

FAITH AND VICTORY

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Be Renewed in the Spirit of Your Mind

(Eph. 4:23)



There is a truth to be pursued
By all who seek God's grace to find:
"Put off the old man, be renewed
Within the spirit of your mind."

Oh, let the spirit of your mind
The knowledge of the Lord receive;
Be open hearted, you will find
What carnal man cannot conceive.

Be taught of Him, the Wise and Kind,
Who searches all perfection's deep,
He'll write His laws upon your mind
And let His knowledge o'er you sweep.

For He hath said, "Come unto me,
And I will give you holy rest,
Oh, take my yoke, and learn of me,
For I am meek and lowly blest."

Oh, learn of Him, oh, hear His voice,
He speaketh yet just as of yore
To counsel those who make their choice
To love and serve Him evermore.

Oh, be transformed from error's night
By the renewing of your mind;
Let sin and self dissolve from sight
And to God's will be all resigned.

Consider Him who lives above,
And let thy mind on Him be stayed;
What things are pure and bright with love—
By these thy thoughts be overlaid.

Be not of doubtful mind, but trust:
He cares for you so tenderly;
He knows your frame is naught but dust—
His grace is thine abundantly.

For God hath given not to men
Dark fear their hearts and souls to blind,
But love and power over sin:
The spirit of a sober mind.

—Leslie Busbee

Sanctification, A Second Work

Sanctification is a Bible doctrine. That it is a work of grace wrought in the heart subsequent to conversion, the Bible clearly teaches. There is a cleansing in sanctification. "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." Acts 15:8, 9. "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it." Eph. 5:25, 26. The church is composed of saved persons. This second work; sanctifying and cleansing, makes them "holy and without blemish." Verse 27. The fact that the blood is an agent in sanctification (Heb. 13:12) also shows that there is a cleansing in this experience. The definition of the word sanctify includes a making holy, rendering spiritually pure.

After a man's sins are pardoned, what cleansing remains to be done in sanctification? Is there need of a second work? We will note the fall of man and we may be more able to understand his restoration. God made man pure and holy; but by committing sin, man lost the moral image in which he was created, and his nature became depraved and sinful. By one man, sin and consequent death entered the world, and by this one man's disobedience, "the many" (R.V.), meaning all, were made sinners. To be convinced that man's nature is sinful, one need only to read the accounts of men of the past, or to look at mankind today. Observe the children. At an early age, even in infancy, they manifest an evil nature. David said, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." Psalms 51:5. It is a well-known fact that it is natural for children to go into sin. This is because of the depravity in their natures. Paul says to the Ephesian brethren, "We were *by nature* the children of wrath, even as others." Now, all that was lost through Adam's fall may be regained through the atonement of Christ. Read Rom. 5:11-21. This means that we may be restored to the pure, holy nature that was given to Adam when he was created.

The child is not responsible for the depravity of its nature, but it is responsible when it comes to the age of accountability for every act of disobedience to

God's moral law. God's message to this child is, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." Acts 3:19. If the child repents, his sins are forgiven; but there still remains the depraved nature, that inherent evil principle that will again lead the child into sin; unless he, by the grace of God, keeps it in subjection. God did not intend that his children remain in this state, but provided in sanctification a purification of the heart, the very inner nature. (Acts 15:9, 10; 1 Pet. 1:22; 1 John 3:3.) We are made partakers of the divine nature. (2 Pet. 1:4.) This second work is needed to complete our redemption.

Not only is the depraved nature, that inward bent to evil, eradicated in sanctification; but, also, in this experience, we receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit, who is the Abiding Comforter (John 14:16, 17), the teacher (John 14:26; 16:13), source of power (Acts 1:8), and which fits one for the Master's use. (2 Tim. 2:21) We are sanctified by the Holy Ghost. (Rom. 15:16; 1 Pet. 1:2) The receiving of the Holy Ghost is an important part in the experience of sanctification, as the prominence of the mention in the New Testament of this part of the experience shows.

Now we shall give Biblical instances of sanctification, or reception of the Holy Ghost, as it is called, which show that it is a definite work of grace subsequent to conversion. The disciples were saved; and one with an unbiased mind, would conclude from the reading of the Gospels that the apostles were not sinners. Jesus says that they were not of the world. (John 17:9, 14) Moreover, Jesus said that the world, meaning sinners, could not receive the Holy Ghost. (John 14:18) The second chapter of Acts records the reception of the Holy Ghost by the apostles. Peter in his sermon on this occasion told his hearers that they should repent, and be baptized for the remission of sins, and that they should receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

In the eighth chapter of Acts, we are told that Philip went to Samaria and preached Christ. To preach Christ means to preach the glad tidings of salvation. It, without doubt, included, "Repent ye, and believe the gospel." The Samaritans "gave heed" to Philip's preaching, "and there was great joy in that city." Surely they were converted. Verse 12 says that they believed and were baptized. See Mark 16:16; 1 John 5:1. Later, Peter and John came down to Samaria, and the believers received the Holy Ghost. Cornelius (Acts 10) was a devout man, one that feared God, and whose prayers were answered. Peter says (verse 35) that he was accepted of God. His household, also, feared the Lord. In verse 44, we are told that they received the Holy Ghost.

When Paul went to Ephesus (Acts 19), he found there "certain disciples." He asked them, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost *since ye believed?*" In verse six, we read that the Holy Ghost came on them. Afterward, when writing to the Ephesian brethren, Paul refers to this experience: "In whom [Christ] ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also *after that ye believed*, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise." Again we say on the authority of God's Word, Sanctification is a definite work of grace wrought in the heart subsequent to regeneration.

-Bessie Hittle (Taken from Gospel Trumpet, 1911)

Poor In Spirit



It was 28 A.D. The day was warm with a light breeze softly touching the cheeks of the Master as He quietly walked north through Galilee. Though the Master was solemn, the multitudes of people following Him were not so quiet. Just as the breeze lifted and lowered, so the voices of the people lifted and lowered in discussions concerning this great miracle worker. Some of the people were from Galilee, some from Deapolic (Damascus), Jerusalem, Judea, and some from beyond Jordan. All were interested in learning more about this new teacher, named Jesus, who had compassion on the afflicted and could instantly heal any one. As this great sea of people walked through green valleys and up unto the hills, they strained forward, eager to watch everything Jesus did.

Jesus understood each person's desire to learn more about Him and the Father. Therefore, He climbed a short distance up a hillside and sitting in the custom of a Jewish teacher, He began the greatest sermon ever preached. First, Jesus said: "Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven."

Why did Jesus begin with this teaching? Everyone who seeks the kingdom must obey this Scripture. Why?

"Blessed [or happy] are the poor in spirit." Only someone who is poor in their own spirit, realizing their need of a greater power than they possess, will find the kingdom of heaven. Anyone who keeps believing, "I can control my own life" or "I can do my own thing", will never find this peaceful kingdom. Jesus said, "For many are called, but few are chosen. Matt. 22:14. He is searching for those few who are willing to admit, "I am making a wreck of my life! Satan has led me astray! Jesus, please come and take this load of guilt away!" Many people make this profession with their lips, but Jesus looks into the heart and listens to hear the heart sob and cry for help. Only when a person's heart is broken, their own dreams destroyed, their own desires and lusts disgusting to their own mind, will a person really be willing to obey the tender voice of Jesus, saying, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls, For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matt. 11:28-30.

A person must have a broken spirit before receiving salvation, but must a person be constantly asking for forgiveness of sins? Constantly worrying over sins that have been forgiven would not be a happy way to live. Jesus said, "Blessed [or happy] are the poor in spirit." Jesus, the great teacher, had a deeper plan in mind when He spoke these words.

Nearly two years later, in an upper room of the house of Mary (Mother of Mark), Jesus prepares His disciples for His crucifixion. After washing the disciples' feet and partaking of the Lord's supper, Jesus tells them that He is going where they can not go, meaning His death and resurrection. (John 13). The disciples are very distressed about this but Jesus comforts them. "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me." John 14:1. Jesus tells them about heaven, that He is the way, the

truth, and the life; that the Father is in Him and He in the Father. Still the disciples were perplexed. Then Jesus kindly says: "If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you **another Comforter**, that he may abide with you forever; even the **spirit of truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him for he dwelleth with you and shall be in you. These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the **comforter**, which is the **Holy Ghost** whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14:15-17, 25, 26. The next day Jesus was crucified for sins. Three days later He arose from the grave and appeared unto hundreds of people throughout 40 days. He then ascended into heaven where He sits on the right hand of God.

