

FAITH AND VICTORY

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Somebody's Mother



The woman was old, and ragged, and gray,
And bent with the chill of the winter's day;
The street was wet with a recent snow,
And the woman's feet were aged and slow.
She stood at the crossing and waited long
Alone, uncared for, amid the throng
Of human beings who passed her by,
Nor heeded the glance of her anxious eye.

Down the street, with laughter and shout,
Glad in the freedom of school let out,
Came the boys, like a flock of sheep,
Hailing the snow piled white and deep;
Past the woman so old and gray
Hastened the children on their way,
Nor offered a helping hand to her,
So meek, so timid, afraid to stir
Lest the carriage wheels or the horses' feet
Should crowd her down in the slippery street.

At last one came of the merry troop,
The gayest laddie of all the group;
He paused beside her, and whispered low,
"I'll help you across, if you wish to go."
Her aged hands on his strong young arm
She placed, and so without hurt or harm
He guided her trembling feet along,
Proud that his own were firm and strong;
Then back again to his friends he went,
His young heart happy and well content.

"She's somebody's mother, boys, you know,
For all she's old, and poor, and slow;
And I hope some fellow will lend a hand
To help my mother, you understand,
If ever so poor, and old, and gray,
When her own dear boy is far away."
And "somebody's mother" bowed her head
In her home that night, and the prayer she said
Was—"God be kind to the noble boy
Who is somebody's son, and pride, and joy."

—Selected

Preparing For Children

"Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord. Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited. Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more." Isaiah 54:1-4.

The preceding Scripture is a prophecy of the Church in the gospel dispensation. In this verse we are commanded to SING! Sing even though we cannot see much fruit from our labours. As it is a natural thing for a woman to want a child, so it is natural for lovers of Christ to desire spiritual offspring. The text says to sing aloud for you shall have children. We shall have fruit for our labours! We must prepare for these children. We must enlarge the place of our tent! Shall we add a room to the house? No. We must enlarge our hearts and minds with love and understanding to accept new children. Remember the song, "The Church's Jubilee", page number six, in *Evening Light Songs*? It says, "We reach our hand in fellowship to every blood-washed one, While love entwines about each heart in which God's will is done." Because of past experiences there can be a tendency to be suspicious of newcomers. May God help us to reach a warm hand of fellowship to other blood-washed children of God, regardless of how they look to our natural eye. We must ask God to give us more Holy Ghost discernment so we can discern the spirit. In this way we may recognize new children from a wolf in sheep's clothing.

From where, or how these children are to come, is the Father's business. Our job is to get ready for them! We are to "stretch forth the curtains" or boundaries of our dwelling place. Make our boundaries larger. Spare not in thy addition of graces needed to

nurture newborn babes in Christ. "Lengthen thy cords!" Are not all mankind drawn by the cords of God's love? Let us cry and sigh to God for longer cords of love.

"Strengthen thy stakes!" Stakes are the apparatuses used to hold the tent in the ground so it will be steady. What holds us, the Church steady? Is it not the truths of God's Word? Yes, then our knowledge and belief in these truths must be strengthened. In this day our minds are bombarded from every side with humanistic thinking. We must cry out to God for a spiritual mind, that our stakes may be strengthened. If we are directed by a carnal or a humanistic mind, we will by our actions surely discourage seekers.

"Thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left." What a precious promise! We shall break forth! Have you felt bound? The spirit of the devil will bind every one of us, if we allow him. He will bind our tongues and minds, so we will not be able to witness, thus hindering new contacts. He will bind fear upon us, tie up our faith, and use up our time; that is if we let him. Lovers of Christ, we have the promise that we shall break forth on the left hand and on the right, but we cannot as long as we allow the devil to keep us bound. We **MUST** by God's help break these bonds for they render us incapable of nurturing newborns.

"Fear not for thou shalt not be ashamed; neither be thou confounded [frustrated]: for thou shalt not be put to shame." Saints, we **MUST** not fear. God is on our side and will not let us be put to shame. If God has let something happen to you that you thought put you to shame, take another look. Maybe your mind is so carnal or humanistic that you cannot see the thing from God's point of view. Many times things that look shameful at first, God uses to build faith in His children.

The last promise we will consider in this text is, "Thou . . . shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more." Widowhood is a very sad condition for a woman to be in. The falling away of many souls in the past years has put terrible sadness upon the Church. It has been a horrible reproach to the Church, also. However, little can be gained by grieving over the past. Let us therefore forget this sadness and busy ourselves praising God and preparing ourselves with better nurturing abilities.

We all want more souls in the Church. Should it be only a few, we must prepare to care for them. Let us therefore break forth into singing, enlarge our understanding for others, lengthen our cords of love, strengthen our belief in Bible truths, and seek freedom from any bonds of the devil. These are some ways we can prepare ourselves for children.

—Charlotte Huskey

HOW MUCH SHALL I GIVE?

Give as you would if an angel
 Awaited your gift at the door;
 Give as you would if tomorrow
 Found you where giving was o'er.
 Give as you would to the Master
 If you met His loving look;
 Give as you would of your substance
 If His hand the offering took.

The Carnal and Spiritual Mind Contrasted

(continued from April *Faith and Victory*)

"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Rom. 8:6. We wish to notice here that there are some very striking characteristics of the carnal mind recorded in the Bible. Such, for instance, a warning against impatience in James 1:4, and pride: "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." Prov. 16:8. "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice." Eph. 4:31. Others are reprimanded by an all-wise, loving Father, "That the man of God may be perfect; thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Tim. 3:17. There are many warnings throughout Scripture, of the carnal pitfalls Satan has erected for the ruin of man. One of the worst pitfalls, with none more devastatingly perverse and subversive to the Divine purpose and man's spiritual interest (concerning His Church) is the existing division among His redeemed people. Many honest Christian men and women are awakened (and awakening) to this evil among them and are wholly dissatisfied with conditions as they now exist, perceiving that division among Christians is sin, and the gravest of problems confronting the Christian Church in this age.

None can deny that the Bible, very pointedly, denounces division in the Church. Paul remarks, "And I brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal . . . For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, **AND DIVISIONS**, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" 1 Cor. 3:1,3. In effect, Paul is saying to these Corinthians: you have manifested a very fleshly nature—contrary to the profession you have made. You became real Christians but you have manifested a very low degree of spiritual growth. As remaining "babes in Christ" you are very incapable of judging what is most suitable, and you are utterly unqualified to discern between the doctrine of one teacher and those of another. "I have fed you with milk"—I have instructed you in the primary elements of Christianity, in the simplest and easiest truths. Thus how absurd your conduct in pretending to judge between preacher and preacher, while as yet you had only a very partial acquaintance with Christianity. Are ye not yet carnal and need the enlightenment of the sanctifying spirit of God? It is most worthy of note here that such incompetent, unqualified persons are, generally, those who have the loudest voice in sectarian churches. How dangerous to give such persons authority. Their wrangling, their divisions and schisms must refer to the state of their souls. Preferring one to another is the fullest proof of their sectarian spirit in their hearts and which was responsible for dividing them.

I eagerly request that the reader thoughtfully and earnestly read that eloquent and notable prayer of our Lord recorded in John 17, which was uttered on the most solemn night of His life. I especially call attention to verses 20 and 21, viz. "Neither pray I for these [twelve] alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that

they also may be one in us: **THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE THAT THOU HAST SENT ME.**" Jesus said "ONE." Does multiplying one by one add up to more than four hundred denominations? Christ gave us only one Church. Who gave us the other four hundred? In this eminent prayer He sets a real, fixed standard of unity for His people—not artificial by any stretch of the imagination! This unity was to be both visible and organic, and to the particular extent that it would convince the world. What would happen, if at present, the world should suddenly see such a display of Christian unity? Another pertinent question: Why are we experiencing the general revolt today against the churches and religion, especially among the young as well as many of their elders? The answer, as always, can be found in Scripture. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:35. Many who adhere to sectarianism at this point will protest: "Oh, but you are overlooking the fact that we do have a spiritual unity among all the churches." How naive! Are we to assume, then, that there actually exists a spirit of harmony—a felicitous love for one another among Methodists, Mormons, Church of Christ Scientist, Presbyterians, Jehovah's Witness and all other varieties? Does the Scriptural injunction "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another," Rom. 12:10, apply here? The answer is obvious, and so we must ask the ultimate question, i.e. How do you gain spiritual unity when you don't have unity in fact?

