

FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



Volume 64, No. 7 64th Year Guthrie, Oklahoma \$1.00 Per Year Oct., 1986

Go Forth and Tell

Go forth and tell the blessed story
Of Him who lives eternally,
And pray that God will shine His glory
Upon your path of service free.

Before each fight that Satan giveth
Steadfastly speak and testify:
"I know that my Redeemer liveth,
I know He's coming bye and bye."

Let swell within this consolation:
That Christ has conquered death and sin;
Rejoice in Him and His salvation,
And every conflict thou shalt win.

Once Christ for us did suffer meekly
And died on darksome Calvary;
He took our place, though strong, yet weakly,
That we might strong and steadfast be.

But in the grave He did not tarry:
He rose alive forevermore
That we might Him embrace and marry
And share His blest abundant store.

Be not dismayed if in thy brother
A fault or failing thou shalt find:
Look up to Christ, there is no other,
Let be in thee His gracious mind.

Oh, lift Him up in all thou'rt doing,
Point out the Christ who lives above;
The preacher, Church, and others viewing
Esteemed alone in holy love.

Just point thy fellow man to Jesus,
The Center of thy message be
The One who bore our sins' dark wages
And rose again to set us free.

Give witness of His risen glory
Through holy love and service true;
Go tell to all the wond'rous story
Of life with Him forever new!

—Leslie C. Busbee

The Dangers in the Public Schools

The following is a talk that was given by Bro. Keith Fuller of Akron, Ohio, on April 27, 1986, at the minister's meeting held in Myrtle, MO. The talk has been edited and condensed to fit into this written format.

We appreciate being here with you this morning. We also appreciate very much being a part of this ministry.

I want to first of all state my purpose very clearly. I think that is important. My purpose is to make us aware of some things and to give us some understanding. It is not a purpose to persuade you necessarily, but it is a purpose to make the ministry, by the grace of God, aware of things.

I taught in the public schools for ten years. I was an observer of quite a few things while I was there. That was my career. I had gone to school and studied to be a school teacher. I taught English and History on the highest school level and I was in a system. At the time that I started teaching, I was not fully aware of what was going on around me. Initially I was against the thought of pulling our children out of the public schools, but then, as I said, there were some things I was not fully aware of. The Lord began to deal with my heart along some lines and to show me some things. I began to hear various ones speaking who had a burden to have a Christian school. Some of the things they were saying, and I was still very hesitant about those things and didn't agree with those things, yet some of the things that were said left some seed in my heart and I began to open my eyes to see what was going on around me. I began to be a little more sensitive to what I had been doing. At that point I really feel the Lord began to deal with me. He began to show me things.

I love teaching very much. The Lord has blessed me in it. I give credit to God because when I first started teaching I had some real battles with students who came from homes where they were not taught godly principles; homes where the father was not the head of the home, and in many cases wasn't even in the home. We had some real battles. In my first year of teaching I got, and this is the case for all beginning teachers, the worst classes. I had two students that first year of teaching who took a man up into the woods and killed him. I had a student who was a rapist. I had all kinds

the Lord was dealing with my heart. I began to see some things.

I want to tell you some of the things that are going on in the public schools that you need to be aware of. I know some of us here probably can't have a Christian school and I don't want you to be under any pressure, but I exhort you to pray for your children that have to go to the public schools. The system that we call the public school system is one that has been shaped by things from a long way back. Philosophies have developed, atheistic philosophies, godless philosophies, tendencies opposed to righteous-

The school system that we call the public school system is one that has been shaped by things from a long way back. Philosophies have developed, atheistic philosophies, godless philosophies, tendencies opposed to righteousness down through history.

of characters including forward young ladies. I came into that system with real ideals of how I would handle it and I would come home every day with a headache, but the Lord blessed me. At the end of my first year of teaching my students told me, some of those very ones that I just described, "Mr. Fuller, you didn't know but we had a plot. We got rid of five English teachers before you and we had a plot going that we were going to get rid of you too, but somehow . . . We thought you were a young, wet-behind-the-ear teacher, just coming out of college and we figured you'd be easy to get rid of." But I was praying.

I remember one time in my class room I was having a battle and I just stopped the class and I told one young lady, "I'm praying for you that the Lord will do something about you." The Lord blessed me. I can say it to the glory of God, that the Lord helped me and I got through that first year. I stayed the remaining nine and a half or ten years and things improved all the way up and I progressed. At the end of my career, I had no problems in my classes. By the help of the Lord, I was in control of my classes and I appreciate that. I saw where I started and I knew how I got to where I was. I knew it was the hand of the Lord. I want to make that clear. My principal sat down and talked with me. He asked, "Would you reconsider?" He said there was much room for promotion for me, the students had a regard and respect for me in my classes and "we don't want to see you leave." It was a hard decision to make because as I said I love teaching. I got attached to the students and it was a difficult choice that I had to make but

ness down through history. Some of those have arisen out of the French Revolution in the 18th century and some before that. When we forsake religion, salvation, pure primitive Christianity, there is something that replaces it and these are some of the things that have replaced it. In the 19th century we had Darwinism. I'm not going to belabor these things, but mention them in general and I want to bring us down to today and show you just where we are. There was the German higher criticism in the 19th century, which was a religious movement that opposed traditional beliefs in the infallibility of the Bible, the virgin birth of Jesus, the idea that Jesus was both human and divine and the Son of God. All these things came out in the 19th century and yet they have roots further back in the past.

One of the leaders in developing the education system, you have possibly heard his name, John Dewey, started what we call the progressive education system in the 1920's and the 1930's. John Dewey was a socialist. His main idea was to clear education of religion. He was a humanist that believed that man was the center of everything and that man had potential to develop himself without the assistance of God and could go very far without the assistance of God. Our modern education comes from his philosophy. I took education courses in college and he was one of the leading writers that we read at that time. I didn't know about his goals. I was kind of ignorant and innocent in the whole thing. It took the Lord to really open my eyes to what was going on. The modern education system has very little of God in it. It is not

religious. God is not mentioned one percent of the time. I was under quite a bit of pressure and yet I used every opportunity I could to tell my students about the Lord. When I signed my agreement to become a teacher they knew I was a preacher and they made a point to tell me, "You are a teacher first in our eyes and you are not to be a minister in our class rooms." I was willing to covenant myself into that kind of agreement. I wanted to teach. But at the same time. (I felt like I was true to what I had told them) when the students asked me questions or when it opened up that I could, I would in a way testify to them. I did that on several occasions. I want to tell you again, and this is important, in all the literature, social studies, economics or whatever else, God is not the focal point.

