

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

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Many Called, But Few Are Chosen

"Many called, but few are chosen!"
 'Tis the challenge of His Word,
 When Christ Jesus gave His message
 In the gospel which is heard.

"Many called." Yes, there are many
 Who may to the truth respond
 And will seek the way to enter
 For the life that is beyond.

But the cunning ways of Satan
 And the world so vain and fair
 Seek to stain the heart, beguiling,
 And, at last, their souls ensnare.

"Many called." God's ways are different—
 Higher than the ways of men.
 'Tis so hard to walk with Jesus
 And to stem the tide of sin.

Very few deem worth the effort;
 Very few go all the way;
 Very few are willing, steadfast,
 All the price to truly pay.

"Few are chosen." Those who triumph
 With a faith unmingled with doubt—
 Overcoming ev'ry hind'rance,
 And the world around about.

"Few are chosen." they are willing
 To give up the worldly ways,
 And to walk each day so holy
 In the light of God's sweet praise.

"Few are chosen!" Yet how precious
 Are the few to Christ, the Lord.
 They're the Bride with white adorning,
 Who with Him are in accord.

"Many called, but few are chosen!"
 Friend, what will your status be?
 Seek to follow, ever follow
 Jesus Christ, and CHOSEN be!

—Leslie C. Busbee

Observe All Things

Observe means "to guard, watch, to keep, to conform one's actions or practice to rules." In Matt. 28:19-20, Jesus said, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

There are many preachers in our time, and yet so few that are teaching us to observe all things Christ has commanded. When He began to preach, His first command was "repent." (Matt. 4:17.) The dictionary says that repent is "to feel sorry, to turn from sin, to dedicate oneself to the amendment of one's life, to feel regret, to change one's mind." This is in harmony with Christ's teaching to Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again." John 3:7.

For preachers to teach us to observe all things will be more than to just say, "Accept Christ as your Saviour." We need to understand *how* to repent. I must be sorry for my sins; I must turn away from sin. I must make amend for my sins; if I have stolen anything from anyone, I must restore it to the person from whom I took it. If I lied to, hurt, or mistreated someone, I must confess and ask their forgiveness. I must change my mind, or have a new mind. I must be born of the Word and Spirit. All sin must go. I must forgive those who do me wrong; I cannot have hate in my heart and expect Jesus to come into my heart. I cannot be dishonest in my dealings. This is what is meant by "repent" or to be "born again." It means a complete change of heart, mind, and deeds. 1 John 1:9, tells us, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Thank God for a life free from sin and guilt!

Next, Jesus said, "baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." In Mark 16:16, Jesus also said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved . . ." Baptize means "to dip, to immerse, the act of immersion, baptism by complete submersion of the person in water." Some preachers say that it makes no difference; you can be sprinkled or dipped—it's just up to you. But Jesus

said, "teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." When Jesus was baptized by John, He "went up straightway out of the water." Matt. 3:16. In Acts 8:38, we have the account of where Philip baptized the eunuch. "And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him." In Rom. 6:4, we read, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." There is a teaching that we should be baptized three times, face forward; the first time in the name of the Father, the second time in the name of the Son, and the third time in the name of the Holy Ghost. But Jesus said to baptize in the name of all three (Matt. 28:19). John wrote in 1 John 5:7, "... and these three are one." Baptism represents a burial. Do we bury our deceased on their face? No, they are lying on their backs. So it is in our baptizing; we are layed down into the water, fully covered in the watery grave, and raised up out of the water to face the world with a newness of life. It is a testimony to the world that we have left all the world to follow Jesus.

Some preachers teach that our sins are washed away in baptism, but if the first command that Jesus taught is preached, which is repent, we will need to observe it *before* we are baptized; therefore, there will be no sin to wash away. We've already been washed in the blood of Christ; we go down into the water a clean, saved person, witnessing to the world that we are dead to sin. Praise the Lord!

There are so many good things Jesus taught while He was here on earth. He taught us to love one another; He taught us to abide in Him and bear much fruit; to do good to all men. He said that He would pray the Father, and He would give us another Comforter, that He may abide with us for ever; and He prayed for us to be sanctified, and for us all to be one.

He also taught the disciples to wash one another's feet (John 13). He also set forth the ordinance of the Lord's supper. In keeping this we are to do it in remembrance of His death "till he come."

Let us be faithful to observe all of His blessed Word.

—Sis. Margaret Eck

DO YOU HAVE JONAHITIS?

Do you have this affliction? It is a strange malady. No one is free from it unless he has received an inoculation that has been perfected by God. How does it affect you? You know that God has something He wants you to do. You say you are ready to do it, but when God, through the Holy Spirit, tells you what it is, this is your reaction: "Lord, you want me to do that? No way." So you leave, trying to get away from the presence of God. Suddenly you feel as though you are falling into an abyss. Down, down, you go, deeper and deeper. Darkness comes upon you. Then you cry out to God, saying that you will go. Why did God use a person like Jonah or a person like you? There are others who could do it. Sometimes God makes us do things that are for our own good, although we cannot see it and sometimes never understand. The cure for this malady is called obedience. Take one, no, two measures of it, and you will recover.

—Elias McCart

"The Holy Remnant"— "The Radicals"



In the face of present day religion that has come short of real Bible holiness possessed by the Early Morning Church, we are reminded, "even so than at this present time, also there is a remnant according to the election of grace." Rom. 2:15. A remnant is that which is left over from the original quality, but the quantity is smaller. The true Church of God has a reputation: known as the Evening Light Radicals. The definition of "radical" is as follows: "Original, fundamental, proceeding from the root; reaching to the center or ultimate source; affecting the vital principal; persisting in defending an issue."

Having the knowledge of this definition, we ought to be honored to have such a reputation. "Church of God" has become a prominent name in the religious world today with a multiplicity of standards. In the root of the midst of this confusion, God has an original that proceedeth from the root of the Early Morning Church. It affects the vital principals that never change.

Some folks relate the word *radical* with the word *fanatical*. A fanatical person goes beyond the fundamental doctrine of holiness and puts one's self and others in a strait jacket. They are extreme in setting themselves a higher standard than that required of God.

Everyone has a conviction of some kind. What we need is a conviction that determines an established law that never changes. Pride has been established by the Word of God as a forerunner of downfall. "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." Prov. 16:18. "A man's pride shall bring him low, but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit." Prov. 29:23. Read also Eze. 16:49, 1 John 2:16, Prov. 2:2.

Humility has also been established by the same Word, as a beginning of honor. "The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honor is humility." Prov. 15:33. Read also Isa. 57:15, Matt. 18:4, Prov. 22:4, Prov. 16:19.

These two extreme opposites have always affected the fall and rise of man and will never change in their nature. Pride makes man the central figure of importance, disregarding moral or divine principals that will stand in the way. He is willing to suffer and sacrifice if it will bring him to honor. Pride breeds quickly in the field of prosperity; being self-sufficient, man feels no need of God and becomes less sensitive to the needs of others and to the cause of God. Read Rev. 3:17, 18.

Traditions and customs may change to suit man, but principals never change, because they apply to established laws that apply to God and His Church in this world. Traditions that are governed by divine principals that determine right or wrong must never change, regardless of situations and circumstances. In 2 Thess. 2:15, we read, "Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word or our epistle."

In the early part of this Church of God Evening Light Reformation, humble brethren recognized di-

vine truth. They taught and practiced divine healing and modesty of dress. They denounced any superfluity that adorns the outward man—jewelry, including rings, necklaces, bracelets, earrings, or any other ornaments that were an outward demonstration of pride. Pride was and still is the prominent factor in putting on these outward adornments, which the Word of God condemns. 1 Pet. 3:3, 4, says, "Whose adorning let it not be the outward adorning of plaiting [decorating the hair with gold strips and other adornments to make it glitter. *Clarke's Commentary.*] the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit which is in the sight of God of great price." This early reformation was radical in holding the Word of truth and God blessed their assemblies—in healing the sick and performing miracles in the healing of cancer and many incurable diseases.

In duration of time, the hearts of the brethren who were spiritual giants in their day began to change. Spirituality began to decline from their personal lives as they began to allow and permit people to build around them.

