

FAITH AND VICTORY

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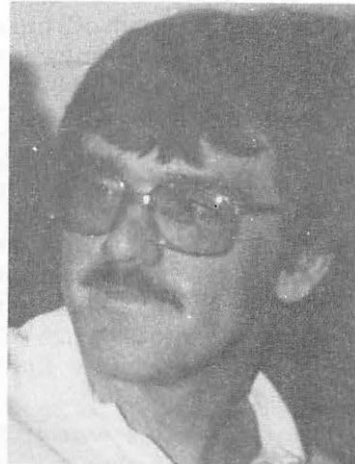
Jan., 1988

New Year Patches

Matthew 9:16.

Making resolutions,
Starting life anew—
Enthusiastic menders
Toil the whole night thru
Patching up old garments
In the past they've torn;
Then with well-meant patches
Greet the New Year Morn.
Holes are then all mended
Perfectly—they think;
But ere the first day passes,
Hopes begin to sink;
For they soon discover
That their garments old
Have been worn so thread-bare
Patches will not hold.
Vain are human efforts
Good lives to begin—
Self-created righteousness
Only makes more sin.
Mending up the old life
Ne'er will make it right—
Such is naught but filthy rags
In the Saviour's sight.
Jesus has new garments,
Free from spot or rent,
Which He gives to sinners
If they will repent.
Patch no more the old one,
Start the New Year right—
Ask Him for a new one
Free from sinful blight.
(Written in 1940 by Geneva Ray.)

Testimony of Stan Lingar



For the abundant gift given unto me of God's love, mercy, and saving grace, the following testimony is written to bestow honor to my Lord, Saviour, and Friend, Jesus Christ. It is my prayer that each and every reader will open his heart and mind to the things I will be sharing because its true message is that of the power of God, and that message is for all men, saved or unsaved.

I am a 24-year old convicted murderer who is now on death row in the Missouri State Penitentiary. My next, and maybe last, execution date is now scheduled for January 15, 1988. I have recently withdrawn my appeals from the courts and plead guilty to my crime of murder, so I could confess my wrong to the people I've hurt, as well as to God. By doing so, it has also opened a door which now makes it possible for me to share my personal testimony to its fullest extent, thus allowing me to totally deny myself in all areas of this life with its mortal restrictions, hoping that I can, for Jesus' sake, bring even more glory to God.

John 3:16, says, "For God so loved the world. . . ." Well, that gives a perfect description of who I was; I was of the world. It also explains why God dealt with my heart the way He did during the two months before I committed the crime of murder. It was because He loved me! In November, 1984, God began to deal with my heart and He tried in many different ways to make His love a personal message to me. He tried to get me to respond to His love before it was too late. God knew what lay ahead of me and it was through His great love that He tried to warn me of those things. I knew God was dealing with my heart and during those times I would even pray to Him. I really and truly wanted to live for God and I knew that He would help me get my life straightened out, or give me the needed grace to change my way of living. That wasn't the problem. My problem was that I just **would not** let go of the life that I was living. I kept putting it off until the next day. I kept trying to convince myself that since God was dealing so strongly today, and since He knew my desire to live for Him, He would surely deal with me again tomorrow. I even tried to make myself believe that I could change slowly—like quit this thing today and tomorrow quit the next things, etc. It was just another excuse that Satan gave me to prevent me from turning to God with all my heart, and it was easy to claim and use that excuse since I was still carnal and had that nature fighting to be fed and pampered.

I was sick of the life I was living, but I fought to keep it by pushing away God's help. I wanted to live for God, but I kept putting it into the future tense: "Tomorrow." It is now my desire to share with you one of the more personal dealings God had with me and the results of my putting God off one time too many. The reasons I chose this one particular dealing God had with me is because I feel you will be able to see for yourself God trying to warn me of something. I also want to use this particular dealing because it was the last time God dealt with me until after I had committed the crime of murder.

God dealt with my heart many times and in many ways throughout November and December, 1984. I believe the most personal and touching plea came from our preacher about two weeks before the crime was committed. I always had high respect and great love for this preacher and I still do to this very day. His name is Bro. Clay Brooks. He drove out to my parents' home and while there he asked me how I was doing. I answered that I was doing all right. At that point he began to cry and he told me that he knew God had been dealing with me and he

asked me if I would please come to church the following Sunday. I felt like part of me wanted to break down and cry, while the other part of me wanted me to run away from that man, but I had feelings and respect for him, so I stayed as he continued to plead with me to please be in church on the following Sunday. I finally looked up and said, "Brother Brooks, I can't promise you that I will be there and I won't lie to you. I very seriously doubt that I will be, because I have already made plans for this Sunday." I can't remember his exact words, but as he continued to weep, he said something to the effect of, "Stan, you know God has been dealing with your heart. You can't keep running from God; give in before it's too late. God wants to help you. Please be in church this Sunday because you might not be given another chance," etc. I wanted to say "yes" more than anything in the world. God was dealing with my heart, but I remembered my other plans, so I looked up at that dear man and shook my head "no." He said, "It may be your last chance. If you won't come to church this Sunday, will you come the next time if it isn't too late?" With that I told him I would try.

That was my last warning! God had tried to help me several times and, as always, I kept putting it off. I didn't even notice at the time that God had quit dealing with me. I can't really explain any feelings or emotions that I had during the following week and a half because I don't recall having any; that is, until the day before the crime took place, which was on January 5, 1985.

At this point, I could try sugar-coating a lot of things with long explanations of why, or how I got mixed up into this type of lifestyle, but I am not going to do that because I cannot and will not make excuses for Satan, nor do I feel I could bring any glory to God by dwelling on, or explaining the details of my past sins. The truth of my behavior during that period of my life is clearly pointed out, and very well explained in John 8:44. "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning. . . ."

I was blind to the truth then. I was bound by invisible chains of darkness, and through my own ignorance I willingly followed right behind Satan no matter where, or what he would lead me into. Little did I realize then that I was one of Satan's children and under his control! I thought I was basically a good person so I refused to admit Satan was my master. I was even blind to the fact that I was bound by him, that is, until God began to deal with me and warn me of danger ahead. God made His love

known to me and wanted me to respond. I realized then just how bound I was by Satan! I couldn't quit anything of my own will power and I knew it. I also knew God could help me, so I asked Him for help. I was pushing away God's help day by day because I wouldn't let go of my life of sin. I didn't realize it at the time, but I was also pushing away my only hope!