Back when schools were started in colonial times the main textbook was the Bible. As we come down from the colonial times to the 19th century, we find that God was still mentioned about 50 percent of the time. But over a period of years, coming down to modern times, it has come down to about zero percent and I want to say it does have an affect. It might be a half percent but it is about zero percent. The teachers are under pressure. I had one girl tell me she was going home and telling her parents that I had said something about God. I was only teaching a poem that mentioned God in it.

We were requested not even to mention God's name. It creates a duality in the mind of our children that come from homes where the Word of God is taught for them to face a system where they are surrounded by teachers who

What really opened my eyes were two events. The Lord permitted me to take another education course and I said now I am really going to observe and see what they are teaching; what the professors are teaching; what the teachers are going to teach our children. It was the last education class I took. It was to upgrade my certificate. That was about 1983 or 82. In that class they made fun of religion. We were talking about cannibalism and the professor said, "I don't know if cannibalism is wrong. It is according to your particular value system if cannibalism is wrong." That stunned me and I questioned him but he was a very bright man and he started talking and going into depth and he had the sympathy of all the teachers. He said, "Cannibalism isn't wrong, it is according to the circumstances whether it is right or wrong." They question whether there are any absolute values of right or wrong. "It is just what you think is right or wrong." I watched the teachers. They took it all in. Some of them, I believe, were very naive and gullible about it. I observed that. In one complete session of that class they just made fun and laughed. They played a tape that had to do with some people who were, because of their traditional Christian values, questioning some of the things that were being placed in textbooks. They analyzed that tape. They made fun of it. The Lord really opened my eyes.

That is a typical education class, educating teachers who are going to come out and teach the students, your children. They are teaching your children more by what they are than even by what they are saying. It creates a duality for your children. It creates confusion in their mind.

Our children can't help but be affected by those who are standing before them seven hours a day, five days a week. They are actually spending quite a bit more time teaching your children than you are.

don't believe in God and who make fun of religious principles. I am aware of that very much. I observed some things in our teachers who are instructing our children. Our children can't help but be affected by those who are standing before them seven hours a day, five days a week. They are actually spending quite a bit more time teaching your children than you are. We teach a little by what we say, more by what we do, but most by what we are. The teachers in the public school are not the traditional teacher that some of the older ones here were around. They are not the traditional teacher that had absolute values of right and wrong.

They are taught one thing and then they are inundated with this other system that has no God in it at all. I want to tell you, it is very convincing. It is reasonable to the logical mind. I had to battle things myself.

That class room settled the issue pretty much for me. I saw I needed to make a break. It was hard. I was still in the valley of decision about it. Then we had a faculty dinner. Our principal was retiring and I went to his retirement gathering. I was amazed, and then again I wasn't. I had observed some things as a teacher, but I was amazed at some of the things that

(Continued on page 14)

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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).

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

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EDITORIALS

"If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." II Tim. 2:21, 22. Every saved person is a potential vessel for God to use, but in order to be an effective vessel we must be sanctified. Sanctified means to be set apart for God's use. It means to be empty of all hatred, wrath, strife, envying and all other carnal traits.

Carnality and crudeness in the work of the Lord is counter-productive. I am reminded of an Aesop fable which so well illustrates the point. A donkey and a house dog belonged to the same master. Each evening the donkey was stabled and fed and should have been more than content with his lot in life, though he was busy hauling wood all day, and on occasion took a turn at the mill at night.

Meanwhile, the dog was always sporting and gamboling about, and being affectionate toward his master to such an extent that he became a great favorite, and was permitted to lie in his master's lap. The donkey began to feel sorry for himself. It galled him to see the house dog live in such luxury, and enjoy the favor of the master.

One day, thinking that if he behaved in the same fashion toward his master as the house dog he would fare the same, the donkey broke from his halter and rushed inside where the owner sat. Here he pranced about, swishing his tail and imitating as best he could the antics of the house dog. Upsetting the dinner table and smashing the dishes, the donkey jumped upon his master and pawed him with his roughshod feet. At length the servants, seeing their master in no little danger, released him from the donkey's wild caresses. Thereupon they so belabored the silly creature with sticks and stones that he never rose again. It did not matter how well intentioned the donkey was, his animal characteristics were not suited for what he set out to accomplish. A sanctified nature is the only kind suited for the work of the Lord.

Listen to an experience Ezekiel had. "So the spirit lifted me up, and took me away, and I went in bitterness in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the Lord was strong upon me. Then I came to them of the captivity at Telabib, that dwelt by the river of Chebar, and I sat there astonished among them seven days. And it came to pass at the end of seven days, that the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the

house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning." Ezekiel 3:14-17. God gave Ezekiel a message and it was a powerful one, but Ezekiel went down to deliver it in the heat of his own spirit. Humanity was cropping up. The Lord restrained him though, so that he went down and just sat among the people for seven days in wonder. Perhaps by this time he realized that the people he was to minister to were sensitive human beings. They were vulnerable and Ezekiel's message needed to be delivered in such a way that the people would feel it was a rebuke from the Lord and not from him. At the end of this time, God said, now speak. We must sanctify "our" spirit and go in God's.

"And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." II Timothy 2:24-26.

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We would like to emphasize that when you send in articles or copy to be considered for printing, please include your name. It has been our policy not to print current anonymous material. We do value reader response and appreciate those who send in articles, testimonies and information, and encourage each one to continue to write.

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—Wayne Murphey

—————o—————

Atheism is the result of ignorance and pride; of strong sense and feeble reasons; of good eating and ill-living. It is the plague of society, the corrupter of manners, and the underminer of property.

—Jeremy Collier

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MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

REPORT OF THE BOLEY, OKLA. CAMP MEETING

We have praise and thanksgiving to God for the blessed, good old-time camp meeting He gave us in Boley, Oklahoma.

We appreciated the ministers and workers the Lord sent to help in the battle against sin. Our hearts rejoiced and our souls were fed as the Word of God was preached under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Souls were saved. A number sought the Lord to reconsecrate their lives to Him.

The Street Meeting was blessed of the Lord. We appreciate the young saints that helped in it; singing, giving out tracts, etc.

The ordinance and baptismal services were especially anointed of the Lord. Praise the Lord! The spirit of the whole meeting was precious! We were thankful to have with us Bro. John Subhushana, a minister from South India. We give God all the praise and glory for all that was accomplished in the camp meeting.

Yours in His great name,

—Katherine Williams

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DURHAM, N.C. CAMP MEETING REPORT

We are thankful for the camp meeting held in Durham, N.C. this year.

