

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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What Is A Mother?

Mother's Way

Oft within our little cottage,
As the shadows gently fall,
While the sunlight touches softly
One sweet face upon the wall,
Do we gather close together,
And in hushed and tender tone,
Ask each other's full forgiveness
For the wrong that each has done;
Should you wonder at this custom
At the ending of the day,
Eye and voice would quickly answer,
"It was once our mother's way."
If our home be bright and cheery,
If it hold a welcome true,
Opening wide its doors of greeting
To the many—not the few;
If we share our Father's bounty
With the needy, day by day,
'Tis because our hearts remember
This was ever mother's way.
Sometimes when our hearts grow weary
Or our task seems very long;
When our burdens look too heavy,
And we deem the right all wrong,
Then we gain a new, fresh courage
As we rise to proudly say:
"Let us do our duty bravely,
This was our dear mother's way."
Thus we keep her memory precious,
While we never cease to pray,
That at last when lengthening shadows
Mark the evening of life's day,
They may find us waiting calmly
To go home our mother's way.

—Selected



The dictionary says a mother is one who has given birth to a child. This is true, but a mother is much more than that. A mother is one who loves her children, cares for them, teaches, them, watches over them, and most of all lives a godly example before them.

Those who have children are honored and blessed of the Lord. Just think, God thought mothers worthy enough to place within their charge the lives of these little ones. They are young tender plants to nurture and attend by His help. Yes, it is a blessing to be a mother. Oh, it is work — hard work. And yes, there are tears — many of them, but there are smiles, laughs and joys too.

Being a mother is a high calling; especially a godly mother. I am thankful to God for the example my Mother was before me. She was godly, righteous, faithful and pure. I could go on and on. The example my Mother lived before me convinced me of God's power to keep, uplift, satisfy, encourage and to bring us through any



and all difficulties. Her example made me strong in the faith of God. Yes, she was truly a **godly mother**.

Now God has given us the chance to be that kind of mother. We have a great task before us, but I know God will see us through. Amen.

—Sis. Lela Hobbs

Going Out . . .

“And when they had sung an hymn they went out. . . .” Matthew 26:30.

After our ordinance service those words came back to me with the question, “What did they go out to?” The Scripture says to the Mount of Olives. But let us think beyond the physical surroundings and consider what they each went out to face and do.

Peter went out enthused and with lots of zeal saying, “Though all men shall be offended because of thee yet will I never be offended.” The rest of the disciples said likewise.

Peter went out trying to fight this battle in his own strength by drawing a sword and cutting off the servant of the high priest’s ear. This same disciple went out from that sacred table to cursing and denying of his Lord.

Some of them went out to sleeping when they should have been praying. All of them went out to forsaking Jesus and fleeing when He was arrested. Some of them went out to following afar off; all went out to facing the fear of man and doubting their Master. They went out to questionings, to dashed hopes, to eyes that were holden so that they didn’t even know Him. They went out to unbelief so much so that when the women came to announce that Christ was risen, it seemed to them as an idle tale.

Let us ask ourselves what we go out from that sacred service to. We feel so touched as we gaze in our minds eye at the scene of the broken bread and the cup of our Lord. Our hearts are drawn with love to Christ and we too say with Peter, “Lord, I’ll never deny thee”. But how very easy for us, also, to go out to face a hostile world and soon become fearful. Do we go out to a crowd of worldly associates that ridicule religion and let the fear of man bring a snare? Do we go out to facing battles and sometimes like Peter try to conquer in our own strength? Are we going out to following afar off? To a life of ease when Jesus is desiring prayer warriors and workers in His vineyard? Are we going out to despair when God withholds an answer to our prayers? To doubting if we can’t feel His touch at the moment. Do we go out to questionings when we behold wave after wave of assault coming against the Church? When others bring

good testimonies of healings, victories, and battles won, does it seem to us as an idle tale?

Now let us turn our thought back to the scene as they went out and consider what our Saviour went out to face. Jesus went out to a place of prayer pleading with His Father to let this cup pass if possible, but He did not stop there. He pressed on through the flesh to the point of complete surrender to His Father’s will. He went out to face being betrayed by a loved one, to cruel mockings, being spit upon, beaten, ridiculed, crowned with thorns, nailed to the cross, railed upon, yet never retaliating, never hating, never cursing, never threatening, ever patient, ever loving, ever forgiving.

Oh, may God help us as we consider the contrast between the disciples going out in their own strength to failure, disappointment and despair, to our Saviour’s going out conquering the flesh, submitting to the will of God and finding every grace needed under the most difficult circumstances. May we realize that the only way for us to go out as conquerors into a hostile world is by our denying the flesh, submitting to the will of our Father and then, we too, will find grace to forgive, strength to not threaten, courage to overcome fear, faith to not doubt and love that will endure all things for Christ’s sake.

—LaVerna Probst

Life, A Great Miracle

Let us think on Spring and life breaking forth everywhere we look. Oh, the beauty and miracle of “life”. As we just came through the Easter season, we again were reminded we have a risen Lord, alive and well, and to mankind He brings forth “life”. “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6.

We remember how God created **everything** in the beginning to live. All was brought to life by God Almighty. To mankind He breathed into his nostrils and man became a living soul. What a blessed people we are! To think, God breathed and we lived. But dear loved ones, that wasn’t all to life. Yes, God could have stopped there, but thank God He went on. He said: “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly,” so we know that in the Lord is real life. Let us think soberly now of the ways of real life.

Our heart is what keeps us alive naturally. It pumps the blood through our bodies that there may be life; our heart stops and so do we. How about our heart spiritually. Let us look at the heart according to the Word of life. “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” Proverbs 4:23. “A sound heart is

the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones." Proverbs 14:30. With this in mind, let us ask ourselves the question, "Do we have a clean and sound heart toward God and man that we might live?"

Next we want to think on our mouth and tongue. They control a big part of our life. Our mouth takes in food to keep our bodies living. Our tongues hold the taste buds by which we enjoy and have a desire to eat. Look at Proverbs 10:11, "The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked." Proverbs 15:4 says, "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit." Can we say our mouths and tongues are wells and trees of life?

Now let us go on to our understanding. It determines our path in life and how far we can go. Let us see what the Word says about understanding and life. "Understanding is a well-spring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly." May our minds be clear. Romans 8:6 says, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." So we see our minds have a lot to do with our lives.

There is something else connected to understanding that affects us. The more wisdom we have the better understanding we will have. Wisdom is like a precious guard to our life. If we have wisdom we'll think before we leap. We don't have to be tossed to and fro with every wind and wave, but we can be settled. "For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it." Ecclesiastes 7:12.

If we have wisdom we will also have the fear of God. Fear is a source of protection in life. The fear of God is a protection to our souls. "The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death." God helps us all to love and fear God and keep His commandments that we might have safety and be secured in Him.

