

FAITH AND VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



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Seek Ye The Lord?



"Ye seek the Lord? He is not here;
He has risen! Be of good cheer!"
Spake the angel to the women that first Easter morn,

As they gazed at His tomb so troubled and forlorn.

Yes, it is true He passed this way,
That He might change His body of clay.
Behold the tomb! the place where He lay;
He has risen now to immortality.

Why seek ye the living among the dead,
As do the throngs in the world today?
For in His Word our dear Lord hath said,
Few there shall be on that narrow way.

Now meet Him there at the foot of the cross;
Let Him take your load of sin, too heavy to bear.
He would only have you give up the dross,
And give you a lighter burden to share.

If you will meet Him there in humility,
He will hear your cry and answer your plea;
He will cleanse your heart and set you free,
And speak these words, "Child, follow me!"

If you would walk the path the Saviour trod,
You must first become a child of God;
Put off the old man, put on the new;
Have faith in God and ever be true.

If you would follow the dear Saviour today,
Just be in His hands as the potter's clay.
He will shape you, and mold you as He will;
He will make your life His purpose fulfill.

The way may not all be easy and smooth,
For the path may be rough and narrow, too;
But just remember, lest you despair,
'Tis the glory road, 'twill lead you up There!

—Byron R. Wittenborn
(Written in 1972)

What the Cross Meant to Jesus

When heaven was searched for a sacrifice, we see the Son of God step forth with a countenance shining like the sun as He declared to His Father and the holy angels that He willingly dedicated Himself as an offering for the cross to redeem man. He sacrificed His Father's society, the worship and adoration of myriads of angels, and His kingly authority. The Son of God had pleasures in glory that are beyond description by the human tongue or pen; yet He sacrificed it all for us.

He had riches untold, but Paul tells us that "though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." (Heb. 8:9). It almost staggers the human mind when we try to comprehend what the cross meant to our Saviour.

What did it mean to Him after leaving His bright home above? It meant a lowly birthplace, a manger for a cradle, clothing used by the poorest people of the land, hatred from wicked Herod, who tried to kill him in infancy.

When He began preaching, hatred and intrigues of all kinds were brought to bear upon Him; bitter disappointment came because of the unbelief and hardness of heart of the chosen people of God. After a long fast of forty days and a storm of temptation, severe and long, he triumphed over Satan and sin. In the garden of Gethsemane, He sweat, as it were, great drops of blood in contemplation of the agonies of the cross.

Betrayed by his "own familiar friend" into the hands of the Roman soldiers who mocked Him, scourged Him, and spat upon Him, Jesus faced the howling mob of angry Jews and heard them cry, "Away with him, crucify him, crucify him." The cross meant to face the high priest, Herod, and Pilate, and to listen to the malicious

lies of his persecutors who sought to have him destroyed. It meant finally to hear the cruel verdict that gave the robber his freedom and the Saviour His sentence of death.

My friend, can you picture your meek Saviour and mine toiling His way to Calvary, bowed beneath the load of your sins and mine?

Wicked hands stretched His form on the cross, pierced His hands and feet with cruel nails, reared the cross in its place, and, lo, our Lord was crucified.

What has He borne in the garden, in the judgment hall, and on the cross? When you came to repent of your sins they seemed like mountains; but Jesus bore the sins of the entire human race — what a burden! What a weight! The Lord laid upon Him the iniquity of us all.

At the cross He saw His mother stand and weep for her son, and she was cared for thereafter by one of Jesus' faithful ones. The mocking Jews passed by and railed upon Him. His Father's face was veiled: for did He not cry out in great agony of soul, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Finally, His cup was full; the tragedy ended; our Saviour gave up the ghost. But is this all the cross meant to Jesus? No; a thousand times no.

It meant a victorious resurrection. The bars of death could not hold Him. The tomb, though sealed and barred and guarded, yielded to the touch of the angel; He came forth to triumph over death and the grave. He spent a few days with His disciples, speaking words of cheer and comfort to strengthen them for the great work before them. Then followed His glorious ascension to the Father. Heaven rang with the joy of the angels, when, after making a perfect sacrifice for sin by the cross, He was welcomed back home again. He "for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2).

—Nora Hunter

(Taken from *The Gospel Trumpet*, 1917)

Is The Lord Your Shepherd?

This is quite a thought-provoking question. Let's consider what shepherd means. Part of Webster's Dictionary definition is: "to tend, herd, guard, lead, etc., as or like a shepherd."

We are all familiar with the wonderful, true story of David, the shepherd boy. It was needful in olden days, to have a shepherd for their sheep as there were no fences or modern ways to care for them. David was the youngest son of Jesse, so he was chosen for the humble job of watching over the sheep. This could have been a

very lonely and sometimes boring job for David, but David learned to make the most out of a lonely situation by taking his harp and playing and singing praises to his God while watching over his father's sheep. No doubt when David wrote some of the Psalms he vividly recalled his days of watching his father's sheep and his close communion with God.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. . . Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep." "The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul." (Psalm 121). So if we are saved, the Lord is our shepherd and He will preserve our souls from evil; but a soul that takes their salvation for granted and does not take time for God, will find that when trouble or trials come there is not enough grace to go through them. We will have to cry out to God for mercy and help, and recognize our short comings and draw closer to Him. "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you." (James 4:8). Yet, how much better it is to strive to stay close to God, as it would save us from suffering through trials brought on by our short comings.

We are living in a wicked world where sin is abounding and will destroy us if possible, so it is a necessity to have a shepherd to tend, guard and lead us as long as we live. Jesus wants to be our Shepherd. He desired it enough to give up all the splendor, riches and glory of heaven to come down here to this sin-cursed earth and live one of the lowliest lives ever lived, and then He freely gave His blood for us.

Picture in your mind the agony He went through in the Garden of Gethsemane. All the powers of hell came in such force against His heart, mind and soul, that He cried out: "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me!" But there have never been any sweeter and more blessed words uttered than when He finished His prayer to His Father by saying, "nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." (Matt. 26:39). He was in such agony before His Father that He had to pray this prayer three times before He received a blessing and the strength to go on and bear all the sins of the world. He willingly sacrificed His body on the cross for our redemption.

We read in Genesis 3:15 where God told the serpent (the devil) in the Garden of Eden that there would be enmity (open conflict) between him and the seed of the woman. "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." The devil knew that to have his head bruised would mean his power would be broken over mankind if they repented of their sins through the precious blood

of Jesus Christ, so the devil was bringing all the forces of hell against our Saviour in the garden in order to try to foil God's plan of redemption for mankind. "And thou shalt bruise his heel," would signify the trials and temptations that we all have to face and meet with. The devil is going to continue his battle against the truth and right, but praise God, the devil's power is broken! He can only present temptations to us. He cannot make us yield. Surely we need a Shepherd to face our foe.

