

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Where Are the Reapers?



(Inspired by a dream given to an afflicted sister)

One night as I was suffering
And lay upon my bed,
I drifted off in slumber
To rest my weary head.

It seems I saw a vision—
A scene came 'fore my view;
I saw a beautiful orchard,
And oranges—not a few.

They were so ripe and luscious,
Sugar content was most high;
The trees were heavy laden,
And most beautiful to my eye.

I said, "Where are the reapers?
The fruit must be picked fast,
Lest they shall fall—be wasted—
Come pick them while they last."

I journeyed through the orchard
Looking here and there
To find the slothful reapers,
(For I was in despair).

When, Lo! I saw before me
Some groups, off to one side;
The reapers were discussing
And trying to decide.

Which way was best to pick them?
What methods should they use?
Should they use this step or that one?
But, alas! They failed to choose.

Thus while they were contending
The fruit did finally spoil,
And one by one was wasted—
For the reapers did not toil.

I awoke and lay there musing
On the scene I had beheld,

And saw so vividly before me
A vision of heaven and hell.

The fields are white to harvest,
The laborers are so few;
And while the reapers are deciding,
There's much that they could do.

There are precious souls that are rip'ning—
Eternity is looming in sight.
Reapers, be up and doing
Before light changes to night.

Groups here and there are bick'ring,
Trying to decide what to do;
And all the while there are precious souls
Bidding this world adieu.

Shame, yes, shame on you reapers,
Void of the Holy Spirit of light;
Instead of being divided,
One heart; one spirit—UNITE!

Wherever there is contention,
There is also envy and strife,
"And every evil work" He says,
(The Author of eternal life).

Get up! Shake yourself! Be doing!
Repent while you still have time!
There are precious souls to be harvested—
Groping in darkness and blind.

Hung'ring, thirsting for salvation,
Discouraged, disgusted, dismayed;
Seeing division and hatred,
A life of self being displayed.

Shew forth the love of Jesus,
Lift up the standard high;
Of purity, holiness, and redemption—
May He be magnified.

Then you'll reap a golden harvest;
"Well done," you'll hear Him say,
"Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord,"
On that last great judgment day.

—Margaret Covington

The Salt of the Earth



In preparing tasty foods, a good cook always realizes the value of the seasonings to be used. Each recipe will have specific ingredients to be added at the proper time. When one goes about to make cinnamon rolls, cinnamon is sprinkled on top of the dough before the dough is rolled and baked. When a cinnamon roll is eaten, one expects to taste a little cinnamon, not chili powder. Chili powder is simmered with other seasonings, meat, beans, tomato sauce, etc., to make a good chili soup. So it is that every seasoning has a special flavor of its own and a special purpose in each recipe.

All recipes do not call for the same ingredients. However, there is one seasoning used constantly in every recipe. It must be used lightly, yet added to enhance the flavor of the other ingredients. This is salt. Salt is an ancient, unique seasoning used around the world. It is in both cinnamon rolls and in chili, but no one would like to eat overly salted cinnamon rolls or chili. Salt is added to bring out other flavors.

In Matt. 5:13, we read that Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth." God's purpose in making man was to glorify Him and willingly obey Him. Down through centuries of time, the humble lives and honest prayers of His people have been a sweet savour to God. He spared Noah and his family from the flood; He spared Lot from destruction because of Father Abraham's plea; He brought Joseph from prison to Pharaoh's right hand, all because their lives pleased Him. God multiplied their family (called the children of Israel) and expected them to honor and obey Him. Then God ordained Moses to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt and they won many victories when they obeyed God. King David greatly pleased God with his life. Through the lineage of David, we find that God sent His only begotten Son into the world to redeem man from sin.

During the time of kings and prophets, the children of Israel were God's chosen people. They were His "salt of the earth." There were commandments and ordinances God gave them to follow so they would be clean from the sins around them. The majority of Israelites displeased God many times but He found prophets who did reverence the law and these prophets dealt with the people. Also, there were some Israelites who still pleased God and when the right time came, God found humble Mary to be the mother of Jesus. She must have been as "salt" to the Lord. Then there was John the Baptist, the voice in the wilderness, who announced the coming of Jesus and a new era.

The first four New Testament books (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) tell us about the life of Jesus: how He preached, ministered to the people, and how He pleased God. Jesus went to those who needed His help and were seeking for His help. There were the twelve disciples and other faithful servants who blessed the Lord. They found the life of Christ a loving, sharing way. However, there were those who rejected the Messiah, the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Ye are the salt of the earth, but if the salt have lost his savour wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." Here we find a salt

that lost its savour. Such were the Jews or Israelites when concerning Jesus they cried out, "Let Him be crucified," and, "His blood be upon us and on our children." (Matt. 27:23-25). This nation rejected God's plan of salvation and it grieved the Lord's heart. He yearned to help Jerusalem but they would not heed His voice. (Luke 13:34).

After Jesus was crucified, He arose, and ascended to God's right hand. Then the Church of God was established. (Acts 2:41-47). Here and there people heard the truth about Jesus. They believed His death atoned for their sins and they found peace with God, the Father. In Judea, Syria, Asia, Greece, and Italy the Church of God spread, salting the earth as it went. Men inspired by God wrote of the Lord's love and commandments to His Church. God's Church found favor with Him.

Down through the following dispensations of time, God has had a Church. At times the "salt" was quietly blessing the Lord—but it was there enriching the earth, and God could "taste" it there. False prophets came during the papal age, deceiving hundreds of thousands, but there were those with a pure, honest heart desiring direct help from the Lord. Then came the Protestant era when souls hungered after the truth and the Lord fed those who hungered. (Read *The Revelation Explained*, by F. G. Smith).

Today in the Evening Light, God still has a Church. Praise the Lord! It stands happy, redeemed, and free! The only way to enter this Church is to apply the blood of Jesus to past sins. Accept Him into your heart and turn away from the evil ways of sin. Then you will know the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. When Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth," He was speaking even to His Church today. I believe He lingers His coming because there are those still pleasing Him. The Lord *will* find a Church without sin when He comes again. (2 Pet. 3:1-4). Let each one of us be sure we are the "salt of the earth" when He comes again. —Connie Sorrell

Paying the Price

Bridges . . . bridges, high and lofty, low and humble, long and short, concrete, wood, and steel. It doesn't matter; they all remain the same—bridges.

A little while back I was in a Sunday night meeting, and Bro. Tom Melot brought a message. He told us we need to blow up the bridges and burn them behind us. I have some thoughts I'd like to add to this. Today, a preacher will pour out his heart and labor before a congregation with a great anointing from God. Only a few (sometimes none!) will seek help, because the people don't respond like they used to. The world has changed and people have changed with it. Atheism, humanism, sectism, confusion of all kinds, loss of faith in God, and a great lack of the fear of God and hell have made people become very lax concerning their souls. Today's preacher is not dealing with the same circumstances as those of the early 1900's.

The problem is: blowing up the bridge today is not solving all the problems as well as it did 100 years ago. Consider for a few moments some of the aspects and surrounding circumstances of bridge construction. At first, they survey a long roadway

before starting to work. They fill in the low spots and level the high hills, packing the dirt, bringing in more, and continuing in this way until they get it all smooth like they want it. Somewhere along the line little flags are put up to exactly designate the ground-work.

Brothers and sisters, the devil begins laying a groundwork for us long before we even reach the age of accountability. The family problems, inbred hatred, and filthiness we are exposed to, are all drawing powers to later destroy our souls. For some people, he levels the high hills and fills in the valleys saying, "This is all right," and, "That's a ridiculous belief." God said, however, "Be ye holy, for I am holy." "Woe unto them that call evil good and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness, that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter." (Isa. 5:20). Read through the 23rd verse. Oh, Lord, help us! Friend, have you let the devil build and pack your roadway? Has God put some flags along the way and you called them "little, no-harms" and went on by one after the other? What is your profit? Is your soul blessed by God? Do you have a ringing testimony? Is your life blessing others and helping them on the way by these things? Praise the Lord! "He whom the Son sets free is free indeed." Are you just not willing to pay the price?

Roads like these are many times built at a gradual incline, and suddenly you come upon the building of a solid bridge: sin. If you are in bondage to sin and have a bridge in your life, blow it up before it's eternally too late. Many bridges are built over a stream, river, or lake, etc., called the River of Peace and the Ocean of God's Love. Why do we always want to stay out of God's river? As long as we're on a bridge, we're too lifted up to be washed clean. We must humble ourselves before the almighty hand of God. Oh, that more souls would realize the need of plunging in today! Some bridges are crowned in the middle to cause the water to run off. When God blesses our souls with convicting power, we act the same way and it just runs off. Dear souls, can you sit under anointed messages time and again, year after year, and not be stirred? I, myself, was up and down, up and down, until I reached an age in my life that shocked me. I realized that conviction wasn't bothering me as much, and I knew if I didn't change my life and live for God, I was on the brink of possibly losing my soul eternally and doing without God during my lifetime. Brother, God wants us to sell out for Him: "Buy the truth and sell it not." (Prov. 23:23). Are you willing to pay the price? I mean, really hand over the goods and clean house? Do you go to the altar with the idea that, "If it doesn't work, I can try again some other time"? Oh, Lord, forgive us for such a lax and slothful commitment. Jesus didn't do that, so how can we expect to receive at such a cheap cost? When we have a clean mind and can make clean decisions, God wants us to sell out for Him.

