

FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



Volume 62, No. 11

62nd Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35¢ Per Year

Feb., 1985

A Contrite and Humble Spirit

(Isa. 57:15)

Thus says the high and lofty One
Who lives eternally,
Who spake the Word and it was done;
He speaks to you and me:

"Now in the high and holy place
Forevermore I dwell.
Above this world my throne of grace
Is set and all is well.

"I also dwell with him that's poor,
Contrite with humble mind;
Yes, with the lowly who implore,
And seek my face to find.

"I dwell with such to ever bless
And all their pain to share;
And to revive them in distress,
To ease their load of care."

What God hath spoken to us here—
He surely means just that!
The poor in spirit He will cheer;
The proud He'll tumble flat.

To be contrite! Collapsed from pride,
Crushed to a lowly plane,
Defenseless, meek, and mild inside,
The life of Christ to gain.

For He who bore our sin and blame,
A great example showed
By yielding to the cross of shame
To walk the Calvary road.

Because of His humility,
Exalted He became
To God's right hand of majesty
With such a mighty name.

Oh, let us sink on down to be
Contrite in ev'ry way;
Be lowly, humble; we shall see
His face some blessed day.

—Leslie C. Busbee

Worthy of Confidence?



"Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him." Dan. 6:4.

What a challenge! Yet, as a child of God, a citizen of our community, and as a parent to our children, how well do we measure to this Scripture? This is the real test of the Christian life. This is what *really* counts. What am I to others around me? Am I worthy of the confidence I expect others to place in me? Are we faithful to the world looking on when we say, "I am a child of God"? Do we possess what we profess? I don't know of anything sadder than a loud profession when the life of such a person is filled with shadows and question marks. I was told the story of how an unsaved person was persuaded to attend a meeting. The message went forth and was seemingly just what he needed. Later he said, "I enjoyed the meeting. The preacher is a very good speaker but I know that man. He is a crooked business man." The life of that preacher was worthless to a sinner in need of help.

Do we realize the responsibility we have when we profess a Christian life? My heart is stirred. Can we be "counted faithful" in our house as a testimony of those things which will be spoken of us? We have a job cut out for us! A saint is defined as a holy or godly person who is patient and unselfish. Are we worthy of confidence?

What are we to the saints? Are we working so hard to bring in sinners, but being careless and deceitful to our spiritual brothers and sisters? Are we causing grief and pain that can tear a person inside while working so furiously for the outside world? Is our attitude that of a saint of God? Do we forgive easily, or does it take years for us to lay down our selfish desires?

What image do we portray to the town in which we live? Are we trustworthy, faithful, and dependable? Are we steady, or are we irresponsible so as to be constantly changing so that people never know what to expect from us? Do we keep our word? This is where people find a place to point their fingers.

As parents, do we live the life that demands the confidence of our children? Can they come to us for their spiritual help, or do they think Dad and Mom are Christians, but. . . . Do we live to what we profess, or are there things in our lives we would not want other saints to know about? So often this is the cause of many of our unsaved loved ones not seeing their need.

The Christian life is our biggest and most important job that God gave us. It takes a steady walk in every aspect of our life to be a steady Christian—one that is worthy of confidence! Let us not be so holy at church and leave the rest of our life dangling. When other people look on this kind of life they see only question marks.

The Christian life is a hard way but it's also the easiest way because of the rewards and blessings of God. The still, small voice that each one can hear for themselves outweighs all the pressing required to be a true saint of God.

Pray for us. We desire to answer each one of these questions in the positive. We want to be steady Christians, ones worthy of confidence.

Christian love,

—Brenda Wilkins

True to his Post

Lot's wife was changed into a pillar of salt, and if that pillar still remained we should see her today standing in exactly the same attitude in which she was standing when death suddenly came upon her.

About a hundred years ago, a man in the south of Italy sank a well in his garden, and while doing so he suddenly came upon a buried city, a city which had been lost to the world for 1800 years. The underground city was not an empty place; it was peopled with the dead. They were found in the very attitude and position in which death had overtaken them: standing, sitting, lying—just as they had been on that awful day when Mount Vesuvius sent out terrible showers of ashes to destroy them all.

Various were the positions of the dead in that buried city. Many were in the streets in the attitude of running, trying to make their escape from the city gate; others were in deep vaults whither they had gone for safety, crouching in fear of what might fall upon them; others were on staircases and flights of stone steps leading to the roof, in the attitude of climbing to a place where they hoped the lava might not burn them. Two men were found by the garden gate of a large and beautiful mansion. One of them was standing with the key in his hand, a handsome ring on his finger and a hundred gold and silver coins scattered around him. The other, who was probably his slave, was stretched on the ground with his hands clutching some silver cups and vases. These men had evidently been suffocated while trying to carry off the money and treasure.

But one man in that buried city deserves to be remembered to the end of time. Who was he? One Roman soldier was the brave sentinel at the gate. There he had been posted in the morning, and there he had been bidden to remain. Where was he found? He was yet standing at his post with his hand still grasping his sword, faithful unto death. There by the city gate, while showers of stones were falling around him, and while hundreds of men and women and

children brushed past him as they fled in terror from the city, he stood, firm and unmoved. "Should such a man as I flee?" thought the soldier. And in that same spot, in that post of duty was he found 1800 years later, faithful to his trust and faithful unto death.

Are we, as the Lord's soldiers, as brave as this man? It is so easy to begin a thing and so hard to stick to it; so easy to start the Christian course and so difficult to persevere; so easy to enlist in the army and so very hard to stand unmoved in the time of danger or trial. Yet the Master says, "He that endureth to the end [and he alone], shall be saved." (Matt. 10:22). We are to be faithful, true, and unmoved. If we serve Christ, we are certain to meet with opposition; the mighty hosts of hell will come against us to hinder and oppose us.

Nehemiah, in the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem, suffered much opposition, yet he stood firm under ridicule. He had been unmoved by force or deceitful friendships and would not be frightened from his duty by gossip. He cared not what they said, nor who said it. He simply told them, "There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart." (Neh. 6:8).

Let us be awake, oh Zion, and put on our strength, setting a watch against Satan and his forces who are trying to distract us from our firm position in upholding the standard of holiness. "Let us rise up and build," as in the days of Nehemiah. Let us be like Baruch, the son of Babbai, hot with zeal, and on fire with earnestness and energy. Let us make our prayer unto God that the standard be lifted up, the gaps filled, and the walls fully erected. "Our God shall fight for us," cried Nehemiah to his discouraged men.

It's going to mean something in this world we live in to remain faithful and unmoved in the light God reveals to us, bearing in mind that many eyes are upon us, that our conduct is being read, our ways watched, our actions weighed, and our motives sifted. Dear ones, we must walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we have been called. (Eph. 4:1). Let us not be a stumbling block, hindering others on their way, giving them the wrong idea of Christ. Let us walk circumspectly and wisely, not as fools, but taking up Nehemiah's brave and noble words, "So did not I, because of the fear of God." (Neh. 5:15).

The devil will fight us each one as we stand for the right and dare to be true, but let us strengthen our hands for this good work and not be scared by the devil's tactics. We must be brave for the Master. Let the language of the heart of each one in the Lord's army be that of Nehemiah's, "Should such a man as I flee?" (Neh. 6:11). Nay! I will not flee; I will not desert my post; I will stand my ground bravely, consistently, perseveringly unto death. Amen.

—Ron Walter

—o—
"Oh, fill me with thy fulness, Lord.

Until my very heart o'erflow

In kindling thought and glowing word

Thy love to tell, thy praise to show.

"Oh, use me, Lord, use even me

Just as thou wilt, and when, and where;

Until thy blessed face I see,

Thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share."

—Selected

Unto God



Fearing to launch on "full surrender's" tide,
I asked the Lord where would its waters glide
My little bark. "To troubled seas I dread?"

"Unto myself," He said.

Weeping beside an open grave I stand,
In bitterness of soul I cried to God:
"Where leads this path of sorrow that I tread?"
"Unto myself," He said.

Striving for souls, I loved the work too well;
Then disappointments came; I could not tell
The reason, 'til He said, "I am thine all;
Unto myself I call."

Watching my heroes—those I loved the best—
I saw them fail; they could not stand the test.
Even by this the Lord, through tears not few,
Unto Himself me He drew.

Unto Himself! No earthly tongue can tell
The bliss I find, since in His heart I dwell;
The things that charmed me once seem all as naught;
Unto Himself I'm brought.