The sad truth is that the denominations do not make Christians without making Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, Congregationalists, Nazarenes, and all the other four hundred and more varieties. It's the denominational's business to make division contrary to the plain, simple plan of God's Word.

A brother writes, "Denominationalism has made it impossible for Christians to have fellowship simply as Christians, as believers in Jesus Christ. Experience has often shown that much, though a person should insist that he has been born from above; that he has had the experience of passing from death unto life, and that he is trusting Christ as personal Savior, Lord and guide, he will have no fellowship with other Christians except as he submits himself to some doctrinal standard undergirding some church or denomination. Today, salvation alone is not a sufficient credential for suitable admission into the fellowship of any sectarian body." The New Testament standard for unity among believers is something else and much more than an invisible, intangible spiritual fellowship. They are "members one of another" as well as members of Christ. That unity was designed to be visible for the world to see—a convincing sign to the world of the mighty power of Christ to save and, thereby, to build His Church, "the Church of God, which He hath purchased with his own blood," Acts 20:28, and here you have the preeminent fact of the whole matter. As disappointing as it may be to a great many, all of these man-made churches are Romish churches—patterned after Rome—and apostate. They are all on equal footing for they are all made of the same stuff. Speaking of this confusion of sects—Babylon: "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not

partaker of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues," Rev. 18:6. Division is carnality and carnality is liable to death eternally. "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live," Rom. 8:13.

"But to be spiritually minded is life and peace." The spiritually minded person lives a life submitted to the Master. The will of God is the supreme thing in his life. He lives a truly Christ-centered life and he dares to step out boldly on faith for he knows that the Holy Spirit shall mark his way for him. Christians, by nature of their oneness with Christ and one another, will flow together by spiritual impetus involuntarily impelled through Divine love (John 13:34,35).

Let us ever bear in mind that there is full deliverance from the ravages of carnality. The blessed grace of God will keep us while we are living and He will not forsake us when we are dying. After the battles of life are over, we shall wing our way to those beautiful mansions He is preparing for those who love and obey Him.

—Earl Langley

Judgement Bound

One day as I was working around in the house, a solemn thought came over me; "Judgement bound." Someday, sooner or later, I will be in eternity. Each day brings me closer to my destiny. The way I live, the thoughts I entertain, the attitudes I hold, determines where I will live in eternity. There are only two places to choose; heaven or hell. Yes, we do have a choice. Thank the Lord for that! Jesus bled and died on the cross to bring salvation to a world that was lost, which included me. I have a choice. It is up to me, it is up to you. We are choosing each day by our actions and the motives of our heart.

Remember, sin cannot enter heaven. It is a holy place. Heaven is where the Ancient of Days sits on His throne and judgement is declared while the books are opened; the book of my heart — the book of your heart. All things are revealed, even those things that you thought you did a good job of concealing. Perhaps months or years have passed without anyone knowing, but it will be naked and open before God. We are judged by our own deeds.

I feel we are going about life without enough consciousness of the judgement before us. Let us be honest with ourselves as we look in our heart. What do we see? Most important, what does God see? Have we been lifted up and think more highly of ourselves than we ought? Do we feel I must have a part in the situation for it to be a success? Pride is sin. Let us recognize the subtlety of pride. It will creep in if we're not on guard.

What else could there be in our book? Let's check the fine print. What about those things that we hoped people would overlook in us because it just seems to be our nature to be that way. What about God when He looks with those all-searching eyes? Will He see the small details of our life? Yes, my friend, we will not escape anything, for even secrets and the imaginations of our heart are known to God.

We are all judgement bound. The time is later than we think. The Judgement Day is looming in sight. Who shall be able to stand?

Pray for me,

—DeLoris Bradley

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

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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.

Freewill offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House.

A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

In order to comply with the Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

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EDITORIALS

We send greetings of Christian love to all our readers. We trust you are living a joyous life for God. Nothing in the world can bring real peace and joy to the heart of mankind like the genuine salvation of Christ.

We are continually grateful for the support of the saints toward this work. We face some rather large financial obligations, but we feel an assurance that God will prosper His work.

I am convinced of the power of the printed page. The communists recognize the value of it. In their hands it is used many times to spread propaganda and to undermine and overthrow the strongholds of other governments.

The power of the Lord is a mighty force, capable of destroying the stronghold of our enemy. (II Cor. 10:4) First, light and understanding must reach one as an individual so that the enemy may be defeated in one's personal life. This is where the saints have a responsibility. We must be a light to the world. One way to reach souls is through the printed page, not to promote any particular human idea or creed, but to distribute the pure gospel of the Word of God.

Once a man traveling in Venezuela became intoxicated on native wine. In this condition he started for the cabin which he had rented. At first, he could not find it. When he did locate it, he was unable to maneuver the key into the lock. Finally, he succeeded in entering, but couldn't find the bed, which was folded up into the wall, though there was a sign plainly instructing: "Pull down". Grumbling, he berated a country which did not furnish beds. Then he endeavored vainly to remove his stiff boots. Failing in this, he finally laid on the floor and soliloquized, "What an abominable country. I've traveled over the world, but I've never been where they make a man sleep on the floor with his boots on!"

There are many in a similar spiritual condition. They have imbibed the spirit of the world and their thoughts are continually evil. (Gen. 6:5) They do not enjoy the salvation that God has made available and neglect to note the plain instructions on how to obtain the comfort of it. They need deliverance from the stronghold of sin.

Perhaps you know of someone who might benefit from the *Faith and Victory*. Your effort to share the gospel with others through the distribution of gospel literature may reap eternal results.

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"NOT GUILTY"

This was the verdict rendered by the jury in the case of the State of Oklahoma versus Dwane and Connie Sorrell. The state alleged that Bro. Dwane and Sis. Connie were negligent in failing to provide medical care for their daughter, Vicki, who died June 20, 1984, of Rocky Mountain spotted tick fever.

There were a number connected with this case who seemed to be deeply touched. The prayers offered for this trial were not in vain. There are further reports on this trial in the "Testimonies and Answers to Prayer".

It was quite a shock for Aunt Maybelle Pruitt to learn of the passing of her brother, Carl Miles, on April 7, 1985. It was a sudden death and the cause was not really determined. Carl Miles was the father of Vernon Miles of Guthrie and Carl Miles, Jr. of Edmond. He left other relatives, including a sister, Maude Hornbeck, who works here at the Print Shop. Remember this family in your prayers.

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Bro. C. C. Carver and Bro. Alfons Oppel returned on April 10th from Germany. They reported a very successful trip and good fellowship with the saints there.

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Bro. George Hammond is scheduled to leave Oklahoma City on May 2nd to return to the Philippine Islands. He has been there several times and feels a burden to return to spend a few months for the encouragement of the saints.

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On April 11th, Sis. Bunnie Craddock, a worker here at the Print Shop, severely injured her finger, crushing it in the machine we use to stitch tracts and books. Being the index finger on her right hand, the injury has hindered her in many ways. Pray that she will be able to regain the use of the finger.

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Mother's Day is May 12th, so we have devoted some of the space in this paper to mothers. A Godly mother is priceless and should be honored and appreciated throughout life.

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You will notice in the paper the many announcements of meetings scheduled for this summer. We trust that they will edify to the salvation and encouragement of souls. We are not assured of how long time will last and cannot afford to play religion. May this be a profitable summer for the cause of God.

—Wayne Murphey

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Partial List of Items Available

Adventures in the Land of Canaan by R. L. Berry. An instructive allegory of true-to-life experiences in the grace of sanctification. 128 pages in paper cover. Price, \$1.00 per copy.

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

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Camp Meeting Dates for 1985

Orland, CA — May 22-26.

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, OK — May 31-June 9.