The Lord was faithful in blessing our souls through His anointed Word. We certainly appreciate the Word and are still feasting on it. We

also appreciate the ministers who labored so faithfully.

Pray for us. —Bro. Jerry Lennon

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ORRVILLE, OHIO TENT MEETING REPORT

We appreciate the presence of the Lord and the ministers and saints in our Gospel Tent Meeting held in Orrville, Ohio in July. The Lord was faithful in sending His Word for which we are thankful. The area where the tent was located has a pervasive influence of the Amish-Mennonite tradition. This is our third meeting in this area and the second on this year's location. The proprietor of those grounds has kindly loaned the use of his grounds to the saints indefinitely for this type of meeting. We do plan, Lord willing, to have a meeting next year on this same site.

Souls were stirred in this meeting, and the seed of the gospel has been cast. The Lord must give the increase. The influence of the truth in this area dates back several years and God has not forgotten nor will forget the labor of love extended in the behalf of souls in this area. The themes of this year's meeting seemed to be "A genuine experience in God" and "The Judgments of God." The effectualness of the messages was manifested in the solemnity resting on the altar call. Again God was faithful. Pray for us that we will do all God bids us to do and be worthy servants in these last times.

In Christian love, —The Church of God,
Akron, Ohio

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EVERSON, WA REPORT AND MEETING NOTICE

Greetings to all the saints scattered abroad: We thank the Lord for this wonderful salvation. It satisfies our souls.

The Lord has been faithful to bless the saints here in this area. We would like to share with others about what the Lord is doing.

Last spring, the saints in Seattle, Wash., bought a building to be used as a chapel for worship. They are now using it. Though they are few in number, they are being real faithful. There has been much seed sown there in that large city. Numbers of souls have been dealt with and have heard the truths of God's Word.

Also, two years ago the saints in Everson, Wash., bought a building to be used as a chapel. There are approximately five or six families or more that are sharing the Word. We need much wisdom from above. Although there are many needs, the greatest of all is the call for those who will be willing to move to these new fields. It is so much more effective when a body of

saints can work together in unity with a common burden for others to share these truths with.

Bro. Leslie Busbee from Guthrie, Okla., has expressed a desire to be in the Seattle and Everson, Wash., area for some meetings. The dates scheduled for the Everson meeting are Oct. 29th through Nov. 2nd. The Seattle meeting is to run from Nov. 3rd to the 6th of Nov. Please pray for these meetings. If the Lord would lead you to come and be with us in these meetings, we would be thankful. Also, we are praying that the Lord will send laborers of His choosing to these areas.

Also, we want to send an invitation to all readers of this paper in the Northwest, who may be searching for a people who practice living by the Scriptures, to come to these meetings. You are especially welcome.

Charles and Danella Taylor, 6520 Rainier Ave., Seattle, WA 98118, phone (206) 725-6790. (Chapel address and phone—same)

Paul and Lynette Sorrell, 3002 E. Smith Road, Bellingham, WA 98226, phone (206) 592-5906. (Chapel address—2095 E. Pole Rd., Everson, WA 98247, phone (206) 966-2342.)

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GREEN PASTURES, OK REVIVAL

It has been announced that, Lord willing, the congregation in Green Pastures, Oklahoma will hold a revival meeting beginning Tuesday night, October 7, and continue through Sunday morning, October 12. There will be no afternoon meeting on that Sunday.

They are praying that the Lord will send the workers of His choosing to help in this meeting. If you desire more information, contact the pastor, Bro. Charles Chandler, whose phone number is: (405) 769-7413. Chapel phone number is (405) 771-3710.

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PRATTSVILLE, ARKANSAS REVIVAL

It has been announced that, Lord willing, Bro. Clifford Wilson will be with the saints at Prattsville, AR, October 13-19 for a revival meeting. If you would like more information about this meeting contact Sis. Myrttie Loftis whose phone number is: (501) 699-4368.

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MEETING CORRECTION

Dear Bro. Murphey: Our meeting title printed in the September *Faith and Victory* for Holly Hill, SC, is a little wrong. We will be having, Lord willing, Oct. 19 through 26, a revival rather than a camp meeting. Please correct this for me

because we are not set for a camp meeting. I had hoped that we could have one here, but the buildings are not available for us to do so.

May God bless you all at the Print Shop.
With Christian love, —Utson Platt

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COFFEYVILLE, KANSAS REVIVAL

The saints at Coffeyville want to announce a meeting starting October 20th with services each evening at 7:30. We are grateful to the Lord for burdening a minister to come and be with us. Pray for us, and come and help us.

May the Lord bless for the salvation of lost souls.

For further information, contact: Ralph M. Beisly, phone (316) 251-1108.

Yours in Christ,

—The Coffeyville Congregation

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SAPULPA, OKLAHOMA REVIVAL

The congregation at the Sapulpa Road, Church of God, Sapulpa, OK, have announced that, Lord willing, they will begin a revival meeting on Nov. 2. It will last as long as the Lord leads. On Sunday, Nov. 2, there will be dinner served at the church, but no afternoon services are planned. If you would like more information concerning this meeting, call Bro. Richard Madden at (918) 446-8202.

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ASSEMBLY MEETING AT JEFFERSON, OREGON

The Assembly Meeting on the Church of God campgrounds near Jefferson, Oregon is scheduled to be held November 7-16, 1986. There will be three regular services daily. The meeting will be supported on the free-will offering basis, and the meals will be served in the dining hall on the grounds. Everyone is cordially invited to attend these services.

Directions to the grounds are as follows: Go to the Texaco service station at the north edge of Jefferson, turn right on Marion Road for about ¾ mile, then turn left on Skelton Road for ½ mile to the chapel.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Ostis B. Wilson, 34237 Sunset Drive, Albany, Oregon 97321, phone (503) 928-7223. The chapel phone is (503) 327-9916.

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No thought, no word, no act of man ever dies. They are as immortal as his own soul. Somewhere in this world he will meet their fruits in part; somewhere in the future life he will meet their gathered harvest. —Selected

Prayer Requests

VA—"Pray for Sis. Lillian Bohannon, she had a fall and broke a hip. Also, remember me, my son and all the saints."

—Sis. Nannie Connell

LA—"I surely need prayer." —Mary Bush

LA—"Please remember Amy, our seven year old daughter. She is sorely afflicted beside not being able to walk." —Mrs. Troy Gentry

OR—"Sis. Grace Jones has need of a special touch of healing. She had a fall and broke some ribs. Also, her feet are sore with gout.