Jesus is a most diligent Shepherd for He never slumbers nor sleeps. He is sitting at the right hand of the Father, ever listening to our cries and prayers to Him. He understands our every problem as He "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:15, 16).

I would like to share with all you readers the words of a beautiful song that the Lord used to help encourage my soul. Truly Jesus wants to be our Shepherd to lead and guide us through this sinful world to gain eternal life.

KEEP ME MY SAVIOUR

Lead me my Saviour,
Lead me through this world of care.
Shield me from danger.
From sins' awful snare.
Let me never falter,
Never fear the raging storm.
Resting on the altar,
Keep my soul from harm.

Chorus:
Keep me my Saviour,
Let me never go stray.
Guide me forever,
In the holy way.

Never forsake me,
While I cross life's trackless plain.
Only protect me,
From sin's loathsome stain.
When the billows surging,
Beat upon my trusting soul.
Guide me lest diverging,
I should miss the goal.

Lord, I will trust Thee,
I'll obey Thy Word each hour.
Though Satan tempts me,
He has lost his power.
Why should I be fearful?
Christ is King o're every foe.
He will never leave me.
To the end I'll go.

O, what a treasure,
Precious secret I have found.

Life is a pleasure,
Let its joys abound.
Though I walk in trial,
Grace sufficient He will give.
Though in self-denial,
Christ will in me live.

Is the Lord your Shepherd? He suffered and died and arose from the dead that He could be your Shepherd. He has the power and the capability to lead each one of us every step of the way to our eternal home—if we but ask and believe in Him.

Your sister,

—Carol Cole

What Some Men Have Said About Obstinacy



"An obstinate man does not hold opinions, but they hold him; for when he is once possessed with an error it is like a devil, only cast out with great difficulty. Whatsoever he lays hold on, like a drowning man, he never loses, though it does but help to sink him the sooner. His ignorance is abrupt and inaccessible, impregnable both by art and nature, and will hold out to the last, though it has nothing but rubbish to defend."

—Samuel Butler

"Obstinacy is will asserting itself without being able to justify itself. It is persistence without a reasonable motive. It is the tenacity of self-love substituted for that of reason and conscience."

—Henri Amiel

"Obstinacy is the strength of the weak. Firmness founded upon principle, upon truth and right, order and law, duty and generosity, is the obstinacy of sages."

—John Lavater

"Obstinacy is ever most positive when it is most in the wrong."

—Madame Necker

"Obstinacy and contention are common qualities, most appearing in, and best becoming a mean and illiterate soul."

—Michel Montaigne

"There are few, very few, that will own themselves in a mistake."

—Jonathan Swift

"The slighter and more inconsistent the opinions of the obstinate man are, the faster he holds them, otherwise they would fall asunder of themselves: for opinions that are false he holds with more strictness and assurance than those that are true. He is resolved to understand no man's reason but his own, because he finds no man can understand his but himself. His wits are like a sack, which the proverbs say, is tied faster before it is full, than when it is; and his opinions are like plants that grow upon rocks, that stick fast, though they have no rooting."

—Samuel Butler

FAITH AND VICTORY

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend camp meetings), by Maybelle Pruitt, Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044 (USPS184-660).

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

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Single copy, one year \$1.00
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This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21, and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ—the same gospel that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for the body. James 5:14, 15.

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

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

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

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

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

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EDITORIALS

We are glad to have the opportunity of publishing another issue of the *Faith and Victory*. We trust that this month's paper will edify and draw each reader closer to God and the Christ who died for all.

How Christ Is Seen

Not only in the words you say,
 Nor in the deed expressed,
 But in the most unconscious way,
 Is Christ by you confessed.

For me 'twas not the truth you taught;
 To you so clear, to me so dim,
 But when you came to me you brought
 A deeper sense of Him.

And from your eyes He beckons me,
 And from your heart His love is shed,
 Until I lose all sight of you,
 And see the Christ instead. —Selected

When Christ was in this world He portrayed the image of God. (John 8:19). Through His actions of love and concern people could see God in Him, for God is the very epitome of love. (1 John 4:8). For others to see Christ in us we must likewise follow in His footsteps. Our actions must portray His spirit. We cannot decide within ourselves that we are going to love as Christ loved, for it is not in man to do so. We must have the spirit of God and then we will find that love is the basis for all of our actions toward others.

The following was written by Uncle Lawrence Pruitt.

"Jesus said, 'By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.' John 13:35. Divine love in the heart of man is the crowning grace of Christianity. That is the only heavenly element sufficient to convince the world that God has a people or Church in the world. Unity, which is the fruit of love, is that attribute for which Jesus prayed to be exhibited in His disciples in His prayer as recorded in the 17th chapter of St. John. The burden of that prayer was 'that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me.' When one is born from above he is then and there inducted into the Church of God and brought into the unity of the Spirit with all the children of God, 'for by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body.' As we walk in the light of God's Word we continue to have fellowship one with another."

Love is a vital part of our worship services. One song says, "Yes, 'tis love, 'tis burning love divine, Filling all my soul's desire; Oh how

sweet its glories ever shine! Now I feel the glowing fire." The Church, when operating as God designed, will be attractive and so full of the fire of love that people will have a desire to be there. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote in his journal, "Went to Church today, and was not greatly depressed." No one should ever be depressed by going to Church where God's love is in practice. God's spirit may convict a soul that is not what it ought to be, but it is in a spirit of love that the invitation is offered, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28.

Two individuals were talking together before a large church building which was being destroyed by fire. The first man spoke in a voice which could be heard above the noise of the firemen: "This is the first time I ever saw you at church." To this the second man responded: "This is the first time I ever saw the church on fire." This is a sad commentary on many of the churches in the church world today. They do not have the true love born of God for souls, so they have to offer an entertaining program to draw an attendance. This loss of love can occur in any congregation, (Rev. 2:1-4) and when there is neither a program or the love of God, then the services can be dry indeed. Where the spirit of God is there is encouragement and food for those who are hungering and thirsting after righteousness.

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We have recently finished reprinting two books which have been out of print for many years. *A Sketch of My Life* by H. B. Hall, relates his experiences as a young man, his act of murder, his prison life, conversion, release, gift of healing, experiences as a caretaker of a senior citizens home, and much more. It is an interesting story that all will enjoy. It contains 126 pages bound in a heavy paper cover and sells for \$1.50.