Friends, I believe if we have all of the above, we are sure to have and show forth real mercy. Mercy gives much comfort to our lives both naturally and spiritually. "He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour." Proverbs 21:21.

Let us recall looking into the tiny innocent face of a little baby — how precious it is. Then remember looking into the innocent face of a newborn babe in Christ. What glory! Yes, friends, Life is a great miracle!

From death to life through the great Creator:
—Elaine Dunn

LIFE

To the preacher, life's a sermon,
To the joker, it's a jest;
To the miser, life is money
To the loafer, life is rest.
To the lawyer, life's a trial,
To the poet, life's a song;
To the doctor, life's a patient,
Who needs treating right along.
To the soldier, life's a battle
To the teacher, life's a school;
Life's a "good thing" to the grafter;
It's a failure to the fool.
To the man upon the engine,
Life's a long and heavy grade;
It's a gamble to the gambler,
To the merchant, life's a trade.
Life is but a long vacation,
To the man who loves his work;
Life's an everlasting effort
To shun duty, to the shirk.
Life is useful or unuseful,
Life is false or life is true;
Life is what we try to make it—
Brother, what is life to you?

—Selected

The Harvest is Past

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jeremiah 8:20. There is given to every man a time or a season to call upon the Lord for the salvation of his soul. To some, God seems to give a long season for repentance, and for others the season to repent seems quite brief. We must take full advantage of the time and season that is given us.

God in His faithfulness causes us to know when He is calling us, just as He did Felix as recorded in Acts 24:25. "And as he [Paul] reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a more convenient season, I will call for thee." Alas, how sad. Did the convenient season ever come? We have no record that it did. We cannot choose our season of repentance. That is given to us by God. Felix knew truth when he heard it. The Holy Spirit was faithful to convict him. He trembled, but failed to give heed. The harvest was past.

Many today are as Felix was. A good message is preached, anointed of the Lord. There is conviction, an invitation is given, they tremble, but alas again, "Go thy way, I will get saved at a more convenient season".

We beseech you, now is the accepted time.
—Olive Davenport

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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Notice to subscribers: Whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your zip code number. The post office now charges 30¢ to notify us of each change of address.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES



Single copy, one year \$1.00
 Package of 4 papers to one address, one year.... \$3.00
 Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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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SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PAPER—1 YEAR FOR \$1.00

EDITORIALS

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season. . . ." 2 Timothy 4:2. We seem to be living in an age when it is becoming more and more unpopular or "out of season" to preach the Word. Sin has always abounded, but we have reached a time in our country when God has been ruled out of the lives of people by legislation. When the right to prayer in public schools was eliminated, it seemed to establish the trend for the passing and interpretation of many anti-religious laws. Occasionally there are encouraging signs, such as the recent Senate vote to outlaw pornographic telephone messages.

The fall of well-known television ministers has placed a blot on the ministry of God in the minds of many. What one man wrote years ago is even more descriptively true today. "The preacher for this day must have the heart of a lion, the skin of a hippopotamus, the patience of a donkey, the wisdom of an elephant, the industry of an ant and as many lives as a cat."

The recent postal increases tend to make the gospel publishing ministry more difficult or "out of season". Book and printed matter postal rates greatly increased, especially for foreign, and the rate under which the *Faith and Victory* is mailed was substantially raised. It will now cost \$1.05 in postage alone to mail the paper for a one years' subscription. When all other phases that go into the printing of the paper are totaled, a one year's subscription comes to an estimated cost of \$2.75.

In the face of all these facts we are still greatly encouraged to continue the printing work. The only hope of the world is to believe the gospel. They cannot believe unless they hear. We appreciate the support, cooperation and prayers that we have received and value the continuance of such.

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Three articles that have been printed in past *Faith and Victory* issues are now available in tract form. They are: *Concepts Forbidding Daily Sin* by Joyce Hall, *My Experiences With a Kleptomaniac* by Don Hillis and *Testimony of Stan Lingar*. These tracts may be obtained at regular tract rates. A complete tract listing and prices will be sent to anyone, free of charge, upon request.

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We would like to acknowledge the upcoming 50th wedding anniversary of Lorenzo and Regina Vitale of Du Quoin, IL. Lord willing, this will take place on May 23. We pray that God's continued blessings will be upon their lives and

that they will have many more happy years together.

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Just prior to publishing this issue, the computer printer we use to print the mailing labels malfunctioned. It is in a repair shop, but we are uncertain at this time whether to have it repaired or to invest in another. We trust that this will not hinder in getting this issue in the mail before the last day of April.

—Wayne Murphey

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BEAUTIFUL WAY PAPERS

The upcoming *Beautiful Way* for use in the months of July, Aug. and Sept., will contain lessons which we feel would be beneficial to children. If you know of children who are not receiving this paper, we would like to encourage you to order it for them.

This set of thirteen lessons will be taken mostly from the first part of Acts. We will learn about Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit, read about its inauguration on the day of Pentecost, note the changes it made in Apostle Peter, watch it convict unbelievers and see the rapid growth of the Church. We will see it reveal the secret of an untruthful man and his wife, then again watch the once cowardly Peter speaking boldly in defense of Christ. Lesson thirteen will be a review of the twelve previous lessons.

These lessons should be a blessing to children and arouse their interest to have the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives, which is a necessity to live a steady life for Christ.

—Sis. Charlotte Huskey

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PREACHING TAPES AVAILABLE

This is a more complete notice of the sermon tapes by Bro. I. C. Chandler which was printed in the April *Faith and Victory*.

The tapes sell for \$3.00 each. This covers both the tape plus the postage and handling.

The tape titles are:

1. The Young Christian
2. Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit
3. Self-Denial
4. An Angel Encamps Around About You
5. Forgive and Forget
6. The Church—Part 1
7. The Church—Part 2

They are available from: Charles and Thomasene Pierro, Box 1542, Paradise, CA 95967.

BOOK AVAILABLE

Many people, through the years, have asked me to write a book of my experiences in Mexico, saying they felt it would be an encouragement to many to have more faith in God.

Consequently, I have prayerfully written of those instances that would please the Lord, that which would show forth the workings of God in and through the incidents whereby He could be glorified, doing it as unto the Lord. "My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad." Psalm 34:2.

It is my prayer that the book will prove a blessing to those who desire to be in the center of God's will.

The book is entitled, *I Want You To Go To Mexico*, by Sister Opal Kelly. Those are the words God first spoke to my heart.

The price is \$3.95 plus postage: 90¢ for one book, \$1.25 for either 2 or 3, and \$1.60 for either 4 or 5 books. Orders may be made to: Opal Kelly, 1917 N.E. 20th, No. 135, Oklahoma City, OK 73111.

Yours for the furtherance of the gospel in its purity,
—Sister Opal Kelly

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Prayer Requests

AR—"Please pray for me. I turned over a vessel of boiling water on my knees. It burned them and my left foot. God has wonderfully taken care of the pain, but they look real bad."