Some people's bridges are really long, running for great distances over God's rivers of truth. They were reared around the truth, have attended church since childhood, and still won't plunge in. They refuse to be free and thus block others who need to be set free. The devil has put guard rails up to keep people from running over the bridge and landing in the water,

getting washed clean, and walking in the light. Some are letting others stand in their way. Their excuse is, "See how they're living? And everybody thinks they are so holy!" Have mercy, oh, Lord!

A large, well constructed bridge is built on piers that run very deep. These piers don't always go in easily. It takes a pile driver with many blows to get them into the ground. Forms are built, concrete poured, and the bridge is built on this foundation. Are you saved and still having problems getting victory over old things? Are there still some piers in your life? Are you still wanting some of the world but are afraid to turn loose of God? Do you want to be counted with the saints but still wanting, wishing for, and desiring forbidden fruit? Oh, dear brother, what a terribly hard life to live!

Excavate deeply! Let the gospel plow break up your fallow ground. "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy for it is time to seek the Lord till he comes and rains righteousness upon you." (Hos. 1:12). Work hard and beg God to remove the piers in your life. You might blow up the bridge, but if you don't remove the piers, they can be built upon again. Are you willing, as the song says, "I'll go with Him through the waters; I'll go with Him through the garden; I'll go with Him to dark Calvary; I'll go with Him to the Judgment; I will follow Him to glory; I'll go with Him, with Him, all the way"? Can you hear the Saviour calling?

Your brother in Christ, —Steven Gellenbeck

YOUR CHOICE

You don't have to go to heaven,
You don't have to live for God,
You don't have to be forgiven,
Nor washed in Jesus' blood.

When beyond the shining portals
All the ransomed meet at last,
You don't have to be among them
When the fight on earth is past.

Though the Saviour died on Calvary,
Still His pardon you need not know;
Though His Spirit now is striving,
To the Lord you need not go.

Though a mother in her sorrow
For your soul doth plead and pray,
You don't have to be forgiven,
Need not walk the narrow way.

Though you choose the path of sorrow,
Live the life that suits you best,
Turn your back on heavenly treasure
Vainly seek for peace and rest,

God will never make you serve Him,
Never force you to be saved;
You can go to judgment Christless,
Though your path with prayer is paved.

You can keep right on your sinning,
Turn your back on what is right,
Push headlong in perdition,
And an endless awful night.

There's no power in earth or heaven
That can check your downward way
Unless Jesus' blood is sprinkled
And your sins are washed away.

—Sel.

FAITH AND VICTORY

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend campmeetings) by Randall D. Flynn, assisted by Wayne Murphey and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044 (USPS184-660)

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This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21 and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the same gospel which Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including the divine healing of the body. James 5:14,15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Co-operation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 25:2; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

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EDITORIALS

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart." Psa. 27:14. God would have all of His people to be of good courage that they might "fight the good fight of faith." There is much upheaval in the world and only those who have a firm hold upon God will possess the grace that will lift them above the turmoil of evil.

We hope that this finds all of our readers with just such victory. We can testify that God is still caring for the work here at the Lord's Print Shop, and that the gospel is still reaching the lost. Quite often we hear from people who have received our literature and are interested in hearing more about the things of God. Pray that these efforts will be productive in the salvation of souls.

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Bro. George Hammond, accompanied by Bro. Jeff Redington, left Chicago, Ill., on May 15, to spend a couple of months in the Philippines. Pray that their missionary endeavors will be blessed of God and that they will have a safe journey.

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This June issue goes to press at the beginning of the Okla. State Camp Meeting which is held here at Guthrie. If you find it possible, come and worship with the saints in this meeting. It is scheduled to begin May 25, and continue through June 3. There will be three services each day. Accommodations will be provided and three meals will be served each day in the dining hall. Everyone is invited!

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In the April *Faith and Victory* editorials, mention was made of the bill that was being considered by the Senate which would allow prayer in school.

The text of the amendment that was in question reads as follows, "Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to prohibit individual or group prayer in public schools or other public institutions. No person shall be required by the United States or any state to participate in prayer. Neither the United States nor any state shall compose the words of any prayer to be said in public schools."

Sis. Hattie Singleton of Long Beach, Calif. placed some copies of the April editorials in a public place and they made their way into several different schools; some public, some private. Sis. Singleton has since mailed me copies of letters that the school children wrote addressing this issue. I would like to share a few of their responses.

Vanessa Dody, who is in the 8th grade at Stanford Junior High School in Long Beach wrote, "Forced anything, including prayer, has a tendency to breed contemptuous or rebellious behavior in some, while intimidating others into pretending. . . . Actually, had the prayer resolution passed [the bill failed by 11 votes on March 20], it would have been a controversial denial of our First Amendment rights. . . . Our school system is set up for education. Silence [a time for silent prayer] does not teach."

Vanessa first spoke about forced prayer breeding contempt and causing intimidation. As the amendment clearly stated, no one would be "required to participate in prayer." Intimidation or influence can be exerted either way, for good or for evil. Just as Jim Cathcart of Torrance, Ca. responded, "I have been a Christian since I was 7. In all my years of school I never faced any type of prayer in school. Maybe that

was the reason I was so influenced by the rowdy bunch." The Psalmist David said, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." Psalms 1:1. "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." 1 Cor. 15:33. These are the prevailing atmospheres in our public schools today.

We hear many people who advocate the removal of religion from the classroom so that the environment will be "neutral." If religion, a belief in God, is taken out of schools, will it really be neutral? Historian Ralph H. Gabrill states, "The appearance of an aggressive humanism, a new religion of humanity, immediately after the end of the Civil War, was one of the more significant events in the history of American democratic thought. . . ." This idea of humanism, which is aggressive and has been ruled by the United States Supreme Court as a religion, has made big in-roads into our schools. The vacuum created by taking religion out of schools has been filled by humanistic thinking. It is not neutral. In the Humanist Manifesto II, which was first printed in the Sept./Oct., 1973 edition of *The Humanist*, it says, "As in 1933 [when Humanist Manifesto I was first printed], humanists still believe that traditional theism, especially faith in a prayer-hearing God, assumed to love and care for persons, to hear and to understand their prayers, and to do something about them, is an unproved and outmoded faith. Salvationism, based on mere affirmation, still appears as harmful, diverting people with false hopes of heaven hereafter. Reasonable minds look to other means for survival." Could not this belief intimidate those who believe in God? This "democratic thought" with its intimidation has pervaded our schools. Listen to what Jason Niswander of Long Beach had to say: "I am in favor of praying in school, but if they had it, all the people who aren't religious, which is about 70%, will look at you like a fairy."

It all filters down to the two influences that are in the world today, and I have a deep-seated conviction that if there were more influence exerted for that which pertains to God, our world would be the better for it. Kevin Ball said it this way: "I am a 17-year-old senior at a Christian high school. I don't see what is wrong with prayer in school. People may say that church is the place to learn about God, but what's wrong with learning about Him outside of church? Who does it hurt to know more about God?" That is a very good question. Who would it harm if more individuals were taught to respect the ten commandments, learned the principle of loving your neighbor as yourself, how to obey the laws of the land, and learned of One who gives power to live above that which brings degradation into one's life?

Vanessa stated that had the resolution passed it would have been a "controversial denial of our First Amendment rights." The First Amendment, which deals with public assemblies, simply states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." This is the whole crux of the problem. Our schools are not actually public schools. They are financed and operated by the government. They have become secular schools. The government has decided what is

right and what is wrong and requires those standards, or lack of standards, to be taught. If our schools were actually public and those who assembled desired to have prayer, the First Amendment would guarantee that right.

At the end of Vanessa's letter she declared, "Our school system is set up for education. Silence does not teach." Initially in our country, much of the educating of the children was done in the church. The Bible was the textbook that many children used in learning to read. Then public education was instituted. Daniel D. McGarry, Professor of History, Saint Louis University, writes, "Fully public education as we know it got underway in the United States about the middle of the nineteenth century. Some early leaders in the public education movement, including Horace Mann, generally regarded as the 'founder' of American public education, promoted inculcation of a vague general form of Deism (natural religion) and its associated morality in the public schools." Because of the background of Christianity that our country had in the middle nineteenth century, godlessness was to a great extent restrained in the public schools. There came a time in the early to mid-twentieth century that parents began to spend less and less time with their children. In many cases, both parents began working on public jobs and had no time for their children. They no longer felt the responsibility of the public school system. That is when humanistic ideas came out of the closet. A couple of generations later, we find that religion in schools is outlawed and the moral fibre of our country has degenerated. Thus was our school system established and thus has it degenerated.

