

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Thanksgiving Day

While in the days of darkness sad—
Back in the Civil War,
A strange request a woman had;
Not thought of much before.

She bore it to the President:
"Let's set aside a day
Wherein thanksgiving will be sent
To God in a special way."

"A day of thanks?" Abe Lincoln thought,
"Amid this war and strife?
Where men are in such sadness caught
With so much loss of life?"

But after he had pondered o'er,
And blessings called to mind,
He liked the purpose more and more,
And to it was resigned.

Thus, every year November brings
Thanksgiving on its day—
A pleasant time that sweetly sings
Of thanks we ought to pay;

A lovely day when families meet,
And come from far and near,
And share with gladness pure and sweet
Home ties so close and dear;

A day to pause and blessings count,
And offer praise anew,
And drink of Heaven's flowing fount
Of love and mercies true;

A day to bake the turkey tom,
Or ham, or rooster red—
Enjoy delicious blessings from
His hand by which we're fed.

So do enjoy Thanksgiving Day
How ever it may be,
And from your heart be sure to say,
"Thank God for blessings free!"

—Leslie C. Busbee

Where Art Thou?

Dear ones, we are made to believe that we are living in the very last days because we can see God's Word being fulfilled so fast. Knowing this has just put a heavy burden on my heart, and has helped me to search myself to see if I be in the faith just as God wants me to be. Thank the dear Lord, I have found nothing between my soul and the Savior, but I continue seeking the Lord daily for more of His love and grace, that I may please Him.

It seems in these days we are in that we can see the enemy working so hard on the dear saints of God. He's pressing in on our minds and doing all he can to becloud our souls with all kinds of strange feelings and peculiar trials (some very fiery trials) until it's difficult to get our bearings sometimes. If we ever needed the Lord, it surely is now and from here on out to the end. Truly, without the Lord we can't make it, but with His grace and a firm determination, we can, for He will see us through. Thank the dear Lord.

Seeing that we are in these times, it behooves us, as the children of God, to stand together, pray for one another, encourage one another, and love one another. Gal. 6:2, says, "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."

I feel that we need to be redeeming what little time we have left, dear ones. We must show forth the true Spirit of God in our lives. I have thought so much about the Word that says, "God is love." Dear ones, if God is love (and I know He is), then when we are born of God and He comes into our hearts, that makes our hearts full of love, too, and will show forth in our lives. Then it will automatically flow out to others. I don't believe that there is any room in that heart for fault-finding or criticism of our dear fellow servants. John 13:34, 35, says, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

We also find in the Word of God that He is a very merciful God. In Micah 6:7, 8, we read, "Will the Lord be pleased with rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" The Lord wants us to be merciful as He is merciful. There are so many Scriptures that bear out that our God is very merciful. Take time to search and read them.

Let us search our hearts, dear ones, and see if we do justly, and have a heart full of love and mercy for our fellow man. Let's see if we bear the fruits of the Spirit mentioned in Gal. 5:22. Col. 3:12, says, "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering. . . ." If we do this, it will keep us busy, but will yield happiness.

Time is short, dear ones, so may each heart search out and see where they are.

God bless you. My love and concern is for the Church (the dear saints of God). Pray for me that I stay in God's will daily. That is my whole desire.

—Natalie Allen

Self-Conceited Wisdom: Its Prevention and Cure

"Be not wise in your own conceits." Rom. 12:16. Self-conceitedness is exhibited:

First, by placing a high estimation on our own abilities. If anything in our line of work is to be done, we are the ones that can do it better than anyone else. This is a very precious thought to the self-conceited person. Persons who discover their self-conceit in this way will be found in all walks of life.

Second, by placing a high value on what we do or say, even though it may be unimportant; while the important things of others are not given due credit, or are depreciated. We quite frequently find this disposition in a marked degree among those who are rich, or those who hold authority among men. They accept, as well as give, great credit for small, unimportant things which they do, while some poor, humble person's noble and important words and deeds are often unnoticed, or are depreciated. This is well illustrated by the following parable:

"There was a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it: now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city: yet no man remembered that same poor man. Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard." Eccl. 9:14-16.

Third, by being stiff, not pliable or teachable, tenaciously and dogmatically holding to opinions in opposition to our fellow men, or brethren, whose judgment may be as sound as our own.

Fourth, by supposed infallibility in being led of the Holy Spirit, because we may have been at times remarkably directed by divine guidance. A deep impression is always ascribed to the Spirit, as though we were so specially favored as not to be mistaken just as other people may be. Such persons will prove themselves heady, extreme, fanatical, and beyond the reach of the ordinary means of instruction. They are sure they are right, and that all others are wrong. If someone gives a godly admonition or reproof, they become offended, and hold that person to ask forgive-

ness. What would be thankfully accepted and considered by other brethren, they reject and resist.

Prevention

There is one sure preventive—humility of mind and heart. If you are free from self-sufficiency you can keep free by pursuing the course opposite to the way it leads. Keep little and low in your own estimation. Respect the opinions and judgment of others where you have no infallible standard, or precept by which to judge them as right or wrong. Consider that you are human, and that others are as likely as you to be right in their judgment, and that you might be far wrong. Do not suppose that because you got along seemingly all right in your way, that your way could not be improved upon and is the only successful way. Others have, perhaps, been more successful than you, and followed a different course. If your position is prominent among men, or you are more favored with earthly riches, or learning, do not suppose that what you do or say possesses any more value than the same thing done or said by someone else. God weighs actions, not persons. God looks at the heart, not the outward appearance.

Respect the authority of those who are over you, whether it be kings or governors, or ministers of the Word of God. Submit yourself to every ordinance of man, for the Lord's sake; as well as to those who are over us in the Lord. Be willing to suffer wrongfully; do not resist God's providences. Bear patiently, and for a long time. A little discontent and resistance in times of adversity may puff up the heart, and lose to you the precious lesson God designed you to learn. These are some of the things that will prevent our becoming wise in our own conceits.

Its Cure

If you are self-conceited, doubtless you have already discovered some traces of it as you have read this article. If you have been tempted and have not yielded, do not be worried or feel accused. If you are a child of God, and hate this disposition, you can keep free from it. If you are self-conceited, you need to humble your heart and begin to abhor your conceited self. As soon as possible rectify whatever harm you may have caused others. Do not be too easy on yourself, but let the Holy Spirit crucify the unholy pride in your heart. Make no compromise with the "old man," but die so completely that you can say with Paul, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Gal. 2:20.

This will prove a sure cure for this self-conceited condition of the soul; and if you keep dead you will not have much trouble keeping adjusted to the expectations of reasonable people and the saints of God. If we keep humble, we will receive true wisdom from God which is "first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy, and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." Jas. 3:17.

—J. C. Blaney

(Taken from *The Gospel Trumpet*, 1911)

I have always believed that Christians (I mean out-and-out ones) never have had an excuse for complaint. We simply and always praise Him for redemption, happy that He has delivered us from sin and the prospect of eternal hell.

—Earl Langley



Prayer in School

Now I sit me down to school
Where praying is against the rule,
For this great nation under God
Finds public mention of Him odd.

Any prayer a class recites
Now violates the Bill of Rights.
Any time my head I bow
Becomes a federal matter now!

Teach us of stars or pole and equator
But make no mention of their Creator.
Tell of exports in Denmark and Sweden
But not one word on what Eve did in Eden.

The law is specific, the law is precise,
Praying out loud is no longer nice.
Praying out loud in a public hall
Upsets believers in nothing at all.

In silence alone can we meditate,
And if God should get the credit, great!
This rule, however, has a gimmick in it;
You've got to be finished in less than a minute.

So all I ask is a minute of quiet,
If I can work a prayer in, then I'll try it.
If not, O Lord, this plea I make,
Should I die in school, my soul you'll take.

—Selected

“Keep the Munition”

“He that dasheth in pieces is come up before thy face; keep the munition, watch the way, make thy loins strong, fortify thy power mightily.” Nahum 2:1.

When we are saved from sin and changed from darkness to light, we begin our heavenward journey; many joys await us and also many dangers. The Captain of our salvation gives a clear, distinct command: “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” Eph. 6:10, 11.

Thank the Lord, He didn't leave us defenseless. He has provided powerful weapons that we must use. If we have our goal set for heaven, the Lord has provided everything we need to get there. All the armour is provided, but now we must put it on and keep it on. We are in a warfare and many conflicts and battles are before us, but we can be victors in every one. These weapons are “mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.” 2 Cor. 10:4b-6.