Jefferson, OR — June 14-23.

Green Bank, WV — June 14-23.

Tulsa, OK — June 14-23.

Oakland, CA — June 21-30.

Chilliwack, B.C., Canada — June 22-27.

Duncannon, PA — June 23-30.

General Southern at Loranger, LA —

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.

Durham, N.C. — Aug. 11-18.

Boley, OK — Aug. 18-25.

California State at Pacoima, CA —

Aug. 23-Sept. 1.

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

MEETING REPORT FROM GREEN PASTURES, OK

The Lord blessed us with a richly anointed and inspiring Spring Meeting. We are so thankful for all who attended and gave their prayers and support, both from afar and locally. Our souls were blessed and we say as the writer of old, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psa. 122:1. Some souls were saved and others received help at the altar. However, we believe that all who attended the meeting received a blessing from above. Continue to pray for us here in Green Pastures. Our desire is to ever be a blessing to souls and the cause of God.

We also wish to thank all who gave of their means to help the needy family. The ones who were helped were surprised, but deeply appreciative. May God richly reward each of you.—Frances Chandler

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CHAPULTEPEC MEETING REPORT

The Mexico camp meeting in Chapultepec was most assuredly blessed of the Lord.

The truth of God's Word went forth with anointing of the Holy Spirit, and there were many visible results. We leave the invisible ones in the hands of God.

There is great potential for the work in Chapultepec. It is an easily accessible place for many travelers, as well as many local people.

A few ministers went from the States and their efforts were truly appreciated.

The enemy of souls knew where the meeting convened but was rebuked and there was freedom in all the meeting.

We especially appreciated the sacrifice and work of the interpreter. We felt the anointing of God, even upon the interpretations.

May the Lord richly bless each one who put forth any effort, in prayer, preaching, fasting, giving, or whatever you did. Your efforts will be paid by God Himself, who so richly blessed in bringing forth the

messages needed, and souls who were saved, sanctified and healed.

Continue to hold the work and workers in Mexico up before the throne of grace. We are still holding the work in Ojos Negros before the Lord for a resident worker.

Join with us, you who can reach the throne of God with your prayers.

Christian love and thanks,

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

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HOFFMAN, OKLAHOMA SINGING

Lord willing, the saints at Hoffman, OK plan to have a gospel singing on Saturday night, May 11th, 1985, and all-day services on Sunday, the 12th, at the chapel. Come and be with us for the singing and plan to stay for the services on Sunday.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Woodrow Warren, 810 North Porter, Okmulgee, OK, 74447, Phone (918) 756-6425. —Lorene Payne

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ORLAND, CALIFORNIA CAMP MEETING

The Orland Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, May 22, and continuing through May 26, 1985. It is requested that if possible you bring your own sleeping accommodations, such as trailer, camper, mobile home, etc., but if not, bring bedding and sleeping room will be available.

For more information, call Sis. Letha Reece at (916) 865-2968. The chapel phone is (916) 865-9903.

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OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING

The annual Oklahoma State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held at the Church of God campgrounds, 624 W. Warner, Guthrie, Oklahoma, beginning, Lord willing, at 10:30 A.M. May 31, and continuing through June 9, 1985. There will be three services daily at 10:30 A.M., 2:00 P.M., and 7:30 P.M., besides early morning prayer meeting at 6:30 A.M., and Children's and Young People's services also as will be announced.

We are praying for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and a refreshing from heaven upon these services. We welcome all who are searching for truth and hungering for righteousness to come and join with us as we worship the Lord Jesus in this camp meeting. There are dormitory spaces, hookups for campers and trailers, and plenty of hospitality in the homes of the saints. Bring bedding as you are able as we could have damp weather and cool nights. Above all, come with your soul open for the admonition of the Lord.

The meeting will be financed through freewill offerings. You may send your freewill offerings to the state treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, Route No. 6, Box 797, Guthrie, OK, 73044.

For more information, contact the pastor, Bro. Leslie Busbee, 417 N. 11th, Guthrie, OK, 73044, phone (405) 282-2421.

TULSA, OKLAHOMA CAMP MEETING

The Tulsa Camp Meeting will begin, Lord willing, June 14-23, 1985. Services will be 6:30 A.M. prayer meeting, 10:30 A.M. morning services, 7:30 P.M. evening services, daily.

Come praying that God will work mightily in the meeting. For more information, contact the pastor, Sis. Eva Hardman, 2232 N. Norfolk, Tulsa, OK, 74106, Phone (918) 583-2929, or Bro. Charles Lowe, 1823 N. Main, Tulsa, OK, 74106, Phone (918) 584-6836. The chapel is located at 1102 E. Pine Place, and the phone number at the chapel is (918) 584-8438.

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GREENBANK, WEST VIRGINIA CAMP MEETING

Camp meeting at Greenbank, WV will begin, Lord willing, June 14th and continue through the 23rd. The first service will be Friday at 7:30 P.M. There will be two services daily at 10:30 A.M. and 7:30 P.M. Meals will be served and places to stay will be provided for all who come. We hope to have our new dormitory finished by then. The campground is located 1/2 mile south of Greenbank on Route 92. Greenbank is located 57 miles north of White Sulphur Springs, WV, and 50 miles south of Elkins, WV on Route 92. —Sis. Verna Samons

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OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA CAMP MEETING

The Oakland, California Camp Meeting will convene, Lord willing, June 21st to June 30th. We welcome all to come praying that the Lord will have His way in this meeting. For more information, contact Sis. Velma Smith, Pastor, (415) 632-8211 or Bro. Jewel Johnson, (415) 536-0531.

Yours in Christ, —Luvenia O. Johnson

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LORANGER, LOUISIANA CAMP MEETING

You are invited to come to the South for camp meeting: June 28 through July 7. Come praying that God's anointing will be on this meeting.

There will be accommodations for all who come. Power and water hookups are on the grounds for campers. Meals will be served on the grounds, and expenses met by freewill offerings.

The campgrounds are located, from Loranger, two miles south and approximately three and one half miles east on La. Hwy. 40. The grounds are approximately nine and one-half miles east of I-55 from the Tickfaw exit; take Hwy. 442 east which runs into Hwy. 40. For those traveling I-12, take the Robert exit, and go north on La. Hwy. 445, until you intersect Hwy. 40. Turn west on Hwy. 40, and go approximately one and one-half miles.

For more information, you may call Bro. Bob Forbes at (504) 748-4957, or Sis. LaVern Manuel at (504) 878-6176. The chapel phone is (504) 878-2788.

—Nelson Doolittle

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GOSPEL MEETING NEAR AKRON, OHIO

The Church of God at Akron, OH, has announced a revival in the form of a tent meeting to be held July

5-14. The exact location of the tent will be announced in the June issue of the *Faith and Victory*.

This meeting is a follow-up of last year's fruitful tent meeting in an Amish-Mennonite area of Wayne County, OH. This area is about 25 miles south of Akron. We desire the prayers and attendance of those who have a burden for this meeting. For further information, contact Bro. Keith Fuller, (216) 864-1128 or Bro. Wayne Palmer (216) 836-1907.

—Bro. Keith A. Fuller

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TENT MEETING

It has been announced that there will be a tent meeting held on the property of Bro. Curtis Williams from Aug. 5-11, 1985. His address is Rt. 1, Box 656, Morehead, KY, 40351. For more information, contact Bro. Williams. His phone number is; (606) 784-7769.

BUILDING PROJECT

The saints of the Church of God at Green Pastures have begun a building project; an addition of 1150 sq. ft. to the present chapel facility has been planned. This addition will include space for classrooms and a new dining area.

The cost of this project is approximately \$16,736. This would provide a completed shell with central heat and air. We would greatly appreciate the help of anyone who would feel led of the Lord to contribute money, materials or labor. Each contribution will be acknowledged and receipted. Checks and money orders should be made payable to The Church of God. Please send offerings to: The Church of God at Green Pastures, Okla., c/o Frances Chandler, Secretary, 12301 NE 57th, Spencer, Okla. 73084. For further information, contact: Charles L. Chandler, 12309 NE 57th, Spencer, Okla. 73084, Phone (405) 769-7413.