Silence *does* teach. Having no time to commune with one's self is a canker to this country. People are so caught up in the pursuit of something to satisfy that they have no time to stop and evaluate the course that they are taking. The Psalmist David said, "Stand in awe, and sin not; commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still."

"I feel that without communication there is no relationship—whether the communication is between a husband and wife or between a brother and sister or just between friends. As these relationships are built on communication, so is the relationship we should have with Jesus Christ. Without prayer we can't talk to God," writes David Cox of Long Beach. David is so right. Prayer is the only thing that will bridge the gap between our country and God. Prayer in school will not be an overnight cure for all of our country's problems. It will take the inner workings of God's Spirit in the hearts of men and women, but acquainting children with prayer would be a big step forward.

—Wayne Murphey

LOVE, JOY, HOPE, PEACE

Love, joy, hope, peace,
May they never, never cease,
Words of wisdom and delight,
That make the Christian's life more bright.

Love, joy, hope, peace,
May they evermore increase,
Until the world can plainly see
We are ever one with Thee.

—Edward M. Brandt

Camp Meeting Dates for 1984

Holly Hill, S. C.—June 1-10.

Tulsa, Ok.—June 8-17.

Jefferson, Ore.—June 8-17.

Chilliwack, B. C., Canada—June 18-24.

General Southern at Loranger, La.—June 22-July 1.

Oakland, Calif.—June 22-July 1.

Prince George, B. C., Canada—June 27-July 1.

Fresno Bank, W. Va.—June 29-July 8.

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.

Bakersfield, Calif.—Aug. 3-12.

Durham, N. C.—Aug. 12-19.

Boley, Ok.—Aug. 17-26.

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

In Memorial

Amos G. Davis of 107 S. Sierra St., Nokomis, Fla., passed from this life on April 19, 1984, at the age of eighty-six years.

Bro. Davis, born in W. Virginia, moved from Indiana to Florida sixteen years ago. Bro. Davis was born into the Church of God a number of years ago. He and his wife, Lovie, were married nearly sixty years.

Survivors include his wife, Lovie; one daughter, Thelma Schreiber of Texas; one sister; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at Ewing Funeral Home, Venice, Fla., and burial was in Gulf Pines Memorial Park.

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David T. Thomas of Tacoma, Wa., passed from this life on Tuesday, May 1, 1984, at the age of seventy-nine.

Mr. Thomas was born in Dubois, Idaho, and lived in Tacoma since 1944.

Survivors include his wife, Violet; two sons: David Jr., and Harold W., both of Tacoma; one daughter, Jean McKay of Puyallup; four brothers; three sisters; eight grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

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William Raymond Davisson was born March 15, 1909, at Bement, Ill. His parents were William Edward and Eliza Jane Davisson. He departed this life on April 19, 1984, at the age of 75 years and 35 days.

He had many precious memories of his childhood when he was taught about God at his mother's knee in family worship. William experienced times of discouragement and defeat in his early Christian walk, but a crowning and lasting victory was won at the Canby Grove Camp Meeting in August, 1973. This deep-settled experience brought him great and lasting peace. He was never able to attend worship services and camp meetings enough.

On May 26, 1935, he was united in marriage to Neula Felma Reves. To this union were born three sons.

He leaves to mourn his passing his beloved wife, Neula; three sons: William R. Davisson Jr. of Ada, Ok., Joseph C. Davisson of Clackamas, Or., and Forrest E. Davisson of Portland, Or.; one brother; three sisters; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were held April 21, 1984, at Riverview Abbey Funeral Home Chapel, Portland, Or., with Charles Elwell and Gerald Webber officiating.

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Sis. Betty Friesen of Ontario, Canada, was born August 24, 1951, and departed this life to her eternal home on April 29, 1984, from the Golden Rule Home, Shawnee, Okla., at the age of 32 years 8 months and 5 days.

Sister Betty accepted the teachings of the Church of God in 1978, and faithfully walked in the light shone on her pathway to the time of her death. Though sorely afflicted in body, she never complained of the adversity which came her way, but displayed great faith in God, always being thankful for His redeeming grace extended to her. Her walk with God was precious.

Survivors include her mother, Mary Elizabeth; three sisters: Anna, Mary, and Agathe; two brothers: Jake and Bernard; and a number of other relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Curtis Williams and Charles Smith at the Church of God chapel, Shawnee, Ok. Burial was in Bethel Cemetery, Shawnee, Ok.

Note of Appreciation

Dear saints: We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to you for the kindness shown in our time of sorrow at Betty's passing. We thank each one sincerely for your prayers, cards, letters, and offerings. May God richly bless and reward each one.

We miss Betty very much, but our hearts rejoice to know that she is in a much better place. Please continue to pray for us. —The Friesen family

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MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

WICHITA, KANSAS MEETING REPORT

We are thankful to report that some souls were saved in the meeting. Now we must meet the task of trying to encourage them to hold fast and go all the way with God.

We appreciate God's faithfulness to send the Word on different lines. The Bible tells us that all Scripture was given by inspiration of God for reproof, doctrine, instruction in righteousness and correction. I feel we received some of each, and if we obey the Word we heard, we will all profit thereby.

There were many in attendance at the singing and it brought joy to see so many saints gathered together here in Wichita. The Lord blessed the singing and we feel it was an inspiration to many. We were thankful for all who attended.

The healing service was a precious and blessed one. We do thank God for everyone He touched and

healed. We had asked God to do some special things in the meeting and He was faithful to do so. Praise God again for His many blessings unto His saints.

—Submitted by Shirley Knight

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CAMP MEETING—CHILLIWACK, B. C., CANADA

We want to send an invitation and information concerning our camp meeting to be held, Lord willing, June 18-24, 1984. The Jefferson, Ore., meeting ends on Sunday, June 17, and our meeting will begin the next day. The first service will be at 7:30 p. m., on Monday, June 18. Thereafter, three services are scheduled for each day: 10:30 a. m., 2:30 and 7:30 p. m.

As usual, the location is Camp Charis, which is located approximately nine miles (15 kilometers) east of Chilliwack, B. C., on Hwy. 1. Camp Charis is a rented facility, and the charges are as follows: cabins, \$2.00 per day per person; trailer hook ups, \$4.50 per day for two people, \$1.00 extra for each additional person; tents, \$1.50 per person per day. It is not necessary to pay until you arrive. If you cannot afford to pay, come anyway; your fare will be taken care of.

We extend a warm welcome to all of Canada and the U. S., especially anyone in the northwest U. S. who is interested in the truth. We will need gospel workers and teachers to instruct Bible classes. Ask the Lord if He will send you. All expenses will, by faith, be met by freewill offerings. Pray for this meeting if you cannot come.

For more information, contact Ron Walter at 45386 Wellington Ave., Chilliwack, B. C. V2P 2A0, phone (604) 792-5201, or Paul Sorrell at 6369 Mt. Baker Hwy., Deming, Wa. 98244, phone (206) 599-2014.

—Paul Sorrell

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CAMP MEETING AT FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

The Fresno, Calif. Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, July 6-15, 1984, at the camp grounds located at 388 N. First St., Fresno, Calif.

A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this meeting. Provisions will be made to care for all who come. Motor homes, campers, and trailers are welcomed. All meeting expenses will be met by freewill offerings. Come praying for a profitable meeting, that souls will be saved, believers sanctified, and bodies healed.

For further information, contact Brother Philip Matthews, 811 N. Ferger, Fresno, Calif. 93728, phone (209) 237-2387; or Brother Charles Parrish, 5970 E. Fedora, Fresno, Calif. 93723, phone (209) 291-9958; or the church, phone (209) 486-9977. —Lavern Moles

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GREEN BANK, W. VIRGINIA CAMP MEETING

Camp meeting of the Church of God at Green Bank, W. Va., will begin, Lord willing, on Friday night, June 29, and continue through July 8, 1984, with two services scheduled daily at 10:30 a. m., and 7:30 p. m. Meals will be served. We do not have our dormitory built yet, but all who come will be cared for.

This meeting is an evangelistic effort to reach souls in this part of the country, and for the en-

couragement of the saints—especially the isolated ones. All are welcome! Come praying for the meeting. We have had glorious meetings here in the past, and are looking for another one this year.