It would be nearly impossible for me to list the many areas in which I was led into and bound by, but for the glory of God and His great power to loosen souls bound by Satan's forces, I will list a few of the many areas that I was imprisoned by. I had an unruly attitude and I was disobedient to my parents. I would feel threatened when in the presence of anyone who had authority over me. I would lie, cheat, steal, curse and mess with diverse types of drugs. I smoked about two packs of cigarettes each day. I drank some type of alcohol almost daily. I was promiscuous and totally degraded by sin, and in the early morning hours of January 6, 1985, after shooting a young man a total of three times, I literally became a murderer.

numb for over two weeks from the night of the crime until Jesus saved me! At one point during those two weeks, everything reached its breaking point. I wanted to die. Satan even made me feel at peace with the thoughts he would give me of death. I never stopped to consider God, heaven, Satan, or hell. I was blind to it all! I only felt at peace when I thought of killing myself. If I thought of anything else, I would feel tormented beyond explanation, so naturally all my thoughts were of suicide. I made plans and gathered the needed materials to end my life. I was just sitting in my cell waiting until the other inmates were locked down for the night, and for the lights to be turned out. I was blinded by Satan that I was standing on hell's front porch and about to knock on the door. My mind was made up and my body too numb to feel fear.

It was nearing the time for the other prisoners to be locked up for the night. My thoughts kept going to my Mom, Dad, and family, so I convinced myself that it would be easier on them and a lot less painful for them to have me

"I was blinded by Satan that I was standing on hell's front porch and about to knock on the door. My mind was made up and my body too numb to feel fear."

I know what it means to be in bondage. Everyone saved and unsaved alike, knows the power Satan has to blind and lead a person into captivity. Now whether or not they will admit it is entirely another matter. My testimony isn't about Satan's power that binds one's soul, but it is of God and of His greater power to loose those souls from bondage, and it is of God's loving favor with men which causes Him to recreate and transfer man from his sinful nature into something holy, pure, unreprouvable and into something God calls His child!

I am a living witness of God's power to free souls bound by Satan's wretched, tormenting grip! Oh, how I praise God for releasing me from Satan's control. You see, it is by the grace of God that I am alive tonight to write you these things. After Satan had led me into the blind, numb realm of darkness, and used me to destroy so many people's lives, he wanted, and tried to force me into suicide. I was in jail after my arrest and for the following two weeks I was mentally tormented with thoughts of how many people's lives I had destroyed. My body remained

dead, accept the fact, and carry on with their lives than to have to suffer with me being on death row for a while and then executed anyway. It helped for me to think along those lines because it made suicide seem easier. I didn't want to think about them because I was afraid that I might change my mind. Well, God had plans of His own. He was going to try one more time to deal with my heart! Shortly before lock down, He sent a 17-year-old boy around to my cell. The boy gave me a Bible in case I wanted something to read during the night. I didn't want it, but I accepted it and told the boy, "Thanks." I figured he might try hanging around, trying to get me to accept the Bible if I didn't, and I wasn't in the mood to talk to anyone. I took the Bible and laid it down with no intentions of picking it back up. I soon began to have some more thoughts about my family. I was wondering if I should write them a suicide note, and if so, what I would say. For the first time since the crime took place, I realized my body was no longer numb. I felt sick. I wanted

(Continued on page 5)

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This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21, and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ—the same gospel that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for the body. James: 5:14, 15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way as the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 25:2; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

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Editorials

It seems that life is full of beginnings and endings. Another year is gone and we are entering into a period of time that is uncharted. How comforting it is to know that there is a guide, Christ our Saviour, who has promised to be with us always, even unto the end of the world. (Matthew 28:20).

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We want to thank everyone who remembered the Print Shop with Christmas cards. We may be unable to acknowledge each one, but we want you to know that they have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated.

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We still have a few 1988 wall calendars in stock and available for the price of \$1.60. Each calendar measures 7¼ x 13½ inches, and includes a colorful nature scene for every month. Remember to include 75¢ for postage and handling.

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Bound volumes of the 11 issues of the *Faith and Victory* paper for the year of 1987 will soon be available. The price is \$1.00 per book, plus 70¢ for postage and handling. Also available will be 1987 *Beautiful Way* books for Juniors (52 papers for the year) at \$1.00 each, plus 70¢ postage and handling.

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Word has been received of the sudden death of Bro. Egbert Allen of Norwood, MO. His wife, Sis. Pearl, is in poor health and would surely appreciate your prayers. Those who wish to send condolences, may address all correspondence to: Rt. 2, Box 382, Norwood, MO 65717.

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

"If any man serve me, let him follow me." John 12:26. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27. What does it mean to really follow the Lord? It is easy to categorize several things together and call it following the Lord, but if we cannot perceive our walk with God as a part of our daily attitudes and actions, then we may be falling short of the crucial command to follow Him.

The disciples followed the Lord, but following Christ meant more than just traveling from one place to another. When we closely consider the disciples, we find a number of instances when through their zeal and lack of knowledge they moved ahead of Christ instead of following Him. Once was when a certain woman brought an alabaster box and poured a costly ointment upon Christ's head. "But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste? For this ointment might have been sold for

much, and given to the poor." Matthew 26:8, 9. Perhaps it was their zeal to help the poor which prompted them to speak. One account of this incident pinpoints Judas as the perpetrator of the dissatisfaction, and we know what was motivating him. Whatever the reason may have been, the disciples should have entered into the spirit of adoration that the woman was displaying. There is a lesson in this for us. When an individual or a group of people, have a desire to do something for God's cause, we should be hesitant to say that their effort and finances would have been better spent elsewhere. As long as their motive is pure, we should be supportive of a work done for God.

Let us take further notice of Judas who failed to follow Christ. "Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you?" And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver." Matthew 26:14, 15. Judas was presumptuous. He had hoped to have the silver and Christ too, believing that Jesus would deliver Himself from the cross. When Judas saw that Christ was condemned, the devil brought total despair into his life and he went out and hung himself. When Judas dealt with the Chief Priests, he did not stop to think of what his relationship to Jesus would have been even if Christ had chosen to escape death.

