

FAITH AND VICTORY

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MY CHRIST AND THE CROSS

OUR WORD

The shadows grew dark all around me,
 All I felt was fear and despair,
 In my weakness I cried, "Oh Lord, help me!
 My load is too heavy to bear."
 But, lo, the Lord remained silent;
 Alone in the darkness I groped.
 But God was working His purpose,
 Though not in the way I had hoped.
 Then one day as I was complaining
 Of the course things had taken for me,
 In my mind's eye I saw the picture
 Of my Christ in Gethsemane.
 I saw Him alone in the garden,
 Sweating in great drops was He,
 As He prayed all night 'til the morning,
 He was tired and in agony.
 He lifted His face toward heaven
 As He said with a look divine,
 "Let this cup pass from Me, dear Father,
 However, not my will but thine."
 Then again I saw my blest Saviour,
 This time climbing Calvary's road,
 And I cringed when I saw Him falter,
 As He almost fell 'neath His load.
 On up He trudged toward Calvary,
 Past a crowd filled with sin and dross;
 Then I cried, "Dear Lord, let me help you
 To carry the old rugged cross."
 One last time — on the cross I saw Him
 Writhing in anguish and pain;
 "It is finished," He whispered softly,
 But His death was not in vain.
 "Now child, do you still want to help me
 To bear the old cross here below?
 Then take up your cross and follow;
 Through this life together we'll go."
 "Dear Father, forgive me for fretting
 And counting each trial great loss,
 Just help me to bear my load gladly
 And to cherish the old rugged cross."

—Author unknown

I have been thinking of Daniel 6:4-5. "Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom, but they could find none occasion or fault; for as much as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of His God."

They searched his life but no fault could be found in him. This makes me think, "Can this be said of us?" "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men." 2 Cor. 3:2. We are being watched closely.

I have thought how careful we need to be in how we speak or what we promise. Make sure that we keep our word. Before we promise to do something be sure we can meet that obligation at the time that we promised or don't make the promise. It can become a habit of promising and not doing. My companion used to say, "We are no better than our word, and a clear conscience is a good sleep mate." I have found this to be true.

We need to plan each day to live a finished life. We don't have the promise of another day. It means much to be honest to our fellow man and keep our word so that there can be none occasion for fault to be found in us.

When it came Daniel's testing time to be thrown into the lion's den, those lions mouths were shut. They could not touch him. Why? Because there could be no fault found in Him. As the months and years unfold in my life, I am made more and more to realize how careful we each should live that there be no fault found in us.

Be sure that when you promise to do something that you do just that, and at the appointed time. If you are hindered in some unexpected way, be sure to make amends. Don't leave the one you promised with a doubt of your honesty and sincerity. We as God's people, the Church of God, should be looked upon as the dependable ones.

In the Master's service,

—Sis. Evelyn (Gibson) McCoy

Prove All Things

The apostle Paul gives us the instruction in the Word of God, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thes. 5:21). Let us read how the dictionary defines prove: 1. to test by experiment, standard, etc.; subject to a testing process; try out. 2. to establish (something) as true; demonstrate to be a fact. 3. to establish the validity or authenticity of; demonstrate to be as is claimed.

As we travel the road of life we meet a host of other travelers. They are not only men and women as we are, but they include all the different thoughts, ideas, material items, vocations, religions, governments, hopes, opinions, desires, attitudes, etc. that are in the world today. As you can see, we are not alone on the road of life, and the few travelers I have mentioned are but a few that we could encounter as we journey along.

The thing that we must remember as we meet these travelers is that by and large they will try to impress us and try to gain acceptance by us. They will try to persuade us as to the good or pleasure they would bring to our journey in life. So now we come back to the text, "Prove all things: . . ."

It is encouraging to know that we do not have to take on the task of proving all things on our own, but our Great God has given us the means by which we may try and prove each thing that we meet, and the grace to reject it, or grace to accept it. In the Word of God we can find a standard by which to try each thing that would want to gain acceptance in our life. Then He affords us His grace to give us power to follow the standard of His Word.

We need to know that we do not have to say yes to everything that comes our way. We have the right, yes even the duty, to say no to anything or anyone that would violate the truth and standard God has established to guide us along the path of life and to heaven.

While the things from God are certainly acceptable for us to incorporate into our lives we must be on guard and alert to the things Satan would and will present to us. The things of God are pure and clean and edify; the things of Satan are corrupt and filthy and destroy.

Of the travelers you are meeting today, and have met in the past, which ones are or have been an influence on you? Which ones have you accepted? Are there any that you now need to disassociate yourself with? These are needful questions for all, and a must for those who want to stand before the judgment seat of God without sin.

We are told "to try the spirits"; also to "resist the devil and he will flee", and to "neither give place to the devil". The best method of sending on a traveler that is not accepted by the standard of the Word is to say "NO".

If we try the spirit by the Word and God says to let it alone, by all means leave it alone. Consider Solomon, such a great and wise king, yet because he did not obey the standard of God his kingdom was rent from him and given to his servant (1 Kings 11:11). God had commanded His people not to marry the children of the other nations. Solomon knew this, but as time passed Solomon received into his life the

thing God commanded against and because of this he suffered the judgment of God upon him and his house.

Oh, how much grief and trouble man could miss in this world and in the world to come if he would only prove that which he has encountered and wants to be taken into his life!

All that comes our way is not good. As a saying goes: "All that glitters is not gold", so all that would enter into our hearts and life is not gold fit for the master's use. There is an ore called "fool's gold" and many a person has been taken in by this ore thinking they were getting the real gold when they were not. It may look like gold and be heavy like gold, but if a person accepts it, all it will do is weight him down and prevent him from enjoying the things that true gold would bring him. How often do people let Satan or their own desires rob them of the true gold by accepting something less than the standard of the Word of God?

Oh that we might indeed prove all things and cast aside or out, if need be, any thing that does not meet with the standards and guidance of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. May we so love the truth of God and cherish the blessing of Christ that we indeed "hold fast that which is good"; have such a love for the holiness of God and His truth that we would never turn loose of it in order to accept something that is "fool's gold". —Stanley Dickson

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Pouring Out Our Hearts

"Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street." Lamentations 2:19.

We must think of this verse in both a natural and spiritual sense.

It is now time that we as people of God arise in the night to call upon God. The great sins which surround us make this world a night in a spiritual sense. We also need to think of this night being the night in which we rest. It is time we get so concerned about the lost that we will arise in the night and pray for them.

Pour out thy heart like water before God. Water has no form of its own. It is not rigid. It can fit into any mold, into which it is poured. So we must be before God. We must be submitted unto God so He can fit us into whatever part of the body He desires. Have you lost your own form? Is there still some stiffness in your life? If these characteristics are in your life then God cannot fulfill His will in you. Have you wondered why there isn't much fruit from your labours? Take another look at your heart. Are some areas of your desires not submitted to God? Pour out your heart like water to God and you'll see desirable changes taking place in your life.

"Lift up thy hands toward him". When you are praying in secret, do you lift up your hands toward Him in a solemn promise of total submission to Him? In I Timothy 2:8, we are also instructed to "Pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." It is very good to get alone with God and ask yourself, "Do I have wrath or doubting in

my heart?" Sit quiet before God until He reveals areas of wrath or doubting in your life that you are not aware of. Repent and ask forgiveness for these. Ask God for victory over each one. Sometimes we must rebuke the devil to gain victory over doubts.

Why do we need to pour out our hearts like water and lift up our hands without wrath and doubting before God? It is because of our young children. Their eternal souls are subject to destruction if we are neglectful. Even an unconcerned attitude toward children that are not our own cannot be justified. Every young child has a right to know about the love and severity of God. This verse was spoken to a whole nation of people.

