

FAITH AND VICTORY

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"Every Man To His Tent"



(A MESSAGE GIVEN BY BRO. CLIFFORD
WILSON ON JANUARY 12, 1986)

I sure do thank the Lord this morning for salvation. I am glad that we have the privilege to commit ourselves to God's hand. I know that He is faithful. I would like for us to spend some time this morning in the twentieth chapter of second Samuel. Let us read an account that is given here beginning at the first verse, "And there happened to be there a man of Belial". That is an ominous thing already, isn't it? "And there happened to be there a man of Belial whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite, and he blew a trumpet, and said, We have no part in David, neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to his tents, O Israel. So every man of Israel went up from after David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri: but the men of Judah clave unto their king, from Jordan even to Jerusalem." In this one sentence, the last part of the first verse, he said, "neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to his tents, O, Israel." In the Jewish economy, in the old law system, when the armies of Israel went forth to battle and were defeated, the conflict had gone in the other direction, they were subdued and it came to the place that the leadership was gone, their organization was gone, their unity was gone, the cry would go out through the ranks, "Every man to his own tent." And so they dispersed and the battle was lost. Notice this now in connection with this reading. "And there happened to be a

man of Belial." I understand Belial to be of the opposite influence to the good. This man did not possess any good intent, neither did he have any good purpose. He was a "man of Belial, his name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite, and he blew a trumpet." He sounded forth his message to the people and this is what he said, "We have no part in David, neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to his tents, O Israel." There comes a time in every experience, in every man's life, when he will hear the suggestion in his ear, "I am not a part of this any longer; this is not what I think it ought to be, this is not what I expected and therefore I feel justified to withdraw or to step aside." That is pretty serious, but that happens to individuals. Satan is wise and he is cunning in his manifestations. He is smart enough to know that if he can get one isolated, off alone, that one is easier to subdue than the group, so he strives in that direction. If he can get someone pulled off aside, saying, "Well I just can't quite go along, I just can't quite accept all this. This is out of fix and that is out of fix and so I'll just have to pull aside." You can even find Scripture to support that kind of stance, but there are some other things to consider that go along with this. This not only happens and occurs on an individual basis but occasionally there are those who come along and sound the trumpet for everybody to hear. "The thing has

gone to the dogs. Every thing is backsliding into the world. People are not holding the standards anymore. Christianity is not what it used to be or ought to be; nothing to do but disperse. Every man to his own tent." That is a sure way to find yourself in Satan's hands.

By virtue of what do we evaluate the Church? We need to get a hold of this as children of God. If we start looking around at each other, measuring ourselves by ourselves, comparing ourselves among ourselves, and looking at one another, there is not a one of us if you want to put us under the magnifying glass that there won't be faults show up in our lives. We're all

fullness, and if everyone will measure to the fullness of its standard, it will produce righteousness, holiness and acceptability before Him in that individual. That is all we need, isn't it?

"Somebody else is not living like I think they ought to live." Does that give me a license to live to less? It ought to spur everyone of us to live better. "Someone is falling short. Did you see what so and so did? Did you hear what they said? Oh, things are falling apart! Everybody to his own tent. There's nothing left, it's all gone." It is **not** all gone. The truth is still here. The plumb line is still standing. The gospel is still preached in its fullness, and there is still suffi-

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human. We are not gods. We make mistakes. We are not perfect in knowledge. We are not perfect in understanding. We are not perfect in capability. We are only able to measure to God's law as we perceive it and understand it. We are able to measure to the extent that we are able to appropriate His grace. We have no other facilities available to us by which to do that. There will be times that we will come short and if someone wanted to begin to examine us and to pick us apart, so to speak, and to look us over, they will find faults and be able to criticize and all like that. That is not the basis on which to evaluate God's plan of salvation to humanity. We need to look at it from the standpoint of God's Word. When the Word is taught in all of its fullness, and the gospel goes forth in such a manner that for every soul that will in honesty and sincerity receive it and measure up to it, it will adjust his life in such a manner that he can be accepted in the realm of holiness, that is probably about as much as we will get from the gospel. Have you ever thought of that? Oh no, if the truth goes forth, that means that everybody that hears it is going to immediately snap to attention and move up to standard. No, it won't work that way, it never has worked that way. There are always those who will try to get by with less. There are always those who won't go all the way, who won't pay a full price, who won't make a complete dedication. Yet, they will go along with the group. If you are looking at the group and expecting to find a model, you probably won't find it there because there will be a mixed multitude, that will live there. Then what is the real value and what is the criterion that we use to evaluate in order to find out what God is expecting? When the Word is there in its

cient instruction for every man that if he will measure his life to the requirements of the gospel he can be saved and meet God in peace at the end of the way.

What is it that distinguishes the Church of God from every other movement and organization that you can think of? This is it. The gospel is taught in its fullness for every man to accept and measure to if he will. Look at other movements and recognize how they adjust, how they change, how they fix it to suit themselves! "Oh, you can come on and be a Christian, there's none of us can be saved from sin anyway." When you go there and follow that doctrine you can expect to be lost at the end of the way. Do you hear that kind of teaching in the Church of God? Is it taught in the Church of God that men can knowingly transgress God's law and still be accepted as good saints and still be good solidly saved? If we do, then we have disintegrated, we have changed, the guidelines have moved and it can justly be said that it is time to withdraw and pull aside. But I don't see those standards being moved. It is still taught in the Church of God. If we want to get to heaven, we have to live a holy life. If we expect to meet God in peace we have to quit the sin business. If we want to be overcomers in this life we have to get rid of our self life; and right on down the line. We need to be a clean people. Then there is the place to establish our standards. Someone else doesn't do that? Alright, I feel sorry for those who are not what they should be and am willing to pray for them and I will do everything I can to help them. In the meantime, I'm going to see to it that I measure my life to the fullness of the standard. It need not be a deterrent to me at all because someone else falls short. I have got

to go to heaven for me. I can not take everybody else. If it is so that we can, then we are all falling short a great deal in our Christian responsibility. I don't see that. Every man has to go for himself. Let us be diligent to see that we take care of our own election.

"And there happened to be there a man of Belial, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite: and he blew a trumpet . . ." Why is it that when someone begins to get disgruntled, begins to grow lukewarm, comes to something that they don't hardly want to measure to, finds things that they are dissatisfied with, the first thing that you hear is criticism? "The whole thing is going down." It just works that way, doesn't it? This ought to put a caution in our souls. When we recognize such symptoms, let us realize that it doesn't make any difference what somebody else does, I can live right and be saved. "So he blew the trumpet, we don't have any part in David, neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse . . ." "You see, we're excluded now. This is kind of a closed fraternity. You can come along and be a guest if you want to. You can come and sit in there, but you are not really a part." We have heard all these arguments through the years. "You can come and be there alright, but to really be a part of it, you don't have any part." Oh, yes you do. If you have measured to the stature of the fullness of Christ, if you have obeyed His Word and kept His commands, if you are walking to all you know and understand of the requirements of the gospel, you are a child of God just the same as everybody else that has met that standard. It is those who fail to meet that, that are not children of God, just like you wouldn't be if you didn't meet it. We are all alike; we are just

people who really didn't want to live a close life anyway and so this offered an easier route. Kind of serious, isn't it? "So every man of Israel went up from after David and followed Sheba, the son of Bichri: but the men of Judah clave unto their king, from Jordan even unto Jerusalem." Thank the Lord that there is always some who will stand by the truth.