Ten days after Jesus ascended, the disciples, Mary (Jesus' mother), His brothers and 120 believers were in an upper room, there the Father sent the Holy Spirit to them on the day of Pentecost to "teach them all things" and to "bring all things to their remembrance." Immediately Peter gained more understanding about the kingdom of heaven, and the prophecies concerning Jesus. Peter quoted from the book of Joel, and then proceeded to quote Jesus and explain the mysteries he (Peter) had not fully understood when Jesus had said them to him. Immediately the Holy Spirit revealed to Peter and the other believers the full light of the redemption plan. From that day onward they experienced the kingdom of heaven reigning in their hearts under the Holy Spirit leadership. Soon these Holy Spirit-filled workers spread out into the four corners of the world. They preached the gospel of Jesus Christ, prayed for the sick, baptized believers and prayed that all would have the Holy Spirit to lead and teach the way of truth. Today this work is still moving forward in the Church of God.

We no longer have Jesus in the flesh right here among us, but we do have the Holy Spirit of Christ living in our heart. Just as Jesus sat on the mount and talked to the multitudes, the Holy Spirit lives within the heart and soul of a redeemed, sanctified person. When Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit", He was speaking to us today. We must daily feel our own **human weakness** in order for the Holy Spirit to teach us more about the perfect, Godly spirit Jesus is of. We must stay humble and willing to learn from the Holy Spirit. The more we listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit dwelling within, the sharper we discern wrong attitudes and thoughts that are not pleasing to God. Daily the Holy Spirit teaches us to root out any thought or attitude which is stopping or hurting our growth to perfection. "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matt. 5:48.

Just before Judas betrayed Jesus in the garden, Jesus prayed for the keeping of believers. (John 1:7) He said, "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth. . . That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, **that they also may be one in us**; . . I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know

that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." John 17:17, 21, 23.

There are thousands of trials a person can undergo in a lifetime and there are thousands of thoughts and attitudes surrounding each one of these trials. If a person will listen to the Holy Spirit's voice within, it will direct what is best in every pressing trial. These directions will never cross with the written Word of God because the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth.

The teachings that Jesus gave nearly 20 centuries ago are for us yet today. In each redeemed, sanctified person the Holy Spirit sits on the throne of their heart just as Jesus once sat on the mount, teaching: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." —Connie Sorrell

Holiness and Its First Precept

The Bible is very definite on the doctrine of holiness. It says, ". . . holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Heb. 12:14. Holiness is a state of being in which we become like God. It concerns the heart, and becomes the controlling motivator in our lives. The main factor that dictates holiness in man is a consecration and dedication to God Himself.

Holiness is not a set of laws, rules or regulations. It is the love of God flowing freely through our heart. When we first get sanctified, or made holy, there is much dross to be consumed by the purifying fire of the Holy Ghost. We gain in wisdom and understanding, realizing that we do not hold the reins, we do not dictate the way. God is now the sole controller of each individual heart. It is up to Him alone to do the refining.

Once we have obtained the work of entire sanctification (holiness) in our heart, there are certain fruits that are going to grow out of our lives. "The fruit of the Spirit is love . . ." Gal. 5:22. This is the first of the fruits of sanctification. Until we have holy love directing our every action, we can not fulfill the rest. We can not really follow Jesus sincerely until we have the same love He had. "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge; and though I have faith so that I could remove mountains, and have not [love], I am nothing." I Cor. 12:2. What is the writer actually saying? Can it be that we can preach (prophecy gives the impression of being anointed); understand in theory the great and holy ways of God; have a complete knowledge of the Scriptures; have faith that may even raise the sick and dead; and yet be nothing in the eyes of God and of none effect in this lost world? Could all of this be done in vain? Yes, for it is only love that will cause any lasting good.

We all want to copy Jesus. We want to do something for this lost world. We want to see the kingdom of God prosper. The very first thing we need to seek and obtain is divine love. Jesus had something about Him that literally drew souls to Him. He was surrounded by multitudes of men, women and children. He is yet drawing people. They loved Him, we love Him. Why? Because He first loved us. He reached out holy arms of compassion and mercy and offered hope where before there was none. Saints, the world needs us to be like Jesus. —Elizabeth Redington

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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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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.

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Editorials

As the summer nears its close, we again send forth an issue of the Faith and Victory, trusting that it will prove a blessing to you.

All of the campmeetings for 1985 will soon be over and we are thankful for the good that has been accomplished through them.

The saints here at Guthrie have been very busy putting the finishing touches on the new school building so that it will be ready for the coming school year. Much sacrifice has gone into this project, but it will surely be worth it all. The construction of it has taken longer than expected, but much expense has been saved by using the talents of the brethren of the Church. This has allowed for the money to be put in quality material rather than hired labor. The expenses of the building have, for the most part, been met by free will offerings, and it is a blessing to know that a big debt does not hang over this project. A small loan is being secured to cover the final expenses. If you would be interested in contributing to this project, your donations may be sent to Bro. Bob Saltee, 916 W. Mansur, Guthrie, OK 73044.

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It was a privilege to be with the saints at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, for their singing on Saturday night, August 17. The chapel was full and several surrounding states were represented. Songs were sung with great sincerity and the Spirit of the Lord was felt. We also appreciated worshipping with the saints the following Sunday morning. Bro. Roy Harmon, pastor of the congregation, and his wife Sis. Virginia, were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary that weekend. May the Lord bless them with many more happy years together, along with good health.

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It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Sis. Dorothy Wilson, wife of Bro. Clifford Wilson. Sis. Dorothy was a consecrated saint who had the work of God at heart. From 1962 to 1971 she and Bro. Clifford dedicated their time and talents to work here at the Print Shop. There are many memories that will linger on in the minds of those who knew her.

Another true saint who left our midst recently is Bro. Cecil Carver. Bro. Carver, who was a minister for many years, was truly dedicated to the God he served. His unique service to God will be missed by the Church in general.

As these valiant soldiers of the cross have laid down the armor and gone to receive

the reward for the faithful, let us take up the task and burden for souls that they possessed and press on. Let us close the ranks and unite our forces in love and humility.

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This issue includes quite a bit on the subject of sanctification. This doctrine is so valuable to us as we face the hostility of Satan. There are many who deny sanctification and many more who have distorted its teaching. There is nothing complicated in the doctrine of sanctification if we are willing to accept it as the Bible plainly defines it. Let us get a firm perception of this Bible doctrine that we might be spared the defeat at the hands of the enemy of our souls.

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"Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in Thy sight." Matt. 11:26. If we are to live the victorious Christian life that God would have us to, there will be times when we will have to learn to resign ourselves to what comes our way. We cannot always choose our station in life, but by God's help we can learn to be happy where ever we are. Paul said that he had learned "in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:11-13. Christ had to resign Himself to death on the cross, but He found God's grace adequate for even that dark moment.

Once a gentleman visited a deaf-mute school. Having gazed upon all the silent pupils, he was requested to ask some of them a question by writing it on the blackboard. He did not know what question to ask, but at last he ventured to write this inquiry in chalk upon the board: "Why did God make you deaf-mute, and make me so that I could hear and speak?" The eyes of the silent ones were filled with tears; it was a great mystery. Their human understanding had no answer, but their piety made eloquent reply. One of the little boys went up to the board, and taking the chalk, wrote under the question this answer, "Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in Thy sight."

When we look around at what others must deal with in life, it makes us feel very humble as we battle the few obstacles we meet.

On down in the 28th verse of this eleventh chapter of Matthew, Christ proceeded to say, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." If there are things in life that we

chafe under, Christ has offered to accept these and give us rest to our mind and heart. He is one who understands the dashed hopes, the aching heart and mental anguish, and knows how to give rest. Let us not be hesitant to take our problems to God and leave them there, that we may find rest to our souls.

--Wayne Murphey

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Due to the fact that our phototypesetter is temporarily out of working order, we have had to use a different style of type on some of the copy for this issue. We trust that by the time for the next issue it will once again be in use.

SINGING FROM MONARK

AVAILABLE ON CASSETTE TAPES

Six tapes are available of beautiful, inspiring and heavenly singing from the national camp meeting of the Church of God, held at Monark Springs, MO, July, 1985. These tapes are titled, "Zion's Songs of Everlasting Joy". They include most all the songs which were sung from the 1st Saturday night through Monday night of the meeting, and should bring many hours of inspiration to every listener. These tapes are available for \$1.50 each or \$1.00 each when ordering the whole set. Please include an extra dollar for postage. Order from Songs of the Evening Light, c/o Harlan Sorrell, Rt. #1, Box 118-A, Myrtle, MO 65778.