Green Bank is located on Rt. 92, fifty miles south of Elkins, W. Va., and 57 miles north of White Sulphur Springs, W. Va. Bring bedding if possible, and be sure to bring a coat as the nights are cool. If you should come in at night, watch for deer.

For more information, you may call or write Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons at P. O. Box 127, Green Bank, W. Va. 24944, phone (304) 456-4469. The chapel phone number is (304) 456-9089. —Bro. Mart Samons

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GARFIELD, ARKANSAS GOSPEL SINGING

Lord willing, the saints at Garfield, Ark., will hold a singing June 9, at 7:30 p. m. The Community Building that it will be held in is one half mile south of the Pea Ridge National Park which is located on U. S. Highway 62 approximately half way between the towns of Rogers and Gateway. The purpose of this singing is to honor the name of the Lord, and everyone is invited. For more information contact Sis. Lou Bray, phone (501) 451-8619.

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GOSPEL TENT MEETING

All are welcome to a Gospel Tent Meeting to be held in the Amish-Mennonite area of Wayne County, Ohio. This area is about 30 miles south of Akron, Ohio.

The meeting will convene, Lord willing, on July 9, and continue through July 15, 1984. Services will be each night at 7:30 o'clock.

We request your prayers that the Lord will bless this evangelistic effort. Lodging will be provided.

For further information contact Bro. Keith Fuller, phone 216-864-1128, or Bro. Wayne Palmer, phone 216-836-1907.

—La Vern Shaw

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FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

MISSION REPORT FROM NIGERIA

W. Africa (Mar. 13)—Dear Bro. Hammond and all in the Church: Greetings in the purifying name of the Lord Jesus, the Great Refiner. Praise Him forever!

Thank you for your letter of March 3, the contents of which were happily perused. It is a matter of much interest to see the saints everywhere giving attention to our chief need, being prayers for strength, power, courage, and fearlessness to press the battle to its ultimate end. Natural courage is always mixed with softer material, hence the desire for a lesson of disciplined courage, purified by fire, strengthened by a higher spirit of trust and devotion. Sanctification will bring about such consecration of courage, making it deep-springing, divinely purified, and divinely directed.

We report with joy that the servants of the living God here are faithfully occupying, performing the mission of a key, each having the privilege and joy of opening the door for the sheep to enter, and feeding the sheep as the Master has commanded. A key is a badge of power or authority (Isa. 22:22; Rev. 3:7), and

such authoritative power is at the disposal of every sanctified child of God (Matt. 28:18-20).

The Lord is answering prayer. It is now raining as required to water the ground for the good of our crops. Farming, as experiment has shown, is proving to be an answer for the acquirement of the needed funds for the spread of the gospel in this great continent of Africa. We need the saints' support to improve on our farming method which at present is still crude. A plan is on for the acquirement of land for meaningful farming. If the Lord approves, Bro. David Pierro from Calif., U. S. A., will arrive to live in Nigeria to help manage this farm project.

Life is becoming increasingly difficult for those who have man to trust instead of God. Essential food items are no longer within their purchasing power as their prices are alarmingly too high to afford. Saints of faith in God have no fear of the situation. We suffer want of nothing, having faith in a providing God. Faith in Him is forever the remedy.

The car of this writer has broken down. Pray for him for the means to bring it back on the road soon. . . . God bless you as you care.

Yours for the whole truth, —Titus U. E. Enu
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MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Apr. 23)—Dear ones at Faith Pub. House, and the dear saints scattered abroad: Greetings to all of you again in holy Christian love. Thank you very much for your kind letter dated April 5. The enclosures were noted with much appreciation and gratitude from the heart.

Sorry I am a little late in replying to your letter as we were not at home the last few days. We were at Chalakudy in North Kerala to attend the convention there. We had a very blessed meeting as many got saved, sanctified, and baptized. We got a few more calls from different ones in N. Kerala. I wish to contact them very soon.

I am thinking of the missionary spirit of the Church of God. Missionary churches are progressive. Oswald J. Smith once said, "Show me a church on fire for souls in the foreign field and I will show you a church on fire for souls at home. Show me a church that contributes generously to the regions beyond and I will show you a church that solved its financial problems at home." We all know the difference between the water in the Dead Sea and the water in the Sea of Galilee. The Dead Sea takes in and takes in, but it never gives out; hence it is stagnant. The Sea of Galilee takes in, but it also gives out; hence it is filled with life and its water is fresh. Here we have a perfect illustration of the missionary church and the church that is not interested in missions. . . . We praise God that the Evening Light Church of God in America is a missionary church. It takes in and gives out, and as a result we have living churches in India, Nigeria, Ghana, Mexico, Philippines, Canada, Central America, etc. Our prayers are for the abundant blessings of the Church of God everywhere.

We also pray for the blessings of the camp meetings in America this year. I wish, if I get a chance, to attend the camp meetings in America next year. When the dear saints gather together in the tabernacle, please remember the needs of the Church of God in India in your earnest prayers.

Yours in His service, —John Varghese

REPORT FROM SIS. KEISER IN GHANA, W. AFRICA

Ghana, W. Africa (May 13)—Dear saints at the Print Shop, and scattered abroad: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus. Once again we come your way with news concerning the work of God here in Ghana. The pastors here are Bro. Appeah who is at Tano Kwaemu; Bro. James Badu who is at Afrancho; and Bro. Jim Akwasi who is here in Akumadan-Ash. These are all dedicated young brethren. Pray much for them that their ministry will be effective where God has placed them. They are fighting against many forms of sin, including idol worship and witchcraft.

Bro. Jim Akwasi and I have been invited to Port Harcourt in River State, Nigeria, to hold a meeting. We hope to leave here either in the first or second week of June, if things can be arranged. On our return, we are planning a street meeting (three days) in Techiman, a village about fifteen miles from here, with the desire to start a new work there in the future.

The mission house is finished, and we should be occupying it on May 18. It has been a real burden on the brothers and myself, and we are all glad and rejoicing to see the work accomplished. Sand has been delivered to start making blocks for the chapel. We will build as quickly as God supplies for the need. The work is going forward and I am very much encouraged with the progress made. When we get settled, I intend to learn the language and get into a prayer and fasting and visitation program. They now have a 5:30 a. m. prayer meeting six mornings a week, and as many as thirty or more come out. . . .

We have a young crippled brother in the congregation here. From his waist up he is a normal person, but he is not able to walk on undeveloped legs. He gets around in a crawling position. He is worthy. His name is Maxwell, and he is a single man. Because of his physical condition, his work ability is limited. If he had a three-wheeled cycle (with a motor on it), it would be a real blessing to him. They figure the cost is about \$300.00.

All of the saints in Ghana send their love to all the saints scattered abroad. We desire continued prayer for the work here.

Your missionary to Ghana, —Sis. Dorothy Keiser
[It was with thankful hearts that the above report was received on May 21. Sis. Keiser expressed in some letters to other saints that a garden has been planted and is looking really good. Some much needed rain has been received, too. Sis. Keiser has to go about 65 miles to get her mail. With transportation being very limited and poor, she is not able to get it regularly. She made no mention of trouble of any kind. We are truly thankful for God's protection over her, and for answering prayer that contact has been restored. —Editor]

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LETTERS FROM PHILIPPINE MISSIONS

San Jose City—Dear Bro. Hammond and all the dear saints: Greetings to all of you in Jesus' precious name. We were all very happy to receive your very kind letter full of love and encouragement. Thank you so much again for your kind help for us.

My family and all the saints were rejoicing much to receive the schedule of your flight to the Philippines. We expressed thanks to the almighty, heavenly Father for His kindness to us in the Philippines. We

thank Him for you dear saints. . . .

May I close now and say again, thank you so much, dear saints, for your unwearied love for us, and to bring more souls out of darkness to Christ who is the only Saviour of the world. . . .

We are all anxiously waiting for you.

Much love, —M. S. Tangunan and family

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Surigao City—Dear Bro. Hammond and saints in the Print Shop: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." It is always a great joy for us to think of you and wish you much joy and peace from above now and forever. At the same time, we would like to express our heartfelt thankfulness for all your love and wonderful deeds.

The vineyard work is progressing well here. By your kindness we were able to complete the materials for our church building, and hope that by next month we will be able to begin the construction. Pray with us that the Lord will meet all our needs for it. We received the printed matter in good order.

Your coming is always waited for, and we are looking forward to being with you soon. All our members are eager to meet you soon, so hope that God finds some way of your coming here. It is just wonderful how our good Lord arranges everything.

May the Lord bless and keep you in His heart of love. Please continue to carry us under your wings of prayer. May God bless you all.

In His love and service,

—Bro. and Sis. Ilde Detuya

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Cagayan De Oro City—Dear Bro. Hammond and saints: Greetings in the sweet name of Jesus Christ, the Lord, Saviour, and Supplier of all our needs. May His blessing be bountifully and continually bestowed upon us. Thank you very much for your letter and the enclosed was noted with deep appreciation. . . .