—Ray R. Long

AR—"Do pray for me, I need healing. Also, remember my granddaughter."

—Sis. Johnnie West

AR—"Please pray for my complete healing; my trust is in God."

—Esther Null

AR—"Please pray for a person on drugs who had several heart attacks and is in serious condition. Also, pray for my unsaved family."

—Mary Foster

PA—"Please pray for my healing, also for my unsaved family."

—Audrey C. Letham

LA—"Please pray for Sis. Velma Mancil; her eyesight is failing. Also, she wants prayer for a grandson."

Nigeria—"Please dear brethren pray for the speedy recovery of my stroke-stricken father."

—Chukwuwuike Egere

PA—"Remember Bro. Bill Huss in prayer; he is having a very difficult time with his leg."

—Barbara Campbell

IL—"Sis. Mildred Snell had a fall and was injured. Please pray for her healing."

CA—"Sis. Velma Smith is needing special prayer at this time, also her family."

CA—"I still have some urgent requests for souls."
—Doris Pihaylic
(Sis. Doris has recently given her heart to God, and does need our prayers. —Maybelle Pruitt)

IL—"I took the flu and it has left me very weak, please pray for my complete healing."
—Sis. Wilma Sanders

AL—"Pray for Marshall Whitson; he had a fall and injured his back. Remember all of us."
—Sis. Pearlene Gerald

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MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

Camp Meeting Dates for 1988

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

Chilliwack, B.C., Canada — June 20-26

General Southern at Loranger, LA —

June 24-July 3

Fresno, CA — July 1-10

National at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO

July 15-24

Bakersfield, CA — August 5-14

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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Due to the Akron, OH congregation being in the process of working on their church building, the camp meeting which they had planned for this summer has been cancelled.

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RESULTS OF CAMP MEETING IN CHAPULTEPEC, B. C. MEXICO AND PROGRESS OF PREPARATION OF SPANISH LITERATURE

We are glad and thankful to report that the chapel in Chapultepec was finished in time for camp meeting. Much spiritual good was accomplished in the meeting. The rostrum runs the entire width of the building and was lined on Friday night with seekers for a closer walk with the Lord. There were also three people saved. We do thank the Lord for His faithfulness in dealing with souls. Every effort put forth was rewarded.

We thank the Lord for those who made the sacrifice to go and be an encouragement. The Lord will reward you.

Tracts are still being prepared for printing. Literature is being mailed from Chapultepec, but, recently, postage went up so high that amounts are limited. We are looking to the Lord for a solution to the mailing of literature for the most reasonable rate. In the meantime, Bro. Mayarino is sending packages out with all who visit them from the States as postage is more reasonable here than there. Pray for this channel of the work of God.

Christian love,

—Sister Opal Kelly

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COFFEYVILLE, KS TENT MEETING

Dear Saints scattered abroad: We are glad to be acquainted with God's people, and want to implore you to pray for the tent meetings this summer.

We here in Coffeyville, KS are desiring a tent meeting beginning May 13th through the 22nd with services at 7:30 each evening. The Lord richly blessed us last fall and we feel a follow up would be pleasing to the Lord. The location for the tent will be 708 East 1st. Anyone desiring further information may write Bro. Emmanuel Gracey, 708 East 1st, Coffeyville, or Bro. Ralph Beisly, 407 Eldridge, Coffeyville, KS 67337.

Come and help us. Many souls are in confusion. We desire to help souls make it to heaven.

May the Lord bless each of you.

Yours for truth,

—Bro. Ralph and Sis. Inez Beisly

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GREEN BANK, WV CAMP MEETING

The camp meeting of the Church of God at Green Bank will begin June 10th through the 19th.

The first service will be Friday night. There will be two services daily, meals will be served and all who come will be cared for. We have dormitories and the saints' homes are open. There are places to park trailers and motor homes. Also, there are motels nearby.

All are welcome to come and receive a blessing. A special invitation is given to all of God's people who are scattered around in WV and surrounding areas. The Lord has been blessing the work here in a wonderful way. We are expecting something special from God this year, so we urge you to come and be in a good spiritual meeting. Bring a coat as the nights are cool.

Green Bank, WV is located on Rt. 92, 57 miles North of White Sulphur Springs, WV and 50 miles South of Elkins, WV.

For further information contact Bro. Mart Samons, P.O. Box 127, Green Bank, WV 24944, phone (304) 456-4469, or Bro. Mancil Doolittle, (304) 456-4884. The church phone is (304) 456-4069.

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TULSA, OK CAMP MEETING

The Tulsa camp meeting will begin, the Lord willing, June 10-19, 1988.

There will be 6:30 a.m. prayer meeting, 10:30 morning service and 7:30 evening services through the week with morning, afternoon and evening service the first Sunday, and close with the afternoon service the last Sunday if all goes as planned.

We are looking for the Lord to bless us with a good meeting and to send ministers and workers of His choosing.

Come let us rejoice together in the Lord. Pray for the saving of souls. For further information contact Bro. Charles Lowe, (918) 584-6838 or the pastor, Sis. Eva Hardman, (918) 583-2929. The church phone is (918) 584-8438.

—Submitted by Maple Littlejohn

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GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMP MEETING LORANGER, LA

The camp meeting will start, Lord willing, Friday night, June 24, continuing daily through July 3, 1988. Its purpose is for the good of souls and the edifying of the Church. Come praying for the meeting.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Power and water hookups are provided for those with campers. Meals will be served and expenses met by freewill offerings. From Loranger, go two miles south and about three and one-half miles east on Hwy. 40.

For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about 10 miles east of the Tickfaw exit (take Hwy. 442 east which runs into Hwy. 40).

For more informaton write Nelson Doolittle, Rt. 1, Box 192, Loranger, LA 70446.

The chapel phone is (504) 878-2788.

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FRESNO, CA CAMP MEETING

The Fresno, CA camp meeting at the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, July 1 through July 10th, 1988, at the campgrounds located at 388 N. First St., Fresno, CA.

A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this meeting. Provisions will be made to care for all who come. Motor homes, campers and trailers are welcome. All meeting expenses

will be met by freewill offerings. Come praying for a profitable meeting; that souls will be saved, believers sanctified and bodies healed.

For further information contact Sis. Jennings, 5265 S. Blythe, Fresno, CA 93706. Phone (209) 441-8091. The church phone is (209) 486-9977.

—Sis. Dorothy Gray

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DALLAS, TX TENT MEETING

Bro. H. H. Hargrave from Goulds, FL feels led to have another outreach meeting here in Dallas. We feel that having a tent meeting will encourage a greater attendance in the community.

The meeting will begin June 26 through July 1, 1988. It will be located on the church grounds, 770 Elsberry, Dallas, TX. Phone (214) 398-9095.

—Sis. Annie Bell Allen

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From the Mailbox . . .