Be alert! Keep wide awake and constantly on guard. “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; whom resist steadfast in the faith. . . .” 1 Peter 5:8, 9. Don't ever let your guard down. “O, soul, be on thy guard.” “Watch and pray,

the tempter may be near us; keep the heart with jealous care. Lest the door a moment left unguarded, evil thoughts may enter there.” Keep the shield of faith up and your sword drawn against the adversary of your soul. Satan's purpose is to hinder or destroy us, but the only ground he can have is what we give him. “Neither give place to the devil.” Eph. 4:27. “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you.” James 4:7, 8. Praise the Lord for victory over sin and all the works of the devil! “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.” Romans 8:37.

“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” 2 Tim. 2:1. God's grace can never fail, but we can fail the grace of God. “Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God.” Heb. 12:15. Let us live a prayerful life close to the Lord, enduring hardness as a good soldier (2 Tim. 2:3). The Christian life is a pressing way and an upward path, but thank God for the joy that is set before us. We must be faithful to the very end, fully trusting God all the way. “Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.” Gal. 6:9. “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.” Phil. 1:6. In the mighty name of Jesus, ever lift up the shield of faith.

Be of good courage! The Lord has never lost a battle and He will not fail us. “Wax valiant in fight.” Keep your eyes on Jesus and keep moving forward. Let us lay aside every weight and everything that will keep us from making spiritual progress. Remember that there is a crown awaiting us if we will be true and faithful 'til the end of life's pathway. “Heaven will surely be worth it all.”

“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober. . . .” 1 Peter 1:13. Give no thought to giving up; feed on the Word of God continually and keep an intimate relationship with the Lord. We must guard our prayer life and spend much time in communion with the Lord. Let us set our face like a flint on the ultimate goal and never look back; never yield to discouraging thoughts or temptations. “Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” 1 John 4:4.

In His service,

—Mancil Doolittle

THE PRINTER'S PULPIT



The printed page is the greatest pulpit that God has given to man;

Its message stirs the heartstrings in every tribe and clan. It shouts to souls in silence, or whispers in a crowd; Gives courage to the humble, or flags the monarch proud. It prompts no false demeanor, upholds no vain display; It pleads, persuades and reasons, at night or in the day. It reaches every cranny where men and women dwell; Goes in unhappy mansions, and into prison cell. And whether book or pamphlet—a leaflet or in tomes; It speaks in mart and factory, in tenements and homes. It never shows resentment, though slighted for an age; And brings the Light to children, to fools and to the sage. This preacher has no equal, this pulpit has no peer, The printed page lives on and on, to comfort and to cheer.

—Selected

FAITH AND VICTORY

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EDITORIALS

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As we come to this month of November, our minds turn toward a day that has been set aside as Thanksgiving Day. Thanksgiving to God is something that should be a part of a Christian's everyday life. It should be a constant sentiment toward God. However, it is good to have a day established for a concerted offering of praise to God for what He has done for us as individuals, our families, the Church, our nation, and all mankind.

In Psa. 136:1, the Psalmist begins by saying, "O give thanks unto the Lord for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever." Then, beginning with the creation of the world, he brings it up to his present time of what the Lord had done for His people. In the last verse of the chapter, he gives praise to God for it all. We could add quite a number of verses to this chapter to bring it up to date for our generation. Beyond a doubt, the greatest event that would need to be added would be the death of Christ on the cross for our salvation and His subsequent resurrection.

The pilgrims set aside a day for Thanksgiving because they had much to be thankful for. Many of the people of our generation possess so much that they are unable to relate to our forefathers and recognize the blessings of God as the pilgrims did. However, this is the very fact why we should be so sincere in our thanksgiving to God today. We have much more to be grateful for in the way of temporal goods than those early settlers did, and fewer hardships to face.

Beyond the necessities of food, raiment, and shelter, we have much by which to consider ourselves blessed. If you have a healthy body, you owe God praise. We should not consider our health a matter of fact or as only a gift of nature, for we are plainly told that God has an interest in our physical welfare. We are told that God has numbered the very hairs of our head. He takes note of that which comes our way. The apostle John said, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." 3 John 2.

Many people take the birth of a normal child for granted, but if we have healthy, normal children, our praises should ring out. We should not just consider it a matter of statistics that our children are normal and someone else's are not.

We should give God praise for the fellowship of the brethren (Acts 28:15); for a God that we can take our every care to (2 Kings 19:14-16); and above all, for a salvation that lifts us above the degradation of a sin-saturated world (Psa. 40:2).

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In stock and available for the price of \$1.50 each, are 1985 wall calendars. Each calendar measures 7¼ by 13½ inches and includes a colorful nature scene for every month. Remember to include 75¢ for postage and handling.

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We have in stock at this time, in a limited quantity, bound volumes of the 1984 *Beautiful Way* books for Juniors (52 papers for the year). The price of these books is \$1.00 each, plus 65¢ for postage and handling.

Under the "Prayer Requests" column in this issue, you will notice a request for Sis. Malinda Flynn. This is a very serious request and each one of us should take it to heart. We are instructed to bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2). God is still on His throne and has the answer for all of our needs. Let us take advantage of this privilege and opportune before Him.

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Bros. George Hammond and Jeff Redington arrived back in the States from the Philippines on Sept. 19, 1984. They reported a very profitable trip and said that the Church there is moving forward for God. Pray for the continuation of the work in that country.

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It was on Sept. 27, 1984, that Aunt Ruth Murphey passed away to be with the Lord. Aunt Ruth did not have a long illness, but before passing away, she was longing to go and be with the Lord. It leaves a vacancy in the hearts of those who knew her, but it is a consolation to know that she is with the Lord. Aunt Ruth was an active laborer in the work of the Lord. Her life was spent in caring for the sick and the elderly. She laid up much treasure in heaven, which we are confident that she is now enjoying.

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We extend heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Mancil and Sis. Shirley Doolittle on the death of their child, Christa DeAnn. Although Christa was but a baby, she brought joy to her parents. May God comfort them with the comfort that only He can afford.

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I was glad for the opportunity to attend the wedding of Bro. Clayton Gaines to Sis. Roberta Hightower, a former worker here at the Print Shop. This ceremony took place at Myrtle, Mo., on Oct. 7, 1984. Our wishes are that God may bless them with many happy years together. —Wayne Murphey

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In Memorial

Ruth McNeely Murphey was born on July 17, 1913, in Neosho, Mo., and entered into rest on Sept. 27, 1984, at Carterville, Mo., at the age of 71 years. She lived most of her life in this area and was a member of the Church of God for 53 years.

She is survived by one sister: Mrs. Dorothea Linton, of Lexington, Mo.; four nieces; 27 great and great-great nieces and nephews; other relatives, and many friends.

Sister Ruth Murphey lived and preached the Word of God for many, many years. Her messages were inspiring and challenging. Many saints from far and wide vividly remember her sermons which were delivered plainly and earnestly under the rich anointing of the Holy Spirit. She attended many camp meetings, revivals, and assembly meetings across the country. Besides being always ready with a message from the Word of God, she was continually doing something for others. It would be hard to say how many miles she drove during her beautiful life of service to the Lord, how many cars she wore out, and

how many meals she fixed and prepared. She was full of service to her Lord, to the saints, and to those around her. Space would not permit us to tell it all. Only the Judgment will reveal the true extent of her life of love and labor. She will be greatly missed in the service of the Lord, and remembered by the things she has done.

Services were held, according to her request, in the tabernacle at the National Camp Grounds at Monark Springs, Mo., with Bros. Willie C. Murphey and Leslie C. Busbee officiating. Burial was in Granby, Mo. cemetery to await the great Resurrection Day.

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In Memorial of Ruth Murphey

She lived a beautiful life
That no one can deny—
Ready to lend a helping hand
To those who were passing by.

God's handmaid in the pulpit
How many lives she did bless!
Many souls she led to the altar
And their sins they did confess.

But now her work is finished,
She has laid her burden down.
Heaven has begun for her;
She has gained a shining crown.

—Grace Jones

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Christa DeAnn Doolittle was born June 4, 1984, and passed from this life October 1, 1984, at the age of three months and twenty-seven days.

Christa was a little ray of sunshine in our home. Her happy smile was a constant reminder of God's love to us. She was loved and enjoyed by everyone she met. Her pretty little face will be sadly missed in our home, but we know that she is with Jesus, with a smile on her pretty little face for Him.

She is survived by her parents, Mancil and Shirley Doolittle of Green Bank; two sisters: Rhonda Lynn and Joyce Elaine; two brothers: Dale Richard and Philip Earl; grandparents: Mr. and Mrs. Richard Watkins, of Turner, Oregon, and Mr. and Mrs. Dale Doolittle of Neosho, Missouri.