The radio program was temporarily stopped since February due to our very limited funds. Many inquiries were received as to why I stopped, but I assured them we will be back on the air soon.

Brothers and sisters, the work here is truly advancing, and I hope that through prayer and your support, more souls will be won into the kingdom. I beg your continued cooperation.

Your co-laborer in Christ,

—Xavier Prado and family

Prayer Requests

Mont.—"Please pray for my hearing."

—August Elhard

Mo.—Sis. Alice Rhoades has been afflicted with poison ivy; please pray for her healing.

Oklahoma.—"Please pray for my sister who is afflicted."

—Sally Williams

W. Va.—Please pray for my family; some are sorely afflicted."

—Melba Powell

La.—Sis. Elva Joiner is worthy of prayer for healing to her body.

Pa.—"Please remember me in prayer. I am looking to the Lord for complete healing." —Nancy Wagoner

Ohio—"Pray for my daughter's complete healing. She has cancer, and she has four sons who need their mother."

—Juanita Blankenship

Oklahoma.—"Pray that God will help me to keep faithful and obedient to His Word and will to my last breath."

—Ada Scanlon

"Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and for evermore. From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised. The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens. Who is like unto the Lord our God who dwelleth on high, who humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth!" Psa. 113:2-6. These verses of praise and honor to God also give a beautiful description of Him and His power. "The Lord is high above all nations . . . who is like unto the Lord our God who dwelleth on high?" God is supreme; He is above all; all things are subject unto Him; there is none other like unto Him, yet He "humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth." Praise the Lord, that takes in us. The Lord did not create us, place us in this world, and forget about us, but He is beholding us from day to day, hour by hour, and minute by minute. He is ever mindful of His creation. What a vain thing it is for one to place his trust in the puny arm of man! Be encouraged, dear ones, and may your faith and complete trust always be in the Almighty God—there is none other like unto Him. "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Cor. 4:18. —Randall Flynn

From the Mailbox . . .

Oklahoma.—Dear brethren and sisters in Jesus: We greet you with victory in Jesus' name. Our heart and mind overflow with praise and gratitude to the Father, Son, and Spirit for freedom from sin and for the joy and peace that passes understanding. "Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to usward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered." Psa. 40:5.

I know this to be true because I, too, tried to reckon them in order one morning when I went up to my room to worship God. I said, "I will begin and record His wonderful works to me in the order that they took place since I was saved 2 years before which was in 1924." I would remember and record and soon remember something else previous to that. I had to go back so many times that I finally said, "Lord, I can't do it!" I reached for my Bible, opened it, and guess what God told me? With no searching, my eyes fell on Psa. 40:5. I was astounded! I tell you, I had a shouting, laughing, crying, praising time up there in my room all alone with all heaven and King David! I never forgot that blessing. I have told it many times. All glory be to God who prepares such exquisite blessings when we come apart to worship Him. For years God came to bless me every morning up there alone in Illinois. I quit long ago trying to reckon up God's blessings and mercies in order. I just tell them as He leads. I am now old, almost blind, and feeble, but the blessings still come like a troop of angels. Praise God!

You may all shout praises to God with us for God's angels carried Elsie Egermeier's Bible Story

Book safely to Burma. The mail man delivered it to John Mann (age 14) in the evening mail. He and his parents were so moved that they knelt to pray. One, then the other prayed. When they had finished, they praised God in song and he, John, stood up and raised his hand to heaven, praised God, and shouted for joy, thanking God. They all got down and prayed to God to give great blessings to "Beloved Grandmother" and all her family of God who do such noble works to give and to teach God's Word to all of the poor people in Burma. He pledged and promised God that they would pray one hour for us every night for a month, besides prayers in the day and in the night.

He took the book to a pastor, who was astounded at the beauty of the strange men in the pictures. They never saw the likes of them before. The pastor said, "I am 79 years old and I have never seen or read anything like it." He wanted to buy it. John told him, "My blessed grandmother's dear friend, Edna Davis, sent it to me and it is not to be spent [sold]."

John is a real disciple and witness for Jesus at home, school, church, in the villages, and God is blessing me to teach him in the Word as well as in the English language. He needs a dictionary really bad. They can scarcely get English school books. He passed the 7th grade the first part of the year and wants to finish school so badly. He had to sell some school books to buy food this year. He is "with my own hands sewing up the holes in my clothes that are so worn." These are the ones I sent him last year. He says that he weighs 150 lbs. and is 5 ft. tall.

Pray, please, that God will raise up someone to take up my Ghana burden and labor; also my burden for Burma. My eyes are so dim. I am feeble and down so much with awful spinal trouble and very bad sinus. I want to labour with Jesus for souls who are hungry and thirsty for spiritual food.

John has written to me since he was 11, begging me to teach him God's Word. Reading and writing English is a hard labour for him, but he is so faithful. "My letter is not pretty, or sweet or gentle, it is full of broken words, it makes me great sorrow and sad; please excuse mistakes; tell me, teach me." Oh, that I could go and sit down with them and help. . . .

Pray for me, —Sis. Ada Scanlon

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Ohio—Dear ones: Greetings of love from Ohio. Praise God for salvation and all of the many wonderful blessings He bestows on us. We feel so unworthy, but grateful, and are much encouraged to live for Him. We appreciate the Lord's dealings with us. Our desire is to be ready for His service at all times. Pray for us that we will ever keep heaven in view.

—Kenny and Mary Abbott

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Pa.—Dear saints: I am so glad to be a part of the family of God. He saved and sanctified me when I was fifteen years old. I would not want to live without Him. He meets my needs. When I need Him, I call and He is there. He has watched over me through my whole life. There is nothing too big or too small for God to do.

We have the beauty of spring showing itself at this lovely time of year. Trees are getting their green leaves and the flowers are showing their elegant

colors. Only God can make a tree and the flowers bloom like they do. Man has tried to do it, but hasn't succeeded yet. God still controls the rain, sunshine, and all the elements. Man is inventing things to take man's life, but when Jesus comes, I want to be ready and doing what He would have me do.

May God bless all there at the Publishing House. The work is hard, I know, but it is so rewarding to see one soul born into the kingdom of God. I want to be a small part until Jesus comes or calls for me.

Your sister in Him,

—Eva Cox

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Wash.—Dear Sister Maybelle, co-laborers, and all the saints abroad: Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. We surely thank the Lord today for His love and strength to us and all His dear children.

I suppose you have heard by now that my husband passed away May 1. We miss him, but the dear Lord is blessing and sustaining us. We are thankful we have One we can lean on and trust in. I believe he gave his heart to the Lord. I have perfect peace about him. He had several things wrong with him, but it was a heart attack that took him at the last.

May the dear Lord strengthen all there, and keep you encouraged.

Your sister in Christ, —Mrs. D. T. Thomas

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Okla.—Greetings to the household of faith: The Lord has been good to me, sparing me from flu and sickness this past winter. I'm thankful to see the flowers blooming one more spring. There seems to be so little that I can do for the Lord since my eyes are not so good. I often pray the Lord will give me something to do for Him. I spent much time in my younger days passing out tracts, visiting the sick, writing letters, etc. Now, I go as someone is kind enough to take me.

I just returned from visiting with my daughter last week, and I attended the funeral of Sis. Dolly Sorrell. On Tuesday, I turned my yard hose on in front, and noticed the water pressure was very low. I came in the house to find water standing on my hall floor. The water pipe to the hydrant had frozen in the winter. When I turned on the hydrant, the water pressure blew a hole in one bedroom wall. The water soaked two bedroom carpets and most of the hall. I called the children, and they began to call for help. A machine was brought in which picked up nearly 30 gallons of water. The carpets had to be pulled up and taken to the shop to be dried. This took a couple of days. My "peace" was not disturbed. The man came Wednesday to lay the carpet. Immediate attention kept them from shrinking.

It seems that the carpet cleaning place is owned by a very religious man who employs only religious people. This man asked me what I attributed my longevity to. He said that his grandmother was 101, and that I reminded him of her. I told him, "The mercy of God." He agreed that was a good answer. I told him how harmful the habit of smoking was, and told him the Bible says to "cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit." (2 Cor. 7:1). He agreed, only he didn't think that one could live

without sinning. I gave him many Scriptures. He said that he believed the Lord knew He was going to let that water pipe burst so he could talk to me, and that I had shown him things he didn't know. He had quit going to church because he was not getting what he was looking for. As he left, I gave him a *Faith and Victory* paper and some tracts. He said he would read them, and expressed again that he was so glad he could talk to me about the Lord.