Canada—"Please pray that we sell our house."

—Mrs. M. Sommerfeld

OK—"I would like to be put on your prayer list for mental illness. Thank you."

—Mrs. Greta Pinson

LA—"Sis. Beulah Johnson needs special prayer for healing.

OK—"Bro. E. A. Perkins needs prayer.

OK—"My husband is not too well, pray for us."

—Theaster R. Durley

OK—"Sis. Grace Roberts needs prayer.

MS—"Please remember Sis. Dorothy Bridges and her brother, Warren. Sis. Dorothy has diabetes and one toe is giving trouble. She needs healing.

OK—"Sis. Malinda Flynn needs prayer.

IL—"I have arthritis bad, please pray for me. Also, I have some unspoken requests."

—Grace Norton

OK—"Remember Vera Gellenbeck in prayer.

OR—"Don Williamson has an eye problem and needs healing.

OK—"Henry Gibson is very ill. Remember him in prayer.

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From the Mailbox . . .

CA—"Dear Bro. Murphey and workers at the Print Shop: We send our greetings of Christian love to you dear ones there. We trust all is going well with each of you.

We are sad and very lonely for the passing of our dear husband but we are thankful that God had mercy on him and lifted him out of his suffering.

With our love and prayers,

—Sis. Agnes Huskey

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OK—"Dear Bro. Wayne and Workers for Christ everywhere: God is still working miracles when people will step out on His promises. Praise His holy name!

The warriors, of which we spoke last month, returned again yesterday for a second attack on

the bastiles of Satan here at the Joseph Harp Correctional Center. Only the Judgment Day will reveal the results of their accomplishments this day!

For people who have never been in prison, let me explain that privacy and liberty for prayer is desperately lacking. But, thank God, the saints operate under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Thereby, special prayers were able to be sent forth, in agreement, to the throne of His Grace. When people feel the liberty and comfort of one another's love and concern, they are able to pray together, letting their needs, cares and desires be shared therein.

Further, the doors were opened wider, when Chaplain Dixon, of his own accord, scheduled the saints for meetings regularly for the next three months.

Also, the saints' meetings at McAlester Prison and Conners Correctional Center are being reopened and expanded! Praise God! Let us pray fervently that Bro. Richard Madden and the other workers will receive special blessings and support for this much needed area.

Let us work while it is day.

Respectfully, —Bro. Elbert Johnson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

CA—Dear Brother Wayne: Greetings in the name of our dear Lord, Jesus. The joy of salvation is a rich treasure, and the contentment it brings to the innermost soul causes praises to flow from our lips this morning. Praise God for ever and ever.

My prayer is for God to give you strength and grace to keep the printing of the gospel going.

Yours in Christ, —Jim Kutra

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WA—Faith and Victory: Thank you for the *Faith and Victory* paper, I really enjoy it as I am more or less isolated from a Church of God. In our town we have 18 denominations and yet I do not know of a Church of God member here.

Age makes it almost impossible for me to make a move . . .

Sincerely, —Orpha McElroy

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LA—Dear Sister Maybelle: Greetings to you this nice day. So happy to still be saved and enjoying the blessings of the Lord. He is so good to us.

We do appreciate all the good pieces that we read each month. May the Lord bless you all richly and encourage your hearts. We pray for the work there daily.

Remember us,—Lula and Max Williamson

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

OK—Dear Ones at the Print Shop: I am thankful I can help a little to spread the truth. I enjoyed the selection from the *Gospel Trumpet*—1912. My mother took the *Gospel Trumpet* when I was a little girl I enjoyed it very much. I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* too. I pray that all of the prayer requests will be answered. May the Lord bless each of you at the Print Shop.

A Sister in Christ, —Minnie M. Pernicka

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

FL—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt: Tonight I am saved and sanctified. I have a sweet mind to please my Lord in all I do. Last Wednesday morning at 2:00 o'clock, I was awakened with a severe pain in my side. It stayed without any relief until 6:00 o'clock, Wednesday evening. This was a great pain, but I trusted God and He truly blessed me. Praise God.

Genesis 35:2, 7, is encouraging to me. I gave up all strange gods. And my all is on the altar of sacrifice laid, my heart does the Spirit control. If there is any strange god, as pride, envy, dislike, highmindedness, backbiting, etc., God will not heal us, we must be sure we have put away every strange god. It is then we can call upon the name of the Lord with results.

Your Sister in Christ Jesus,

—Kathleen Williams

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

LA—Greetings of Christian love to all who read this: On 8/31/86, about 10 p.m., we were preparing for bed. Our three-year-old son, David, Jr., ran and jumped in bed with his mother. As he jumped, she turned and her elbow hit him square in the nose.

The blood was running freely and he was making quite a bit of noise due to the pain and anxiety.

The wife and I were trying to calm him and to see the extent of the injury. Desire' Kinchen and Dana Purvis were staying with my daughter, Cynthia. The three girls went to prayer for little David. While they were praying, he quit crying and when asked, he said that it didn't hurt anymore. Praise the Lord for young people that know and love the Lord!

Things were calm now, but the blood was still running.

We laid hands on little David (according to Mark 16:15-18) and offered a simple prayer of faith (according to Mark 11:22-24). All agreed that the Lord would completely stop the bleeding.

It was as if a faucet had been turned off. Praise the Lord! He answers prayer. The Lord healed David immediately.

We have found that if we obey God's Word, God will do more than His part in keeping His promises. Let this be read to the Glory of God and for the encouragement of souls.

Heirs of God, —David and Tavel Hilbun

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OK—Dear Saints: As I woke up this morning thinking about the blessings of God, I just felt like I needed to tell some of you how God has blessed us recently. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:" Ps. 103:2.

I have Muscular Dystrophy and without God's help I would have been dead years ago, but as so many of you folks know who have prayed for us, the Lord has undertaken many times for us.

One time several years ago, when we lived in Louisiana, the muscles in my stomach stopped working and it just looked like it was sure death. Assembly Meeting was going on here at Guthrie and we were able to make it here. The saints got under the burden and united in prayer with faith, and God came on the scene. It just felt like a warm soothing touch and He healed it. Matter of fact, He did such a good job that I am several pounds overweight now!