Also available is the book, *Man, His Present and Future* by H. M. Riggle, which deals with man in his present state, between death and the judgment and beyond the resurrection in the eternal world. It would be invaluable as a research book or for use in group studies. It contains 206 pages with a heavy paper cover and sells for \$2.50.

Don't forget to include a postage and handling fee of 70¢ for the first dollar plus 7¢ for each additional dollar of your total order.

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We would like to remind those who subscribe to the publications *Faith and Victory*, *Bible Lessons* or *The Beautiful Way*, to try and

be prompt in renewing your subscriptions when they expire. If we have to send material to catch someone up on a subscription which has expired, the postage is much higher than if it would have been sent at the usual 2nd class mailing.

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The marriage of Sis. Wanda Luehring, a former worker here at the Print Shop, and Bro. John Gibson of Guthrie, will take place, Lord willing, on April 2 in the Jefferson, OR chapel. They plan to make their home here in Guthrie. We wish them a long and happy life together.

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On Feb. 25, Aunt Maybelle Pruitt and Sis. Maude Hornbeck flew to California to be at the bedside of their brother, Claude Miles, who was very ill. It was quite a shock for them to learn that he had passed away approximately one hour before their arrival. Claude left a good testimony which was a comfort. Pray for his wife, Ruby, as she makes this adjustment in her life.

—Wayne Murphey

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Partial List of Items Available

Adventures in the Land of Canaan by R. L. Berry. An instructive allegory of true-to-life experiences in the grace of sanctification. 128 pages in paper cover. Price, \$1.50 per copy.

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The Double Cure, or Redemption Twofold by D.O. Teasley. This book should enlighten the reader on the two works of grace, and correct the thinking of those who deny the cleansing element in sanctification. 160 pages of large print in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.00.

The Battle of Armageddon by O. B. Wilson. A clear exposition of this much misunderstood subject. Price, 50¢.

He Lifted Me Out by Danny Layne. Just recently made available, this book contains 24 pages, including some pictures. Price, 25¢ per copy.

Divine Healing for Soul and Body by Enoch E. Byrum. Available ONLY in the German language, it contains 282 pages bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$3.50, each.

Bible Humility by J. W. Byers. An excellent treatise of this subject in 32 pages with a heavy paper cover. The price is 50¢ each.

God's Gracious Dealings by Fred and L. D. Pruitt. This enlarged Seventh Edition is a history of this gospel publishing ministry in the Church of God for the past sixty years, as well as a record of the work of the Church at large. Contains 496 pages, including more than 100 pictures in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.50 each.

Life's Golden Gleanings by Ruby E. Stover. She records many experiences of her childhood, and how God answered prayer in marvelous ways in her family and through the years in the gospel work. 94 pages in a nice paper cover. Price, \$1.50 each.

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The Hero of Hill House by Mabel Hale. A very interesting and inspiring true story, this book contains 224 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$3.00 each.

Lest We Forget by Sister Margaret Eck. 72 pages of many encouraging experiences with the Lord bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00 each.

Winning a Crown by C. W. Naylor. This book tells how to accept the plan of salvation and then goes into detail on how to keep the victory in everyday Christian living. It contains 368 pages in an extra-heavy cover. Price, \$4.00 each.

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The Lord has entrusted us with some message tapes by Bro. I. C. Chandler and we are making them available to the saints at the request of Sis. Geneva Norling. The price of the tapes includes a good quality tape, postage and handling. The titles now ready with more to follow are:

1. The Young Christian
2. Blessed are the Poor in Spirit
3. Self-Denial
4. An Angel Encamps Around About You

Order the above tapes from Bro. and Sis. Charles Pierro, Box 1542, Paradise, CA 95967

Prayer Requests

MS—"Please pray for our unsaved loved ones. Warner and I are both in very bad health and suffer in different ways."

—Sis. Dorothy Bridges

CA—"I am asking for special prayer for some unspoken requests." —Doris Pihaylic

TX—"My heart has been hurting me for several months. Please pray that the Lord will heal me if it is His will."

—Jewell McCaskill

MO—Alice Rhodes called desiring prayer that God would give her a touch to her eyes.

AL—"Remember a very special request."

—Sis. Pearline Gerald

OH—"Helen Wilson needs prayer."

—Juanita Blankenship

MO—Thelma Halbrook has an unspoken request that she desires earnest prayer for.

SC—"Please pray for my brother."

—Sis. Nettie Harbeson

OH—"I need healing of an affliction. Please pray for me and my home."

—Bro. Darnell Abbage

OH—"Pray for a friend, Kevilla Villars, she has arthritis."

—Juanita Blankenship

AZ—"Please pray for my husband's salvation, also for other unsaved members of my family."

—Sis. Arnie Hinson

IA—"Do pray for my husband, he is very ill. Also pray for our unsaved children."

—Sis. Charles Mason

KY—"Remember me when you pray, I have a physical problem." —Sis. Juanita Evans

KY—Sis. Curtis Williams needs special prayer for healing of a heart attack. Bro. Williams needs complete healing also.

HELP NEEDED

I am interested in finding a good Christian lady as a live-in companion.

I am able to be up and about most of time, but need spiritual up-lifting and encouragement.

If interested, please contact Sis. Essie Abbott, Columbus, OH (614) 491-8317.

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

Camp Meeting Dates for 1988

Goulds, FL — April 15-24

Missouri State at Myrtle, MO — May 4-8

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, OK —

May 27-June 5

Jefferson, OR — June 10-19

Green Bank, WV — June 10-19

Tulsa, OK — June 10-19

Chilliwick, B.C., Canada — June 20-26

General Southern at Loranger, LA —

June 24-July 3

Fresno, CA — July 1-10

Akron, OH — July 3-10

National at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO
July 15-24

Duncannon, PA — Aug. 7-14

Durham, NC — Aug. 14-21

Boley, OK — Aug. 21-28

California State at Pacoima, CA —

Aug. 26-Sept. 4

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GOULDS, FL CAMP MEETING

The Church of God, Goulds, FL camp meeting will be April 15-24, 1988. Lord willing there will be three services daily. All are welcome. Come and receive a blessing.

—Florine Edwards

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BOLEY, OK SPRING REVIVAL

Lord willing the Boley spring revival will convene April 28-May 1, 1988.

We extend a warm welcome to all to attend this meeting. All nations are cordially invited. We are looking to God to send ministers and workers of His own choosing. There will be services nightly at 7:30.

Come praying that the Lord will give us a Holy Spirit-filled meeting and save souls to His own glory.

For further information call or write Sis. Anna Mae Thompson, (918) 667-3648, Rt. 1, Box 71-A, Boley, OK 74829, or Sis. Katherine Williams, (405) 235-2270, 905 N.E. 25th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73104. —Prayfully submitted,

—Katherine Williams

Word has been received of the recent deaths of Sis. Ethel K. Miles and Sis. Mattie Francisco, both of CA.