There are hungry souls out there in the world if we can only reach them. All I can do is pray the Lord to send people my way. It is a joy to my soul to witness to people about the goodness of the Lord. All things work together for good to them that love the Lord, and I surely love Him. The work and inconvenience the water caused proved to be a blessing.

I thank the Lord for the saints who are holding to the truth. This is a holy and righteous way, and I am happy to be in it.

Yours in Christ,

—Edith Wall

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La.—Dear ones at the Print Shop, and saints everywhere: I would like to testify of God's goodness to me, and to thank all who prayed for me when I was so afflicted.

About Christmas, 1983, I began to hurt in the lower left part of my back, and the pain would go down my left leg. I kept thinking I would soon be all right and kept on with my duties, but kept getting worse instead of better. I could not sit very long at a time, and could not stand very long without the pain becoming so severe I would have to lay down. It reached the point that I could not bend over, and at times the pain was so severe that I would have to grit my teeth and cry. I was not able to go to church or anywhere. The saints here were praying and doing all they knew to help. The Lord had given me the Scripture, "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man," so I was resting on that. I wasn't afraid to trust God, as I knew that He knew my trouble better than anyone else, and that He was well able to heal me. About the middle of February, I got so sick I could hardly eat anything and keep it down, and had very little appetite. I became so weak that I had to have help to get out of bed. My nerves were so bad that I could not write or talk on the phone, and I had to be fed mostly in bed. The saints here were faithful to come, bring food, and pray, and others from other places called and sent cards. I thought of the Scripture which says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." It was a real encouragement to think of all those prayers going up for me. I was expecting to be healed, but I had to battle the enemy when those pains would come so hard. I thought of what Jesus suffered for me . . . and of all the good things the Lord has blessed me with all through my life. I felt that surely, with the Lord being my helper, I could suffer some for His sake. It seems the Lord gave me something every day to keep me encouraged.

It proved to be a blessing that my husband was unemployed, as he had a job caring for me and doing the necessary things here in the home. He was so faithful in praying for me. In the night when he would realize I was suffering, he would bow beside

my bed and beg God to take away the pain; God heard prayer every time.

When Bro. and Sis. Samons were here in meeting, some of the saints gathered here the last Sunday of the meeting and anointed me again and prayed. God heard and answered prayer, and I have been getting better ever since. I am able to go to meeting and town some. I still have to rest, but my strength is coming back. God did it all! Praise His dear name!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the saints for their prayers, pretty cards, letters, phone calls, and flowers. It would be hard to acknowledge each one separately. May the Lord bless each one.

—Virgie Flynn

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Okla.—Dear saints: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. How thankful I am for salvation and the many other things the Lord does for me.

I want to tell of the goodness of God to me. I had a really bad sick spell in October, 1982, and another in January, 1984. The Lord wonderfully touched my body and enabled me to be up most of the time, and in between this time, the Lord healed me of a number of afflictions. To God we give the praise. Surely, I can say, "God is my refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble." I thank all the saints for their prayers; I love every one.

Please pray for me that I will keep in the center of God's will. My greatest desire is to please the Lord. Pray for my unsaved loved ones.

May the Lord bless and keep you.

Yours in Christ,

—Gustava Anderson

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La.—Dear workers at the Print Shop, and all readers of the *Faith and Victory*: Greetings in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Psa. 103:1, says, "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name." The whole Psalm is very good. I do want to bless and give thanks to the name of the Lord, for His blessings to me are many.

In December, just a couple nights before Christmas, we had a hard freeze to come in rather suddenly. Weather had been considerably mild up until then, but now winter had really rushed in on us. The temperature dropped fast and to a low that we seldom have here. When I learned about eleven o'clock through a phone call that this was coming in, I tried to cover the pump, pressure and filter tanks. Before going to bed I turned on faucets to let water run in the house, but no water came. That really scared me as I knew that something had already frozen. I knew the danger of the pipe in the north wall (behind the brick) and in the attic freezing, and the possibility of them staying frozen for several days and bursting. My husband had said that if that pipe in the wall ever broke, we would have a real problem. All I could do was pray and plead that the Lord would not let that pipe burst, and I promised to testify to His goodness. How happy I was on Monday night after Christmas when the water began to come through and everything was okay! There was much thanksgiving to His name!

When the Scripture in 2 Cor. 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or

bad," was used in service recently, I thought: regardless of how much bad has been done, if it has been repented of and put under the blood, we will not have to receive for that bad done in the body. All praise and glory to the name of Jesus our Saviour, who made it possible for our salvation, and that we can make heaven our home! Hell is an awful place of suffering, even for those who may have done *very little* bad. Oh, that souls would awaken and receive the pardoning grace of salvation to their souls and escape that endless eternity in torment is my prayer.

—Myrtis Flynn

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Canada—Dear saints: Greetings in Jesus' dear and holy name. Truly, I thank Him for all the blessings He has bestowed upon me. Many times these blessings come in disguise, and because we are human, it is sometimes hard to recognize them. Even if we do not understand many things which come our way, we must learn to see God in everything. As Job said, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

I thank the dear Lord for salvation. I have no desire for the pleasures of sin. My soul is dead to the world. I only want to make it to that brighter world above, no matter what the cost. What of sorrow and tribulation, grief and pain here below? It will matter but little at last. I have been thinking about Moses and how that all of this world's honour, glory, riches, and pleasure lay before him—they were his for the taking. Yet, he counted all that but dung, forsook it all, and chose rather to suffer affliction with God's people than to enjoy the pleasures of sin, counting the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt. What a complete pulling out and dying to this world!

Pray for me that I'll be true to the end, that I'll ever keep a very soft and tender heart, and be truly humble before the Lord. I love the saints, the Church, and the truth.

Yours,

—Agathe Friesen

"Stigmata"

The word "marks" in Gal. 6:17, is from "stigmata," and means the brand which the slave bore on his body which showed that he was the property of a certain slaveowner. It was usually the initial letters of the owner's name or his name in full. You read the name of the owner on the body of the slave. What lies in this metaphor is this, that the Christian as belonging to Christ has the name of God written upon him. "I will write upon him the name of my God." Rev. 3:12. You can read Christ in the life of a saint. The name he bears in this life is "Christ." That is his brand—his stigmata. The saint glories in bearing this stigmata. The very passion of his life is to see that nothing obliterates this brand. He is thoroughly decided that the world, nor sin, nor the devil, nor the years of time will be able to have these marks overgrown. They must stand out clear and distinct so that all may read. For him to live is Christ. Christ is to be seen in every word and deed. The intensity, the passion, the fixed resolution of the true saint is to bear these marks in life and in death, so that Jesus shall be magnified in the body while living and when dying. Phil. 1:20

—C. E. Orr

Question and Answer Column

by

Ostis B. Wilson

Question: What should be the position of the Church of God and saints in general in regard to ministers or gospel workers who willingly submit themselves into the hands of doctors and go to hospitals, or resort to medicines? Would it be thought conceivable that God would instruct such a one to submit to doctors, etc.?

Answer: Divine healing has been a fundamental, cardinal doctrine of the Church of God from its inception on the Day of Pentecost and throughout this dispensation of time down to now. In Acts 5:12, we read of many signs and wonders being wrought among the people by the hands of the apostles. Verse 15 tells of them bringing forth the sick and laying them on beds and couches in the street in order that the shadow of Peter might pass over them that they might be healed. Verse 16 tells of many people from the cities round about bringing their sick folks into Jerusalem, and they were every one healed. The Church started out this way, and everywhere the gospel of the kingdom has been preached, both then and all along through the ages of time until now, it has been accompanied by healing of the sick. The preaching of the gospel and divine healing have always gone hand in hand—they are actually components one of another.

The doctrine of divine healing was taught and practiced by all the early ministers of this Evening Light Reformation, and is still taught and practiced by the true ministers of God today. My parents were both among the early pioneer ministers of the Evening Light Reformation, and I had firsthand knowledge from them as to how this doctrine was taught and practiced among them. They taught that saints should trust God with their bodies as well as their souls, and it was God's will and plan to heal His people without the aid of doctors and medicines in answer to the prayer of faith. This has been the code that true saints of God have lived by throughout this age of time. God has set His seal to it, and has healed every kind of sickness and disease in the books, and has confirmed the preaching of this doctrine with signs following.

It has always been considered substandard for saints in light to resort to medical remedies and treatment, and still is. There are too many among us today going to hospitals and dying there in the hands of the doctors. This is not according to God's Word. Because of this, we are being robbed of victories and the manifestation of God's power and glory in our midst. But when ministers do these things, what shall we say? What can we say in behalf of those who have persevered in their faith, died in the faith, and refused to accept deliverance from pain, sickness, and death by human aid in order to please God and hold their integrity with Him? Consider the young saints who have laid their lives on the line to trust

God and be faithful to Him in times of severe and potentially fatal sickness—young mothers and fathers trusting God with their families as well as their own lives, and have persevered and gone down to the bars of death trusting in the Lord. Then God came and healed them, raised them up, and now they sit in the service listening to someone preach who has been in the hospital and maybe had an operation, etc. What shall we say; what can we say to people like that in such a case? Folks, it cannot be that we would ever represent folks as being in good standing who do these things and lower the standard of truth in this way until they have properly cleared themselves.