Continue down now to the fourth verse, "Then said the king to Amasa, Assemble me the men of Judah, within three days and be thou here present. So Amasa went to assemble the men of Judah, but he tarried longer than the set time which he had appointed him. And David said to Abishai, Now shall Sheba the son of Bichri do us more harm than Absalom." There was a span of time, a space in there, that something could have been done that would have handled the situation with less damage. Did you notice that? "Then said the king to Amasa, Assemble me men of Judah within three days and be thou here present. So Amasa went to assemble the men of Judah but he tarried longer than the set time." Things are like this: the longer they go the worse they get. The longer we tolerate this kind of thinking, the longer we harbor these kind of attitudes, the bigger they will grow, the more entrenched they become, the harder they are to root out. The stronger they get the greater hold they get on us. He said within a "set time which he had appointed him. And David said to Abishai," another man now, "Now shall Sheba the son of Bichri do more harm than did Absalom." The king recognized that there was a trouble, a malady, an affliction here that needed to be taken care of and he took steps in that direction but it wasn't quick enough. He recognized, now our damage will be

"Well, the Church is not what it used to be. Things are going down. Nobody is living like they ought to live."

human. Without divine assistance none of us would be saved. With divine assistance in our hearts we can all be saved. You say, "Well, we don't have any part, therefore we can't go with this any longer." ". . . Neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to his tents, O Israel. So every man of Israel went up from after David . . ." Have you ever seen that? Someone jumps up and starts an agitation, "Well, the Church is not what it used to be. Things are going down. Nobody is living like they ought to live." The first thing you know, here they have a big following. It just works that way, doesn't it? Nine times out of ten you will find the people following such as that are

worse than it would have been otherwise. May the Lord help us to realize that the sooner we can recognize and can recover ourselves from this type of influence the less damage we will sustain in the overall picture. "Take thou thy Lord's servants, and pursue after him, lest he get him fenced cities," --defenses if you will,-- "and escape us. And there went out after him Joab's men, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and all the mighty men: and they went out of Jerusalem, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri." They had their whole focus and attention on this problem and they went forth to do something with it.

(To be continued next month)

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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SUBSCRIPTION RATES



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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.

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EDITORIALS

"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." Ps. 139:14. We can verify from the depths of our soul the feeling that the Psalmist David expressed in this verse. When we behold that which was created and how the elements work together in harmony, we are made to stand in awe before an all wise Creator.

Once an efficiency expert was sent to a lumber camp in the north woods to check on the efficiency of the workers. The first thing he noticed as he was being driven through the snow was that the lumberjack driver had the buffalo lap robe turned the "wrong" way. "Turn the lap robe over, if you don't mind," he suggested, "with the hair side next to us and with the skin side out. You see, you're losing about thirty percent of your heat the way you're using it." So the lumberjack obeyed, laughing all the while. "Are you laughing at me, sir?" asked the expert. "Oh, no," was the reply. "I'm not laughing at you. I'm laughing at that buffalo. He wore the hide the way I had it turned for twenty years and never knew the difference." This aptly illustrates the point that man in all his scientific wisdom still fails to understand exactly how nature works, much less how it was created.

In the movement of time toward its destination of meeting eternity, it is but another sign of its close proximity that men refuse to believe in the Creator. We are past the stage of evolution being introduced into society, but we can see where it has firmly taken root. Some of the most well known publications, those accepted as quality material, print the theory of evolution as an accepted fact. Just recently the Supreme Court struck down the laws of several states that required the belief in creation to be presented along with the theory of evolution.

The theory of evolution is heavily promulgated by humanistic thinking. In the Humanist Manifesto II, which first appeared in print in 1973, it states, "Any account of nature should pass the test of scientific evidence; in our judgment, the dogmas and myths of traditional religions do not do so." If we were to utilize this same proposition, evolution would certainly fail the test. Proponents of evolution have many theories which sound impressive to those who are willing to accept them, but their theories often are woefully lacking in proof. Dr. Robert A. Millikan, famous physicist and Nobel prize winner, said, "The pathetic thing about it is that many scientists are trying to prove the

doctrine of evolution, which no scientist can do." Dr. Millikan is an evolutionist, but he is honest enough to admit it is a theory that can not be proved.

Proponents of evolution would make it appear that it is a weakness for a person to simply accept the story of creation. When you really stop and think about it, which is the most logical to believe; that Henry Ford designed the car or that it just evolved? Although I did not see Henry Ford create the car, I am willing to accept the word of those who did, just as I am also willing to accept the Word of Christ (Mark 13:19) who was present at the creation and who had a hand in it. (John 1:1-3.)

The belief in evolution is a giant leap toward infidelity. The Humanist Manifesto II continues to say, "We find insufficient evidence for belief in the existence of a supernatural; it is either meaningless or irrelevant to the question of survival and the fulfillment of the human race. As nontheists, we begin with humans not God, nature not deity." I wonder just how meaningless or irrelevant to the question of survival and the fulfillment of the human race it will be to those who penned those words when Christ returns in glory and judgment? (II Thess. 1:7-10.) It will mean much if at that time we can testify with the Psalmist David, "marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."

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We are soon planning to stock a new tract entitled, "God's Mercy On Me." It is a brief history of Bro. Elbert Johnson. This eight page tract may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope. In quantities it may be purchased at a rate of 15 for 75¢ or 100 for \$3.00. When ordering, be sure to specify the tract by its title.

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From the time that you receive this paper until the end of May, you may send in subscriptions for the *Faith and Victory* at the rate of 3 one-year subscriptions for \$1.00. We hope that you will take this opportunity to share the gospel with your friends, neighbors and loved ones.

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We wish to congratulate our co-worker, Bro. Bob Saltee, and his wife Sis. Irma, on the birth of their son, Stephen Eric on March 15th.

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We want to thank those who responded in helping with the purchase of a new shipment of paper. It is scheduled to be delivered March 26, just prior to this issue going to press.

—Wayne Murphey

Camp Meeting Dates for 1986

Goulds, FL — April 13-20.
 Oklahoma State at Guthrie, OK —
 May 30-June 8.
 Green Bank, WV — June 13-22.
 Jefferson, OR — June 13-22.
 Tulsa, OK — June 13-22.
 Oakland, CA — June 20-29.
 Chilliwack, B.C., Canada — June 21-26.
 General Southern at Loranger, LA —
 June 27-July 6.
 Fresno, CA — July 4-13.
 Akron, OH — July 6-13.
 National at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO
 July 18-27.
 Missouri State at Myrtle, MO —
 July 28-Aug. 3.
 Bakersfield, CA — Aug. 1-10.
 Duncannon, PA — Aug. 10-17 or as the
 Lord leads.
 Boley, OK — Aug. 17-24

In Memorial

Rosie Lee Moland, the daughter of James and Ida Penny, was born April 16, 1911, in Arkansas. She departed this life Oct. 12, 1985, in Bakersfield, CA, at the age of 74 years, 5 months, and 26 days.