It is obvious how Satan worked in Judas, but it is not as discernable when he tempts people today, assuring them that everything will be alright. This is why the Psalmist David prayed that he might not commit presumptuous sins. (Psalms 19:13). We must always keep in mind what our relationship to God will be if we do what we are tempted to do. We cannot follow Jesus by presuming.

It is also possible to be presumptuous towards our brethren. We should not assume that we can be a little over-bearing toward someone because they are brothers and sisters in the Lord. Our relationships are much more likely to prosper and be pleasing to God if we show due respect and an awareness of other's rights and feelings.

Presumption and impertinence go hand in hand. One writer wrote, "He is guilty of impertinence who considers not the circumstances of time, or engrosses the conversation, or makes himself the subject of his discourse, or pays not regard to the company he is in."

If Judas had been following Jesus, he would not have disclosed some of the information he did. He should have never led the Chief Priests to Jesus. He was indiscreet. There are some things that should be kept in confidence no matter how tempted one may be to tell it. Much damage has been done through indiscreet disclosures. Consider this quote: "An indiscreet man is more hurtful

than an ill-natured one; for the latter will only attack his enemies and those he wishes ill to; the other injures indifferently both friends and foes."

Judas was not the only disciple who had difficulty following Christ. Once Peter reasoned thus: "Lord, and what shall this man do?" John 21:21. Jesus plainly told Peter that to follow Him he should not concern himself with his brother's business.

Another time James and John, in a heat of passion, asked Christ if they should call fire down from heaven and consume a village. (Luke 9:54). Jesus rebuked them and told them they knew not what manner of spirit they were of. The disciples were zealous for Christ's cause, but they were a step ahead of Him. In our ardent zeal we can be tempted to cast aside people when Christ is not in us doing so at all.

Something which will help us to follow Christ in all of these areas is found in the verse which says to "Study to be quiet." 1 Thessalonians 4:11. We need to know the blessing of waiting on the Lord. When we can do so, then our words and actions will be in season and as beautiful as apples of gold in pictures of silver. (Proverbs 25:11).

—Wayne Murphey

Testimony of Stan Lingar

(Continued from page 3)

to get my mind off of everything until after lock down and then I would deal with all of it. I couldn't clear my mind of the thoughts of my family, so I thought it might help to read something. All I had was the Bible the 17-year-old had given me, and a tract that was in the Bible. I opened it, and my eyes caught hold of one verse. It was Matt. 10:28. "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." I began to tremble at the thought of hell. Other thoughts soon filled my mind; like when our preacher told me two weeks earlier, "Please, Stan, this might be your last chance," etc. I accepted Christ as my Saviour and all of the mental torment left my mind. I felt freedom in Christ and I felt strength that I knew God gave me for the things ahead. I still rely on that source of strength, which is the Word of God. I have only had the pleasure of knowing God as my Father while behind bars, but I will tell you the truth—I have never been more free in my life than I have been these past three years! Praise God!

By the way, after I had accepted God that night, I went over and read more of God's Word and that tract. The tract had been put in the Bible by "Mike" the 17-year-old boy, in hopes

that I would read it. It was about a "murderer" who accepted Jesus as his Lord before his execution. I sent the tract home for safe-keeping, but its words still ring in my heart. God bless you, Mike, for your courage!

I thank God for being able to share with you, and I thank Him even more that I am now your brother of broken bondage!
God bless each of you.
Love and prayers,
—Stan Lingar

Creation, Destruction, Life

Lord, You created earth and all thereof,
Then sent this miracle from heaven above;
You created a man and gave him life,
Then made woman for companion and wife.

It seems that now, all would be complete,
But you sent more for us to greet;
You gave the two people I mentioned before,
Beautiful children to love and adore.

The children you sent bring so much joy,
But with sin in my life, I began to destroy;
I was drunk, my mind wasn't clear,
I took a young man's life, a life so dear.

I tried to run, leaving all thoughts behind,
But all the confusion was still in my mind;
When I came back so filled with fright,
I signed a confession of the crime done that night.

I thought life was over, my soul would burn in hell,
Jesus knew my thoughts, came and spoke to me in my cell;
He didn't appear as a great thunderstorm,
I just felt his presence, so kind and warm.

He said I could be forgiven, for all sins I've done,
If I'd just call on Jesus, God's only Son;
I now have love and peace in my heart,
So, my life isn't over, it's my brand new start.

Written January of 1985
S. S. (Stan Lingar)

The Lord has done so much for me over the years. Space would not permit me to write it all. I have passed through troubled waters, but I can report that I have come through with victory by the unfailing grace of God. I love the Lord today

and my greatest desire is to please Him. Please pray for me that I'll ever be true and that I'll never falter in the battle.

I need special prayer for my nerves. I have what seems to be a breakdown of my nerves. The Lord is blessing and helping me and I know He will take me through with victory. The Lord knows what is best for me and will lead me home to glory if I will only follow.

I send my love to all the dear saints in Guthrie.
Christian love, —Nancy Wagoner

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

CA—Dear Sis. Maybelle, Bro. Wayne, and all the saints there at the Print Shop: Greetings of love this special Christmas time of the year.

Last night God gave us over one inch of rain and bathed everything clean. We have so many extra special things from the Lord to be thankful for.

Elmer and I had been married 63 years last October, and have good health and are happy. Jesus has been so precious to us with all these blessings and He dwells within me and is always there when I need Him. Please remember us in your prayers. I pray for you every night. God bless you always! —Sis. Lucille S. Allen

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MS—Dear Bro. Wayne, Sis. Maybelle, and all Christians: Greetings of God's love in the name of the way, the truth, and the life. The paper, books, and literature is sound, God-born, God-given and He blesses greatly. Also, I listen to the good taped messages and songs that are sent out from home congregations and camp meetings. Please still list me in hope and prayer for my head. —Ethel E. Lowery

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

CA—Dear Sis. Maybelle and Saints: Greetings of Christian love to you all in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This finds me saved, sanctified and encouraged to press on for God at all times.

I want to thank the Lord for what He has done for me.

In February 1983 I noticed I had a mole on my face. I was anointed and prayed for many times. In June I felt like requesting prayer in the *Faith and Victory* paper. On the 26th of June I was washing my face and it washed off. It has now been almost 6 months since that happened and I give God all the praise and glory. It was His doing.

The Lord also blessed a sister I had never seen, but had heard about all my life, to get in touch with the family. We were blessed to have a family reunion this summer. I thank God He led her to us.

