

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



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### The Star Of Hope

Hope's bright star is ever shining  
 With a clear and brilliant light,  
 Guiding us to that fair haven  
 Where we'll see no shades of night.  
 Seasons come, and time, e'er changing,  
 Brings new mysteries to light,  
 Yet the star of hope remaining,  
 Shines to guide our souls aright.  
 While upon the troubled waters  
 Of this life's tempestuous sea,  
 Storm-clouds may arise to cover  
 This bright star of hope from thee.  
 But, though darkness round thee gathers,  
 Angry billows dash and roar,  
 Hope's bright star, far in the distance,  
 Shines to guide thee safely o'er.  
 Through the promises of heaven,  
 Faith is anchored all secure,  
 And the storms of life can never  
 Make God's promise insecure.  
 He who stilled the stormy tempest  
 On the Sea of Galilee,  
 Still has power to calm life's ocean—  
 He's the star of hope for thee.  
 O, bright star, forever guide us  
 By thy hopeful light divine,  
 Until we shall reach the haven  
 From which all thy light doth shine.  
 Star of hope, forever guide us,  
 Through our pilgrimage below;  
 Guide us through the last great valley,  
 Through which every one must go.  
 In thy brightness, shine forever,  
 Until time on earth shall cease,  
 Then on yon bright shore forever,  
 We shall reign in endless peace.

—W. J. Hockaday

### Salvation Reasonable

"Come now, and let us reason together saith the Lord." (Isaiah 1:18). In olden time God reasoned with His people through the prophets. Through Isaiah He spoke to His people, requiring them to put away their iniquities, and to cease to do evil, and then announced the fullness of His pardon, that though their sins were as scarlet they should be white as snow, and though red like crimson they should be as wool. Samuel reasoned with the people of Israel, recounting the Lord's righteous acts and showing that His dealings were just. (I Samuel 12:6-15).

In the New Testament times we find the Apostle Paul reasoning with the Jews in their synagogues and persuading both Jews and Greeks to believe in Christ. (Acts 17:2). Before Felix he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, until that profligate and cruel governor trembled in his seat. (Acts 24:25). In the hearing of King Agrippa, Paul related the story of his own conversion, until the proud ruler, convinced of the scripturalness and reasonableness of Christianity as a proposition, made the expression which has since become proverbial: "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." (Acts 26:28).

People like reasonable things. Salvation appeals to reason. Through the dark period of Roman Catholic supremacy, as well as during the succeeding years of Protestant confusion, salvation's true aspect has been much hidden and misrepresented. Even we, in our own day, are not unfamiliar with the spectacle of professors of Christianity whose lives either wholly or in part belie their profession. But salvation in its true light is reasonable; it appeals to men, and here may be emphasized the Christian's responsibility of rightly representing Christ to the world, of letting the

true light of salvation so shine that men, beholding the same, will by their reasonable acknowledgements glorify the Father which is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16).

Salvation is reasonable because from every view-point of the soul it appears consistent. It is not reasonable to the flesh because the flesh would pursue its own independent way; but the flesh is not, however, that department of our life which is to rule; it only adapts us to the earth, this mundane existence. The soul is the real man. In its sphere, and not in the sphere of the flesh, are the human verities. If the soul is happy the individual is happy in the highest department of his nature. If the soul finds its perfect adjustment to the divine will, then life is complete, and one realizes himself restored to that state in which man was originally created, wherein the flesh, fully ruled by the soul, nevertheless finds a sufficient existence and exercise. There being no discord, all is harmony. Is not such a state consistent and reasonable?

Salvation is reasonable because in its attainment the sinner sacrifices nothing that is good. He becomes entitled to every good thing. He sacrifices only that which is inconsistent with the will of God. He must give up sinful pleasures, but these are only momentary; they have brought him into bondage and have reacted in remorse and wretchedness. Instead of these he receives deliverance and abiding peace. Pleasures of a higher, spiritual order, become his to enjoy. He must yield up the pride of life, the honor of the world, but this is unreliable and no dependence can be placed upon it. Instead of worldly honor he receives honor that comes from God. (John 5:44). If for Christ's sake he must sever the earthly relations of father, mother, brother, sister, home, or possessions, he receives a hundredfold of these things in this life, besides the promise of eternal life in the world to come. (Mark 10:29, 30).

It will be noted that it is the lot of every Christian to have persecutions. "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." (II Timothy 3:12). Persecutions, however, if they are really for Christ's sake, only add to the glory of the Christian experience. From the slightest offence to martyrdom at the stake, they but open the avenues of grace and contribute to the appreciation of the heavenly riches.

The Christian meets with what are commonly called "trials," tests of his faith and of his loyalty to God. These are times when Satan would overwhelm with discouragement and the suggestion that to give up the faith would be a relief. Temptations and trials are, of course, some of the things which must be

endured; but if properly borne they are stepping stones to greater spiritual wealth and attainment. So if these be reckoned as some of the "expenses" of the Christian career, to state it in a business way, the assets accumulated are manifold more than the expenses. Whatever one has to expend in the Christian life is more than equalled in the grace received. When the Christian thinks of the riches that are his, the tremendous bank deposit that is placed to his credit, he feels he can afford all things, and the "trials" fade into insignificance. "Godliness with contentment is great gain." (I Timothy 6:6). Salvation, then, is a reasonable investment.

Some of the grandest personages who have ever graced the world have regarded the divine way as reasonable. Thus we have Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Paul, the Christian reformers and martyrs, and the numerous Christian lights and heroes of more recent centuries.

Yes, sinner friend, salvation is reasonable. There is absolutely nothing on the side of the world that can tip the scales against the benefit and blessings salvation will afford you. A life of sin is a deviation from man's normal existence. Salvation is a restoration to the original state of the soul's happiness and purity. To attain it we must forsake all that is contrary to God, and having forsaken all that is sinful and received the pardon of our transgressions, we must yield ourselves a living sacrifice, in a perfect consecration, unto God. This means a complete transformation, a death to the old self-life; but, after all, it is our "reasonable service." (Romans 12:1, 2).

—A. L. Byers

—Taken from *The Gospel Trumpet*, 1915.

## Behold What Manner Of Love

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Are the burdens and cares of life about to cast you down? There is someone that is anxiously waiting to help bear your heavy burden—someone who knows and understands your situation far better than anyone. That someone is JESUS. He not only knows the circumstance, but can look into the future and know the end of any situation.

Not long ago, I was in the midst of a heavy trial. The devil tried to bring discouragement and confusion to my mind. I soon realized that was all from the devil. In my weakness I could only cry out, "Jesus, Jesus, help me!" That was a cry from the bottom of my heart. This thought then came to my mind, "Behold what manner of love." Such a comforting and soothing feeling went all through me as I began thinking what that really meant to me.