In Memorial

Sis. Lula Mae Tucker, age 78, of Rural Route 4, Independence, Kansas, the wife of Carl Tucker, Sr., passed from this life at 3:59 A.M. on March 16, 1985, at her home.

She was born Oct. 9, 1906, in Indian Territory which is now Oklahoma. She was the daughter of William and Leona Daniel. She was united in marriage to Carl Tucker, Sr., on Dec. 21, 1927, and moved to their present home east of Independence in 1931.

Survivors include her four sons: Carl, Jr. of Independence, KS, Dan of Dallas, TX, Dean of Houston, TX, and David of Springfield, MO; four daughters: Jean Bennett of Monmouth, OR, Yvonne Paniagua of Pine Bluff, WY, Wilma Andrews of Bend, OR, and Dolly Briggs of Independence; one brother, two sisters, 24 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by one brother and two grandchildren. Her husband has departed this life since her passing.

Sis. Tucker attended church services at the Church of God chapel in Coffeyville, Kansas. We feel she was a precious child of God. We learned to love her and

appreciate her kind and sweet spirit. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Services were conducted by Bro. Gordon Humphrey in the Potts Chapel in Independence, Kansas. Burial was in Mount Hope Cemetery.

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Carl Benjamin Miles was born November 1, 1915 in Clovis, New Mexico, to William and Lycenia Miles. In 1922 the Miles family moved to Corsicana, Texas, where they resided for 5 years before moving to Guthrie, OK. He was united in marriage to Anna Marie Pruitt on August 8, 1936, and to this union two sons were born: Vernon and Carl, Jr.

He served in the United States Army during World War II.

He was always a good provider for his family, working as a printer all his working days until his retirement in 1977. He endeavored to always provide ways and means for his wife, Anna Marie, who was a minister of the gospel. After marrying, he lived in California until November of 1954 when he moved with his wife and sons to Guthrie, Oklahoma. This move was made for the purpose of his wife, Anna Marie, to assist her father, Brother Fred Pruitt, in the operation of the Faith Publishing House.

Carl passed from this life on April 7, 1985, at the age of 69 years, 5 months, and 7 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Anna Marie Miles, three brothers: Clarence, Clyne, and Curtis, 1 sister, Argie, and 1 great-grandchild.

He leaves to mourn his passing his two sons, Vernon of Guthrie, and Carl, Jr. of Edmond, OK; three brothers: Cecil, Clyde, and Claude Miles of California; three sisters: Maybelle Pruitt and Maude Hornbeck of Guthrie, OK, and Wilma Anderson, of California; eight grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Leslie Busbee and burial was in Memory Gardens Cemetery at Guthrie, Oklahoma.

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Mrs. Lelia Florence (Payne) Capps was born March 1, 1898, to Oscar William Payne and Mary Ann (Miller) Payne, in Tulsa, Okla., when it was still Indian Territory. She passed away on March the 9th, 1985.

As a small child she moved with her parents, to Collinsville, where she lived for 40 years. She and her husband, Ben Capps, who were married in 1916, then moved to Owasso where she lived for 40 years.

To this union were born 2 sons and 2 daughters. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ben Capps, in 1981, and also one son, Edward (Eddie) B. Capps, in 1975. Survivors include one son, Cecil V. Capps, of Aurora, CO; two daughters, Mildred Juanita Pillatos, Tulsa, and Genevieve Hazel Carver, Shreveport, LA; one sister, Maude Dean, Bartlesville; fourteen grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, two great, great-grandchildren, and a number of nieces and nephews.

Services were conducted by Bro. Charles Smith, Shawnee, OK, and Bro. Richard Madden, Sapulpa, OK.

Interment was at Ridge Lawn Cemetery in Collinsville, OK.

Prayer Requests

IN—"Please remember me and my loved ones."

—Mary J. Rogers

AR—"Jewell Tucker is in much need of prayer."

—Christine Eck

OK—Malinda Flynn needs prayer.

OK—Evelyn McCoy needs a special healing touch.

VA—Lillian Bohannon has a special request.

OK—Mary J. Mustin desires prayer for herself and her family.

IL—Bro. and Sis. Earl Sanders have special requests for themselves and others.

OR—Bro. Ostis Wilson needs prayer.

NM—"Please remember me in prayer."

—Ruth Doolittle

WV—Remember Sis. Earl Tinsley for complete healing.

TX—Please remember Joyce Campbell who is in need of healing.

MI—Sis. Olive Gettersson needs complete healing and strength to continue caring for her aged father.

AL—Sis. Pearlene Whitson has 2 special requests.

MO—"Remember a special request."

—Ruby Blanchard

CA—Helen Carson needs complete healing.

PA—Sis. Annie Yoder and her husband both need healing.

VA—"Please pray for me and my husband. Also pray for a grandson who is on a duty of a dangerous type."

—Rosa F. Branch

FL—"Pray for my family, our congregation and school."

—Sis. Bonnie Riley

"A sister in Honduras, Consuelo Bodden, desires earnest prayer as she wants to trust God for her healing."

—Sis. Bennett

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From Nigeria . . .

Mar. 26—Dear Sis. Maybelle and the saved: Greetings in the great name of Jesus—The Apostle and High Priest of our profession. We live because He lives. Amen.

Thank you for your letters and notes which are being received. We owe God immense thanks to find the work at His Print Shop running on smoothly. He will always have someone to carry on His mighty work. May His name be praised for strengthening His workers at the Print Shop physically to face the work with courage and confidence and with Him as your guard and guide to go through to victory. The reported arrival of Sis. Wanda Luehring in Guthrie, Okla., to assist in the work at the Lord's Print Shop is a welcome news. She is well known to this writer; having participated in two Camp Meetings with her in 1976, namely, at Jefferson, Oregon and Oakland, California. It will pay the young people the best dividend to live and work for the Lord. Volunteers are available on this side of the sea, but for distance. Our contribution is walking on our knees in prayer for good health and spiritual prosperity of the workers thereto attached.

All here in His Army are set for the supreme task of evangelism at Ezionum. Ezionum is one of the seven towns specifically mentioned of the Lord to us to set our feet and take for possession. Others are:

Eziokpor, Ogume, Obikwele, Obodo-Ugwa, Ossisa and Onu-Aboh, respectively. Lord willing, I will leave for Ezionum on April 10th for five days of evangelistic meetings.

We regret, but with gratitude to God, to announce the passing away of our dynamic evangelist, Sis. Queen Egwe (Ojeh) Okwosha, on February 18, 1985, at the age of 29 years. She had been truthful, faithful, fearless, trustworthy and utterly reliable since she crossed the billows' foam into the Kingdom of God's dear Son. She was of cheerful disposition and admired of all. Bro. Edwin Ogedi Okwosha, the husband, a dependable vessel of the Lord, is consoled of the Lord at the passing of his wife and treats it as inevitable. To God be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Yours in His Service,

Titus U.E. Enu

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From India . . .

Mar. 20—Our dearly beloved elder sister Maybelle Pruitt, other members of the Faith Publishing family, the dear saints of Guthrie and those scattered everywhere in America: We send our Christian greetings to all you dear ones again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ. It is real hot and dry in our state and we pray for rain. Our convention at Vileyanthur was a blessed one with many powerful messages. The convention at Nadukkummu starts tomorrow. Our monthly meeting and ministers meeting will be held there on March 23, 1985.

The Church is going on through many severe temptations. We must look upon temptation as opportunity. We must regard it not as something to be feared, but as something to be used. So it is that the apostle counsels us to count it all joy when we fall among temptations (James 1:2,3). Our manifold temptations are just the threatening side of manifold treasures. If we overcome the tempter, we shall return in power.

By the grace of God our monthly paper *Evening Light* in Malayalam language, shines forth in its 11th year of publication. Please pray for its progress and furtherance. Let us exchange our prayers.

Yours in Him,

—John Varghese

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From Ghana . . .