The funeral services were held in the Church of God chapel at Green Bank, W. Va. with burial at the Arbovale Cemetery, officiated by Bro. Mart Samons, Bro. Toney Samons, and Bro. Kinney Farris.

Note of Appreciation

To all the dear saints of God: We want to thank you from the depths of our hearts for all the prayers that were prayed in our behalf. Also, we appreciate the abundant love shown to us in the way of cards, phone calls, food, and flowers. Our hearts are very touched.

Continue to pray for us in the days ahead. Our trust and confidence are in God and we know He will fight our battles for us. We are so glad to be a part of the family of God. —Mancil and Shirley Doolittle

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"Child of my love, lean hard,
And let me feel the pressure of thy care;
I know thy burden, child. I shaped it;
Poised it in mine own hand; made no proportion

In its weight to thine unaided strength,
 For even as I laid it on, I said,
 'I shall be near, and while she leans on me,
 This burden shall be mine, not hers;
 So shall I keep my child within the circling arms
 Of my own love.' Here lay it down, nor fear
 To impose it on a shoulder which upholds
 The government of worlds. Yet closer come:
 Thou art not near enough. I would embrace thy care;
 So I might feel my child reposing on my breast.
 Thou lovest me? I knew it. Doubt not then;
 But loving me, lean hard." —Sel.

throne, however, and has full control and with His power and might we shall overcome and prevail. Praise God! Hallelujah! —Shirley Knight

NOTICE

We have been requested to print the address of the Church of God in Seattle, Washington, in case there is anyone in that area who would like to attend services. It is as follows: Church of God, 4201 S. Graham, Seattle, Wash. 98118. If you would like to contact the pastor for personal work in the Seattle area, contact Bro. Charles Taylor, 8125 48th Ave. S., Seattle, Wash. 98118. Phone (206) 725-6790.

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

MEETING REPORT OF BOLEY, OKLAHOMA

The camp meeting season has come and gone. Oh, how swiftly does the time fly, bringing us all to our one destiny: the judgment. There we will receive our eternal reward. Let us all be faithful to the end. How wonderful it will be to hear our dear Lord say, "Well done." Praise the Lord!

We thank the Lord for how He worked in the Boley camp meeting and for the ministers and workers He sent to labor in the meeting. The Word was preached under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

We thank the Lord for the souls that wept their way to the cross and were saved and baptized.

The attendance was good and we give the Lord all the praise and honor for all that was accomplished. Praise the Lord! —Katherine Williams

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GREEN PASTURES REVIVAL MEETING REPORT

We are thankful for God's blessings to us during our recent revival meeting. God richly anointed the services and we feasted on heavenly food.

Several young people sought the Lord for salvation. We solicit your prayers for these dear ones that they will keep encouraged and follow on to deeper depths in God.

May God bless all of the dear saints who came from far and near to help in the fight against sin.

We are inspired to press forward for God. Pray for us. —Frances Chandler

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WICHITA FALL MEETING REPORT

We praise the Lord for His faithfulness to us. He really answered our prayers and gave us a wonderful meeting. The Word was so rich and anointed, and came on different needed lines. More than once in messages we were exhorted to get the gospel to the people who are needing and wanting it. We are praying that the Lord will help us to fulfill the mission of the Church by granting us the burden and the wisdom to win souls.

The singing was glorious and many rejoiced in the Lord. A number sought God for spiritual help and deeper depths and as a congregation we feel refreshed and richly blessed.

We appreciate each minister who came and labored with us and also everyone who came and helped in the battle. We feel we are better equipped to defeat the old devil who seems to be working double-time to discourage and destroy. God is still on the

Prayer Requests

Okla.—"Please pray for me as I have a serious affliction. I thank the Lord for all He has done and I'm believing for complete healing. His Word is forever settled in heaven and it will not fail. Our faith is much encouraged in the great God of our salvation."

—Sis. Malinda Flynn

Tex.—"We truly need your prayers for several things."

—Betty Anderson

Tex.—Please pray for Sis. Lessie Speed's healing. Mo.—"Please pray for three urgent unspoken requests."

—Sis. Roy Blanchard

Tex.—"Please pray for my healing; I have two worn out discs in my spine."

—Jewell McCaskill

Ill.—"Please remember me; I need healing to my body."

Nina Champion

Okla.—Sis. Floy Woolery needs a special touch of healing.

Okla.—"I desire prayer for soul and body."

—Eldora Jennings

W. Va.—"Pray for us, and remember our unsaved children."

—Sis. Erma Clevenger

Mo.—"Please pray for my healing, and also my husband's healing."

—Sis. Joe Bowman

Ind.—"Please pray for my unsaved loved ones, and also for my healing."

—Sis. Mary J. Rogers

Okla.—Dear saints scattered abroad: I need prayer very badly. I am not well in body, so please pray for me. I love the Lord, and I know He can touch my body, for He has done so many times. I leave it all in His hands.

Your sister in Christ,

—Pat Munoz

A FACT

We sow, we reap, but keep in mind
 That what we sow, we reap in kind.
 If it's love and kindness that we sow,
 We'll be cheerful and happy where e'er we go.

It's easy to have a host of friends.
 Of course it all on us depends.
 If I prove myself a friend to be
 Friendship is sure to come back to me.

So let us seek God's love and care.
 The world gives nothing that can compare
 With the promise of eternal life
 When we leave this world of sin and strife.

—F. T. Plank

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

REPORT FROM NIGERIA

(Sept. 14)—Dear Bro. Hammond and all of the holy family: Greetings in the precious name of the Lord Jesus who loved and washed us in His own blood. Praise Him forever!

Where we are is good soil for the gospel. Thus we have found ourselves in a proper sphere and are throwing ourselves enthusiastically into the work of evangelizing. Scales of spiritual blindness are observed to be falling out from the eyes of a great many, enabling them to behold and identify with accuracy the glorious city of God, the Church of the living God, the kingdom of the truth. On the Road to Damascus the vehement Pharisee (Saul) saw his theological system challenged, and much of it crumbled into ruins in its momentous collision with the truth. Now Jesus reveals Himself with unmistakable evidence of deity which led Paul to acknowledge His Lordship and experienced a rebirth of spirit.

Okolore-Two, a village under Ukolore-One, was recently evangelized. The inhabitants of this village saw our mission as God-sent, resulting in the saved ones surrendering their idols in haste for burning to commence the new life faultlessly. The group is rapidly increasing in number, and a new work has been started there.

Bro. Fraide Naths-Igbanibo, who pastors the congregation at Port Harcourt, Rivers State, and Bro. Benson Oparaji, who pastors the Church of God congregation at Umuguma-Owerri, Imo State, were in Kwale on September 1, 1984, on a short visit. They left the next day after worship for their respective stations.

Yours to make Christ known, —Titus U. E. Enu

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FROM THE PHILIPPINES . . .

Surigao City (Sept. 20)—Dear ones at Guthrie and saints abroad in Jesus' most wonderful name. It is always a great joy to think of you and I want to apologize for not taking some time to write to you. I have been very busy in all of our undertakings, especially after the series of typhoons that overswept our area.

Thank you once again for the love gift which you sent to us. We really rejoiced for your kindness to us. The amount was used for our church building that was constructed some time last May. We were holding services there, but much to our regret, in Sept., 1984, a very strong typhoon, "Nitang," swept our area. The church building was badly damaged. The roofing was blown away and it could not be recovered. We are left semi-homeless, for we have no more houses to live in, and have occupied a public building that was not destroyed. Our clothing was also lost, for the rising waters carried them away. Our crops were destroyed and I am afraid that a famine will soon be experienced by us in the days to come.

Praise the Lord for His protection over us during the hard calamity, that we are still safe and sound and we can still give praise and thanks to Him. We are continuing our work for the glory of His kingdom.

Please continue to pray for us that the Lord will supply our every need materially, and above all,

spiritually. By the grace of God, our labors for Him are going fine in spite of the hardships we have encountered due to the series of calamities. This is now the sign of the last days, so we have to work hard while it is still day. Our divine commission is soul winning which is our life's supreme endeavor. Our church members are also working hard for the Lord's work. We want your support in prayer that we will hold true until the end of time. May God bless you all in the Print Shop.

Yours in His service,

—Pastor and Sister Ilde P. Detuya

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MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Sept. 18)—Our dearly beloved elder Sister Maybelle and the co-workers in the Print Shop and the dear saints at Guthrie and scattered abroad: Greetings to you all again in the sweetest name of Jesus Christ. Thank you very much for your kind letter dated Sept. 4, and the enclosures were noted with much appreciation and gratitude. I know you are always busy with many responsibilities, duties, and burdens, but may God bless you with special strength and grace to go forward victoriously.