God had the power to cause everything to work together for my good. Isn't that **wonder-working power**—to turn bad into good? Sometimes God has to get our attention by allowing something hard to come our way—something that is humanly impossible to work out. God loves to work out our problems for us, and it blesses Him if we bring them to Him. We limit God's wonder-working power if we don't believe in Him, for God's power works according to our faith. Our faith many times will become weak when we have to wait on the Lord's timing, yet the Bible plainly tells us we have to wait on the Lord. Doesn't the Lord have to wait on us, before He can see His image clearly reflected in our life?

When waiting on the Lord, it causes us to do much praying and heart-searching, thus anything un-Christ-like is revealed to us, and we can ask God to help us overcome **anything**. God in His wisdom, permits this waiting period, but the devil tries to take advantage of every waiting period to sow seeds of doubt and unbelief in our heart.

The devil has never created anything good, only evil and is jealous toward God and His goodness. It's the devil's business to foil every plan God has designed for us.

In the Bible, the children of Israel are a good example of God working and showing His great love and power toward His people. Time after time, God performed miracles, but as soon as a situation arose that required waiting and exercising faith, the devil told them that God had forsaken them. Many times they complained and murmured against God and against their leader, Moses, who was chosen by God. Only a few had real faith in God, and thus God was able to eventually carry out His plan to deliver the children of Israel into the land of Canaan, the land of plenty. Behold what manner of love He had bestowed upon them, yet they were so quick to forget the moment any hard times came and it was needful for faith to be exercised.

Behold what manner of love was bestowed when we think about God's gift for mankind—a gift that cost God His only Son. Almost 2,000 years ago, God sent Jesus down here for our salvation. It should thrill our hearts to think of the shepherds as they listened with awe and great wonderment to the angels as they sang, **"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."** Jesus wants that song to ring in our hearts today.

Behold what manner of love when we consider how God was willing to let His only Son be offered as a sacrifice for our sins. Imagine

what sorrow God knew He would have to face! If we have had a loved one close to us die, we can only understand in part what God faced when He allowed His Son to die in disgrace and in such a horrible way—but God was looking at the **end result**.

Let us behold what manner of love was bestowed upon us when Jesus left the honors and glories of heaven, and willingly lived a life much more lowly than most of us now live. Still yet, there was something much harder to bear than this lowly position, that was the ridicule, scorn, hate and jealousy from His own creation.

Behold what manner of love when we think of Jesus fasting for forty days and nights and then resisting every temptation that the devil had so alluringly and cunningly presented to him. The devil even used Scriptures to try to prove his point and cause Jesus to yield. Praises to be our Lord, He firmly resisted the devil and was victor over all!

Behold what manner of love Jesus manifested in the garden of Gethsemane. His flesh dreaded the sufferings He knew He would soon have to undergo—the scourging and the tortuous crucifixion. However, there was something that bore much more heavily upon Him than His coming physical sufferings and death, even more than the scorn and the mockery of the people. That was the grief of lost and dying souls. Jesus knew that when He willingly laid down His life for all the sins of the world, that every avenue and preparation possible would then be fulfilled for mankind to be redeemed; but how saddening and heart-breaking it was to know that so many would spurn all this love and go their own way. Think about Christ's feelings. A part of His creation—lost!—lost because they persisted in their own way.

What is our own way? Unbelief in God, pride, mistakingly thinking that God's way is too hard, persisting to take things in our own hands and not letting God work in His own time.

Let us visualize in our minds that scene when Jesus so willingly bore the crushing weight of the sins of the whole world. While hanging from the cruel cross, Jesus proved even further His great love, for He saved the soul of the repentant thief hanging from another cross nearby.

Meanwhile, some among the crowd railed on Jesus, wagging their head and mocking Him said, "Save thyself, and come down from the cross. Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, He saved others; himself he cannot save. Let Christ

## 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.

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

### 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 hut 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.

### FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 518, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044  
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## EDITORIALS

As the new year of 1989 dawns, we send greetings to all of our readers.

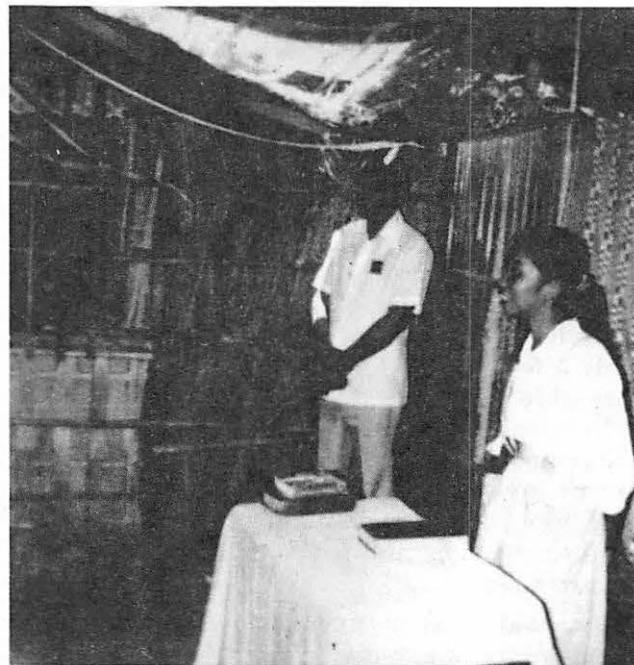
This January edition is being edited early due to the Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting here in Guthrie beginning on Dec. 23rd. This accounts somewhat for the limited amount of "Mailbox" and "Testimony" items available for print in this issue.

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We wish to advise our readers that we have sold our entire stock of 1989 calendars. Also out of stock is the book, *The Secret of the Singing Heart*. We do not expect the availability of these in the future since the company that has printed them in the past no longer does so.

Lord willing, we will begin reprinting the *Evening Light* Songbook in January. We have already received a shipment of 7500 pounds of paper for this project, but do not foresee having the songbook ready for distribution before March or April. Future notice of its availability will be made at that time.

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**Sis. Ruth Tangunan**  
**ministering in the Philippines.**

A special fund is being started here at the Print Shop to bring Sis. Ruth Tangunan to the States to attend some of the camp meetings this summer. Sis. Ruth has been in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia for some time, where she has been serving as tutor to the son of the Prince of Saudi Arabia. She was scheduled to return to the Philippines in Dec. and has expressed a heavy burden for

the gospel work in the Philippines. Sis. Ruth is largely responsible for starting the works in Puncan and Palistina. Her father, Bro. Matias Tangunan, has been praying fervently about Sis. Ruth coming to the U. S. as he has a desire for his children to have a deeper experience and understanding of the gospel in order to be better prepared for the work in the Philippines. We also feel it would be an inspiration to the saints here to have her in our midst.

If you wish to contribute to the Ruth Tangunan fund, send your donations to this office, designating it as a contribution for this purpose.

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Bound volumes of the 11 issues of the *Faith and Victory* paper for the year of 1988 are now available for purchase. The price is \$1.00 per book, plus 90¢ for postage and handling. Also in stock are 1988 *Beautiful Way* books for Juniors (52 papers for the year) at \$1.00 each, plus 90¢ postage and handling.

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We want to thank everyone who remembered the Printshop with Christmas greetings. We may be unable to acknowledge each card, but want you to know that all were noted and appreciated.