While a young child Rosie Lee, with her parents, moved to Oklahoma, settling in Okfuskee County (near Boley).

In 1925, in Boley, OK, she met and was united in marriage to Willie "Bill" Moland. To this union 15 children were born. Two sons preceded her in death.

In Boley she heard the teachings of the Church of God, under the leadership of Bros. Z. E. Francisco and W. W. Crawley. She and her husband readily accepted the truth and were saved. She served the Lord faithfully for many years. She and her husband faithfully and dutifully reared their children and taught them the ways of the Lord.

In 1937 she and the family moved to Bakersfield, Ca, where she remained until her home going.

Sis. Rosie was a kind and soft-spoken person. Her gentleness and warm affection greatly influenced the lives of the family, saints and community. She will be missed greatly by all.

She leaves to cherish these memories six sons, Clifford and Terry Moland, Los Angeles, CA, Carl and LeRoy Moland, Bakersfield, CA,

Billy Moland, Jr., Oakland, CA, and Calvin Moland, Seattle, WA; seven daughters, Gladys Montgomery, Bakersfield, CA, Gracie Dillard, Oakland, CA, Ida Hagen and Rose Mary Dayes, Los Angeles, CA, Betty Jean Alexander and Linda Moland, Seattle, WA, Aulah Bostick, Sacramento, CA; 10 wonderful brothers, one loving sister, one uncle, 38 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, one of her many loving friends, Geneva Norling, Bakersfield, Ca, many other nieces, nephews, other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were held in the saint's chapel in Bakersfield, CA, by Bros. Robert C. Mays, Adriel Bowman and others. She was laid to rest in Union Cemetery in Bakersfield, CA.

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Merna Bowers Rush was born May 21, 1965 and passed away to be with the Lord on Dec. 24, 1985. Funeral services were held in the Bunch Funeral Chapel in Guymon, Oklahoma on Dec. 27, 1985. Officiating minister was Bro. Johnny Williams with interment in Elmhurst Cemetery, Guymon, OK.

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We wish to thank everyone that prayed for our granddaughter to be saved and healed. She was sweetly saved. Oh, the mercy and love of God to all that love and trust Him. We thank everyone for their love and prayers.

—From the Nolan Bowers family
and Sis. Doris Bowers

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

INSPIRATIONAL SINGING

The Golden Rule Home will again mark a milestone. The 24th Anniversary will be observed with a gospel singing Saturday night, April 5th, at 7:30 p.m., and all-day services Sunday, April 6th.

We are still in a battle here. The Lord is teaching us to wait, and that with patience.

All are invited to come for both the singing and anniversary services. Dinner will be served at the Home with afternoon meeting there. Accommodations for those spending the night will be made.

For more information call (405) 273-7106 or (405) 275-6686.

—Sis. Janyce Porter

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NOTICE OF TULSA MEETING

The Lord willing, the Tulsa, OK meeting will be June 13, through 22, 1986. Services each

day will be 6:30 a.m. prayer meeting, 10:30 a.m. morning service, 7:30 p.m. evening service. There will be all-day services Saturday and Sunday.

Come praying souls will be saved, believers sanctified, faith be increased and bodies healed.

The chapel is located on the corner of Pine Place and Norfolk Ave. For further information, contact the pastor, Sis. Eva Hardman, 2236 Norfolk, Tulsa, OK 74106, Phone (918) 583-2929, or Bro. Charles Lowe, 1823 N. Maine, Tulsa, OK 74106, Phone 584-6838. Church phone 584-8438.

—Submitted by Maple Littlejohn

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BOLEY, OKLAHOMA SPRING REVIVAL

Lord willing, the Boley, Okla. Spring Meeting of the Church of God will convene May 1—May 4, 1986.

We extend a hearty, warm welcome to all nations. Come and worship the dear Lord in the beauty of holiness with us.

We are looking to the Lord to send ministers and workers of His own choosing.

Come praying the Lord will bless with a Holy Spirit filled meeting and that souls will be saved to the glory of God.

Service will be nightly at 7:30. On Sunday there will be two services, Sun. A.M. and Sun. afternoon.

Prayerfully submitted,

—Katherine Williams

REMINDER

As stated in the March *Faith and Victory*, there will be, Lord willing, a minister's meeting April 25-27. It will be held on the Myrtle, MO campground. For more information contact: Bro. Mart Samons, P.O. Box 127, Green Bank, WV 24944, phone (304) 456-4469.

NOTICE OF THANKS

We thank the Lord for the good response that has been shown in the need for Bro. Gordon Humphrey a newer car. We are to purchase the car and pick it up Mar. 18th. The full amount has been received. We do appreciate each one who has helped in this need.

—Delbert and Malinda Flynn

FUNDS SUPPLIED

We want to send to each and everyone a thank you for your donations in regards to the expenses of the wood furnace and the necessary repairs in behalf of the Everson, WA congrega-

tion. The Lord provided enough money to cover the expenses of the furnace, etc. We want to say again "Thank you" and may God bless one and all.

Yours,—Fred Gatke and the Sorrell family

Prayer Requests

MO—Remember Joyce Hall who is sorely afflicted.

OK—Bro. and Sis. Leonard Roberts need prayer.

TN—"My wife, Margaret Williams, had a serious stroke and is paralyzed on her right side. Remember her in your prayers."

—Charles B. Williams

OK—"Pray for a great grandson who has weak eyelids. I also need prayer for healing. Pray for my unsaved loved ones."

—Lorene Payne

TX—Carolyn Holland needs prayer. Her eyes are paining quite badly.

IN—"I would like for you to remember me in prayer. I have been having trouble with my eyes. Keep remembering my son, Jimmy, his nerves are bad. Also, pray for my unsaved children and grandchildren."—Sis. Dessie Wilson

AL—"I had a fall and hurt my chest. Please remember me in prayer. Also I had earache all night."—Pearlene Whitson

AR—"I have some requests I would like for you to remember."—Sis. Vera Dotson

AL—"Please pray for the healing of my eyes and back."—Molly Totty

IN—Mary J. Rogers, who has arthritis, desires prayer. Also remember her family.

MO—Violet Gibson desires prayer.

OK—Bertha Miles needs prayer for healing at this time. She is in quite a battle.

OK—Malinda Flynn still needs prayer. She is encouraged to trust God all the way but needs help.

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From India . . .

Feb. 18—Our dearly beloved Sister Maybelle Pruitt, Bro. Wayne, the dear ones in the Print Shop and the dear Saints abroad: Greetings to you all again in the precious name of Jesus Christ. We were very sad and unhappy to read the news of the departure of Sis. Dorothy Keiser to her eternal peace—surely she was a brave soldier of Christ, especially in the foreign mission fields. We have good memories of her labors in India in 1979 and 1980. May God bless the bereaved family.