—Selected from *Streams in the Desert*

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"Unto God." This denotes not having arrived yet
at the purposed end. "Unto God." This means that I
am moving in His direction or toward Him.

What is God? "God is a spirit and they that
worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."
This means giving God the adoration of our inner
beings, or spirits. Do we adore God? Do we love
Him? Can we love His way of leading us unto Him-
self? We would like to picture ourselves being led by
God as being all pleasant, partaking of the green
pastures, and enjoying the still waters. That is the
"nevertheless, afterwards." Our God who made us,
who fashioned us into the beings we are, who put
within us the humanity we possess, knows just how
to perfect these imperfect lumps of clay. All we have
to do is turn loose of them and let Him have them to
knead and to make into a workable substance. At-
taining the attribute of being a pliable lump in God's
hand is the burden of my heart.

"Unto Himself." How do we arrive at that point?
We begin by humbling ourselves. If we will be truly
honest with ourselves, we can tell when we are hum-
ble, and when we are dwelling with humility.

When we kneel before God, do we really bow our
hearts before Him, or are we still standing up on the
inside? When we are approached by another brother
or sister or we approach them, do we humble our-
selves, or do we stiffen a bit? Each of us has this
feeling to wrestle with, but God would have us to
soften in His presence and to be tender toward His
children, loving the counsel of the Lord. He wants to
draw us unto Himself in humility. How else can we
learn humility but by being tested and seeing we are
coming short, and then seeking the face of God for
His divine ennoblement to die to selfish desires and
bow our wills before Him? "If thou wouldst have the
dear Savior from heaven walk by thy side from the
morn 'til the even, there is a rule that each day you
must follow: humble thyself to walk with God."

As we advance in learning humility, there quietly
enters our hearts a love for God, deeper than we had
known before. If we cultivate that love, it will grow,
and we will find stealing into our bosom a desire to
be in God's presence. I think of a child who has been
nurtured by careful, loving parents. That child loves
to be in the presence of its father or mother—even
coming up sometimes and wrapping its little arms
around Mother's leg, giving her a hug. Who can resist
the love of a child? Who wants to? Neither does God
want to resist our love for Him. Oh, how sweet it is to
receive of His love in return for ours.

Cultivate the attribute of melting before God.
Cultivate a willingness to lose stiffness in His pres-
ence. Practice loving Him.

As we feed our love for God, we will find it in-
creasingly easy to say "yes" to Him. Accompanying
our consent to His biddings is God's pleasure. We say
"yes" and He smiles His approval. Oh, the sweetness
that is felt in the soul of one who knows the pleasure
of God! Just so, that same one feels a definite loss of
something valuable when in the heart there is a
feeling of anything less than a complete "yes" to
God. Saying "yes" is not always easy, but it is the
only route to complete satisfaction in God.

"Unto God." Let us surrender to Him; let us allow
our very beings to arrive "unto God". —Marilyn Eck

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"My goal is God Himself, not joy, nor peace,
Nor even blessing, but Himself, my God,
'Tis His to lead me there, not mine, but His—
'At any cost, dear Lord; by any road!"

"So faith bounds forward to its goal in God,
And love can trust her Lord to lead her there;
Upheld by Him, my soul is following hard
'Til God hath full fulfilled my deepest prayer.

"No matter if the way be sometimes dark,
No matter if the cost be oftentimes great,
He knoweth how I best shall reach the mark,
The way that leads to Him must needs be straight.

"One thing I know, I cannot say Him nay;
One thing I do, I press towards my Lord;
My God my glory here, from day to day,
And in the glory there my great reward."

—Selected from *Streams in the Desert*

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Sin's Binding Power

"His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself,
and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins."
Prov. 5:22. If a person yields to sin, it will not be long
until sin will have complete control, and the
individual will become an actual slave to sin. Sin has
dominion over the sinner, and the longer he serves
sin, the more slavish that service becomes, until it
seems hard to break loose from its bondage. Thank
God, there is a cure for sin, a deliverance for those who
are serving sin. Jesus came to seek and to save the
lost. He can save the worst of sinners if they will
repent, forsake sin, and believe the gospel.

—J. C. B.

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Human intellect must acknowledge its inability,
accept the wisdom of God, and bow in His presence.

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 camp meetings), by Maybelle Pruitt, Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044 (USPS184-660).

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

Notice to subscribers: Whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your zip code number. The post office now charges 25¢ to notify us of each change of address.

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single copy, one year	\$.35
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Roll of 4 papers to one address, one year	\$1.00

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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 that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for 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. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way as 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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In order to comply with the Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 518, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044
Office phone: 405-282-1479; home: 405-282-2262.

Postmaster: Please send address corrections to: Faith Publishing House, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044.

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EDITORIALS

We have compiled another issue of the *Faith and Victory* and send it to you with the desire that as you read, it will warm your heart with comfort and the love of God.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Many of our readers desire to know the dates of the Church of God campmeetings scheduled for the summer of 1985, so that they can prearrange their vacations. In the past we have printed as complete a list as possible in the March issue. To make that issue this year, we request that your information be in this office by Feb. 15, if possible.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

The congregation at Guthrie was saddened on Dec. 28, 1984, to learn of the passing of Bro. Roy Jennings. Bro. Roy had a desire to help others and did what he could to aid in spreading the gospel. He will surely be missed. Remember his wife, Eldora, in your prayers.

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The 78th annual Oklahoma Assembly Meeting was held as scheduled, Dec. 21 through Dec. 30, 1984. The weather was good and the entire duration of the meeting was well attended. There were a number who sought help at the altar and many determined to serve God more fervently.

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We request those who send in material for publication to please include both first and last names. This will expedite the printing of your contribution. We solicit your articles and testimonies, but cannot guarantee that all material received will be printed immediately. We endeavor to use material which will be a timely benefit to a wide scope of readers and also use hold-over material as space permits. However, as the Holy Spirit inspires you, do write and share the blessing with others!

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

On Jan. 18, Sis. Grace Lassche, who has given nearly three years of service to the Lord's work here at the printshop, put in her last day of work. She is preparing for her marriage to Bro. Lee McMillian on Feb. 2. Sis. Grace has been an efficient worker and our best wishes and prayers are with her and Bro. Lee as they begin a new life together. They plan to reside in Shreveport, La.

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Sis. Wanda Luehring of Oregon, has been led of the Lord to come and help at the printshop. She is filling the vacancy left by Sis. Grace. Sis. Wanda arrived in Guthrie on the 20th of Jan., and is fitting into the work very well.

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We have recently added two more tracts to our regular stock. The articles, *Our Silent Society*, by Earl D. Langley, and *My Personal Testimony*, by Randall Harris, have been made into tract form. We would be glad to send these to you for distribution, at your request.

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We are no longer able to stock the book, *The Secret of the Singing Heart*, by C.W. Naylor, and therefore have discontinued selling it. The 1985 calendars are also out of stock and will no longer be available.

Roy gave his heart to God as a young man, and though he failed at times, he kept a tender heart toward God and His truth. He had a desire to do right and serve the Lord. He was a very hard working man in providing for his family and doing for others. To know him was to love him, and he was a friend to all. Within the last year Roy renewed his covenant with the Lord and endeavored to go the right way as never before. Just before he passed away, he requested the Bible to be read to him for a

good while. He rejoiced in the mercy that God had shown to him.

He is survived by his wife, Eldora, of the home; two sons: Dwayne, of Guthrie, and Clyde, of Pittsburg, Ks.; two brothers: Clyde, of Meridian, Okla., and Fred, of Midwest City, Okla.; two grandchildren, besides a host of other relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Leslie C. Busbee, and burial was in Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie, Okla.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Evelyn P. Huss was born March 29, 1911, at Miller Township, Perry County, Penn., and passed away at her home near Duncannon on December 7, 1984, being 73 years of age.

A year ago she gave her heart to the Lord, much to the rejoicing of her husband, Bill, who had been praying many years for her salvation. Several months later she learned that she had cancer. It was a blessing to have the Lord to lean on during that time.

She is survived by her husband, Charles W. (Bill); a brother, Harold Cumber; a son, Charles L.; a daughter, Joyce E. Houck; seven grandchildren, one great-grandchild, plus many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Curtis Williams and Bro. Kinney Farris, with Sis. Sandy Myers singing "Learning to Lean on Jesus," a hymn which Sis. Evelyn had come to appreciate so much throughout the year. She was laid to rest in the Pine Grove Cemetery near Newport, Penn.