I want to mention here the danger of saints building around certain ministers. We are exhorted to build up ourselves "on our most holy faith." Jude 20. We are to have confidence in the lives of our ministers if their lives are in harmony with the Word of God in meekness and sobriety. "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves." 1 Thess. 5:12, 13. We need to know the lives of the ministry, and honor the work of righteousness in their lives and build on that principal of truth; not on the man himself, but on what he represents with his life. If we build around man's influence, we'll be on an uncertain course—if he goes down, we'll go down; whatever course or direction he takes, we'll take, whether he be right or wrong, because we didn't consider the principal or motive involved. Man is inclined to build on personality; which can be very deceptive. There is a vast difference between spirituality and personality.

The root of the Early Morning Church was a spiritual root of holiness. Spirituality was the ultimate goal to obtain in this life, which consisted of watching and praying, guarding against the cares of life, the deceitfulness of riches, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes. Jesus explicitly gave us an example of how to live. He taught us how to live, and lived what He taught. This was passed on from generation to generation through the lives of His saints. The true Church of God has been kept unspotted from the world up to this present time.

Some of these pioneer ministers wanted to win the better classed people, such as the lawyers, bankers, and other prominent figures. They worked hard to win them. Looking too conspicuous in dress to win them, they began to rebuild the things they destroyed through the gospel—the very things they had denounced as unnecessary articles of dress or adornment which was based on Scriptural grounds (1 Pet. 3:3, 4, and James 1:21), on which the principal of

pride was defined and established. Folks, we must not try to win anybody to Christ at the expense of the gospel and our spirituality. If the gospel does not set them free from the world, nothing else will.

The so-called First Church of God today is walking hand in hand with the world. As the blind leading the blind, they dress and act like the world and have fellowship with it. They are a member of the World Council of Churches in which recently a Catholic bishop has been nominated as president. One of the early pioneer ministers, in his latter years, said he never had thought that the pendulum would swing so far away from the truth and holiness. A little letting down was the beginning of a great falling away. I am persuaded that the pendulum will never swing back.

Let's not bring the world to Christ, as many false prophets are doing, because to do that we'll have to compromise. Christ never did win the applause of the world, and you and I won't, either. In John 15:18, 19, it says, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, . . . therefore the world hated you."

Jesus said, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he has sent." St. John 6:29. We need to believe strongly enough in what Christ stood for that it will become the paramount issue in our lives. Being like Him will produce the work that will glorify God. A pure love for the truth will give us a pure hatred for worldliness.

I love the true Church of God and what she stands for. I could write a lot more, but I feel like I've unburdened part of what's been on my heart for the last two years. May the Spirit broaden these thoughts for our edification. Pray for me; I don't ever want to compromise or be fanatical, but I just want to be a part of that holy and radical remnant.

Yours in the service of the Master,

—Donald W. Sharp

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



We are now clothed in our earthly tabernacle. Very, very shortly, we must put off this tabernacle. It is deteriorating with the passing years of time. It cannot endure forever. Although we patch it up and mend it and nourish it all we can, we know that very soon we will shed it. All this world would be very dark and distressing to us were it not that we are going to be granted another tabernacle, one that will never wear out or decay. We have sought favor and grace with the Designer of this earthly tabernacle and have received personally from Him an assurance and hope of putting on this new and everlasting tabernacle some blessed day. Thus we groan while in this temporary dwelling, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with this better house we are now in, but we would rather be clothed upon with that other house and let it swallow up this one. So until that day when we can move into our new house, we will wait and be patient and keep true to the Designer and Giver of all things, so that we can be counted worthy of His loving provision for us. —L. Busbee

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.

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EDITORIALS



We send greetings to all of our readers and hope this finds each one encouraged and enjoying your walk with the Lord. If we fail to enjoy salvation, then it is of little profit to us. Even in times of adversity our walk with God can be blessed. Whether or not we enjoy the good things of life depends upon our perception of happenings. To be alive, healthy, and provided with the necessities to sustain life is something to be grateful for, but these are the blessings often overlooked in the pursuit of the "extras." Many people cloud their own sunshine with discontent.

The Bible tells of a time when God spoke (from heaven) to Jesus. Those who stood by perceived the voice in different ways. Some said that it thundered, while others declared that "an angel spake to Him." Some people view the blessings of life as simply occurrences, while others regard theirs as a gift from God.

There is a story of a lady who rarely perceived things with a positive outlook. As she was digging potatoes, an onlooker remarked on what nice big potatoes they were. "Yes," she complained, "but there aren't any little ones for the pigs."

There is also the story of a man who perceived good in all circumstances. As he rode in his buggy one day, a friend who was accompanying him remarked on how the flies were pestering the horse. The man replied, "But the horse has a good road to travel on."

A few months later the same couple was riding on an icy road. The friend commented that the ice was difficult for the horse to walk on. "Yes," replied the other, "but the flies aren't bothering him."

How we perceive life will determine our happiness!

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We request that those who send in material for publication please include your first and last name. This will help expedite the printing of your contribution.

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The 1984 calendars are out of stock, and no more are available. We regret being unable to fill all of the orders.

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Aunt Maybelle and I appreciated the privilege of being with the Loranger, La., congregation the first part of February for a few days of meeting. It was a blessing to see the saints from that area and enjoy the fellowship of the Lord together. The new chapel that the congregation is constructing was very near completion and should be of great benefit to the work there. Aunt Maybelle enjoyed the opportunity to spend some time with her son, Byron, and his wife Clarice.

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Bro. James and Sis. Charlotte Huskey have felt led to do some traveling and to help in the Christian School efforts. As of now, we understand that they are with the saints in Goulds, Fla. Sis. Charlotte will be greatly missed in the Path of Life School here at Guthrie. Pray that their work for the Lord will be blessed.

Just off the press and available for sale is a new reprint of the book by C. W. Naylor entitled *Winning A Crown*. This book is similar to his book, *Heart Talks*, which we printed previously. *Heart Talks* sold very well, and we have received several requests to reprint *Winning A Crown*.

Following is an excerpt from the publisher's forward:

"As we travel the road of life it is imperative that we chart our course in the right direction. We must often draw upon God for Divine help and renewed strength to overcome Satan's devices. As you read this book, I am confident that you will find it both a chart and a source of strength for your soul.

"... The author begins with the purpose of man, unfolds the plan of salvation, and branches off into how to triumph over the ordinary problems we meet with in our daily service to God."

The book is 368 pages in length, and is bound in an extra heavy paper cover. It sells for \$3.50. Please include 63¢ for postage and handling.

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Our stock of the *Evening Light Songs* book is running low. Due to our work load, it is uncertain as to when it will be reprinted. Until it is, we have decided to limit each order to five (5) books. We will be sure to let you know when it is reprinted. Thank you for bearing with us.

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Correction . . .

In the February 1984 issue of this paper, we printed an article entitled "Satan's Damnation Roll." This article was accredited to Melvin S. Lennon. The name should have been Ivy Lennon. Please accept our apologies. —Wayne Murphey

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Partial List of Items Available

Birth of a Reformation—Life and Labors of D. S. Warner by A. L. Byers. A reprint with additional pictures of pioneer ministers. Cloth bound, 496 pages. Price, \$5.50 each.

Prophetic Lectures on Daniel and the Revelation by F. G. Smith. It contains 260 pages in heavy paper cover. Price, \$3.50 each.

What The Bible Teaches by F. G. Smith. A reprint of the original 1914 edition, containing 576 pages in cloth binding. This is a book that should be in every home. Price, \$5.50 each.

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The Cleansing of the Sanctuary by D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggle. Reprinted verbatim in 541 pages, cloth binding. Price \$5.50 each.

Bible Readings for Bible Students and for the Home and Fireside compiled by S. L. Speck and H. M. Riggle. Originally published in 1902, this excellent volume contains 432 pages of Scripture references and comments on many Bible subjects. Nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.50 each.

The Revelation Explained by F. G. Smith. Reprint of 1906 original edition, plus two 17x22 inch wall charts in two colors. 464 pages in nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.50 each.

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Beyond the Tomb by H. M. Riggle. This excellent book of 288 pages deals with man, his present and future, in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$4.00.

Christian Baptism, Feet Washing, and the Lord's Supper by H. M. Riggle. This excellent doctrinal book on the three ordinances of the New Testament contains 264 pages in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$3.50 each.

The Christian Church; Its Rise and Progress, by H. M. Riggle. Bound in cloth cover, 488 pages. Price, \$5.00.

Evening Light Songs, shaped notes, with 512 pages in a cloth binding. The right hymnal for the Church of God. Price, \$5.00 each. A 10% discount is granted on orders of 12 copies or more placed at one time.