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We also are grateful for the good response from the special *Faith and Victory* subscription offer that was made last month. If you still have your envelope, we will continue to accept them.

—Wayne Murphey

### Prayer Requests

CA—"Please pray for my healing and request prayer." —Sis. Loretta Harmon

MT—"Please pray for the healing of my eyes and ears." —Roberta Reese

KY—Bro. John W. Wilson needs healing.

IL—"Please pray God will send us a pastor." —Pauline Smith

TX—Bro. Joel Kendrick has been having trouble with high blood pressure and needs prayer.

OR—Brother Bill Busch has a cousin and a sister that need a healing touch.

IN—Pray for Sis. Elaine Dunn's father, that God will bless him in his body.

TX—"Please remember me and my daughter, Wanda, in prayer." —Jewell McCaskill

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The paramount issue in the world today is not the high cost of living, but right living.—Selected

## Business Notice

### CHURCH OF GOD NATIONAL CAMP MEETING MONARK SPRINGS, MO

The tabernacle used for the National Camp Meeting is badly in need of repair. It was suggested that we consider replacing the old structure with a new open-sided metal building. The trustees contacted the various congregations with the question. Of the fifty-seven congregations listed, fifty-four responded. Twenty-four favored replacement, twenty-two wanted to repair and eight gave no opinion. Some congregations responded with an actual count of people. Considering total responses, 128 were for replacement and 129 were for repair.

The trustees met December 2 to consider the result and make a decision. The trustee's decision is to repair the old structure. Because the count from the congregations was so evenly divided and without overwhelming support for replacement, the trustees upheld the earlier decision to repair made in the business meeting last July. The question was made a subject of prayer and we accept the decision as the Lord's will.

Some have questioned how we stand financially. The repairs will cost about \$6,000 which is in addition to normal expenses for the meeting. We have a little over \$8,000. While our current balance will cover the repair cost, we still have the usual meeting start up expenses. Normally we start the camp meeting with about \$6,000 to \$8,000 in the bank which helps cover the preparation expenses and expenses that occur early in the meeting. From year to year our balance has remained pretty constant. When expenses have increased for special projects the income has increased accordingly. Praise God! I certainly appreciate God's plan of Holy Spirit leadership and am pleased to report that it works.

If you have any questions about business for the National Camp Meeting, I will be glad to try to answer them.

—Jim Wall,  
Business Manager, 5817, East 64th Street, Tulsa,  
OK 74136, phone, 918-494-9564.

## MEETING REPORT

### LOUISIANA MEETING REPORT

The Loranger Assembly Meeting was blessed with the Spirit of the Lord. This made the meeting profitable. We appreciate the prayers that were going up for this meeting all across the country. Many came and supported the meeting making it a blessing. May the Lord reward

everyone's prayers, attendance, efforts and sacrifice. Let us live faithful.

—Nelson Doolittle

## From the Mailbox . . .

GA—Dear Sis. Maybelle, all the saints at the Print Shop and everywhere: Greetings in Jesus' precious name.

How sweet the memories have been these 54 years of saved life from this 84-year-old lady. I am thankful to God I am able to see enough to write and thank God for you all down through the years, for your prayers and blessings.

May God's choice blessings of health and happiness be upon you all through the year.

Your sister in Christ,

—Mary M. Dorsey

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CA—Dear Bro. Murphey and all the workers at the Print Shop: We greet you in the holy name of Jesus, our Lord, on this beautiful sunny day. It seems like early spring. It is just cool enough to be pleasant.

Everything is going well in the Sunset Guest Home. We enjoy our morning worship in the large living room. God meets with us and blesses our souls. Our main desire is to get closer to God and be more like Jesus.

We hope all are well there.

With love and prayers,

—Sister Agnes Huskey

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MO—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am thankful that Jesus loved me enough to die on the cross for my sins that I might have eternal life with Him. I want to make heaven my home and I want to see my loved ones in heaven also. Help me pray that God will help them to give their hearts to Him and be ready to go when He comes.

My heart's desire is to live so others can see Jesus in me and be able to lead someone to the Lord. . . .

With Christian love,

—Sister Eathel Hill

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IL—Dear people there at the Printing Office: May God's richest blessings be yours in your faithful service to the Lord.

Please pray for my wife who is 83 years old. She can hardly hear and has glaucoma in one eye, a cataract on the other eye, and is bothered by arthritis in her body.

I have arthritis also. I am 86, but I praise God for He has been real to us and has answered

prayer so many times. We love Him. Praise His name now and forever.

—Jess Sampson

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## Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

LA—Dear Sis. Maybelle and Bro. Murphey: Precious is the blood of Jesus who gave His life for all mankind that they could be saved and make heaven. We trust that when these few lines reach your hands it will find both of you and the workers there at the Print Shop in good health and encouraged to live for God, in spite of all oppositions that the enemy is using against the people of God.

We want to report and give thanksgiving for the deliverance of a young man from jail in Honduras that the saints were requested to pray for. His mother, Sis. Dell Rivers, put a request in the *Faith and Victory* some time back, and the Lord has really answered prayer. Sis. Rivers and the saints in Honduras are very thankful.

Remember Sis. Dell Rivers in prayer. She needs a special touch from the Lord. Her trust is in God.

We want to thank the saints everywhere for their prayers and support in this great field in Central America.

Yours for souls in Honduras, C. A.

—Bro. Louis Kimble

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TX—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour: These few lines leaves me a lot better. Thanks to all who prayed for me, and thanks to the good Lord for healing. . . .

May God bless and keep you in the center of His will.

Christian love and prayers,

—Nellie Lovell

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OK—Dear Saints abroad: We wish to tell how the Lord has blessed with His healing power.

We were planning to come to the Guthrie Camp Meeting in May of 1988. The Friday night before we were to leave, Danny did some raking of dirt in the yard. In doing so, he injured his back. By morning he could hardly get up. He could not sit at all.

His company was sending him to Oklahoma City the next week for schooling, so by the Lord's help we headed for Guthrie Sunday afternoon and stayed with some saints. He walked with the aid of crutches until Wednesday. The Lord touched him on Wednesday and we were able to go to church and he sat on the benches. How we thank the Lord.

But that's not all. This fall he added onto his storage building. There was a lot of standing on a ladder and a very steep roof to shingle. Anyone with back trouble should not have done it, but the Lord had completely healed him. He had no back problem whatsoever.

I used to work with a man who went to a chiropractic doctor. He would get relief but within a month or two he would have to go back to the doctor. We thank the Lord for power to completely correct the problem, not just make it better.

We want to live close to the Lord at all times. Pray for us.

Christian love,

—Daniel and Anita Adams

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OK—The Lord has been very merciful to me and I want to share these blessings with you.

