 27. It does not seem that he suffered any permanent disability for which we are thankful. He is now residing at the Golden Rule Home, Rt. 6 Box 10, Shawnee, Ok. 74801.

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