MISSOURI STATE CAMP MEETING

The Missouri State Camp Meeting held at Myrtle, MO, will begin, Lord willing, on Wednesday, May 4, and continue through Sunday, May 8, 1988.

We invite and urge everyone to attend. This is a new camp meeting date. If you cannot attend, please pray much for the success of the meeting. We are trusting the Lord to send ministers of His choosing to labor in this meeting. Pray much that the Holy Spirit will quicken the preaching of God's Word, and that His presence will powerfully anoint each service.

We advise all who come to be prepared for possible cool weather. The camp ground phone number is (417) 938-4682.

For further information, contact the undersigned at Rt. 1, Box 118-A, Myrtle, MO 65778, phone (417) 938-4336.

—Harlan Sorrell

From the Mailbox . . .

LA—Dear Sis. Maybelle and Bro. Wayne: Warm greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. We are thankful for the victory He gives us daily. Surely the Lord is good to us. We have both been in better health this winter than we were for several months, and we surely do thank the Lord for it.

You know by this time, I expect, that the chapel here has been sold so we do not have any place to hold services. Bro. and Sis. Brown are encouraged, but very frail in body. They have had to give up driving as we have, so we cannot even meet together in our homes, but we listen to tapes and have Sunday school with just husband and I and the Lord blesses us.

We pray often for all of you there at the Publishing House and the work you are doing for the Lord. Trust things are going well for you.

Love, —Bro. and Sis. B. E. Goldsberry

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SC—Hello there to those at the Printing Shop: Greetings to all in Jesus' sweet name. I trust this will find all well. I am feeling fine and pressing onward to reach heaven. I love the Lord with all my heart.

Thanks for the *Faith and Victory* paper. It keeps me encouraged.

Pray for my brother.

Love to all saints, —Nettie Harbeson

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CA—Dear Publishers: I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* that I am now receiving. My grandmother, Sis. Hazel Cones, of Fresno, CA had my

name added to your list of subscribers. Bless her and all the saints who work so diligently to print such enjoyable reading. Although I am newly saved, I feel this last issue (Feb.) was sent by the Lord and I have referred to it many times this month. No one needs to be in despair for God is always there. He is much more dependable than anything else we may have clung to in the past. I am glad I am learning young to serve Him because I know my boys (ages 4 and 2) will have a much better chance at life now.

God bless you all,

—Sis. Brenda (Moles) White

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LA—Dear saints at the Print Shop: Greetings of love in Jesus' name.

We are praying for you all, and we want you all to pray for us here at West Monroe, LA.

We have Sunday school in our homes. The good Lord is blessing us and I am so thankful.

Yours truly, —N. P. Futch and family

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

CA—Greetings of Christian love to all the workers at the *Faith and Victory* Print Shop: This is a beautiful morning. It is almost springtime and nature is putting forth her beauty, telling all mankind to rejoice and be glad. I'm so glad to be saved and enjoying the blessings of salvation. Although I am very badly afflicted God gives me grace to sing the songs of victory. I love the Lord today because of the past and present blessings, for the many times He has heard and answered prayer. Not only for me but also for my loved ones.

I do desire the prayers of the saints everywhere for my brother. His mind is gone and he is as a baby. He can't even feed himself. There is nothing too hard for God. I am praying that God will restore his mind and talk to his heart. He always had a tender heart toward the truth.

With Christian love, —Sis. Agnes Huskey

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CA—Dear Sister Maybelle and all the dear saints: Just a few lines to say praise the dear Lord! They just removed the brace yesterday, Feb. 29, from my leg which was broken. It is good after all these months to hear the doctor say that the bones have healed good.

The Lord saved me when I was not quite 8 years old. He taught me to pray 3 times a day and 3 times a night and called me for Himself. I grew up praying and reading the Bible until now I have read it through 42 times. Praise God, I feel Him in my soul!

I have read some of the books I have been able to get from your press. It keeps me in the

straight holy way. I can't see anything else. Praise God for you all and the praying people who can get a prayer through.

Thank you all so much and God bless you precious ones there.

Yours in His love, —Sister Margaret Hall

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MO—Dear Sis. Maybelle: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I hope you all are okay at the Print Shop I am fine.

I requested prayer some time ago and I am so happy and thankful for what the Lord has done for me. I feel good in both soul and body. I do want to thank you all for praying for me. God has been so good to give me health and strength. I will be 73 in April.

I will close with love and prayers to you all. I still want you all to pray for me as I do for you all.

May God bless you all at the Print Shop,
—Sis. Hallie Pinkerton

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OR—Dear Sister Pruitt: Greetings of love to you and all the workers there at the printing press. I remember all of you in prayer everyday.

The Print Shop is a rich blessing to all who have the *Faith and Victory* sent to them, along with the many books and literature you print. . . God bless all.

In His service, —Sister Birdie Kroker

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OR—Dear Sister Maybelle: Greetings in Jesus' name.

Today I can yet praise the Lord for His blessings unto me. I am so glad that in these evil times my mind is to please my Maker, and that I am able each Sunday morning to be counted with those who love the Lord in Gladstone, OR. The saints are so nice to come and get me and bring me back home in Portland. May God bless them. I enjoy the time spent in the services and also the service on each 3rd Sunday afternoon in Jefferson, OR. When I think of God's goodness it makes me want to draw closer.

May God bless you all in the work of the Lord there in Guthrie.

Your sister in Christ, —Naomi Jones

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CA—To all the workers at the Print Shop and all of the dear saints abroad: Greetings to all in the name of Jesus. I am yet saved, sanctified, satisfied and encouraged to stay in the will of God at all times.

I thank the Lord for another new year He has granted to me.

Pray for me that I will live for Him more faithfully than ever before. I will be 90 years old October 23, 1988.

Yours in Christ, —Sis. Flora B. Davis

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KS—Dear ones in the Lord: We send greetings of love in the precious name of Jesus. He has been so good to us and we surely want to be true and faithful to Him.

I have been reading several of the books printed at the Faith Publishing House and would like to encourage every one to read *Food for Lambs. The Redemption of Howard Gray* is good too. So many people are in a confused state and this book would be a real help to them. My soul was blessed as I read them. I have reread several others and thank the Lord for them all.

We thank the Lord for His faithful saints, those who have finished the race with victory. May the Lord help us all to watch and pray and keep our lamps burning bright.

We do pray for our young parents that the Lord will bless them in rearing their children in the fear of the Lord.

May the Lord bless the printed Word as it goes out.