Mar. 29—Dear Sis. Maybelle, Bro. Wayne, workers and all saints scattered abroad: Greetings to all of you from your missionary to Ghana, in the lovely name of Jesus.

After 3 months of rest and recuperation, I am back at the job again. It took almost 3 full days and 2 full nights to make the trip to Ghana, but I arrived safely and on schedule.

It was raining here when I arrived. Even though I had sent 3 cables to different brothers to meet me, it didn't seem anyone was there. I went through customs by myself and had no problems. When I got outside I found that one of my cables had gotten through, Bro's. John Reproh and Appiah Isaiah were waiting for me. I was most happy to see someone I knew, and to have help with the 150 lbs. of luggage I brought with me.

We went to see Jim's Uncle Duku. He hadn't received my cables so he wasn't expecting me. Since

it was early in the day we continued on to Kumasi, spending the night at a hotel owned by one of Appiah's brothers. It was nice and I rested real well. We went on to Akumadan-Ash the next morning, (Sunday) arriving early in the afternoon.

I preached here at Akumadan the next Sunday on love, faith and obedience. The response was good. In the afternoon we went to a nearby village and did some personal work. At one place the people gathered around in a large crowd and after preaching the Word many hands were raised for prayer. After prayer I saw many relieved faces; many tears. Surely God changed some lives that day. We are going back there shortly to preach some more.

Next week, two of the brothers will go to Kumasi to purchase a loud speaker system for street work. This is a real need right now. It will be purchased with some of the offerings received while I was home.

I have a visa now for three months. During this time Duku will be working on the church registration, and a resident visa for me so that I can stay as long as I want to.

Do pray God to work all of this out. This is the time for Ghana to be saved. God surely opened the door for me to come back. Not much can be accomplished in three months and my heart is open to stay and take advantage of this great opportunity to see souls saved. I do know that if God opens a door, (and God can find a person to enter it) that no man can close it. Herein lies my hope. Pray for me. I am trusting that soon I will be located in Kumasi where I will fare better.

Yours for many souls, —Sis. Dorothy Keiser
Box 44, Akumadan-Ash, Ghana, W. Africa

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Mar. 23—Dear one in Christ: Thank you for writing back and for your letter of encouragement. I deeply appreciate your invaluable advice in the Lord.

Through the Power and the strength that God gives me, I have decided and am ever determined to do the work of the Lord. I was once in a certain church but discovered that the Church of God is the true and undefiled Church established by Jesus. Once I rely on God I am sure nothing can separate me from the love of God, as Paul said in Romans 8:35, in life and death. I do agree with the apostle Paul and will continue in the work of God.

What we need from you is constant and persistent prayers for us for the Lord to use us mightily in this work.

The Lord's hand is mightily upon us here and there is a sense of unity, understanding and love. The work is progressing and many souls are added to the Church of God. Sister Keiser is with us and we are glad to see her.

May God richly bless you all in your undertakings.
Yours for Christ, —William Kusi

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From Honduras . . .

Apr. 16—Sis. Pruitt and all the saints scattered abroad: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus.

I would like to thank you and give praises to God for the *Faith and Victory* paper that I received. I also thank God for the workers there that help make this possible. The paper really blesses my soul. Continue to send them to me, please.

I truly thank God for sending Sis. Luirie Sanders to Honduras; she has really been a blessing to me and others, and many souls have been saved. Praise God!

My daughter is very sick at this time and looking to the Lord for divine healing. We surely covet the saints prayers in this matter. The enemy is coming hard against us but we are holding on to Jesus.

Continue to remember us and the work here in Honduras in your prayers.

Yours truly, —Sis. Dell Rivers

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Apr. 16—Dear Sis. Pruitt and all saints everywhere: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. This letter finds me doing fine in the Lord. At this time I am in the United States but looking to return to Honduras the last of May, Lord willing.

We left for Honduras Nov. 12, 1984, and returned April 12, 1985. The Lord has surely blessed there. Eight souls sought the Lord at an altar of prayer and are now professing salvation. Thanks be to God. Pray that the Lord will keep and encourage them.

I am very sorry that it took this long to get a report in, but there is so much work there and it keeps me very busy. The mail is very slow so I am sending this report from the States.

Please remember Sis. Connie Bolden in prayer. She is looking to the Lord for divine healing for both soul and body, so please saints, remember this request in your prayers. Also remember Sis. Estell Dilbert in prayer.

We also want to thank all the saints for their prayers and contributions to help in the Lord's work in Honduras, C.A. May God reward each of you. At this present time we are praying that the Lord will provide us with some kind of transportation to get to and from the stops that have to be made. Transportation is so high in Honduras.

Please continue to pray for us here in Honduras that the Lord will work out His will in our life. The devil is trying very hard to stop the work, but God is faithful to take care of all problems.

Yours for souls, —Sis. Luirie Sanders

There is a fund which is set up at this time in New Orleans, LA. If anyone would desire to contribute to the work in Honduras, please contact Bro. Louis Kimble at 305 N. Laurel St., Apt. A, Metairie, LA. 70003, phone (504) 738-9017 or Bro. Herchell Hargrave, (305) 258-4102.

AS UNTO HIM

Whatever you think both in joy and in woe,
Think nothing you would not like Jesus to know.
Whatever you say in whisper or clear,
Say nothing you would not want Jesus to hear.
Whatever you read tho' the page may allure
Read nothing unless you are perfectly sure
Consternation would not be seen in your look
If God should say solemnly "Show me that book"
Whatever you write with haste or with heed,
Write nothing you would not like Jesus to read.
Whatever you sing in the midst of your glee,
Sing nothing that God's listening ear would displease.
Where'er you go, never go where you fear
God's question being asked you "What doest thou here?"

From the Mailbox . . .

VA—Dear Sister Maybelle and all the saints: Greetings to you in the name of the Lord.

In 1981, my daughter died and left one little boy with me. He is 6 years old now. He is autistic functioning. He is so smart in all his classes at school, straight A's, but communication is his problem. He is going to speech classes 3 days a week and is talking better.

It was so much better when my husband was with me, but he died Feb. 1983—he was so supportive. I have legal custody of little Kevin. Please pray that this autistic functioning will disappear. I know God is the answer.

My mother, Laura Powell, was a Christian in the Church of God. She died in 1966.

She loved the *Faith and Victory* paper and all the saints. I would love to hear from the saints everywhere. I am looking forward for some words of encouragement. Thank you for all the good work you are doing. I love all of you. —Norma Gibson

—9816 Tartuffe Drive, Richmond, VA, 23233

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OK—Dear saints: We greet each one in the precious name of Jesus.

We want to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the great "Family of God" for all their love, prayers and concern shown to us in our trial of faith. We are thankful also for all the beautiful cards, flowers, words of encouragement, visits and telephone calls. We can say the Lord is helping us and we are on the mend. Delbert is so much better. He is eating good and has gained some weight back but is still weak and tires easily.

Thank the Lord, I do not suffer, but still have a growth that we are expecting God to remove just anytime. By faith I see deliverance. He is my salvation, keeper, sanctifier and my healer. My faith is fully staked on His great and powerful Word that will never fail. It is forever settled in Heaven. He will not fail a trusting child. Continue to hold us up to the great God of love and mercy.

May the Lord bless and encourage each one as you may have need.

—Malinda and Delbert Flynn

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KS—Dear saints: Greetings in the love of our Lord and Savior. We thank Him from whom all blessings flow. We appreciate His tender mercies toward us. Surely they are new every morning.

Just recently we were with our dear Sis. Lula Mae Tucker, and were able to see the grace of God given her to bear her cross until He called her from labor to reward. During her sickness she would quote Scriptures and sing some with us.

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" I Cor. 15:55. "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the lamb." Rev. 7:14. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." Rev. 14:13.

About 7 years ago or more, I was praying one morning asking the Lord if there wasn't another

hungry soul in this area that we could help. Soon after there was a knock on our door. That was the first time I met Sis. Tucker, I said, "You look like a Sister." She was faithful to attend services as long as she was able. A little over a year ago she suffered a stroke. The Lord healed her so she could at least come once a month.