MO—Dear Bro. Wayne and all: Greetings in Jesus' name. God is faithful to keep His world (nature all about us) operating according to His plan; always a seed time and harvest. We are enjoying such fine Spring weather in our area. We enjoy the blessings of God's natural world and believe God's Word, and are at peace within despite all the turmoil in the so-called church world about us.

We surely thank God for the Print Shop work, and pray you have wisdom to carry on as we realize many forces are working to destroy all truth.

Love and prayers,

—Bro. Leslie and Sis. Eula Adams

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MO—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: I am so glad salvation is free to all who will receive it. If we had to pay money for it I am sure it would be hard for me to get it and keep it. But thank God, we don't have to pay money for it. Jesus died on the cross for us so we can live for Him. He freely gave His life for me and I want to give Him all of me, both soul and body. I want to do His will at all times and be ready when He comes after me. I don't think it will be long till Jesus will come for His Church.

I thank you and all the saints at the Print Shop for your prayers. May God bless each one of you. Keep praying for me and my loved ones and I will pray for you all.

Your Christian friend, —Sis. Eathel Hill

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GA—Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our loving Saviour: I am still

saved, trusting the Lord and going all the way. I have no desire to turn back. The Lord has been so good to my brother and me. He has brought us over so many dangers.

Please continue to remember us in prayer because we are isolated. Also, remember my two brothers who are seriously ill.

I am still praying for all of the saints at the Print Shop and for the Church as a whole.

Your sister in Christ,

—Sis. Mary Johnson

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MO—Dear Ones: We are daily reminded that the more we do for the Lord, the less time we have to entertain self and its pities and to be further tempted of the enemy. It has been the sincere desire of our hearts to draw so very close to the Lord so that we may even become a part of His image. Eternity is just ahead and preparation must be made now in order to gain eternal bliss. What we gain here on the earth means nothing compared to our eternal gain or loss whichever the case may be. The purpose of our life here on earth is to determine our eternal destination. A mind kept on eternal things will find the proper perspective of life.

The rich man was surrounded by an environment of wealth. He was well-dressed, had an abundance of food, a fine home, a good reputation and a prominent standing in the community. Yet, these worldly gains could not tip the scales on which the Lord placed the rich man after leaving this life. We too will be weighed in those same balances. The song reiterates, "What will be your profit, To gain all this world, then lose your soul?"

Could this be why our Lord warned us to "Watch therefore. . ."? May this present a challenge to your heart as it has ours.

Yours in the Lord,

—Mike and LaDawna Adams

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

WA—Dear saints of God everywhere: Greetings in the precious name of our crucified and resurrected Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I feel so strongly that the end is much nearer than many think that I would, with the help of God, sound a trumpet of warning. Revelation 3:11, "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." I guess I have been half-asleep for quite a while, reading only God's true Word, and not realizing until recently why so many dear, precious souls are being deceived. There are so many new man-made books, called bibles, on the market, and the majority of churches recommending them. "For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth

cometh knowledge and understanding." "He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints." "Then shalt thou understand righteousness and judgment." Before we accept man's word, we had better check with the Lord first. This is where Adam and Eve went wrong and we cannot afford to make the same mistake now. Oh, how sad to be lost. We cannot afford to be wrong.

I highly recommend the book by Fred Pruitt, *Past, Present and Future of the Church*. It is a very good book that everyone should read and take very seriously. Near the end of the book, Fred Pruitt explains how the "world" churches would all join together just before the end, as described in Revelation chapter 20. Jesus also told us how to tell when He would end it all. "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them . . . and they shall not escape." 1 Thessalonians 5:3.

There was an article recently in our local paper about all the main national and international churches joining together by George W. Cornell of the A. P. News. This article was titled, *Strangers No Longer, Past Church Opponents Join Hands*. Here are a few highlights from it: "Pope John Paul II led a Billy Graham style service, using Graham's advisors, pulpit and sound equipment, in conjunction with the widest array of American church officials ever assembled with a Pope. 'We stand side by side,' he said, ticking off the varied denominational leadership participating with him. In the last 20 years, the age-old enmity has disappeared and become inter-church friendship and collaboration. . . ."

His humble servant,

—James G. Wilson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MO—It is with a heart full of gratitude and praise to God that I recapture this past year on paper. On December 18, 1986, God spoke very distinctly to me and told me to "use 1987 to prepare to adopt children". That thrilled me and gave me a new direction in my life. I immediately got in gear and the next day bought my first book on adoption. I told two friends and both were very encouraging.

Over the next three months, I told a very few people. Those I talked to about it, supported me in my venture. I am thankful that even today almost everyone has been as enthusiastic about the adoption as I have been. My co-workers, customers on my route, friends, and family have been very supportive. But most of all, I have felt God's approval and leading through it all. He is the one who has worked everything out so beautifully. It was completely in His hands.

Over the months, I continued to do everything I could to prepare like God had instructed me. The Lord worked in a miraculous way, making it possible for me to buy the house I had rented for eight years. I made curtains for the bedrooms, changed my camping van to a passenger van, and read several more adoption books. I started praying that God would not only prepare me to adopt, but prepare "my" children for me, their new home, and new lifestyle. I prayed daily that God would protect their minds from the evils of this world and keep them from rebellion.

In April of 1987, I felt impressed to go to the Division of Family Services on Friday, the 24th. Without making an appointment, I walked in and announced my desire to adopt. The adoption specialist said that I had come the right day. She informed me that if I missed the next Tuesday meeting for prospective adoptive parents, I would not be able to apply until October.

I received a letter from the adoption specialist on June 25, to say my application was being processed and my homestudy was to be started promptly. The four interviews and my homestudy was completed in six weeks, and I started receiving profiles on different children. My homestudy was mailed to several counties and I continued to pray that God would give me the children that would accept me, my lifestyle and have a tender heart toward God. He did just that!

On October 18, 1987, I felt impressed to be anointed and prayed for, for several physical needs. I had injured my back in an accident four years previous and had much pain in my back, neck, and shoulders. I also had an allergy for several years. I knew God was going to give me children and they didn't need an afflicted mother. God not only healed my back, neck, shoulders, and allergy, but also healed me of arthritis I had for many years and chest pains I had experienced for two years. Thank God for a complete healing touch.

On December 17, 1987, lacking one day being a year since God first spoke to me about adoption, I received the awaited phone call. The adoption specialist said, "We have some children and we want you to be their mother." I met with her about 30 minutes later and without seeing the children I said, "Sounds great to me; when can I have them?" I didn't get to see my children until December 28th. On January 6, 1988, I brought the four children God had promised me home: Gloria Rene, 11; Annette Lynne, 8; Wesley Duane, 7 and Leslie Wilford, 4.