We had a very wonderful revival meeting at Kerikkon Belthel chapel on the second week of Sept. On the last day, we had feet washing and the Lord's Supper. As a result of the meeting, the Church as a whole was edified. On Gnam holidays, corner and monthly meetings were conducted at Chayppans Kuzhy in the north. Your prayers and support are the main cause for the success of our work here.

The young people's meeting at Nadukkunnu is progressing with new strength. Many young men and women from the Catholic church attended the meeting and got saved. We still request your prayers and support for our many needs in the new fields. Let us exchange our prayers day and night.

Yours in Him,

—John Varghese

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SPANISH LITERATURE REPORT AND FROM BAJA, CALIFORNIA, MEXICO

Dear ones: Greetings in the precious name of our Redeemer.

More material has been set in Spanish for printing when time permits it. Several packets are being sent out each month to people who have, in times past, ordered material. There have been about 100 new tracts printed since the samples had been sent; consequently, many do not know of the new supply. As orders are received, they are being filled so that the gospel can reach further to bring souls to Christ.

Another phase of the Spanish work is started here in Okla. City, and we desire your prayers for the continuance of this work. Services are being held in the home of some Mexican people. They have shown quite a bit of interest, but now are being threatened with having to return to their native country. Our prayer is that if they do have to return, enough of the gospel has reached them as to remain in their hearts, that someday, they will seek the Lord with all their hearts and be saved. They are sweet people and hard workers. Pray for the writer that she will be faithful in all God has given her to do.

The last report from the Escobars is that they have moved from Ojos Negros to the new work in

Chapultepec (in time to get the children in school), and Ojos Negros is now without a resident worker. Pray with us that the Lord will call someone to go and keep this work going and that they will be able to hear the call and obey. We all, as workers, have some special requests in regard to the work in Mexico. Pray for all.

Yours for the souls of Spanish-speaking peoples everywhere, as well as all whom the Lord can save all over the world,

—Bro. Mayarino and Sis. Panchita Escobar
Ap. Postal #284
Ensenada, B. Cfa. Mexico, and
Sis. Opal Kelly

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FROM GHANA . . .

Dear Sis. Maybelle and all workers in the Print Shop and saints everywhere: Greetings of Christian love to all in Jesus' dear name. . . .

We have just finished a three-night crusade in the large village of Techiman which is about fifteen miles from here. The response was good. This is the second such meeting we have had here lately.

The three-wheeled bicycle for Bro. Maxwell has been paid for. The next thing is for him to learn how to handle it on the roads which are so rough. Bro. Maxwell is very happy with it and I know he will be busier for the Lord.

We have had a lot of rain lately and it's somewhat cooler at night. The blankets I sent home for are feeling good, particularly towards morning. The rain keeps us from services some—no cars and no roads. It seems that we appreciate the meetings that much more when we have to miss some of them. . . .

We'll close for now.

Lots of love, —Sis. Dorothy Keiser

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From the Mailbox . . .

Ky.—Dear ones: I hope that no one took the article wrong that appeared in your October magazine concerning a man living saved and his works being burned. Some might get the idea that I think all denominational preachers will be saved regardless of what they preach; not so. It has always been, and yet is, a mystery how a man can preach and practice division and be God's man.

The Bible is strictly against division in God's people. It is no marvel that David said, "How beautiful and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." (Psa. 133:1). People who have never seen this glorious Church have missed something in life. How wonderful are the words that Bro. Naylor penned in his song: "We reach our hands in fellowship to every blood washed one, while love entwines about each heart in which God's will is done."

Tradition has brought about much damage to the Church. I don't think anyone will ever discard tradition until they see the true Church. What could be accomplished if everybody could forsake man's ideas and opinions, and just take what "Thus saith the Lord?"

I can think of nothing that has done more damage to the kingdom of God than the joining system.

We are told by some that only a small percentage of all the people that belong to churches are real born-again Christians. The sad part is that many of the rest of these people think that they will be all right because they have their names on some church ledger. Jesus told Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again." Nicodemus was, in my opinion, a good man. Jesus told him that he could not so much as see the kingdom without the new birth. The question is often asked why Nicodemus came to Jesus by night. I believe it would be sound thinking to say that he was too busy to see Him at day. This man was a ruler of the Jews, and that tells me that he was very busy.

Best wishes for a united Church in a divided world,

—Bro. Fraley

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Penn.—Dear Sis. Maybelle: It was a great privilege to meet you and the other dear saints at the meeting in Monark this summer. We can rejoice more and more as we finally get to meet other members of the "family" here on earth—can you imagine what a day of rejoicing it will be over there?

As the season of Thanksgiving approaches, I felt impressed to give thanks for the work being done by you dedicated few there at the Print Shop and to send along some support.

As we read the *Faith and Victory*, it gives us an opportunity to share the joys and burdens of God's children, and that means so much to me.

We appreciate your lives and efforts for the Lord and us all. God bless your lives!

Christian love and appreciation,

—Barbara Campbell

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Dear Sis. Maybelle: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, to you and all the dear saints there at the Print Shop and everywhere that are faithfully laboring in the Father's vineyard.

Praise His holy name. I am so glad to be one of His children, saved, sanctified, and enjoying His many blessings as I strive to be a faithful worker. He is blessing me in so many wonderful ways. I still have a greater desire to distribute the tracts and tell the wonderful story of salvation to the dear souls that are being deceived and wandering in darkness. Oh! I pray that they will listen and turn to the Lord for salvation before it is too late.

Pray for me that I will ever be led by His Holy Spirit in all that I do. I want to be a meek, humble, and obedient servant at all times.

Pray for my lost loved ones. It grieves my heart to see them going on and following after the ways of the world and professing to be saved.

Your sister in Christ, —Ruth S. Donnelly

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Okla.—Dear Sis. Pruitt and all the saints scattered abroad: I am praising God today for salvation, and I am thankful for His mercy and blessings to us. Surely this year is swiftly passing away. It has been one that has brought many sorrows and griefs, but through it all, there have been so many blessings and good done for our souls. I am reminded of the Scripture that says, "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope; and hope maketh not ashamed; because the

love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Rom. 5:3-5.

I praise God today for the hope of glory. This hope makes me able to say, "I'm not ashamed of the gospel of Christ." Rom. 1:16.

I still love the Church of God and see it in its beauty and glory. As I look back over the years of our lives and consider the many trials, tests, and discouragements, I'm still rejoicing in the God of my salvation.

Truly I can sing with the poet, "I am dwelling on the mountain where the golden sunlight gleams, O'er a land whose wondrous beauty far exceeds my fondest dreams." Truly I cannot express what salvation means to me so I say with another poet, "Something within I cannot explain; something within that holdeth the reins."

I love the Lord and His people. I ask your prayers that I will ever remain true and faithful unto the end. May God bless you all. We are sharing the burdens of the saints as we hear about them or read of them in the paper.

Humbly submitted, your sister in Christ,

—Frances Chandler

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La.—Dear Sis. Maybelle: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. He is so precious to me and I'm sure He is to all who love Him.

We were glad to get our *Faith and Victory* paper, the *Beautiful Way* papers, and the *Bible Lessons* book. We do trust that the Lord will bless there at the Print Shop and supply every need.

The Lord is blessing here and supplying the needs. He has been, and is so good to me. He hears and answers prayer when I don't feel well or have a problem. I do thank and praise His sweet name for His many blessings unto me. I want to be faithful to Him all the days of my life. I pray He will help me to be all He is calling me to be. I know He will.

May God bless each one.

Love,

—Effie Miller

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Okla.—Dear ones: We send greetings of much Christian love to each one. We are thankful for salvation that is working in our souls! We are encouraged to keep pressing on and to be faithful.

The other evening as we were driving, I had noticed that the sky in the east was dark. Later I began to notice part of a rainbow to my left. That thrilled me, as it seems that I don't see rainbows much any more. When I do get the opportunity, it is a thrill to me. Then I noticed another part of one on my right! They were so pretty and as we kept driving, how we enjoyed watching the bows! We began thinking, "Oh, if they would only come together and make a whole, complete bow!" Carl and I began asking the Lord to grant this. We kept watching and it wasn't long until we could see the complete arch of the rainbow! Oh, the beauty and symbol of God's promise! Our hearts were thankful to God for this simple, but special and wonderful blessing. It seemed that this rainbow was especially for me as a reassurance of God's faithfulness. It wasn't that I no longer believed in God—no, not at all! But sometimes in the burdens and adjustments of life, we need renewed strength of our faith. It was as if God was saying to

me that He does still live and that He still has all power in heaven and earth! He can still perform miracles and I can still believe in Him and expect great things from Him as I need them! I just thank God for that display of His rainbow and what it seemed to say to me. But I had to look up to be able to see the bow! May God help us to keep looking up!