God has seen fit to let the muscles in my legs, arms and shoulders deteriorate to where I have trouble walking and doing many things I would like to do. I know without a shadow of a doubt that He is able to heal this also. Many times it looked like I was headed for a wheelchair for sure, but so far just before I did—I didn't. This has troubled me many times and I have heard many messages about God's will to heal us. It has bothered me much, but in seeking the Lord to show me the cause, He seemed to show me that it is His will to sometimes set us up as a mark. He could have delivered Daniel before He landed in the Den of Lions,—the three Hebrew children could have been delivered before they were put in the fire. How many more we could think of; Job, Jeremiah, Paul, Stephen and on and on. He sees fit we have the trial, and we submit to His will. Dad once called me and said, "always submit to God not to the affliction." We just tell the Lord, "Now I'm your property for you to do whatever you see fit, Lord I want and need the healing but you can see so much farther down the road than I can—so it's in your hands." Notice in the Bible how many times the Lord exhorts us to rest; to seek peace. It seems like when we do that, and get our mind off our troubles and afflictions, then it seems to loose things where God can work.

A few days ago I was just bending over a little to get a drink from a water fountain at a

service station and all of a sudden my back just seemed to come apart with such paralyzing pains. I had a real time getting back home, and the only way I could get any comfort was flat on my back. We prayed about it and sought the Lord for mercy once again. Dora asked if I wanted to call around for prayer—I said no, not yet. We have called so much for prayer I just kind of hated to "bother" the saints. Also I was hoping the soreness would soon go out. But the Lord didn't see fit to follow my little pattern and I seemed to get worse.

I would pray and wait a while, then try to move a little, and it would hurt so bad it would make me suck in my breath. After about three days of that, I was ready to let all the saints know I was needing help. That was on a Tuesday, fast day here. Within a few hours I felt definitely better. I was able to be raised in bed for a few minutes, then a little longer, then able to sit on the side of the bed. The next day they helped me to stand up. Next I was able to use a walker. I was reminded of the place in the Bible where they were healed as they went. By the weekend we went to the Boley, Okla., camp meeting, Sunday night on to Vinita to church at Blue Jacket and on to Neosho, MO. Then we went to Bro. Curtis Williams and their weekend meeting in Kentucky, then back home, visiting along the way. Folks say you should use wisdom, and I agree, but I believe as we move by faith that God will honor it.

I didn't mean to make this so lengthy, but I have heard so much about not seeing the Lord heal, etc. I believe God's power is just as great now as it ever was.

I also know there will be times He wants us to suffer for His sake, but He will give us the grace to bear it joyfully and be an example. There is victory which ever way things may go.

Our dear wife still suffers much with arthritis and a heart condition, with much pain involved, and we are seeking God's help for her. God has blessed her many times and keeps her going.

Let us all keep encouraged, Saints. It won't be long till we will receive our reward and it will be wonderful to hear His "well done" and get to enjoy the bliss of heaven forever.

God bless you and thanks so much for your prayers for us. —Dale and Dora Doolittle

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MO—Dear Bro. Wayne and all the Workers and Saints everywhere: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I truly thank and praise Him for His goodness to me. He has been so precious in my bereavement as were the dear

saints. They have sent many cards of encouragement, love offerings and food. I surely felt your prayers.

The Lord is so faithful when it gets dark, to shine His wonderful light. The enemy was pressing so hard one day and it was like someone inside me started singing that precious song, "Praise God, I live in Beulah land, My house will all the storms withstand; It is not built on sinking sand, My home is on the Rock." Praise the Lord.

Saints, take good courage the battle is the Lords. Not one promise will ever fail. He is so faithful to His trusting children.

Your saved brother in Christ,—Ralph Sell

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FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From India . . .

Aug. 20—Our dearly beloved Sister Maybelle Pruitt, Bro. Wayne Murphey and the dear ones in the Print Shop and abroad: Greetings to you all again in the sweetest name of Jesus Christ. We thank God for His gracious dealings with us everyday. God opened ways to get the printing press fixed and now it is running in good condition. Now we are printing our *Evening Light Songs* book in Malayalam (over 300 songs) which will be completed soon. We are grateful to the saints in America who contributed for this project.

We had very blessed revival meetings for three days at Koottarvila last week. We had ordinance services also on the last day. Only a revival can kindle the passion for souls in the hearts of saints. Only a spiritual revival can bring the believers back to their first love for the Lord. Only a Holy Spirit revival can bring power and passion into the pulpit and thus affect the stagnant pews. May God stir our churches, our pastors and may a revival sweep through the length and breadth of this world. The signs of the Holy Spirit are not to be just words, but the works of the Spirit through transformed lives. May God send a revival and save the church from false teachers and false apostles.

Glad to know that God blessed the camp meetings there this year also. Let us exchange our prayers every day.

Yours in Him, —John Varghese

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My trip to the United States this time made me very happy for I found the *Faith and Victory* and some saints of God. Bro. Wayne Murphey met me at the bus station and took me to the Print Shop. I attended the Boley camp meeting and also one in California. After I returned from

California, Bro. Orie Young took me to meet the saints in Sapulpa, Tulsa and some other places. All the saints received me into their fellowship. I was very much pleased for their love. They said they would be praying for my work in India.

While in the States I received a letter from my son who said that there had been a big cyclone in India. Many houses were flooded. The cyclone did much damage. Please pray for my people.

In one village some Hindu religion people have newly accepted the Lord and were baptized by me. They do not have a chapel but are gathering for worship in an elementary school building. A certain denomination has asked them to their place and told them that if they will join them they will build them a church building. Please pray for them that they may have a chapel and will not join this denomination.

—Bro. John Subhushana Rao

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From the Philippines . . .

Aug. 16—Dear Brother G. A. Hammond, W. Murphey and Sister M. Pruitt: Greetings to you in the precious and wonderful name of the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.

I am thanking our Lord for the graces and blessings that He has given me. Our gospel work here is going fine and well in Gingoog City, but still we have to go further from Gingoog City. I have moved my gospel work to Kimaya Magsaysay. I have just recently opened our branch Church of God in Kimaya Magsaysay Misamis Oriental. Our brothers and sisters there are very happy and all of them were very eager to attend the group discussions of the gospel. Many questions arose and I tried to explain or answer them according to the Bible or based on the Bible. They were enlightened.

Our gospel mission even reached to Monkayo, Davao del Norte. I know God is always guiding me in my mission to spread the Words of God. I, my wife and my three-year-old son left Gingoog City last August 5, 1986, at 2:30 a.m., going to Monkayo Davao del Norte. After one hour of travel our car was already ascending the narrow road and when our car was descending down, suddenly the lights were completely put out. There was complete darkness around us. After some few minutes I managed to switch on the light. We still only had one light. As we looked around, our car was nearly falling down the edge of the road. Because of our trouble, I had to drive the car slowly down because the road was not so clear. We continued our travel and reached Monkayo Davao del Norte at 7:30 a.m. We stayed in Monkayo August 5-6. We were

able to go around and spread the Words of God. I was able to enlighten my father and his family about seeking the truth. We discussed many things from the Bible and I won their hearts about the faith.