Yours for His service, —Sis. Inez Beisly

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OK—Greetings in the name of Jesus. We are thankful for still being saved, sanctified, and satisfied. Praise God! The Lord has really been answering prayers for my spiritual needs. I thank God for it. Everyday we give praises to God for His mercies unto us. . . Pray for me that I'll ever be faithful to the end.

Yours for Christ, —Sis. Jackie Robinson

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

FL—I lost my husband 4 years and 3 months ago, (Nov. 10, 1983) and I never thought I would outlive the loss, for it was a great loss. I had one of the best husbands and I missed him a lot when the Lord took him in November. In December, on the watchnight, I was at home in my room, locked up and weeping my heart out. I did not want the New Year to come. I was so afraid to face it alone. I wept and I prayed. I prayed, "Lord, I can't face the New Year alone, I can't, I can't!" I finally started praying, "Lord please take me with the old year, please." Doesn't that sound like a spoiled child? Well, I was thinking how that next year I would have to go find a full time job, and even if I would find one, we still might not be able to make it.

The Lord just let me cry and mourn until I had enough. Then He gave me a chastising like we would do to our little ones when they act up. "Yes Lord, you knew what you were doing when you took my husband. Yes Lord, you are the one who has been taking care of me all the time. Yes Lord, you can still take care of me. Yes Lord, I'm sorry, please forgive me."

Oh saints, that was some chastising, but I needed it and today I am a thankful child, not a spoiled child. Thank God for His chastenings. He says, "Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee." Deut. 8:5.

Saints, the Lord told me that night that He was going to take care of me and I can say today that He has been better to me than ten husbands. He has not failed me one day, not one minute. The Lord has blessed my going out and my coming in and He has blessed me with a good job. I thank Him for it.

Because of my job I live so far from the saints that I don't get out to services as I would like to, but the Lord is faithful to my soul and He is teaching me precious lessons. Right now He is working on us for something new, so pray for us that we will not mar in His hand, but that we will be a perfect mold.

I do love my Lord. He is everything to me, and I love His people. They are the sweetest people in the world. Every time I see them they look special.

Please pray that the Lord would keep me encouraged. Also pray for my unsaved children and loved ones.

Yours in Christ, —Sis. Lydia Bennett

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CA—Sis. Maybelle: Greetings in the name of Jesus. We are thankful for salvation and God's faithfulness toward us.

We especially want to thank the Lord for His hand of direction upon our lives during the past year. We know that God never makes a mistake.

Many times we have brought our request before the throne of God, and we can truly say God has never failed us. Sometimes we had to wait, but God was always on time. Thank the Lord. We also thank the Lord for His healing power and protection unto us.

It is our desire to ever prove faithful until the end.

Christian love,

—Robert and Lois Johnson

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For the glory of God I want to tell about some of the blessings God has blessed me with

since I got saved in 1915. Long years ago I used a magnifying glass to read about three verses in the Bible. God healed me. As a child I was very low with red measles. I heard Papa say he thought they had waited too late to ask for prayer. He prayed for me and I soon felt more normal. We thought my little Sis. Melba was dead. I hated so bad to give her up. I prayed most all night. God blessed her to be out playing the next day. I think it was a black widow spider that bit me. Two ministers prayed for me and I recovered. I got my head and neck hurt in a car accident. It would hurt to raise my head. Two ministers prayed for me and I soon went out to their service.

God has blessed me in other ways for which I praise Him very, very much.

With love and best wishes,

—Sis. Dorothy Bridges

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OK—Dear fellow laborers in God's Print Shop: Greetings of love, I wanted to add my testimony to the glory and honor of our dear loving Lord. I am much encouraged in the Lord who has done wonderful things for us, whereof we are glad.

I can truly witness a healing in my body. I am still walking and telling of His healing power. When I visit the nursing homes and the sick, I gladly tell of what He has done. I am not worthy of the least of His mercies but to Him I give all praise.

I am praying for the work there. I enjoy the paper, books and tracts and pass them on to others. May God bless each of you.

Your Sister in Christ, —Theresa Gaines

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MO—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: I greet you in the wonderful name of Jesus. Praise His holy name for what He has done for me.

I had a ringing in my ears some time ago and it bothered me most of the time. I was prayed for and God took the ringing away. I sure do thank Him that I don't have it anymore.

Hope all are well at the Print Shop. Keep me on your prayer list and I will pray for you.

With Christian love, —Sister Eathel Hill

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CA—Dear saints: I can hardly believe that it is less than a year ago that I purposely drove my car off the freeway, doing somewhere between 60-70 miles an hour! All hope of things ever changing, that is, getting better—had vanished. It was like someone had turned the light of hope out altogether and that is when I attempted suicide. God in His infinite love and wisdom

had allowed me to come to the point where no man could help me. I certainly couldn't help myself. As the world understands hope, it was completely gone, at least in my mind.

Several years before my jump off of the freeway, I had gone against my intuition and had agreed to take some harmless medication, so the doctors said. Unfortunately I had a severe allergic reaction that left me a little more than a pain riddled zombie. It blew my mind and took my health. I had to leave my job and I am still on disability almost 4 years later. Before things started to get better they got worse, so much so that for many months I was forced to crawl around on the floor, sometimes 12 hours a day! It was the only way for me to go on at the time. I finally came to the place where I just couldn't cope any longer. I felt trapped in an endless cycle of confusion and chronic debilitating pain, as well as being cut off from society and ultimately from those I loved the most. I began to mentally crack from the intensity of it all, and as all human reason for hope had disappeared, I felt compelled to kill myself.

Deep down inside I didn't want to die. However there just seemed like no other option or solution as I had built my hope on the ability of man and he had absolutely run out of answers to my problems. Man had become my basis for hope and I reasoned that if he couldn't help then I couldn't go on any longer. God seemed too slow and uncaring for me to depend upon Him. He just wasn't real enough to me to believe He would come to my rescue. I couldn't see God for who He really was and is, that is, a God who is all things to His children, for He always brings exactly what we need at the perfect time. He always comes through for that's His true nature. He can't fail us for it is contrary to His unchangeable personality—which is one of the many trustworthy things that distinguishes His personality from man's. He never changes and never fails.

So it was my incorrect concept of who God is that caused an inability to trust Him. My hope needed to be in His ability to deliver me and not in any man-made god. He will have no other gods before Him!

I didn't realize that God was purposely allowing me to come to the end of my limited resources and self, that is, where there wasn't anything I or anybody else could do to change my situation. It would either cause me to turn from my old ways and cling to Christ, or lose my mind or life without hope. It was do or die. It was the biggest fight of my life, but it was necessary to trust Him (even if only barely) to be faithful to do what was best for me no matter

where things led. It was all the hope I had left, so I decided to hang onto it with all my might as I gave Him all the available faith I had.