Lift up our eyes and look at the children of our nation. They are not hungry for food for the body but they are starving for food for the soul. Where can they find food for their soul? They can find it only where the true gospel is taught, for, Jesus said, "I am the bread of life." Only where Jesus' true unadulterated word is taught can the children get food for their souls. Can the children find food in the shallow Sunday School papers they are reading? True, it gives them a hope. It also gives some comfort, but we could liken it to the ice cream and cake of a meal. It is something that looks good, tastes good and makes one feel good, yet we all know our children would not have healthy bodies on such a diet. Neither can the children of our nation be strong unless they are taught the whole Word of God.

A few weeks ago a girl in Springfield, Mo. committed suicide. After her death, parts of her diary were published in the newspaper. From her expression in the diary it was plain to see that she was searching for the truth. Did she find the truth?

How many more young children are searching just as she was? Are we doing all we can that our children do not "faint for hunger in the top of every street"? I believe if we would arise and cry out to God in the night, He would lead us to some of these hungry children.

For a bit of encouragement read the following article. —Charlotte Huskey

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Saved By a Tract

A young Christian went around to a few houses with tracts — a fine work for young believers. At one door he knocked and received no answer; so he knocked again, and again.

Presently he heard someone coming, and the door opened, but only a very little way. He at once presented his tract, and it was at once grabbed, drawn in, and the door closed. He saw it was a man through the opening, and that was all.

Not a very encouraging opening; but the distributor believed, (did I not say he was a young *believer*?) and believing he called again the following Sunday. He did not have to knock twice, for the door flew open as if by magic.

"Come in," said the man, the same, yet not the same. Shutting the door behind his guest, he led the way upstairs. There appeared to be no third person in the house.

"Are you afraid?" asked the mysterious man. "No," replied the young believer. He needed to be

a very firm believer just then, for his guide was evidently bent on getting as far from the ground as possible. Up, up, up and up to an attic room they went.

Opening a door, he led his visitor into a scene that might have made the stoutest quail. From a beam hung a rope, on the rope was a noose, and beneath the noose stood a box.

"Are you afraid?"

"No," said the child of God, feeling that he was in the presence of his Father even then.

"Then let me tell you that when you knocked last Sunday night, my feet were upon that box, and my head in that noose. I made up my mind not to answer you; when you kept on knocking, I thought I would see who it was before I hung myself. I came down, took your tract, turned here and read it. It was so blessed to me, that I am here, still alive.

"Fear not, neither be discouraged," is a word from God to every tract distributor (Deut. 1:21.)

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance; that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." 1 Timothy 1:15. —Selected

GOD USES TRACTS! DO YOU?

A sailor told how he was saved while reading a tract thrown to him from a passing car as he was hitchhiking. Alone in her room a girl who was a carhop received Christ after reading a tract left with a tip for her. A tract sent in the mail was used of God to lead a grandmother to the Saviour. God uses tracts! Do you?

"Preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Do you? You may not have enough time to witness personally to each person you meet, but you can witness through tracts. Write to this office for a free sample assortment, read, and pass on personally or by letter.

Thy Will Be Done

Yesterday when I said, "Thy will be done," I knew not what that will of thine would be, What clouds would gather black across my sun, What storm and desolation waited me; I knew Thy love would give me what was best, And I am glad I could not know the rest.

This morning, praying, "As it is in heaven," I did not dream what heavenly joy would come, Before the purple shadows of the even, To set its seal of blessing on my home. But all day long my watching eye could see Thy gift of gladness coming home to me.

"Thy will be done," I say. And to the scroll Of unread years, consenting, set my name; Day after day their pages will unroll, In shining words that prove Thy love the same, Until my years are gathered into one Eternal, sanctioned "Thy will be done."

We can set our will against doubt just as we do against any other sin; as we stand firm and refuse to doubt, the Holy Spirit will come to our aid, give us the faith of God and crown us with victory.

—Selected

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).

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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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EDITORIALS

We send greetings to all of our readers. May this find each one well, encouraged and busy about the Father's business. There is much to be done in spreading the Gospel.

How we need God's wisdom to deal with the circumstances of life! As we interrelate with others, there are several facts that we should be conscious of. Many spirits are not of God. There are also hungry souls who are true to God to the best of their ability and understanding. We need the wisdom to discern between the two. It is not a simple matter nor one to be considered lightly. We realize that God will hold us responsible if we sanction a wrong spirit or if we refuse fellowship with one of God's children.

Two commands are given to us in the New Testament that at first consideration seem to contrast. In I John 4:1, It is recorded, "... try the spirits." In Matt. 7:1, Jesus commanded, "Judge not, that ye be not judged." When a judgment is passed in a court of law it is vital to rely on the testimony of an eyewitness and not circumstantial evidence. When we deal with spiritual matters with this same careful attention and concern, we will find that these two commands balance out each other.

When dealing with spiritual matters it is important to distinguish between the spirit and one's external image. Human judgment alone makes us susceptible to deception, for someone may appear holy and yet have a deceitful spirit while a less spiritual looking person may have an honest heart and very little Godly instruction. Even Christ refused to judge by circumstantial evidence, but His judgments were true because He sought the "will of His Father." John 5:30. We should not view an individual as "short of the mark" until we have opportunity to perceive where their affections lie. One should not readily believe tales about someone's extremism until there is opportunity to determine if indeed that person exhibits a harsh spirit and the qualities of a Pharisee.

"Prove all things . . ." I Thes. 5:21. This is safe counsel. Don't get in a hurry and do or say things rashly. It may take some time to discern rightly. A person's life will gradually reveal whether he is right or not, and if evil or error is there, it will surface.

Perhaps you've read the fable concerning a group of monkeys who were left with the job of watering trees. Since the water was scarce, they decided that the wise thing to do would be to pull the trees up and check their roots. The trees with the longest roots would receive the most water. Naturally the outcome was that more damage was done than good. This is a good lesson to apply when dealing with souls. Water them with the Word and if there is any life in them, in time you will see a response.

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Sis. Dorothy Keiser of Shawnee, Ok. plans to leave Okla. City by plane on March 14 to return to the mission field of Ghana, West Africa. It is uncertain as to how long she will remain there. Pray for her protection and that her stay will prove profitable in establishing the Church in that country. All correspondence may be directed to her at: P.O. Box 44, Akumadan Ash, Ghana, West Africa.

If you should move or change addresses, be sure to notify us. The post office is now charging 30¢ for every paper that returns.

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Our stock of paper is running low and we will soon place an order for more. This will amount to several thousand dollars. We are trusting the Lord to provide for this need by burdening those who share an interest in continuing to spread the gospel.

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We appreciate the time and labor Sis. Dorothy Wilkins devoted to editing the *Beautiful Way* paper. However, she no longer feels able to do so. Sister Charlotte Huskey, a former missionary to Mexico and teacher in the Christian School, has expressed a desire and a burden to undertake this responsibility. She has been active in children's projects and we feel will be very adept at this post. For the second quarter of this year (April-June), we plan to reprint some *Beautiful Way* papers from the past. Beginning with the first Sunday of July we will have out the first editions with Sis. Charlotte as editor. The paper will undergo a change. It will be slightly larger and more colorful. The primary paper will be enlarged from a two to a four page paper, which will allow for 2 pages of "busy work". The price will also increase. We are in the process of fixing a prototype. If you desire a sample sent to you free of charge, send your request, name and address, and we will mail one as soon as it is available, which will be in plenty of time for you to consider subscribing by June the first.