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NOTE OF THANKS

The congregation at 57th and N. Denver in Green Pastures sends a hearty thanks to all who gave to the offering that was taken up for our building project during the Guthrie camp meeting. We also thank all who attended our singspiration and all day services. May God bless all of you for your contributions of love through prayer, service to the Lord and your financial means. Pray for us that God will continue to bless and that we will ever be true to Him.

Sincerely yours in Christian love,

-Charles Chandler, Pastor

-Sis. Frances Chandler, Secretary

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A bomber crew, having bailed out of their badly damaged plane, salvaged a rubber raft, food, and water. On the sixth day, when their water supply gave out, one of them said, "Let us pray." On the seventh day they landed safely on a Malayan island. "I thought I was a Christian before I entered the Army," one of the crew told a reporter. "Now I know I am. One thing experience has taught me is this: there is no place on a rubber raft in the Pacific for an atheist."

—Selected

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

WATER VALLEY, MS. MEETING REPORT

Dear Saints and faithful brethren: We are happy to relate that God has blessed us with another wonderful time in Zion in our ten-day tent meeting. We appreciate all those who helped support the tent meeting with their prayers, finances and presence. Saints came from Florida, Missouri, Alabama and Louisiana. Souls were strengthened, encouraged, and the community was provoked unto righteousness.

-The Water Valley and Coffeyville,
Mississippi Congregation
-Sis. Sondra Polk

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MISSOURI STATE CAMP MEETING REPORT

Another state camp meeting at Myrtle, Mo. is in history. We thank the Lord for His blessings upon this meeting, which was held July 29 - Aug. 4. The Lord was faithful to give us just what we needed in this meeting. A number of ministers from various states were present, and the Word went forth with power and anointing. Several souls responded by seeking help at the altar, others being convicted of their need of salvation sought the Lord and found His pardoning love. May God bless each one who helped carry the burden of this meeting, and those who came from far to be with us. Your presence was a blessing and encouragement to the saints here at Myrtle.

A work day has been scheduled for Sept. 14, 1985, here on the Myrtle camp grounds. There are various jobs which need to be done such as painting and concrete work. If anyone feels led to come and work for the Lord on these grounds, their help would be appreciated by the local congregation.

-Harlan Sorrell

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WICHITA, KANSAS MEETING

Once again the Saints at Wichita desire to have a meeting for God's glory. We have set September 13-22 as our meeting date. We desire God's blessings on every part of the meeting and His Holy Spirit to direct every service. We want to worship God in spirit and truth and be fed sumptuously from the Master's table. Praise His dear name. We are praying for God to choose the ministers and the messages according to His great wisdom and power. All are welcome to attend to get whatever God sees you have need of. For further information you may contact Brother Raymond Johnson at: (316) 264-5803 or Brother Keith Marsh at (316) 722-8114.

-Shirley Knight

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COFFEYVILLE, KANSAS MEETING

Lord willing we plan to start a meeting here at the Chapel in Coffeyville on Sept. 21, extending

through the following week. Meetings will be at 7:30 each evening. We are planning a singing on the first Saturday evening of the meeting.

We have been praying the Lord to make choice of the ministers that he can use. We have also been praying for the lost souls around us, that God will cause them to be awakened to their need. Pray for us here that we will be as a city on a hill; a beacon light.

We extend a welcome to all to come and help us. We will do our best to care for as many as we can. For more information write or call Bro. Ralph M. Beisly, 407 Eldridge, Coffeyville, Kansas, 67337. Phone (316) 251-1108.—The Coffeyville Congregation

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AUTUMN GOSPEL SINGING AT MYRTLE, MO

Lord willing, we will have our annual autumn singing on Saturday night, October 5, 1985. This will be followed by all-day services on Sunday, October 6. We extend a hearty invitation to all to come and be with us on this weekend. Pray that the Lord will bless and anoint these services and that souls will receive spiritual enrichment.

-Harlan Sorrell

In Memorial

Susan Whipple Laughlin, daughter of John and Susan Anne Whipple, was born at Fortescue, Missouri, October 31, 1904, and departed this life April 12, 1985, at the age of 80 years, 5 months, and 12 days.

She was united in marriage to William Laughlin.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, seven brothers and four sisters.

She is survived by her son, Earl Laughlin, Carthage, Missouri; one sister, Cora Batheur, Anderson, Indiana; two grandchildren, Susie and J. R. Laughlin, Carthage, Missouri; several nieces and nephews.

Her early years were spent in the Fortescue community where she attended school. The last twenty years she had lived in the Carthage area. Early in life she was converted and united with the Church of God. She was a member of the Church of God at Webb City, Missouri and in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

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Ethel Taylor, daughter of George and Earnestine Myles, was born April 3, 1934 in Hoffman, OK and departed this life June 12, 1985 in Wichita, KS where she had been a resident for almost 30 years. She grew up in Hoffman and attended school there. It was also there that she met and married Lonnie Taylor on September 26, 1950. To this union 3 children were born.

Early in life Ethel sought the Lord and received salvation, thereby becoming a member of The Church of God. She loved the Lord and His ways and kept faithful to Him throughout her lifetime. She raised

her children and grandchildren in the fear and admonition of the Lord and led her husband to the Lord. She was a loving and devoted mother and grandmother who did all she could for her family and they revered and loved her greatly.

She leaves as survivors: Her husband, Lonnie; two daughters: Marie Pierro of Allensworth, CA and Lasandra Edwards of Wichita; one son Quincey of Wichita; Her mother, Earnestine Myles of Hoffman, OK.; two sisters, Dorothy Goudeau of Hoffman and Rutha Loftin, Los Angeles, Ca; one brother, George Myles of Detroit, MI. Three grandchildren, two aunts, two uncles, also many cousins. They will all miss her as well as the many saints and friends.

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Bro. John K. Blackwell, the eldest son of John and Mary Blackwell, was born April 25, 1892, in Castor, Louisiana and departed this life to be with the Lord on Monday, June 24, 1985, Sunset Guest Home, Pacoima, Ca., at the age of 93 years, 1 month, 29 days.

At an early age Bro. Blackwell with his parents moved to Oklahoma, settling in and around Boley. There he met Miss May Francis Hall and was later united in Holy Matrimony with her on February 22, 1916, in Chandler, Oklahoma. To this union eight children were born; two sons and 6 daughters. One daughter, Helen, preceded him in death.

In 1912 Bro. Blackwell heard the teachings of the Church of God, as taught by Bro. S. T. Walker and other pioneer ministers and saints. Bro. J. T. Johnson and his mother Haggard Johnson were very instrumental in teaching him the ways of the Lord. After hearing the gospel he readily accepted it and was wonderfully saved.

After he was saved he loved the services of the Lord and was faithful to attend them, (even during the horse and buggy days) and be on time. He especially loved the Sunday School where he actively took part.

In 1937 Bro. Blackwell and his family moved to Bakersfield, CA., where he resided until six years ago. Though he moved to the Church of God Guest Home in Pacoima, Ca., he still called Bakersfield home.

In 1963 his loving wife of 47 years passed away. In 1971 he married Sis. Katie Weldon, who after one year of marriage the Lord saw fit to take home.

He leaves to mourn his passing seven devoted children; two sons, Grant Blackwell and Willard Blackwell of Bakersfield; five daughters, Maryetta Pierro, Stockton, Ca., Henrietta (Pat) Francisco, Hazel Davis, Bernice Jackson and Janice Herring, all of Bakersfield, Ca. Two grandsons who were reared by him; John L. Gaines, San Jose, Ca. and Orvil L. Gaines, Oakland, CA.; 38 more grandchildren, 60 great grandchildren, 6 great great grandchildren and many many wonderful nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were held June 29, 1985, at the Church of God Chapel in Bakersfield, conducted by his nephews Bro. Robert C. Mays, assisted by Bro.

Eddie Johnson. Interment was in Union Cemetery in Bakersfield to await the general resurrection.

IN APPRECIATION

We wish to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to our many relatives, saints and friends for all your many expressions of love, concern, sympathy and your prayers and spiritual support.

Your generous support in so many ways has meant so much to us. Without your loving concern and prayers and help from the Lord, our loss seemed unbearable. Thanks be to God for the comfort he has given.

A special thanks goes to Sis. Mildred and Bro. Robert Sherman and the workers there at the Home for your untiring and loving concern shown to Papa during his declining years. Your many acts of kindness and thoughtfulness during his stay there in the Home meant so much to us. May the Lord richly bless each and everyone of you and reward you greatly for your faithfulness.