The church in India has much progress after the general convention. The work in Tamil Nadu is also getting much progress. I have been visiting each congregation each week. We need support from burdened hearts for the expansion and establishment of our new work started in Tamil Nadu. Surely it is a needy area.

We have a congregation at Kizhakketheruvu but no chapel there yet for the saints to assemble in. We have purchased the land but need support to build a chapel there. These are all prayer requests to the saints in America.

Our next monthly meeting will be held at Kalayapuram on Saturday, March 1, 1986.

When circumstances turn all against you, when friends flee and foes force you, when the sun goes down and stones become a pillow for your tired soul in the solitude of the desert, the door of heaven will be opened for the praying man and a ladder will be laid from heaven with angels descending and ascending on your behalf. Praise God.

Let us exchange prayers.

Yours in Him, —John Varghese

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From the Philippines . . .

Mar. 12—To our beloved Sister Maybelle, dear saints and all the workers in Print Shop: We greet all of you once again in Jesus' dear name, whom we praise and serve forever. I thank God for always answering my prayers.

The *Faith and Victory* papers arrived but I was not able to write you soon because in that time I was already preparing myself to go to Mambajao to distribute the pamphlet to my relatives and friends there. They were happy in reading them. I know God is helping these people understand what they are reading in that small wonderful pamphlet that is teaching them the precious truth. I received a great blessing because one of the fortune tellers there was saved. Before, she was busy telling and explaining the meaning of dreams and birthmarks to the unsaved, young and old. Now she is preaching the truth in Mambajao. She is very happy that she is a pure child of God.

Your sister in Christ,—Victoria B. Sahilan

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From Bendel State, Nigeria . . .

Feb. 1—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt and Saints of God: Greetings in the name of our great Redeemer, who now sits on the throne of David in the spiritual realm. Praise Him forever.

Thanks a lot for favouring us with regular communications of monthly intervals, which of a truth have been of great encouragement to us.

We never will cease to praise Him for strengthening His vessels of the Print Shop to occupy faithfully the work He has called upon them to perform. As agents of the Lord to promote His work of grace in the hearts of others it is expected of us all to be seen bent on our assigned duties wholeheartedly.

The Lord is ever kind whom we should hail in a big way for landing His people safely in the new year of 1986. As deemed worthwhile, we assembled at the chapel of the holy Church of God on December 31, 1985, at 10 p.m. to watch the passing away of the year 1985. Praise God. We can now say Amen for the arrival of the new year, duly refined of Him for resumption of work in His vineyard with the desired divine ability.

It continues to give us a concrete proof of oneness as we find the saints of the Most High in the U.S. arriving always to enlist to us their sympathy whenever they hear of us to be confronted. We acknowledge receipt with thanks of a contribution by a servant of God remitted through Sis. M. Pruitt to help purchase whatever preaching equipment it can cover to replace some of the stolen ones. The loss was big enough to make us feel cold, but never was it allowed. The worst disease of human heart is coldness.

Bro. Egbune Analogbei, aged 90 years, passed away on January 12, 1986. He was of Umuachi-Afor congregation and held on to God commendably to the end. All members of the six congregations within Kwale area travelled there to pay him the last respect and rejoice for his transfer to a better land. This writer conducted the funeral services. Interment was in his compound at Okolori-Afor. He is survived by a wife Sis. Omenukor, a son, seven daughters, a brother—Chief Obi and grandchildren.

Yours devotedly, —Titus U. E. Enu

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

From River State, Nigeria . . .

Mar. 6—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings of love to you and all the saints in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Last week I sent out some of our preachers from Tombia and Port Harcourt to preach the gospel in the town of Niabai. Because of all those who appeared at the altar, the call came that they needed us to come again. This coming week, by God's willing, we shall be there. Pray much for us.

Many thanks for you and all the saints there at Publishing House who are praying for me and God's work here. God bless you more, give strength, long life and vigor in service for Him.

God is still healing me so much. You should continue your prayers for me until I give my testimony.

Yours in Christ, —B. Ben Taylor

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

From Lagos, Nigeria . . .

Feb. 20—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings of love to you from the throne of love where the Father of love dwells. Hallelujah!

Our God ever must be magnified through the lives and lips of His true believers even now and evermore.

This time I come with joy unspeakable, though the letter would have reached your hand since, but I delayed a little because of one thing or the other.

I use this opportunity to thank you, and all the brethren both here and all over, whose prayers ascended and are ascending to the throne of mercy on our behalf—the Lagos brethren. We are happy that the sweet odors of the Saints' prayers moved the Almighty hand to touch the Lagos State Governor who came out to cancel the decree of converting any residential house to a worship. Praise God. It is now allowed in Lagos State to worship either in your house or anywhere you like. Really this is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes, so said the Psalmist. All glory to God.

Yours under the Blood,—Sister Kate Obiyo

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From Ensenada, Mexico . . .

Mar. 2—Dear Sister Maybelle: Greetings in the precious love of the Lord.

It gives us much happiness to know that each moment He is with us; in trials, battles, and afflictions. We know that it is through His great mercy that we are still saved and faithful. May He give us His grace each day.

Sister, we give the Lord thanks that we have begun the construction of a building for services, especially because the Lord has blessed us richly in the Spirit and we are following Him firmly, faithfully and encouraged in the things of the Lord. We are going forward with the work which He has put into our hands. We have seen the need to have a larger place and exclusively for the worship of our faithful Redeemer. The building is advancing and we firmly believe that the Lord will work in all things that are lacking.

Dear Brethren, we are thinking of having a revival the week prior to the Resurrection Day, (Easter), March 27-30. It will be of much value to all souls who come to services and especially for us. May we pray for all as we know that God

knows all the needs of the work here in Mexico. We are looking to God that some will be able to come and they will be welcome.

We are continuing to pray for a worker in Ojos Negros. May the Lord touch someone who knows the need of that place! Here, also, we desire to be led by the Holy Spirit in each of these things. May the Holy Spirit be the leader in all.

We give thanks for all who bear a part of the load and who carry us to God in their prayers.

With much love in Christ, yours in the Lord,

—Mayarino Escobar and family

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

PROGRESS OF THE PREPARATION OF

SPANISH LITERATURE

Dear Ones: Greetings in the precious name of our dear Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We are so very thankful He ever saw fit to deal with our souls, bring us up out of sin and set our feet on the solid Rock.

We are encouraged in the Spanish printing work. Since moving all our literature and equipment to one place, and getting it settled, we have been receiving more orders for literature than we did there for a while. We thank the Lord for all who contact us from time to time, that the literature can be in their hands for camp meetings, revivals, and the distribution of the literature in personal visitation.

We have been receiving some encouraging letters, especially from Guatemala, Central America. Some have written for Bibles in Spanish and recently it was made possible to supply these, also magnifying glasses by which they could be read more easily. We do thank the Lord for this opportunity and His blessings on this channel of His work.

As long as He sees fit for me to keep the work going, I surely want to be faithful and do all I can.

There are now about 100 more articles ready for printing, when time permits.

May the Lord bless each and everyone who carries a burden for this channel of His work. The Judgment Day alone will reveal how many souls will be saved through your prayers. Thanks to one and all and may the Lord richly bless you.