We left Monkayo Davao del Norte August 6 at 1:00 p.m. and we reached Gingoog at 5:00 p.m. Our hearts are full of praises to our Lord Jesus Christ who has always been with us.

Your brother in Christ,—Nonilon Capuyan

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Sept. 1—My dear Bro. Murphey, Sister Pruitt, Bro. Hammond and all the Saints: Greetings to the family of God in the wonderful name of Jesus. We are always serving the Lord's gospel to people in Talisayan. The new government by President Aquino is not really well established. The constitutional commission is yet discussing about U.S. Military bases here in the Philippines. Recently, on August 30, 1986, there was a symposium by the theme: Retainment or dismantling U.S. Military bases in the Philippines. Lawyers from Palisayan and Gingoog City defended for the retainment of the U.S. bases. A student of a University in Bachelor of Arts gave reasons for dismantling U.S. bases. He was inclined towards the doctrine of Communism. The Symposium was held at the public stage of Talisayan. The doctrine of communism was heard only in the mountain folks during the previous President Marcos' government but now, because the people are given the freedom to speak, it will come out in the open for the people to decide on in the coming year of 1990, for the agreement of the Philippines on U.S. Military bases will expire on 1991. The people know that if the U.S. bases are dismantled, Communism will take over the government. That is what they say. So dear saints, please pray for us that our liberty and freedom will not be tampered with by the evil thoughts of these young students which have tried to prove the Americans are not giving the Philippines the true meaning of democracy.

This young student had no experience during the past second World War when Filipino soldiers fought side by side with the American soldiers that liberated the Philippines in the year 1944. Forty-two years ago, I was a lad about 11 years old. I saw people, men and women, young and old, cry for joy and shout "Victory!!" upon seeing the American force on the shores of the Islands. But this the younger generation doesn't know, for what they know now is the deceiving doctrine of Communism to down the faith of the Filipino on democracy.

The communists are materialistic in their opinion with feign words claiming that com-

munist will not abolish religion or worship with God, but they are false and deceiving puff words because in Russia and China the priests, pastors and evangelists are in prison and no religion is granted by their government . . .

The Lord's blessings by the Holy Ghost be with us all in the blessed name of the Lord Jesus.

Yours always in Christ,

—Leonardo Salvana and Family

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Aug. 22—Dear Sister Pruitt: Greetings of love in the precious name of Jesus our Saviour. Thank you so much dear sister for your unfailing love for us. It has been a long time that you were sacrificing for the mission work in the Philippines. I realize the burden you had been bearing for us. Please tell the saints in U.S.A. that the saints in the Philippines are so thankful for your care and concern for soul's salvation. We are all praying that the good heavenly Father will give you more opportunity to reach more souls for Christ. The time is running fast and the end is approaching very near. We pray for the blessed day that we shall meet all the dear saint in U.S.A and other saints in the world in that beautiful and eternal place prepared for us.

I'm so happy to report to you that a pastor and his wife of another church were saved and we baptized them in the river last Sunday afternoon. They are a very good young couple. They are so happy and thankful that they have found the true Church. They realized that sectism, or denominationalism, is against the will of God because it divides God's people. They are now very active preaching the truth and they said they want to dedicate all their time and efforts to serve the Lord.

The saints here made a plan of fellowship meeting of two days in San Jose. It is scheduled August 30 and 31. We hope for a very warm meeting of the saints and full of the Holy Spirit.

In our regular midweek service my heart was overflowing with joy and thanksgiving because of many testimonies of the saints, how they feel the presence and power of God in their lives. We are praying for more souls to be drawn to Christ and be saved so that they will receive and experience the blessings of God that is in Christ Jesus our loving Lord and Saviour. Oh! how precious are the blessings of God. They are more than gold and silver.

Thank you so much again dear saints for your sacrifices, love and vision for the Church of God in the Philippines.

With much love,

—Matias S. Tangunan and Saints

In Memorial

Mrs. Eva Sell was born April 15, 1913 in Kingfisher, Oklahoma, and passed away August 29, 1986, in Neosho, Missouri.

Mrs. Sell moved to Neosho in 1938 from Fairview, Okla. She was an employee of Big Smith Manufacturing Co., for 27 years, retiring in 1975. She was a member of the Neosho Church of God.

She married Fred Kobus, in 1936, and he died Feb. 16, 1963. She married Ralph Sell, July 8, 1979. He survives.

Other survivors include two step-daughters, Onita Lassiter and Bonita Jones, both of Neosho; two brothers, Alfred Bastings, Granby, and Robert Bastings, Springfield; two sisters, Gladys Bastings, Neosho, and Violet Kiriakou, Turlock, Calif.; 10 step-grandchildren and 26 step-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the Freund-Thompson Chapel with Ervin Standlee officiating, assisted by Bro. Egbert Allen. Burial was in Hazelgreen Cemetery, Boulder City.

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Thomas Richard Taylor was born in Mondell, Arkansas to James Samuel Taylor and Nevada Bell Harp Smith on August 1, 1902. He departed this life on August 22, 1986, in Pacoima, California, at the age of 84 years and 21 days.

He was united in marriage to Dazella Bell Dennis on March 18, 1922. To this union, two daughters were born.

Bro. Taylor accepted the Lord at the age of 44 years in Neosho, Missouri, through the faithfulness of his wife's life and prayers. He attended service in Neosho until he moved to Wichita, Kansas. Throughout his life, he served the Lord to the fullness of his understanding, and attended the congregations where he lived. After he moved to California, he attended service in Bakersfield, until he moved to Pacoima in 1975. He lived there until his demise. Before he passed, he left the testimony that he was ready to meet God.

Bro. Taylor was the second of ten children, all of whom preceded him in death. His wife, Sis. Daisy, passed away in 1980. He leaves to mourn his passing his two daughters, Mrs. Joan de Arc Johnson and Mrs. Thomasene Ritcharda Pierro, five grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren, many relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were held in the Saints' Chapel on the Church of God Campground at

Pacoima, California, near the Sunset Guest Home where he lived as a resident for eleven years.

The service was officiated by Bro. Alvin Lucas, assisted by Bro. James Kutra. Interment was at Glen Haven Memorial Park in San Fernando, California, where his wife was also buried.