Some have asked us where we are living and so we thought it might be good to put a little note in the paper. As the Lord leads, we are still traveling, but our home and address is here in Oklahoma. We do appreciate the saints and their love and concern shared with us. May God bless and keep each one with victory. With Jesus there is no defeat, for He cannot and will not fail—no, not even once!

Christian love, —Carl and Rebecca Shaffer

Rt. 3, Box 194-S, Edmond, Okla. 73034

Phone: (405) 771-4522

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Mo.—Dear friends: I am sending \$1.00 for a subscription to the paper *Faith and Victory—Church of God Servant* for three years. I got the address from a magazine in a laundry. I thought the magazine was very good.

Your friend,

—Geneva Lawson

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Ky.—To the *Faith and Victory—Church of God Servant*: I appreciate you reminding me that my subscription ran out. Thank you.

I can't express the blessings I have from reading the *Faith and Victory*. I am a child of God who is seventy-six years old. I have been on this way many years and every day seems sweeter.

Thanks again,

—Mrs. Gleddie Burton

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Calif.—Dear ones at the Print Shop: We send greetings of Christian love in Jesus' name.

We are thankful that the Lord is blessing us in both soul and body. Although we are both afflicted in body, we are better in some ways than we have been. We are still able to do little things for ourselves, and we have victory in our souls. Praise the Lord.

May God bless and encourage each one to keep pressing on.

With Christian love,

—Bro. and Sis. H. P. Huskey

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Wash.—Dear ones in Christ: We want to share some with you. It has been approximately two years since we gave a report on the work here. We have been very hesitant to do so. However, of late, it seemed like the Spirit of God has impressed us to testify of the Lord's dealings. Surely we love Him and want to please Him in every way.

The saints are growing in the Lord in Chilliwack, British Columbia. They are encouraged to be faithful.

Last summer the Lord began to deal with us to try to raise up a new congregation of His people here in Everson, Wash. By faith in His leadings the saints purchased a chapel-parsonage here. We are totally trusting the Lord to take care of it and supply the people who are hungry for the truth. The Lord is at present doing His part. There are some local people

who are interested. Some are attending services at the present. All of us have been so thankful to see how the Lord moved on Bro. Roger and Sis. Marsha White and their family to move here. We know that the Lord is still calling and leading people. We love all of God's people, and respect His leadings with them.

We also want to give a testimony. Lynette has been healed completely of an affliction she had for several years. The devil tried to bring back the symptoms, but we held firm. She has been completely healed now for several months.

Richard, Matt, and I were in a serious accident not long ago. All of us were thrown onto the pavement. I was knocked unconscious and was seriously hurt. Matt and Richard each had only a very small scrape on one of each of their hands. We could not get over it. I asked them later, "Did you boys land on the grass or dirt?" "No, Dad," they replied. "We landed on the hard pavement just like you did."

Also a while back, Christy, our daughter who is age six, fell out of the car door onto the road while Lynette was driving. She was not hurt or even bruised. Oh, surely we can say that the Lord is good to His children. We want to draw closer to Him. We feel like He has shown us some areas in which we can.

We need your prayers as we endeavor to scatter a few seeds for the Lord.

—Paul, Lynette, Richard, Matt, and Christy Sorrell

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Va.—Dear Sis. Grace: I send greetings of love in the lovely name of our Lord and Savior. Oh, how I thank Him for sufficient grace in life's trying hour. Praise His precious name!

I would like to thank the saints for the lovely cards I have received, and also for your prayers, love, and concern. I love and appreciate each one of you more than words can express. What a privilege it is to be a part of such a wonderful family! Praise God!

The Lord has heard your prayers in my behalf. On Thursday night of the Monark meeting, I was in intense pain. I called Green Bank and Monark for prayer. Shortly after I called out to Monark, my arm got warm, the pain left, and I haven't suffered since. Oh, glory to God! Praise His precious name! We serve a mighty God! Our Lord is real! Truly He is a present help in every time of need. It is sweet to trust Him. Pray for me. I want to come out of this more like Jesus.

Much Christian love, —Sis. Nancy Wagoner

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Okla.—Dear saints: I surely thank the Lord for His goodness and mercy unto us. The Lord has blessed us greatly the past year, both through spritual and physical blessings.

I would like to testify to the glory of God of something the Lord has done for me. A few weeks ago, I was jumping on a trampoline with Danny, when I lost my balance and fell backwards off the trampoline and hit my head on the ground. When Danny jumped down to help me, he saw that I was unconscious. My limbs began drawing up and my body stiffened. My eyes rolled back in my head. He carried me into our house and began calling on God. In about twenty minutes my body relaxed and in a few more minutes I regained consciousness.

I'm so thankful that the Lord saw fit to spare my life. I realize that I could have easily been killed or paralyzed. I'm so thankful that God is my healer and Redeemer. My faith is more firmly settled in Him than it has ever been. I desire that my life be totally yielded to Him that He can get complete glory out of it.

Do pray for us that we'll ever be faithful to our heavenly Father.

—Cheryl Doolittle

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N. Car.—Greetings, my friends, in the name of our Lord and Savior. The Lord has been merciful to me in the time when I was deep in sin. He reached down and lifted me out of all that was in the world, and saved my soul. Praise His holy name! I remember that my life was once like this: I was out on the ocean of life in a little boat with my wife. I fell out of the boat and sank to the bottom of the ocean. I could feel myself falling, and couldn't do anything to save myself. When I reached the bottom, I could see this big figure dragging souls in what looked like a flame. Then I could feel the current of the water pulling me towards that awful sight below. I realized I had to get away. "Oh, Lord, help me!" As I struggled to get away, I began to look up and could only see a very tiny spot on top of the water. My wife was still in the boat looking for me, determined not to leave before she found me. She was circling around the place where I had gone down.

As I was looking up, I could feel in my heart that I was lost; I was too far to get back to the boat safely. There I was, under water with no way to breathe. I needed air! With all that was within me, I began to swim towards the little spot which was the "ark of safety." The spot became bigger and bigger the closer I came. My lungs were beginning to hurt. Then doubt came to my mind and heart: "It's too far to go." I had to overcome doubt, I knew; I had to try to make it with all my might. I began to call on the Lord to help me to make it to the "ark." My arms and legs were getting weak. My mind could not comprehend all the thoughts. My lungs were now about to burst and my heart was beating very quickly, but I knew I had to get there.

I put forth all that was within me, and could see now the shape of the boat. How this put joy in my heart! I was almost there, and every part of my body was in pain, but I had to go on. This seemed to be my darkest moment, and then suddenly my head was above water and all I could say was, "Praise the Lord!" as loud as I could, because I had made it.

I got in the boat, I'm still in the boat, and I'm not getting out for any reason. I'm going to stay with the Lord unto death. I have learned many precious lessons in my life that I would like to share as the Lord permits. Do pray for me.

Sincerely,

—Bro. Jimmie McDonald

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Okla.—Dear saints of God everywhere: Greetings to you in the name of the Lord and Savior of our souls, Jesus Christ. I thank our Lord for the *Faith and Victory* paper. It allows us to witness what God has done for us to people far and near. First of all, we can never thank Him enough for saving us from our sins. We know He died on the cross to save us. God gave His only Son that we might have eternal

life. Praise His name forever! These words I have just written are not new words to the older saints, but for me, a new convert for Jesus, they are new to my vocabulary and it blesses my soul to get to say them.

My dear wife, Ruth (Strech) McMakin preceded me in her soul's salvation by a few months. Oh! I thank God for her and for her prayers and I thank all the saints who for many months have prayed for us, including my parents, W. C., and Ella McMakin, who, like many other saints, have gone on to be at rest in the Lord.

I had smoked for years, but was determined to give it up and live for the Lord. The Lord saved me from my sins Sunday night, August 26, 1984. On August 28, 1984, I was operating my machine on the night shift at work when I got the victory over cigarettes. Oh, saints, how sweet it is to hear from heaven! I shouted right then and there. The tears rolled down my face and I had such a great time with the Lord. If anyone had seen me (and maybe they did), I don't know what they would have thought. Oh! I thank Jesus; I thank my heavenly Father for this great victory. Every day that passes gets easier and I expect complete deliverance. Praise God, I haven't smoked since my conversion, and I don't intend to.