At the time of this writing, we can say the adjustment has not been easy, but our lives are filled with lots of joy and love. We accepted each

other from the first visit and the children enjoy our Christian school, the congregation, all our family and friends and have a tender heart toward God. I can't imagine life without these children. It seems we have always been together. I depend daily on God for wisdom and guidance in dealing with the children. God has answered so many prayers in our behalf, and He won't fail us if we trust Him.

—Dena Porter

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

MS—Dear Brothers and Sisters who work so faithfully at the Print Shop: Today has been a red-letter day in my life. I have read your *Faith and Victory* of April 1988, and have found so much sweet satisfaction in my soul.

In early childhood God saved my soul, and my desire from the beginning of my service in His work has been to live a life that would make the world a better place for all whom I might meet on the road of life. In a few days I will celebrate my 92nd birthday. God has been my constant companion all through these years. Life has not been a bed of roses, but God's grace has been with me. I have had some serious accidents, but His blessed healing touch has brought me through, and I don't have words in my mind to express my love and thanks to my precious Lord.

I have some trials and tests in the opposing spirit of those whom I deal with daily. Please pray for me that I will be strong enough to overcome every test that I meet. I know God has power over all dissenting opposition.

I beg you to continue to pray for me and my loved ones who are outside the ark of safety.

Please pray that I'll always stay in the will of God.

—Sis. Olen Williamson

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

KY—Dear Ones: We are very thankful for the great God we serve. We were deeply moved to see how our Lord had such great healing power concerning our daughter, Gretchen. In January, Gretchen would pull on her right ear and cry now and then. This increased at the end of the month. At first we thought it was a bad case of ear infection and it was now coming to an end. Then it continually got worse. Nights were the hardest time for her. She would cry out and have fever. Along about this time a neighbor lady made a doctor's appointment for Gretchen. When she was examined it was found to be Otitis, a disease that can cause deafness or even Meningitis. The doctor took X-rays of the bone behind the ear. He said that this disease always

affected this bone and usually has to be removed by surgery. He informed us to bring her back in two days to know the results of the X-rays and get into the hospital. Thank the Lord, when she was taken back the doctor was surprised as the bone was clear of any kind of infection, and the swelling had gone halfway down. In about a week all the infection was completely gone with no signs left.

Gretchen hears normally because of the great mercy the Lord had. We really appreciate all the prayers of the saints, phone calls, gifts and concern shown during this time. When our faith got low, we were lifted up through phone calls of encouragement. Praise the Lord!

Christian love and prayers,

—Bill and Doris Knight

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

OK—Bro. Wayne, Sis. Maybelle and all the dear saints: My greetings of love in Jesus' name! My letter to all is long overdue, to express my thankfulness for all the prayers and love for me when I was sick last year, in June and July 1987. It surely was a miracle from the Lord that brought me through. On June 27th I suddenly found myself in an emergency situation. Those who were knowledgeable of medical procedure had little or no hope for my recovery without surgery. My digestive system did not function for a period of 13 full days. This greatly affected my strength and mental well-being, but the Lord gave me such wonderful blessings in my soul. Songs and Scriptures and communications with the Lord were my constant help.

I had periods of rest from intense suffering but very little sleep, day or night, for about four weeks. At the end of 13 days the Lord suddenly delivered me and began to restore my body with strength and normal function. All praise to my heavenly Father for His great mercy to me!

I also have much thankfulness for all the prayers, phone calls, loving concern and care of all the many saints and friends, as well as my faithful family to care for me day and night. Somehow, I never knew before what all this could mean in time of suffering. The Lord has blessed me with good health throughout my life. This was my first emergency in a situation facing life or death. It is so precious to know the very presence of Jesus, while going through the dark valley. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me!" I try to keep these memories alive in my heart.

I desire to please the Lord and to be ready for the time of my departure. We know not when or where that will be. Less than one year ago the Lord spared me from serious injury when

my car was suddenly hit head-on by a car that was out of control. It completely crossed my lane and collided with the right front end of my car. I could only sit there praising the Lord for His mercy and His blessed presence. It surely "pays to serve Jesus. It pays every step of the way."

Again I want to express my thankfulness to all who came to see me, those who called, sent cards and flowers and most of all, for all the earnest prayers.

My love and prayers,

—Eva Probst

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

OK—Dear Saints: It is with a grateful heart that I want to give my testimony. The Lord has been so good to me. I love the Lord for being such a precious Saviour, healer, protector and guide. He is my peace, joy and happiness. I want to lift up Jesus and tell what He has done for me.

I was about six years old when I prayed for the Lord to heal me of a need in my body. The Lord gave me a definite touch. This has been a monument to me through the years. In 1969 the Lord healed my back. Since then I have enjoyed having a good back.

On June 28, 1987, we were involved in a car accident which could have taken our lives had it not been for the Lord wonderfully protecting us. Oh, there are so many times the Lord has healed and come to our rescue.

About five years ago a sore came on my nose which would give me trouble when I would wash my face. One day a brother and sister came by and prayed for me. The Lord gave me a touch. Later a red place raised up on my nose. I had quite a battle with it when I would look in the mirror and see it. The devil would make me feel like I would die with cancer, but I kept resisting the devil again and again. At the Monark Springs camp meeting last year, during healing service, I felt inspired to be anointed and prayed for. It is wonderful what the Lord has done. It is healed! Now when I get up in the morning and look in the mirror a praise of thanksgiving arises in my heart for what the Lord has done. . . .

I would like to write one more thing of how the Lord blessed me. On December 22, 1987, I was outside early in the morning. I was singing the song *Abide With Me*. When I went to prayer in the old barn, I was asking the Lord to abide with me. The verse that blessed me so much was, "Oh, Thou who changest not abide with me." It blessed my heart to know that the God who was with Elijah, Daniel and the Hebrew children could abide with me. After breakfast I went outside to help roundup about ninety head

of cattle. In the process the cattle got scared and they knocked down the steel gates between the cattle and me. I was knocked down on my back and injured my hands. When I got up I thought, "Did the Lord abide with me?" Quickly the answer flashed in my heart. "Yes, He did because they could have run over me." Thank the Lord for His love and care over me and for healing my hands. Yes, He is more precious than gold.

Pray for me.

Your brother in Christ, —Edwin Eck

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FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From Honduras . . .

Apr. 3—Dear Saints at the Print Shop and all of the saints scattered abroad: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. We want to say thanks to all the saints for their prayers and support, and to everyone to keep encouraged because our labors will not be in vain.

The Lord is still blessing in Honduras. Many were saddened by the passing of Sis. LaDolia Fuller and memories still linger of her encouraging words.

We were compelled again to come back to the States due to the sickness and passing of my mother-in-law. I arrived at New Orleans on March 4th and will be returning to Honduras from Miami, FL on April 10th; and trust I will not be returning to the States until next year.

Continue to pray with us that the Lord will keep me well in body. I am still encouraged to fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life.

Yours for souls, —Sis. Liurie Sanders

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

From Nigeria . . .