The family of Bro. Taylor wishes to thank each one for their prayers, love, cards and help given. It means a whole lot to know you care.

—The Family of Bro. Taylor

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Charles Gilbert Kelley was born in Hoffman, Okla., July 6, 1948, to Herman Dean and Odever E. (Ligons) Kelley. He departed this life to be with his eternal Father, August 21, 1986.

As a young adult, Charles accepted Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. He was an active and faithful member of the Third St. Church of God where he served as a Sunday school teacher. In 1978, Charles was ordained as a minister in the Church of God and for several years, assisted his father, Bro. Herman D. Kelley, Pastor at Third Street.

Charles was employed in several capacities with the Internal Revenue, Veterans Administration and Federal Aviation Administration before entering a family founded business, Kelco Petroleum, Inc., where he served as President and Chief Executive Officer until his death.

In 1970, Charles joined Marva L. Crisp in Holy Matrimony and was a loving and faithful father to one daughter, Charlonda Denise and two sons, Zahraine Victor (Randy) and Stacy Lonnell.

Charles leaves to cherish his memory, a wife, Marva L. Kelley; one daughter, Charlonda Kelley; two sons, Randy and Stacy Kelley; all of the home; his parents, Odever E. and Herman D. Kelley; three sisters, Mary E. Eddens, Herma Leen Campbell and Evelyn Kelley Williams, all of Okla. City; two brothers, Sherman Van of Morris, Okla., and James Lewis of Anadarko, Okla.; and other relatives and friends.

Interment was in Memorial Park, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

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NOTE OF THANKS

The family of Bro. Charles G. Kelley thanks each and every one for all their prayers, love offerings, flowers, and any other act of kindness extended to us during this time of bereavement. As many know, Bro. Herman Kelley suffered a heart attack and a light stroke on the night after Charles' homegoing. We appreciate all your prayers and concern for him. Bro. Kelley is

improving steadily but he does still need prayer. Continue praying for him and the entire family. May God bless all of you is our sincere prayer.

Yours in Christ, —The Kelley Family

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Milley Jane Smith was born June 10, 1882 at Sevierville, Tennessee. She was one of seven children born to John and Sarah Massey.

She was united in marriage with Isaac Smith December 29, 1900 in Sevierville. They came to Anthony, Kansas soon after and established their home here in 1901.

There were blessed with seven children: Nora, Clarence, Raymond, Irene, Pauline, Marie, and a son who died in infancy.

"Aunt Jane", as she was known to her family and friends, was a loving, caring person. Her God and her family took first place in her life. She loved going to church and being with people and she was a friend to everyone she knew.

Aunt Jane loved to travel and made numerous trips back to Tennessee and also to California as long as she was able to travel. She had a wonderful memory and could tell many interesting things about her "growing up" years in Tennessee and also about early day events in Anthony.

She was a member of the Church of God in Anthony and attended faithfully as long as her health permitted.

Milley Jane passed away Wednesday, September 17, 1986 in the Cedar Crest Nursing Home in Anthony at the age of 104 years, 3 months, and seven days.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Isaac, May 4, 1946; three sons, Clarence Smith, Raymond Smith, and her infant son; one daughter, Irene Smith; her father and mother; one brother, Bob Massey; and five sisters, Mary, Susan, Dicey, Gertie, and an infant sister.

She is survived by three daughters: Nora Smith, Pomona, Calif., Pauline Patterson of Anthony, and Marie Robertson of Wichita; five grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren; many other relatives and friends.

She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Our loss is Heaven's gain.

Funeral services were held at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, September 20, 1986, in the Elliott Mortuary Chapel in Anthony, Kansas, with Bros. Leslie Busbee and Wayne Murphey officiating. Interment was in the Forest Park Cemetery in Anthony, Kansas.

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The inherent vitality of God's Word is such that a single sentence or verse from it has been known to save a soul and to utterly transform a life.

The Dangers in the Public Schools

(Continued from Page 3)

were going on at the faculty party. The whole time the Master of Ceremonies told nothing but sexual and suggestive jokes. The teachers laughed and enjoyed themselves. I was grieved. That also catalyzed my decision.

The Akron school system is the best in the state of Ohio in terms of your large cities. We didn't have a lot of murders in the hallways and those things like the Cleveland schools and some of those bigger cities have. The problem I had was not so much that there are drugs and so forth but there were sensual things going on; teachers and students, teachers and teachers. They had a faculty party and one teacher made passes to another teacher's wife. All those things are going on. Those are the kind of morals that the present day teachers have.

I stood in the hallway one day and I watched the students going back and forth and it was one of the times that I was pretty burdened. I said, "Lord, I can't allow my children to walk in this kind of hallway. I can't do it. Will you make a way for me to provide something else for my children?" I didn't want them walking in the hallway with the things I was seeing; the lack of respect, the unsobriety, just all kinds of things that I saw every day.

However, the biggest threat is not an open thing. The drugs and sexual deviation is open, but there is something going on that isn't open. It is a slow undermining affect. The textbooks erode away the things we are trying to teach our children. May the Lord bless us. It all comes from that higher criticism, the philosophy of humanism. It is the philosophy that pervades our public school system. In the last education class I took, the professor asked, "Where do you think we get our textbooks? Who do you think determines what textbooks we are going to use?" Various ones responded and said, "Well, the parents determine it." He laughed and said, "Oh, no, the parents don't determine what textbooks your students are going to use." Someone said, "The school boards do." He kind of laughed at that and said, "No, the school boards don't. The people that really determine what textbooks are going to be used in the public schools are the textbook companies, and they are going to sell whatever they can for the money. They put anything in there to please the people. They are not going to put anything in there that the majority of the people are going to oppose. They want to make money so they are going right along with the trend of our age." The textbook company's interest is not the souls of the children or their spiritual well-being at all. It is

what will sell and that is getting worse. Now saints, I wanted to make us aware of these things. I pray that we will have the understanding. I know the Bible says in all your getting get understanding, and this is my purpose today to give you an understanding. We want to educate our children with a strong moral and spiritual focus. That is our desire. You pray for us.

The History of Halloween



Halloween is probably the strangest celebration of the year. Children masquerade as witches, goblins, ghosts, and other creatures and characters, door to door, chanting "Trick or Treat", while carrying a sack to fill with goodies. You see black cats, witches on brooms, jack-o'-lanterns, etc., posted in various places. People go through "haunted houses" to be spooked and scared by costumed demons.

Are these ideas and activities the simple innocent holiday fun that most people believe them to be? Where did this holiday originate? Why is it celebrated?