Here I am now almost 8 months later in right mind and glorifying God besides. I praise God for the Church of God! The saints have loved me and literally prayed me out of darkness into the glorious light! Hallelujah!

In so many areas God has made me brand new! He will do the same for you. I no longer deny His power by my behavior, but I am now a testimony to it! I am confident of this very thing, "that He that hath begun a good work in me will perform it until the day of Christ." (Phil. 1:6). My confidence now isn't in what man can do for me, but in my past experience of what God has done! Hallelujah! I am actually beginning to obtain the correct concept of God, that is, to see Him as He really is. It was in my weakness that God and His power became real to me.

I also thank God for giving me the ability to cope as I never dreamed possible. If He could do it for me He could do it for anybody! And that's a fact. Believe it! There's yet hope, only hang onto Him and His promises and don't give up. Remember, God is a God of circumstance so things usually take time to work out. However, God has a set time to come to your rescue. He will never take too long for I have learned through experience that God is always on time!

With sincere love, —Neil Mickelson

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MO—Dear saints: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I just want to tell you I do love the Lord and am still striving to serve Him.

Recently He gave me such a blessing. I can't express my feelings, but will attempt to. My husband is very ill and I have a big responsibility caring for him, as well as other burdens. I had been feeling bad myself for some time, but it seemed like it got worse suddenly. I had chest pains that went down my arms. I was so sick I could hardly care for myself, much less my husband. My daughter came over and saw how sick I was and she said, "You've got to be able to care for Dad. Why don't you go be checked and see what's wrong." So we did. At the hospital they did all the things they do to check your heart, but didn't find anything wrong. The precious Lord spoke to me so real as if I could feel Him. He said, "Let me take care of you."

And praise the Lord He has. He has blessed me in so many ways physically with strength to care for my husband. I just haven't been able to thank Him enough and never can.

I am feeling so much better in soul and body.

I desire your prayers. My husband needs your prayers.

Christian love, —Nelva Stanley

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KS—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. It truly is a privilege and a pleasure to follow our precious Lord and I am thankful He provided a plan whereby all people could come to Him and not be excluded because of class, financial standing or nationality. It is so good to be able to have the great gift if we want it. I do love my Lord and feel glad to keep on pressing up the upward way.

May the Lord help people everywhere to find the secret of happy living (Jesus). I only wish we knew how to get people to really understand and accept Christ and get saved to the uttermost. Well, as for me, I mean to go right on until the crown is won. . .

May the Lord continue to bless the printed word.

Christian love, —Sis. Shirley Knight

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From India . . .

Feb. 27—Our dear Sister Maybelle, Bro. Wayne Murphey, and the dear saints scattered abroad: Greetings to you all again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

Last week I was at Chayppankuzhy, in north Kerala, to preach in the convention there. It was a very blessed convention and even the Catholic church priest attended the night meetings. I talked to him a little bit. May God visit him continuously through the Word. We will have conventions at Athani, Koratti, Nagarangadi, Koottervila and Nadukkunna in March and April.

We have congregations in two places in Tamil Nadu State. Please pray for the needs of these new stations.

May God bless the camp meetings there this year from May to September.

My wife is better now as the result of your earnest prayers. Thank you for your prayers.

Yours in Him, —John Varghese

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From Mexico . . .

Feb. 24—Beloved Saints: How great is our conviction and profession in God. I'm writing this note with much love, giving thanks to God for the victory over sin and for the grand blessings which He has sent over His work. The main objective is to notify that we are planning a camp meeting in Holy week, which will start the 28th of March and go through the 3rd of

April. Everyone is invited and we will be very glad if you come. Only, come prepared, for here there are no comforts. We do need prayers for this is the only way we can have a good meeting. Above all we need ministers with a burden.

We love all in the truth and appreciate much your prayers. They have sustained me until today. With the graces of God we are following firm and happy the Lord in every way. We shall exchange prayers.

Yours in the Lord,

—Mayarino Escobar and family

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From Nigeria . . .

Feb. 12—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings to you and all in the dearest name of Jesus Christ, who has preserved us in Him to enter this year with His blessings unceasingly abiding with us. As we enter the new year we are once more reminded of how we are moving closer to eternity.

This is our best season for gospel work and we have already begun with some out-door activities mapped out for ourselves. We revisited a nearby village with the gospel where there are some indications that some people would welcome the church in. We are working and praying towards God establishing one there.

Included in our plans is the commencement of work on a residential building on the premises. Some blocks have already been moulded, and with the Lord providing the funds through His people we hope to start the building before the year runs out. This, we hope, will enable us to host such activities as camp meetings. Housing constitutes a great problem in Port Harcourt. Your prayers and assistance will help much in these activities.

It has been our longing that some saints from the U.S. should visit us and assist in spreading the truth. Let us pray about this.

I am pleased to inform you that the *Faith and Victory* paper is coming steadily and is being distributed prayerfully. It has gone to many homes and we are sure it will be a great help to some.

Pray for the Church here in Nigeria, that unity based on truth shall prevail. May the dear Lord bless you adequately for your labor of love towards us.

Yours for Christ, —F. Naths-Igbanibo

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From the Philippines . . .

Mar. 7—Dear Bro. Murphey and Sister Pruitt: I enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory* magazine. It is good to my soul and it lifts me up in the Spirit. Thank you for the good work you are doing for God. May God bless you all.

Last Saturday morning I went to the rice

field where many farmers are living. My purpose of going there was to take the Word of God. While I was walking in the rice field I saw two fellows sitting down, I went nearer and began a conversation about the Word of Jesus Christ. I explained to them the Gospel of St. John 3:16. After explaining the love of God in our lives by sending His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into this world, they became interested. To shorten our conversation, they promised to be in church this coming Sunday when the harvest of rice is over.

Almost every day as I walk around the city of Gingoog, I share the gospel of Jesus Christ with anyone, for I know that without the gospel of Jesus Christ, man shall perish. St. Paul says, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. . . ." Rom. 1:16.

This is our responsibility as God's people, to tell them about salvation in Christ Jesus. (Mk. 16:15).

In Christ, —Nick Wahing

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Feb. 22—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey, Sister Maybelle, Bro. George Hammond and the people in the Print Shop: Greetings of love in Jesus Christ to all.

I have been in Gingoog to meet the brethren of the Church of God and was very glad to see them.

This week I was in the barrio Calam-Cour and met some folks that gladly received some tracts which I gave them and some of the pamphlets that I had.