The Lord has been so good to us in our new walk with Him. Jesus has been our lifeguard. He has permitted us to paddle or swim around in the warm, shallow end of the pool as babes, keeping Satan and all enemies of our soul away from us. We know, however, that we are now being permitted to go out into deeper waters, so we are asking for your continuing prayers.

We pray daily for all saints and their children, and the Lord's work everywhere. Our plans are to be baptized Sept. 30, 1984, after morning service. We are looking forward to this second step of our salvation to be a blessing to us. May the Lord richly bless and keep you, is our prayer.

We are looking forward to seeing our new brothers and sisters in Christ from time to time.

Your 59-year-old baby brother in Christ,
—Bill McMakin

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W. Va.—Dear Sis. Maybelle and saints: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. We are encouraged this morning to keep pressing on for Him. Our hearts have been stirred to a closer walk with Him, and we want to make heaven our home.

We want to thank the Lord for His faithfulness to us in the battle we are passing through. We do not know what the future holds, but we do know who holds the future, and our trust and confidence are in Him.

During Christa's illness the Lord was so near. We would call on Him for help and He would send His healing touch. We felt, at first, that God would spare her life and would leave her with us, but we prayed: "Not our will but thine, be done."

As we continued to fast and pray, we consecrated our little angel to Him knowing that, "God's way is best." Our hearts were torn with grief and anguish, but God sent His comforting Spirit to put His arms around us.

God gave us a special comfort by way of a song. I awoke in the night with this song going over and over in my mind: "Just trust Him and be true, and see what He will do; He will never disappoint your soul. When you have done your best, let Jesus do the rest, and keep your eyes upon the goal." By this we knew that God had everything in control.

Our battle continued, but we held on to what God had given us, and thanked Him for the daily grace and strength He blessed us with. On Saturday morning, I awoke with the song, "Victory shall be the chorus, victory our watchword and song. Jesus is marching before us, leading His army along." I thought that no matter what the outcome of our battle, "victory shall be the chorus." Praise the Lord!

Jesus saw fit to take our little angel in His arms to be with Him on Monday evening. Our hearts were so sad, but God had already prepared us and sent comforting strength to our hearts.

We are encouraged; there is no thought of turning back. God has brought us into a wealthy place through our battle and we have paid too great a price to fail Him now. Our hearts are fixed and we praise Him for the victory He has given. Though our hearts are grieved, we know that little Christa is with Him. Our purpose and aim in life is to make heaven our home also.

Let us all take heed, "gird up our loins," and press on for Him. God is stirring His people. This way is a pressing way and we must live diligently for Him.

In closing, we want to say that we love the saints and thank you again for your faithfulness to us during our battle. Words cannot express the gratitude we feel in our hearts. Truly, "God's way is best." We desire to make heaven our home and to meet each one there.

Christian love and prayers,

—Bro. and Sis. Mancil Doolittle and family

Retrospection

Do I read and love the Bible more than any other book?

Am I increasing in spiritual mindedness?

Are my tastes and dispositions more heavenly than formerly?

Do I relish godly conversation most?

Do I love best the company of my brethren?

Do I intentionally aim to please God in all things?

Am I going on to holiness?

Am I wholly sanctified?

Do I make sure I'm not conformed to this world?

Do I live in the spirit of prayer?

Do I deny myself for Christ's sake?

Do I seek opportunities of gaining and doing good?

Do I reprove without respect of persons?

Am I doing all I can to save souls?

Am I sowing to the flesh or to the Spirit?

Do I visit and pray with the sick, the poor, and the destitute?

Do I love saints' meetings and ordinances of the Church?

Do I carefully abstain from speaking or hearing evil of others?

—Bro. Xavier G. Prado

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Please explain Luke 6:30, where it says, "Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods, ask them not again." I am thinking of times when people stand on the sidewalks, begging for me to give something for their cause. I'm also thinking of times when I would like for loaned items to be returned.

Answer: This text must be interpreted and understood in its proper context, just as any other Scripture, in order to be understood at all. We could never think of Jesus just arbitrarily tossing out an unqualified commandment for His followers to give to everyone who asked them to. My! What a position this would put us in! People on the streets often ask us for money—just plain derelicts who want the money to buy themselves another drink or another shot of dope. We would actually be doing wrong to aid them in their sinful practices. God's Word actually forbids us to be a partaker of other men's sins in any sense (1 Tim. 5:22b; 2 John 11). Jesus could not have meant that, and we should not interpret this text that literally. Any time we take a text out of its proper setting and isolate it, we can get ourselves in a really awkward position.

The thought here begins in verse 27, and continues through verse 36. The basic thought of the entire passage is for us to have a right attitude in our hearts toward all men. Verses 27 and 28, say, "Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, bless them that curse you, and pray for them that despitefully use you." Then verse 29 says, "And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid him not to take thy coat also." Then comes this verse contained in the question: "Give to every man that asketh thee. . . ." This is part of it, too.

I do not think of this statement as applying generally or promiscuously. Instead it sets forth how we are to react to wrong treatment by our fellowmen. If a person who is my avowed enemy, or one who hates me or curses me, or despitefully uses me, or smites me in the face, or imposes on me and heaps injustice on me, and takes away my goods, etc.; if that person gets in need or distress and asks me for help, I am required here to give him help. I am not permitted to reserve my charities and benevolences for my friends only, but I am to bestow them on people like those described here.

The holy Scriptures teach further on our attitude toward our enemies in Rom. 12:19-21. "Dearly beloved, **avenge** not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." This is the general teaching of Luke 6:27-36. Good parents do not leave it up to any of their children to whip another child if he gets out of order. That is Daddy or Mother's job. That policy keeps things

running orderly in the family and a proper respect on the part of all the children for parental authority. God does not leave it up to us to chastise one another, either. It is His job to straighten us and others out and He does not permit us to withhold our charities and benevolences from anyone in need, even though it may be an avowed enemy or someone who has grossly mistreated us. We are not to be overcome by the evil they do us, and get a bad, wrong attitude toward them, and return the evil upon them. We are rather to overcome the evil with good, and if those very people need help and ask us for it, we are to give it to them, and if they desire a favor, we are to grant the favor without grudging or rancor. In Prov. 25:22b, it says, "The Lord shall reward thee." The Lord will surely bless and reward His children who behave properly under these kinds of provocations.

It is also included in the question the latter part of this verse in Luke 6:30, where it says, "And of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again." The questioner says that he is thinking of times when he would like to have loaned articles returned. The statement in the Bible does not pertain to loaned articles. This refers to one who just comes and gets some of your goods and takes them away for whatever cause. Maybe he claims the items to be his and just claims them and takes them away. Maybe he claims that you owe him something (even if you don't) and takes some of your belongings to satisfy the alleged debt. Maybe he just steals some of your goods, or whatever. In such a case, you will be better off to just commit yourself to God and not enter into strife with him. There are times when you will be happier and more blessed of the Lord to just "take joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that you have in heaven a better and enduring substance." (Heb. 10:34).

There is nothing here that prevents a saint from asking for the return of a loaned item. The part of Luke 6:35, which says, "Lend, hoping for nothing again," does not mean that, either—that you have no right to expect or even ask for the return of items. This verse says, "But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again." The thought here is that we do good to our enemies or anybody else and grant them favors without any thought of having those favors returned to us at some time on down the line. We should never have a thought of obligating another person to us because of a favor we do him. Just do him the favor because he needs and desires it and let it be gone, never to be remembered again in a way to obligate the person or expect anything from him because of it. We do have a perfect right to expect things we loan to a person to be returned and none of these Scriptures shut us off from that.

This entire passage (Luke 6:27-36), deals with the same thought: our attitudes toward other people and especially our enemies. I have already dealt with verses 27-29. Now I will refer to verses 32-34, to confirm what I just said. "For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them that do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners do also even the same. And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners

also lend to sinners, to receive as much again." It is clear that God wants His people to be different from other folks in this area of their lives. Then it is all concluded in verse 36: "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful." Our heavenly Father "maketh his sun to shine on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." We are to be like that, also, toward all men.



HOME LIFE

To Young Parents

I greet you in the precious name of Jesus. I want to write a little to you about home life. The Bible speaks much about the family and home. Did you know that the devil is trying to destroy the homes in America today? I believe that homes are the backbone of our country, so let each one of us work hard to keep them together.

The Bible teaches us that the "husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." Read Eph. 5:22, 23. The dear Lord wants us to have happy homes. The husband is to have the responsibility of providing a living for the wife and children. 1 Tim. 5:8, says, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

We also read in the Bible what the work of a wife should be. 1 Tim. 5:14, 15, says, "I will therefore that younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. For some are already turned aside after Satan." Also, Tit. 2:4, 5, says, "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." Keep in mind that there may be circumstances where the single, divorced, widowed, or those who have husbands who are ill, may of necessity need to work away from home.