NOTE OF THANKS

We wish to thank the saints for their prayers, visits, cards, and flowers during Evelyn's illness, all of which were much appreciated. The prayers and concern of God's people truly give much strength and encouragement in times such as this.

—The Huss family

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Alex Fields was born April 8, 1903 in Haskell, Oklahoma. He grew up in Haskell and attended school there. After several years, he moved on to Drumright and from there, to Spencer, Oklahoma. Bro. Fields was a member of the Church of God and he departed this life Monday, December 24th, 1984 at the age of eighty-one years.

Bro. Fields had retired from Oklahoma City University Maintenance Department. He was a very skilled man in carpentry, plumbing, and mechanics. Bro. Fields enjoyed fishing and hunting.

He met and married Sis. Thelma Marie Greer of Drumright, Ok. To this union were born three sons and three daughters.

Bro. Fields leaves to mourn his home-going, a devoted, loving wife, Thelma Marie of the home; six children, Ella Rose Mitchell of Okla. City, Alex Eugene Fields of Purcell, Okla., Sylvester Sherman Fields of Newalla, Ok., Abie Lee Mallory of Okla. City, Ok., Agnes Marie Brown of Marietta, Ga., and Timmie Anthony Fields of the home. His three brothers preceded him in death. He leaves three sisters, Lydia Williams of Tulsa, Okla., Esther Gibson of Haskell, Okla. and Dazetta Johnson of Hollywood, Calif.; nineteen grandchildren and three great-grand-

children, relatives, many saints and friends.

His pleasant personality and beautiful smile will be greatly missed.

Funeral Services were held on Saturday Dec. 29th at the Church of God Chapel, Green Pastures, Ok.; conducted by Bro. Charles Chandler, Bro. Otis Hill and others. Burial was in Hillcrest Memory Gardens.

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Sara Elizabeth (Bessie) Metcalf was born May 14, 1895 in Fairland, Ok. She departed this life Dec. 22, 1984 in Walla Walla, Wa. She was united in marriage to Daniel H. Metcalf, and to this union 9 children were born. Survivors include 2 sons, Ralph Metcalf of N.M., Amos Metcalf of Fl.; 4 daughters, Helen Carson of Ca., Floy Pruksa of Il., Polly Gipson and Ruth Ely of Or.; 17 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren and 3 great, great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Daniel H. Metcalf, 2 sons, 1 daughter and 4 grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted in Walla Walla, Wa. on Dec. 24th.

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Victory

When you are forgotten or neglected, or purposely set at naught, and you smile inwardly, glorying in insult or the oversight—that is victory.

When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you take it all patiently—that is victory.

When you can bear with any discord, any annoyance, any irregularity, or lack of punctuality, of which you are not the cause—that is victory.

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." 1 John 5:4. —Selected

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MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

ALL-DAY MEETING IN OKLA. CITY, OKLA.

We would like to announce and extend a hearty welcome for all—day meeting on Sunday, Mar. 3, 1985. Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m.; morning service begins at 10:30 a.m.; afternoon service at 2:00 p.m. (The night service will be dismissed). Lunch will be served at the chapel. Visiting ministers are welcome. The Chapel address is: 5900 S.E. 23, Okla. City, Okla. —Bro. Archie Souder (405) 427-9666

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OJOS NEGROS, BAJA, CFA., MEXICO

Dear Ones: Greetings in Jesus' precious name. Bro. Mayarino Escobar has asked me to put the dates of the Baja California, Mexico campmeeting in this month's issue. It will be subject to change, but here are the tentative dates, —April 1-7, in Ojos Negros, B. Cfa., Mexico.

We want to invite one and all to this campmeeting. We desire that you come with a genuine burden for lost souls. The saving of souls and the edification of those already saved should be uppermost in our hearts. We are looking to the Lord to send ministers and workers of His choosing, that they might be examples of a consecrated effort. All who come can

preach a message by your attitudes and actions even if you cannot speak the language.

The campmeeting in Mexico is run on the freewill offering basis. Although accommodations are not what they are in the States, if one is consecrated to work for God, he will be willing to accept what is provided. Pray as to what the Lord would have you do.

Directions to Ojos Negros — Stay on California Interstate 5 until you reach the line at Tiajuana. After getting through customs, watch for a sign within the next block pointing to Ensenada Cuota (Toll Road). Follow these signs, paying the required tolls until you reach Ensenada (about 65 miles). Take La Vigia through Ensenada until you come to the Statue of Benito Juarez. Take Highway 11 East, which changes to 16, and follow this road all the way (about 29 miles). The chapel (built of concrete blocks) is about 6 blocks North and one block East of the end of the pavement, showing a brush arbor on the West side of the building.

It's possible that there will be a few nights' meeting in Chapultepec prior to the campmeeting in Ojos Negros. Directions to Chapultepec are: After reaching Ensenada by the directions above, and the statue of Benito Juarez, go right on Highway 1, which goes toward Maneadero. Turn right at the first blinking light after you pass an army camp on your right, and go to the dead end and turn right again. Go to the last street (about 4 blocks) and turn right again, and the house will be on your left (about 1/2 block). It is a stucco house. The neighbors on the right, the Cabellon family, will welcome you and be glad you have come to help.

We are praying that the campmeeting be a real step forward in the progress of the Mexico work, especially in the saving of souls and the edification of those already saved.

Thanking you all for your cooperation, we are yours in His service, for the saving of souls,

—Bro. Mayarino and Sis. Panchita Escobar,
Ap. Postal No. 284, Ensenada, B. Cfa. Mex.
and Sis. Opal Kelly.

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RELOCATION OF CHAPEL AND CAMPGROUND

Work is currently under way by the Guthrie, Oklahoma congregation and the other state congregations of the Church of God in Oklahoma to relocate and build new facilities for the annual state campmeetings and assembly meetings held each year in Guthrie. The decision was made during the 1983 December state assembly meeting business meeting, subsequent to a very damaging flood which was suffered two months prior at the present location. While this area has experienced approximately twenty-five floods in the past eighty years with no successful efforts by the government to improve the situation, it seemed only wise to consider relocating. Because the present location was not suitable due to the recurrence of flooding and because city ordinances now forbid new construction in the present location, the Guthrie congregation purchased a tract of land in south Guthrie in January of 1983 on which to build a new school building. This 7.4 acres of land was purchased with the thought in mind of someday relocat-

ing the chapel to the same location and still have adequate property on which the state could relocate the campmeeting facilities as well, should they so choose. The property was deemed suitable and desirable by the state for a relocation site so a joint effort is now under way to improve the property and start building the necessary facilities. A plot plan of the property designating areas for building sites, parking lots, camper and travel trailer hook-ups, cabins or motel type units, etc., was drawn up for present and future utilization of all the property. Ground work has already started with the clearing of the land, leveling building sites, and the building of access roads and parking lots. Plans for a building incorporating a chapel, dormitories, and dining hall all under one roof have been drawn up and different methods of construction are being investigated.

How we do thank the Lord for the interest and support already shown by His saints and for what has already been accomplished. This is His work which He has blessed down through the years and only eternity will reveal the good that has been accomplished by those that have labored faithfully and supported the work here.

As time and circumstances have imposed upon us the need to relocate and enlarge our facilities we need not look at it as a new beginning, for it is only a continuation of the work God began here many years ago. True, it is a big undertaking in the eyes of many and we can not just sit back and wish it all into existence, but is anything too big for our God? How did Moses build the tabernacle and how did Solomon build the temple? Both of these were big projects and very costly. Read the 35th and 36th chapters of Exodus and the 29th chapter of 1 Chronicles. There you will find the servants of God willingly offered their means and consecrated their wisdom, talents, skills, and time to the service of the Lord. So free were the children of Israel with the giving of their means for the building of the tabernacle that they had to be restrained from bringing more. They gave 415.5 million dollars in gold and silver alone for the building of Solomon's temple and, "Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the Lord." (1 Chron. 29:9a) Can we not follow their example, rejoice as they rejoiced as we give of our means, time, and talents to the work of the Lord? This is God's way. His blessings have always abode with those who have walked in it.

We earnestly covet all the saints' prayers for those that have already accepted leadership responsibilities in the guiding of this work. A heavy load rests upon each one of them. Let each one of us take it upon ourselves to support them with our prayers and cooperation. It is desired that all might be done with an eye single to the glory of God and that only good will come from the work that has already begun. We're not just building an earthly tabernacle; we're doing business for eternity.