I still have physical problems that I need much prayer for. Please continue to remember me. I have a young family and am educating them myself at home. I need my health so I can properly carry out this task as well as my duties as wife and mother.

Will close now. Love to all the saints everywhere.

Your sister in Christ,

—Thomasene (Taylor) Pierro

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OK—Dear Bro. Murphey: God is so good in blessing and providing for all of our needs each and every day. I often say, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits unto me?" I will take the cup of salvation and praise the Lord. Sometimes we must do a little more than praise, but also give of that which He has given to us to glorify His holy name and help further His cause.

I am thankful for the *Faith and Victory* paper. We need it. . .

I need God so very much and appreciate the saints' prayers for my afflictions.

My love, —Sister Julia Llewellyn

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

KS—Dear Bro. Wayne and Sis. Maybelle: This writing finds us much encouraged in our souls and very determined to press on and make heaven our eternal home.

We do thank God very much for the truth. As time goes on our appreciation for the truth is getting deeper and deeper. May we ever remain faithful to our Lord so that we can hear those precious words, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:34.

Yours in His name,

—Paul and Sarita Phillips

—————o—————

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

AL—Dear ones: We would like to express our thanks to all who have shown us much love and concern during Monica's illness. We appreciate every prayer in our behalf! The Lord has blessed her greatly. The pain in her neck started the first of this year and got progressively worse until early April. She had horrible pain from muscle spasms in her neck and her head was drawn to the side at a 30 degree angle. She was bringing her shoulder up and resting her head on it. It was almost more than she could bear to attend school half of the day.

As parents, it was so hard to see our child suffering and becoming so handicapped. The Lord answered prayer and caused the intense pain to never return after April, but she still had a

constant ache for about another two months. She began to feel better and started playing again. Two weeks ago our hearts rejoiced to see her even running and jumping a little bit.

She still needs prayer that she will be able to hold her head completely straight and that she will be able to turn her head to the left. We know the Lord can finish this miraculous healing for Monica. She has some soreness of pain at times and we know our great Physician can do a perfect work, so keep remembering her in prayer.

Thanks for every card, phone call and prayer.

Love, —Marshall and Melonie Whitson
o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MO—Dear saints: I want to testify and thank the Lord for what He has done for us. My heart has been rejoicing and praising God for hearing and answering prayer.

Our youngest son, Stanley, had gone to the Assembly Meeting in Loranger, LA. I was so burdened for him. After reading the article in the November *Faith and Victory* paper on how to pray for the lost, I was inspired to really, earnestly pray for his salvation.

Thank God, Stanley came home a saved boy, changed completely. The Lord dealt with him so strong, he just couldn't resist the Holy Spirit's pleading.

Saints, don't give up praying for your lost loved ones. The Lord is still performing miracles.

Several saints had been praying for Stanley also, and I do appreciate their concern. Let's continue to pray for our children and for all young converts, that they will stand true. This is such a wicked world they have to contend with.

Thank you for your prayers.

Christian love, —Carol Sorrell
o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

AR—Dear Saints: I want to write and tell what the dear Lord has done for me, and the lesson that I learned which I hope I'll never forget.

I was painting the inside of an empty house and listening to tapes as I worked. I played one of the Greenbank Quartet's tapes over and over, especially the song, "Whatever it takes to draw closer to thee Lord, That's what I'll be willing to do." When it came to the part, "Take the dearest things to me, if that's how it must be, to draw me closer to thee." I would say, "Oh Lord I can't honestly say that from my heart. Please bring me to that place. That would mean I'd be willing to give up my dear husband, children, mother, etc..." I had thought I was totally sold out to God, but He

saw that I wasn't and started dealing with me on it.

God wants us to love Him more than anything else on this earth. Luke 14:26 says, If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, (and husband) and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." This verse means exactly the same as Matthew 10:37 which reads "He that loveth father or mother (or anyone else) more than me, is not worthy of me. . . ." God answered my prayer in this way.

The Lord just seemed to withdraw Himself from me and it was terrible. I have always enjoyed such a close relationship with Him. I loved getting up in the night just to talk to Him, to tell Him how much I loved Him. I would talk to Him throughout each day, and now He seemed to be completely gone; that sweet blending and flowing of spirits, His still small voice speaking to me. After the third day I just literally felt like I was dying, that I couldn't live on without my dear Lord by my side. I fell on my knees crying, "Oh, God now I see, I can live without my husband, children, mother, and loved ones if you see fit to take them from me, but I cannot live one more day without you. I must have your sweet love your companionship, your close intimacy. Please, dear Lord, come back to me. I love you more than my words can express and my love for my loved ones is now in its proper place. You have first place in my heart and life." Oh! how His love and presence poured into my soul. I felt I would burst.

The very next morning I met a hard trial, but God was with me. Bob and the boys had gone to town and I was still so happy and went running down the stairs to begin my day's work, singing as I went. My left foot slipped, turned under me, and I sat right down on it. There was a loud crack and then instant searing pain. When I finally got my foot out from under me and saw it, it looked terrible. I felt like I was going to pass out and begged the Lord to help me get back up the stairs so I could call for prayer, which He did. While I was waiting for Bob's folks to get there, the Lord eased the severe pain. He reminded me how He had healed Bro. Curtis' crushed wrist and Bro. McMillians broken hip and I made my decision to trust God with this ordeal He had brought my way. I knew God could do the same for me.

I didn't sleep any that night, but oh, I can't describe the sweet presence of the Lord, encouraging me, talking to me. When the pain would get unbearable, He would always ease it. The second morning the constant pain was gone, and only hurt if it got bumped or moved. After 8

weeks I still have a slight limp, but by faith that is going too, and I will have a perfect ankle. All praise goes to my dear heavenly Father. Don't be afraid to trust Him for anything He permits to come into your life. He is still just the same today.

This morning I read in the little devotional book *God Calling* "Only step by step can you proceed in your journey upward. The one thing to be sure of is, that it is a journey with Me. There does come a joy known to those who suffer with Me, but that is not the result of the suffering, but the result of the close intimacy with Me, to which suffering drove you." This was truly so with me, and felt I should sit down and write in my testimony.