She had a bad affliction before that. Bro. and Sis. Samons were in this area, so she came over to be anointed. The Lord healed her.

We, the little flock, miss her, but are glad she is safe at home. We were glad we could sing this song by her graveside:

"Safe at home, I've crossed the River,
Over Jordan's swelling tide,

Jesus was my gentle pilot;

I have reached the other side.

Chorus: "Safely now I'm home with Jesus

I'm so happy, and so free

I have reached my home in glory,

Safe at home eternally."

May the Lord bless us all with victory so we too can reach our home in glory. Pray for us.

Yours in Christ,—Bro. Ralph and Sis. Inez Beisley

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OK—Dear Saints and loved ones at the Print Shop: I am sending my testimony. Today finds me saved and sanctified and living for the Lord. I am thankful for what the dear Lord is doing for me. I went to service Sunday before last, and the message was about being steadfast. The sixth chapter of Daniel was read about how steadfast Daniel was, and how that the Lord delivered him out of the hand of the lions. It was really encouraging. We should all be steadfast and in earnest in our service to the Lord.

I want the saints to pray much for me and my family.

Yours in Christ,

—Sister Mary Mustin

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

OK—On Wednesday, April 17, Susan, our four-year old daughter, started singing as our van rolled up to the Church of God chapel. Dwane, the other children, and I joined in with Susan singing, "He rules o'er all in majesty, From His royal throne on high. What a mighty God we serve! . . . Reigning now above on His throne of love, What a mighty God we serve!"

Truly our hearts were vibrant with joy and thanksgiving unto the Lord for the glorious victory He had given us that day! All those involved who were in the Logan County Court room that day have acknowledged that a divine miracle was fulfilled. Only God could put each person in the right place, causing them to say and do the right thing at the right time.

When our trial opened up Tuesday, April 16, 9:00 a.m., twelve people were randomly called to the jury box out of a prospective 150 jurors. Six of these 12 people remained on the panel. God chose the jury. No one had full control over who would be called up as the names were drawn from a hopper, but God knew the hearts of men and chose the jury. We had six men and six women jurors. It took only one day to select the jury where we had all expected two days at least.

The next morning began the start of the Oklahoma State witnesses who were police officers, doctors and Department of Human Services social workers. We expected two days of their testimonies. However, after two officers testified, the Special District Court Judge began to see what had happened to our family. The Judge was appalled at how the police came into our home, took our children away from us, questioned us in the hospital chapel, put us in jail. . . . The Judge then began to see our story and granted us a favor our lawyer asked of him. Also, Judge Ray Wall barred all state witnesses who would only repeat each other or had irrelevant things to add. After a detective and two doctors testified, the State Prosecution then rested or dismissed witnesses around 3:15.

Our defense attorney, Bert Richard, then was expected to bring our witnesses to the stand. Each one was able to stand firm for the Lord, without wavering. (Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised. Heb. 10:23) Every testimony seemed to weaken the prosecution a little more. We could see that the "walls of Jericho" were already cracking before we could even put all our witnesses on the stand. After Bro. Leslie Busbee, Bro. Wayne Murphey, Sis. Myrtle Sorrell (Dwane's mother), Bro. Vernon Miles (Connie's father), and Sis. Cathy Younger all had testified we saw no need for any more testimonies other than my own. Though I did have to stop and gain control of my emotions once, I thank the Lord for the strength and enduring peace that He gave in the hour of need. For nine months I had prepared myself to counteract any questions expected in the cross examination from the District Attorney or prosecutor. However, I believe the District Attorney felt their defeat to some degree, because they did not cross examine me as we had expected. Immediately the jurors were instructed and taken upstairs to the jury room for deliberating and voting.

Around 6:10 p.m., the Judge left to go eat and the majority of us left also. We were anticipating the jury to deliberate several hours so Dwane and I both were surprised when we were called quickly back to the courthouse for the verdict. The jury had only taken 45 minutes or so to decide. We were all in place and waiting when Judge Ray Wall opened court again to make the announcement. It took all 12 people on the jury panel to agree before a guilty or not guilty verdict could be pronounced. Praise the Lord! Twelve people had agreed—NOT GUILTY! was declared. Truly the Lord had picked the jury and had tendered their hearts toward us! We just thank the Lord God for remembering us in His loving favor and mercy!

We realize that every one who wrote encouraging letters to us, and carried our petition to the Throne on High played an important role in our victory. We thank you each and every one for your prayers, love, time, kindness, concern—all is gratefully appreciated. The Lord heard every prayer and He wonderfully and miraculously honored each one.

Through this trial of persecution, we have been able to witness to hundreds of people. We now pray that the small stone of faith that has been cast into the water will ripple on and on and on continuing to reach countless souls.

The last five verses of Ephesians, third chapter, perfectly express our devotion to our Lord and Saviour. "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

—Dwane and Connie Sorrell

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OK—On April 16 and 17, the case of Bro. Dwane and Sis. Connie Sorrell was brought before the court here in Guthrie. The Lord surely had His hand over its proceeding in a marvelous way. The word witness in Greek is "martus" or "martur", from which comes our word martyr. It signifies one who gives testimony to the truth at the expense of his life. It could surely be said that those who were in the court room were exposed to the truth. It was a real blessing to see the compassion of the District Attorney who never labored any point beyond the introduction of it. You could feel in all his statements his reluctance to press this trial. God was surely pressing home His love for His children through this man. Someone asked him while the jury was out if one juror held out for a guilty verdict, would he have another trial. He replied, "No way, these people have suffered enough." He was asked again, if the jury brought a verdict of guilty would the Sorrells go to jail. He replied, "In no way would I send them to jail." In selecting a jury he let a minister be uncontested. This same minister came to prayer meeting after the trial that night and testified how that he knew the Lord had chosen him to be on that jury and directed the whole affair. He just wanted to come to prayer meeting to rejoice with the saints. The defense attorney did a superb job of defense, but he said that it was God who was in charge there.

James 2:20 says, "Faith without works is dead." This was surely faith working. This was faith on trial. The judge and attorneys agreed before starting that no religious arguments were to be brought up. This was hard to do because in reality that is what it was all about. The judge, though showing little emotion, read the verdict quickly and without comment and it seemed with relief.

The jury deliberated for less than an hour while some saints gathered in a room at the courthouse and prayed. All twelve of the jurors agreed that the verdict should be "not guilty". When the judge read the verdict and dismissed the court, shouts of praise filled the court room. Many were weeping and rejoicing. It was hard to speak for the joy overflowing in our souls. It was close to 7:30 p.m. when it ended. Satan said to me as I drove towards home, "There won't be any prayer meeting tonight. The saints will all go home since they are so tired." I drove by the chapel just to rejoice for awhile, and the saints began to come in including many visiting saints, and such a time of rejoicing and singing was shared. The songs of deliverance will never be forgotten. The rejoicing was not for the victory for ourselves, but for Jesus and the great love He proved once more. I am sure

the shouts of praise at the court room and the prayer meeting were mingled with the praise of the angels in heaven.

—George Hammond

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

OH—Dear saints: I don't know how to write this, but if God wants it to be printed He will give me the words. My heart is full of happiness and joy. I will try and share what is in my heart.

I have had a bad back for 20 years. I have had 4 myelograms, traction several times and two back surgeries.

This year on Jan. 16th I had a bad fall. It has caused severe complications ever since. I have not even been able to do my housework since.

A week ago last Sunday, (April 7) I had to go to bed for complete bed rest. I had severe nerve pressure which ran down my right leg. By Saturday the 13th, I knew I could not stand the pain much longer. I knew I would have to have surgery. I was very depressed and cried all that day.

I had to shuffle one foot in front of the other, not able to put pressure on my right leg.

On Sunday morning, April 14th, my husband asked if I wanted him to take me to the hospital. I said, "What for?" I cried and prayed all day and asked God to get me through the night till I could see a doctor on Monday, knowing that I was headed for surgery.