F. G. Smith, in his book, *What the Bible Teaches*, on page 197 (chapter ten, "Divine Healing"), says, "This blessed truth is established in the Word of God." Then he continues, "This doctrine has been ignored by many; but 'what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?' [Rom. 3:3]. It is not what men believe or do not believe, that is to settle the great facts of truth, but it is *what the Word of God says*."

The healing which was to characterize the life of Jesus Christ was prophesied in Isa. 35:4-6, and in Isa. 53:4, 5, and in many other Old Testament Scriptures. These prophecies of Isaiah were declared to be fulfilled in the ministry of Jesus in Matt. 8:16, 17, where it says, "When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." And we also read in Matt. 4:24, "And his [Jesus'] fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy: and he healed them."

Jesus also delegated this power and authority to cast out devils, heal the sick, and preach the kingdom of God when He sent forth His twelve disciples (Matt. 10:1; Mark 6:12, 13). He also delegated this same power and authority to seventy others when He sent them forth in Luke 10:1-9. In fact, Jesus delegated to the Church, His body, and especially its ministry, this power and authority to heal the sick and cast out devils, as well as other miraculous things. This was a **permanent** arrangement throughout this gospel age of time. The commission as given in Mark 16:15-18, states this: "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; . . . and these signs shall follow them that believe; . . . they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Do we believe that the part of Jesus' commission which says, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" is still in effect today? Surely, we do. But what foundation do we have for believing this and not believe also that part of the same commission which says that they who believe "shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover" is also in effect today? Surely, the commission that Jesus gave shall stand in its entirety in all of its parts until the end of

the world. Heb. 13:8, says, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to day, and for ever."

In James 5:14-15, we read these instructions to the Church after it was set up and operating: "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; . . ."

Yes, the doctrine of divine healing is well founded in the Holy Scriptures throughout. This is what God's ministers are to preach and teach to the people. But if we are going to preach it, we must also practice it and demonstrate its workability. The Word of God says, "The husbandman that laboreth must be first partaker of the fruits." 2 Tim. 2:6. The ministers are to be ensamples to the flock (1 Pet. 5:3); teach them what to do and then show them how to do it.

This doctrine taught so generally and generously throughout the New Testament is being grossly corrupted in our day. We have a parallel of this in the corrupting of the gospel in regard to salvation in the New Testament. Paul was preaching the pure gospel of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ only—without any human works attached to it. The Judaizers in Paul's day accepted Christ as the Messiah, but they connected to that circumcision and the works of the law, without which they said people could not be saved. This was a corruption of the pure gospel of salvation which Paul was preaching, and it was in this area that he had his greatest conflicts. In 2 Cor. 2:17, Paul declared himself to be not of the number which corrupted the Word of God.

We have the same principle at work here in our day in corrupting the Word of God with regard to the doctrine of healing. It is held that God gave us physicians and gave them skill, knowledge, and understanding of the human body to be able to help us in our sicknesses. Oh, of course, we say, they have their limits, but they do what they can do and then God does the actual healing. Is this not the same corrupting principle that Paul encountered in his day regarding salvation? But I say, if God has to do the real healing in the final analysis of the case, why not let Him do it all in the first place and not get any human works mixed in with it? Let God get all the glory and we get all the inspiration and blessing that comes with this work of God upon us. This is God's plan and purpose for bringing about a closer relationship between His children and Himself.

CHRISTIAN LOVE—THE TIE THAT BINDS

In 1 Cor. 12:24, 25, we are told that "God hath tempered the body together . . . that there should be no schism [division] in the body." The thing that prevents division, then, is that tempering that God does in the hearts. It is not, therefore, in the power of man to produce Christian unity nor to produce the tie that holds Christians together. This tie can bind only Christian hearts. From this love, itself divinely implanted, comes that spiritual fellowship which is so sweet to those who dwell together in unity.

—C. W. Naylor

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HOME LIFE

Love—The Secret Weapon

Jesus teaches us in Mark 12:31, that the first and most important commandment is love: to love God, and to love our fellow man. The natural and necessary climate for Christian growth and nurture is love. The love Jesus speaks of here is "agape"—the divine love of God for man—not human love, or romantic love, or even filial love, but the great, all-encompassing love of God that Paul describes in 1 Cor. 13.

This love is the secret to a happy, successful Christian life, and it is also the secret to being successful in rearing children. Love is more necessary to children than food; and they begin to know soon after birth if they are loved. Why is God's first commandment to us one of love, rather than obedience to His rules? He knows that if we love Him, we will be obedient to anything He asks. Thus He put into children a desire to be loved that is stronger than all other needs. This is the great tool He gives us to shape and direct their lives toward Him. If we love our children, they cannot help loving us; and this love gives us the power and authority to mold their characters into God's image.

The flood of love that rushes over you when you first become a parent is a wonderful feeling, much like the feeling of "falling in love." But that high tide of emotion is not a love that can carry you through the long years ahead. It begins to dim considerably during the first all-night colic session, and may be hard even to remember by the time your darling is able to crawl around introducing himself to your breakables. Nevertheless, the child's need to be loved is just as strong as it ever was, whether it is easy for you to feel love for him or not. This is when you need "agape."

Love suffers long and is kind. Only the love of God can suffer long enough with a child. Human patience is a poor tool in child rearing. A parent's job in training a child is to repeat the same things over and over and over, until the child learns them. Of course he can't learn all the good behavior you wish him to know by being told three or four times; but he must learn it. Tell him, then, with love; and with love tell him again and again—not for months but for years. Don't punish him because he forgets or doesn't understand or you're tired of telling him; punish him when he knows what you want and refuses to do it.

And through all this, be kind. That little child's self-esteem is so easily damaged, and he forms his opinion of himself from the way you treat him and the things he hears you say about him. Don't resort to yelling or name-calling to make him mind. You forfeit your authority and damage the child's self-image when you do that. (Remember that Jesus tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves; and no one ever yet loved others without first loving himself.) Your job is to give your child such a good feeling about himself that the world can't knock it out of him!

Love seeketh not her own and is not easily provoked. Don't fall into the trap of using your child's looks, personality, or abilities to build up your own ego or impress your friends; that way lies trouble for both of you. The child is not a reflection of you; he is a person in his own right. Don't push your children into things they're not interested in to fulfill your own unsatisfied desires. It won't work. When you become a parent, it's time to stop thinking about what **you** want!

Don't punish a child because he has embarrassed you or made you angry. You can't deal with him fairly on the basis of your hurt feelings, pride, or anger; deal with him only on the basis of good behavior or bad behavior. Your discipline can never be effective unless your child knows that you will be fair with him, and that you do it with love. And be sure that the child understands your rules before you try to enforce them.

The next most important thing to loving your child is to make sure he knows he's loved. Tell him so every day. Tell him the things you like about him; compliment him when he tries to please you; find something good to say even when he fails; and when you say these things, look him in the eye. Direct eye contact says more than words can ever hope to; through it your child can look into your heart and know that you really mean the things you're saying. Make this a habit from infancy on, and you'll be able to read your child's heart, too.

Spend time alone with each child every day. Make this a time to play special games you make up together, listen to each other, and reinforce your love. Initiate this time yourself—don't make the child clamor for your attention. Give it to him freely, of your own volition, before he asks. You'll soon find that this quality of attention will satisfy his love-hunger, and he'll be content to play by himself more. You need not spend all your time playing with your children, of course, but it is the most important part of your day. This may sound like heresy, but it's true: your child is more important than housework! Will he remember in later years that your house was always immaculate, or that "Mom never had time to play with me"?

Take time to make special memories for your children. Do unexpected, fun things with them, just because you want to. Make up little ceremonies or traditions that they enjoy, and enter into the fun yourself. By involving the whole family you will give them a sense of belonging and security that will follow them always. You want them to come see you when they're grown, don't you? Then make them feel wanted now!

You will not spoil your children by giving them this kind of loving attention. Love does not spoil children; lack of consistent discipline spoils them. A loved child is easy to correct, and you will find love to be a much more effective disciplinary tool than harshness or anger.

By giving of yourself to your children, filling them up with love and security, you can kindle a fire to be passed on to your grandchildren and theirs, more valuable and precious than any other treasure you could give them. Most of the personality disorders and unhappiness in the world around us are caused by the lack of parental love, and unfortunately this is passed on, too. It's very difficult to love a child selflessly if you yourself were not loved as a child—without "agape." So start a tradition of love with your children! They first learn of the love of God through the love you show them. —Patsy Cain

Paradox of Christianity



Webster's New World Dictionary defines the word "paradox" as: "a statement that seems contradictory, unbelievable, or absurd, but that may actually be true in fact."