A sister in Christ, —Norene Harmon

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MS—Dear workers at the Print Shop and saints everywhere: Greetings in Jesus' sweet name. I'm still happy in the Lord and mean to be true. Although I am not well, I'm happy in the Lord. Praise His name. I'm still alone. I pray a lot and I am so burdened for the unsaved.

Brother Samons held us a few nights' meeting. It was real food for my soul.

Pray for me and my loved ones who are unsaved.

Christian love, —Novella Pugh

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

KS—Dear Saints: I would like to tell to the glory of God of His healing power to me about a year ago. On September 26, 1986, I was skimming a 1200 gallon vat of boiling sorghum juice when I lost my balance and fell into it. My right arm, side, about one-half of my chest, and a little of my back were severely burned. The Lord was merciful in that my brother, Ivan, was right there to help me out; otherwise, I'm sure I would have rolled completely into the vat of hot juice.

The pain did not start immediately. When it did, it was severe, but God gave me strength and after about 4 hours He took the pain completely away and I was able to sleep all of that first night. To me, that was a miracle. God knew I needed all the strength I could get.

For the next few days after I was burned, I would go into shock again every time we tried to clean the burned area. Here again we cried unto God for strength and as we would start to clean my arm I could tell the moment my strength ran out, and His took over. Oh, the presence of God was worth more than I can tell.

Also, about this time my wife, Jeanne, who was three months along with our first baby, miscarried. The emotional pain of this added to the

burn only made us lean heavier on the Lord.

The Lord brought this song to my mind:

"He Giveth More Grace"

"He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater,
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase.
To added affliction He addeth His mercy;
To multiplied trial, His multiplied peace.

"When we have exhausted our store of endurance,
When our strength has failed ere the day is half-done,
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources,
Our Father's full giving is only begun.

"His love has no limit; His grace has no measure;
His power has no boundary known unto men.
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus,
He giveth and giveth, and giveth again!"

Oh, those words, spoken in our storm! When our strength was gone and the day of our testing didn't seem half-over, those words were such a comfort! And we found them so true! Time after time we would beg the Lord for strength and He would open His storehouse and give and give and give.

My burn began to heal rapidly after those first few days of deepest trial. In eight days my hand was completely covered with new skin. There was a place on my arm that became infected and it was the last to heal. That is the only scar I have from the whole ordeal. The Lord blessed so that within 3 weeks I was up working again. My arm was tender, and still is, to a certain extent, but I have full use of it, and when I'm working I can't tell that I was ever burned.

While my healing was not instantaneous, I know beyond a shadow of doubt that God healed me. There were too many other miracles performed, and His presence was too near for you to convince me otherwise.

In retrospect of the whole experience, I feel I can say with Job, "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee." Job 42:5. Praise God!

We want to give a special thank you to all who prayed, called and sent cards and gifts of love. Many times we were moved to tears as we realized the love God's people have for each other.

In closing, may this song be an exhortation:

"Just trust Him and be true,
And see what He will do.
He will never disappoint your soul.
When you have done your best
Let Jesus do the rest,
And keep your eyes upon the goal."

Your brother in Christ, —Herschel Eck

—————o—————

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FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From the Philippines . . .

Dec. 8—Dear Bro. Hammond: Greetings to you with Jesus' love. How are you today in the service of the Lord?

We have started a new congregation in the town of Guimba. This is down close to Tarlac, west of San Jose. One Sunday we were surprised to have a visitor in our Sunday Bible class. He is a man above 40 years old. He participated in our Bible class discussion. After the service, I approached him and asked him from where he is and how did he happen to come be with us in the service. He said he is from the town of Guimba. He heard about the Church of God in San Jose. He said a pastor from Pangasinan went to Guimba three years ago and started a church work there. He was able to start two congregations in Guimba. The pastor died three months ago and no one will take care of them. He said he was the one taking care of the congregations at present, but he needs encouragement because he is still very young in the faith. He said that he came here to know and understand the Church of God in San Jose and what her doctrines are. I invited him home in order to have enough time to study with him. After lunch we started the Bible study and he was very interested to know the truth and was very surprised that these truths are in the Bible, as he had never heard them before. He requested me to go to Guimba to teach the whole truth to the people there.

I went there and was very much encouraged to see their love and interest for their salvation. They met me with a very warm welcome and thankfulness. Since that time I have been going there very often with Brother Pante and Brother Ramos. Last Saturday we had a very nice attendance and we spent the whole day studying what is salvation, how to be saved, what is the Church of God, and about true doctrines. They have many questions and were all satisfied because all their questions were all answered by the Bible. It was dark when we closed our Bible study and we then went home to San Jose.

Everyone is requesting my presence: San Juan, Caridad, Palistina, Pinili, Minoli, and San Jose. The time of the end is approaching very near and I have a heavy burden for the lost. We all send you our love.

Your brother in the gospel field,

—Matias S. Tangunan and family

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

From India . . .

Nov. 23—Dear Sister Maybelle and Brother Wayne Murphey and the dear saints scattered

abroad in America. Greetings to you all again in the precious name of Jesus Christ.

By the grace of God we are fine. Though we have many problems, our faithful God solves each problem one by one.

We have started a new work in a colony where low class people live. We are getting good response from the people. They are a needy people. Soap, soup and salvation should be the method we adopt here to win souls. May God open the hands and hearts of many for the means to spread the gospel in these poor areas.

Now we are getting ready for our twenty-third General Convention at Karikkom which will be held during the first week of January, 1988. We are sorry that no one from the Church in America is prepared to come over to India to encourage us in these conventions. Anyway, we are not disappointed. Please continue to pray for the blessings of these meetings and also for the temporal needs of these meetings.

My wife sends her love to you. Our prayers are for the saints in America.

Yours in Him,

—John Varghese

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Nov. 20—My dear brother in the Lord: Loving and holy greetings to you through the precious name of our dear Lord and Saviour of the world.

From November 2 through 16 we faced a cyclone. The cyclone started on Nov. 2, and for three days it was very horrible. After that it stopped for three days and then it continued up to Nov. 16. Because of the effect of this cyclone, many people died. Many houses were ruined. Trees fell down and rice fields were destroyed. My house and the chapel were damaged very much. I need the saints to pray for me. Some of the saints lost very much.

I am closing this letter with my loving wishes to you and to all the saints.

Yours in His name,

—K. John S. Rao

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

From Nigeria . . .