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"Buy the truth, and sell it not." Prov. 23:23. Truth is important for it is a guide to our eternal destination. Truth is more than eloquent words or a philosophy. It is that which we must incorporate into our daily lives to live by. To buy the truth, there are three things to consider. They are the same considerations that a wise individual uses in transacting any kind of business. (1) It works as advertized. (2) It is worth what I must pay for it. (3) I need it. To buy, means "to give in exchange for." Truth is not purchased with money. This was graphically proven by Simon. (Acts 8:18-24). In order to purchase truth we must resign our self-righteousness. (Isa. 64:6). We must realize that it is superior to our own abilities to live right. We must be willing to surrender all preconceived ideas of religion, rebellion against God's ways and personal pet theories.

Once while attending an auction sale, I encountered an elderly woman with whom I was acquainted. She requested a ride home for herself and her purchases. I consented and she pointed out to me her things and I loaded them into my van, filling it quite full. Upon arriving at her house I was instructed to deposit the items under a tree beside a multitude of other paraphernalia that cluttered her yard. It was quite obvious that much of this stuff would never be of any use to her and yet she collected more and more of it. I knew of one particular item that several people had endeavored to buy from her. She was unable to use the article and yet she tenaciously clung to it.

This is typical of many people. They go through life gathering ideas and opinions that are of no value to them in the betterment of their life, yet they are vocal in these opinions and are insulted if one even

insinuates that they should alter their thinking. When we are willing to surrender our opinions then we are in a good condition to obtain truth.

When we sell the truth, we acquire again those things that we laid down in the purchasing of it. We trade God's ways for our own. The devil is bidding high. If you want to sell your salvation, he is ready to buy it. Satan will offer money, fame, reputation, or superficial pleasures in exchange for it. Think of the Bible characters who sold out for these things; Samson, Ananias and Saphira, Judas, Demas and many, many more.

Let us heed the admonition in our scripture. Give up all for that which is right and refuse to exchange it for anything. —Wayne Murphey

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The power of His might He revealeth,
Through love that others may see.

His light He doth shed on my pathway.
He guideth me on in His care.
He loves me and cares when I'm troubled;
My heartaches and sorrows He'll share.

Though the storm clouds may come, I'll trust Jesus.
Though the valley be dark, He is there.
A thousand may fall close beside me.
I'm safe 'neath the wings of His care.

His strength is made perfect in weakness.
His grace is sufficient for me.
I'm safe in the great Rock of ages;
Thou, Jesus, my refuge shall be.

—Edna Hays Hollandsworth

Contentment comes from little seeds of cheerful
words and loving deeds.
—Effie Miller

Camp Meeting Dates for 1985

Chapultepec, Baja, Cfa., Mexico — April 1-7.
 Goulds, FL — April 7-14.
 Oklahoma State at Guthrie, OK — May 31-June 9.
 Jefferson, OR — June 14-23.
 Oakland, CA — June 21-30.
 Green Bank, WV — June 28-July 7.
 Fresno, CA — July 5-14.
 National at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO —
 July 19-28.
 Missouri State at Myrtle, MO — July 29-Aug. 4.
 Bakersfield, CA — Aug. 2-11.
 Boley, OK — Aug. 18-25.
 California State at Pacoima, CA —
 Aug. 23-Sept. 1.

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

In Memorial

Sister (Miss) Elva R. Joiner was born on Oct. 10th, 1908 and departed this life January 27, 1985 at her home in Loranger, at the age of 76 years, 3 months, 17 days. She lived and died on the same grounds where she was born. She was the youngest member of Bro. Alfred and Sis. Minnie Joiner's family. Sister Elva was preceded in death by her parents, and four brothers, Walker, Leonard, Joe and Finley Joiner; also four sisters, Sis. Etta Williamson, Sis. Della Perry, Sis. Mamie Flynn and Sis. (Miss) Neva Joiner. She is survived by many nieces and nephews.

Sister Elva knew the Lord as her personal Saviour at a young age and lived a devoted Christian life. She was faithful in helping care for her widowed mother many years until her death and then dedicated herself to other family members who needed tender, loving care.

The funeral was conducted at the Loranger Chapel of the Church of God, by Brother Charles R. Smith and her body was laid to rest in the cemetery by the chapel in Loranger, LA.

CASSETTE TAPES AVAILABLE

Dear Saints: Greetings in Jesus name from West Virginia! We are encouraged to live for the Lord and striving to contend for the truth as it has been delivered to the saints. I believe the Lord is doing His best to shine us up and hone us down so that we might be that spotless bride adorned for her husband. I surely want to be in that number!

I'm writing to let it be known that we have available, two 60 minute cassette tapes of gospel singing of the Green Bank Quartet. In previous announcements concerning this, we have put a \$5.00 charge on these tapes. We have felt for some time that although the profits from these have been used for the work of the Lord, we would feel clearer about this matter if we would make these tapes available to you at no charge and anyone that would wish to help support

this effort may do so on a free-will basis. We want to do all to the glory of God.

These tapes are not professional, by any means, but we hope they may prove a blessing to some soul.

Pray for us that we might be diligent to make our calling and election sure.

—Toney Samons
 P.O. Box 3, Arbovale, WV 24915

Note of Thanks

Ky.—Dear ones: Greetings in the name of our precious Saviour. We are very thankful for the many blessings that our dear Saviour has bestowed upon us.

The morning that we saw our home and all its contents completely destroyed by fire was a great blow to us. However, we found great comfort in the Lord even in that hour. We have thanked the Lord a number of times that everyone was able to get out of the house unharmed.

We really appreciate the cards, clothing, money, and other things the saints have sent our way. The Lord truly knows our every need and is making a way to supply them. We desire prayer from everyone that we will learn the lesson that is in this for us and that we will be what God desires us to be.

Christian love,

—Billy, Doris, and Marvin Knight

A CALL FOR HELP

Greetings of Christian love in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord: Come over to Bogata and help me. There is a church house here for sale and also residences that someone can live in. Pray and ask the good Lord if He wants you to come here and work.

May the Lord send labourers into this vineyard.
 Christian love and prayers, —Nellie Lovell
 Rt. 1 Box, 373A, Bogata, Tx. 75417

MEETING NOTICES

NOTICE CONCERNING MEXICO CAMPMEETING

Word has been received that the Mexico Campmeeting has been changed to Chapultepec. Keep the directions given to Chapultepec in the last issue of the *Faith and Victory* and come praying. We trust the Lord to send Ministers of His choosing who have a burden for lost souls.

This is a new place and the truth needs to be taught in its purity to win new souls to Christ and edify those who have begun to live for Him.

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

SPRING MEETING AT GREEN PASTURES, OK

It has been announced that the congregation at Green Pastures, Ok. is planning, Lord willing, to hold a Spring Meeting from March 12-17, 1985. There will be services nightly at 7:30. Bro. Herschel Hargrave of Goulds, Florida plans to be with them.

The address of the chapel is 57th and Denver.

For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Charles Chandler, 740 N.E. 81st St., Okla. City, Ok. 73114. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI SPRING MEETING

You are cordially invited to attend a Spring Meeting that will be held, Lord willing, from March 24-31, 1985, in Springfield, MO. This is a gospel endeavor in which your presence will be much appreciated. If you are unable to attend remember it in your prayers.

For more information, contact the pastor, Bro. James Bell, Rt. 1, Box 928, Springfield, MO., 65803 phone (417) 833-1901.

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LOS ANGELES SPRING MEETING

The annual Spring Meeting of the Church of God at Los Angeles, Ca. will convene, Lord willing, on Friday night, March 29, 1985, at 7:30 p.m. with nightly services until Easter Sunday, April 7th.

The order of the other services are as follows: First Sunday, March 31st; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., morning service 10:30 a.m., lunch 1:00 p.m., afternoon service 2:30 p.m. and night service 7:30 p.m.

The second weekend, Saturday, April 6th; morning service 10:30 a.m., lunch 1:00 p.m., Ordinance Service 2:30 p.m. and night service 7:30 p.m. Easter Sunday, April 7th; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., morning service 10:30 a.m., lunch 1:00 p.m., afternoon service 2:30 p.m.