Apr. 7—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt and brethren of Jesus' Kingdom: Greetings in the most glorious name of the Lord Jesus; the simple, silent and the spotless Lamb. Above everything else, He is the substitute Lamb. The humility of the Lord Jesus in becoming our Lamb was necessary, that on the cross He might become our substitute, our scapegoat, carrying our sins on His body on the tree, so that there might be forgiveness for our sins and cleansing from all our stains when we repent of them.

The Lord has blessed us right from the early part of this year with a solid means of transportation which has led to a great work being covered within so short a time. His saints whose hands are on the plough with us, in Africa and elsewhere will continue to be blessed. We penetrated to the heart of Urhobo land of

Bendel State through Ovu, a neutral ground entirely. By contact established with Bro. John O. Awharianovwe, whose letter to the Faith Publishing House was referred to us for action, it is sure that a branch of the Church, Lord willing, will open up there shortly. Evangelization of the town of Ovu has been planned.

It is praiseworthy of the Lord that forty-five brethren followed Him in water baptism at Kwale on March 26, 1988. Honestly, the Church is marching on beautifully. "Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee." Song of Sol. 4:7. Pray with us for confinement to the King's Highway of holiness. Celebration of the Lord's Supper was solemnly observed on March 27th. Warri brethren and congregations around Kwale were in attendance. We do smile as we sing the song of the redeemed.

Yours to make Christ known,

—Titus U. E. Enu

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From India . . .

Mar. 23—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt, Bro. Wayne Murphey, the dear ones at Guthrie and everywhere in America: Greetings to you all again in the glorious name of Jesus.

Our conventions at Chayppankuzhy, Athani, Korath and Nayarangadi were all very blessed meetings. Several Catholics and Hindus got saved in these meetings. The convention at Nadukkunnu starts this week. We will have conventions at Anayam, Kottarvila, Elathagiri and Trichy in April and May. Elathagiri and Trichy are the places in Tamil Nadu State where people speak the Tamil language. Please pray for the needs of these new works.

My wife is getting better now due to the earnest prayers of the saints everywhere.

We pray for the precious labors in the Print Shop. Let us exchange our prayers.

Yours in Him,

—John Varghese

(Editor's Note: Bro. John Varghese has expressed a desire to come to the States this summer to attend the camp meetings. There have been some who have already made arrangements to sponsor him in doing so. If you would like to financially assist in this effort by contributing to the plane fare, you may do so by sending it to Faith Publishing House, P.O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044, and we will forward it on to the proper fund. Air fare is quite expensive and all the help that is received will be greatly appreciated. Be sure to specify that your offering is for this purpose.)

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A man never gets rid of his temper by losing it.
—Selected

In Memoriam

Ethel Katherine Miles was born February 26, 1888 near Lawrence, KS. She was the first of five children born to Joseph and Annie Lee. Both of her parents were born in slavery. While in infancy her father moved his family to Cherokee Indian Territory in what is now the State of Oklahoma. The area he settled later became the townships of Hennessey and Okeene, Oklahoma.

In 1905, at age 16, Ethel Lee made the single most important commitment of her life. She decided to follow Jesus. Ethel grew up to be a quiet, Christian young woman devoted to both parents and siblings. In early adulthood, she converted from the Methodist Church to the Church of God. For many years she taught Sunday school and occasionally wrote articles for church publications. From the age of 16, until her health declined with asthma in mid-life, Ethel taught in the public schools of the Oklahoma system.

On August 30, 1914 she was united in marriage to Lloyd Earl Allen. He had previously moved to New Mexico to teach school. To this union were born two children, Jessie Ann Segatha and Lloyd Earl Allen Jr. Both Lloyd Sr. and Lloyd Jr. preceded her in death. Ethel Lee Allen remarried on August 14, 1927 to John Quincy Miles. Three years later John was killed in a farm accident. They had no children.

In each of our lives, we all need someone — someone to accompany us through life's arduous journey. Ethel's someone was her Saviour. Her journey with Him on earth lasted 83 years. Her faith in Him sustained her through every situation she faced in life; through widowhood, countless illnesses, the deaths of two husbands, both parents, her only son, two brothers, two sisters, not to mention her survival through five major wars, countless social upheavals and constant political unrest. Through all of this Ethel steadfastly maintained her trust in the Lord. Her journey ended on March 25, 1988 at the age of 100 years and 29 days.

She leaves to carry her legacy, Jessie A. Douglas, her daughter; nine grandchildren; 39 great-grandchildren; 18 great-great grandchildren; a vast host of relatives, friends and Christian brothers and sisters.

Funeral services were conducted on April 2 by Bros. Lewis Williams, E. J. Trotter and Calvin Hobbs. Interment was in the Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Covina Hills, CA.

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Did the blood of Jesus atone for people's sins under the law or in Old Testament times? Give Scriptures.

Answer: It is my understanding that it did and for the following reasons:

In Revelation 13:8 we read, "...the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." It is evident that the plan of salvation and redemption was in the mind of God from the beginning of the world. God made a definite promise in Genesis 3:15 that the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head. This was a sure promise of redemption and salvation. The plan was formulated in the mind of God from the beginning and He counted it as a thing already done even though it was a few thousand years later that Christ actually came and was slain. But in that period God provided an exact prototype of the New Testament Church and its system of worship and spiritual sacrifice and of the blood of Jesus the great Redeemer, in the Old Testament sanctuary with its system of divine worship and blood sacrifices, etc. Then we read in Hebrews 9:22, "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission." The context here strongly indicates that the blood of the animal sacrifices which they offered under the law was a type of the blood of Christ which was to be shed for the sins of the people (all people) in time to come and was accepted in lieu of the blood of Christ in this interim period to make an atonement for the people's sins. Further, Hebrews 9:25, 26 makes it more plain. "Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." Note that this last verse says, "Then he must often have suffered since the foundation of the world." This strongly indicates that Christ Himself was deeply involved in every sin offering of blood of animals from the foundation of the world clear on through to the time He actually came to the world and shed His own blood for the remission of the sins of the whole world.

Now we will look at Hebrews 9:15 which spells it out in black and white plainly. "And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the re-

demption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance." This text plainly states that by the death of Christ a redemption was made for the transgressions of people under the first covenant; the Old Testament time or law age. Hebrews 8:4, 5 teaches that the gifts and sacrifices which the priests offered according to the law were examples and shadows of heavenly things. Therefore we conclude that every time God saw blood of an animal sacrifice being offered for sin He said within Himself that this is an example and shadow of heavenly things to come, a kind of installment payment, a kind of credit memorandum which will all be paid off when my Son goes to earth on His redemptive mission to make an atonement for all sin by the sacrifice of Himself and the pouring out of His blood to the last drop. Are there any of us who would presume to say there was no one saved back under the law? Of course not. The Bible abounds with accounts of Old Testament saints and some mighty men of God and champions of faith who accomplished great things for God.