Nov. 24—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt and the saints of God: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus. We love Him because He first loved us. His love for us brought Him down to earth as our Saviour. Praise Him forever!

We of His Church (the Church of God) hail the birth of the Lord Jesus daily, with no premium laid on a special date. We wish all who remember His birthday daily a merry Christmas.

It has come true of His promise. The harvest of this year is plenteous and lovely. His own, to an extent, will find food enough to eat. We pray for means to grow larger crops.

"Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered:

let them also that hate him flee before him. As smoke is driven away, so drive them away: as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God." Psalms 68:1, 2.

Yours devotedly, —Titus U. E. Enu

In Memoriam

Ernest A. Perkins, Sr. was born June 26, 1902 in Cave City, AR and died at home on Monday, December 7, 1987 at the age of 85 years, 5 months, and 11 days. Mr. Perkins had lived in the Beggs-Mounds area since 1924 and moved to Sapulpa in 1954. He was a farmer and was employed by the Carnation Milk Company. He was a member of the Church of God.

Mr. Perkins is survived by his wife Frances of the home; four sons: Ernest A. Perkins, Jr., of Mounds, Elmer Perkins of Beggs, Lee Roy Perkins, and Barton Perkins of Sapulpa; six daughters: Juanita Welch, Frances Perkins, and Alta Bock of Tulsa, Dorothy Meek of Jenks, June Moore of Mannford, and Loretta Trowbridge of Sapulpa; two stepdaughters: Sue Ann Perkins of Tulsa, and Glenda Wesley of Sand Springs; one brother, Kenneth Perkins of Blackstrap, Texas; one half brother, Lester Moreland of Waco, Texas; five sisters: Ruby Pell and Mary Lou Howard of DeQueen, AR; May Green and Fay Jones of Mounds, OK, and Lois Carter of Oakhurst; fifty-six grandchildren, seventy-two great-grandchildren, and ten great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Janie; a son, and a daughter in infancy; one son, Frank; one daughter, Thelma LaFaver; five brothers, and one sister.

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Floyd Noble Kennedy, son of Charles Emery and Mary Noble Kennedy, was born at Anthony, Kansas on May 5, 1907, and departed this life at Wichita, Kansas on December 9, 1987. Floyd attended the Anthony schools and then enrolled at Kansas State Agricultural College at Manhattan. Floyd took time out from his college studies to work two years as an engineer for the Santa Fe Railroad, spending most of that time in Texas and Oklahoma. He was graduated from Kansas State Agricultural College in 1933, receiving a degree in architectural engineering. He served as County Engineer of Harper County, KS from 1933 to 1936, before moving to California where he was employed as engineer for the Merced Irrigation District. In 1939 he returned to KS and resided in Wichita, where he worked as an aeronautical design

engineer for Beech Aircraft Corporation. He retired from Beech in 1972 after 33 years of service.

On October 9, 1937, Floyd was united in marriage to Margaretta Bettis. To this union four children were born: Carol Lynn, John Craig, Carolyn Patricia, and William Kent. Floyd was preceded in death by his father in 1960, his mother in 1977, and his daughter, Carol Lynn in 1938. Two months before his passing, Floyd and Margaretta celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Floyd became a member of the Church of God through the new birth and lived a devoted Christian life. He loved to use his talents in the service of the Lord, often teaching in Sunday School. He helped design different building projects of the church, including the Church of God chapel at Anthony, KS. Floyd is survived by his wife, Margaretta; two sons: John Craig and William Kent; a daughter, Carolyn Denver; two grandchildren: Kimberly and Kristin Denver a brother, Lee Kennedy, and a host of relatives and friends.

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Please explain Romans 11:29. Does this mean that if God calls a person into the ministry or for any other phase of the work of God and endows him with gifts suitable to his call; if that person backslides his gifts and calling still continue on even after he has backslidden?

Answer: The answer to this question is a resounding "NO". The text in the question has no reference at all to Divine calls and gifts of the Spirit in the operation of the New Testament church. But this text refers to God's purposes and plans concerning Israel and the covenant and promises made with their fathers. The full text reads: "For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance." Verse 28 says of the Jews that "They are beloved for the fathers' sakes." "The fathers" in this text refers to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. To these men God gave a covenant incorporating some broad, sweeping promises; first to Abraham and then confirming them with Isaac and Jacob, heirs together with him of the same promises.

The covenant and promise made to these men has a far-reaching importance so let us look at them a little. In the 12th Chapter of Genesis verse 1 we have the call of Abraham to

separate himself from his father's house and his kindred and go to a land that He would show him. In verse 2 He promised to make of him a great nation and bless him and make him a blessing and to make his name great. Then verse 3 is the all-important promise, "In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." This is very far-reaching. In Genesis 18:18 is another reference to this same promise but this text uses the term "all nations" instead of "all families" in Genesis 12:3. In Genesis 17:19 God said to Abraham that his wife, Sarah, would bear him a son and he should call his name "Issac". He further said He would establish His covenant with him and with his seed after and it would be an everlasting covenant. And in Genesis 21:12 God told Abraham that "In Isaac shall thy seed be called." And again in Genesis 22:18 God said to Abraham "And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."

Now it must be evident from these statements that it was God's original plan and purpose to bless and provide the blessing of salvation to the whole world (Gentiles—all nations—the same as the Jews) and this was to be brought about through Abraham's seed. Now a reference to Galatians 3:16 will throw a bright light on all of this. "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to thy seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ."

It must be clear, then, that the ultimate end of the covenant with Abraham and all its promises transcended centuries and ages and cut right straight through to Jesus Christ and terminated in Him.

So let us back up a little now to the call of Abraham to leave his father's house and be separated from his kindred. (Genesis 12:1). There was a distinct reason for this. The people where Abraham grew up including Abraham's father and his household were all idolaters. It may be assumed that Abraham himself worshipped idol gods and served them, too. We read in Joshua 24:2 ". . . Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time; even Terah the father of Abraham. . . and they served other gods." Verse 3 continues and says "And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood. . ." We see here that God was not pleased to establish His covenant of salvation and grace with a people serving and worshipping idol gods. So He separated Abraham from them and revealed Himself to him until he knew and recognized Him as the true and living God and accepted Him as his God. Because he obeyed His voice and

went out from his people as he was instructed to do and forsook his idol gods, God established His covenant with him and made him the head and beginning of a new race separated from all others. This was the Israelites and speaking of them in 1 Kings 8:53 Solomon said, "For thou didst separate them from among all the people of the earth, to be thine inheritance. . ." Again in Deuteronomy 26:18 we read "And the Lord hath avouched thee this day to be his peculiar people, as he hath promised and that thou shouldest keep all his commandments." And finally in 2 Samuel 7:24 we read, "For thou hast confirmed to thyself thy people Israel to be a people unto thee forever: and thou, Lord art become their God."