Yours for lost souls, especially in the Spanish-speaking countries as that is the burden the Lord has given me, —Sister Opal Kelly

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It is error to worship Mary, but it is right and wise to imitate her devotion and worship to God and His holy Son, Jesus Christ. —Leslie C. Busbee

From the Mailbox . . .

CA—To the Saints in Guthrie, Oklahoma: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, and may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in the blessings of our almighty God of love. The following is an account of a dream which the Lord gave me on the eighth of January, 1986. I humbly submit it as I remember it, in hopes that it may be of help and blessing to any who may read it, and in hopes that the kingdom of God may be furthered and glorified as well.

In my dream I was lying in the middle of an open pasture, with a group of lost sectarian people. We had dragged our beds out there and we were lying down, looking up at the late night sky. The moon and stars shone particularly bright and clear, and I looked down to speak with someone about the magnificence and omniscience of God. When I looked back up again, the sky had filled with clouds. I could see the clouds clearly, as in daytime, and they were the darkest storm clouds that I have ever seen. They had completely filled the sky, and I felt as though something extremely terrible was about to happen. I remember thinking about getting up some tents for cover during the storm, and as I thought about it, I saw the clouds directly in front of me, about five miles distant, open up. A substance like unto lava, which I instantly knew to be fire and brimstone, began to issue forth to the earth. For an agonizingly long time, I could only watch, as in a stupor, as the skies opened up all around me, in all directions, spewing forth this destruction upon the earth. When I snapped to, I jumped down under my bed to hide, and began to fervently pray to God that He would forgive me for anything that might keep me from entering heaven. As I prayed this, a feeling of peace and security came over me, and I had an assurance in my soul that I would go up to be with my Maker. All fear was cast out, and a warmth that is beyond the English vocabulary to describe took its place. Oh, what wonderful feeling had entered my soul, and it was a state that I wouldn't trade for all the riches that this old world could ever offer me.

Then I heard the screams and cries of terror and anguish of the souls that were left behind, and they were the most awful, terrifying screams that I have ever heard, and they wrenched my soul mightily. The people were burning, and their faces and bodies were hideously contorted and writhing with pain. They were crying to God in heaven to save them, but it was too late. Everything that they had done and worked and strived for in the past was all in vain. It was

time for them to answer for the way that they had lived, and most of them were facing an eternity separated from God in the depths of the lake of fire. Oh, what a wretched and dreadful state to be in! Then I thought about what I had failed to do to help them and to lead them from the precipice and clutches of the devil, and I felt so empty inside because of the many opportunities that the Lord had given to me to lead them into the truth, that I had passed by.

Since I had this dream, it has drastically changed my life, my actions and my conversation. Instead of spending so much time and prayer on my own troubles and tribulations, I now spend my time and efforts toward helping and praying for others and preparing myself for a ministry of saving the lost and setting the captive free. Please pray for me as I want to do what the Lord would have me to do for the furtherance of His Kingdom and the edifying of the saints abroad.

Christian love, —Bro. Sidney Souvey

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

KS—Dear Saints: This leaves me well in soul and doing pretty good in body, for which I do thank the Lord. I thank the Lord for so many, many blessings and although I cannot thank Him or praise Him enough, I really appreciate His love and goodness to me.

I am still enjoying my salvation and determined to be true and faithful to God to the end. He is counting on some of us to stand and I truly want to, and intend to, by His gracious power and might. Truly He giveth "more" grace and He said it is sufficient. Praise God! May the Lord continue to bless each of you.

Christian love, —Sis. Shirley Knight

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

LA—I enjoyed so much C. W. Naylor's books you have in print; *Heart Talks*, *Winning A Crown* and *The Secret of the Singing Heart*. All of the old books in stock are good. I desire to read or re-read them that I may better have the approval of God on my life, "Study to shew thyself approved." II Tim. 2:15.

Now many of us are answering to the happiness of the home and guiding our children. I find instructional reading is a good investment. We can let it spare us a few knocks and a lot of trouble. One reader said about Bro. Naylor's books, "They sure are some good books."

—Nelson Doolittle

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

TN—Dear Sis. Pruitt and Bro. Wayne: We want to request prayer for my wife, Margaret Williams. She had a serious stroke two and a

half weeks ago that paralyzed her right side and left her unable to talk except for a word or two, and only then in response to our asking her something . . .

The Lord has been so good and merciful to us during our 51 years together. We have both experienced and witnessed many healings so divinely and perfectly done. My parents and grandparents (on my mother's side) were pioneers in the Church of God movement. I remember Bro. Willis M. Brown well as he stayed in our home and held meetings in the middle TN area where I was raised. The healing of my father, Edgar Williams, about 1910, is recorded on page 18 of *How I Got Faith* by him.

Your prayers and of others will be much appreciated. He has all power and His promises are ever true.

Christian love, —Charles B. Williams

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

OK—Faith Publishing House: Greetings of love to all the faithful workers. I feel so blessed to be able to let you know I am feeling real well in body. I have claimed my healing upon the authority of God's Holy Word. I have been brought from a sick bed to the wheel chair and from the chair to crutches. I am able to attend the services each week. What a mighty God we serve.

My right knee is still crooked some but very little pain when I walk. I do thank everyone for their prayers, calls and concern for me. I am much encouraged and mean to press on for the Lord. While I was shut in I had an unusual dream that I would like to share with you. I dreamed a friend and I were walking one night and we looked up and the sky was an unusual beautiful blue. There was no moon nor stars in sight, but the face of our Lord Jesus was looking down on us with a crown of thorns around His head and a green sprig of mistletoe waving before His face. I had the most glorious feeling as I looked at it, and I spoke to my friend about the beauty of the scene and she said, "Yes, but I feel so bad and I hurt most all the time in my body." I said maybe we should pray. As we knelt to pray I woke up. This friend isn't saved so I thought maybe I should call her. When I called she was slow in answering the phone. When she did answer I told her about the dream. She related to me how sick she was and had been where she could hardly get around, so I obeyed and had prayer for her. She was touched in her body, Praise to our God. She has called frequently to express her thanks for prayer and

continues to ask for prayer. I am trusting she will be saved. Pray for me that I continue to do God's will.

Your sister in Christ, —Theresa Gaines

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

OK—Dear Saints: We are not able to answer everyone who has sent cards. We want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one who has prayed, called, visited us and sent cards and letters to encourage us in this severe battle we are in. It certainly does our hearts good just to know others are in the battle also. When real victory comes we can all rejoice together. The Lord has touched us again and again and answered prayer many, many times. Our faith is in Him. We know His Word will not fail. It certainly has been sweet "manna" from above with His sweet presence flowing in our heart. For two weeks I had to rest in a reclining chair day and night as I was not able to lie down, but, thank the Lord, after a severe night of suffering, the Lord touched me and the very next night I slept in bed. All this past week I have been able to sleep in the bed. We give God all the praise! It is said of Abraham, "being strong in faith, glorifying God." That is my desire, to be strong in faith, in His Word and glorifying God right in the midst of the battle regardless of how things may appear. We do desire the continued prayers of the saints that God will completely heal and deliver us.