If you should feel moved of the Lord to contribute to this work you may do so by sending your contributions directly to the state treasurer, Sister Brenda Wilkins, Route No. 6, Box 797, Guthrie, Ok. 73044; or to the Guthrie congregation treasurer, Sister Bertha Miles, 10 W. Magnolia Court, Guthrie, Ok. 73044. All

other offers of assistance or questions may be addressed to this writer at Faith Publishing House.

—Bro. Bob Sallee

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SONGBOOKS WANTED

Dear readers of the *Faith and Victory*, We desire to purchase or borrow all, or any of the following songbooks which have been printed by the Gospel Trumpet Company:

1. Songs of Victory — 1886
2. Anthems From the Throne — 1888
3. Melodies of Zion — 1926
4. His Praise Anew — 1936
5. Hymnal Inter. Young People's Convention — 1936
6. Gospel Glory No. 2 — 1936

If you have any of these songbooks and would be willing to sell or loan them, or, if you know where or how any of these may be obtained we would appreciate so much hearing from you. Our desire is to record and revive all of the old out-of-print songs written by the saints of this *Evening Light* restoration movement and make them available again on cassette tape. If you can be a help to us, please write: Songs of the Evening Light, c/o Harlan Sorrell, Rt. 1 Box 118-A Myrtle, Mo. 65778. —Bro. Harlan Sorrell

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BOOKS WANTED

If anyone has a copy of *The Pilgrim's Progress* 1933 copyright renewed 1961 by Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, grey hard back with black lettering and over 50 illustrations and would consider selling it, please contact Sis. Opal Kelly at 1002 N.W. 90, Okla. City, Okla. 73114 as soon as possible. It is very important that I procure three of this particular printing. I will be glad to pay you what you paid for the book.

Thanking you, I am, Sincerely,—Sis. Opal Kelly

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SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

We would like to put in a special prayer request for a need concerning a young couple who live in the congregation where Bro. Fox lived for many years. They lost their home totally to fire during the night of December, 14, 1984. We are thankful that they and their one child, age 1, escaped without any physical harm.

I am sure prayer for them is most appreciated. We feel that they have proven to us to be a saintly young couple well worthy of any love and concern that anyone feels led to show to them. They have only been married about two and one half years. They are somewhat isolated, but are endeavoring to live for the Lord and to train their little boy up in the way of the Lord.

Should anyone want to contact them, their name and address is: Billy and Doris Knight, Rt. 7, Box 99, Marion, Kentucky 42064. —Bro. Carl Shaffer

—————o—————

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Prayer Requests

La.—Gladys Harper has a special request.

S.C.—“Remember me and my unsaved children.”

—Sis. Irving J. Clements

Nigeria—“Please pray for a new convert, Rose. She has a serious sickness.”—Bro. F. Naths-Igbanibo

Ark.—Bro. A.C. Gilleland needs healing.

Ok.—Sis. Tillman has some urgent requests.

Fl.—“I am sick, please pray for me.”—Effie Clark

La.—Sis. Elva Joiner needs prayer for healing.

Ok.—“Please pray for a dear friend who is badly afflicted and needs healing.”—Juanita Blankenship

Ala.—“Still remember me, my trust is in God.”

—Frances Everhart

Sis. Marie Miller still needs prayer.

—————o—————

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From Nigeria . . .

Dear Sis. Maybelle: Our prayer has been for grace in all things and the peace of God abiding with you and all in the Shop. Thanks be to our most kind and sympathetic Father in heaven who cares for us more than anything else.

Thank you for your letter dated Sept. 12, 1984. I never could have believed that you would have the time out of your crowded duties to explain fully the circumstances of the death of your son and other happenings. The letter was read to the members of the Church who were present for our activities that day and everybody was touched by the contents of the letter. . .

The *Faith and Victory* papers (July and Sept. issues) were gratefully received. Thanks to God for directing you to act just in the right way. I can rightly say that the greatest material help you render to us is the printed papers and booklets. We do know that it costs you very much to print and post them to us, especially those of us who are incapacitated to offer any financial help. Please don't think of it as a loss. I can safely say that what we gain spiritually from the pure truths published in the papers are more than the expense. Just to give an example — in our healing service on Wednesday of last week, we read and gained from the testimony of Sis. Dora Doolittle. After those encouraging words, we went to the altar of God with the sick ones for their healing. Other articles too have been helpful. We also gained the same week from the covenant that Bro. D.S. Warner entered into with God for His consecration from the book, *Birth of a Reformation*, when reviewing our study on seeking sanctification. This book was sent to me in 1975 by the dear brother in glory, your husband, Bro. Lawrence Pruitt. There are many other books received through him and we gain from each and teach the truth Christ left for us.

I once again gave a copy of the *Faith and Victory* to an unbeliever who saw me coming from the post office with the roll. He asked me what I was holding and I told him it was our gospel paper. A few days after reading it through he met me and told me that he had read a number of papers, including those from the Watch Tower Society, but he could not compare any with the *Faith and Victory*. My heart lifted to heaven with immense thanks to God knowing the

kind of man he is — one who sees himself as very wise and knows almost everything in this world. Glory be to God! I have since given him two other issues. These are few among many other blessings, but regrettably they come so slowly. The April 1983 and July 1984 paper arrived recently at the same time (this month). This is why I requested to be considered for the advance copies each month which I know costs you extra money.

I was away to Imo State on Dec. 15th to visit the brethren in Umuguma, Owerri, and returned yesterday evening after a useful fellowship with them. I met the brethren here for evening worship at 6 p.m.

We have been encountering a problem here. Our chapel was built with temporary permission from the government in 1980. We have since applied for certificates of occupancy and are waiting prayerfully for the outcome. While waiting, the authorities began a demolition exercise of temporary structures and our location was threatened. We began to move, explaining our position with cries unto God. The situation has calmed down but we don't know what the authorities will do next. We consulted a plan designer to design a plan for the chapel, a mission home, house and a kitchen, trusting only in God that He will make the authorities approve the land for us. It is then that we can put up permanent and planned buildings. It is a very serious matter and we therefore solicit your earnest prayers. The dear brethren in Lagos have already suffered this same fate and have no chapel to worship God in.

I also request you and all the saints to pray for a new convert who accepted the Lord. She has a serious sickness so complicated that no one can give description. Her name is Rose. We have been trying our best and hope that God, our divine healer, will take her sickness away.

Kindly remember me in prayer for more consecration and the work of God in general. There is a lot of false teaching going on here. Some even from the U.S. I would have written more, but having bothered you already with this lengthy write up, I shall stop here till next time. May the Lord bless you abundantly in His work and all others with you.

Thankfully yours in the Lord,

—F. Naths-Igbani

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(Dec. 7, 1984)—Greetings to all the saints abroad: We trust that you are all much encouraged to press the battle on. We know that there are many trials and afflictions, but God has promised us grace sufficient. . . .

The Lord has been encouraging our hearts to press on. The affliction seems to look and feel worse, but we are endeavoring to keep our eyes on Jesus and His power, and look beyond what we see and feel. Our desire and determination is to trust the Lord all the way. We have done all we know to do and now we are standing upon the promises of God. We surely appreciate all the love and concern the saints have shown to us. May God richly reward all. We desire your continued prayers.

Yours in Christ,

—B. Ben Taylor

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From the Philippines . . .

(Dec. 20)—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt and all the saints abroad: I greet you in the sweet, holy name of our Lord Jesus, trusting this finds you well and enjoying the beautiful season as we remember the time Jesus was born. Glory to His wonderful name! We are also sending our warm New Year's greetings to all the saints scattered abroad and everywhere.

It is always a great joy to remember you all and think of you always. At this time, I would like to express again our heartfelt thankfulness for your love and the offering you sent us that was received yesterday.

It is a great blessing to us to make both ends meet. The assistance you sent us was used for the church building repair. Please convey our thanks and profound gratitude to those who sent their love offerings to us. Please uphold us always in your prayers that our good Lord will help us.

May God continue to bless you. You are dear to us.

Yours in His service, —Bro. Ilde and Sis. Detuya

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Dear Bro. Hammond and Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to all the saints in the United States.

First of all, I give thanks to our Father in heaven, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, for His love and blessings that reach Talisayan, Mindanao, Philippines.