God's Gracious Dealings by Fred and L. D. Pruitt. This enlarged Seventh Edition is a history of this gospel publishing ministry in the Church of God for the past sixty years, as well as a record of the work of the Church at large. Contains 496 pages, including more than 100 pictures, in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00 each.

Life's Golden Gleanings by Ruby E. Stover. She records many experiences of her childhood, and how God answered prayer in marvelous ways in her family and through the years in the gospel work. 94 pages in nice paper cover. Price, \$1.00.

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Divine Healing for Soul and Body by E. E. Byrum. Available ONLY in the German language, it contains 282 pages bound in a heavy paper cover. Price \$2.50.

Bible Humility by J. W. Byers. An excellent treatise of this subject in 32 pages with a heavy paper cover. The price is 35¢ each, or three copies for \$1.00.

The Hero of Hill House by Mabel Hale. A very interesting and inspiring true story, this book contains 224 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.00 each.

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Memoirs of George E. Harmon, sponsored by Vera M. Forbes. This is a brief autobiography of our beloved Bro. George Harmon, a long-time minister in the Church of God, including the record of the memories of a few others who knew him. It will inspire your faith in God. Its 56 pages with four pictures are bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 60¢ each, or two copies for \$1.00.

Food For Lambs by C. E. Orr in the English language. This English version contains 168 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50 each.

Food For Lambs by C. E. Orr in the German language. It consists of 127 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00 each.

Tim and His Lamp, re-written by Fern Stubblefield. This excellent booklet of 52 pages for children and young people is bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 40¢ each, or three copies for \$1.00.

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Heart Talks by C. W. Naylor. Consists of 59 chapters with a different subject treated in each chapter. It contains 280 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.50 each.

St. Paul and His Gospel by G. P. Tasker who was an early-day minister and missionary of the Church of God Reformation. This inspiring book contains 88 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00 each.

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.

A Saloonkeeper's Daughter Saved by Bertha Mackey. This 16-page pamphlet is an inspiring true story. Price, 15¢ each, or seven copies for \$1.00.

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As all cares and worries cease.

Little poem, bless I pray
All who read these words today.
Light and brighten every way,
The precious love of God convey.

—Edward M. Brandt

Camp Meeting Dates for 1984

Following are the Church of God camp meeting dates for 1984. A more complete announcement of each meeting will be printed in later issues.

Goulds, Fla.—April 15-22.

Ojos Negros, Baja, Cfa., Mexico—April 16-22.

Oklahoma State Camp Meeting at Guthrie, Ok.

May 25-June 3.

Holly Hill, S. C.—June 1-10.

Tulsa, Ok.—June 8-15.

Jefferson, Ore.—June 8-17.

Chilliwack, B. C., Canada—June 21-28.

General Southern at Loranger, La.—Date will be published in a later issue.

Greenbank, W. Va.—No confirmed date.

Oakland, Calif.—June 22-July 1.

Fresno, Calif.—July 6-15.

National Camp Meeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo.—July 20-29.

Missouri State at Myrtle, Mo.—July 30-Aug. 5.

Boley, Ok.—Aug. 17-26.

California State Camp Meeting at Pacoima, Ca.
August 24-Sept. 2.

Note: This may not be a complete list of all the camp meetings. If your camp meeting date is not included in the above list, please send it in so we can publish it in the next issue.

In Memorial

Paul Roth Hauser, son of the late Homer Bliss Hauser and Hazel (Roth) Hauser, was born Aug. 4, 1920, and passed from this life on Dec. 3, 1983, at his home at Rt. 2, Oakland, Md., at the age of 63 years.

Survivors include his devoted wife, Lucy May Hauser; one daughter, Ms. Nell L. Hauser; four brothers; four sisters; three grandchildren; and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted at the Durst Funeral Home by Bros. Mart Samons and Curtis Williams. Interment was in Texas Cemetery near Eggon, W. Va.

Note of Thanks

I want to thank all the saints and everyone else for all the nice cards, encouraging letters, phone calls, and prayers that were prayed for my husband, Paul, and me. Without your prayers and the Lord, I would not have been able to take care of him. I also thank the saints for their visits and all they have done.

I miss Paul so much, but I am so glad the Lord spared his life so he could get everything settled between him and the Lord. He said that he did everything he knew to do, and I believe he did. . . . I want my life to be clean in every way so when the Lord gets ready for me I will be ready to meet Him.

Please continue to remember me in your prayers, because I still need them. I thank the Lord for keeping me well and able to go.

Yours in the Lord,

—Lucy Hauser

MEETING NOTICES

SPRING REVIVAL AT WICHITA, KANSAS

Lord willing, the Wichita, Ks., Spring Revival will be held April 13-22, 1984. It is planned, Lord willing, to have a special service of singing on Saturday night, April 14.

As always, the fields are white and ready to harvest. We pray that some souls will have made their decision to get right with God, and can be gleaned during the meeting. We desire an interest in everyone's prayers that God will anoint and bless in a special way according to His own glory. All are welcome to come and partake as God leads you.

For further information, please contact the pastor, Bro. Lewis Williams, at 2643 N. Spruce, Wichita, Ks. 67219, phone 316-264-8481. —Sis. Shirley Knight

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LOS ANGELES SPRING MEETING

The annual spring meeting at Los Angeles, Ca., will convene, Lord willing, on Monday night, April 16, at 7:30 p. m., and continue nightly through Easter Sunday, April 22, 1984. Services on Easter Sunday will be as follows: Sunday School at 9:30 a. m.; morning service at 10:30 a. m.; and afternoon service at 2:30 p. m.

All are welcome. For further information, please contact our pastor, Bro. Alvin Lucas, 918 W. 62 Place, Los Angeles, Ca. 90044, phone 213-759-3962, or Bro. T. R. Summers, 711 W. 85 St., Los Angeles, Ca. 90044, phone 213-752-1135. —Sis. Phillis

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

CAMP MEETING AT GOULDS, FLORIDA

We are happy to announce this year's camp meeting dates. It is planned, Lord willing, to begin meeting April 15, and continue through April 22, 1984. There will be two services daily. A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend.

For further information, you may contact the undersigned at 22345 S. W. 117 Pl., Goulds, Fl. 33170, phone 305-258-4102. —Bro. H. H. Hargrave

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CAMP MEETING IN MEXICO

Lord willing, the camp meeting in Ojos Negros, Baja Cfa., Mex., will convene April 16, and continue through April 22, 1984. Through necessity, last year the camp meeting was held during the week prior to Easter Sunday. Bro. Escobar, in his recent letter, said that the attendance was better at that time, and that the blessings of the Lord fully rested on the camp, so he felt it would please the Lord to continue the camp meetings on those dates.

We desire that many will begin now to look to the Lord and get His mind concerning their coming to this meeting. Come with a burden for souls and a willingness to do as the Lord directs in the meeting. We extend a cordial invitation to all. We are praying for the Lord to be in our midst to own and bless, and are trusting that He will work in saving and sanctifying souls, healing bodies, and encouraging the saints to press on.

For those going for the first time, stay on Calif. Interstate 5 until you reach the line at Tijuana. After getting through customs, watch for a sign within the next block pointing to Ensenada Cuota (toll road). Follow these signs, paying the required toll until you reach Ensenada (about 65 miles). Take La Vigia through Ensenada until you come to the statue of Benito Juarez. Take highway 11 east, which changes to 16, and follow this road all the way (about 29 miles) to a "Y." Take the left branch of the "Y" to Ojos Negros (about two miles). The chapel (built of concrete blocks) is about six blocks north and one block east of the end of the pavement, showing a brush arbor on the west side of the building.

For more information write to: Sis. Opal Kelly, 1002 N. W. 90th, Okla. City, Ok. 73114.

Yours in His service, —Sis. Opal Kelly

Prayer Requests



La.—Sis. Virgie Flynn has not been well for a number of weeks with trouble in her back. Please pray for her healing.

Mo.—"Please pray for my son-in-law. He has a bad kind of arthritis. We all need your prayers."

—Jewell Lane

Kans.—"Please remember my mother, Lorene Payne, in prayer. She needs a healing touch from the Lord."

—Sis. Queen Esther Bowman

Mo.—Sis. Cassie Wilson and Bro. Leonard Marler are both in need of a healing touch from the Lord. They both have their faith and trust in the Lord.