—Malinda Flynn

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

CA—Dear Saints: We just wanted to personally share God's love and care for us. Last November we had to go to Los Angeles. During the day we were very burdened and sought the Lord in prayer, but the heaviness remained. Later in the evening we lay down for a short rest. Upon awakening we still felt burdened and a need for more prayer. As we were traveling, the hand of the Lord protected us from what could have been a fatal accident. My husband only had a few moments to pull his car around another to keep from running into it. We then knew that this was why the Lord had called us to pray. Oh, how we did thank Him. We humbled ourselves in prayer right there at the airport, as that was our destination. May we ever obey the voice of the Lord.

—Bro. and Sis. Edward V. Davenport

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

CA—Dear Saints all over the world: I send our love and concern to all in these evil times. It is so wonderful that we can hold each other up in prayer through our Lord and Savior. The

good Lord has surely been good to us and our family.

We have had a lot of flooding in this area and all over CA. It started around Feb. 12th and has slowed down as of now. (March 11) Many people were left homeless and in bad situations. We have two big dams around our area. The rain kept coming and I knew that if one broke we would surely be in trouble. I don't know the exact date, but it was last week-end that things began to look bad. I went and knelt in our bedroom where I always pray, and asked the dear Lord to spare us. It was still pouring rain. I got up and left it to Him. In about ten minutes the rain started to be lighter and slower. Then it stopped and since then we haven't had hard rain, only a few showers and light sprinkles.

I think of this Scripture, "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them," Psalms 34:7. Praise His name.

Love and prayers, —Sis. Lois Underwood

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

CA—Dear Sister Maybelle and Saints everywhere: We are sending our greetings in the love of Jesus our Lord and Saviour. Oh, how thankful we are for this wonderful salvation, the greatest gift He could give to mankind.

We want to give our testimony of how good the Lord is to us and especially of how His hand was over us the ninth day of December, 1985, when Sister Reece and I attended the funeral of Brother Larry Hale's father in Corning, CA. After the funeral we were asked if we were going to the cemetery. Sister Reece said, "Yes," but I felt a little warning. Since I wasn't driving I said nothing. Afterward I surely wished I had, but we went on in catching up with the funeral procession. They had slowed for the turn into the cemetery and some cars had stopped in front of the one ahead of us who was trying to stop, when we hit him, throwing me up against the dashboard and my head against the top of the car. Before we could hardly realize it, we were hit again by the car behind us which was going fast. By the time we got off the dashboard, from hitting the car in front, we heard the car behind braking and squealing its brakes. It hit us knocking us up against the other car. It hit us so hard we felt it might as well have been a freight train knocking us back up against the dashboard and my head up against the top of the car. I really felt the hard cold metal. I prayed God to help us.

When it was over some came to help us out of the car. I found I could not bear any weight on one leg. It had surely taken a beating. Richard Hale and his brother-in-law practically carried

me to Brother and Sister Hale's car. Before I got out of the car, I had a severe headache but the Lord healed the headache immediately. Praise the Lord, it was a miracle. My leg felt as though it was broken. I didn't go to have an x-ray to see, I just trusted the Lord and He healed it too.

Sister Reece bruised her knee on the dashboard, but when she should have been shaken up she was on her feet taking care of the details of the car. We were blessed that we were not hurt any more than we were. We could have been killed. We surely give all the praise to God for our lives being spared that day.

Your sister in Christ, —Loretta Harmon

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

(Continued from last month)

The Scriptures describe four universal kingdoms—Babylonian, Meda-Persian, Grecian and Roman. According to Daniel 7:23, this fourth beast was kingdom number four which was the last one. This was Rome. It is declared in this verse to be diverse from all the others. It was so in that it was a politico/religious combine with power to enforce its laws and decrees by carnal and military means. The little horn which rose up out of this kingdom from among the ten horns was the Roman Catholic power which subdued three of the other horns or kings and then went on to establish its power and rule over the whole earth and his fury was exceeding hot against the saints and he made war with them and wore them out and scattered their power. Prophetic time is reckoned thus: TIME, one year, TIMES, two years, and half a time or dividing of TIMES, a half year. So we have in the time period allotted here 3 1/2 years, 42 months or 1260 days. Prophetic time was also reckoned a day for a year which time period here would amount to 1260 years which is the time allotted in the Revelation for the Roman Catholic power to continue. So now we will go over to the Revelation and pick up a few points there.

In the eleventh chapter of Revelation verse one says the revelator was given a reed and was told to measure the temple and altar and those that worshipped therein. This temple was a symbol of the spiritual temple of God which is His church and the worshippers were the saints and the reed like unto a rod represented the Word of God by which all spiritual things must be measured. We must all face up to that meas-

urement. He was told to leave out the court which was without the temple and not measure it because it was given unto the Gentiles and they would tread the holy city under foot forty and two months (verse two).

We notice here that the same time period as was used in the two prophecies in Daniel already discussed (42 months—1260 days) so we can be certain it is the same thing being discussed here as in Daniel. This Scripture did not say that the temple was given to the Gentiles. There was still the true church in existence worshipping in the temple, but the court which lay outside the temple was said to be given to the Gentiles. In other words, the apostate church (so called); Gentiles, uncircumcised in heart, unregenerated, false church is what claimed the spot light and focus in the eyes of the world while the real, true church was concealed from public view within the temple itself during this entire period of time. This is the same identical thing as is described in Rev. 12:14, where we read, "And to the woman [true church; Rev. 12:1, etc.] were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent." Rev. 12:6 measures the woman's time in the wilderness as 1260 days. This is the same time period attached to the other references discussed so we know we are still talking about the same thing. Also there are identifying marks common to the fourth beast of Daniel 7 and the beast of Rev. 13 which connects them together and identifies them as the same.

I insert here a quote from F. G. Smith's book "The Revelation Explained" page 185. "This mighty transformation to a church containing nothing but uncircumcised Gentiles was fully accomplished during the latter half of the third century, from which date we must look for the true disciples of the Lord as entirely separate from the hierarchy." This explains the Gentiles treading down the court with the true church concealed from public view in the inner temple. The vast Roman Church with its grand display of the form of godliness but without the power of it became the visible church to the public view and treading under foot the court of the temple and the holy city (the visible phase of the church).

Then on the same page of the same book the author inserts a quote from D'Aubigne's History of the Reformation, Book 1, Chapter 1. "The living church retiring within the lonely sanctuary of a few solitary hearts, an external church was substituted in its place, and all its forms declared to be of divine appointment.

Salvation no longer flowing from the Word, which was henceforward put out of sight, the priests affirmed that it was conveyed by means of the forms they had themselves invented, and that no one could obtain it but by these channels." This explains the flight of the woman (the true church) into the wilderness and is the same as the scattering of the power of the holy people in our subject text (Daniel 12:7).