History tells us that the earliest Halloween celebrations were held by the Druids in honor of Samhain, Lord of the dead, whose festival fell on November 1st.

It was a Druidic belief that on the eve of this festival, Samhain called together the wicked souls (spirits) that within the past 12 months had been condemned to inhabit the bodies of animals.

The Druids, an order of priests in ancient Britain, believed that on Halloween, ghosts, spirits, fairies, witches and elves came out to harm people. They thought the cat was sacred and believed that cats had once been human beings but were changed as punishment for evil deeds. This belief brought about the present day use of witches, cats and ghosts, in Halloween festivities.

The ancient pagans believed that on that night of the year, the souls of the dead returned to their original homes. The souls of the good men were carried away to paradise, and the souls of the wicked men were left to wander in space between the earth and the moon haunting the living. These wicked spirits had means of exercising their spell. To be free from their evil sway, you would have to set out food—give the demons a treat—and provide them shelter for the night. If they liked your treat, you would live in peace. If you did not provide, or if they were not satisfied with your treat, then the

spirits would "trick" you by casting a spell on you.

In the A.D. 800's, the Roman Catholic church established All Saints' Day on November 1. The mass said on this day was called Allhallowmas.

When the early Catholic church was unable to stop pagan practices, it accepted them and gave them a religious tune. It designated the October 31st date as All Hallow e'en or Halloween—it means hallowed or holy evening.

Does not history show that Halloween is unmistakably a "religious" (pagan & Roman) holiday? It is obvious that the traditions of Halloween observe evil spirits and demonic activity.

I Thessalonians 5:22 reads, "Abstain from all appearance of evil." In I Corinthians 10:31, it says, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

We trust these facts have enlightened your understanding and may we all seek God with our whole hearts and minds.

—Kenny Abbott, Jr.

NEW TAPES AVAILABLE



Dear Saints: For some time now it has been my desire to make available on cassette tapes the precious songs which I have collected from the old songbooks which were printed by the Gospel Trumpet Company in the late 1800's and early 1900's, especially those on the subject of the "last reformation" message which brought forth the glorious truth which has set us so perfectly free. Consequently, two 60-minute cassette tapes are now available titled, "The Last Reformation Truth in Song." These include all the songs, so far as I know about, on the subject of the Church and the Evening Light Reformation which were not included in our *Evening Light Songs* hymnal. They are taken from the following sources: *Anthems From the Throne*, 1888; *Echoes From Glory*, 1893; *Songs of the Evening Light*, 1897; *Salvation Echoes*, 1900; *Truth in Song*, 1907; *Select Hymns*, 1911; *Songs of Grace and Glory*, 1918; *Reformation Glory*, 1923; *Melodies of Zion*, 1926; *His Praise Anew*, 1936; and *Songs of Zion*, 1940. Also included in this collection are four songs written more recently: "The Church is Moving On" by Bro. Donald Sharp, and "The Evening is Glorious", "Beautiful for Situation is Mount Zion", and "I Am the Door", by this writer.

These tapes are priced at \$1.50 each.

Also available are photo copies of the songs, \$1.50 for the whole collection.

I also have one tape available of singing from the Monark Springs National Camp Meeting, July 1986. It is a 90-minute tape but is also priced at \$1.50.

This entire offer is available to you for \$7.00 postpaid. Order from: "Songs of the Evening Light", c/o Harlan Sorrell, Rt. 1, Box 118-A, Myrtle, MO 65778.

I joyfully offer this small collection of "The Last Reformation Truth in Song" with a prayer that the precious truth herein "clothed in strains of music grand" will bless many hearts and help gather together in one all the dispersed children of God. May the glory waves from the throne of God which have leaped in my soul as these songs were recorded ripple on to the hearts of every listener, and may God's name be magnified. Amen!

—Harlan Sorrell

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Please discuss I Timothy 5:23 and does this Scripture teach the use of home remedies, etc.?

Answer: I Timothy 5:23 reads thus: "Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thy often infirmities." First, I will apply the teachings of this same man, Paul, in another text to this same man, Timothy, found in II Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Surely it is necessary to rightly divide the word of truth in this text the same as in any other text.

The Bible has quite a little bit to say about wine in both the Old and New Testaments. If we use the term "wine" indiscriminately we will run into numerous dead ends and difficult complications. There was fermented wine which the Bible condemns generally in every reference to it. Proverbs 20:1 says, "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Proverbs 21:17 says that he that loveth wine shall not be rich. In Proverbs 23:29 it asks who has woe, sorrow, contentions, babblings, wounds without cause and redness of eyes? Verse 30 says, "They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine." Then verse 31 and 32 adds this admonition, "Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent,

and stingeth like an adder." All the texts and many others clearly refer to wine as an intoxicant in an advanced state of fermentation and is stoutly condemned and is strongly admonished against throughout the Scriptures.

There was also a sweet or fresh wine (grape juice) which is also referred to as "Wine" in the Scriptures with no distinguishment. Therefore we cannot arbitrarily accept the argument of some that "Wine is wine and it is all the same. Wine just means wine where ever you see it." It would be difficult to fathom the idea that in this place Paul was instructing Timothy to drink something that was so strongly condemned in other Scriptures in the Bible. Neither can I fathom the idea Jesus Himself would have passed to His disciples at the institution of the Lord's Supper a cup filled with this abominable, condemned substance and declare it to be His blood of the New Testament which is shed for the remission of sins. He didn't. But He called it the "Fruit of the vine"—Luke 22:18, Mark 14:15 and Matthew 26:29.

I realize that every one may not concur in my conclusions in this text and question but my conclusion based on the foregoing Scriptures is that Paul was instructing Timothy to drink grape juice (the fresh, sweet variety) as it would be good for his stomach and system in general. It is commonly known that grape juice is an excellent health food—good for the stomach, good for the digestive tract, and a good blood purifying agent. The water in the area may not have been all that good and pure and it would help his health to drink some wine (grape juice) along instead of water all the time. It seems from the text that he was instructing him to discontinue water altogether and drink grape juice (wine) instead. But I do not think of this as a remedy such as medication or pills or home remedies for an ailment, but for him to avail himself of the good health food that was available.

The New Testament Scriptures abound with teachings for saints to trust God with every phase and area of our lives (spiritual and physical—soul and body) and offers much incentive for that in multitudes of healing of the people by Christ and His apostles and others and the promise of its continuance for all believers throughout this dispensation—Mark 16:14-18). God's Word gives positive instructions to the saints what to do when they become ill—"Call for the elders of the church and let them pray over them anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up." James 5:14.