La.—Word has been received that Bro. Nathan Carver is much improved. He is looking to the Lord for, and is expecting complete healing. Continue to hold him before the Lord in prayer.

Kans.—"Please pray for me. I need complete healing of an injury received from a fall last June."

—Dessie Coleman

Calif.—Sis. Helen Carson needs prayer for healing, and she also requests, "Pray for my two sons."

Ore.—Alice Kimball desires prayer for herself, her husband, and others.

There are no doubt many others who would say, "Pray for me." We all meet with needs, trials, and problems that only God can work out. Many times we are burdened with things that we are not able to tell others about, but the Lord knows; we can bring them all to Him. It is surely a wonderful privilege to be able to cast all of our burdens on the Lord. He is a Friend who sticketh closer than a brother.

I feel it would be in order to request that we pray for the rulers of our land. There are new laws being considered and enacted, both on the State and Federal level, that are not according to God's will. There are some people in the state of Nebraska who have been and now are in jail because of their stand for the freedom of Christian education. As of this writing, the Missouri State Legislature is considering the legislation of laws the same as or similar to those of Nebraska. If enacted, these laws will greatly hinder and be in opposition to the operation and purpose of the Christian schools. Let's earnestly pray that the Lord will preserve our liberties and freedom as long as possible. "I exhort therefore, that, first of all,

supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." 2 Tim. 2:1, 2.

—Randall Flynn

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

REPORT OF MISSION WORK IN MEXICO

Calif. (Jan. 30)—Dear Sis. Maybelle: January is already gone! Time constantly moves on, and we have to move with it. Each passing day finds us closer to our last day before meeting eternity face to face. Each day finds us either drawing closer to God and doing His will, or going farther from Him, selfishly living our lives, caught up in the whirlwind of the cares of this life so that we have no time for God. May God help us to put the right value on living for God—to put God in first place in our lives. The time God gives us to prepare for that most important meeting we will ever have is in this life.

We want to tell you and all of the saints of how grateful we are that the debt of \$1723.00 [balance owed on the purchase of a building and property in Mexico] has been paid in full, and there is \$474.00 for the building fund to finish the chapel. We still need windows, doors, electricity, plumbing, paint, and benches (we have four good ones from the chapel in Ejido Patzcuaro that we had to tear down). We are so grateful to the Lord and to each one who has so lovingly sacrificed for this need. We trust that when all is said and done that all of us will feel it was well worth all that was done and given; that through this effort there will be a good harvest of souls. . . .

We need to ask the Lord to talk to souls, and send someone to this place to labor and help instruct these little ones in the way of the Lord more perfectly. We want to see this place born into the family of God, and grow and have a great harvest of souls. May we be co-laborers together in the vineyard of the Lord that the labor and sacrifice of love not be in vain.

We are planning, if the Lord permits, to go down there again the second week in Feb. I think some of the saints in Bakersfield, Pacoima, and Pomona also plan to go at that time. Please help us pray for all of these needs, and once again, we humbly thank each one who has so kindly helped and sacrificed.

With Christian love, —Sis. Edith (Cole) Lara

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PHILIPPINE MISSION REPORT

Philippines (Jan. 22)—Dear Bro. Hammond: May the comforting grace of our dear heavenly Father abide with you and hope this letter finds you in a healthy, happy, and peaceful condition. My family and I were so happy and thankful to receive your very kind letter along with the offering you sent to us. May we say "thank you" once again for your sacrificial love for us. Also, please extend our many heartfelt thanks to Bro. Sorrell and family and the saints in Chilliwack, and also to Sis. Stubblefield. . . .

Our camp meeting is over and we can say that it was the most memorable fellowship of the saints we've had. Although your body was not with us, we could feel your presence in our midst because we

always think and talk about you. How sweet is the fellowship of the saints. . . !

The lot that we planned to buy for the building is still pending because we cannot agree with the owner about the transfer fee and tax expenses. The title is still in the name of the deceased relative, and they need to pay inheritance tax which is very high. I am trying to look for another one. Please help us pray about this. The prices of lots now are very high because of inflation. Things have nearly tripled in price since you were here. I'm sure these are all signs of the last days.

Thank you so much for the last issue of the *Faith and Victory* which serves as an encouragement to us. I read the article, "Good Night or Good Bye, Which?" I hope we can say "Good night" in this evil world, but we shall say, "Good morning," in that beautiful city in heaven. I hope we shall meet all the saints there.

Greetings to all the saints abroad.

With love and prayers,

—M. S. Tangunan and family

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MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Jan. 25)—Dear workers in the Print Shop, saints at Guthrie and everywhere in America: We send Christian greetings to you again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ. Thank you very much for your kind letter dated Dec. 29, and the enclosures were noted with much appreciation. I am sorry I am a little late to send the reply as I was busy with our 18th general convention.

Our convention came to an end with really good results and many blessings. The attendance was good, and there was good altar work. All the ministers this year preached with a heavy burden and passion for souls. Bible studies, sisters' meetings, children's meetings, young people's meetings, etc., were very profitable. Now we will have local meetings in all other local congregations.

Sorry to note that the winter in America this year has been severe. We trust you had a very blessed Assembly Meeting in Guthrie.

If God can find a few people today who will tear down their "golden calves," fall upon their knees and cry out of their burdened souls, God will give glorious victory today. Hence, the pagan, secular, materialistic, and worldly people everywhere will again hear the shouts of victory from the children of God. Gideon's God still lives today. Let each one of us be so fired with the sense of holy mission that we cry, pray, trust, witness, and win. Let us take advantage of the opportunities.

Please do pray for the Church of God in India. Our vision is to go forth to new areas with the gospel light this year. We need your prayers and support.

My wife sends her love to Sis. Maybelle and all other sisters there.

Yours in His humble service, —John Varghese

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MISSION REPORT FROM NIGERIA

Nigeria, W. Africa (Jan. 18)—Dear Sis. Pruitt and all of God's Kingdom: Greetings, and a happy New Year in the precious name of Jesus, who is "the way, the truth, and the life." Praise Him forever!

Thank you for your two letters to which no reply has been given, all due to being overcrowded with work beyond description. Nevertheless we have been in constant remembrance of the entire Church of God congregations in prayer, especially during the revival meetings, for a greater downpour of the Holy Ghost fire in the midst of all. God does not change. The acquiring of divine authority was not limited to the saints of the morning light, but we should faithfully continue at our post of duty, seeking the blessing of the Godhead with the demanded humility. The Apostle Peter wrote, "Be subject one to another and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." Let us in this year of 1984, bridle our tongues, forget our colors, and continue with one accord in earnest prayer which God will honor. . . .

We rejoiced for the arrival in our midst of four brothers from the state of California, U. S. A. They were Bros. Jefferson Pierro, David Pierro, Jonathan Pierro, and Joseph Pierro, who arrived in Nigeria on Nov. 22, 1983. No time was wasted to get them absorbed in the Lord's work. Apart from participating in all the scheduled activities of the Church, they were in the traveling mission of this writer to visit the saints at Agidigbo, Benekuku-Obiogo, Okpai Oluchi, and Umuachi-Afor. Their visit was most encouraging to the saints and hailed jubilantly. They left on their return to the U. S. on Dec. 28, 1983.

We have fully sacrificed our time in order to be divinely confined the year round. We are not in the service of Christ by appointment, but by a commission received directly from the Lord of glory. Paul never wavered in making this very assertion. Pray for our confinement to His will.

Yours in Him, —Titus U. E. Enu
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

MISSION REPORTS FROM GHANA, W. AFRICA

Ghana (Jan. 23)—Dear saints at the Print Shop, in the U. S., and scattered around the world: Greetings of Christian love to all in the lovely name of Jesus.

After picking up my baggage at the airport on Thursday morning (Jan. 12), Bro. Jim Akwasi and I traveled on to Akumadan-Ash, the village where I will be living and call "home" for the next year. It took eight hours to travel the 220 miles from Accra, over nearly impassable roads. I couldn't walk very straight for a while after I arrived.

I am temporarily settled in a single room with outside facilities. I do my little cooking on a one-burner kerosene stove outside my door on an open porch. The Methodist lady who let me have the room doesn't charge me anything. When she came to see me she said I could stay 10 years if I wanted to. She is precious, and I desire her soul for God.

The Church is meeting in a Methodist school house at the present time, free of charge. My first Sunday here we were in service from 9:30 a. m. to noon. A good lesson was given on "Prayer" by a Bro. James. It was given in both Twi and English. A space was given for testimonies, and two of the preachers testified how they were led by the Holy Spirit out of the places they were in, into the true Church of God. Preaching service followed, and Bro.