Come worship with us. Come praying. All are welcome!

For further information, call Bro. T. R. Summers, 711 W. 85th St., Los Angeles, Ca. 90044, phone (213) 752-1135, or Bro. William Johnson, 945 Ashbridge Lane, Harbor City, Ca. 90718, phone (213) 325-8277.

The address of the chapel is, 1381 Walnut St., corners of Naomi and Walnut Streets, phone (213) 745-9474.

—Sis. Leon Phillips

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GOULDS, FLORIDA CAMP MEETING

The Goulds, Fl. camp meeting will be held, Lord willing, April 7-14. Services will be 10:30 a.m., and 7:30 p.m., daily, 2:30 p.m., services to be announced. Meals will be served. We are praying that God will send Holy Ghost filled Ministers and workers of His choosing.

For further information contact Brother H. H. Hargrave at (305) 258-1402, Church of God Chapel Address: 12030 S.W. 214 Terr., Goulds, Fl., (305) 251-3873.

—G. McPhail

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SPRING REVIVAL AT NEOSHO, MISSOURI

We have received a couple of letters from Bro. Paul Sorrell expressing a desire and burden to come for a meeting here in the spring. In his last letter he suggested the date of April 7th through the 14th. Anyone else feeling a burden to help in this meeting is invited. Evening services will be held at 7:30 p.m. The chapel is located in Neosho, Mo., in the east part of town, on Freeman Road, a few blocks south of Highway 86.

We want to invite all who can to come and partake of the good news of salvation, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. We desire the prayers of the saints everywhere for this meeting.

—Bro. T. V. McMillian

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WICHITA, KANSAS SPRING MEETING

The Wichita 1985 Spring Meeting has been set for April 19-28. We are looking to God to direct the entire meeting with the Holy Spirit having the complete right of way. We mean to do our part in praying down the meeting and then being submitted and ready that God can use any of us as He pleases during the meeting.

We are looking to God to burden and send the ministers He desires to use in the meeting. We are expecting God to send in warriors to help in the battle. People of all tongues, creeds and races are invited to come hear the pure Word of God and see the True Church operated by God Himself. We expect to see people get Bible Salvation, genuine Sanctification and the sick be healed by the divine power of God.

Any further information can be obtained by contacting Bro. Raymond Johnson, 1947 Piatt, Wichita, Ks., 67214; phone: (316) 263-5803 or Bro. Keith Marsh, 501 Topaz, Wichita, Ks., 67209; phone: (316) 722-8114.

Submitted by, —Shirley Knight

Prayer Requests

Or.—“Pray for us, we need to make some decisions.” —Doris and Bill Busch

Or.—“We have some urgent requests for some who need help.” —Evelyn Wilson

Ok.—“Continue to pray for my daughter and her husband.” —Sis. Tillman

Mi.—“Please pray for my eyes.” —Frieda Boettcher

Al.—“Please pray for my healing and a deeper Christian experience.” —Frances Everhart

Ok.—Remember Bro. Gene and Sis. Dora Lela Beisly who are in the trial of affliction.

Tex.—An urgent need for complete healing. —Sis. Annie Bell Allen

Va.—“Please pray for an urgent need concerning a dear soul.” —C. Henderson

Ill.—“Pray for my sister, she needs salvation and healing.” —L. Beed

La.—“Please continue to pray for me.” —Beulah Johnson

The Faithful Few

The Lord depends on the faithful few
The work of the needy world to do.

They, like the sun, from the narrow way
Of the path of duty never stray;

And they keep right on while others sigh
Without the courage and will to try.

What on earth would we ever do
Without the help of the faithful few?

—William Walter De Bolt

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From India . . .

Our dearly beloved elder Sister Maybelle Pruitt, the dear ones in the Print Shop, the dear saints at Guthrie and scattered abroad: Greetings to you all dear ones again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ.

Our 19th General convention during the first week of January was the best when compared to the last 18 General Conventions. Many got saved, dedicated, sanctified, baptized and healed. The healing ministry was wonderful. Please pray for the local conventions at Vilayanthur, Koottarvila, Anayam, Nadukkunnu, Kalayapuram, Chalakudy and so on. The absence of a missionary from America in our meetings was specially noted this year also.

We thank the Lord for the blessed Assembly Meeting at Guthrie. We pray for the blessing and progress of the Church of God in America, in Africa, in Mexico and in all other parts of the world.

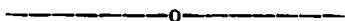
We are unhappy to know that Sis. Stover had a stroke and is unable to walk now. We pray for her strength and for complete recovery and victory. If it is possible, I would like to visit the U.S.A. this May to participate in the campmeetings there. I am waiting for the will of God. We invite the earnest prayers of the saints in America for the many needs of the Church in India in 1985. Prayers and supports are essential for our existence and progress.

Yours in Him, —John Varghese



Notice: In this letter Bro. Varghese expresses an interest in attending the campmeetings here in the U.S. this summer. There has also been the desire expressed by some here in the States that this be made possible. Consequently we have set up a fund here at the Print Shop to go towards this worthy project. If you would like to donate to this fund send your contributions to: Faith Publishing House, P.O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044. Be sure to specify that it is to bring Bro. Varghese to the States. Your donations should be sent in as soon as possible since the ticket must be purchased before very long.

—The editors



From the Mailbox . . .

La.—Greetings in the sweet and precious name of Jesus. I do thank God for Jesus. Without Him we can do nothing. I feel the need of Him more and more in these perilous times. When our body is getting weaker and weaker and we are more helpless every passing year, it takes more grace and strength from on high. We are so thankful God's grace is sufficient. He has abundant grace; more than we can use in one occasion. He has promised to go with us all the way, even unto the end. We know God's promises are true and because we have trusted and tested and tried them, I know He will never fail. I don't want to ever fail Him.

I love the Scripture where Paul says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13. I went to meeting once although I didn't feel like going. I kept repeating that Scripture and made it just fine. I felt better after meeting than I did in the beginning. Praise the dear Lord.

I received my *Faith and Victory* paper today and enjoyed it so much. I can say amen to all the articles and testimonies . . .

With Christian love, —Effie Miller



Ok.—Dear Sister Maybelle, and brothers and sisters in the Lord: We hope this finds all encouraged to press on, knowing that each day brings us nearer our home in heaven for all eternity. "Oh safe to the rock that is higher than I, thou blest Rock of ages. I'm hiding in thee."

The Lord has been so good to me to give strength to care for myself here alone. No, I'm never alone for the Lord is here to strengthen, comfort and bless.

Remember us in prayer as we do you. May the Lord give you all a double blessing in your work there for Him. How can we ever thank the Lord enough for this wonderful salvation, that brings peace, joy and happiness to the soul?

—Sis. Doris Bowers



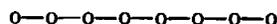
Ok.—Greetings to all the saints everywhere: Praise God, I am back home again. I lived here in Guthrie from 1975 until 1980, which were some of the happiest days of my life. Since then, I have traveled over much of the country enjoying the fellowship of the saints. The welcome I have received back here has been overwhelming. That sweet spirit that flows from heart to heart among the saints is precious.

"Oh, to be nothing, nothing,
Only to be at His feet
An empty and broken vessel
For the Master's use made meet."

I know not just how long this will be my home. I am fully persuaded that any earthen vessel, no matter how marred, broken or worthless in the estimation of men, if they will choose to cooperate with God in the process of emptying and cleansing (1 John 1:7) and will maintain entire yieldedness of the Spirit to the blessed will of God, in spite of their small capacity, there will be found for them in the building up of the Kingdom of God in the earth, a humble place of usefulness by the great Master of assemblies. "There's surely somewhere, some lowly place, in the earth's harvest field so wide where I can labor through life's short day for Jesus the crucified."