Keep remembering us in your prayers that the Lord will continue to sustain and console our hearts.

Again to all our relatives, saints, and friends we say "THANKS! so much, and God Bless You."

—The Blackwell Family

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Dorothy Byers Wilson was born March 14, 1923, at Pelican, Louisiana, the fifth child of Franklin Elwood and Vermel Byers, and departed this life on June 30, 1985.

She was an obedient child who tried to please her parents. She believed in Christ as a personal Savior at age nineteen, and endeavored to live a Christian example the balance of her life.

She joined her life in marriage to Clifford Wilson at Guthrie, Oklahoma, on July 30, 1944. To this union five children were born. They are: Laurel Edwin Wilson, Patricia Larea Cain, Dennis Wayne Wilson, all of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Peggy Sue Covey of Vinita, Oklahoma and Candace Kaye Wilson of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

She dearly loved and enjoyed her eight grandchildren: Roxanne Wilson Dollins, Clinton and Debbie Wilson; Amy and Jeff Cain; Ronnie, Jamie and Robb Covey.

Dorothy gave generously of herself to her husband, her family and her family in the Lord—the saints. She worked a total of thirteen years as a linotype operator at the Faith Publishing House at Guthrie, Oklahoma; three years before her marriage and ten years while she was still raising her family. In 1971, the Lord led Clifford and Dorothy into another phase of gospel work; pastoring congregations in Nowata, Oklahoma, Shreveport, Louisiana and in 1982 they moved to Vinita to pastor the Four Corners Church of God.

Dorothy is survived by her husband, Clifford, their five children and eight grandchildren; her mother, Vermel Byers of Shreveport, Louisiana; three brothers, Fred, Homer and Berton Byers of Shreveport, Louisiana; two sisters, Blanche Jergensen of Shreveport, Louisiana and Ruthe Taylor of Kingsburg, California. Two brothers, Carl and Elvin Byers and one sister, Gertrude Bunting, preceded her in death.

Dorothy was loved dearly by her husband and inner family, her larger family circle, as well as the many, many saints and friends she and Bro. Clifford Wilson ministered to in their life of Christian service.

She left a testimony that she was ready and longing to go to meet Jesus. She will be greatly missed.

Funeral services were held in the Luginbuel Funeral Chapel and officiated by Brother Richard Madden, Sister Margaret Eck and Brother Stanley Dickson. Burial was in the Fairview Cemetery, Vinita, Oklahoma.

THANK YOU

Dear Saints: With grateful hearts, we wish to acknowledge the love of God shed abroad in the hearts of His people shown to us in our recent sorrow. We realize that words cannot heal, but the presence of the saints and all their words of comfort have surely helped. I know the prayers of God's people have reached His throne and we have been blessed because of them. The cards filled with personal messages, meant very much.

Weeks have gone by since Mom's funeral, and we still receive cards and calls saying, "We care." No words can express what it has meant. Our hearts have been enlarged and made to understand how better to help serve our God, by doing what we can to lift another's load. We do not grieve as those who have no hope, for we are looking forward to meeting Mom again, although our natural hearts are heavy and we miss her very much. Thank you each one for the part you served in making our load lighter; the cards, your presence, offerings to help on our traveling expenses in her illness, phone calls, food, and the plants. May the Lord bless you richly. Please continue to hold us up in prayer. This year has brought major changes to our lives in many ways and we have decisions to be made. More than anything else, we want to be in the center of God's will.

-Ed and Roberta Wilson

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Cecil Clyde Carver of Shreveport, La., 82, died July 13, 1985, at his apartment at The Golden Rule Home in Shawnee, Ok., where he had been living for one week. He was born Jan. 18, 1903, to John and Lillie Carver, Church of God ministers, in Leesville, La., and after his marriage to May DeLee Jackson of Hammond, La., in 1922, came to live in Shreveport. He was a U.S. Postal employee and retired as a supervisor in 1960 after 37 years of service.

Bro. Carver was converted at age 11 at a camp meeting in Burkville, Tx., and rededicated his life to God at age 16. He worked for a while at the Herald of Truth printing office at Carthage, Mo., where he met Sis. May. He felt a call to the ministry in the 1930's, and preached his first message at the Hammond camp meeting. He had regular appointments at different times in various places such as Jena, Marthaville,

Pelican, La., and Louin, Ms. He pastored the congregation in Shreveport for over 30 years, and also made several missionary trips to different foreign lands.

After the death of his first wife, he married Eva Mitchell of Jena. After Eva's death he later married Nellie Key of Springfield, Oh., in 1983.

Bro. Carver is survived by his wife, Nellie, four sons, Cecil Lynn and Arnett Jackson of Shreveport, John Harlan of Depew, Ok., and Vernon Carlton of Gainesville, Ga.; eleven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren; and two brothers, Everett of Houston, and Herbert of Shreveport.

Services were conducted by Bro. Richard Madden, assisted by Bros. Tom Melot and Charles Smith, with interment at Loranger, La.

(We deeply appreciated the calls, cards, letters, flowers, love offerings, and concern shown by so many.)

-Sister Nellie and the family

How Are The Mighty Fallen

(In memoriam to Bro. Carver)

How are the mighty fallen!
One of the warriors lie;
Our precious Savior called him
To His home beyond the sky.

His work on earth is finished;
A faithful soldier true,
Doing all the needful things
That he was called to do.

How many lives he blessed,
Eternity will tell,
Though we will miss him sorely,
Yet with him now tis well.

Farewell dear Bro. Carver,
Yet only for a while;
We'll meet you over there
And see your kind familiar smile.

-Grace Jones

Letter of Tribute

Dear *Faith and Victory*: I would like to pay a tribute to Bro. Cecil Carver, who recently passed away at the Shawnee, Oklahoma, Golden Rule Home.

First of all, he was my dearest friend for most of my life. I met him at a very early age, and came to depend on him from then on for love and understanding. He was always ready to help me in any way he could. I cannot begin to tell of the times I called him to pray for me, my husband, relatives and friends. My husband was an airplane pilot, and he loved to fly Bro. Carver around.

Sometimes I think of how many miles he drove to pray for the sick and worried people everywhere. The world would be a much better place if there were more Cecil Carvers in it.

I am sending this contribution to *Faith and Victory* in his memory.

Respectfully,

-Gretchen Sutton

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"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Prayer Requests

VA-"Please pray for Dolly Nelson who has cancer, also, I desire prayer."

-Lillian Bohannon

MO-Bro. Roy Blanchard needs healing to his body, remember him.

TX-Sis. Strickland desires prayer for some special needs.

MI-"I have several unspoken requests, please remember me."

-R. Hess

LA-"My eyes and ears are bad, please remember me."

-Sis. Beaulah Johnson

OH-"Please pray for my daughter and granddaughter for both soul and body; also, I have some urgent requests."

-Lorene Payne

CA-"Please remember my friend who is in serious condition, and I need prayer too."

-Helen Carson

LA-Bro. Lee McMillan needs prayer due to complications from a motorcycle accident.

IN-"I'm sending in a request for prayer. I ask the prayers of every dear saint."

-Nathan Mobley

KY-Please pray for my dear husband and also for me as we are not too well.

-Mary F. Orrender

MO-"Please remember Sister Emma Whipple in prayer."

-Francis Kelley

CO-"Please pray for my eyes and my wife's salvation."

-Peter Weins

WV-"Please pray for my complete healing, also for loved ones for soul and body."

-Sis. Earl Tinsley

TX-"Pray for me, my eyes are bad."

-Sis. Eula B. Cole

CA-"Please remember me, I was injured in a fall. I am trusting God for complete healing."

-Sis. Letha Reece

KS-Bro. and Sis. Floyd Kennedy need a special healing touch.

Canada-"Here are some special prayer requests, John Penner who had one foot and part of leg amputated, and is also blind. Bro. Bischoff who has cancer. My Aunt with cancer who has severe pain."

-Wilfried Froese

Influence

A young man who lay dying said, "I want you to bury my influence with me." Alas it cannot be done! Influence lives on. It never dies.

A son of a wealthy man was scratching upon a show window with the diamond in his ring, a ragged newsboy said to him, "Don't do that." The rich boy replied, "I guess I have a right to do as I please." "Yes," answered the newsboy, "but you cannot rub it out." So it is, the life we live cannot be erased. Jesus can forgive, but the evil influence that was started flows on. Man lives after he is dead. —Selected

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

REPORT ON PHILIPPINE TRIP

Dear Sis. Maybelle, Bro. Wayne and all the beloved saints: I greet you once again through the victory of the cross by the love of God in Jesus. I surely thank God for His keeping power and the love He has given to all of His children. How precious and powerful is this truth wherein we stand. I praise God over and over for bringing me into this truth. It is just as powerful in men's lives now as it was in the beginning.