Williams Kusi brought a message on the young man who came running to Christ (Mark 10). This was delivered in the Twi language and translated into English. My eyes were filled with tears many times during this service as I could see what God has done in this place in a year's time. . . .

I have been able to get Bibles, benches, and rice for the two congregations. Most everyone found something they could wear amongst the used clothing I brought on the plane, and there is more clothing coming by boat. I want to thank everyone for their prayers and offerings that have made this missionary effort possible.

The roof is going on the mission house, and it should not be too long until I can go there to live during my stay here. The land on which the chapel is being built is beautifully located on a hill just above the river. There is a dense jungle between the property and the river, but a wide path leading down over which the natives tread their way for water. Eventually a wall will be built around it all.

A good water supply is hard to find here. Water is carried on the heads of very young children and adults. . . . It is my heart's desire to see if water can be obtained for their use either by a well or piped in from the river. The well would be best, as the water could be consumed without purifying it. I am praying about this. There is nothing too hard for God to do when His people have a mind to work. I desire your prayers that everything done here will be done to the honor and glory of God, in the salvation of precious, never-dying souls.

I am feeling well, and have made several personal contacts. There is a hunger here that God can satisfy.

God's missionary to Ghana,
—Sis. Dorothy Keiser

Ghana (Jan. 16)—Dear saints: Calvary greetings! I am writing this letter to thank all the saints abroad who have supported us with prayers. Sis. Keiser arrived here in Ghana on the scheduled date. We were compelled to wait until the following Thursday morning before all of her boxes came. The extra three days spent there in Accra helped us a lot in acquiring the permit for her to stay. The Internal Affairs Ministry doesn't grant extensions of visas for visitors for more than two months, but thank God that the one-year visa was granted after waiting for about three hours with silent prayers. We are so thankful to the Lord that our beloved sister is here to work along with us for one year.

We are so thankful to the Lord for bringing us to Zion. . . . We are also thankful to the Lord for our camp meeting and for the ministers and workers He sent to help redeem sinners through His work. The meeting was held Dec. 27-30, 1983. Several people traveled from Afranch and the other surrounding villages to attend this meeting. Several souls made their way to the altar, and many of them cried to the Lord in tears. The Church is now added up to about 130 souls. Praise God!

We are also thankful to Sisters Janet Kusi and Ernestina, and Bro. James who helped in the kitchen with the meals; also, the headmaster of the secondary school who provided us with the kitchen, dorm-

itories, and the assembly hall where the meeting was held.

Finally, I would like to thank all the saints abroad who helped with the clothing Sis. Keiser brought to the congregations here. The distribution was fair. . . . The offering for the mission house was handed to me for the completion of the house.

The rains have ceased for the past four months, and we are in a serious drought. Sis. Keiser has suggested for a pump to be installed at the mission house to draw water for the farms which could feed the church. Please pray for this need.

We give all honor and praise to the Almighty God.

Yours for the Lord's work, —Jim Akwasi
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

Dear ones: Greetings of Christian love in Jesus' precious name.

Several packages of literature are being sent out as regularly as possible to many missions in Mexico, Central America, and South America for distribution with the prayer that the gospel message will find lodging in honest hearts. More children's lessons are on the way to Montevideo, Uruguay, in S. America for use with 100 children. Stella Maris Molinari has requested these and says the Lord is blessing their services.

Hearing from people to whom we have never directly sent tracts makes us to know the distribution is not in vain. Each time word is received of one having read a tract sent from here, the Lord has us send a package of tracts to that person. Thus, we know God is working and the gospel reaches farther and farther.

Pray for this phase of God's work and for me. I want to be faithful in that He has given me to do.
Christian love, —Sis. Opal Kelly
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

From the Mailbox . . .

Okla.—Dear laborers together in Jesus: Greetings of love to all of you. I know that your labor for the Lord is not in vain. God will give a harvest of souls.

God gave His sons and daughters some great promises. "Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." Psa. 2:8. (Also read Isa. 45:3.) Since God has elected us to be joint heirs with His Son, we are also able to count a part of His inheritance as our own; so we can count Psa. 2:6-8, as God's gift to us, and ask Him for the heathen of the earth and all of those "treasures of darkness, and hidden riches." Jesus further encouraged us to follow Him and He would make us "fishers of men." We have no excuse for not bringing a good harvest of souls to Jesus. Lord, help us. Increase my love to thee; my faith; my vision and burden; and do thy work in me as thou didst work in Jesus.

Precious souls in Burma and Ghana are pleading for the Bible and Sunday School lessons. Pray for me that I may be able spiritually, physically, and mentally to accomplish all that Jesus desires to do through me in my short time left. I praise Him for letting me

have a little sight left for studying, reading, and writing. . . .

I sent nine pounds of dried food, etc. to little John in Burma. They have no food but a little Indian corn which has to cook all day. There is no food of any kind there and no markets. They have to work in fields for the government, and receive scarcely a portion to keep alive. . . .

We pray much and determine to keep ready by the grace and help of God.

Sincerely in Jesus, —Sis. Ada Scanlon
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Fla.—Dear saints: Greetings in Jesus' name. Oh, how we love Him! The Hargrave family appreciates all the love the saints have bestowed upon us. God has certainly blessed Rachel, and we are looking for Him to complete the process He has begun.

Pray for us as we continue in the Master's love.
Love, —Bro. H. H. Hargrave
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

N. C.—Dear Bro. Flynn and co-workers: Greetings to you from N. Carolina. We just wanted to say how much we appreciate the *Faith and Victory* paper. Years ago a friend sent it to us, and it has been such an encouragement and blessing to us down through the years. We are sending a little donation that it may help others. Surely the Lord is good to us all.

Remember us that we may be found faithful to the end.

Your brother and sister in Christ,
—Bro. and Sis. David Lottahall
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Ohio—Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: Once again I would like to thank you for making it possible to obtain the *Faith and Victory* paper. It has been a "breath of fresh air" in my walk with Christ. Many questions have been answered for me through the "Question and Answer" column. Our Sunday School class was discussing recently a woman's position in Jesus' time and in the present. I was able to share your explanation from the December issue. God meets all of our needs—no matter how small. . . .

May the Lord bless you in your effort to spread His holy Word.

Yours in Christ, —Bud Jewell
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Neb.—Dear saints: Greetings in Jesus' name. I just want to let you know how much I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper. I subscribed to it for some of my friends at Christmas, 1982. Everyone liked the paper. One sister . . . said she was going to order it again as her subscription had run out. I believe my subscription is out, too, and I want to keep receiving it. . . . I am enclosing a money order for a bundle of back issues. I like to read them and when I'm finished with them I leave some on busses and take some to the hospital and homes. . . .

Your sister in Christ, —Lenora Seals
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Tex.—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord. May He ever bless and keep you in the center of His will to do the things He has called you to do.

I'm still living and doing God's will. It is so good to walk and talk with Him every day. Even though I can't be with the saints of God personally, I am

satisfied with the Holy Spirit, the Comforter that Jesus said He would send when He went away.

Christian love and prayers, —Sis. Nellie Lovell
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Calif.—I ran across a *Faith and Victory* paper in a place called Niland, Ca. I like what I read so I am sending \$1.00 for a single 3-year subscription. God bless you in your work. . . . —Louise B. Kittel
—————o—————

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Calif.—To all the dear workers at the Lord's Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I feel that I should put my testimony in the *Faith and Victory* paper.

I had the blessed privilege to attend the wonderful camp meeting at Pacoima, Calif., last summer, and was greatly blessed in soul and body. Praise the dear Lord! I hardly know how to express it—it was such a blessing to me! Near the close of the meeting there was a healing service. I was anointed and prayed for, and the mighty God we serve wonderfully touched my body and healed me of an internal cancer. Praise His holy name! I also had arthritis pretty bad, and that is almost gone now and is continuing to improve. I'm looking forward to the time when that, too, will be completely cleared up. I just can't find words to express my appreciation for the Lord's dealings with me. I have more faith in Him now than I ever had before. Please pray for me.

Yours in the one way, —Homer F. Severs
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Mo.—Dear Sis. Pruitt, and all the dear saints: It is a real pleasure to send in my testimony of the Lord's goodness to me again this morning.