I do want to please the Lord with my life. He has done so much for me. We have met with many, many trials along life's journey, but so happy to have found the one true way. All glory, praise and honor belongs to our Maker. I am standing for the old time truths. God's Word never changes. I am satisfied to be called one of His little ones.

Let us pray for one another.
Yours in Christ, —Edith Wall



Al.—Dear Saints and workers at the Print Shop: Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is to let you know that I am standing out for the truth.

Notice this Scripture, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to

deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." Daniel 3:16-18. That is my stand. I need your prayers. Keep the paper coming, I love to read it. I am,

—Henry P. Effinger

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Ca.—Dear Sister Maybelle and workers: Greetings to all of you in the name of Jesus. I thank the Lord for His love. He has been so good to me. I want to praise His dear name for helping me in my every time of need. I thank Him for loving me and caring enough to save my soul. I love and want to serve Him. I need your prayers that I will keep my eyes on that heavenly path that leads each one of us who is saved to God's great throne.

Please continue sending me the *Faith and Victory* paper.

In Christian love, —Sis. Elizabeth Forbes

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Mo.—Greetings to all: I have been meaning to write for some time so will take the opportunity to do so this morning.

There is no way I could list my many blessings as they are too numerous to count. It is such a blessing to wake up each morning feeling good and ready to do my work. I really enjoy being a homemaker and doing what little I can for others.

We had our biggest and best garden ever last summer and we enjoyed it so much. I had asked the Lord to provide us with enough so we could have some to share with others and some to sell, besides for our own use. He gave us an abundant supply of most everything we planted. We gave away a lot and sold quite a lot. It takes lots of hours, but it was work that we enjoy. Lord willing, we hope to have another big garden this summer. We love working in the outdoors.

My husband and I will be observing our 45th anniversary the 19th of January. I am so thankful to still have him with me. We have been blessed with 9 children, 26 grandchildren and 2 step grandchildren and all are still living, for which I am so thankful.

If any of the saints should have any written material by Bro. Ed Whipple or Sis. Susie Whipple Laughlin, I would appreciate hearing from them, as they were both very dear to me since they were my aunt and uncle.

Uncle Ed passed on several years ago, but Aunt Sue lives in Carthage, Mo. and needs your prayers.

I also have many other loved ones who need your prayers. Please pray for me that I will remain faithful till the end.

Christian love, —Sis. Violet Sinkhorn
Rt. 1; Box 112, Fairfax, Mo. 64446

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Ks.—Dear Saints: Greetings of Christian love in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank the Lord for this wonderful salvation, and am so thankful that the Lord allowed me to be in the wonderful meeting that we had at Guthrie this past Christmas. I got so much good to my soul. It seems that hearts were melted down. Everyone was

touched by the Spirit of God in special ways. My soul is still being blessed from being there and for what I received for my soul. I am thankful for His wonderful dealings. I mean to press the battle on to the end. I desire your prayers.

Yours in Christ, —Elizabeth Freeman

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Ark.—Dear ones at the Print Shop: We send greetings your way from Arkansas. We are well and encouraged to keep on for God; trusting the Lord for body and soul. We enjoy the kindness and love of God in salvation. As we consider the mercy of God in the work He did to make us free from the power of sin and death, we just have to praise Him from the depth of our hearts.

The little congregation here is keeping encouraged and all are well at this time, for which we thank the dear Lord.

We are about settled now, and enjoy being here, and know that God moved us here. Things have worked out real well and we just love and appreciate each one. We surely want to be able to have the care and concern to feed the little flock with that spiritual food for the uplift and spiritual growth of each one.

You can send the *Faith and Victory* to us now and do remember us in prayer.

Yours in Christ Jesus with love,
—Roy and Virginia Harmon

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Tx.—To each one who wrote in the paper for February: I give my thanks and prayers for the blessing received. I read and reread it. God truly gave me a blessing. No word but yours could have been better said . . . Praise God for the truth of His Holy Word.

Thank you and God's blessings be yours . . .
In His care, —Betty Anderson

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N.C.—Dear Saints: Greetings in the name of the Lord. I truly appreciate the blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us all! He is worthy to be served. I thank God for His dealings, and His power, and for being one of His children. I thank God for being saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost. In these last days we need to be filled with the Holy Ghost so that we can have power to live holy and do His will. God has a duty for everyone of us that are saved. We are living in the last of the last days and the end of time is drawing nigh. We need to do all we can to help souls get to heaven. The Lord has been dealing with me about His coming. He wants me to warn all His saints to do all we can while we can. In these last days, He is awakening, opening eyes that are deceived, and uncovering souls. He is also stirring up His Church and letting us know that we need to be real and genuine. If we are not right, let us get right, NOW. The Scripture says, "Behold now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation", II Cor. 6:2, not tomorrow, not next week or next year.

Let us be serious minded. Let us check ourselves daily and see whether we be in the faith. We should ask ourselves this question: If Jesus should come right now, will I be ready to go, or will I have to ask God to forgive me? God wants us to know that anything we need to do or straighten out, we should do it now! Whatever the Lord points His finger at, what-

ever He brings to our attention, let us get it straight now because His mercy is running out. If we don't work out our soul's salvation now it is very possible that it will be too late. He is tired of slothfulness and laziness. He wants us to be up and doing our Father's business. He wants us ministers, teachers, and workers to "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression", Isaiah 58:1, as never before. Pray for me saints that I will forever do the will of God!

Christian love, —Bro. Jerry Lennon

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II.—Dear Saints: I was so grateful to read the February issue of *Faith and Victory*. I was having some difficulty in my attitude on a matter in our family. So many of the articles seemed to be just for me. I was thinking of writing to you and then we received the paper. Isn't it wonderful how our precious Lord knows our needs even before we ask for help? I also appreciated very much the "Home Life" article, "Busy Mothers". I was feeling guilty about not having much time to spend by myself with the Lord. Sister Miles wrote of taking one verse and concentrating on it and asking Jesus to feed us from it. It didn't have to be a whole chapter. The next day I tried it. The verse was Psalm 138:8, "The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever: . . ." New hope and encouragement swept thru my heart. I knew the Lord was still working with me and He would continue to as long as I desired Him to. How I thank God for His precious Word.

Please pray for us to grow closer to the Lord. We need His guidance for our lives, and in raising and teaching our two little girls.

I'm truly thankful for all of you at the Print Shop, for your dedication and love for God's work. Not only do you give blessings when you do His will, but you also receive so many to yourselves.

Our love and prayers,
—Cilicia Frazier and Family

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Ok. Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in Jesus' name tonight. I want to give my testimony of how the Lord has cared for me in the past few months. I haven't had any cigarettes, roll-your-owns, pipe, or chewing tobacco to touch my mouth since before Guthrie, Ok. Campmeeting last May. Thank God for deliverance. Also, I want to thank the saints for all their prayers that the Lord would keep my soul until I would give up. I'm so glad I did. I have had a wonderful time being in the camp of the saints this last year. Thank God for His mercies to me. Over in Eze. 36:26, 27, 28, it says, "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: . . . and I will give you an heart of flesh." Praise the Lord! He can do all these things, too. "And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God." Thank the Lord for saving my soul.

I was anointed and prayed for at the Assembly Meeting at Christmas time for a caffeine habit, and I

haven't had it since that time. Praise God for that! I haven't taken any heart pills since before the Assembly either. I have so many things to thank the Lord for, but there isn't room in one paper for it all. If I could just tell people how good this is, I don't see how anybody could turn it down. You don't have to give up too much. Listen to what it says over in Romans 12:1 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

Over in 1 John 1:19 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Thank the Lord, He wants us to go to Heaven with Him. So sinner, don't stand back and wait, for God loves you too, just like everybody else. I am so happy in the Lord that I don't know how to stop. There is a lot more I could say . . .