About a month ago I stopped at a gas station, paid for my gas, and pumped it into the car. I accidentally over pumped it by a few cents, so I picked up my wallet while standing outside the car, found some change and took it to the attendant. I rushed back to the car and drove away. About 20 miles down the road I heard a thump against the car. I looked out of my left sideview mirror and saw my checkbook stuck to the middle of the window on the outside of the car! It stayed right there until I stopped the car, and remained there until I took it off the window. There was no physical reason for it to have remained there. Praise our God for His wonderful works to the children of men. I later mused that the checkbook could have blown off, but no, it stayed there in the middle of that window! I later came to the conclusion that I must have taken it out and set it on the car when I paid the attendant.

Thank the Lord for the love He manifests to us. I want to prove faithful, for heaven will surely be worth it all. Amen.

—Sis. Kimberly Johnson

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## FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From Bendel State, Nigeria . . .

Nov. 30—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt and all of the Holy Family: Greetings in the all-prevailing power of the Lord Jesus, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. We are glad to find ourselves continually able to put foes to flight in His mighty name. We glory in keeping His commandments, hence His power and authority are within our reach. Enemies of the Church are soon melting away as wax before the fire. The saints are living comfortably and pressing on

the battle confidently. We shake not, come what may.

Praise God for His bringing under control of the reported flood. No destruction to our crops was done, making food throughout the year 1989 to be plenteously available. The harvest of this year was very good.

The Church, through the young people, moved to Ossissa for evangelization of the entire three quarters of the Ossissa community. The young people of Obetim-Uno, Ubah and Umuachi-Afor also joined up gallantly. Thanks to God for this militant wing of His Church. The writer was at Ossissa on the first day to declare the meeting open with prayer. Bro. Felix Ezelie and Bro. Josaiah Orgwu were there all through the meeting for supervision of the activities of the young people. It closed with victory of many souls saved. The Church is now confronted with a plan of someone being at Ossissa for spiritual care of the converted brethren.

Annual thanksgiving of the church at Kwale comes up on Sunday, December 11, 1988. Outstation congregations will attend in good number. We are obeying Him to maintain unbroken communion with heaven. Amen.

Yours in His service,

—Titus U. E. Enu

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From Rivers State, Nigeria . . .

Nov. 1—Dear Mother Maybelle Pruitt and Bro. Murphey: Greetings to you and all the dear and faithful ones of the Lord who have remained working hard to make the good news published in the Faith Publishing House.

We would continue to thank the Lord like David for the many benefits we have derived from Him. It is indeed wonderful and encouraging to know that the Lord has crowned us with His "loving kindness and tender mercies." (Psalm 103:4). Praise be to His holy name who has even our hairs numbered. He is tirelessly saving and healing all who come to Him through Christ and providing for all our needs, even the minute things in these perilous days. Glory be to Him, for without Him we would have no life.

I hope this finds you all strong and your hands to the plough.

Our thanks are even due to you all for your concern to our spiritual and material needs as the Lord provides.

The *Faith and Victory* remains a source of encouragement and are in the homes of many. A particular man gave a testimony of how his dying spirit, due to the prevailing hardships, was revived and his hope in God became stronger after reading some of the papers, especially

the article in the February issue, "Do Not Despair." He kept them in his portfolio out of the reach of children. Our confidence is that some will find Christ as they read them. . . .

May the good Lord bless you all as we keep on praying for sustaining grace.

Yours by His grace,

—F. Naths-Igbanibo

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From Lagos, Nigeria . . .

Nov. 11—Greetings to you all, my fellow-servants of the Lord, in Jesus' name. Amen. I am most grateful to share the following testimonies with you for the glory and honor of God Almighty.

Since I have been receiving tracts from you, I have gotten a lot of testimonies. Since I believed and accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour, tract distribution has been my ministry.

When I was out one day in the week, I decided to visit a courthouse to distribute tracts. After getting there, I decided to go to the chief judge in order to hand over a tract to him. One of the policemen from whom I inquired about the chief judge told me that the judge is a wicked man. The policeman advised me not to visit him or to hand any tracts to him, but I insisted that I would like to see him no matter how wicked the judge might be.

After insisting that I would like to see him, the policeman, because of my old age, decided to escort me to where the judge was. As I entered his room and greeted him good morning, the man replied to me sharply, "What is good about this morning?" He also quickly asked me, "What do you want?" I gently replied that I had brought to him the Word of God. He stared at me and asked in anger if I was normal. I replied, "Yes, sir, I just decided to bring you the good news that Jesus saves." He asked me again if I am actually normal. I replied that I am normal. Then he roared like a lion at me until I held my ears with my hands and ran away from his office. The policeman who had escorted me to the judge's room said that I was lucky not to have been hurt or locked up by the judge. Though not saved, the seed has been sown right in the judge's room. . . .

There was another man to whom I gave a tract that replied, "I have killed a lot of people." He also informed me that since he became a member of a certain church, that the pastor has never preached that to kill a person is sinful. He said that now his heart is greatly troubled. He knew he had done evil. I asked him if he wanted to accept Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour! He answered "Yes." I told him

that when he got home he should confess his sins to God and that God would forgive him.

Another testimony was when I went to the Supreme Court of Nigeria where I handed a tract to the chief judge. The name of the chief judge is Adefarasin. I continuously gave this man tracts every day for a complete year. Thereafter, I informed my pastor of him as well. When the pastor saw him, the chief judge said that the tracts Sis. Oyadiran had been giving to him had caused him to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

During my usual calling at his office one day, he told me that he had accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. With joy he presented to me a tape recorder and the sum of twenty naira, as a gift. He then continued to confess that it was through me that he found the Lord Jesus Christ. He told people of how many times I have called at his office without giving up, even at the time he was not prepared to give up for Christ.

This is what the tracts you are sending to me are doing.

God bless you all in Jesus' name. Amen.

—Sis. Janet Oyadiran

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From the Philippines . . .

Nov. 23—Dear Sister Pruitt and Brother Murphey: Greetings again in the name of Jesus, our Lord. May the Lord grant that you are all healthy and happy in the Print Shop with all your families.

I am writing you to give you a short report about the gospel work we are doing. On November 12, three precious souls obeyed the Lord in water baptism; a nice couple and a young man. On November 20, Sunday afternoon, four others were baptized; three young ladies and one young man. A couple are scheduled to be baptized on Saturday, November 26. At present we are just moving around San Jose because of the lack of financial expenses. It has been my long desire to establish congregations in other areas of the country. I have preached in farther places, but after I left them they lost their salvation. Of course I had been visiting them once in a while, but it was not enough to maintain their salvation. My plan is to stay longer in one place, at least six or more months to establish a congregation and train them to conduct their worship services. If possible some elders or deacons will be appointed before I shall move to another place. In order to do this I need to rent a room to stay and to gather some people for worship services. It is hard to find a room in cities and towns because most houses are crowded with people which makes the room rents so high.

Please pray fervently for us, dear saints, and for this plan because I desire to advance the truth further before the end comes. I see people everyday sick and hungry. Sometimes we share some of our little food to them. I am concerned for their physical needs, but I am more burdened for their spiritual condition.