That morning, I felt I should call the church in Dayton where my mother, Sis. Essie Abbott, goes. I tried to call my Christian Aunt, Tressie Adkins, but she was at church in Dayton as they were having special services and dinner that day. Then I tried to call Bro. and Sis. Perry. They also were at church in Dayton. I could not get the phone number of the church. The old devil was really fighting me. He kept telling me God doesn't do things for sinners.

I gave up and called another Christian, Aunt Mable. She said, "I've got the number of the church," and she gave it to me. We talked awhile at about 2 p.m. I said, "I had better call the church while Bro. Samons is still there and have them pray before everyone leaves." I called and found out that my mom and my aunt had already left, so I asked for Sis. Della Gutwein. I cried as I told her why I was calling. I cried and prayed as I knew they were praying, but nothing happened. I had severe pain off and on the rest of the day.

Meanwhile, I talked to God. I promised to start back to church. I repented for my sins. Then I repeated my favorite poem, "The Prayer of Serenity." I knew that if my condition did not change, God would help me accept it and go through with what I must face.

About 8:15 p.m. that evening, my pain went out of the hip area and right into a space in my spine. I groaned with pain as I thought, "Oh! that really hurts!" It seemed a voice said, "But not as bad as surgery." I knew God had put the disc back in place. I was still afraid to say anything, till I got up the next day and realized how much better I really was. All the soreness, even a spot that had been there 6 years, is now gone. Thank God!

I told everyone. My doctor had already scheduled me for therapy. I told my husband I didn't think I would even need it. He said that I had better go

ahead and take it since it was scheduled. I told my brother that, and he said, "That's right, you'll get worse." I said, "I'm not going to get any worse."

When I called my Mom and told her about my back, she said, "What time did you feel that happen?" I said, "About 8:15, why?" She said that they prayed about 8:00 in evening service and she had asked again for me to be remembered in prayer.

My step-father, Bro. Bill Abbott, asked what I did to make this happen. I said that I just believed it.

I don't feel at this time that I am a full pledged Christian, like someone who has been one for 20 years, but I let God come back into my heart and He doesn't do anything halfway. I am taking one day at a time, and I ask all the saints to pray for me that I can do as much in return as God has done for me. Thank God He loves us just as we are! Pray for my soul!

Thanks for all the prayers of all the saints!

—Rosalie Voorhies

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

OK—Greetings to all in Jesus dear name: This finds me still pressing on in the strait and narrow way. I am so thankful to every one for your prayers. It is because of them that I am still here. I have been very sick the past three weeks. A few times it looked like Jesus was going to call me home. I am better, thank the Lord, but still need much prayer. I have had some heartbreaking persecutions, but they have only drawn me closer to the Lord and this beautiful Bible way. I refuse to be discouraged. I am so thankful for dear saintly parents that taught us the right way and lived it before us.

I do want to thank every one for the lovely cards and letters as I am unable to answer them all. They have meant so much to me. For days someone stayed with me around the clock. Saints and loved ones were so precious.

I have enjoyed the testimonies. They are so encouraging. Please continue to pray for me. I want to do all I can for the Lord, He has done so much for me. In the Master's service, earnestly contending for the faith once delivered to the saints,

—Evelyn (Gibson) McCoy

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

OK—Dear Saints everywhere: We desire to take this opportunity to thank the Lord for His love toward us. He has been so good. We want to be as faithful to Him as He has been to us.

We are especially thankful at this time for the Lord healing our oldest daughter, Holly, when she was in time of need. On April 4th, Holly woke up not feeling very well. Being two years of age, I wondered if perhaps she was teething. Around mid-morning, Holly wanted to take a rest. When she awoke, she had high fever and cried of discomfort.

This condition lingered on. She had no appetite, and when we would try to get her to drink liquids she would not swallow them. This made us know that her throat must have been hurting her. The following day, in the late evening, we decided it would be good to call in our pastor and have him anoint Holly and pray for her. Bro. Leslie and Sis. Sylvia Busbee came and anointed her and we all had prayer. About 5:00 A.M., Holly fell into a deep sleep and slept soundly

until 8:00 A.M. When she awoke, her fever was gone, and she wanted to play. We were so thankful. The Lord had definitely given our daughter a healing touch. She remained much better, just quite weak. We praise God for healing her. It was so wonderful.

Through this, the Lord has helped us to see by doing as His Word says, James 5:14, 15: "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; . . ." that He will honor our actions. It says, "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick."

We just really appreciate the Lord touching Holly. It has encouraged us greatly. May each one be encouraged to look to the Lord in time of distress. He is faithful to those that call upon Him.

Pray for us, we desire to be holy and acceptable in His sight.

Christian love, —Mark and Lori LaCroix

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: What state should a person be in to make restitution; a justified state or a sanctified state? Should they be advised by the minister or let it be the leading of the Lord?

Answer: I am truly glad to have this question presented because it opens the door to give some general instruction on this very important subject which is too much overlooked and neglected by some. Because of this neglect some fail to become established on a solid footing and foundation in their Christian lives and go through all their lifetime in an unstable, up and down state and condition, or sometimes just quit trying and give up altogether. This is real serious and I sincerely hope that every reader will give serious consideration to this discussion throughout.

The Bible teaches restitution, making our wrongs right, straightening up our lives, in both the Old and New Testaments. This has always been a requirement of God for His people. When God's Word said in Heb. 12:13, "And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed," He did not mean for us to just level off and go straight from there on when we get saved. He also covered the ground of the wrong things we had done in our past lives before we were saved; go back and straighten them up, too. This is evident from the fact that reference is made to the person who has been made lame or crippled being turned out of the way. We will not be healed if we do not make straight paths for our feet. In other words, that person whom we have wronged, hurt, or offended, may stumble over that thing and fall and go down to eternal destruction unless we take strong measures to straighten the thing and make it right. Our professing salvation right over it will only intensify his hurt and gouge his sore. If we have wronged someone, or hurt or offended him, or treated him harshly or severely, or spoken sharply or severely to him, all the kindness

and goodness we can show to him will not heal that hurt. We will have to confess our wrong and make restitution for it, seek his forgiveness and heal the hurt. Then rebuild the relationship by goodness and kindness.

I had an experience once (at least) that illustrates what I am saying here. There was a brother in our congregation that did some rather unwise things at times and it got to be quite a trial to myself and others. I had been praying about these things and thinking to talk with him about them. Well, it so happened that something occurred in the Sunday night service that struck me funny and I laughed. It offended this brother though I did not know it. I was working with him and the next day when we were working he brought this up and reproved me for laughing as I did and said it was not a proper example for a minister to set. Well, in the course of the conversation while we were on the subject, I just admonished him a little and went on back to work. The Lord smote me heavily and told me I surely should not have said that to the brother and should have said nothing at all to him at that time because he was reproving me and that appeared as retaliation. I just dropped what I was doing and went right back to that brother and said to him, "Brother, I want to acknowledge to you that I spoke very inadvertently and what I said was very much out of order and I was wrong, dead wrong in saying any thing at all to you under the circumstances and I beg your forgiveness for it." He graciously forgave me. The way that case worked out was interesting. In a camp meeting that brother went to the altar for some help. I went to pray with him and then the door was open for me to talk with him about everything I had on my heart to say to him and he received it very graciously and humbly. The wound had already been healed.

In Ezekiel 33:15, it says, "If the wicked restore the pledge, give again what he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die." In this text we see that restitution involves giving back anything of a material substance which one has wrongfully taken; appropriating any thing to his own use which did not belong to him. It matters not if it belongs to some member of one's own family or a close friend or a group of which he is a member, etc.; if he took it wrongfully without permission, he must confess his wrong and give it back. All such things must be made right when one becomes a Christian, regardless of who is involved. I had to make some things right with my own parents. God required this of me. Also, this text involves one going back and making restitution for those broken pledges and reckless, irresponsible promises one may make and never perform or fulfill. Some people make reckless promises to people who then make their plans accordingly, counting on those promises. Then when the time comes to perform that promise it is not just convenient for the party to fulfill the promise he has given. Many times they do not even bother to contact the party who is depending on them and just leave them "swinging". Then they wonder why that party doesn't have confidence in them. Let me announce to you that people are not supposed to have confidence in you if you do not fulfill your word and are irresponsible. God's Word declares this to be wrong and that it must be confess-

ed and restitution made for it. Psalms 15:4, says, ". . . He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not." We see here that God actually requires saints to be dependable people and people of their word. If one has been reckless and careless on this line, he needs to confess his wrong and make restitution for it and straighten up his life.