I have been "under the weather" with another bout of walking pneumonia or something similar. One night I was so bad I was nearly gasping for breath, but after much time on my knees praying for relief, the Lord heard and answered my prayer. I have been getting better ever since. I still have some congestion, but I am slowly becoming able to do a little more of my work each day. It means a lot to me to be able to do my work and look after my family. I am so thankful for friends and loved ones who are willing to come in and help when we need them.

The Lord blessed us with an abundance of garden produce last year in spite of a very hot and dry summer. I did a lot of canning and freezing. . . .

Please pray for me that I will receive complete healing, and that I will forever remain true to the Lord.

Christian love, —Sis. Violet Sinkhorn
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

W. Va.—Dear Bro. Randall: Greetings in Jesus' name. I have been saved for ten years or a little longer, and my testimony is long past due.

Fifty-three years I spent in confusion. I can remember being at the altar six times, but never finding help for my soul. I began asking myself, "What good is a church with an altar that's just an empty bench of pride?" That is all I found out there in the sects and creeds of men. I cannot tell you how thankful I am that God sent the truth into Greenbank,

W. Va., although I did not accept it very quickly. I was confused for so long that I just couldn't think straight, and my home was so troubled.

At the time, Bro. Mart Samons was having a meeting in the old chapel (which is now gone). My wife knew that something had to be done. She and my two daughters went to meeting and I stayed home. My wife came back home and told me that she had gotten saved. That left me as the only unsaved one in my home. I went to service the next night. The devil was giving me a battle over music, making me believe that I couldn't sing without my guitar, etc. . . . Anyway, I made up my mind to try again for the peace I longed for in my soul. I went forward and put my all on the altar. I am glad I put my soul first. It just seemed that Jesus was standing there waiting with His arms open, and all I had to do was walk in. My flight from the churches of Babel to the portals of Zion was something I will never forget. It was the greatest moment of my life! Jesus picked up the pieces of my life and put them all together again, and blessed me with my songs and singing in a way I didn't think possible. I can never thank and praise Him enough for what He has done for me. I am sending my latest song . . . and I would like for it to be my testimony, too.

We in this home appreciate the *Faith and Victory* paper. Enclosed is a love offering to use as you see fit.

Thank You, Lord, for the Song in my Heart

When I look back down the way, Lord,
That you have walked with me,
Every step has been a blessing—
Steps of love you took for me.
I won't be left outside the portals
Of heaven, my hope, my goal;
I know you'll see me safely home—
What a blessing to my soul!

(Chorus)

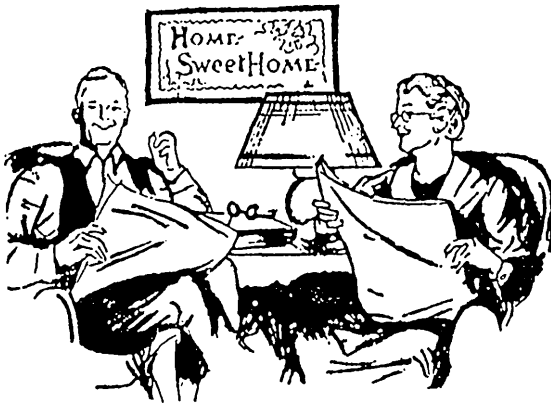
Thank you, Lord, for the song in my heart
I keep singing along life's way;
The melody of thy love, Lord,
I never want to go away.
I'll sing it through the valleys, to
The glorious mountain top—
Satan hates every word of it,
But my song he'll never stop.

Thank you, Lord, for your love and care
So dear and so precious to me;
Lord, I know there's been times when you
Picked me up and carried me.
Through sickness, sadness, and sorrow
How your gentle touch doth console;
In you and your great love, Lord,
I found the true and lasting gold.

When I think of all the troubles,
Lord, that you have brought me through,
And how faithful you have been
I know how much I need you.
How you are always there, Lord,
How you always save the day;
Thank you, Lord, for holding so tight
To my hand along the way.

Thank you, Lord, for all the sunshine
 Along the way, and for the clouds.
 When I'm on my way to heaven,
 Why wear the world's gloomy shroud?
 Why be fretting 'neath my cross
 With you helping me along?
 I need my cross, and I need you
 If I make heaven my home.

Christian love to all, —Bro. Golden Arbogast



HOME LIFE

ABIGAIL

There is a story in the Bible about a wise woman named Abigail. (1 Sam. 25) Let me briefly relate this story.

King Saul was still in pursuit of David, so David and his men were in the wilderness at this time. Nabal, a very wealthy man, was in a nearby town (Carmel) shearing his three thousand sheep. David sent ten young men to go unto Nabal and ask for some of his wool, food, or whatever he wanted to send because David and his men had been good to Nabal. They had never stolen from his flock; instead they had protected the shepherds and their flocks. Being men of war, David and his army could have plundered much from Nabal. Nabal did not feel they had done him such a great favor, and he spoke rude words to the ten young men and sent them away with nothing. This greatly angered David and he gathered 400 men with him to take vengeance on Nabal.

One of Nabal's servants told Nabal's wife, Abigail, about the messengers David sent and what they had said. This servant verified that David and his men had been good to the shepherds, but he was afraid now that David would come against them. Quickly Abigail took two hundred loaves of bread, wine, five sheep already dressed, five measures of parched corn, raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs and put them on donkeys. She and her servants with their load met David and his men at the bottom of a hill. They were on their way to destroy all that Nabal possessed. Abigail quickly fell down at David's feet and begged mercy for her husband, asking David to take the gifts she had brought instead of avenging Nabal. David listened to her and took the gifts. Then they parted in peace. Abigail went back to find her husband very drunk from a feast he had held. Ten days later,

Nabal died, as verse 38 says, "The Lord smote Nabal, that he died."

Let us dwell briefly on the personality of Nabal and Abigail. The Scripture tells us that Nabal was a "churlish" man, or a man without manners. One translation says "He was a doggish man." The name Nabal means "foolish, base or villainous." No doubt many times Abigail suffered from his hands. She was a beautiful woman with good understanding. She filled her place as a wife and did her work well to please him. Probably she was accustomed to Nabal's railings and knew how it felt to be treated evil for good. She was somewhat afraid of him because she took her gift secretly, thinking her husband would stop her before she could go. When she returned from giving the gift to David, she didn't tell her husband until the next morning after he was sober from his drunken feast. Abigail tolerated much as the wife of Nabal. Yet she quietly did her work, mending relations her husband broke, and calming the servants when they were mistreated or upset. Generally speaking, she kept the household running smoother with her pleasant, understanding ways. Later, after Nabal died, David sent for Abigail because he realized her goodness and value as a wife. No doubt her life became easier when she was the wife of the king. We have record that she bore David at least one son, Chileab. (2 Sam. 3:3)

Let us now imagine a liberated, 1984 American "Abigail" in this same situation. The servant has just told her the foolish thing her husband did in sending the men away so rudely.

"Well," she may say, "I am so tired of Nabal making such **dumb** mistakes! He'll have all of us killed! Get my things together; I'm going to a lawyer. I'm going to leave Nabal right now!"

At the lawyer's office she tells him of her annoyance at Nabal. The lawyer may say: "Ma'am, you do have a case against your husband! He jeopardized your life in this situation! From what you tell me, he is a wealthy man. Now what you should do is sue for a share in his business besides taking a certain part now. As for me, I only take a percentage . . ."

So on the suit would go. Society today thinks divorce is the answer to troubled marriages. Jesus said the bill of divorcement was written because of the hardness of hearts. In the beginning it was not so. (Mk. 10:2-12) God planned for a husband and wife to be a "help meet" one to another (Gen. 2:18). Even though times and customs have changed since the story of Abigail, the Lord's desire [rules and guidelines] for a husband and wife have not.

The story of Abigail is a lovely one indeed. We can see that she was a help meet to her husband, Nabal. Where her husband failed, she met the need he left empty. She was married to an unusually harsh man, but she came forth shining as a beautiful, treasured jewel. Her goodness blessed her husband, her household, and it pleased the Lord. It still pleases the Lord today.

Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 7:12-17: "If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified

by the wife and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace. For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife? But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk."

In the Church of God, there are women "of good understanding," like Abigail, who are a genuine help meet to their companions. They have taken the counsel of Apostle Paul and walk as the Lord has called them. Christians who have a saved companion are blessed, but those who walk alone on the Christian pathway are truly a treasured jewel, noticed and loved by God. Though a loved companion be against a child of God, there is victory in the ways of God. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Rom: 8:31. It is blessed to do the will of God and know all is well with one's soul. May the Lord continue to direct each one who is walking as the Lord has called them.