I am doing my best to reach more of my relatives because I want them to be saved. Sometimes I cannot sleep thinking of them. I am afraid they might go to eternal hell forever and ever. I desire to see them someday in heaven, in a place where there is no more hardship, death and separation.

I am so thankful for you dear saints in the U.S.A. for our your much concern for us. May God reward you richly.

Your co-laborer in Christ,

—Matias S. Tangunan

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From India . . .

Sept. 9—Our dear Sis. Maybelle, Bro. Wayne Murphey and the dear ones scattered abroad in America: Greetings to you all again in the glorious name of Jesus.

We had a wonderful ministers meeting at Karikkom on the 18th and 19th of August. The last two weeks in August were the national festival days in our state, and during those days we conducted street meetings in about twenty streets in the north and south of Kerala State. We distributed many gospel tracts. Many got the opportunity to hear the Word of God and the response was good.

We had two days of special revival meetings at Karikkom in the Bethel chapel. Lord willing, the new chapel at Pulamon will be opened for service on the 17th of September.

Our work in Tamil Nadu State is in much progress. We have the desire to print and publish our monthly paper, *Evening Light*, in the Tamil language for the interest of the saints in Tamil State. They are unable to read Malayalam language, so it is essential to print the paper in the Tamil language. It has been estimated that \$75.00 is needed every month to print 500 copies of the *Evening Light* paper in the Tamil language. If someone in America has the burden to support this ministry every month, it will be a great help. Please let me know if somebody is able to support this valuable ministry. It will be appreciated. Without support we cannot do this.

Let us exchange our prayers,

Yours in Him,

—John Varghese

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Letting your light shine does not mean turning a search-light on your neighbor's weak spots.

## *In Memoriam*

Corrine Lucille Caldwell was born March 19, 1918 in Dover, Oklahoma. Corrine was the third child, and oldest daughter, of nine children born to the late Frank and JoAnna Phillips.

Corrine Lucille Phillips finished 8th grade at Lone Oak School, and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in the Dover community.

In 1941 she was united in marriage to Henry Caldwell. To this union six children were born. One died an infant.

Corrine was a faithful member of the Church of God in Dover for many years, where Bro. Ulysses Phillips was pastor. She was faithful in the service of the Lord, serving and doing for others, and carrying a heavy load in services and the dining hall during the Dover Camp Meeting that was held for many years. In 1971 she moved with her husband to Enid, Oklahoma, where she attended services and continued to live for the Lord. She kept an interest in the work at Dover, desiring to come and have children's meeting on different occasions. She was a woman who possessed the pearl of great price, a meek and quiet spirit, which is in God's sight, of great price.

Sister Corrine Caldwell passed away in her home in Enid, Oklahoma on November 19, 1988. She leaves to cherish her memory: five sons, Odell Caldwell, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Marion and Frank O. Caldwell of Dover, Oklahoma, Irving Caldwell, Enid, Oklahoma, and Henry L. Caldwell of Clinton, Oklahoma; three daughters, Richa D. Doss and JoAnn Warren, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Pauline Hardman, Owasso, Oklahoma; five brothers, Sylvester Phillips, Evanston Illinois, Paul and Marvin Phillips, Wichita, Kansas, Herschel and Morris Phillips, Enid, Oklahoma; two sisters, Mary E. Davis, Los Angeles, California, and Norma J. Baker, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; thirty-nine grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, one guardian grand-niece, Tawnya Phillips, and a host of other relatives, saints and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, both parents, one son and three brothers.

Funeral services were conducted in the Enid Church of God chapel by Bro. Leslie Busbee, Woodrow Warren and Sister Katherine Williams. Burial was in Enid Memorial Cemetery.

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Fannie Mae Huston, daughter of James Washington and Rebecca Jane (Thayer) Huston,

was born March 15, 1888 at Kensington, KS near Smith Center, and departed this life on December 7, 1988, at the age of 100 years, 8 months and 23 days.

In Fannie's early life she moved with her parents to several different farms in Kansas near the towns of Danville, Harper, Kensington, Sand Creek, Manchester, OK and Bluff City, KS. Later in 1912, they moved to Anthony, KS.

By covered wagon the family traveled for two weeks to Trinidad, Colorado and from there on to a homestead at Branson where they suffered many hardships during World War I. They lived in that area for seven years.

They moved back to Anthony in 1921 and resided at 402 S. Franklin with Fannie making the remark that, "This is my last move," and it was.

Fannie was a devoted Christian, attending services at the Church of God as long as her health permitted.

Fannie cared lovingly for her parents who preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by three brothers, Charles, Glenn and Harry and four sisters, Bessie, Lillie, Ella and Eva.

She is survived by her devoted niece, Dorothy Huston of Anthony who came to live with Fannie and her parents at a very early age. Fannie raised her with all the love of a mother. She also enjoyed her other nieces and nephews who have survived her.

Funeral services were conducted in the Parsons-Williams funeral chapel with Bros. Wayne Murphey and Leslie Busbee officiating.

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**Milton L. Johnson** was born May 21, 1921 to Ida B. and Jenkin Johnson in Boley, Oklahoma. Milton was a loving devoted child who was very helpful and dependable.

He attended Rosenwald and Boley High School. Milton was a kind person who loved to help others. He was especially concerned about helping young people.

Milton's occupation was a farmer. In 1942 Milton was saved in the Church of God and remained faithful until his homegoing.

He was united in holy matrimony to Johnnye Lee Carter on November 21, 1948. There were no children of this union, however, they compensated for this by giving their love and devotion to their nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Milton and his wife, Johnnye, were a perfect example to couples. They lived true to the motto which sat on their desk which says, "Darling, let us live together and love one another."

On Saturday, December 10, 1988, Milton moved up a little higher. Milton was preceded in death by his parents, four sisters, and three brothers.

Cherishing his memory is his loving wife, Johnnye Lee of the home; one sister, Ida Lucille Francisco, of Riolto, California; seven brothers, Mansfield Johnson and Jewel Johnson of Oakland, California, Raymond Johnson of Wichita, Kansas, Leo Johnson of Muskogee, Oklahoma, Willie Johnson, and Menser Johnson of Boley, Oklahoma and A. C. Johnson of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were held in the Rolfe Funeral Chapel, conducted by Bros. Emmanuel Gracey and Charles Chandler. Interment was in the Hillcrest Memory Gardens.

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### Question and Answer Column

by  
Ostis B. Wilson

Bro. Ostis and Sis. Evelyn Wilson have recently moved from Albany, OR, to Shawnee, OK. Due to the much work and time involved, it was not practical for Bro. Ostis to write a column this month. We recently received a letter asking that the scriptural interpretation of plaiting the hair be commented on, so the following is the answer taken from a back issue which dealt with this subject.