Your brother in Christ, —Leo McIntosh

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Or.—Dear saints everywhere: It's been a long time since I have sent in my testimony. I am still pressing on to my heavenly home. The Lord has really blessed me this past year with blessings and healings. I am trying to do what I can in His service but it seems so little. I teach a class of little ones, visit some shut-ins and transport the elderly to the store and post office when the weather is cold. We have not had a severe winter like some — no snow to speak of, just some cold nights. We had the driest January in years.

Remember my left eye. I am having problems with it. I like to write to many saints. It is part of my mission.

Sin is abounding on every hand which God said it would do until the end. See that no man take your crown, saints. Heaven will be worth it all. He will not let us be tempted above that we are able to bear. I have had some health problems, but the saints pray for me and I get better. What a wonderful physician our doctor Jesus is.

Christian love, —Grace Jones

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Ok.—Dear Sister Maybelle, and the workers at the Office: Greetings to you and all the dear saints. I want to take this means to thank everyone for their love shown to me during my illness, for the many lovely and encouraging cards, letters, phone calls, visits, food, offerings and above all for your prayers which were such a strength during the time I was so helpless and suffering.

It is so precious to be in the family of God where when one member suffers all get under a burden with them, praying in faith knowing that our God is able to do anything. Bless His dear name. Oh how I appreciate His love to me. His healing power is just the same today as in the years past. He has blessed me so much since I had this illness. I suffered much at first, then in answer to prayer, the Lord touched my body and healed the pain and I began to improve. Then in trying to walk I had a hard fall which set me back and I suffered so much as I hurt my back. Again, in answer to prayer the dear Lord sent a soothing wave of healing over my entire body. It

never was as bad from that time. Thank the Lord. I began to improve again. It has been amazing to all to see how fast I have gained. I began walking with a walker but now I walk alone all over the house without the walker. It's so good to be on my feet again. Oh, how I praise the dear Lord for His goodness to me. To Him be all the glory!

The dear saints have been so good to stand by me and pray for me day or night. Bro. and Sis. Madden have been such a blessing as have other saints of the congregation. My dear children have stood by me in my trust in God and witnessed to others that this was my way of life. I don't feel worthy of all the tender, loving care I received. May God in His love bless everyone is my prayer. Pray that I will be faithful to the end of my journey. Be my days few or many, I want to be true to my dear Saviour.

Christian love to all, —Ruby E. Stover

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Or.—Dear Sis. Maybelle: The Lord just let me go through a trial which taught me more completely how to have faith and trust in Him. One morning this week, I awoke with a swollen eyelid and red eyeball. My eye was very miserable.

I decided to fast that morning and I asked the Lord to please heal my eye. By noon much of the redness was gone and the swelling had almost left. I began thanking and praising the Lord for healing me. The rest of the day I continued to get better and better . . . It surely pays to trust Him.

Yours in Christ, —Sis. Lucille Trimble

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Ok.—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt, staff and Saints near and far: Greetings to all and Happy New Year!

How we appreciate your labors in getting this truth out to so many, God bless each one, and reward you richly.

I am thankful for the many blessings God has bestowed on me, blessed me with a precious grandson November 16, 1984, was faithful to let me see this year of '85. I am looking for this year to be one of the happiest years of my life, growing in the Lord and doing more in His vineyard. Most of all I am thankful for salvation and the desire to go right on, by the help and grace of God.

I was thinking how with the New Year beginning, many have made resolutions, some for this and some for that and it is not long before we soon forget the resolutions altogether, but I thank my God for this inward change to know that when we cry out to Him our needs and burdens, He is always faithful, merciful and mindful to supply our every need. Praise God.

We know many run in a race, but only one will win the prize. I mean to run straight for the finish line, win my crown that will last forever, for "my hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness, I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus name. On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand."

Sis. Maybelle, I feel impressed to share this to the glory of God and all the dear ones near and far, to always just trust in God. In Nov. '83 we lost a loved one in Seattle, Washington. Five members of the

family traveled by car to the funeral, and we were thankful for a safe arrival to Washington and His hand of mercy in our behalf. However on our return coming home, the weather was bad and some parts of the highway were a sheet of ice. God was so good. He gave us a warning to be very careful, and as the Lord would have it, the car began to spin round and round several times. We went off the road and back on I'm not sure how many times. Finally we left the highway, this last time some of us were telling the driver what to do, but Glory be to God, as soon as we told Jesus, He brought it to a stop against an embankment. God stopped the car and stopped the motor also for us. What a mighty God we serve! Can't tell it all . . .

I desire your prayers that at all times the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in God's sight.

Yours in Christ, —Sis. Lorene Hawkins

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

Or.—Dear Sis. Maybelle: I just thought I would like to send in my testimony of how I was healed instantly of severe pain in my right shoulder. I had requested prayer on Sunday morning and a day or two later while I was still in bed those pains were real sharp and hard everytime I moved my arm. I was praying for the Lord to ease the pain when something in my shoulder popped like a stick breaking and the pain was all gone. I haven't had any pain in my shoulder since then.

Several years ago I fell and hurt my left wrist. We were all to meet at the Church for cleanup day before Camp Meeting so I asked Bro. and Sis. Wilson to pray for my wrist. I washed windows all afternoon but my wrist really hurt. During Camp Meeting I went up to be anointed and prayed for and when I went back to my seat I sat with my hand in my lap and felt the bones in two places pop back in place. I didn't know it was broke until I felt the bones pop into place. There was never any pain there any more. Thank the Lord for His loving care and help.

Your sister in Christ, —Hilda A. Nielsen

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

Ark.—Dear ones at the Faith Publishing House and greetings of love to all: The other night my fingers were hurting so bad and then it moved up in my arm. I just kept calling on God to stop it from hurting and He did stop it right away. Praise His lovely name. I told the Lord if He would stop the pain, I would give my testimony. The Lord has helped us many, many times. We just can't praise Him enough. Remember us in prayer. I love the paper and love to hear from God's children. —Sis. West

Mo.—Dear Ones at the Print Shop: I am writing you to have my box number changed so I will not fail to receive my paper. Also, I want to thank all who have prayed for me. I am much better. I am not suffering either. It has been five months since this affliction has come on me. I did suffer a lot but after Bro. Smith came and anointed me and had prayer, I have not had much pain and suffering. My trust is in the Lord . . .

Your sister in the Lord, —Marie Miller

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HOME LIFE



"Make your own choice," is the strong sentiment of the world in which we live. "Don't let others think for you." If this teaching is followed to its extreme conclusion, all moral guidelines will be cast aside and a life miserably ruined. This is especially true if these feelings of "free expression" are imbibed from youth up. This trick of the enemy is at hand to be dealt with by the parents of today's generation.

Once a man who believed that children should not be indoctrinated by religion, but should be allowed to grow up and choose for themselves, paid a visit to a friend who was well aware of the theory. As he prepared to leave, the visitor commented to his friend, "I forgot to look at your flowers." His friend replied, "I decided not to plant any flowers this spring but to wait until October and let the garden decide for itself whether it will grow flowers or weeds." The lives of our children, their temporal welfare, happiness in life and soul's welfare, is far too valuable to relinquish to the many and varied influences that toss them in all directions, just for the sake of "freedom of choice". It is much easier for weeds to grow in an unkept garden spot than anything of value.

Two hundred years ago Alexander Pope declared, "As the twig is bent, the tree is inclined." Two thousand years ago Paul stated, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Three thousand years ago, Hoseas said of those who had sinned, "They have sown to the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind." Christ proved the truth of this concept and said, "Suffer little children . . . to come unto me."