—Connie Sorrell

Question and Answer Column

by

Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Since it states in the Bible that women can be saved through child-bearing, then would women have no need of being born again? Does this mean that women can get into the kingdom of God just by bearing children; thus absolving them of the spiritual aspects of salvation?

Answer: No, it does not absolve them from the spiritual aspects of salvation nor from the need of being born again for the following reasons. But first let me insert the Scripture text here that I assume to be alluded to in this question. 1 Tim. 2:14, 15, reads thus: "And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety."

When Jesus said to Nicodemus in John 3:3, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God," He was referring to mankind—the human race. He was not referring to just "man," the male side of the race, but to the race itself—both male and female. This term is used this way throughout the Scriptures. In Gen. 1:27, we read, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." The male and female are component parts of one another and we see in this text they, both male and female, are referred to as **man**. The only times this is not true is when the male and female are being distinguished between the different roles that each of them fill in their relationships together as husbands and wives and parents in the home, and a few cases where a particular or specific woman is referred to. Thus we conclude that every person (male or female) getting

into the kingdom of God must be born again and come in the same way. Acts 5:14, says, "And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women."

The Amplified Bible renders the text this way, and I feel turns the true light on it. "Nevertheless (the sustenance put upon women (of pain in motherhood) does not hinder their (souls') salvation), and they will be saved (eternally) if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control; (saved indeed) through the Child-bearing, that is, by the birth of the (divine) Child." This text introduces two important points. First: that the pain suffered in child-bearing, which was a part of the penalty for her transgression, and even if she die (and many have), none of this is any hinderance to the salvation. Also note that the thought carried here is not that her soul is saved because of this, but that none of this is any hinderance to her being saved. Second: that the childbearing referred to here was the bearing of the Christ Child, Jesus, the Divine and only begotten Son of God who was born of the woman without the man and was the Saviour of all mankind—both men and women.

In my thinking I cannot come up with any solution to this text that satisfies me better than this. I will insert here a quote from Adam Clarke. At this place on page 593, of Vol. 6, he inserts a quote from Dr. Macknight which says in part, "The female sex shall be saved (equally with the male) through child-bearing—through bringing forth the Saviour, if they live in faith, and love, and chastity, with that sobriety which I have been recommending." And again on the same page we read this: "The salvation of the human race, through child-bearing, was intimated in the sentence passed on the serpent in Gen. 3:15, 'I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed. It shall bruise thy head.' Accordingly, the Saviour being conceived in the womb of His mother by the power of the Holy Ghost, He is truly the seed of the woman who was to bruise the head of the serpent; and a woman, by bringing Him forth, has been the occasion of our salvation."

It is interesting to note in this connection that Jesus Christ is the "Seed of the Woman." In Scripture, all the genealogies are reckoned on the male side; so and so bagat so and so, and he begat so and so, and he begat so and so, and on and on it goes. A man's seed was reckoned in his sons. This is true even though he may have begotten a number of daughters, too. But there is one exception to this rule. He who was the chief of them all, Jesus Christ, the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the Prince of the kings of the earth, the King of saints, the Blessed and only Potentate, the only begotten Son of God, the Saviour of all mankind is reckoned as the "Seed of Woman." True, after the stream of His genealogy started it was picked up and run through the male side, too, from generation to generation; but it was headed in the woman and He was declared to be the "Seed of the Woman."

After the stream ran through the male side for several hundred years, it surfaced in the woman in Isa. 7:14, where we read, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive,

and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Accordingly, we read in the first chapter of Luke, verses 26-35, that the angel Gabriel appeared to a virgin named Mary and announced to her that she was going to conceive and bear a son and said some very exalting, majestic things about Him. She questioned how this could be since she was a single woman, but Gabriel explained to her that the Holy Ghost would come upon her and the Highest would overshadow her, and therefore that holy thing which would be born of her would be called the Son of God. The prophecy of Isa. 7:14, surfaces again in Matt. 1:20-25, where the angel is explaining to Joseph about this miraculous, spiritual phenomena which was baffling him. The angel told him that it was by the Holy Ghost and that it was the fulfillment of Isa. 7:14.

So the Saviour was clearly and totally the seed of the woman and I am satisfied in my own mind to accept this as the solution to 1 Tim. 2:15. Acts 17:30, says that now God "commandeth men every where to repent." As before noted, when the Scriptures speak of man or men in regards to salvation, they are referring to human kind—all of them; both male and female. So women are required to repent the same as men. That much is clear.

The Relationship Between Humility and Love

by Phillip A. Matthews

Humility is the state of being emptied of self. To be humble is to be emptied of the love of self—one's own life, desires, achievements, opportunities, etc. Jesus Christ lived a humble life, one emptied of the love of Himself. One translation renders Phil. 2:6-8, "... Though (Christ Jesus) was in the form of God, (He) did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped (or retained), but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. After He had appeared in human form He abased and humbled Himself still further and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross!" After first emptying Himself of His natural divine rights and privileges and becoming a mere human being, He further emptied Himself, even of His natural human rights and privileges, allowing Himself to suffer the ignominious death of crucifixion.

Because He was emptied of selfish love, He was in a position for God the Father to fill Him with perfect divine love. Only empty containers can be filled. Only hearts emptied of selfish love can be filled with God's love.

This infilling process can best be demonstrated by placing a supposedly empty bottle in a tub of water. There is a certain way to completely submerge the bottle in the water and yet not get a single drop of water inside the bottle. But by tilting the position of the bottle while under the water, several air bubbles will be allowed to escape and water rushes into the bottle. We then see that the supposedly empty bottle was not empty after all but was actually full—full of air. Only as the bottle is emptied of air can it be filled with water. Furthermore, the degree to which it can be filled with water depends on the degree to

which it has been emptied of air. When you stop emptying the bottle of air, that is the end of your filling it with water. Filling the bottle with water and emptying it of air are thus simultaneous processes.

Spiritually speaking, God can fill only emptied bottles. That is, He can fill you with Himself only as you become empty of yourself. If He is filling you, then you must be emptying. If you are not emptying, then He is not, and cannot be filling you. Perhaps you may be filling your life with more religious duties and sacrifices, but unless you are emptying your heart of your self-love, God is not filling your heart with His love. Self-love is another name for pride, and pride and divine love cannot coexist in the same heart.

Thus, humility and love are different sides of the same coin. One is "heads," the other is "tails." The chief difference between the two qualities is in **who is doing what**: man does the humbling—nothing more—and God does the filling with love and grace (James 4:6). Thus, to describe a humble man is to describe a love-filled man. To describe a man filled with love is to describe a man who has humbled himself. The two go hand-in-hand, and neither acts independent of the other, for where one is, there is the other also. To prove this, notice the humble characteristics of divine love in Paul's description of charity (1 Cor. 13).

The more perfect the emptying process, the more perfect the love. Jesus humbled Himself perfectly. Therefore, He was exalted to the highest position humanly attainable: perfect love—most like God.

The spirit of a thing is whatever characterizes it most accurately. The Spirit of Christ is whatever describes His character, His life, His motivation, and His mission. That spirit is humility—the spirit of self-emptying, the spirit of "not my will but thine be done," the spirit of total submission to God. That is Jesus in a nutshell, for He is humility personified. The spirit of God is love. That is God in a nutshell. (1 John 4:8-16; St. John 3:16; Rom. 5:5-8.)

We are now led to this final point: One must first possess the Spirit of Christ, humility, in order to receive the Spirit of God—divine love. This is what Jesus meant when He said: "I [perfect submission] am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me [perfect submission]." Humility, far from being merely one of the many graces, is actually the "seedbed" from which all other graces sprout and grow. It is the "seat of holiness." God only anoints us with Himself—His graces and attributes—when He sees Jesus Christ in us. If we want His divine anointing, then we must aim to possess and keep the same spirit Christ possessed. The problem is, too many people are engaged in the futile attempt to have and manifest love and other graces without first having and manifesting humility. Such attempts will never be successful from God's perspective. You may do a lot of good deeds and make a lot of great sacrifices, but unless you possess true humility and perfect submission, God knows that your actions are not prompted by true love.