**Answer:** I Timothy 2:9 and I Peter 3:3 are the two Scriptures in the New Testament which refer to women's hair with reference to its arrangement, etc. I Timothy 2:9 says, "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;" I Peter 3:3 says, "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;"

It is important to the thought to note that both of these Scriptures have the emphasis on ornamentation and adornment. The doing of the hair is mentioned in these texts right along with gold, pearls, costly array, and different adornments and ornamentations. Therefore, the particular method of fixing the hair in these verses is to be identified with ornamentation and adornment. This could hardly be said of just the plain braiding of the hair as we know it today which is just another way of fixing the hair. Some do up their hair on top of their heads; some in a similar way, but on the back of

their heads; some put it up in a figure eight on the back of their heads; some wear it in a French roll down on their necks; some (especially the younger sisters) just let it hang full length; some braid it and let it hang, or put it up in different arrangements on their heads. Of all these ways the women arrange their hair, I do not see that any one of them could be singled out as worldly adornment any more than any other. No doubt, each sister tries to fix her hair in the way that is most becoming to herself.

In the Bible times it was different from the common braiding that the saint sisters use in our day, and with which we are familiar. In the Scriptures it refers to something directly identified with worldly adornment and therefore something to be avoided by saints. Let us look at what was under consideration in these Scriptures and why such was written in the Bible at all.

I Timothy 2:9 refers to "broided" hair (the margin says "plaited") and I Peter 3:3 refers to "plaiting" the hair. "Broided" and "plaited" hair involves more than the common braiding with which we are familiar today.

In the article on dress in the Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary edited by Merrill C. Tenney, we read these words: "Women often added to their adornment by an elaborate 'plaiting' of the hair. I Peter 3:3 finds it necessary to warn Christian women against relying upon such adorning to make themselves attractive." It is clear here that this writer at least, connects the statement in I Peter 3:3 with worldly adornment and ornamentation.

Smith's Bible Dictionary in the article on hair says, "The women wore their hair natural, but braided, and dressed with strings of silk with ornaments." Also in the article on dress it says, "Jewesses did not veil their faces but covered the hair only. Women wore the hair long, braided, curled, etc., and decorated with jewels and coins. . . . There were many ornaments in use for the hair, head, ears, nose, and neck. . . ." All that is said here concerning the hair is in regard to adornment and ornamentation.

I Timothy 2:9, "Not with broided hair, or gold" is variously translated in other translations of the New Testament as follows: "Not with braided hair, and gold"—American Standard Version; "And not with wreaths of gold ornaments for the hair"—Twentieth Century New Testament; "Not with plaitings and ornamentation of gold"—Rotherham; "Not with (elaborate) hair arrangement of gold"—New English Bible; "The adornment of a Christian woman is not a matter of an elaborate coiffure"—Phillips.

Adam Clarke comments on I Peter 3:3 as follows (in part). "Plaiting the hair, and variously folding it about the head, was the most ancient and simplest mode of disposing of this chief ornament of the female head. . . . Thin plates of gold were often mixed with the hair, to make it appear more ornamental by the reflection of light and of the solar rays. Small golden buckles were also used in different parts; and among the Roman ladies, pearls and precious stones of different colours."

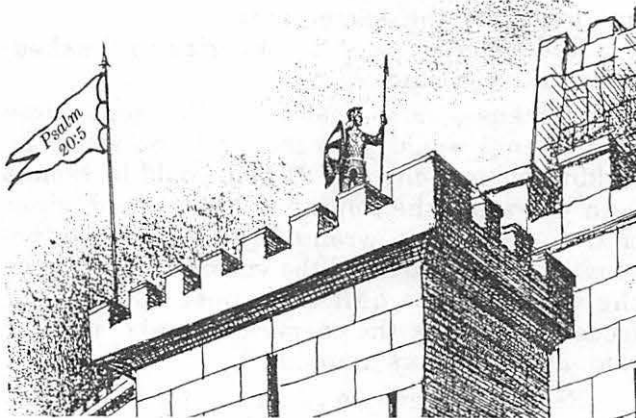
The word found in I Timothy 2:9 is "broided" hair. "Broidered" is defined in the dictionary as, "To ornament with needlework; embroider." The thought here is the imposition of ornamental work on an already existing cloth of fabric. Then to broider hair would suggest the thought of imposing ornamental substance onto the already existing hair in whatever way it might be arranged.

Nothing that is said above by the various writers, dictionaries, and various New Testament translations could refer to the braiding of the hair as we know it in our day, but would involve the addition of ornamental and adorning substances and materials with it.

If you have a question that you would like to submit for this column, and want to send it directly to Bro. Ostis Wilson, his current address is: Rt. 6, Box 10, Shawnee, OK 74801. Their new telephone number is: (405) 275-9497.

## The Watchman On The Wall

By Wayne Murphey



### Part 6

Fortunately for Redeemed, he finally reached a point when his eyes were opened to the deception that he had been led into. It is to his credit that he was honest hearted enough to recover for there are many who become completely entangled in the snare that the enemy has set for them. Though they may realize that things are not as they used to be, they are not honest

enough to seek help.

We find Redeemed on this morning mounting the wall to begin his watch. He walked to his post of duty to relieve the night watchman and as was his usual custom asked how things went through the night. The watchman was leaning with his back against the wall and staring off into the city in a deep study. Redeemed's question penetrated the daze of the man, and he started forward in surprise. "Is it time to go off watch already?" he asked. "I must have not heard the bell."

"What were you thinking of?" inquired Redeemed.

"Oh, just something that I heard," he returned. With that he hurried off down the wall.

"I don't believe he'd known it if the enemy had come and taken the city," Redeemed grumbled to himself.

Toward mid-morning, as the sun was beaming hotly upon him, Redeemed left his post for a drink at the water station. On the way he was forced to step over the legs of three watchmen who had their backs against the wall and were gazing off into the city. "Exactly what is going on here?" Redeemed wondered. "No one is really watching for the enemy." This frightened him and he spent the rest of the day carefully guarding the plains.

Upon returning home that night Redeemed commented to his wife about the watchman he had observed that day. Perhaps it was because Conscience detected some real concern in Redeemed, (for she had for some time been silent upon this subject) that she said, "Redeemed, you are guilty of the same thing."

Redeemed started in surprise and asked, "How do you know?"

"Because," she answered, "for some time now when I would pass the wall you would be looking off into the city. If you would be honest with yourself," she continued, "you would admit that something is wrong here. It is really becoming quite evident. If the enemy can influence the watchmen to quit their post of duty and focus on the city, the enemy can make a major raid and catch us napping."

Redeemed made no comment, for he was not quite ready to admit that he had been wrong in all of his thinking concerning Persecuted. At any rate, Conscience's words stirred him deeply. He left the house and spent the rest of the evening walking the streets in deep meditation. Finally, as dusk settled in, he passed a wooded area which he entered. Throwing himself upon a fallen log he began to pray earnestly. He had reached a point where he no longer thought of anyone's deficiencies but his own.

It did not take him long to decide that the proper thing to do would be to go to the Commander and make a full confession. He arose with purpose and set out. It would be unfair to say that he did not have any battle with the spirit of pride, but he gave no room for it, neither argued within himself about his decision.