How urgent and important is this? We read in Matt. 5:24-25, "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." It is just that urgent and that important. God will actually refuse to accept our gifts and sacrifices to Him — material substance, spiritual sacrifices (prayer, devotion, worship) which we bring to offer unto Him, if in the process of doing this He brings to our mind and convicts us of something we need to clear up with a fellow man and we refuse or neglect to do it. He requires us to clear things with our fellow man and makes it clear in verses 25 and 26 what will be the result with us if we don't. You will be put under bondage and will not come out until you have paid the uttermost farthing. In other words, when one commits a trespass against another he is required to go all out to clear the matter with him even if he is unreasonable and overly exacting. God wants us to remove the stumbling block out of his way over which he might stumble and help him get to heaven, too, if possible.

Zachaeus understood this from the law under which he was living. In Luke 19:8, we read where he stood before the Lord Jesus and said, ". . . Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold." The laws governing restitution in the Old Testament are set forth in Exodus 22:1-13. Zachaeus was desiring and seeking salvation and he willingly accepted these conditions and Jesus said unto him, "This day is salvation come to this house."

I have said all of this by way of teaching on this very important subject while the door was open to do so. Now, I will seek to answer the questioner's question briefly. Since restitution is taught throughout the Bible, if one has been well instructed and understands this condition for salvation, he will take care of these things when Holy Ghost conviction seizes upon him as a part of his repentance because it is a part of repentance. Otherwise, when he comes to a knowledge of it as a Scriptural doctrine and the Lord convicts him of it he should take care of it as soon as possible regardless of what state he is in in his Christian experience — justified, sanctified, convicted. He can do this under the leadership of the Holy Spirit without counsel from a minister unless there might be some complications connected with the situation in which he would like some guidance.

A great many people have religion without God, but it does not bless them; others have Christianity without Christ, but it does not save them; all such religion is vain, and all such Christianity is lifeless, fruitless, and formal. It will not stand the judgment test.

—Selected

HOME LIFE



Bouquets for Mother

The way was long and dusty; the sun shone hot. I was worn with the journey of a forenoon. The large branches of a maple tree nearby seemed to whisper a welcome for me to rest in their shade. As I lay on the cool grass under this kind old tree, a silent graveyard nearby brought a solemn stillness to my mind; and as I silently mused on the life beyond those white slabs, my thoughts were interrupted by the appearance of a sad-looking youth, bearing a basket of beautiful flowers.

I watched him. He was soon kneeling over a mound of freshly turned clay, and covering it with beautiful wreaths. An unbidden tear dropped on one of the flowers and glistened in the sun. When the flowers were well arranged, he planted a kiss on the ones near the head of the mound, and sat down on a stone a few feet away. I continued to watch him for a few minutes as he sat there silently musing. I did not need to be a mind reader to determine whose grave it was.

Soon I let my presence be known to him and inquired, "Your mother's grave, I presume?"

"Yes, sir," he replied, between sobs.

"Pretty flowers," I said.

"Yes, they are," he answered, "but what stings my heart is the fact that she had so few bouquets when she was with us; but I suppose it is better late than never."

He spoke with a tremor in his voice, and a tear was in his eye.

Too often flowers are put on Mother's grave with repentance of neglect to strew her path of life with them. Better appreciate Mother while she is with you; then you will not have that bitter recollection when she has left you. Of all earthly friends, Mother is the tenderest. That word "mother" sets our heartstrings to vibrating, when they have remained cold and unresponsive to all other appeals. In this age of conflict, when men are being applauded for their great achievements in the field of battle; in the field of science and invention; in the field of oratory, do not forget the "hand that rocks the cradle." For the great achievements that we Americans are so proud of we are indebted to American motherhood.

How many great men ascribe their success in life to the fact that they had a good mother! When Andrew Jackson was president he said, "All I am, and all I hope to be I owe to my mother." When Abraham Lincoln stood at the head of this great republic,

suffering the tortures of Civil War, with his Bible in his hand, he said, "I had a Christian mother, and her prayers have followed me until this hour."

Mother remembers when all others have forgotten. Mother listened to our childish plea when all others had grown weary; mother was awake many a night while all others were sleeping. Mother was patient when all others had forsaken us. No one's voice was so sweet to you, when a child, as mother's; no one could make the pillow seem so soft as Mother; no one could bind up a wounded finger so well as she. Let us appreciate her now, when we are grown.

If you have good manly traits now, the chances are Mother planted the good seed there when you were small. No one could tell you the story of Jesus and His great love just like Mother. No one could make it so plain, so simple, so real, to your young heart as she. With pleasure we let our minds run back to our childhood days, and fancy ourselves once more at Mother's knee, learning of Jesus. How beautiful are the words of Whittier!

"A picture memory brings to me;
I look across the years and see
Myself beside my mother's knee."

Let us love, honor, and respect Mother; for in so doing we render a service not to her alone, but to her God as well.

—J. A. Morrison

(Taken from *The Gospel Trumpet*, August 1917)

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

The clock ticks time on Sunday morning,
Church services will start shortly
For the Mother who does a list of things,
Preparations must start early.
Clean clothes must be layed out to wear,
With wrinkles ironed away;
Each one must have their clothes all there —
To hunt will cause delay.
Breakfast is made and eaten with haste,
The dishes are left 'til later;
So that after church the mother is faced
With these and those from dinner.
Time hurries on as well as the mother;
Little faces are washed and ears cleaned.
Though her children may act it's a bother
Her grooming is highly esteemed.
She struggles with socks, then the shoes,
For little feet must wear them.
She combs small heads and tidies clothes
While youngsters fidgit and squirm.
Ten minutes to go, no time to wait,
Everyone is ready but mother.
She dashed about so they won't be late
And blame tardiness on mother.
At church she may sit down a while
Until one child is ornery,
Then humbly they go down the aisle
To hide in the baby nursery.
Some may smile at the mother with young,
Some may frown at her;
But when it is all said and done,
She needs a pat on the shoulder.
Thank you, each Mother who does come,
Though you have young to attend.
God blesses what you have done,
And He'll reward you in the end.

—Connie Sorrell



Excerpts Taken From

May, 1960 *Faith and Victory*

"Let me tell you from experience: there is no fun or enjoyment in sin. What pleasures there are last only momentarily. The majority of the time it is a hard, lonely, and miserable life, crammed full of disappointments and troubles. I have lived a saved life and I have lived in sin, so I can speak for both, and believe me, there is nothing better than a clear conscience and the contentment of knowing you have a friend who will never leave you nor forsake you, no matter what comes or goes." —Beverly Appleton

"I am thanking the dear Lord for His love to me, and also the dear saints for all they did for me in my time of sickness. I was very sick with flu and double pneumonia pleurisy . . . I am gaining strength each day, and have been up for five or six days. The Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever. Praise His name!" —Sis. Catherine Simpson

"Just recently the Lord has provided, through His consecrated servants, sufficient funds to purchase a folding machine for the *Faith and Victory* paper. It is a Brown folding machine and has been shipped to the Lord's Print Shop from a company operating in Cleveland, Ohio. This machine will fold, trim and paste the *Faith and Victory* paper and put it out ready to use at the rate of 1800 per hour. The cost of the machine was nearly three thousand dollars and is all paid for. We give God praise and thanks."

—Fred Pruitt

"A few weeks ago I was so sick I could hardly get up or down. My little four-year old daughter said to my other two children, a girl, six, and a boy, three, 'Let's pray for Mommy,' and agreed in prayer. The Lord certainly came to my rescue." —Josephine Pannel

"It is right for us to have instructors and leaders, and wonderful to have saved parents as guides, not as props. We should learn this secret. We need them only as leaders and directors, but when we get our directions we should do our own fighting."

—Vivian Hattley