A large assembly of Christians were once questioned concerning the age of their conversion. 1100 indicated that they were converted under the age of 20; 180 between 20 and 30; 35 between 30 and 40; 14

between 40 and 50; 8 between 50 and 60; over 60, only 2. These figures reveal that only 239 people were saved after reaching the age of 20, out of 1339 people which amounts to 17.8%. If this poll were taken today, I am sure that the percentages would be even lower. Such facts teach a solemn lesson to parents, Sunday School teachers, school teachers, pastors, and all others who have an influence upon children.

Paul wrote to Timothy, "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Jesus Christ." II Tim. 3:15. In the first chapter, fifth verse, he said, "when I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that is in thee also." Out of homes like these come many of those who will accept the high calling of our Lord and Saviour.

How important it is for there to be a spiritual climate in our homes. Often the deepest remembrances center around the life we had when young. Those things stay with us the longest. It is not only our privilege, but a duty set forth by God, to arrange a home life that will exert a positive influence on our children in years to come. —Wayne Murphey

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Did Judas partake of the Lord's supper? The account in the 22nd Chapter of Luke sounds as if he did.

Answer: It has not been my understanding that he did and I shall endeavor to set forth my reasons for believing he did not.

First, let us keep in mind as we consider this question that there were two suppers considered in the Scriptures right together at the same sitting — the Passover Supper and the Lord's Supper. And though they were together at the same sitting, yet they were distinct and separate and signified different things and we must consider them in that way to get the proper understanding. This Passover Supper that Jesus ate with His disciples at this time was the last official Passover to be observed. It passed out of existence that night and has therefore come to be called "The Last Supper". It had been observed by the Israelites ever since the night they came forth out of Egypt until that night when Christ ate it with His disciples for the last time. It was coming to its end right then. That Paschal Lamb which was eaten in the Jew's Passover Supper was a type of Jesus Christ Himself. Paul makes this clear in 1 Cor. 5:7 where he says "For even Christ, our passover, is sacrificed for us". Therefore this typical Paschal Lamb was to be fulfilled the very next day at Calvary when Christ, the Lamb of God, offered Himself without spot to God as a sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, the type being fulfilled had no further practical use, so passed away forever at the death of Christ, and He became the Paschal Lamb for the house of God, the Church of God, for this gospel age of time.

At the close or finish of this Passover Supper, Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper which was a brand new ordinance which was to be observed by the saints, the disciples of Christ throughout this gospel age of time. I refer to the Lord's Supper as the "Memorial Service of the Church". Jesus said concerning it in Luke 22:19 "This do in remembrance of me". Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 11:23-26 "... the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come". So it is altogether clear that this ordinance belongs to the Church for this age of time and is to be observed by the Church until Jesus comes back again.

So we have here the last Passover Supper which was ever to be officially observed at the closing out of the Old Testament Dispensation, and the first Lord's Supper to be officially observed at the ushering in of this New Testament Dispensation. These were observed both at the same sitting but were separate and distinct and this has considerable importance in ferreting out the answer to this question clearly.

The first three gospels bring out about both of these suppers — Matt. 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-20. Now there are some important points in these passages which may help to guide us to our conclusion.

First, let us consider a passage in John's Gospel which is of much importance. Strange as it may seem, and it does seem strange to me indeed that John made no reference to the Lord's Supper anywhere in his Gospel. Neither does he mention directly the last Passover Supper. However, from the things he wrote in the 13th Chapter of his gospel and comparing them with what Matthew, Mark and Luke wrote in direct reference to the Passover; the setting of this 13th Chapter of John was in the Passover Supper. He announces in verse 21 that one of them would betray Him. Matthew makes this same announcement in Matt. 26:21, and that was clearly in connection with their eating the Passover. Also Mark 14:18, while they were eating the Passover.

When Jesus had made this announcement, they began to ask Him who it was, and He told them it was the one to whom He would give the sop when He dipped it and He handed it to Judas. Verse 27 says "And after the sop Satan entered into Him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly". Then verse 30 says "He then having received the sop, went immediately out: and it was night". Oh, the awful night that fills a person's soul when he turns away from the "Sun of Righteousness", the "Light of the world" and walks out into darkness! But the important thing in this verse as it pertains to our question is "Having received the sop went immediately out". This seems to make it clear to me that Judas left while they were still eating the Passover Supper so would not have been in there when the Lord's Supper was instituted because that was at the end of the Passover Supper.

Matthew records in Matt. 26:26-28, "And as they

were eating, Jesus took bread, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins". The same statements are recorded in Mark 14:22-24. But Luke is more specific in identifying when and in what order this happened. In Luke 22:20, he said that Jesus took the cup AFTER SUPPER and declared it to be the new testament in His blood, etc. This pinpoints the time when the bread (emblem of His body) and the cup (emblem of His blood) — these ingredients of the Lord's Supper — were introduced; it was after the Passover Supper was finished. Matthew said in Matt. 26:26, "And as they were eating", and Mark said in Mark 14:22, "As they did eat". Now I recognize that these accounts do not pinpoint any specific time. It could have been any time during the Passover Supper that Jesus did this. But, since Luke specifies that it was AFTER SUPPER we could conclude it to be right at the winding up of the Passover Supper that this was done. In this case, Judas could not have been present because he left some time during the Passover Supper, according to John's account (John 13:21-(30)).

Now the problem of the questioner concerning the account of Luke 22:19-23, could be that verses 21-33, regarding the hand of the one who betrayed Him being with Him on the table, follows verses 19-20 where the bread and cup were introduced. This would surely seem to indicate Judas was still there. But, since Matthew, Mark, and John all relate this incident in connection with the Passover Supper, I am inclined to think that Luke did not adhere strictly to chronological continuity at this particular point and that verses 21-23 should have been inserted up above there in the discussion of the Passover Supper.

—o— The Church on Fire

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them." (Acts 2:1-3)

Praise be unto our God! God set something in motion at Pentecost that is still true and working yet today. A heavenly fire was kindled that day. It was, has been through the ages, and still is the sign of God's true people. God set a standard in operation that is still effective today, a standard of possession of divine spiritual life and fire that will enable us to effectively bear witness of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and His saving, healing, sanctifying and unifying power.

It is useless for anyone to claim to be filled with the Spirit and not have the witness of His divine life personally. It is useless for an assembly of people to claim to be saints and not bear witness of the divine spiritual life that God has given to all His people. The body of Christ is alive. The true Church of God in her normal state has certain *essential* characteristics which make her exclusively the Church, among

which is the possession of divine spiritual life. If she does not possess this she is not Christ's body and therefore not the Church. She must *know* the Spirit of God. We can bring this right on down to the level of the individual and say that unless an individual has possession of the divine spiritual life that Christ died for and that was ministered to us through a personal experience of salvation and a real and personal Pentecost, we fail when we claim to be a part of the body of Christ.

We are a powerful people of whom it is said that they received power just as it was promised, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8 Hallelujah! The same power that was available to the apostles, in the same measure, is available to us today. It is not merely something extra for our spiritual experience, but divine power and life are the qualifying standard parts of our salvation experience with the Lord. Without power we cannot effectively labor for the Lord or be of use in the kingdom of God. The Lord has so fixed the plan of salvation that we, even the least of His people, can expect to be full of the power and glory of God. We are ALL meant to be spiritual assets in the Church of the living God. God has the means for bringing us to a place of wondrous power and glory if we will but submit ourselves, die out to self, and seek God with our whole heart.

Saints, we are in the very last of the last days. It is going to take all that God has for us if we are going to make heaven our eternal home. We need power for the battle. We are standing face to face with Satan and all his forces these days. We are living in a time when the love of many is waxing very cold and many who once had a sanctified experience and a vision of a lost world are sitting back reminiscing about the things that once were. Brethren, it is not sufficient to have had a glorious experience in years gone by. God is expecting us to be up-to-date and current in our experience.