On Dec. 8, 1984, after a few days of reading the pamphlets handed to me by Xavier Prado, I was more enlightened and my faith increased with knowledge and understanding about the Scriptures. I was once lost with the ideas of men and not of God. Now I see the difference between other religions. I found the fullness of the gospel in the Church of God. I found a passage in the Bible, Prov. 3:5, 6, that says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

I hope that I can know more of His truth in His true Church. May the Lord our God be merciful to me with His guidance. I am praying to the Lord that He will send us more of His pamphlets with the spirit of knowledge and understanding of the saints.

Your spiritual brother in Christ,

—Leonardo Salvana

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Dear Bro. Hammond, Greetings once again in the wonderful name of Jesus. Because of His wonderful love, He suffered, He shed His precious blood and died to save us. "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8). Glory to Him. If Christ suffered for us, we must suffer for Him too. If we suffer as a Christian we must rejoice and not be ashamed.

I felt the eagerness of Satan to discourage the saints here and destroy them, but praise the Lord for those who remain true. There are some who are in danger of falling. Please help us to pray for them that they will continue to walk in the truth.

Sister Edith has many problems, but I really appreciated her faith to God. Her husband came to the chapel one time during our midweek service. He was drunk and had a gun. When Sister Edith saw

him, she prayed that he would not make any trouble. Her husband went away. After the service, she immediately went home. At home her husband tried to shoot her but she got the gun from him. He said that if she would not leave the Church of God, he was going to kill her. Sis. Edith said, "Kill me now because I will never leave my Lord. I already found the truth and the light. It is sweet for me to die for my God." She still comes to service and goes with us to Bible studies. One night she went out in the back yard to pray and knelt under the mango tree. Her husband shouted at her and asked what was she doing there (it was already 12 at midnight). She said, "I am talking to the Lord". Her husband said, "You are crazy. Are you talking to the Lord or to a ghost? Is that mango tree your Lord?" This did not stop her going there every night. She has many trials. Pray for her. She really loves the Lord.

Sister Lita is still making a good work in Puncan She and Bro. Abalos are trying to encourage the brethren there.

Our camp meeting last Dec. 29—31 was very successful. On the last day of the meeting, the lesson was about, "What our plans are this year to spread the gospel". Some were called to go and preach. If God permits, there are two places that will be open this month or next month. Bro. Pante and his group are planning to go to Guimba this week. The other that will be open is Nueva Vizcaya. Please pray for this mission plan. The group for visitations started visiting last Sunday afternoon until night, both in San Jose and Caridad, next Sunday they will go to Duncan and Palestina to visit those who need encouragement and prayer. We are praying that this will help the Church to grow. We are depending on the grace and guidance of the Lord. We can only succeed if He will help us. Without Him we can do nothing. God wants the whole truth preached. We are here to do it. We must accomplish the mission before He will come back.

We are still holding the banner of the Lord and are determined to fight until the end. Continue to pray for us.

One of God's Lamps, —Sis. Ruth Tangunan

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From India . . .

Our dearly beloved Sis. Maybelle Pruitt, Bro. George Hammond, and the dear ones in the Print Shop and at Guthrie: Greetings to you all again in the precious name of Jesus Christ. Thank you very much for your nice letter dated Dec. 4, 1984. We wish a blessed and a happy New Year to all the dear saints in America.

Several unfortunate and unhappy incidents have happened in India the last two months, swallowing the lives of thousands of people. Last week in northern India, more than 2,000 human beings died of air pollution caused by a poisonous gas leak in a carbide factory. We thank the Lord for our protection under the wings of the Lord.

Now we are busy with our 19th General Convention at Karikkom. We will have conventions in other local churches until the month of April. Please pray for these meetings. Now we face some urgent temporal needs. Please cooperate in prayer for the provision of these needs.

We expected the arrival of someone from America for our meetings, but I did not get any information yet. We are not disappointed and we pray for the arrival of a few saints next year.

We wish to expand the Church to the Tamil-speaking people in southern India. May God open the way for it. Please pray for India. With prayers. . .

Yours in Him,

—John Varghese

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Report from Sis. Keiser...

Jan. 15, 1985—Dear Sis. Pruitt, Bro. Murphey and all workers at the Print Shop, Greetings of Christian love to all, and to all of the dear saints scattered abroad.

Time has gotten away from me. Since the mailing to and from Ghana is so slow, and my trip home was so quick, I haven't had the time to catch up with reports from off of the field. Since I plan to return to Ghana about the middle of March I felt very strongly to get this report ready for the Feb. Issue of *Faith and Victory*. I am receiving letters from scattered saints asking about the work so I will try to catch up with the news.

The Mission House is finished, but not fully furnished. Jim Akwasi, wife, two little children and I have been living in it. Because Jim is pastoring the work at Akumadan, he is living there and is responsible to keep the place up. Everyone of the saints should be happy with the house for it is very nice considering Ghana standards in general.

The Church of God has not been registered in Ghana yet, as I write this. Until the Ghana Government opens the door to further register churches, we cannot build church houses. Money that comes in for building will be held in the bank until such a time as the Church can go ahead with their building. I am trusting that by the time I return in March the Church will be registered as Duku Agymang, an uncle to Jim, is working on the foundation work for us.

This past year has been a year of learning to live with and in a far different culture than our own. The battle has been hot at times. I have only been able to see "one set of footprints" many times, as the poem goes. God never forsook me, but carried me in those places that were too much for me. I could write a book on my first year in Ghana, a strange land; bed bugs, lead poisoning in my hands, talked about, written about, robbed twice, threatened kidnapping, disturbing reports about my safety, food problems, loss of weight problems and the many spiritual problems to be dissolved, some of which are yet weighing on my soul. One dear young preacher brother has written since I have been home, "count all the difficulties you met here in Ghana as a blessing, for the Lord said he will never leave us nor forsake us". This past year has been a time of breaking down and it still goes on, but I am looking forward to a year of real spiritual growth in Ghana. In myself I don't feel able for the work, but my whole dependance is on God and the Holy Spirit leadership. This is my life's work and I want to be faithful to my charge. I desire your prayers always. Just one soul is worth more than the whole world.

The village life is hard on a person and it is felt by many in Ghana, and here, that it would be better

if I would live in Kumasi, a large city. There I could get an apartment which would make it more like home. I would have city water, electricity, a phone, a good Post Office and access to a better variety of foods. We want to start a work there in the near future. As soon as I get an address in Kumasi it will be published in the *Faith and Victory*.

I want to thank everyone for their prayers and offerings, letters of encouragement and used clothing in case I have failed to write personally. Don't write to my Shawnee address after March 5th as I might not receive the mail. My address will be as before: Box 44, Akumadan-Ash, Ghana, West Africa.

Yours in His service, —Sis. Dorothy Keiser

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From the Mailbox . . .

Ks.—Dear saints: Greetings in the New Year. I am thankful to be able to report that I kept saved and sanctified through another year. Also, I can say that I began another year with courage and enthusiasm about continuing my journey through this life on the way to heaven. The Lord has been so good to me through the years and has been so faithful in every way. He has kept me saved and encouraged to keep saved.

Bro. Samons was here for two nights of meeting this past Sunday and Monday. In one of his messages he talked about how foolish it is to turn away from God. He read a Scripture that says that when people turn away from God, they turn to vain things which are, of course, of no value. Both messages were so good and really fed my soul to help me get off to a good start this year. We don't know what 1985 holds for us, but we do know who holds the future. We can trust God and go forth with the confidence that He will safely take us through if we be faithful and keep our hands in His.

I heard such good reports about the wonderful meeting in Guthrie during the holiday season. It blessed my soul just to hear about it. I trust that the blessing will last in each heart and will help propel the saints to higher heights in God. We surely need to keep good courage in these times and forge ahead with an undaunted determination because God needs some solid believers and followers. May all the saved hold fast and get closer to God where it is easier to live holy. He loves us and does all He can to get us to heaven, but we must obey Him, love Him, and serve Him faithfully.

I am enjoying my walk with God and looking forward to heaven. It is not hard to walk in this strait and narrow way because I know it leads home. Praise God.

May 1985 be a blessed one for each one at the Print Shop.

Christian love, —Shirley Knight

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Can.—Dear saints: We are of late struck with the awesomeness of lost souls in eternity; never dying and with no way of escape. We are deeply impressed with the nearness of the end of time.

We must make ready to meet the Bridegroom. We must be prepared and unashamed, living up to all the light that He reveals to us. Let's obey the Word of

God as it is; not treating it with lightness, casualness, or indifference. It contains the very words of eternal life to every soul.