I returned to the U.S. from the Philippines on June 25. How precious it was to my soul to see on this trip more than ever before how the seed of truth is bearing fruit. They were all rejoicing to get the worship building completed. The first service was held on June 16. God marvelously worked out the finances for it. I had \$660 to put on the building and the final cost came out to \$670. Bro. Tangunan took \$15 from the church to buy the doors. It is all complete with a beautiful red concrete floor and nice windows. It is a large enough building (20' x40') for them to set up a school when they are able.

The greatest blessing to me was to see their earnestness in the spirit. Their testimonies are increasing. They are progressing on their own more and more. Chapels have been built in two barrios [villages] and a third is in progress, all on their own. Bro. Moeses, who is 78 years old, is rejoicing for the chapel that they were able to build. The Lord has healed his hearing and given him strength to care for the church. God has verified His Word with a number of definite healings and the Church is determined to live for God.

There are a number of ministers in the southern part of the Philippines who want to learn the truth. Pray much for these people. The opportunities are unlimited.

In His blessed service,

-Bro. George Hammond

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From the Philippines . . .

July 29—Dear Sister Pruitt: Greetings in Jesus precious name. I cannot express enough in words how thankful I am for your unwearied love for us. I'm praying for you that God may bless you and give you more opportunity to labor in His kingdom. We are so happy to hear that Brother Hammond arrived safely in U.S.A. Thank God that He has some people who are concerned for mission work. The Apostle Paul said, "How can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" Romans 10:14. May God bless him in return for his much sacrifices for us in the

Philippines. The church building is finished and we have already moved here for worship services. Please give our many heartfelt thanks to all the saints in U.S.A. who contributed their money and prayers for this building. May God multiply unto them the seeds of love that they have sown. Thank you so much for your love of souls in the world. I hope you will meet some Filipinos in heaven someday to thank you for their opportunity to hear the truth because of your concern for them. I'm so happy to report to you that the truth is moving forward to other places around us. With God's help we are doing our best to reach as many souls as we can before the end of the world.

I'm so happy that two of my brothers were saved and now they are dedicating their lives and time for the gospel work. My brother Eliseo, who is a school teacher, is now pastoring our city congregation. He and Ruth are going out for Bible studies during his time off. Ruth with other saints are busy every day going from house to house evangelizing. I am now also busy visiting our brothers and sisters in the barrios. We plan to hold revival meetings in our congregations, in the barrios and to open new stations of gospel works in other towns.

Please continue to pray for us dear saints. We are all praying for you. Love to all of you.

Your brother in the mission field,

—Matias S. Tangunan and family

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Truly, in Christ Jesus there is an everlasting life. My dear saints, in seeking for the truth of salvation I have attended many denominations. I was reared by my parents as a member of the Roman Catholic church. I observed that there was no change manifested in my life professing as a Christian. I had a bad temperament, was a drunkard and a chain smoker. Suddenly, I felt that there was a vacuum in my heart to be filled spiritually. I began to search.

One time I visited the home of my sister. I was amazed at the change within their vicinity. Graven images on their altars were gone. I asked them where they were. They answered me back that it has been revealed to them in the Bible, found in Exodus 20:3-5, forbidding the worship of graven images. Because I was a die-hard Roman Catholic member, I erroneously asserted my wrong faith. My sister patiently explained the Word of God plainly. She gave me a Bible to study and prayed for me.

I studied it, rightly dividing the word of truth with their help and explanations. The Pastor and some members of the Church of God at San Jose City conducted Bible studies successively until I resorted to the truth and obeyed the gospel.

Now, I am happy and peaceful despite life's difficulties, trials and sorrows. The Lord has truly changed my heart and my whole life. Oh, it's so sweet to love and serve God and have a hope for an everlasting life. I really thank the Lord my Creator for my salvation and for His family, the blessed Church of God.

My stronghold of faith has been found in John 14:1-3. "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to

prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Thank the Lord for this precious promise. I will try my best to be faithful to Him forever because I want to go to my Father and be with Him in Glory someday.

Beloved saints, if you're cumbered with a load of care bring them to God and He will carry the burden for you. Surrender your whole life, repent from your sins and He is just to forgive you. We need Him badly in these times. Praise the Lord, He is so good to those who love and obey Him. —"Elvira Triumfante"

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Beloved brethren, have you been burdened with problems? Yes, all have experienced heavy problems, and I am one of those who has had a tragic problem. Late one evening, at around 9:30 p.m., an armed man suddenly awakened us, forcefully causing us to be frightened with much fear. I didn't know what to do. I asked myself, what sin have we committed against these men? Why are they dragging us out of our own home? We could not fight them because they had guns pointing at us ready to kill. They pointed the tip of the gun towards the head of my husband.

Suddenly the gun fired resulting in the death of my husband. The men ran away after the killing, and we were left not knowing what to do. I lost control of my feelings. It seemed that a heavy stone was over my body. With deep agony in my heart, I shouted over the dead body, "God has forsaken us, He is not very good. Why does He let such things happen to us?" I was deeply wounded in my spirit. All our plans for the family had vanished away.

I planned to retaliate, but one night my head trembled with a severe headache. The Spirit of God came to me and suddenly I was able to pronounce the words, "Lord, please help me. I am not able to bear these pains any more. I need you Lord, I need you now." I cried and asked Him to forgive me. I gave Him all my troubles and sorrows and He has helped me to face and overcome the tragedy that has happened to me.

It did not take long for God to answer my questions. The preacher from the Church of God came, comforting me with the Words of God and telling me the value of life. Hope has been given to me because of successive Bible studies. The Words of God healed my afflictions and I draw nearer to Him, forgetting all my sorrows and pain. On December 12, 1982, I decided to follow the Lord and live for Him. This is the beginning of my new life. I left the world and worldly pleasure to follow Jesus. Oh, the song is really true. "There is joy in the service of the Master. Since I gave all to Jesus and His favor gained, Oh, wondrous streams of joy forever abound." I thank Him for saving me, thank Him for all His goodness to me. Oh, thank Him for such a mighty God I serve.

—Violeta Gutierrez

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From Mexico . . .

July 17—Greetings, beloved Saints, in the lovely name of our grand Savior; because of Him we can be saved. (John 3:16) For this reason we give thanks for His mercy.

We give thanks to the Lord because we have pressed ahead even though we are only a few here in Mexico of the Church of God. Our foundation is firm in the rock which is Christ Jesus. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." I Cor. 3:11.

For on the other hand, we are consistently with the talents, and we have done all that we could for the work of the Lord. Even though we can do nothing of ourselves, without a doubt the Lord is with us, so we can do it. In all we can overcome the enemy of our souls.

There has come over my soul a great burden in regard to the Scripture in Matt. 25:1-30. When the Lord spoke of the ten virgins, five were prudent and five were foolish. It gives me sadness when some of the Church start to tire of the wait. They start to fall and go to sleep, without having in them power or oil necessary for the coming of the Bridegroom, even though we are in the time for storing of oil.

Meditate on II Tim. 4:3-5. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

I wish that every one of the Saints would devote more time to meditate on the Scriptures according to the talents which the Lord has given them. Are we cultivating and making increase in the talent which He has given? Are we making it increase 100% or 50%? The Lord help us in everything, especially in an examination of our lives. Are our accomplishments really the accomplishments which the Lord desires?

"But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth." II Thess. 2:13. Therefore we give thanks to each one of the Saints who have provided for God's work, not only for the work here in Mexico but for any part of the world.

Continue to pray for a worker in Ojos Negros. We know that the Lord is giving a burden to some one for this place. We do not know who but we know it is necessary that it be worked out.

We are begging the Lord in prayer that he will multiply your riches spiritually and also in the material. We plead with all the Saints that we can have an exchanging of prayers.

With Christian love,

—Panchita Galindo de Escobar

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From Bendal State, Nigeria . . .

July 19—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt, and all in the Faith: Greetings in the precious name of the Lord Jesus; the Head of the Church, the infallible Christ, who walks in the midst of the seven candlesticks and whose prerogative it is to remove any of them — (Rev. 2:5).