The rule then is that in every situation you must humble yourself before you can love. Do you find it difficult to love God supremely, i. e., to put Him first in your life, to obey Him, to practice the things that

you know are pleasing to Him? If so, then you should know that your main problem is **not** an inability to love, but a failure to humble and die to yourself. Humble yourself, empty yourself, acknowledge that your way is adverse to God's and that God's way is best, and you will find the ability to love God truly. Do you find it difficult to love others? Is it easy for you to judge and condemn them, finding fault and being intolerant of all their weaknesses? Is it hard for you to forgive and forget, and easy to treat others according to the way they have been treating you? Then you must realize that there is only one reason for all this difficulty: you love yourself too much—you have not humbled yourself towards God nor towards others. You will find grace to forgive **only** after you empty yourself of your self pride. You will be able to change your attitudes about others **only** after you have changed your attitude about yourself. Their faults will not look half as bad after you have realized you are not such a great person yourself.

Do you want more love for others? Do you need more faith, more patience, more joy and peace, more of the other graces? Then humble your soul. Don't even bother to ask God for more love or more patience. Ask Him to help you recognize and cast out your pride. God will automatically do His job of filling you with more love **after** you have done your job of reaching a humble, submissive, self-emptying attitude of heart and mind. The more you are emptied of yourself, the greater will be your capacity to love.

Foundations

It is a well understood fact that Jesus established His Church while here upon the earth and that He established but "one" pure and holy Church. He left all of its members in harmony, working together in "one body." Paul called this Church "Zion" or the "heavenly Jerusalem." "But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. See that you refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall we not escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things which are shaken, of the things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and Godly fear: for our God is a consuming fire." (Heb. 12:22-29)

This is a startling Scripture and needs to be read over again and again until our minds are dyed with the spiritual significance and truth it purports to reveal to us and until it inspires us with a living sense of the sublime as it casts our vision from its summit to which it carries us that we may view this

holy temple of God, resplendant with the morning light of Christ's own glory. He said, "I will build my church," and shortly after He died upon an ignominious cross, leaving to the world a treasure that cannot be counterfeited, humanly substituted, nor ever fully defined because its Maker; its Builder and Sustainer is God: it is **THE CHURCH OF GOD**.

Now, let us notice that it has been quite an accomplishment of Satan that he has convinced (or nearly convinced) Christendom that there is but *one* antichrist, and both Roman Catholicism and Protestantism are now pretty well agreed that he is the coming foe of the church—out in the distant future. But the Bible tells us that there were a number of such false Christs active in John's own time, and we are convinced that he has persisted in his hellish deceptions and manifestations down to the present. We have never heard of his going out of business; and we must, therefore, realize that antichrist is even now accomplishing his mission. One of his most brilliant stratagems has ever been to persuade Christians that they can justly devise substitutions for things divine and the spiritually real. And so, spiritually blinded men have gone about laying "other" foundations to conform to their own carnally and stupidly conceived theological creeds and church platforms. Thus, fellowship is a thing based upon the denomination's organizational human position—the personal concepts of Christian doctrine instead of fellowship based upon the individual's relation to, and confession of, Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

But now it must be understood that whatever it may be that antichrist speaks to certain religious groups, he is always able to make them build their fellowship around things other than the Son of God, whether it be upon a written creed or a tacitly understood form of doctrine. Whatever it is that sets a believer apart from his fellow believer, that is Satan's foundation for fellowship, and **that foundation is laid by antichrist**, and this fact bears historical proof. Therefore, denominationalism built, as it is, upon the varied forms of theology—a written creed or form of doctrine—is, so far as reality is concerned, a non-entity based upon a non-existent foundation. And further, for one to feel impelled to ask God's blessing upon these unsanctioned and unsanctified church foundations is to ask God to deny His "only begotten Son" who, very positively said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." This, then, God cannot do, for "other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 3:11.

This evil of sectism is clearly demonstrable to any who want to see, by the long lists of church announcements in the Saturday press of almost any newspaper. Here church titles are many and should point out to rational minds that Christendom is being either pitifully deceived by the serpent (antichrist), or is brazenly disobedient and blasphemous. Christian charity, however, demands that we attribute, in large measure, this form of disobedience to the sheer spiritual ignorance of the church-going masses, and, secondarily (and primarily) to Satan's supernatural subtlety in practicing his artful craft of deception upon the human family, just as he demonstrated his perpetual evil to Adam and Eve in the

Garden of Eden. ". . . He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there was no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." (Jn. 8:44).

But let the true follower of Jesus take hope. We are living in a period when more and more Christians are giving thought to this serious problem under discussion and, as the light shines, they are turning away from these many Godless professions to the One and only true Church of the living God. And so, for truth-lovers everywhere, this: "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." (2 Tim. 2:19) —Earl Langley

"But Thou, O Lord, Art a Shield for Me"

"Lord, how are they increased that trouble me! many are they that rise up against me. Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God." Psalms 3:1, 2. When David wrote these words, he was in deep trouble. His son, Absalom, had subtly stolen the hearts of many of the people of Israel, and had himself proclaimed as king. David was fleeing for his life. He was bitterly reaping for his sins and he knew it. The devil was shooting fiery darts at David in many ways, seeking to overthrow him, and his soul was in danger.

Some years before this, David had committed the awful sin of adultery. Instead of humbling his heart, confessing, and forsaking it, he tried to cover it up. In his plan to cover it, he sent word to Joab to put Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, in a dangerous place in battle where he would likely be killed. Therefore David was responsible for his death, and was then guilty of two gross sins.

God sent the prophet, Nathan, to open David's eyes to his undone condition before God and to tell him of the judgments that would fall upon him as a result of his sins. David immediately acknowledged that he had sinned and humbly sought the Lord for forgiveness. Psalms 51, shows us how deeply and sincerely he repented. He begged God to have mercy upon him and wash him thoroughly from his sins. He wanted full restoration so he could teach transgressors the way of the Lord and sinners would be converted. He wanted God's Spirit to be with him again. He sought the Lord until he was assured of God's acceptance again. Oh, how important this is whenever a person has turned away from God to any degree, little or much. David was a man after God's own heart, and he could not be satisfied with anything less than a full restoration. We can see the full assurance of David's heart in his words to his servants after God took Bathsheba's child. He said, "I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." (2 Sam. 12:23)

David was restored to fellowship with God again; nevertheless, he had given "great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme." He also had some bitter reaping to do. He was doing some of that reaping while fleeing from Absalom and many were saying, "There is no help for him in God." No doubt he was deeply grieved in heart, but he had the assur-

ance that God had forgiven him and he was able to say, "But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head." Psalms 3:3.

This was a time when David really needed God's help lest he be overwhelmed by the devil. He needed a strong confidence and unwavering faith. It is a real blessing to our souls to realize what a deep hold David had on God. When the enemy was coming in like a flood, David was able to testify, "But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me." Verse four reveals that he knew God heard his prayer. Then he added, "I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me." Oh, what victory God gave him in those trying hours that he was able to lay down and sleep!

When a person has sinned, whether it be small or great, there is a need of genuine repentance. The sooner a person will humble his heart and repent, the better it is. The longer he goes on without repenting, the more the heart is hardened. He will likely become more involved in sin and the loss will be greater. Immediate repentance is best. There needs to be a seeking of God until that person has a knowledge within his own heart of forgiveness from God. If restitution or confession to someone is needed, be diligent in that respect, too.

The devil is an accuser and will continue to torment and hinder a soul long after he has truly repented and made restitution (if it was needed). Then when trouble comes as it did to David, the devil will whisper, "There is no help for him in God"; but if that soul has truly met the conditions of repentance, he can resist every attack of Satan, declaring, "But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head."

David found that assurance of forgiveness while living under the law and was able to stand against the devil, the "accuser of our brethren." How much more can we today who are living under grace! Consider the new covenant, when God said, "And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more." Hebrews 10:17. —Fern Stubblefield

WHAT I CAN DO

There is not much I can do,
But by God's help I'll try
To keep low down at His feet
And draw closer to His side.

To pray a little more each day,
To look up with tear-dimmed eyes
To the one that loves me, and
On the cross for me He died.

I give up my all to Him
The best that I know how;
And He'll give the best to me
If to His will I bow.

Take me and mine—use it Lord
Thy glory to proclaim;
Help me to keep the victory
And praise thy holy name.

Help me Lord in my old age
To bring forth fruit for thee.
The best way that I know how
Is keeping the victory.

—Effie Miller