We appreciate God's exceeding mercy and love toward us, though truly we are so undeserving. He is our wonderful Teacher and Counsellor, the One who truly understands us as He looks deep into our inward man as no one else has the ability to do. He reveals to us our real needs. It's so wonderful to be so personally guided by our heavenly Father.

We love Him so, and desire to learn more of Him, that we may know better how to please Him.

We love the saints of God. It was truly a lonely world before we were a part of this precious family.

The saints here are encouraged to live for the Lord. We desire your prayers for us and also for the Lord's work in this place.

In the love of God, —Ron and Anne Walter

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Mo.—I want to thank everyone for their concern and prayers for me. I am still in the battle of affliction, but I'm not discouraged. The Lord is able to do all things. He has healed me several times of strokes and a heart attack, but for some reason my healing is slow this time. I thank the Lord that I have been able to care for myself and do my work.

I am still pressing on and I want to be faithful to the end of life's journey. I know I am His child.

Pray for me. —Sis. Marie Miller

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Calif.—Dear Bro. Murphey and all the workers at the Print Shop: We send our New Year's greetings to you and pray that God will bless you dear ones as you labor for the Lord there in sending out the message of salvation to a lost world. We had a wonderful Assembly Meeting. Many good messages went forth and several souls sought the Lord for their needs.

We do appreciate having the truth.

Our love and prayers, —Bro. and Sis. Pat Huskey

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Ohio—There is a burden I wish to express to the saints of God. As we see God working in a mighty way in the camp meetings and assembly meetings, a greater burden for souls and a clearer vision of the work of God should lay heavy on the Church. Over in the mountains of West Virginia, in Green Bank, is a congregation of the Church of God. Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons oversee the work there, assisted by Bro. Mancil Doolittle and Bro. Toney Samons, who are ministers. For several years the camp meetings were held in the evangelistic tent, but as greater numbers started attending this camp meeting, a burden to build a tabernacle for the camp meeting by faith was set in motion. The tabernacle was built and several camp meetings in this new tabernacle have been a great blessing to the work there. The local congregation there have been sharing the burden to pay off the debt on this tabernacle. This burden has not been lifted off the congregation as yet. There are few camp meetings east of the Mississippi River and interest has grown among the people here in the east. During the camp meetings, the chapel is used as a dormitory for the sisters. The attendance has grown to the point where a dormitory for the brothers is needed. In fact, this is a very great need there. God's Word tells us to bear one another's burdens (Gal 6:2). This dormitory

is not needed for the local congregation, nor was the tabernacle built for the local congregation. It was built for the camp meetings. All of the saints who have attended this camp meeting are aware, I'm sure, of this burden. The congregation there at Green Bank is giving support to the Christian School, also. The saints do not beg for money, but look to God to work through His people. God's people who have a burden for the work of the Lord need to have a knowledge of these burdens.

I am not a member of the local congregation at Green Bank, nor was I asked to write this burden. I attend the Church of God congregation at Dayton, Ohio. I attend camp meetings and other meetings at Green Bank and am aware of these burdens. I trust that the knowledge of these burdens will work to the glory of God and for His cause.

Any questions concerning these burdens at Green Bank, W. Va., can be answered, I'm sure, by Bro. Mart Samons, P. O. Box 127, Green Bank, W. Va. 24944. Phone (304) 456-4469. —Earl Sharp

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Dear Saints scattered abroad: Thanks be unto God through our Lord Jesus Christ for His great love werewith He hath loved us.

We are so happy and thankful that we were able to attend part of the Guthrie Assembly Meeting. We are sad that we had to leave the meeting early, but we had other business to do.

The meeting was as refreshing as a cold spring of water at the end of a long hot desert plain. The Spirit of God has been so faithful to His dear saints. Surely He is pouring out His spirit in the last of the last days. This meeting has confirmed, that much more, our stand with God's Holy people, and we must say that we have cast our lot with the pilgrims of Jesus, the Church of the Living God.

Please pray for us as we are seeking more after the Lord. We are relying upon you all as much as you are us. We love you all.

Yours in Christ, —Mark Snell and family

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Okla.—Dear Sis. Maybelle: Greetings to you and all the dear saints everywhere.

The Lord has truly been so good to us all through the past year. As the song says, "When I look o'er the past I behold how His wide arms of mercy held me. Oh, His sweet love and peace are untold; in His favor I'm happy and free." Praise the Lord.

We really enjoyed being in the meeting. It seems that every Assembly Meeting gets better. How we did enjoy the sweet fellowship of God's children! Thank God for the love and unity of His people. I would rather be a child of God than anything I know.

I was sorry that I did not get to visit with you, but there were so many saints. There were some I am sure I didn't get to speak to, but it was a pleasure to see them anyway.

As we enter this New Year, we desire to be more yielded to God and be a little help to souls along life's way. When I see so many lost souls, I just long to tell them of Jesus and the help they can find in Him.

My soul was blessed to see the young saints deepening down in God and consecrating their lives to the service of God. May the Lord raise up workers to carry on this blessed truth of holiness. God has kept

unto Himself a remnant that will dare to preach and teach the Word, without fear of men. I can see that the Church is still marching on. Praise the Lord.

May God bless His Church to shine brighter in this New Year, so we can lighten some poor, darkened soul to the true light. Pray for us to be faithful until death.

—Bro. and Sis. Albert Eck

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N. Car.—Dear Brothers and Sisters: This is my first time writing to you, the saints, through the *Faith and Victory*, but praise the Lord, He has given me a chance to do it. God is wonderful and has given me a thought that I would like to share with you all.

I have been thinking about this portion of Scripture in Matt. 19:6: "... What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Let me tell you something, dear people. God is putting His Church together more every day because He is coming back very soon, and it's sooner than we think! We see that if we want to go back together with Him, we are going to have to be born again. "... Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3). When you are born again, that is when God has joined you together in one way, one Spirit, and one Church. We do not have time to marvel, to wait, to think, to play around, to wonder, but the only time we have is to make haste to "seek first the kingdom of God. . . ." (Matt. 6:33). If we seek Christ first in our lives, then we will be "doers of the word, and not hearers only." (James 1:22).

Matt. 19:6, goes on to say, "... let not man put asunder." In other words, don't let anything set you apart from God. We see that it is our job not to let man or the devil separate us from the love of Christ. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" (Rom. 8:35). Shall we let these things pull us asunder? Of course not, dear ones! If we love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Luke 10:27), then we will not let anyone or anything put us asunder from God. God's yoke will be easy and His burden will be light (Matt. 11:30), if we are determined to go on! If you think God's salvation is hard to live, then it will be hard to live! If you think it will be easy to live, then it will be easy to live! We see that however a person "thinketh in his heart, so is he. . . ." (Prov. 23:7).

God bless each and every one of you!

—Daniel Lennon

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

W. Va.—Have you ever had something you really loved but never really realized how much you loved it until it was gone? Have you ever wanted to tell someone something but never did, and then it was too late because they were gone? Well, I know I have many times and there is not one thing we can do about our yesterdays. No matter how much you wish you could, you cannot, but thank the Lord, Jesus changed all my dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. Two years ago this Christmas, the Lord started to turn my life around. At the time, I was separated from my wife and two children. I was quickly beginning to realize that I was starting to have an alcohol problem. I was also smoking almost three packs of cigarettes a day. Needless to say, I was no longer

living, but merely existing. Through the prayers of the family of God and the dealings of a merciful and forgiving God, the Lord dealt with my heart. He told me there was hope and that He had forgiveness for me. He told me He could work out my broken-down life. The devil was "faithful," too. He told me there was no hope and that I couldn't make it. He told me the family of God would never accept me. Thank the Lord, the devil is a liar! He lied about everything he told me.

There was hope; there was forgiveness; and there was a way—the way of the Lord.

The devil still comes to me and tells me that things will not work, but he is a liar. They have already worked out. I have my family; I have the Lord; and I have a strong determination to press on. Just yesterday, the Lord God blessed our home with a wonderful little jewel, a little gift from heaven. He blessed us with a new baby girl, Christine Dawn. I desire your prayers that Donna and I will not let the Lord down in the raising of our girls or in our lives. I thank the Lord for my home, my family, and the wonderful salvation He has so freely given us. Praise His name.