It was given to this false church to make war with the saints and to overcome them (Rev. 13:7 and Dan. 7:21). Daniel 7:25 says this power would wear out the saints of the most High. There was severe persecution of the true disciples of Christ through this long 1260 year period of papal night and millions upon millions became martyrs of the Christian faith. The fury and extent of this persecution is shown in Rev. 17:6 where it says, "And I saw the woman (a symbol of this apostate church) drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus." How sickening this is but it actually happened and the true church was driven underground (went into the wilderness) and went into seclusion and the power of the holy people was scattered during this period.

Forgive and Forget



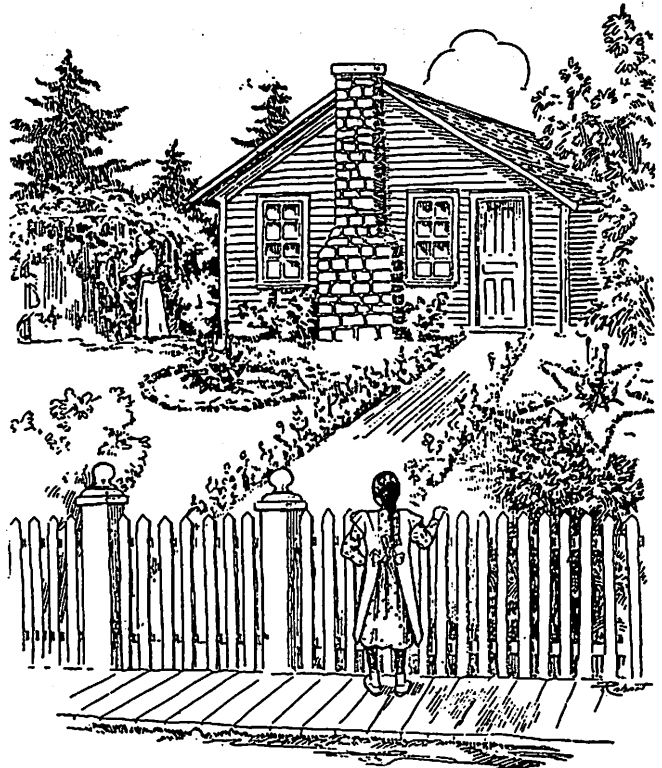
Forgive and forget, it is better
To fling all ill feeling aside
Than allow the deep, cankering fether
Of revenge in your breast to abide;
For your step o'er life's path will be lighter,
When the load from your bosom is cast,
And the glorious sky will seem brighter,
When the cloud of displeasure has passed.

Though your spirit swell high with emotion
To give back injustice again,
Sink the thought in oblivion's ocean,
For remembrance increases the pain.
O, why should we linger in sorrow,
When its shadow is passing away,—
Or seek to encounter tomorrow,
The blast that o'erswept us today?

Our life's stream is a varying river,
And though it may placidly glide
When the sunbeams of joy o'er it quiver,
It must foam when the storm meets its tide.
Then stir not its current to madness,
For its wrath thou wilt ever regret;
Though the morning beams break on thy sadness,
Ere the sunset, forgive and forget.

—Selected

HOME LIFE



Threats But No Action

"Albert, you must not do that! Take your hand off that flowerpot!"

A pair of blue eyes turned leisurely upon Mrs. Harris, as she sat in the rocker on the front porch. Two chubby hands held fast to the little geranium pot on the balustrade.

"Albert," Mrs. Harris insisted, "Mother will spank you if you upset that plant. Come here now, dearie, and let me wipe your dirty hands."

The three-year-old shook his curly head. "Flowers putty," he grunted, "an' Albert wants to play."

The child began to shake the geranium pot vigorously. He was totally unmoved by the threatened spanks.

"Mind me, Albert!" The words were wasted on deaf little ears. "I'll come after you if you don't leave that pot alone!"

"Flowers putty," answered Albert, "pot shaky."

The child began to sway the flowerpot back and forth, laughing with glee. But suddenly, bang! Mrs. Harris' foot came down on the floor. Albert, in the act of pushing the geranium pot towards the outer edge of the balustrade, gave a childish start and removed his chubby hands. There was a crash, and the flowerpot toppled from its unsteady perch, and lay upon the ground broken into bits.

"Albert!" exclaimed Mrs. Harris, "I told you

I would whip you if you didn't leave that flower-pot alone!"

"Gone," the child fumbled at the balustrade. "Broke, Mamma." He shuffled his feet and scrambled down the steps, out to the scene of the wreck.

Mrs. Harris rocked back and forth, displeasure written upon her face—her hands resting harmlessly in her lap.

Albert's father came home at six, and found his three-year-old son still toying with the pieces of flowerpot. The mother still sat in the porch chair, her heart full of unhappiness.

Upon seeing his father, Albert rushed into outstretched arms. Once safely hoisted on Mr. Harris' shoulder, he pointed with glee at the crippled pot. "Broke," he said, "Albert let fall."

"You broke that pot?" the father frowned. "I'll have —."

"Mamma have to spank, but Mamma don't," interrupted Albert.

The father said no more. He saw his wife as he climbed the steps.

"I told Albert a dozen times to leave that pot alone," the mother exclaimed, "but he kept right on until it fell."

"Let's not talk about it before him," answered the father.

"Did you threaten to whip him?" he asked later.

"Yes, but he didn't mind."

"Each time you spoke to him you threatened to spank him if he didn't leave the pot alone?"

"Yes."

"And you didn't punish him?"

"Why, no, I—."

"You just kept threatening, is that it?"

"I thought I'd frighten him away by pretending."

"Frighten! Frighten! Marie, a mother isn't supposed to be a bear to her child, she's supposed to be a parent."

"But, I didn't want to spank him, I wanted to coax him away."

"You can't coax by threats; you coax by candies and fruits."

"Of course, I wouldn't bribe him! I wished to be firm."

"You accomplished the opposite of your aim, Marie. You made Albert think that you were wishy-washy. You threatened to whip him and you didn't keep your word. You gave him to understand that you were all bluff, and children can't be bluffed."

"Well," sighed Mrs. Harris, "you're home now. You can punish him."

"For what?"

"Playing with the geranium pot."

"It's too late now," said Mr. Harris. "The thing's gone, and I'm afraid Albert's confidence in you is also gone." —Selected

Fruit-Bearing



"If ye then with Christ be risen,
Seek those things which are above;
Putting off all wrath and malice,
Walk with Him in perfect love.

Lay aside all strife and envy,
Hatred, foolishness and pride;
None who cling to aught that's sinful
In His kingdom shall abide.

"If we're in the Spirit living,
Let us also walk therein,
Free from guilt and condemnation --
From the servitude of sin --
Bearing holy fruits of meekness,
Temperance and love and peace,
Faith and gentleness possessing,
Daily shall our joy increase.

"Can there issue from one fountain
Both the bitter and the sweet?
Do we gather figs of thistles,
Sow the tares, expecting wheat?
So a good tree yields by nature
Perfect fruit, and that alone;
Trees corrupt are bearing evil --
By their fruits they shall be known.

"Once of sin we were the servants,
Held beneath its tyrant sway,
Free from righteousness -- unholy --
But we've found a better way.
By the Word of God obeying,
We are free from sinful strife;
Fruits of holiness we're yielding,
And the end eternal life.