When Redeemed turned up the path that led to the Commander's house, the moon was casting enough light for him to notice a familiar figure standing before him. It was almost as if his visit had been anticipated. As he approached he detected a great tenderness in the Commander's eyes. Redeemed fell at his feet and the touch of a kind hand upon his shoulder sent a thrill through his body. Not a word had been spoken and yet something sweet passed from one spirit to the other.

Redeemed poured out his heart to the Commander, beginning with the first visit of Self-interest. There were so many happenings, and so much confusion in his own mind, that it was difficult to reconstruct it all.

After he had faltered through what he could explain, the Commander gently took up the narrative. "My son, let me tell you what has occurred. That first visitor was an enemy called Pride. Before Pride talked with you, you were innocent of your accomplishments in life. That is the way that I intend for all of my followers to be. Pride is a leaven that will work in your whole life. Once it starts it poisons you throughout. It lifts you up above your companions, the ones you really need to stand by your side. Pride will ultimately lead you to hate both your companions and me.

"The enemy used pride that you might be defeated yourself and also to cause havoc among your brethren. The enemy took advantage of your job and used it for his purpose. He had you watching on the wrong side of the wall. The things that you see on this side of the wall are domestic affairs. The things that you see on the other side of the wall are military affairs. I am the one who has founded this city and made it beautiful, and it is my duty, not yours, to maintain it. I have given you the job to make sure that no enemy comes to take the citizens away. This is a very important job. I do not belittle the importance of domestic affairs, for one that is careless in domestic affairs will be careless in war. However, you cannot instill this carefulness into others as I can."

Here the Commander paused and began once more. "A man casts seed into the ground. He watches daily, waiting for the seed to spring up and grow. However he doesn't know how it will grow, for the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself.

When I forgive a person of their wrongs and plant a seed of everlasting life in my Father's kingdom, it defies human understanding. It is like the wind that blows. We cannot grasp it nor contain it, and neither can a man literally take hold of my Spirit. Nor can he say who will have it or who will not, for it is given to whom I desire and it is not understood by man.

"As this seed grows, first just a blade will show above the ground. As the man watches over his garden he is anxious that it should grow and bring forth something that he can see, something tangible. He may be very tempted to grasp the blade and attempt to stretch it a little, but this is vain. He cannot force growth. He understands that the earth brings forth fruit of itself. After a while the plant will put on the ear. By this you can see that there are great possibilities for it. Then in time there is a maturing and full corn comes into the ear. This is the fruit that the planter desired for it to produce.

"Those who live in this city are the little plants that I speak of. It is my desire that they would grow and produce love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. These are the things that each individual must strive, by my help, to produce in their lives. But just as you cannot make the plant grow, neither can you make others produce these fruits. If you were to make Persecuted paint his house, it might still be messy on the inside. This is where my part comes in. I know and understand all that is happening in this city, whereas you can only judge what takes place by what you see.

"I am sure that you recall the times that I have admonished the watchmen to judge not that you be not judged. Let me enlighten you regarding how this principle works. It is to your credit that you have come to me before an open confrontation between you and Persecuted took place. You had already found a cause against Persecuted, formed a dislike for everything concerning him, and began to work on the problem of how to make it a public issue. If you had not come to me tonight it would have been but a matter of a short time before you would have had a visitor whose true identity is Gossip. However, he often goes by the name of Concerned. Gossip would have influenced you to whisper your conclusions in the ears of your friends. It would not have stayed a secret for long for your friends would have spread it far and wide. Persecuted would have heard it and it would have become open talk. It would only be natural that Persecuted and others would have looked just as critically at your house and found it was not spotless. Persecuted may have had

the grace not to openly contend it, but in his mind and in others you would not be without blemish. Always keep in mind that you cannot use your own judgment and come out of the situation clean.

"I am striving and doing all I can to present all of you someday to my Father as a blameless people and you must not interfere. I gave you a wife that was well-trained and also I have given you my Words and Spirit. These things should make you bear the fruit that I wish. As you bear fruit, I enjoin you to give my Word and be an example in domestic affairs and then leave the growing to me and them."

These words of truth pierced deeply into the heart of Redeemed. As the Commander lifted him to his feet, He assured him that all was forgiven. It seemed a great load was gone. Redeemed felt as he did before Pride appeared.

Wiping the tears from his eyes Redeemed said, "Truly those were words of great wisdom and I clearly see my place as a watchman, but what am I going to do about Pride, for I know he will surely return."

The Commander answered, "Since you have acknowledged your waywardness and received my forgiveness, you are in a position to do away with Pride." With that he pulled from an inner garment a sword and handed it to Redeemed. It was a rather ugly weapon and nothing much to be desired. "Take this," said the Commander, "for it is a trusty sword that will deliver you out of many difficulties. It's name is humility. It will not be long before Pride returns. Take this sword and my Words, and my Spirit will be with you. If you are determined, you can win the battle."

"But what about Envy and Hate?" asked Redeemed. "If you will get rid of Pride, Envy and Hate will not return," assured the Commander, and with those words ringing in his ears, Redeemed set off for home.

(To be continued in next issue)

### What Some Men Have Said About Ridicule

"The talent of turning men into ridicule, and exposing to laughter those one converses with, is the gratification of little minds and ungenerous tempers. A young man with this cast of mind cuts himself off from all manner of improvement."

—Joseph Addison

"He who brings ridicule to bear against truth finds in his hand a blade without a hilt. The most sparkling and pointed flame of wit flickers and expires against the incombustible walls of her sanctuary."

—Walter Landor

## Behold What Manner Of Love

(Continued from page 3)

the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him. And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour." Mark 15:30-33.

Jesus experienced total, complete, excruciating torture and agony. Listen to His heart-rending cry as He cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34).

"After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." John 19:28-30.

God, the Father, experienced all the pangs and agonies of grief while His Son was dying. God heard that agonized voice when Jesus cried out, "Why hast thou forsaken me?" God's great heart was smitten to its very depths. However, He looked to the end result—salvation for lost and dying souls. He knew this was the only way the powers of sin and death could be broken. Can we now behold what manner of love God bestowed to fallen man and what it cost Him?

The plan of salvation is now complete. It is finished. How can we praise and thank God and our Redeemer enough? There is only one way. Forsake our way and follow His way. Don't be afraid to follow His way and wait on Him. Here is a precious promise found in Isaiah 40:31, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

God saw it needful to wait three days for Jesus to arise from the dead, though it looked like a tragic end for Jesus when He died and was laid in the tomb. However, there was some fear among the chief priests and Pharisees, for they came together before Pilate "saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure unto the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch." Matthew 27:63-66.

Praises be to our God! No powers can with-

stand God's almighty power; for on the third day, Jesus arose! He is now sitting on the right hand of God, interceding for the ones He died for. How can we ever doubt God and the love of Jesus?

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. . . ." I John 3:1. "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ. . . ." Romans 8:17.

When hard trials come, as they will, keep your faith strong in God. Pray and wait upon Him, and "behold what manner of love." Your faith is sure to "mount up with wings as eagles."