Now there is something I have wanted to do for a long time, but never did. I would like to thank each and every one for the burden you have had for me and for your prayers. Please continue to remember me and my family. We love you all very much.

Pray for me. —Bro. Bob Simonin

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

Okla.—Dear saints: Thank you for your prayers. The skin problems that I have had are hardly noticeable; there is just a faint scar. Praise God! Isn't He a wonderful Savior?

I appreciate the saints so much. I'm so glad that God led me to them and showed me the true Church. Praise His holy name forever.

It is also pleasing and reassuring to see the Print Shop holding up the high standard, though warriors of yesteryears have passed off the stage of action.

May God bless you all as you fight the fight of faith in each area of responsibility.

Rest assured that there are those of us in closed-away places who pray earnestly for you all.

Yours for the gospel, —Bro. Elbert Johnson

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

Pa.—Dear saints: This finds us much encouraged to press on to a closer walk with Jesus. I can say as the song writer, "The longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows."

It has been some time since we've written in the paper of the dealings of God in our soul. I am trusting that God will be glorified.

Some time back, I had gone to do some Christmas shopping, and when I went to pay for the things I had purchased, I realized that I did not have my money with me. My husband had given me two \$50.00 bills to shop with. I just knew the Lord would help me find them. I went to the car expecting to find them, but did not. I searched through the car again, in my purse, and in my pocket, but I had lost the money.

I began to ask the Lord on the way home to please help me find it. I thought that perhaps I had left it at home somewhere. I could recall the many

times that He had helped me to find the things that I had lost or misplaced. I could not find it at home. I began to tell the Lord that if He would help me find it, I would tell of it in the paper. A thought came to me: "Can you testify even if you don't find it?"

This happened a week before Thanksgiving. On Wednesday I began to think, "Lord, is this my trial, and can I thank you for losing one hundred dollars?" Could I rejoice in the Lord always? I just didn't see how.

When Wednesday night came, I testified in church that I didn't know if I was really thankful, but I could tell how the Lord had showed me He didn't want me to be anxious and overly concerned, (Phil. 4:6), but to just wait on Him.

A song kept coming to my mind: "Whatever it takes to be more like you, that's what I'll be willing to do." One place in the song says, "Let the disappointments come. . . ." It has been several weeks and I have not found it, but I can say in my heart that if I find it, praise the Lord. If I don't find it, **praise the Lord anyhow!**

Please pray for me.

—Virginia Myers

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Question and Answer Column

by

Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Where does the Bible say, "Cleanliness is next to godliness," and just how does it apply?

Answer: It doesn't. This is the easiest question I have had and there is the direct, simple answer. The Bible just plainly does not say that, as far as I know, but this will come as a shocker to some folks who have heard that quoted for Scripture all their lives, as I have myself. I do not quote it as Scripture myself, because I could never find it, but I hear it quoted every now and then.

Since the question is presented and the door is open, I think I would like to make a few comments on this point. The question raises an important point whether or not the Bible spells it out that way.

God was very particular and specific in His instructions regarding cleanliness throughout the Old Testament. In the cases of the sin offering for ignorance (Lev. 4:12), and the burnt offering (Lev. 6:11), it is specified that after all the parts of the bullock were removed which were to be burned on the altar, all the remains were to be carried forth without the camp "unto a clean place," and burned there. God did not allow them to burn even the refuse of His offerings which were not acceptable on the altar out in a garbage dump some place, but in a place that was kept clean and maintained for that purpose. In Lev. 11:29-47, is an extensive discussion of unclean beasts, fowls, etc., and in verse 33, it is said, "And every earthen vessel, whereinto any of them falleth, whatsoever is in it shall be unclean, and ye shall break it." That vessel could never be cleansed sufficiently for use any more. In Isa. 66:20, it says that the children of Israel were to bring an offering in a **clean** vessel into the house of the Lord. In Lev. 19:1-10, the

water of separation and the sacrifice for providing it is discussed and in verse 9, we read, "A man that is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and lay them up without the camp in a clean place. . . ." Verse 10 says that the man who gathered the ashes had to wash his clothes and be considered unclean until the even.

There is much teaching in the Old Testament regarding cleanliness which is ceremonial, ritualistic, and typical of spiritual cleanliness and holy living. But all of the above texts refer clearly to physical and material cleanliness: the washing of the body, clothes, and a clean place to burn the refuse parts of the sin and burnt offerings and to store the ashes, etc. These things were all sacred to God and He required the proper care of the entire sacrifice, even the refuse parts of it, in a clean and properly prepared and maintained place.

Now let us make no mistake about it. Mal. 3:6, tells us that God changes not. Therefore, we must conclude that God still appreciates and requires cleanliness. Just as those sacrifices of old were sacred and holy unto the Lord and He required all of them to be taken care of in a clean and proper manner, so are our bodies and all that pertains to them (all the material appurtenances thereto: the houses we live and the surrounding premises, etc.), are sacred and holy unto the Lord (1 Cor. 6:15, 19, 20; 1 Cor. 3:16), and He requires the proper care of them for His glory.

Tit. 2:5, teaches us that young married women should be "keepers at home . . . that the word of God be not blasphemed." In 1 Tim. 5:14, they are instructed that they "bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully." Both of these texts speak specifically of the adversary speaking reproachfully and the Word of God being blasphemed in direct reference to the way the wife and mother takes care of her home and children. God requires something of us in this area of our lives.

One man said that he could always tell what kind of people lived in a house by the appearance of the yard and the premises on the outside. If the yard was all littered with papers, debris, and the like, you would not expect to find a very orderly house and people inside. Disorderly and unkept houses and children have sometimes brought strong reproach upon a Christian's profession. Littered houses, unmade beds, unwashed dishes and unkept children have sometimes nullified people's testimonies for Christ. The enemy takes great advantage of these things and cashes in on them to bring reproach upon the Christian profession and to blaspheme God's Word and God's people. And God cannot prevent it because it is contrary to His plan for His people. His approval is not upon it and there is no way He can justify it and defend the people involved.

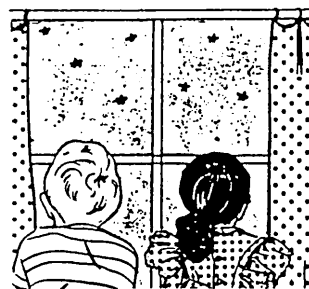
In the over-all picture, the Bible teaches that a husband should provide and properly maintain a house and all the necessary things of life for his wife and children. Then it teaches that the wife and mother should make it "home." This is the responsibility of the one designated as the "keeper at home"—to make that house a livable, comfortable, and attractive place to live; something that is inviting for the children and husband to come home to when the

day's activities are finished. The more attractive she can make it for her husband and children, the better it will be.

No man who has been out battling the odds that are against him on his job or in his business or whatever all day long enjoys coming home to a cluttered, unkept house with unwashed dishes in the sink, beds not made, and looking like a disaster. He is looking for a haven of comfort, love, and understanding at the end of a difficult day and would like to find it in his home with his family.

Evelyn told of going one time some years back with her family on a camping trip to Big Bear Lake Recreational Area which is east of Los Angeles. There were several families and couples camped there and one single man. This lone man spent a lot of time going among the other campers, talking religion to them and giving them tracts, etc. The campers said amongst themselves, "We will just watch and see how he leaves his camp site when he leaves." Sure enough, when he was ready to leave, he just loaded up and left, leaving his campsite all cluttered and littered with papers, scraps of food, etc., for someone else to clean up. All this man's influence from all the commendable work he had done was nullified because of the way he left his camp site. This same thing happens over and over again in camps, in get-togethers, at public or general dinners, in homes, and premises not properly cared for and in order.

The same thing applies to personal hygiene also. We all should be diligent to keep our bodies and the bodies of our children bathed regularly. We should have our clothes washed and clean clothes ready for everybody when needed.



HOME LIFE

Busy Mothers

"As thy days, so shall thy strength be." (Deut. 33:25).