You young parents have a big responsibility, and it is a precious privilege that God has given you with your children. You should love them so much that you would always put the right example before them in your every-day life—in your dress, conversation, and

in your dealings with other people. You should always be truthful but firm in your dealings with your children. It is your duty to correct them when they need it. Do not do it in a moment of temper or anger, but in love and firmness with a switch when needed. Start when they are very young. If you wait until they are older, you won't be able to correct them as easily. I have heard mothers say when their children were only five or six years old, "I just can't do anything with them." How sad! I do believe that if children are corrected at home, they will be very easy to correct in public. If we let them have their way at home, it is much harder to control them in public. To holler at a child or to tell him or her not to do something is not fully correcting them. Bring to an end that which they are doing. In some homes the children are running the home in that they tell their parents what to do. The Bible tells the parents to run the home.

Young fathers and mothers, I am sure you feed your little ones with good nourishing food daily that they may grow up to be strong and healthy. So likewise, you should teach them while they are young on spiritual things—to love the Lord God with all their heart, mind, soul, body, and strength, and to love their neighbor as themselves, and to obey their parents in all things. It is very good to read out of the Bible and to have family worship with them daily. What they learn in childhood usually stays with them.

Young wives, you should cherish the place God has put you. Love your husband so much that you want to please him in every way. Do not be slothful and dirty, but keep your house and children clean. When your husband comes in from work, always have a neat appearance, a bright countenance, a smile on your face, and encouraging words; you don't know what all he has faced through the day at his job.

Now, dear wife and mother, I know your job isn't easy. You have the children with you all day, you clean house, cook, sew, and all the other things a mother has to do, but no doubt you have found an hour or so each day to read and pray while they are asleep or playing. To have a little time alone with God to read and pray should be a real privilege to you as you don't have to work out.

Husband, do be kind to your wife; love her as yourself. When you hurt her, you hurt yourself. Tell her you love her. Give her a compliment on a new dress, a cake, or anything she has done well. Surprise her with a small gift, showing your love for her.

I hope I have been an encouragement to each one to really work at your marriage. The Lord has built the home and does not want to see it broken up.

Written with much love in my heart to the young families of our time.

Christian love,

—Sis. Pearlene Whitson

SALVATION

God thought it—Genesis 3:15.

Jesus bought it—John 19:30.

The Holy Spirit wrought it—Matthew 1:40.

The devil fought it—Matthew 4:1-11.

And praise the Lord, I've got it—Romans 8:1, 2.

And you can have it!—John 3:16; John 5:24.

The Rose Must Die

As I lay on my couch, beholding the rose
That stood in the small vase nearby,
I thought of its beauty and such sweet perfume,
And how quickly the blossom must die.

Then I thought of the sweetness and beauty of One
Who gave up His all on the cross—
Not thinking of self, or what He must pay;
But counting all earthly things loss.

He carried our sins and our sorrows alone,
No complaining whatever, did He—
But suffered and died because of our sins,
For the world, for you, and for me.

The hot, dusty road, there burning His feet,
The thorn crown piercing His brow,
The weight of our sins was breaking His heart—
It seems I can see Him there now.

The blessed and holy, the true Son of God,
So spotless, so gentle, so true,
His young life now blighted on Calvary's cross,
But dying, He gave life to you.

The sweet Rose of Sharon is sending perfume,
To millions of lives every day,
But so few ever stop, or take time to think,
As they hurry on life's busy way.

Let this sweet Rose of Sharon perfume your whole life,
And mind not the dying down here.
He will live in your heart and bloom in your soul,
And take away all earthly fear.

For dying, He conquered death, hell, and the grave,
He put down this last dreadful foe;
By blood paved the way for you and for me,
When from Calvary's cross it did flow.

Let's walk in His footsteps each day of our life,
Let this perfume so sweet and so pure
Flow freely to others while yielding our all,
Thus keeping our own soul secure.

—Edna Hays Hollandsworth

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Jim Hodge's Funeral

Everybody knew Jim Hodges. He grew up in our town, and not a Saturday passed after he had gotten out of short pants, that the loafers down at the grocery store did not have some new tales to tell concerning his deviltry.

Well, he wasn't exactly a bad boy; just sort of irresponsible and inclined to run about too much. That was before he started to make a hog out of himself drinking liquor. Of course, we tried to get him converted at the yearly protracted meeting. When he was in his teens, he even came as far as the altar once, but it did not seem to take. His father worried about his wayward son, and at times asked the congregation to pray for him. Whenever this would happen, Mr. So-and-So would say to himself, "The old goat had better be looking after the boy himself, rather than trying to put the responsibility on the Lord and the congregation." But one night Jim was out with a bunch of tough fellows and Jim was killed. One big fellow started to pick a fight, and soon they were all tangled up in it. When the police got there, the rest

were all gone and there lay Jim with a bullet in his head.

Arrangements were made for the funeral, the pastor being asked to conduct it. The folks came early. By two p. m., the church was filled. The undertaker had a hard time getting the hearse up close to the front steps, the crowd outside was so thick. Most of them came, not because they loved Jim, but to see what the preacher would say about him.

When the singing was over, the pastor stood up. Everybody was tense, and nearly dying of suspense. You could feel something was going to happen. The pastor walked down from the pulpit and looked down upon the pale face of the dead man lying there. He paused for a moment, then began to talk just like Jim was there beside him, quietly, and sort of soft and sad.

"Jim," he said, "we're here this afternoon to say good bye to you. Lots of us did not pay any attention to you when you were alive, but now that you are dead, it seems everybody is anxious to see you. You have become a famous character, Jim. You might like that, but I doubt it. I think you're wanting to say something to us now, that we will never forget. Well, if you want me to, I'll tell them what you want to say.

"I remember when I first came here, three years ago, that you were a fine young chap. Oh yes, you got into lots of mischief, but that was to be expected of a boy whose mother is dead, and his father is too busy to bother with him. You did a lot of things you ought not to have done, but none of us tried to help you. Of course, we talked about you, and you heard about it, and it made you feel that everybody was against you.

"They called you a drunkard, Jim, and I suppose you were; but they forget what made you one. They did not say anything about the fact that your father drank like a fish, and your brother did the same.

"You're dead now, Jim, and we are the ones that killed you. We made it possible for you to become so miserable that you took to drinking. You seemed to think this was the only way out. Just what did we do to help you, Jim? Not a thing. Oh, yes, at times we prayed in general for everybody; you might say you were included then. But even then as we prayed, we did not really mean it. If we had, we would have done something about it. We would not have let you keep on going until you drank yourself to death. We'd have stopped putting temptation in your way, by cleaning up the town, so it would have been hard for boys to get liquor. We might have stopped having such terrible places as the one where you met your death.

"Jim, today we are admitting that we are guilty of your death, yes, even your eternal destiny. I, as the preacher, did not do my duty, the Church did not do theirs, and poor Jim's father did not do his."

Just then there was a shout from the front seat where Jim's father sat. The old man stood up with tears streaming down his cheeks. He held on to the seat in front of him, as if he was afraid it was going to get away from him. His voice was cracked and broken, but we managed to understand what he said. The old man called out:

"Hold on, Pastor, you've said enough. Let me talk now. I guess I ought to be mad at you. I guess we ought to feel like running you out of town; for certainly nobody ever heard such a sermon as this. BUT

you are right, Pastor, you're right. We are to blame for Jim's death. We citizens of this town have let him kill himself before our very eyes, and have done nothing about it. I, as the father, deserve most of the blame. I didn't understand what I was doing."

Just then Jim's father went up to the altar by the side of Jim's coffin. And when I looked again, there was Jim's brother, and a large number of the congregation. Many more were trying to come up, but the aisle was filled. I never saw such a funeral in my life, but it was the start of a real spiritual awakening in that community that later swept the country. Somehow we forgot that Jim's body was there; we just remembered our sins, and asked God in mercy to forgive us.

That very night a crowd of men went down to this place where Jim got his whiskey, and told the man to close up, but he had already heard about the funeral, and had already started to board up the windows when they arrived. From that day to this we have never forgotten Jim's funeral.

So ends the tragic story of Jim Hodge's life and death. Just what are we doing today to make it hard for our sons and daughters to go the way of the transgressor? First, we must seek to lead them into a living experience with our Lord and Saviour, and as Christian citizens, do all within our power to eliminate such places from our community.

"And the Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? and he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper? And He said, What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. And now art thou cursed from the earth." Gen. 4:9-11.