But Peter said in Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Ah, folks this is eternally true. This covers all time past, present and future. All who were saved in Old Testament times under the law were saved by faith in Christ. All in this gospel age of time who have been saved and are saved today, are saved by faith in Christ. God never has neither will He ever recognize any one in heaven as a saviour, but His Son Jesus Christ. But if this be a question in your mind as to how this could be that they would or could believe in a person who had never been born and lived among men on the earth my answer is this: none of us ever saw Jesus either. We never saw nor handled Him as the Apostle John said he and the other apostles did. We never heard Him speak nor saw His miracles which He did (many of them). We never saw Him crucified, buried and then resurrected. We never saw Him ascend to heaven. But we believe all of this; that Christ was born of the virgin Mary, that He lived here among men, that in due time He died and shed His blood for the salvation of the ungodly, that He was buried and rose again on the third day, that He ascended back to heaven and is there right now at the right hand of the throne of God making intercession for us. We believe all of this because the Scriptures tell us this and the Holy Spirit confirms it in our hearts. Then why should we count it as an incredible thing that the Old Testament saints should believe in the same

Son of God, even as ourselves, when the Old Testament abounds throughout with sparkling gems of prophecy concerning Him, His coming, His work and mission and what He would do, etc. It is not incredible and many of them did believe in the promise of a coming Saviour and Redeemer and made their blood of animals, sacrifices for sin periodically as a token of their faith in that promise and by virtue of that were saved.

Bear in mind that Jesus Christ is the focal point of the history of the world and humankind past, present and future, and that the whole plan of salvation for saving humankind was complete in every detail in the mind of God from the beginning and therefore Christ was a Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Therefore, God was counting it as a thing already done in His mind from the dawn of the world's history and therefore was extending saving mercy to all of those in Old Testament times who believed the promise of His coming and embraced it.

THE WHY

"A religious movement can be properly understood only in the light of the circumstances and motivations which brought it into existence. To understand the Church of God we must look at the time, place and culture which influenced it.

"The period following the American Civil War saw marked changes in religious attitudes and interests. Both the thinking and the practice of Christian churches were in a process of transition. In the older churches along the Atlantic seaboard a strong reaction against the revivalism of an earlier time had developed and was accompanied by more than a slight tendency toward a new liberalism in theology, with many basic beliefs being called into question. The low moral tone of society in general brought a wave of religious indifference, and a spirit of secularism had come to dominate many of the clergy and their congregations. Practically all churches were much less insistent than formerly on a definite religious experience as a qualification for membership, with the result that the line between the "saved" and the "unsaved" became less and less distinct. People seemed more interested in discussing Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* than in obtaining "salvation" for their souls.

"In the Middle West the same tendencies were also in evidence, despite the postwar efforts of some of the churches to conduct "revivals." In the main it may be said that the dying embers of evangelistic zeal were divided among the various denominations and were diverted to

start new fires of loyalty to the separate groups. This resurgent sectarianism resulted in a sharper drawing of the lines which separated Christians from each other, and bitter rivalry arose among the several competing denominations. Schism broke the ranks of some of the larger communions and a number of new competitors entered the field through this splintering process. This was indeed the heyday of militant sectarianism.

"The total impact of all this competitive activity did not bring any life to American Christianity, however. With certain notable exceptions it may be said that most of the churches of this period had a shortened view of their mission and a distorted sense of direction. The Great Commission was usually defined in terms of making additions to the membership rolls—often at the expense of other groups who were trying to do the same. Obviously this was a goal far short of the New Testament challenge to preach the gospel of love and repentance. In the main it may be said that the American Christianity of this time was shallow and was moving in the direction of disunity and competition rather than toward unity and co-operation.

"Many of the early leaders of the Church of God reformation were associated with the holiness movement. They were attracted by the positive emphasis on personal piety which they found among these brethren, but there were certain things which distressed them. While delighted to appropriate the truths which had been lifted up by the holiness people, they were not satisfied to let the unhealthy condition of the church itself go unchallenged. In a most straightforward manner, they came to grips with this issue and pointed an accusing finger at the sinful divisions in the body of Christ. These men issued a call to sincere Christians everywhere to sever their relations with "sectism" and to stand in the truth of God alone. They had no fine-spun theological theories to promote, but they were greatly concerned about the tragically divided state of the church. They sought to restore its unity and holiness in the most direct way possible.

"It thus becomes apparent that the Church of God reformation was born out of a deep sensitivity to the acute needs of Christianity as it existed at this particular time and place in history."

—Taken from *The Ecumenical Review*. Selected and edited by Will Weir.

Enjoy the blessings of this day, and the evils of it bear patiently and sweetly; for this day only is ours — we are dead to yesterday, and we are not yet born to the morrow.

—Selected

The Old Ship of Zion

The song says, "She is sailing for home, defying the tempest and riding the foam; the old ship of Zion unfailing." She has come through many storms down through the years and she is never going to stop until she anchors in the final haven of rest. I want to be on board when she gets there.

I like to read and talk about ships, as I was on them back in World War II and know something about life aboard them. Paul and others were on a ship one time when it looked like they would surely perish. Acts 27:20 says "All hope that we should be saved was then taken away." Sometimes it looks like that during the storms of life. But Paul had something from God to encourage those who were on board with him. He said, "Be of good cheer: For there shall be no loss of any man's life among you . . . For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee." But he told them that except they abide in the ship, they could not be saved. I want to encourage all of God's people to be of good cheer. Don't be afraid. God has told us that He would never leave us nor forsake us. He won't leave us if we will just stay on the ship. I have known men back when we were aboard ship, who would get fearful and excited in a heated battle and jump overboard, only to get sucked under the ship and drowned. If they had stayed aboard, they would have been safe.

The Church has been through many battles and has always come out on top. I am expecting it to continue on. I remember when we were on board a ship and coming into a storm, the captain would give the order to "Batten down all the hatches," or close all the doors and "Secure top side," which meant to tie down everything that was loose. Then he would face the ship right into the wind and say "Steady as you go." I have seen the waves 60 and 70 feet high, but the ship would buck them. Some it would ride over, some it would go through. I would like to encourage all the saints to "Batten down all the hatches," tie down everything that is loose, draw real close to God and hold on. This ship is not going down.

We had on board ship a life line. When someone would fall into the sea we would throw out the life line. If you are not on board the ship of Zion, or in God's kingdom, and find yourself swimming around in confusion, Jesus is throwing out the life line of salvation to you. Grab hold of it before you sink. It is your only hope.

I have been on this ship for over thirty years now. She is my home, my refuge, my

dwelling place, my hope and my salvation. Someday soon she will anchor right at heaven's port, and Jesus will be there to welcome all who have stayed on board. I am looking forward to it, aren't you? Let us all keep "Steady as we go."