My heart goes out to the busy mother who has her hands, heart, and time filled. She longs to have time to be alone with the Lord and pray as she did before she had her children. She will get the babies to bed at night and think, "Now I will have time to sit down and read my Bible and study a little while." But when she sits down and relaxes, she finds herself so tired and weary that she can scarcely keep her eyes open. Her mind seems so dull from an exhausted body because of the many, many duties that had to be done through the day. She finds that it isn't the time to try to read the Bible, so she resolves that she will get up early in the morning and take her Bible to read before the children awaken, but it seems that

they awoken with her. She then tries to get them all in bed for a nap in the afternoon so that she can have that time to be alone, but when she tries to read and pray, one awakens before the other, or one will be late going to sleep, and so many demands surround her, or the phone rings. Perhaps someone will drop in for a visit or there are other interruptions. Then, of course, that basket of ironing never seems to disappear. It is always there to be done. She feels her spiritual life ebbing away and the many interruptions become a great burden to her. She begins to complain and murmur. She longs for a time for herself and God. Many a mother has said, "Oh, what shall I do? I don't seem to have time to do anything for the Lord, or even to keep my spiritual life what it ought to be." Then, of course, the devil is right there to bring disappointment and discouragement.

Now, my dear, there is a way out for you. First, you must have a right attitude about your position. Remember that your first obligation is to your God, and then your family comes next. Be willing to follow the words of Jesus when He said that He "came not to be ministered unto, but to minister." Then in one place He said that the disciple was not above the master. Your place in the body of Christ is to minister. You are doing the service of the Lord when you are ministering unto your baby, your little children, older ones, and your husband. That is your life's work. You are working for the Lord when you do all those little things that are needful in caring for your home. When your family is grown, or older, you will then have plenty of time to work outside the home. If you teach those little ones about God as you do your work and pray for them, you have a big job on your hands. It is said that, "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."

In the morning as you dress, have your Bible open, or look on the Christian Scripture calendar and get just one verse to meditate upon throughout the day. Have a Bible in the kitchen where you can get another verse. There is a way to feed your soul as you do your work. I know this to be true by experience. Just now it comes to my mind when I had my little ones and I had much to do. One day I was washing venetian blinds. I asked the Lord to give me a Scripture to meditate upon. I remember so clearly that He just spoke to my heart and brought to my mind the verse, "I am the vine, ye are the branches." I remember how my soul was blessed as I meditated upon that verse. Many other times He did the same for me. I remember that at times I found time to pray in some very unusual places or positions as I went about my work. A busy mother with small children won't be able to read and pray at the same time every day alone. Of course, there must be that time when the family will get together and have family worship but we are talking about the times when a person needs to get alone with God. This is so necessary for the growth of every person spiritually.

Let those interruptions be opportunities to do good. Don't feel you are too busy to do for those who call at your home in person or over the phone. You will be surprised how much energy you are using up by worrying and fretting over your work and your worry over not being spiritual or being able to get out and do more for God as the enemy presses these

things hard upon you. When you let the Lord change your attitude and do all you do to the glory of God, praying and praising the Lord as you go about your work, you will find that your soul will be overflowing with the love of God. Just verses instead of full chapters in the Bible will grow to be real spiritual food to your soul. You will be abounding in the good things of the Lord. You will be happier and your family will be happier, also. —Sis. Marie Miles

(Written in 1965.)

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A Missionary Mother

She has a task to do for God:

To show the Lord's sustaining grace,
Maintain a steady daily pace,
And keep a smile upon her face—
For she's a missionary mother.

Four things combined in one is she:

Good cook, and wife, and at the core
God's servant, one who keeps in store
A time for children and for more—
For she's a missionary mother.

Though many things may claim her time
As day by day she fills her roles,
To bring to Christ her children's souls,
That's number one among her goals—
For she's a missionary mother.

Reward enough! She'd ask no more,
But give her, Lord, in love profound
A crown with jewels all around,
These tribute words upon it found—
"She was a **missionary mother.**"

—Charles Willoughby, missionary to Colombia

What Some Men Have Said About Wisdom . . .

"Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. To know is not to be wise. Many men know a great deal, and are all the greater fools for it. There is no fool as a knowing fool. But to know how to use knowledge is to have wisdom."—Spurgeon.

"Much wisdom often goes with fewest words."—Sophocles.

"Wisdom is to the mind what health is to the body."—Rochefoucauld.

"God gives men wisdom as He gives them gold;
His treasure house is not the mint, but the mine."—
Arabic.

"It is too often seen, that the wiser men are about the things of this world, the less wise they are about the things of the next."—Gibson.

The wise man does three things: he abandons the world before it abandons him; prepares his sepulchre before entering it; and does all with the design of pleasing God before entering His presence."—Addison.

"The wisest man is generally he who thinks himself the least so."—Boileau.

"Perfect wisdom hath four parts: viz., wisdom, the principle of doing things aright; justice, the principle of doing things equally in public and pri-

vate; fortitude, the principle of not flying danger, but meeting it; and temperance, the principle of subduing desires and living moderately."—Plato.

"The wise man is also the just, the pious, the upright, the man who walks in the way of truth. The fear of the Lord, which is the beginning of wisdom, consists in a complete devotion to God."—Zochler.

"The sublimity of wisdom is to do those things living which are to be desired when dying."—Jeremy Taylor.

Let Us Be Unmoveable

For some time we have desired some understanding from the Lord concerning Neh. 4:11, which says, "And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease."

When Nehemiah was warned of the plan of the enemy, he checked to see that everyone was where they belonged and that they were doing their part. He encouraged every worker. After all the work Nehemiah did, there was still something that alarmed him very much. In verse 19, he said, "... The work is great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another." This was how the enemy was going to get into the midst of them.

Dear saints, we are all in a great battle today, and surely the enemy is doing all he possibly can to get inside, where he desires to slay all he can and cause the work to cease. Can we see, dear ones, that the devil is working as hard as he did in Nehemiah's day to separate us? To do this successfully he gets us to look at one another, and shows us a fault in a brother or sister. He wants us to get a bad attitude, thus causing our brother or sister to feel resentment against us. As we keep looking at each other, our love for one another diminishes until eventually there is a separation in the body. A big hole is made and the enemy can walk through undetected. Oh, dear ones, let us always face the enemy and keep our eyes on him that the work of God will not be hindered. A good soldier always keeps his eyes on the enemy. He doesn't look at the one on his right or left, but commits his fellow soldiers to the captain of the company, who is wise and able to direct all who are given to his command.

In the fifth chapter of Nehemiah, we read that the enemy was able to get into the camp by taking advantage of the separation. The people complained about what they had given for the cause of God—oh, what a sad condition! Surely when we, as saints, do this, the enemy has made inroads into our lives, and God is very displeased.

Nehemiah stood right in the gap and closed the hole that the devil had made. He stood fast and rebuked the nobles and the people. Ezek. 22:30, says, "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land . . . but I found none." Truly, this should put a great fear and responsibility on the leaders of the Church of God today, as they need power and wisdom to cry out against everything that is unlike God.

Paul wrote to Timothy in his second letter, about things creeping in among the saints. In the third

chapter, verse 2, he said, "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy," etc. All these things were creeping in because some of the saints had their eyes on someone else.

In the sixth chapter of Nehemiah, we learn that the wall was built and that there was no break in it. When a man of God stands in the gap, the break is closed and the enemy runs away. Thank the Lord!

The enemy also desired for Nehemiah to stop work and talk with him. Dear ones, whenever the enemy says he wants to talk, he really wants us to compromise on some line. This is one of the oldest and most dangerous tricks of the enemy. Every time the devil has worked out a compromise with God's people, the truth has been walked over, the Church has been a disappointment, and the whole world has lost hope. Isn't that sad?

In Isaiah 62:6, God, speaking through the prophet said, "I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night. . . ." We need to pray for our ministers that they will stand true at any cost. In these dark days, may we all "be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." Amen.

—Bro. Jim White

Little Things

"Twas only a kind, "Good morning,"

She spoke as she hurried by,
Nor paused to think that this greeting
Would brighten a clouded sky.

"Twas only a little errand

For someone—she thought not at all
That He who ruleth the heavens
Would notice a deed so small.

"Twas only a look so tender,

Only a fond caress,
But the heart of the aged was lightened
More than ever she'd guess.

"Twas only a letter she'd written

And sent to a distant friend,
Quite thoughtless, perhaps, of the mission
"Twould fill at its journey's end.

"Twas only a word of comfort;

Only a smile to cheer;
"Twas only a prayer in secret,
But it fell on a list'ning ear.

And thus the day had ended

With only the little things done,
Although she'd unceasingly labored
From the rising of the sun.

Only the little things—only

These things we regard as so small—
But had she been waiting for great things,
She ne'er would have done these at all.

And how many blessings were scattered

As swift on her way she sped?
She never will know till in heaven

The Book of Remembrance is read.

—Elsie E. Egermeier