Thank you for your letters which are safely arriving even though greatly delayed in transit at Sapele, the controlling office of Kwale Post Office. Action has

been taken with a higher Postal Authority for improvement on the mail movement between Sapele and Kwale.

The Lord continues to bless us with power to press on the battle courageously. Proved so true is the fact that all who feed on the Living Bread and drink of the Fountain-Head have His strength to journey through the land tirelessly to seek the lost. We do steadily convey the testimony we have of Jesus as Saviour, Healer and Sanctifier, to this perishing world, the result of which has been most encouraging. For what else could Philip do as soon as Christ found him, but run to his friend Nathanael, and cry, "we have found Him". This is a seeking age. We must therefore seek to become instrumental in the conversion of souls to Christ.

This writer rejoiced to be a recipient of an encouraging letter from Sis. Dorothy Keiser, now at the foreign field in Ghana, launching out into the deep to let down the net for a draught. It is praiseworthy of the Lord for her courage, drudgery and hard work which are more truly the elements of discipleship leading to ensurance of compliance with divine directive on the Great Commission. None to contend, but rather uphold the belief of Sis. Keiser that anywhere with Jesus is home, sweet home. The ministry is world-wide and not limited to a special locality or a nation.

Yours in His Army,

—Titus U. E. Enu

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From River State, Nigeria . . .

July 19—Dear Brother Wayne: With a heart satisfied by Christ and lifted to heaven with thanksgiving to God, I send greetings to you and the dear Saints. Heaven's blessings to you all. His grace and truth that has sustained us here as we press on to heaven in the strait and narrow way, is more than all the thanks we can offer Him. The Lord is still our rock.

The revival meeting for the second quarter of this year ended at Tombia on June 28, with some from Port Harcourt in attendance. All the four days except one, due to rain, were utilized for open-air evangelism. A number of people came to the altar seeking for God's help for spiritual and physical needs.

As the meeting was about to begin, Bro. Taylor suffered bereavement as a result of the death of his daughter. It was painful considering the situation, but death is inevitable as it is God's own appointment. . . Throughout the period, God gave strength and health to Bro. Taylor who carried a great responsibility.

Hope the camp meetings in the U.S. are going on successfully with fruitful results. May God bless all your efforts for souls worldwide. Prayers are ascending to the throne of grace with absolute faith in God.

With you in the Divine household,

—F. Naths-Igbani

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From Ghana . . .

July 10—Dear Sis. Maybelle, Bro. Wayne, all workers at the Print Shop and saints everywhere: Greetings of Christian love to all, from your missionary to Ghana, in the lovely name of Jesus Christ. Once again I come your way with good news from Ghana. Since the Church of God is registered, we are

free to operate in Ghana, so we have started to hold street meetings in nearby villages.

The young man, Kafi Marfo, who was on the robbery case with the police department when I was robbed last year, gave us a special invitation and requested us to hold a meeting in his home village of Wenchi. We arranged for the meeting to be held June 27-29, 1985. The chief of the village, the preachers of different churches and all the village people turned out to welcome us. We went to a school room, borrowed benches from another church, and had a full house morning and evening. The meeting was a wonderful success. Bro. Marfo fed and lodged us in his brother's modern house. He got saved along with a church house full of people. There were many prayers and fastings that went into this meeting and God hath given the increase. We are praising God for the Church that has been raised in Wenchi on a solid foundation.

Ghana is open to the gospel. We can only go as fast as prayers, fasting and funds to work with come our way. In spite of many hindrances, God is moving the Church of God forward in Ghana. There is a real hunger amongst the people for truth. All that most of the church-going people know is a form of godliness, but they are dead, denying the power of God to live free from sin. The people themselves tell me this: "born, raised, live and die in a church, but never made a new creature in Christ Jesus." Pray for us and help us to get the gospel out.

I am still working on a resident permit. If I don't get it by August 27th, I will have to leave the country and return again. I will have to either go to Togo or Nigeria, and enter Ghana again with another short visa. They have given me all the time they can on my present visa (6 months).

There is another evil in Ghana that needs to be stopped, and that is witch and wizard craft. Many believe that when a baby is born, if they are not protected, a witch or a wizard can get to them and either feed them something or bathe them in something that is supposed to cause them to be witches and wizards in life. Every family has someone afflicted with this craft. The land is full of these spirits. I have been told that there are many evil spirits working against me here, but if I keep myself in the love of God, they cannot harm me. I shall prevail over them with fasting and prayer.

I have asked Bro. John Peprah to relate his experiences with witchcraft in regards to his daughter. It took a week of fasting and prayer to break the power of it. She is delivered. Praise God!

—Sis. Dorothy Keiser

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Dear Saints everywhere: I want to write my testimony of how our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ delivered my 12 year-old daughter, Joyce Peprah.

It all started at about 1:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 12, 1985. My daughter complained of a stomach ache. She cried writhing in pain. I lay my hand on her stomach rebuking the pain in Jesus name. It vanished and she slept instantly. When we got up in the morning she complained the pain had come back. I rushed her to the mission house where Madam Keiser, Jim and I prayed for her.

At about 10:15 a.m., the pain came back. It came in an acute stage; she screamed and wrenched her stomach in agony. She yelled, "I can't survive! This is the end of me! The witches are leaving my intestines, they are going out my right eye. One of the witches is right here in the house." etc. Her stomach was very hard and her right eye red. She was a pathetic sight.

I assured her that she was not going to die because Jesus was going to deliver her. Just then Madam Keiser appeared on the scene. Both of us laid our hands on her commanding all evil spirits in Jesus name to let go their hold. We rebuked them strongly and she was delivered.

Later on I took her to a quiet place where I could be with her alone. I fed her on the Word of God to strengthen her faith; prayed for her and fasted with her. After two days her hard stomach and swollen eye began to heal. She was completely healed in four days. What a wonderful thing the Lord did for me and my daughter.

I have had many frightening encounters with these "forces of darkness" since I started working for the Lord, but He has always delivered me gloriously. I started my ministration with this prayer, "Lord, open thou my eyes and let me see the wonders of your law." Psalms 119:18. I have made a strong appeal to Him to give me an insight into the operations of these powers and principalities against whom we wrestle. The Lord God who is ever ready to glorify the name of His holy Son Jesus did listen to my humble prayer.

These witches and wizards, agents of Satan, feel that Christians make it very difficult for them to operate, and so they try in diverse ways to hinder the gospel work, cause confusion and disunity among saints, and spiritually kill where the believer's faith is weak.

As we, the workers of the Church of God in Ghana embark on serious street meetings, we ask the saints all over the world to pray to God to endue us with His mighty power to cast out these destructive spirits like Paul did in Philippi (Acts 16:16-18).

—John Yaw Peprah

From the Mailbox . . .

LA—Dear Readers of "Faith and Victory" paper: Greetings of love to all in the name of our precious Redeemer!

This morning I praise Him for victory. He is teaching and I am eager to learn. I stay busy studying to show myself approved unto Him. (II Tim. 2:15.) Let us be willing to suffer all things for the salvation of souls. Although others will read our life, yet we are not to measure our life by what others do; only as Paul said, "Follow me as I follow Christ." Daily we meet with things that must be committed to Him. The Lord doesn't want us to fret or waste our thinking over other's faults. When things arise that we need to talk about, we do well to enter our private prayer room and talk it all over

with God, and leave it there. O the sweet soul rest when we do this! I can still hear my mother saying, "now just hush children, always remember that the least said is always the easiest mended."

Let us constantly check our attitude. Honesty with ourselves is a must. This is one thing many have trouble with because they want to be right and strongly mean to be, but fail somehow to allow themselves to see themselves. They have this attitude, "Well, I mean well and I know I stand for what is right."

During the storm yesterday, I looked from my window at some small trees in the wind and rain as they would bow very low toward the ground and with all of the water on the leaves looked limp. This struck me as real humility, now this morning those trees stand up fresh, green and strong. This is an example of what humility will do for us. Heaven is my goal and souls my concern. Pray for me.

In Christian love, -Gladys S. Cashio

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

MO—Dear Sister Maybelle: We are basking in God's love and mercy and enjoying living every day for Him. Through earnest prayer we are seeing many of our problems solved. We thank the Lord for never failing us. We are also grateful for the saint who continually make sacrifices to put forth the truth . . .

May the Lord continue to bless your efforts in the Lord's Print Shop.

Yours in Christ, -Joyce Hall

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

OK—Dear Saints and Workers at the Print Shop: We thank the Lord for this precious salvation that has lifted us up out of the deep miry pits of sin and placed us on the solid rock of Christ Jesus. This is a most enjoyable way to live—a life of righteousness free from all manner of sin. We ask the Lord daily to temper our souls and make us of use in His service.