Your servant,

—Bro. Mart Samons

—o—

The Last Day

The story is told of a Chinese shopkeeper by the name of Le San who awoke one morning wondering what he would do were this to be his final day on earth. He lay in bed long moments pondering the thought and finally decided that he would spend this day as if it were his last on earth. Now Le San was a devoted man of God and upon arising he held his morning devotions as he did every morning. He asked God's guidance and strength in his life, especially on this his last, and when he was finished he prepared to go about the day's business.

Being a shopkeeper, Le San would usually arrive at his place of business around 8 a.m. to make ready for the events of the day. But this morning he did not open his shop. Instead he stood on the sidewalk in front of his shop greeting passersby with a cheery "good morning" and handing out gospel tracts. To all who would stop to hear, Le San would give his personal testimony of what God had done for him in saving him from his sins, and witness to the precious blessing of salvation through Jesus.

Now Le San had a competitor across the street by the name of Hi Ling, and for several hours Hi Ling watched in wonderment at the actions of Le San. "Does Le San have so much money he need not worry about opening for business?", thought Hi Ling. Finally his curiosity got the best of him, and Hi Ling left his shop, crossing the street to where Le San stood.

"Good morning," said Hi Ling, "and what, may I ask, causes you not to be open for business today? A special holiday maybe, or perhaps illness in the family?"

"Oh," said Le San, "have you not heard that this is my final day on earth and I have more important things to do today? Today I am serving my Saviour who died on the cross for my sins and yours too, Hi Ling." With that, he thrust a tract into Hi Ling's hand.

Quite naturally this all came as a great surprise to Hi Ling, for to him a man dying should be in the hospital, or at least home in bed. Walking back to his shop, he was even more mixed up than before, and as the day wore on he could not keep his thoughts or eyes off his friend, Le San, across the street. That night at home he read the tract Le San had given him. He read of a man call Jesus who came into the

world to save man from sin, and who shed His blood on the cross in payment of the sins of the world so that all who would call upon the name of the Lord would be saved. He read of God's promise of eternal life in heaven to all who would accept Christ and follow Him, and the more he read, the more conscious he became of his need of salvation.

Hi Ling, like so many others, had always believed there was a God but had never taken the time to seek Him out. He'd always thought there would be time tomorrow, but tomorrow just never seemed to roll around for Hi Ling. A busy shopkeeper had so many other things to take up his time. Well, Hi Ling spent a very restless night tossing and turning fretfully in his attempt to sleep, but sleep would not come. His mind was full of thoughts of Le San and the tract Le San had given him. And as the sun came up on another new day it was a sleepless Hi Ling who arose to make his way down to his little place of business. Arriving, he was both shocked and surprised to see Le San once again in front of his shop greeting passersby and handing out gospel tracts. Hurrying across the street went Hi Ling to confront Le San and demand why he wasn't home in bed since he would be dead shortly—or was this all a big hoax by Le San?

"Oh, no," said Le San, "this is not a hoax. I have just been granted another day to remain here on earth, my friend, and all is quite well."

The puzzled look on Hi Ling's face then brought about this explanation.

"You see," said Le San, "this earth is not our final home and we are all subject to be called into eternity at any moment. Yesterday on awakening, this thought was brought to bear on my mind of what I would do were this to be my final day on earth. So I decided to live yesterday as if it were my final day, and before being called home by my Saviour I sought to tell others of the precious salvation God offers each one of us through His Son, Jesus. I sought to warn people of the dangers that await them in eternity should they not be ready on their final day. The choice is ours here on earth to choose our destiny in eternity and God wills that none should be lost, but that all should be saved from the eternal fires of hell. We cannot choose once we pass into eternity. We must choose right here on earth. Jesus, speaking in John 5:24, says, 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.' "

"You see how wonderful and precious it is, Hi Ling," said Le San. "When we accept Christ into our hearts and live free from sin, we need

never fear our final day because we have God's promise of eternal life in heaven. And so," said Le San, "I shall live each day as if it were my last, for I shall not pass this way again. If we do not do our very best today, then we have lost a day, and the day we lose may very well be our last."

Tears were flowing down Hi Ling's cheeks as Le San finished talking, and in a cracked and broken voice he asked Le San to pray with him that he might have this precious salvation also. Together on the sidewalk these two men knelt to pray to God—one the possessor of salvation and serenity and the other a man who had just found the key. —Selected

What Some Men Have Said About Lying

"Sin has many tools, but a lie is the handle that fits them all." —O. W. Holmes

"Lying is like trying to hide in a fog. If you move about you are in danger of bumping your head against the truth, and as soon as the fog blows away you are gone anyhow." —William Hazlitt

"White lies are but the ushers to black ones." —Frederick Marryat

"Lying is a most disgraceful vice; it first despises God, and then fears men." —Plutarch

"Lie not, neither to thyself, nor man, nor God. It is for cowards to lie." —George Herbert

"Truth is always consistent with itself, and needs nothing to help it out; it is always near at hand, sits upon our lips, and is ready to drop out before we are aware; a lie is troublesome, and sets a man's invention upon the rack, and one trick needs a great many more to make it good. It is like building upon a false foundation, which continually stands in need of props to shore it up, and proves at last more chargeable than to have raised a substantial building at first upon a true and solid foundation." —Joseph Addison

"He who has not a good memory should never take upon him the trade of lying." —Michel Montaigne

"Falsehoods not only disagree with truths, but they usually quarrel among themselves." —Daniel Webster

"One lie engenders another. Once committed, the liar has to go on in his course of lying; it is the penalty of his transgression." —Francis Jacox

"A great lie is like a great fish on dry land; it may fret and fling, and make a frightful bother, but it cannot hurt you. You have only to keep still and it will die of itself." —George Crabbe



Excerpts Taken From

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"Keep a watch on your words, dear people, for words are wonderful things. They are sweet like the bees' honey, or like the bees they have a terrible sting."

—Signed, Sis. Atha

"With a deep godly sorrow, I repented and later I made my surrender and was blessed again with the outpouring of the baptism of the Holy Spirit of God upon my soul and being. I found that I had been blessed with a rest I had never known before. I was alone, yet not alone. Now the Bible became an open book, and God had said, 'I will give them an heart of understanding.' As did the angel say to John the beloved, 'Eat the book' I loved it then and I still love it now, I was then in my thirties and now am in my seventies.

—Sister Mittie M. Sultzbaugh

We cannot deny that God is good to those who do not serve Him. Sometimes He lends help in miraculous ways out of His sheer goodness. In that He is good to people does not signify that He upholds them in their way. But He bestows upon them His blessings simply because He is God, and He is good."

—Leslie Busbee

"We receive the *Faith and Victory* regularly and read it from cover to cover. We really get a blessing with each issue. . . .

"There are some real true saints here in Kalamazoo who have stood by us in the recent illness which we have had in our family. God has blessed in our home greatly and we are thankful."

—Kathryn Beason