"We are dwelling in the Spirit,
By our Father's blest design;
Thro' His grace we're made partakers
Of His nature, pure, divine.
By His faith alone I'm living,
For with Christ to sin I died;
I will bear abundant fruitage,
That His name be glorified."

—Clara M. Brooks

Recently my soul has been both blessed and challenged by the rich truths expressed in the above poem. I began to dig into its scriptural foundation and found worlds of spiritual gems. I feel quite inadequate to do justice to such a broad and important subject, but I feel the Lord would have me to share a few thoughts with you, and I trust He will enlarge them to your

hearts by His Spirit. I am thinking of **fruit bearing**.

Jesus said, "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit He [His Father] taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: **for without me ye can do nothing**. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear **much fruit**; so shall ye be my disciples" John 15:2, 4, 5, 8.

Here we see that the will of God is that we bring forth "much fruit", and that it is impossible for us to bring forth this fruit within ourselves. However, it is a fact that all men are bearing some kind of fruit. Jesus, after warning us in His sermon on the mount to "beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves," said, "by their fruits ye shall know them." Matthew 7:20. There is, therefore, a fruit borne by the true people of God which distinguishes them from all other people. It is by this fruit that we discern the body of Christ apart from all other bodies in the religious world of strife and confusion. I wish to discuss this fruit with you for just a few moments. It is called the "fruit of the Spirit."

In Gal. 5:22-26 we read, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."

This is what makes the Church of God the body that it is. It is the harmonizing of hearts who are tuned to the Spirit of God, and the produce of lives which are bearing the fruit of the Spirit. When that fruit ceases to be borne in the heart and life of an individual, he is an alien to the body—the Father taketh him away. Notice also that the Scripture did not say *fruits* of the Spirit, but *fruit* of the Spirit. Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, etc. are all flavors of the same fruit. We cannot have the fruit without possessing all its flavors in our lives.

Solomon said, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Proverbs 4:23. Every heart is a garden. Something is growing in the garden of everyone's heart. Everyone knows that in order to produce a desirable garden diligent cultivation is re-

quired. Webster's dictionary gives one definition of "cultivate" as: "to develop or improve by care, training, etc.; foster or refine." Jesus said, "Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." Matt. 15:13. When we receive the experience of entire sanctification, which is a definite second work of grace, the last remains of the carnal nature is rooted out of our hearts by the power of the Sanctifier, the Holy Ghost. We are then "thoroughly purged" and in a condition where we can bear "much fruit." However, a continual cultivation of our heart gardens is necessary.

Bro. C. E. Orr once wrote: "You may be pure in heart as the crystal river of life can make you, and holy of soul as God's throne, yet there is no man living who cannot become holier in life. You can abound more and more in love; go from faith to greater faith; grow in knowledge and grace, and have the beauty of the Lord blooming out more and more in all the words and deeds of life. Though your heart is cleansed from every stain of sin, you can have the sweet, heavenly unction of the Holy Spirit resting more weightily upon your soul. This will affect your outward life, making it deeper, more hallowed and holy. The tree of the garden may be perfect and bear perfect fruit, but by rooting deeper it grows and bears larger and more developed fruit. By letting the mind take hold upon God in holy thought, we root deeper into Him and conform more unto His likeness. Every time the mind fastens upon some truth of God the spirit grows more into the image of God. Put idle thoughts, vain thoughts, far away from you and stay your mind on things above. Open the door of your heart heavenward that the light of God may shine in, imprinting in its depth the beautiful graces of Christ. Look into the face of Jesus and grow to be more like Him."

Oh, how we should make this our daily goal; to be like Him! No one has ever gone wrong patterning their life after Jesus. It is when men begin to adore and pattern after men that they go wrong and sect confusion begins. Col. 3:12-15 says, "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. **And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.** And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

Ultimately, let us consider the attributes of charity. The Word of God reveals them in I Cor.

13:4-7. I would like to give this passage of Scripture as rendered in "The New Testament From 26 Translations."

"Charity suffereth long, and is kind—(is very patient, gracious, slow to lose patience, looks for a way of being constructive); charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself—(never boils with jealousy, is neither anxious to impress, makes no parade, is never envious, never boastful), is not puffed up—(is not arrogant, nor conceited, does not put on airs, nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance), doth not behave itself unseemly—(is never rude, or unmannerly; it isn't indecent), seeketh not her own—(does not insist on its own way, does not insist on its rights, is never self-seeking, does not pursue selfish aims), is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil—(not quick to take offence, love keeps no score of wrongs, is not irritable or resentful, is not touchy, does not keep account of evil, bears no malice, never provoked, never reckons up her wrongs); rejoiceth not in iniquity—(takes no pleasure in wrongdoing, does not gloat over other men's sins, love is never glad when others go wrong), but rejoiceth in the truth—(at the victory of truth, joyfully sides with the truth, always glad when truth prevails, delights in the truth); beareth all things, believeth all things—(she can overlook faults, has unquenchable faith, always slow to expose, always eager to believe the best, it bears up under anything, there is nothing love cannot face, there is no limit to its faith, no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust), hopeth all things—(hopes under all circumstances, keeps up hope in everything), endureth all things—(ever patient, endures without limit, gives us power to endure everything)." I Cor. 13:4-7.

No wonder Paul says "put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness" Col. 3:14. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" John 13:35. "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" Romans 5:5. "Is the Spirit glowing in thy heart? Oh, my brother can you say that you feel the burning love of God in thy bosom day by day?" Let us each one strive to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit. Let it expand in our hearts and lives until its luscious savor flows out to all around us.

Do we want souls to seek Him with us. He is found with those whose heart gardens are beds of spices, producing the savory fruit of the Spirit. Let us bear abundant fruitage, that His name be glorified. May God enlarge these thoughts to your hearts. —Harlan Sorrell



Excerpts Taken From

April, 1961 Faith and Victory

"We can see now how God uses small things to perform great things. God asked Moses, 'What is that in thine hand?' and Moses answered, 'A shepherd's staff.' But God used it to deliver His people from bondage. Let us see what we have in our hand that we can let God use. God wants a willing heart and then He will only expect of us according to that which we have and not that which we have not. We find this in II Cor. 8:12." —Flossie Atha

"I am well, still saved and sanctified, and yet encouraged to live for God. He has done more for me than I will ever be able to do for Him. He saved me from a self-righteous life, which was no more than filthy rags, and gave me an inheritance among them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus. This life is causing me to live in the fear of God and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost. The old life kept me tormented. This new life keeps my heart pure and my conscience clear." —W. T. Tomlin

"I would like to tell a little more of the Lord's blessings to me. On the day before my husband (Erle) passed away . . . we sat before the fireplace in our rockers, side by side, and for our evening worship, he read some in the Faith and Victory. I read the Bible and then he prayed . . . As he prayed I thought to myself, Daddy is certainly praying a good prayer tonight. I didn't once think that that would be the last time we would pray together at our family altar that we had established 47 years ago, Jan. 1st. Oh, the sweet memories! . . ."

—Vera Forbes