We appreciate the printed word as it is much encouragement to our souls. We pray the Lord to bless each one as they labor for Him.

Christian love and prayers,
-David and Pam Kramer

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

MS—Dear Ones: Thank you for your sweet letter of some time back.

I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper very much, and get a spiritual blessing from reading it.

Since I will soon be 84 years old (July 18) I know I am living in my last days. I do want to do something for my dear Saviour, as He has done so much for me. He has never failed me. He has given me strength and health to do my work and drive my car to go to church.

I have been alone now for almost eleven years, and He has been so good to me. I want to understand more of what He tells us in His precious word. . . .

Christian love, -Grace Gill

WV—To Bro. Murphey: Will you please thank all the Saints for me that had the burden and called my name to God in prayer.

There will never be a time in our lives that we don't need God more than any thing else. If we have Him, we have all we need, for He has promised to supply all our needs

I am nearly 83 years old and I live by myself. I cook what I eat but I can't get out to church. I am saved, sanctified and ready to go when God calls. I still want the Church to call my name in prayer to God if He puts me before them.

I love the paper you send out.

A sister in the faith of our dear Christ and Lord.

-Gladys Morgan

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

CA—To the faithful workers at the Print Shop: We send greetings of love to you dear ones. We trust God is blessing each one and keeping you encouraged in the Lord. Husband has some real afflictions that we would appreciate your prayers for

With our prayers,—Bro. and Sis. H. P. Huskey

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

MD—I don't know who gave me this subscription but I have really enjoyed reading the *Faith and Victory* magazine. Keep up the good works.

-Stanley Hines

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

CA—Dear Workers at the Print Shop: Greetings of Christian love to all of you. I appreciate the *Faith and Victory* paper and the good work you are doing.

Today I am writing with a heavy heart to notify you that our dear Sister Opal Williams of Modesto, California passed away some time night before last. (July 10) She has gone to be with the Lord and we will miss her so much, but we rejoice in that she is now free from all pain and with the angels in heaven. She had suffered so much for so long.

She would say to us, "Continue praying for my unsaved loved ones." Let us do that.

She enjoyed the *Faith and Victory* paper, as I also do. She often called me and discussed something she had read in it. Her main interest was the Lord, His work and His saints. It thrilled her to get letters from any of the saints.

I mean to make heaven my eternal home. The Lord is good to all of us.

Pray for me and my unsaved loved ones.

Christian love, -Edith Reavis

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

NY—Dear Bros. in the Lord: I have received the *Faith and Victory* for years. I found in the May, 1985 paper, a good message in the *Question and Answer* column. I needed it all these years. It was about making restitution. Back in 1936 my Aunt talked me into taking money from her mother, so I did. I was going with my husband at the time. He took the money and bought a horse and buggy, a suit and a dress for me. It was only \$200.00, things were dirt cheap in those days. No one ever said anything about the money. Every one of the family has passed on . . . When I read that column I sure wanted to get that all

given back to the Lord. A money order is enclosed. More will follow as I receive it. I want to be like Zacchaeus. He understood, so do I now. I will go on as the Lord supplies. I'll send more until done . . .

Yours for souls,

—Mae E. Smith

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OK—To the saints of the Most High God, working in the Print Shop, and scattered abroad: Greetings in Jesus' marvelous name!

I pray you are all well and encouraged to press the battle to complete victory.

I'm glad to report that souls are being saved (in this dark place) in spite of all that Satan can do. He is a defeated foe!

Bro. and Sis. Alton Stubblefield have graciously been encouraging me during my imprisonment, for which I truly thank God and them. Also, as some may know, Bro. Richard Madden and some of the Sapulpa, Ok., saints have (for a number of years now) been coming to prisons to "snatch some from the burning." For them, too, we are most grateful.

It is a very trying and lonesome existence, here in prison. I beg for, and covet your prayers. I cannot make it without you.

Should some of you feel impressed to write me, I would be most happy to hear from you. My address is: E. E. Johnson, #98893, P.O. Box 220, Conner Correctional Center, Homing, Ok., 74035.

I'm praying desperately for the day I can once again attend services and hear the glorious songs of Zion and pure messages from heaven. Please help me pray for "complete" freedom.

One of God's least, —Bro. Elbert Johnson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MO—Dear Saints: Greetings in Jesus name. I want to say that I love the Lord and thank Him for His many blessings to me and my family. As they were growing up He blessed and healed us many times.

Since the children have grown up, I have let the cares of life weigh me down and I feel that I have come short of the faith that I needed in time of trouble.

I surely thank the Lord for the saints that came to my home and talked and prayed with me. I think you can just feel a saint's love. I needed their concern and support. I feel that God has forgiven me of everything and I would like to ask the saints to also forgive me.

May the Lord bless the saints every where and bless you each at the Print Shop.

Christian love,

—Nelva Stanley

A Continuing Ministry

What can be more encouraging than to know that if we invest our time, talent and treasure in the ministry of God's Word, our labor can continue to bear fruit beyond the years of our life. "He being dead yet speaketh . . ." Heb. 11:4. —Selected

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

LA—Dear Sis. Maybelle and co-workers in the Lord's Print Shop: Greetings in the precious name of our dear Redeemer, Jesus Christ. I love Him because He first loved me. Praise His sweet name. . . .

I had trouble with sinus and a cough for about two weeks, but the Lord has healed me. I am so thankful. It's so wonderful to be free from aches and pains and coughs. The Lord is so good to us. We do want to be more grateful, and live close to Him where we can hear His still small voice.

Pray for me as I mean to be faithful unto the end. I know according to nature that it will not be long as I am 82 years old. I am still able to do my housework for which I do thank the dear Lord.

May God bless you and the work there. We appreciate the paper, tracts and books very much.

With Christian love and prayers,

—Effie Miller

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OR—Dear Saints of God: I feel I should write of the recent healing to my body which the Lord did for me. On Wednesday evening my left knee began to swell and pain real bad. Later, pains spread from my waist down through all of the leg to my toes. I prayed, went to bed and slept fairly good. Thursday a.m. I got up, made my bed and laid on top most all day, talking to the Lord about it. He brought to my mind Rom. 8:24, 25. "For we are saved by hope; but hope that is seen is not hope. For what a man seeth, why does he yet hope for? BUT, if we hope for that we see not, we do with patience wait for it." Praise the Lord. Also, Luke 18:6, 7, 8, about the unjust Judge and the widow, "And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night to him, though he bear long with them. I tell you he will avenge them speedily."

Friday I was too sick to get out of bed. In the evening two sisters from church brought me some food and before leaving they prayed for me. Then Monday evening, Bro. and Sis. Wilson and another sister came, visited, sang songs and we all joined in prayer as Bro. Wilson led. They soon left and I rested. . . Then I thought of something in the other room that I felt I could do. I jumped up and went and did it and several other things. Then I realized I didn't have my crutch nor bandage on my knee. Praise the Lord, I knew I was healed, I just continued working till tired. I waited patiently for Him and He avenged me so speedily I didn't know when He did it. Thank God for all His blessings to me. Pray for me.

Christian love,

—Violet P. Benson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OR—Dear Sister Maybelle: Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus! The Lord is so good and just lately He has done miraculous things for me and Fred.

On June 13th as Fred and I were on our way to the Jefferson camp meeting, away up in the mountains the water hose to the radiator on his pickup sprung a leak. All the water steamed out of the radiator. Fred hadn't brought any water along, not even his usual jug for drinking water. We felt so helpless, for where were we going to get any water

away up there in those mountains? I suppose Fred was praying, I know I was. Fred taped up the hole in the water hose and then walked down the hillside and found a spring of clear crystal water. He made trip after trip, with his small water jugs and filled the radiator. We went on then perhaps another 50 miles when the same thing happened to the hose. The water all steamed out of the radiator and there we were with no water to refill the radiator. He taped up the hole and walked across the highway and found another spring of water. Surely the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and we know that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Rom. 8:28.

The Lord has been so good to me. Only a few months ago I had the flu and it left me so weak. Gradually the Lord has given me strength for each day.

With love,

—Sis. Lucille Trimble

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

CA—This is a testimony about how God came to my rescue. Around 34 years ago I had a light attack of something in my left side. It then affected my heart and even my tongue. I could not talk for awhile. My husband called the saints to pray and it wasn't long before I could talk. That was a wonderful touch from God . . . After that I began to get where I couldn't digest any food. I was told that I had had a stroke which had ruined my digestion. I was put on a liquid diet. Around three years later I got to where I couldn't even digest the liquids. The saints continued to pray for me. One night the Lord came and healed me so that I could eat normal. Oh, thank God! That was such a miracle. I surely mean to tell what He has done for me. Others may need Him too.