We see so many meetings where just a few of the many there do all the praying, testifying, etc. There is no reason for this other than the fact that some are just not minding the Lord in looking for an opportunity to serve Him. We all need to fill our places in the body of Christ. We need to do more praying that the Spirit will come in the fullness of His power upon all our assemblies, convicting, convincing and bringing His glory that we might fulfill what the prophet wrote in Isaiah 4:5, "And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defense." Spiritual Israel is the only possible light in a world gone mad in the darkness, and unless we exhibit this "flaming fire" in this time in which we live in 1985, we will doom many to everlasting torment for lack of a true and faithful witness.

Saints, it is surely time to get busy for God. The store house of heaven is but waiting for us to draw upon the wonderful, marvelous promises of God. Let us awaken from our slumber and get all God has for us, this time world is coming to an end very soon.
—Bro. Danny Layne

What Some Men Have Said About Atheism

"Atheism is rather in the life than in the heart of man."
—Bacon

"Atheism, if it exists, is the result of ignorance and pride, of strong sense and feeble reason, of good eating and ill living. It is the plague of society, the corrupter of morals, and the underminer of property."
—Jeremy Collier

"If a man of sober habits, moderate, chaste, and just in all his dealings should assert there is no God, he would at least speak without interested motives; but such a man is not to be found."
—Bruyere

"The footprint of the savage in the sand is sufficient to prove the presence of man to the atheist who will not recognize God though his hand is impressed on the entire universe."
—Hugh Miller

"God never wrought miracles to convince atheism, because His ordinary works convince it."
—Bacon

"What can be more foolish than to think that all this rare fabric of heaven and earth could come by chance, when all the skill of art is not able to make an oyster? To see rare effects, and no cause; a motion, without a mover; a circle, without a center; a time, without an eternity; a second, without a first; these are things so against philosophy and natural reason, that he must be a beast in understanding who can believe in them. The thing formed, says that nothing formed it; and that which is made, is, while that which made it is not! This folly is infinite."
—Jeremy Taylor

"A traveller amid the scenery of the Alps, surrounded by the sublimest demonstrations of God's power, had the hardihood to write against his name, in an album kept for visitors, "An atheist." Another who followed, shocked and indignant at the inscription, wrote beneath it, "If an atheist, a fool; if not, a liar!"
—G.B. Cheever

"Few men are so obstinate in their atheism, that a pressing danger will not compel them to the acknowledgment of a divine power."
—Plato

"Atheists put on a false courage in the midst of their darkness and misapprehensions, like children who when they fear to go in the dark, will sing or whistle to keep up their courage."
—Pope

"The atheist is one who fain would pull God from his throne, and in the place of heaven's eternal king set up the phantom chance."
—Glynn

"An irreligious man, a speculative or a practical atheist, is as a sovereign, who voluntarily takes off his crown and declares himself unworthy to reign."
—Blackie

"Atheism is a disease of the soul, before it becomes an error of the understanding."
—Plato

"Plato was right in calling atheism a disease. The human intellect in its healthy action, holds it for certain that there is a Great Being over us, invisible, infinite, ineffable, but of real, solid personality, who made and governs us, who made and governs all things."
—R.D. Hitchcock

There was no short cut to Calvary, and there is no short cut in bringing men to the foot of Calvary's cross.
—John Varghese

Uttermost Salvation

Text: "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

We have here a most unusual and thought-provoking statement of spiritual truth which stretches into the sublime and staggers the imagination: "uttermost salvation!" What does it mean? How can it be? Let us pause here long enough to make a brief comparison with the "glorious gospel of Christ" to the Levitical law.

1. Under the law the priests went unto the Holy of Holies once each year to make atonement for the people. While this had an immediate effectiveness, the same people returned, year after year, for the same ceremonial renewal for sin cleansing. They were still sinners because there was nothing about the law to save from sin. Scripture: "For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did." (Heb. 7:19); "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law . . . for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." (Gal. 2:16); "For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his only begotten Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh." (Rom. 8:3). The flesh being naturally carnal and rebellious against God, the law principle was rendered—weak and ineffective—and could not prevail. Sin and transgression ever remained the continual norm of the people. And herein is the perpetual condition of man in his natural, unredeemed state—a sinner before God, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23).

2. To carry the lesson a little farther, as we compare our heavenly Priest with theirs:

- a) They taught the law: "an eye for an eye."
- b) Jesus taught grace: "Turn the other cheek."
- c) They taught tithing as a temple necessity.
- d) Jesus taught tithing (or giving) as a glorious privilege in order to promulgate the gospel of grace.

3. His relation to the needy:

- a) Their priests could only banish lepers to a life outside the walls.
- b) Jesus touched the lepers and made them whole.

4. His influence and aid as compared to theirs:

- a) The priests stood on a promontary on the eve of battle and encouraged the people.
- b) Jesus goes with us into all our battles of life:

"Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." (Matt. 28:20).

5. Finally:

- a) They offered animal sacrifices for sin as something apart from themselves.
- b) He offered Himself on a brutal cross. His was a total sacrifice; a full, unreserved, and complete offering. His was a 100 per cent, unconstrained, voluntary sacrifice, because it was an "uttermost" sacrifice. There was nothing, in human nature, more to give. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, . . . made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: . . . he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, . . ." (Phil. 2:5-8)

To summarize: the law and the prophets had provided no delivering grace, no saving power, no

satisfying possession, no constraining love, no enduring peace, and no abounding joy; but every one of these realities was now to be centered in the living recipients of His grace, through infinite and abounding mercies.

Surely God's time had now arrived for an extreme and radical change in the religious life, practices, and physical economy of His people. There was a need for a better plan, a better sacrifice, a better priest. Jesus proved to be that better way because He, unlike the priests and the Levites, had an unchanging Priesthood. He is our High Priest who lives on forever.

"Wherefore he is able to save." Like the rising of the morning sun, faith is inspired to new hope. The conqueror of death is risen to save from sin and this is the interpretation of the cross. The penitent sinner is either saved from sin or he is saved from nothing at all: "How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Rom. 6:2). He saves from the degradation of sin; He saves from the guilty demoralizing pollution of sin, and the moral destitution and debilitating effects that always follow a life of sin.

He is able to save from hell, from its fear, and from its terror. He does this by the "new creature" process, when He transforms the sinner into a creature of nobility, beauty, and service. Indeed, He is able to save all recipients of His grace for heaven.

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost." "Uttermost salvation" is a salvation that saves entirely; it saves to the extreme point; it is perfect or complete. Let us remember that God does everything well. In the beginning, He made a perfect world. He made a perfect man. "And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was good." His "uttermost salvation" provides that the soul of man may enjoy the first relationship of Eden.

To this I would attach another vital factor; namely, "uttermost salvation" cancels out all cults and creeds, denominationalism's vain conjectures, and the vain theoretical philosophies of men. It holds to the pre-eminence of Christ Jesus, and believes that, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12).

"Uttermost salvation" may be divided into three stages:

First: Initial salvation is that which provides for man's justification before God, and for his regeneration through the reception of the Holy Spirit.

Second: Full salvation provides for the baptism of the Holy Spirit; in other words, for a life of sanctification, for the distribution of spiritual gifts to the believer, and for fullest Christian service.

Third: Final salvation provides for man's eternal safety in heaven. It also comprehends his receiving of a glorified body.

All of these added together comprehend or amount to "uttermost salvation."

Christ is able to provide this salvation to all "who come unto God by him." —Earl Langley

Regardless of a man's ability, education, station in life, or any other factor, the prime thought in the mind of God is that the man become converted.

—Clifford Wilson