—Sel. by Agnes Huskey

The Bible has always been the focal point of all controversy, for it is the very key of the whole system of Christianity. To carry this by storm, or to undermine it, is to take Christianity at its center; and the outposts follow the fortunes of the main defenses. Of late the form of attack and the tone of assault have changed. Infidelity is rarely insulting or contemptuous. It is rather plausible and patronizing. It used to pound the Bible with denunciations; now it pats the Bible and says, "Really a very fine book, but by no means faultless!" Dr. Pressense says of Renan: "He very skilfully undermines Christianity. While profuse in its praise, he buries it in flowers. He comes to the tomb of the Savior not to weep and worship like the women of the gospel, but to stifle with perfumes and spices any lingering spark of life in the religion of Jesus. He does not deal a blow with a sharp sword; no, he embalms. But the result is the same as though he made a violent attack."

Modern skepticism, with the lofty air of profound learning and philosophic doubt, approaches the divine Word. Under pretense of a careful, conscientious, impartial investigation, as though reluctant not to believe that the Bible is all it claims to be, it applies its strictly scientific tests, and, like a physician who feels a feeble pulse, sounds a decayed lung, or tests a diseased heart, turns away with a sigh of disappointment and an ominous shake of the head. And yet the more we see of scientific and philosophic skepticism, the more we are satisfied that, like Lord Nelson, it covers the only sound eye, and declares it can't see with the blind one. Underneath all that assumption

of judicial coolness and fairness we detect voluntary suppression of the truth, partial pleading, desperate corruptions of the doctrines and perversions of the facts of Scripture, and the same hot hate of the religion of the Bible, the same passion to overthrow it, the resolute hostility to everything supernatural, as in the bolder and more defiant forms of attack. You may find this plausible skepticism in the sanctum of the editor, the silver tongue of the orator, the chair of the university professor, and even the pulpit of the nominal preacher.

—Arthur T. Pierson
(Taken from the book *Many Infallible Proofs*)

What Some Men Have Said About Sin

Sin is a reproach to any people.—Solomon.

The wages of sin is death.—Paul.

The recognition of sin is the beginning of salvation.—Luther.

All the sin that has darkened human life and saddened human history began in believing a falsehood: all the power of Christianity to make men holy is associated with believing truth.—J. A. Broadus.

Sin is never at a stay; if we do not retreat from it, we advance in it; and the further on we go, the more we have to come back.—Barrow.

The wages sin bargains for with the sinner are life, pleasure, and profit; but the wages it pays him are death, torment, and destruction. To understand the falsehood and deceit of sin, we must compare its promises and payments together.—South.

He that hath slight thoughts of sin never had great thoughts of God.—Owen.

Sin may open bright as the morning, but it will end dark as night.—Talmage.

Whatever disunites man from God, disunites man from man.—Burke.

No sin is small. It is against an infinite God, and may have consequences immeasurable.—J. Taylor.

There is more bitterness in sin's ending than ever was sweetness in its acting.—Dyer.

If I grapple with sin in my own strength, the devil knows he may go to sleep.—H. G. J. Adams.

—Selected

The Little Foxes



"Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines." Song of Solomon 2:15.

The importance of little things is stressed many times in God's infallible Word. The act on which hung the most stupendous issues was seemingly least of all: that of eating a little fruit in the Garden of Eden. How small the deed; how tremendous the consequences! It was not the outward deed, however, but the underlying principle, **disobedience—sin**, that brought about the fall of man; throwing the whole world into chaos and death.

This same principle lies back of every transgression today. So the little foxes under consideration here are not small at all in God's sight. May we never minimize what God forbids. Our entire future as fruit-bearing Christians is at stake here. Bearing fruit is depending on getting answers to our prayers and answers will be delayed until we deal with the sinful obstructions. (See Psalm 66:18 and John 15.)

The little foxes that spoil the vines are numerous.



Pride is a sly one—with many disguises. He is seen best at a distance, or in our neighbor's garden. Consequently it is often overlooked in self. This is a thrifty little fox and if allowed to remain, becomes the mother of self-conceit and eats the very core of spirituality out of the heart and life. God hates pride; thus to shelter it is surely disastrous as far as our usefulness to Him is concerned. The way to the Celestial City leads through the Valley of Humiliation. May we ever walk in this good way.

Exaggeration is closely related to pride. This is so "small and innocent looking" that many ministers love him, and allow him a place in their vineyard. While exaggeration may seem small, all that goes beyond the truth is closely related to a lie, and all lies are of the same color with God.

Selfishness is not little at all, but appears so, to many. This is a cousin to covetousness, which is so big and ugly we fence against him. This fox inhabits the universe. He is a faithful one, and if accepted in childhood stays with us through life, except the grace of God intervenes.

Discouragement. While this little fox seems least of all—a weakling and ready to die, he has already lived some six thousand years and is good for many more. Being small of stature, he creeps into almost every Christian's life at one time or another. Those who detect and guard against the others fall victim to this one themselves when things go wrong, or an answer to prayer is delayed. This fox paid a visit to Jonah under the gourd vine, and to Elijah under the juniper tree.

World conformity. This one is known in almost every circle. He, like the others, appears harmless at first, but surely robs the Church of power and spirituality. This is an enemy to God, and to all who would walk in His ways. "Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed. . . ." Rom. 12:2.

Doubt and fear are so unlike their cousins, yet have kept multiplied thousands in bondage, and out of the kingdom of God. These cannot dwell where faith is, for they are contrary one to the other.

Fleshly lusts. Immature Christians allow this little fox many privileges which are utterly ruinous to spiritual growth and contrary to the Word of God. Crucify the flesh with the affection and lusts. "Put off the old man," (see Gal. 5:24; Eph. 4:22).

Love of pleasure seems so desirable; but God's Word is, "She that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." 1 Tim. 5:6.

Extravagance and waste. These foxes seem unimportant and to pertain to our own affairs, yet as good stewards over His heritage we may not indulge in that which pertains to self-gratification. These are never to His glory.

Worry. To some, worry seems almost necessary when things go wrong. However, worry has ever made bad matters worse throughout the centuries. Worrying is unbelief, and unbelief is sin.

Resentment and retaliation. How crafty are these little foxes! How natural and how human to harbor them! Still, for this "kindness" they eat the heart out and leave the soul devoid of good! "He that liveth after the flesh shall die." Rom. 8:13.

Gossiping, backbiting, and talebearing. What a team these are! They are closely related, and so deadly they belong in the same category as adultery, hatred, and murder, yet are allowed by many who profess to love God, and to see His cause prosper. There is surely "death in the pot" where these abound. God's judgments are pronounced upon them, and they must be dealt with in no uncertain way by those who would stand among the overcomers.

Impatience. This is so well known to us all. Still this cunning little fox has many excuses made in his behalf. He often shows up in the most unexpected places. If harbored and nurtured this may terminate in anger and wrath, which none would think of condoning who own Christ as Lord and Saviour. "Let patience have her perfect work."

Criticism and faultfinding are ugly affronts put on by many to their own hurt; or by those with a beam in their eye, who would remove the mote from his brother's eye.

Murmuring and complaining are closely related and appear small at first; still these seemingly small sins so provoked God's righteous judgments at one time, that multitudes in Israel were plagued and slain for this offense (Num. 11). "Do all things without murmuring." Phil. 2:14.

Contention, quarreling, arguing. Where meekness and humility are lacking, these may be found. In such cases both parties think themselves right, whereas both are wrong—since God forbids it. In every case a few drops of the oil of divine love will make things run smoothly again.

Judging, (coming to conclusions without knowing all the facts), is never a small offense. "Judge not that ye be not judged."

Envy and jealousy "are as cruel as the grave." They leave the soul empty and invite disaster.

Peevishness, touchiness, vain-glory, self-pity, desire for honor and fame are other subtle traits of carnality that come for one purpose only: to rob, to destroy, and to leave the Vineyard of God's planting a barren and desolate waste. All are violations of God's holy law—the same disobedience that wrought disaster in the Garden of Eden and brought about the fall of man.

Satan has surely gained more victories among God's people through seemingly small things than the great. How he must laugh in diabolical glee to see ministers and laymen alike chasing "lions," while the little foxes, unobserved, spoil the vines.

All these sly little foxes (or carnal leanings) must surely die if we would attain God's best. One may escape us now and then, but may we stay on their trails until the last is slain, and the Garden of God's planting flourishes again under perfect obedience to His every Word.

If we would stand among overcomers, we must overcome. There are battles to fight and victories to win, if, at the reckoning time, we would hear His glad "well done."

"Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, . . ." "For in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh."

—Ethel Meadows
(Available in tract form.)