Today our government is launching a nationwide program urging the people in the countryside to return to the fold of the present administration. They had declared a Bible week for the Filipino people, but the people feared the state of emergency in insurgent areas of the country.

Today's news by local newspaper, *Tempo News*, states that the army's Red alert and check points were placed in different areas for the coming Feb. 25 "Edsa" Day's second anniversary of the People's Power. On the other hand, separatist guerillas in Malibong Sulu, also had check points manned by AK47 Russian-made rifles. All of this might revive martial law in some critical places in Mindanao, especially like that of Sula. I hope not, because this means another fight against insurgency, more killing and looting.

I think communism is coming much closer to the Islands, but we, the Church of God, rely of God's will for whatever may happen. Please pray for us that the spirit of the Lord will prevail in our land.

Your's for Christ,

—Bro. Leonardo Salvana and family

Feb. 3—Our dearest Bro. Hammond: Greetings of love in the name of Jesus. Thank you so much for your great concern to us. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness for our well-fare and your unending love for us.

At present we are very busy with plans for the gospel work. Yesterday I went with Brother Dionisio Rames to Munoz to order hollow blocks for the church building in Palistina. The saints there gave some contributions and Ruth sent some money for the church building in Palistina and some for the church building in Caridad. Brother Moeses Madriaga said he is willing to sign a deed of donation for the lot of the church building in Palistina. Brother Mariano Antonio in Caridad bought a lot and has offered it to build the church building in Caridad. It seems there are signs that the true Church is growing in the Philippines in spite of the strong opposition of Satan.

We are planning to begin our revival meetings and then evangelistic meetings in other places. . .

With my love, —Matias S. Tangunan

In Memoriam

Lenora McGahen 96, of Clovis, NM, passed away on Sunday, Feb. 21, 1988. She was born on June 16, 1891 in Highlandville, MO. She married J. I. MaGahen in 1926. She moved to Texico in 1918. She lived in California from 1944 until 1972 and moved back to Clovis.

Sis. Lenora's mind and eyesight were still good up until the time of her passing, and she looked forward to receiving and reading the *Faith and Victory* each month.

Survivors include one daughter, Dottie Kirk, Lubbock, TX; and six grandchildren.

Graveside services took place at the Mission Garden of Memories, Clovis, NM, on Feb. 23.

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K. Claude Miles was born May 15, 1909 to William I. and Lycenia Miles in Alamogordo, New Mexico. After several months of illness he departed this life on February 25, 1988 at his home in San Bernardino, CA. He left the testimony that he was ready to go.

He was united in marriage to Ruby Newman, March 28, 1928 and to this union six children were born: 4 sons and 2 daughters.

He is survived by his wife, Ruby Miles of the home; four sons, Donald R. Miles of Lancaster, CA, Claude A. Miles of San Bernardino, CA, Paul A. Miles, Los Lumas, New Mexico; two

daughters, Juanita Wilson and Twila Munoz both of San Bernardino; eighteen grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren; one brother, Clyde F. Miles, El Toro, CA; two sisters, Maude Hornbeck and Maybelle Pruitt, both of Guthrie, OK, many other relatives' and friends.

His son, Mickie Z. Miles, his father, mother, 5 brothers and 2 sisters preceded him in death.

On March 3, 1988, the funeral services were held in the Mark B. Shaw Mortuary and he was laid to rest in the Mountain View Cemetery. Chaplain Fast and Pastor Calvin Hobbs officiated.

A NOTE OF THANKS

We wish to thank each and everyone of you for all the prayers, phone calls, visits, help, cards, food, love donations, flowers, telegrams and other acts of love during the illness and loss of our son and brother. He is missed terribly by us all. We will appreciate your continued prayer for us. May God bless each one of you.

With our deepest appreciation,

—The family of Woodrow Warren, Jr.

THANK YOU

We wish to express our thankfulness for all the acts of love given to Lori and her family this past year. From the beginning of her illness on Feb. 21, 1987, there was a continuous stream of flowers, cards, phone calls and saints coming with Scriptures, songs and words of encouragement. The little congregation at the Enterprise, AL, Church of God were so faithful in coming to pray with us, bringing in food, helping care for the little girls during the hard times and just being with us in every need for the entire year.

Lori was always greatly touched by the love of the saints. She loved each of you dearly and we do too.

With great humbleness, we thank you.

—The family of Lori LaCroix

The lives of most men and women are records made up chiefly of numberless thoughts, words, and deeds, these, like one continuous chain, form the character of the different individuals. If by force of habit, or otherwise, "we speak what we think", then, let us see to it that we speak rightly. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he," said Solomon. Then thinking has much to do with the man. Thoughts are like the fountain-head of a stream; they are the source from which flows character, either good or bad.

—J. E. K.

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: This is the third and final installment of the discussion on John 14:1-3.

Answer: This discussion will focus on the statement that Jesus spoke here, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

Where did Jesus go to prepare a place for us? My answer is, to Calvary, and I will bring forth some Scriptures (just a few of many) to confirm my thinking on this point. In Hebrews 10:19-23 we have this passage: "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith . . ." Verse 19 speaks of our entering into the "holiest". The discussion through the 9th and 10th chapters of Hebrews is a running comparison between the Old Testament sanctuary and it's system of sacrifices and worship and the New Testament sanctuary (the Church of God) and its spiritual system of spiritual sacrifices (1 Peter 2:5 and Hebrews 13:15) and spiritual worship. That Old Testament sanctuary had two compartments in it, the holy place and the holiest of all, or most holy place. This was a type of the New Testament temple, the Church. But for the antitype to conform to the type it must have two compartments also; and indeed it does. These correspond to two parts of our salvation, justification and sanctification. This text only mentions the "holiest" which is the ultimate of our salvation. Hebrews 10:14 says, "For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified." The sanctification of God's people required an acceptable sacrifice and that sacrifice was the blood of Jesus which was shed at Calvary. Hebrews 13:12 says, "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate." Hebrews 10:20 said that He consecrated a new and living way for us through His flesh. But His flesh was torn and His body broken for us and His blood flowed out at Calvary to open up a way for us into an experience of full and free salvation; saved and sanctified—filled with the Holy Spirit.

In Ephesians 2:16, we read, "And that he might reconcile both unto God ("Both" here refers to the Jews and Gentiles) in one body by

the cross. . .” Verse 18 says, “For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.” Hence we see that a way was opened up for us to approach unto God and be brought into fellowship with Him and be reconciled with Him through the sacrifice that Jesus made at Calvary and our faith in the merits of that sacrifice. Some of the words of a song I used to sing said, “Jesus Christ the Lord opened up the way to glory, when he died to save us from our ruined state.” One of our present songs says, “Let us sing a sweet song of the home of the soul, the glorious place of our rest; It is not far away in the heavens untold, but deep in the infinite breast.” The “home of the soul” spoken of here is the Church of God, the body of Christ, where the soul finds it’s glorious rest in Christ the blessed rest giver. The Church of God was purchased with the blood of Christ. (Acts 20:28, Eph. 5:25-27).