We thank God's people everywhere for your prayers and all the good deeds you are doing for us.

Your sister in the one faith,

—Jessella Ausbie

Question and Answer Column

by

Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Is it right for one to be bearing "Bishop" as a name?

Answer: I presume the questioner in this case has reference to "Bishop" as a title in connection with one's name such as, "Bishop John Doe". First of all I would point out to all of us that we should never identify the Scriptural term "Bishop" in the New Testament with the term as used in modern Christendom with all its attached pomp and preeminence. They are far different in their usage and meaning. It would certainly be wrong for an humble saint minister to attach that title to his name in its modern usage and meaning.

However, the term "Bishop" is a Scriptural term found different times in the New Testament and in connection with "Overseer", "Oversight", and "Elder" all of which derive from the same root word, occur a number of times in the New Testament, and refer to the same office. "Bishop" does refer to an office in the Church and not to any particular individual. In 1 Tim. 3:1, Paul says, ". . . if a man desire the OFFICE of a bishop, he desireth a good work." I do not recall any of our brother ministers attaching the term "Bishop" to their name so I am not used to it and it would probably cause me a little shock and a little raising of my eyebrows and wrinkling of my forehead to see it. However, several of our brethren have attached the term "Elder" to their names which is the same thing.

In Titus 1:5, Paul says, "For this cause left I thee, that thou shouldest . . . ordain ELDERS in every city, Then Titus 1:7 says, "For a BISHOP must be blameless, as the steward of God. . ." It is evident here that "Elder" in verse 5 and "Bishop" in verse 7 are used interchangeably and referred to the same office. We also see here that a "Bishop" was the "Steward" of God. In I Cor. 4:1, Paul declares himself to be a minister of Christ and "Steward" of the mysteries of God. Then Paul was a "Bishop" though he never attached that term as such to his name. Paul continues in I Cor. 4:2, "Moreover it is required in STEWARDS, that a man be found faithful." In I Tim. 1:12 he said again, "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me FAITHFUL, putting me into the ministry. . ." Again in Luke 12:42, we read, "And the Lord said, Who then is that FAITHFUL and wise STEWARD, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?" This verse is important because it makes it clear what the duties of a "Steward" ("Bishop") are — to give the household of God their portion of meat in due season. Or as Peter puts it in I Peter 5:2, "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight [or "Bishopric"] thereof. . ." He continues in verse 3, "Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock."

Oh, how different this is from the modern ecclesiastical "Bishop" in his pomp, preeminence and position of "LORD" over God's heritage. In Luke 12:43 Jesus said further concerning the "FAITHFUL" and good "Steward" (Bishop), "Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing." Paul said in Titus 1:7 that a "Bishop" was the "Steward" of God and in Luke 12:42-43 "Steward" (Bishop) are used interchangeably which makes it clear that a Scriptural Bishop is a servant—not a lord.

I will say again in closing that I have never known of any of the brethren attaching the term "Bishop" to their name or signature. Neither do I recall any place in the New Testament of any of those brethren using it either—such as Bishop Paul, Bishop Peter, Bishop Timothy, etc.—though all of these were Bishops. We have one case where Peter referred to himself as an "Elder" (I Pet. 5:1) and "Bishop" and "Elder" were interchangeable terms in the New Testament usage and referred to the same office (Titus 1:5 & 7). However, I think that perhaps Peter referred to himself as an "Elder" here not so

much to emphasize his eldership as to equate himself with the other elders. His statement here is "The elders which are among you, I exhort, who am also an elder." He was placing himself right among them and not above them.

Some of the brethren have used the term "Elder" and some "Pastor" attached to their name and signature. I think the most of them just sign their name without any other identifying term attached at all. I don't know that we could have any Scriptural quarrel with anyone who used any of these terms—Bishop, Elder, or Pastor—in their signature because they are all Scriptural terms and identify the office and position of the individual. Perhaps the reason our brethren have not used the term "Bishop" is because of the pomp, honor, and position it signifies in the modern religious world today which is entirely foreign and strange to the humble, lowly servants of the Church to whom it was applied in the New Testament.

What Some Men Have Said About Profanity

"It chills my blood to hear the blest Supreme rudely appealed to on each trifling theme. Maintain your rank, vulgarity despise. To swear is neither brave, polite, nor wise."

—Cowper

"Profanity is both an unreasonable and an unmanly sin, a violation alike of good taste and good morals; an offence against both man and God. Some sins are productive of temporary profit or pleasure; but profaneness is productive of nothing unless it be shame on earth, and damnation in hell. It is the most gratuitous of all kinds of wickedness, a sort of peppercorn [trifling] acknowledgment of the sovereignty of the devil over those who indulge in it."

—Tryon Edwards

"The foolish and wicked practice of profane cursing and swearing is a vice so mean and low, that every person of sense and character detests and despises it."

—Washington

"Blasphemous words betray the vain foolishness of the speaker."

—P. Sidney

"Common swearing, if it have any serious meaning at all, argues in man a perpetual distrust of his own reputation, and is an acknowledgment that he thinks his bare word not to be worthy of credit. And it is so far from adorning and filling a man's discourse, that it makes it look swollen and bloated, and more bold and blustering than becomes persons of genteel and good breeding."

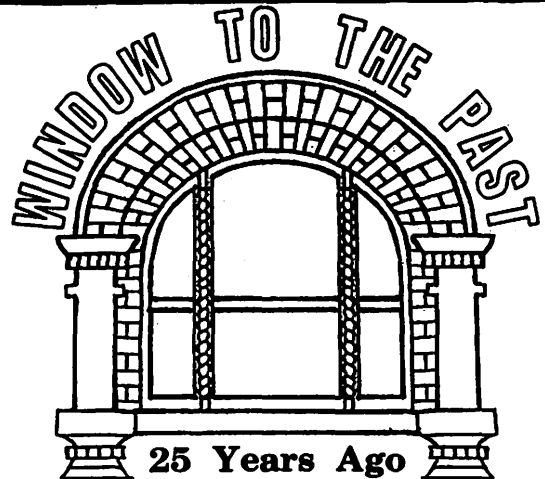
—Tillotson

"Profaneness is a brutal vice. He who indulges in it is no gentleman. I care not what his stamp may be in society, or what clothes he wears, or what culture he boasts. Despite all his refinement, the light and habitual taking of God's name in vain, betrays a coarse and brutal will."

—E. H. Chapin

"Profanity never did any man the least good. No man is the richer, or happier, or wiser, for it. It commends no one to any society. It is disgusting to the refined; abominable to the good; insulting to those with whom we associate; degrading to the mind; unprofitable, needless, and injurious to society."

—Gibbon



Excerpts Taken From

September, 1960 *Faith and Victory*

"I was crying and praying to the heavenly Father day and night, asking Him if there were any old-time saints, to help me find them. So God heard and did answer prayer. Praise His dear name. One day a little paper got to me, I don't know how, called *Faith and Victory* and I read it and told my wife to order it for me. I believed it was the real Church of God. In a few days I came in from work and wife said there had been three people inquiring for me, and said they would be back. That night they came back and began to talk like saints of God and act like saints of God. We sang praises to God and read God's Word and had prayer. How God did bless in that service! Praise His dear name forever. I really do thank the Lord for these ones."

—John W. Rice

"I was thankful how the Lord helped me to work for Him. On my way to the meeting (Monark Springs) and back I gave out *Faith and Victory* papers and books, and talked to precious souls. We surely do have lots to do for Jesus. I tell you, dear ones, we must be busy about our Father's business."

—Nora Clayton

"I am writing a request for some of your Bible tracts to give out. Sir, I wasn't a Christian when I made a trip down to my former home at Winston Salem, NC. But when I was returning to my home here, a lady got on the bus in Richmond, Va., giving out some of your Bible tracts. The one she gave me was entitled something like this, 'Where Will I Be Five Minutes After I Die?' Sir, I read and studied that tract and somewhere between Richmond and New York City, Christ came into my life. I am thankful and I praise the Lord for His goodness to me."

—Mrs. George Dennison

"I want to thank the saints for their prayers when I was so very sick. The Lord surely was with me in my sickness. I had a ruptured appendix. I didn't know it at the time, but later I was told that I had been given only two hours to live."

—Lester Gordon