It was through this line, this separated, distinctive, holy, peculiar, separated unto the Lord line that the Messiah was to come; the SEED of Abraham in whom all the nations of the world were to be blessed. God chose and separated Israel unto Himself for this particular specific purpose. Several times Israel was in severe crisis and threatened with extinction, but God most miraculously and in most unexpected ways intervened and preserved and sustained them until time for Christ to be born and presented to the world. God's Word said in Genesis 49:10, "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be." Even though they were a conquered and subjected people under the Romans when Christ was born, yet their political system and religious system was still pretty much intact and they were permitted a measure of freedom to operate their system among themselves. To this extent Genesis 49:10 was fulfilled and God had succeeded in bringing this line through intact and accomplishing His purpose for getting His Son into the world.

Soon after the life and ministry of Christ (70 A.D.) the Jewish nation with their capitol city, Jerusalem, and the Jewish polity was totally and most miserably destroyed but not until He had carried out His plan and accomplished His purpose through them. But in all of this there was no repenting or withdrawing of or changing of plan or purpose on God's part. He accomplished what He had in mind to accomplish in them. Neither was there any breaking of any of God's promises to them in forsaking them and permitting them to be so miserably destroyed without His aid. True, God had promised to be with them and not forsake them. In Hebrews 13:5 a reference is made to this promise "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." But right along with that promise He also said, "If you forsake me, I will forsake you." (2 Chronicles 15:2, 24:20;

Deuteronomy 31:16, 17). When the Jews filled up their cup of iniquity in rejecting God's Son and crucifying Him and had utterly forsaken God; then He abandoned and forsook them as a people and let them miserably perish. But He had faithfully warned them of this several times and was thoroughly justified in abandoning them. They ceased to be a special people unto God at that time and will never be such again.

HOME LIFE



WARNING SIGNALS FOR CHRISTIAN PARENTS

Most of us who fail in our duties as Christian parents do so, not because we have deliberately chosen to fail, but we have become careless and busy with other things, and so we have not seen the warning signals that should remind us that something is wrong with our child-rearing.

If you have to answer "yes" to any of the following 15 questions, perhaps you ought to ask the Lord to help you make whatever corrections may be necessary:

1. Do you have to tell your child more than once to (a) go to sleep, (b) be quiet in church, (c) stop crying, (d) finish a job?
2. Does your child fail to answer immediately and respectfully when you or another adult speaks to him?
3. Has your child gotten the impression that he can sometimes "get away" with disobedience?
4. Have you failed to teach your child to say, "I'm sorry. I was wrong."?
5. Do you allow your child to withdraw into a sullen and stubborn silence when he fails to get his own way?
6. Has your child failed to develop an appreciation for the rights and property of other people?
7. Is your child allowed to argue with you when you tell him what to do?
8. Is your child a habitual whiner and complainer?

9. Does your toddler ever throw a tantrum in public places?

10. Does your child prefer being everywhere else but home?

11. Does your child scoff at the things you consider important?

12. Does your child rarely or never discuss with you his dreams and plans?

13. Have you become aware that your children make no significant contribution to the home either in their help with the work, or in their attitude?

14. Do you feel you are unable to trust your child's word?

15. When your child has a run-in with authority outside the home, are you quick to assume the attitude that the teacher, police officer, boss, etc., "has it in" for your child without cause?

—Selected

What Some Men Have Said About Parents

"Honor thy parents, those that gave thee birth, and watched in tenderness thine earliest days, and trained thee up in youth, and loved in all. Honor, obey, and love them; it shall fill their souls with holy joy, and shall bring down God's richest blessing on thee; and in days to come, thy children, if they're given, shall honor thee, and fill thy life with peace."

—Tryon Edwards

"Parents who wish to train up their children in the way they should go, must go in the way in which they would have their children go."

—Francis Bacon

"Parents wonder why the streams are bitter, when they themselves have poisoned the fountain."

—John Locke

A suspicious parent makes an artful child."

—Thomas Haliburton

"The father and mother of an unnoticed family, who in their seclusion awaken the mind of one child to the idea and love of goodness, who awaken in him a strength of will to repel temptation, and who send him out prepared to profit by the conflicts of life, surpass in influence a Napoleon breaking the world to his sway."

—William Channing

'We never know the love of the parent till we become parents ourselves. When we first bend over the cradle of our own child, God throws back the temple door, and reveals to us the sacredness and mystery of a father's and a mother's love to ourselves. In later years, when our parents have gone from us, there is always a certain sorrow, that we cannot tell them we

have found it out. . . One of the deepest experiences of a noble nature in reference to the loved ones that have passed beyond this world, is the thought of what he might have been to them, and done for them, if he had known, while they were living, what he has learned since they died.”

—H. W. Beecher

The Church Bell Tragedy

For thirty years Fred and Alice Dixon had been doing missionary work among the mountaineers of Tennessee. Without a call or promise of support, they had come as newly-weds to the so-called “Forgotten Valley,” drawn by the desperate needs of its inhabitants. Hemmed in on all sides by mountains, the valley was literally shut away from the outside world, its only contact being a rickety stagecoach, which once a week brought mail and supplies for the valley store.

During those 33 years of struggle in the village of Pineridge, living in a combination chapel and living quarters, four children blessed the home, but were laid to rest in the little cemetery with four pine trees guarding their graves. Then Fred also succumbed to the lung malady prevalent in the valley.

Mrs. Dixon pondered long about returning to her own people beyond the hills, but finally decided to stay, her life being so wrapped up in the people and her family buried under yonder pines. But what could she do? She had never spoken in public.

“If we only had a church bell,” she thought, “I would ring it an half-hour each Sunday morning, reminding the people that it is the Lord’s Day, and that they should spend some time reading the Word of God and praying, even though we don’t have services.” Those thirty years the Dixons had wished for a bell, but lacked money—now there was no money at all; so she must drop the thought altogether.