In the divine economy of God there is a great paradox that looms like the towering, majestic Mt. Everest. This apparent contradiction beckons to every pilgrim traveler on his way to the Celestial City. It woos them to master its utmost heights, for on the top of this imposing summit lies a secret of God unknown to the wayfarers in the well-travelled valleys below.

The knowledge and application of this secret (which is hidden from the carnal-minded), will enable the soul to transform burdens into eagle wings, and then soar higher and higher as burdens become jetisons of air, lifting one triumphantly into the pure, ethereal skies.

The secret paradox: the closer I get to God and the more holy I become, the more often I will be tempted. Great faith must have great trials. Satan's pull away from God is reversed by steadfast resistance, and the devil's power is harnessed for us. His opposing power actually helps push us towards the Lord. Once a soul gets close to God, constant and varied temptation with victory keeps it "up high," buoyant in the power of God.

"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." (2 Cor. 4:16, 17). The Apostle Paul basically said it another way in the same chapter: "Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be manifest in our body." (2 Cor. 4:10). A constant dying to the flesh is the necessary fuel to induce the radiation of the glorified life of power.

The only way a person can be tempted is to feel it. This is to experience a sway of emotions and feelings contrary to the decision of the will. Temptation comes strongest, many times, when a person is nearest God. "And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and

Satan standing at his right hand to resist him." (Zech. 3:1).

"And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered." (Luke 4:1, 2). The Scripture says that because Jesus was full of the Spirit, He (the Holy Spirit) led Him into this encounter. While God doesn't tempt He does test, and man's own passions provide the materials for the conflict. (James 1:13, 14). After being filled with the Holy Spirit, temptation confirms, refines, and magnifies the Spirit's influence in a life.

After Jesus successfully resisted the enemy for forty consecutive days (and nights), His ordeal climaxed with the three temptations which are recorded. Then in Luke 4:13, it says, "he [the devil] departed from him for a season." The end result is found in verse 14: "Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about."

A good deal of the Lord's victory could be attributed to "eating nothing"—or fasting during His temptations. We must fast to last. Jesus said later of some particular difficulties, "Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." (Matt. 17:21).

From Jesus' temptation we can see that when we are "in the Spirit" at our deepest, purest state, we'll still have our humanity or feelings. And saying that, we would hasten on to say that there is a perfecting in perfection.

Bro. Charles E. Orr says in his book, *The Hidden Life*, "Each person has an individual self-life though he be sanctified wholly. By this sensibility, I mean affections, desires, feelings, emotions, etc. These desires and feelings, it may be, overcome the will, and the purpose of God is not accomplished. Now, growing in grace is for the will to gain more power and these feelings to be lessened in power. Some persons, though sanctified, yet because of a peculiarity of their constitution, easily give way to lightness, some to impatience. Some are much hurt when spoken ill of, and others have feelings of pleasure when they are well spoken of. To grow in grace is to gain power in the soul and to overcome and still the voice of these feelings."

While this is true, it must be put into perspective. God is ever leading willing hearts higher on the mountain. As we climb the mountain we start to get a bird's-eye view of ourselves. We get to a certain plane of victory and think we have gotten somewhere, and then the Lord opens another vein of gold for us. He then starts in anew with His pick and hoe, furrowing our hearts again. This process is repeated over and over until we leave here.

When we can run with footmen and dwell in the land of peace without wearying, the Lord then has us contend with keeping up with horses and staying afloat in the swelling of Jordan. And after that, He turns us loose on the turbulent seas of Galilee. We get victory on one level and then a new level brings us back to square one to start subduing again; then after that, on to perfect the next stage. "By reason of breakings they purify themselves." (Job 41:25).

In order for God to "close in" on a soul, to intensify His grace in an individual, He uses the principle

recorded in Psalms 102:23: "He weakened my strength in the way." The Lord permits situations to weaken our external supports—to give a deeper-seated victory for advanced phases. This allows the Lord to isolate problem areas, put them under close scrutiny, and strengthen them.

This was done to the Lord during His wilderness temptation. Being tempted forty consecutive days of the enemy is enough to weaken anyone. Here we have the element of protracted trial. And while the fast strengthened Him spiritually, it weakened Him physically. Each passing day God, the Father, permitted the devil to bear down on His Son. With each day came a new depth. No doubt each victory brought new tests and exciting feelings probably unknown and never experienced. Physically this could be illustrated by rigorous exercise. Many use muscles they never knew they had, causing feelings of soreness. God permitted this same "weakening" of external supports to Joseph, Abraham, Moses, and Job. Like Moses, they all "endured as seeing him who is invisible," (Heb. 11:27) and were made "perfect through sufferings." (Heb 2:10).

So it seems we will ever be perfecting along the same lines; always crying for more love, faith, patience, and humility, but at the same time always reaching higher into the vast outer regions. And when in trial, the Lord as a surgeon must cut deeper each time to find our nerve endings. This is because they are harder to find.

Just as a mountain climber becomes more sure of himself as his altitude increases, the pilgrim climber must become more sure and exacting in his steps. Sometimes each step, each movement, must be carefully calculated and bathed in prayer. An unwise move at this height means death compared to mere bumps and bruises at lower levels. The air thins causing more demands on the oxygen intake. Light-headedness and dizziness can overwhelm the strongest of individuals. Pilgrim climbers must wear special endowments of humility to guard against the ever-present temptation of exaltation—or even the temptation to envy someone higher than one's self.

The devil aims high! —Terry Dawson

—o— "What Character Am I?"

"But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood, and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour." 2 Tim. 2:20.

In this world where all families of the earth have been housed since creation, traits of human dispositions are recorded of good and bad characters. Some have risen from the sins of their nature to become clean, honourable vessels.

In Adam, all are born with the birthmarks of human depravity. All are born creatures of free choice and have a privilege to choose the character we want to act out. By this free choice we make ourselves vessels of honour, or vessels of dishonour.

Character study reveals earth-minded vessels; fornicators who defile themselves with mankind; also men of cruel nature, malignant and self-willed. There are the bare-chested Esaus of the wilds of sin who do not mind pulling off their shirts to make a fair show of the flesh; who would fain sell their souls for a morsel of this world's goods; and on the scene steps

the Absoloms of hairstyle filled with worldly pride and carnal ambition. Survey the Sauls of rebellion pierced by the iron weapon of their own stubborn will, and see the end of the Iscariots of betrayal who have ended their lives in cowardly acts.

Think of those "liers in wait to deceive," whose lying wonders, backstairs influences, slipshod ways, and wicked maneuverings have by innovations, compromise, and fanatical ways made havoc of God's standard of measurement. These were men of great stature, we might say—tall in their own estimation; having extra fingers and toes—a disarrangement contained in human depravity. Having begun in the Spirit, they became lifted up; took on a complex body of sin filled with irritable temperaments and every design to want to change a pure gospel standard by adding superfluity to the Body of Christ. Such sly carnal instinct may be found in men of instant energy, men of overbearing zeal without godly wisdom. These are men whose irregularities and unbalanced make-up tends to deviate from the normal expectation of a true saint. Recall those extra fingers and toes of those giants made to be taken and slain . . . a superficial show of fleshly appendages, false make-ups of the natural man. Such are those who be of the sons of the giant, whose carnal protrusions and ugly dispositions make up the characteristic of a proud nature.

There is no uglier sin of human traits than the sin of attitude in justifying oneself of wrong doing. "I know smoking and drinking is not good—but I do it moderately." "Yes, I admit I have a temper, but God knows my heart. Every night I fall to my knees and ask God to please forgive me, and He always does."

O soul, these sinful traits in your human make-up will keep you from going to heaven. Jesus, the Great Physician, has a perfect cure for every sinful malady and to pass the death sentence upon every disease of human character. By a gentle birth of being born again, you can be made a new creature to become the gentleness of Christ in every characteristic of His sinless nature. May the Lord bless these few thoughts to your good to desire above all things to be Christ-like in character, in word, and in deed.

—Bro. Salvatore DiDio

—o— NO POCKET IN A SHROUD



Spend your money while you're living;
Do not hoard it to be proud.
You can never take it with you;
There's no pocket in a shroud.
Gold can take you on no farther
Than the graveyard where you lie.
Though you're rich while you are living,
You're a pauper when you die.
Use it, then, some lives to brighten,
As through life they weary plod;
Place your bank account in heaven
And grow richer t'ward your God.
Use it wisely, use it freely;
Do not hoard it to be proud;
You can never take it with you;
There's no pocket in a shroud.

—Anon.