We could multiply Scriptures on this thought on and on. But to what profit? We always wind up at the same place; that we enter into this glorious place of rest and peace, perfect love and holiness, victory over sin and victorious and triumphant living, the abundance of divine grace, the glorious estate and habitation that Jesus prepared for us by the sacrifice He made and the blood He shed when He went to Calvary.

However, all of this pertains to our salvation and our habitation in the kingdom of God in this world. But this is not the end or ultimate. When Jesus died for our sins at Calvary, He didn’t stay dead in the tomb where He was laid. On the morning of the third day He burst the bars of death and the grave asunder and came forth a living Christ, immortal and glorious to never die any more. Jesus said to His disciples, and us, in John 14:19, “Because I live; ye shall live also.” Read also 1 Cor. 15:51-57, Phil. 3:20, 21, 1 Thes. 4:13-18. All of these passages and many more attest to the fact that in Jesus’ rising from the dead and ascending to heaven, He prepared a way for us to resurrect and be glorified and gathered to Him where He is in heaven. In 2 Peter 1:11, Peter speaks of the faithful saints having an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom of Jesus Christ. We are in the present earthly phase of the kingdom when we are saved, but we enter into the everlasting phase of the kingdom at the time of our resurrection at the last day. Jesus went to prepare the entrance into this place for us when He arose from the dead and ascended into heaven.

There Is No Excuse

We are living in an age today when people are rendering a lot of excuses. They are trying to escape from a certain duty. We all need to realize that there is no excuse when we are trying to cover up sin or wrongdoing. God is not pleased with excuses. We need to be honest with God and man, and tell the truth. The Bible says in Matthew 5:37, “But let your communication be, yea, yea; nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.”

Anytime a person is in the wrong they try to find the best excuse that will make them feel satisfied. I call it an excuse lie. The Bible says in Revelation 21:8, “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” Another Scripture in Proverbs 6:16, 17 says, “These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood.”

The first excuse recorded was when Adam and Eve were in the garden. Genesis 3:12, 13, “And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this thou hast done? And the woman said, the serpent beguiled me and I did eat.” God commanded that they should not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, but they did anyway! **There is no excuse.**

In Exodus 4:1-12, God told Moses to speak to Pharaoh. Moses didn’t feel worthy and he started rendering excuses. He said, “O my lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.” The Lord asked him, “Who hath made man’s mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind?” Now go, and I will teach thee what thou shalt say. Praise God for His leading! He will tell each and everyone what to say and what to do at His own time! **There is no excuse.**

Luke 9:59-62 reads, “And he said unto another, Follow me, But he said, Lord suffer me first to go and bury my Father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” **There is no excuse.**

Luke 14:18-20 says, “And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said

How prone men have been to measure Christians by their theology, rather than by their religion.
—F. G. Smith

unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come." Regardless of how important things may seem, put God first in everything, and let everything else come second! There are many more Scriptures in the Bible that tell about excuses, but I feel these will help each one understand the danger.

May God bless you! —Jerry Lennon

What is a Spiritual Failure?

When we fail to do God's bidding, we fail spiritually. Let us not be a spiritual failure. God guarantees our spiritual success if we trust in Him. We fail spiritually when we don't feed upon God's word, we fail spiritually when we neglect to exercise ourselves in His service. We fail spiritually when we refuse to humble ourselves.

A spiritual failure is a coward taking the easy way out. Don't be a spiritual failure. God is here to make you a spiritual success.

—Sis. L. Hobbs

FOLLOW ME

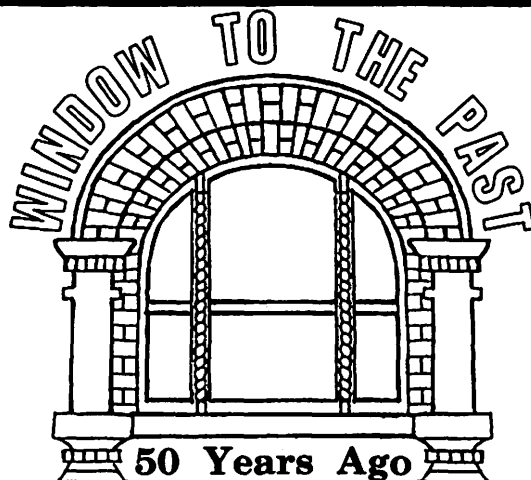


Voyager on life's troubled sea,
Sailing to Eternity,
Turn from earthly things away;
Vain they are, and brief their stay:
Chaining down to earth the heart,
Nothing lasting they impart.
Voyager, what are they to thee?
Leave them all, and follow Me.

Traveler on the road of life,
Seeking pleasure, finding strife;
Know the world can never give
Aught on which the soul can live:
Grasp not riches, seek not fame—
Shining dust and sounding name.
Traveler, what are they to thee?
Leave them all, and follow Me.

Wanderer from the Father's throne,
Hasten back—thine errands own;
Turn—thy path leads not to heaven:
Turn—thy sins will be forgiven:
Turn—and let thy songs of praise
Mingle with angelic lays.
Wanderer, here is bliss for thee;
Leave them all to follow Me!

—Selected



Excerpts Taken From

April, 1938 *Faith and Victory*

"My husband sent in a request for prayer for me, and I am glad to report victory. The Lord healed me on Sunday, February 20. My brother is also much improved."

—Mrs. Rada Watkins

"What a wonderful privilege we have just to shine for Jesus. Some of us cannot preach, nor sing, but through grace all can shine.

"Some sweet day I expect to see inside those mansions of glory. There to meet and greet my precious Saviour, and all the blood washed of all ages. How wonderful beyond our earthly comprehension. Not one can afford to miss heaven. We may be despised and rejected of men here, but honored and received of our blessed Redeemer now and at last."

—Hazel Mann

" 'And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others. Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee and the other a publican.' (Luke 18:9, 10).

"The place which these two men chose for the occasion was a proper and fitting place. . . but there was something radically wrong with the first prayer as well as the prayer of the prayer. First, his assemblage of words could hardly be styled as a real prayer as there was no request made, and the Pharisee seemed to have had no consciousness of any need. He prayed with himself. His mind was more upon himself. He exalted, flattered and esteemed himself very highly and was very righteous in his own mind. 'Every one that exalteth himself shall be abased.' "

—Ulysses Phillips