Two weeks later Mrs. Dixon received a \$200 check, a legacy left to her by her last uncle. She thought of the thirty years of the family living out of the missionary “barrel” which came once a year from the church back home. She had gone back only twice, when money was sent from her family specified for “trip home only.” It would be fun to surprise them by coming home in new clothes and paying her own expenses. Suddenly Mrs. Dixon gave a start—“The bell—the bell Fred and I used to look at in the catalogue—the one we wanted for our Valley—Fred said it would cost \$200 including freight.”

Bowing her head in her hands, she sat thus for some moments; then saying with hands raised triumphantly toward heaven, “This shall

be my alabaster box of ointment. I’ll do it in memory of Fred.”

Bill Sykes, the moonshiner, heard the bell from his retreat up in Smokey Mountain. He swore. “Why can’t a fellow be left alone if he wanted to make moonshine? Why did an old church bell have to clang at him to make him feel he was doing something wrong?” he argued to himself. Mr. Dixon had often warned him that his sin would “find him out,” pleading with him not to sell the “stuff” to the young men of the Valley. Mr. Dixon was dead—but this bell—it was like a voice from heaven, charging him with the ruin of young men. He must find a way to stop this terrible annoyance.

The old stagecoach’s most important cargo, ever, soon arrived, and plenty of willing hands elevated and installed this long hoped for bell in the new belfry. The next Sunday Mrs. Dixon was in her self-appointed place of duty. Mr. Benson, the storekeeper, had made her a special chair to ring the bell from. Sweet and clear silvery bell tones pealed out in Forgotten Valley for the first time. As she pulled the rope, she prayed for the flock who had no shepherd, that they would remain true and grow in grace, and that soon they might have another shepherd. She prayed for so many as the half-hour passed. Then she dropped the rope and prayed more.

Late Saturday night, everyone asleep, a slinking form was making his way to the meeting house. With a flashlight he climbed up the ladder, catching hold of the bell rope with the free hand, looping it around his arm as he climbed. At the top he firmly tied the loops together with the rope’s end, smiling in the dark. Starting to descend the ladder, his 300 pounds caused it to squeak and groan. Finding nothing else to support him, in desperation he grabbed the upper part of the rope while placing his feet in the loops, as he thought. Instead, his feet slipped through the loops, and with a terrific thud, he found himself hanging in mid-air, the rope holding him firmly under the arms.

The bell clanged in a loud, noisy manner, awakening the whole village. “Was Mrs. Dixon sick and needing help?” One man in the village went to see. Meanwhile, Mrs. Dixon hastily dressed and had entered the meeting house with a lamp. There she recognized Bill hanging from the bell rope. At first sight she was scared speechless, but soon comprehended the whole situation, and said, “They say that if you give the devil enough rope, he’ll hang himself. I never did suppose, though, that he would use a church bell rope for the purpose.”

“Oh, Mrs. Dixon,” pleaded Bill in agony, “if you’ll please have mercy on me and get someone

to help me down from here, I promise God I'll never make another drop of moonshine. I've been as wicked as the devil himself, and your bell has been preaching to me to repent and change my ways. I couldn't stand to hear it, so I thought I'd just tie it up so you couldn't ring it again, come Sunday; but I guess the Almighty tied me up instead. Oh, please get someone to help me down. The ropes are squeezing the breath out of me."

By this time the meeting house was filled with people speculating how Bill got caught. Some thought he had tried to commit suicide. Other whispered that it was a pity that the rope didn't slip up a little higher. Mrs. Dixon told the story briefly. Then a scaffold had to be built under Bill so they could untie the rope. It was a very weak, repentant moonshiner finally standing before them. Some were in favor of arrest, but Mrs. Dixon assured them that since the Lord had arrested him, He wouldn't leave the job half-done. The still in the woods was forever abandoned. Bill gave his heart to God and became one of the church bell's most devoted listeners.

The story of the bell was spread, and a young couple, backed by their home church in Philadelphia, felt called to Forgotten Valley. A new church and parsonage were built. It was Bill Sykes who transferred the bell, and later appointed himself janitor.

The Larkins insisted that Mrs. Dixon make her home with them. She was given the sunniest room in the parsonage. As long as health permitted, she rang the bell. Then Bill took over the sacred duty. "Strange, isn't it," said Bill, "some folks He just draws in gently, with cords of love. With me, now—why, the Lord had to hog-tie me to get me in! Well, praise the Lord! He got me in—that's the important thing." A prodigal had returned to Father's house.

One golden October day, Alice Dixon slipped away to join her loved ones, and was laid to rest under the pine trees on the hillside. For half an hour preceding the funeral, Bill Sykes, the re-deemed bootlegger, tolled the bell, as mountaineers far and wide gathered for the service. Pastor Larkin announced, "I have chosen for my text for this occasion, St. Matt. 26:7, 'There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head as he sat at meat.'"

Dear reader, have you repented and believed the glorious gospel that Christ died for our sins and rose again from the dead the third day, as the prophets foretold? "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mark 16:16. —Sel.



Excerpts Taken From

January, 1963 Faith and Victory

"In Col. 4:6, we read, 'Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.' Salt will sweeten things. People put sugar on a grapefruit, but did you ever try putting salt on it? It will sweeten it more than sugar, strange as it may seem. Oh, how we need that seasoning salt to sweeten us! Salt is also a preserving agent. It preserves food a long time. Without it things spoil soon.

"'Let your speech be seasoned with — the Holy Ghost!' " That is what it means. A message that is not seasoned with salt is not so tasty. That is because the Holy Ghost is not in it. We need to be careful how we speak; be sure the seasoning salt of the Holy Spirit is in it. The saints are the sweetest people in the world, but you take away the salt, and you don't have much."

—Sister S. E. Abbott

"Did you know that the Bible said that the earth was round before men believed it, and discovered it to be true? You read in Isa. 40:22. This was 700 years before Christ. Men used to think the world was square. Did you know that the Bible tells us that the earth turns? Read in Job 38:13, 14. Did you know that the Bible tells us that there are springs in the ocean? Read Job 38:16.

"Our Bible is a wonderful book. It tells us where we came from, who we are and where we will go after death. It tells us how to live in this life and how to die. It tells us how to treat everybody and makes us know that God loves us. There is no book like the Bible."

—Marie Miles