A child of God by grace,

—Carol Cole

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## Men Die In Strange Ways

People have died in peculiar, almost unbelievable ways. Harold Lee Duncan was mowing his lawn. His wife and two children were watching. Suddenly Duncan grabbed his left side, walked a few steps, staggered, collapsed, and then died. A half-inch piece of wire, no bigger than a pencil lead, had been hurled into his heart by the power mower he was using. His death was sudden.

A twenty-four-year-old newspaper reporter, Jost Lemann, put a bottle on top of his head and asked another man to shoot it off. J. Poetschke took aim with a .38 calibre pistol, pulled the trigger and missed.

The bullet penetrated the head of Jost Lemann. He died on the spot, and the "William Tell" episode ended in a tragedy.

A little girl, Theresa Conn, was playing hide-and-seek with her dog. She hid a ball on the table and waited for her dog to find it. The large collie dog jumped up on the table to get the ball. In doing so the steel table was upset and crashed on Theresa's head. She was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital. The dog unwittingly had killed her.

Goliath died, being hit by a stone; he was not ready for death. He had defied the God of Israel. "The stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth." I Samuel 17:49).

Stones also caused the death of Stephen, but he was ready. He had glorified the name of Jesus by his outstanding witness.

King Saul, of the Old Testament, was not ready. He had disobeyed the word of God. Samuel told him, "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. . . . Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee. . . ." I Samuel 15:22.

23. "Saul took a sword, and fell upon it." I Samuel 31:4.

Saul of Tarsus died by a sword, too, but he was ready when he bent his head at the command of the executioner.

When death comes your way, friend, what matters how you die? Wire, bullet, dog, stone, or sword, will make no difference. The big question is: "Where will you be in eternity?"

—Arthur H. Townsend

## **"Ye Must Be Born Again"**

The only way to true salvation is to be "born again." Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." John 3:6, 7. We were physically born into the kingdom of this world; so to be spiritually born into the kingdom of God, we must be "born again."

In order to do this we must recognize that we are sinners, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Romans 3:23. We need to humbly pray to God confessing our sins, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9. We need to forsake our sins, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Proverbs 28:13. We need to repent of our sins, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;" Acts 3:19. We need to believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as our Saviour. "... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Acts 16:31.

As there is an exact moment of birth into this worldly kingdom, there is an exact moment of birth into the kingdom of God. As we come into the light of the world whenever we are born into this world, we come from spiritual darkness into the light and power of the kingdom of God whenever we are spiritually born or are "born again."

Whenever we are "born again" we know when the burden of sin is lifted from us and we are truly forgiven for our past sins which are to be remembered no more. "And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin." Hebrews 10:17, 18. Our past sins are blotted out. "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out," Acts

3:19. There is peace in our souls and the things of this world have less importance. We become spiritually minded and can "sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:6).

We do not enter into the kingdom of God gradually by being good, by deciding to start changing our ways, by going to church every Sunday, by being baptized into some church, or by putting our name on some church roll. The only way to enter is to be "born again," which is a spiritual birth. At that moment of birth our names are written into the "book of life." "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:15. We need to make sure that we have been "born again" and that our names are in that "book of life" written in heaven by God and not written in some church book here on earth by man.

—Joyce Hall

## **A Cheering Letter**

After reading letters from some who especially desire to have their names made prominent, it is quite encouraging to read a letter like the one we quote below.

"Dear Brother:

"How it cheers my heart to see that God can lead His really believing children to respond when He sends them light. Yes, Jesus is the author of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). That means He started it in us, and it also says He is the finisher of it too. That means He will keep it up in us, not let it die but will make it bear fruit; make it really produce the things we are so longingly looking forward to. His plan is to have us keep looking to **Him**, instead of to men. "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith." So I think now, (from this on) you and I and all the rest of God's understanding and believing children are going to drop men and look to nobody else but Jesus. Of course if any human, (any man or woman) comes along with encouraging words from the Bible, that we had not seen before in their true light, the message is from God of course, for that is God's plan of working to have one testify to another, but at once drop the man and realize and remember only, **God spoke** to you, and keep on looking to Him, and things will come out all right. Just the minute we begin to pay attention to the **human** and lean on them, God is grieved and we are weakened. Why that is just the cause and origin of all denominations, men **looking to men**. Some blessed and faithful man rises up with good words which God reveals to him out of the Bible. Other men hear and

receive those words (which is right), then at once all they seem to think of is that they believe as that man did, and are following him and so they become followers of some man that first presented the advanced light. But all that is a **mistake**, a **snare**, a wrong, and we want to quit it and not start doing the same thing ourselves when we hear some blessed truth laid before us by some human being. God says it is dividing of Christ to do that way, to say I am of Paul, I of Apollos, I of Alexander Campbell, I of John Calvin, I of D. S. Warner, I of John Wesley, I of this man or that man. Is Christ divided? (I Corinthians 1:13).

"It is our first duty to exalt Christ, the Living Word; then all men will be drawn to Him, (John 12:32) and not to the numerous human leaders with their various creeds.

"It is Christ only, His body or Church, that we should be added to. Then our names are written in The Book of Life." —Selected

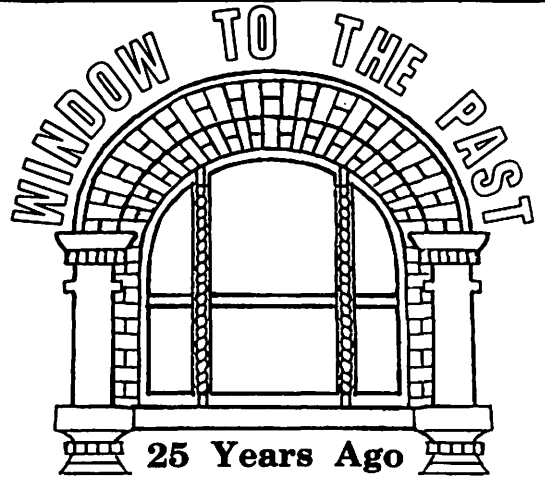
### Don't Live In Confusion

"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" Psalm 137:1-4.

Whenever the children of Israel were taken captive into Babylon, they left their joy and gladness in Israel. Here the writer was plain with his words by saying, "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" They knew that they could sing them, but there would be no meaning to them in Babylon.

We can learn a great spiritual lesson from these few verses of Scripture. We, as God's people, believe and teach that the ones who are truly saved need to come out of (spiritual) Babylon. We prove by the Word of God that Babylon is fallen and is become the habitation of devils, and hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. (Revelation 18:2). Babylon means confusion, and wherever confusion is, this is not the Church of God, even if they profess that name. If there is confusion in a place, there is a spirit causing the confusion. Wherever there is a foul spirit, the saints need not to be around it. A foul spirit is always wanting to rub off on something good.

The Lord is in Zion, which is His dwelling place throughout all eternity. "In Zion, where God is near, should we sing these songs so dear." —Clarence Campbell



#### Excerpts Taken From

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"By the blessings of the Lord, my wife and I were privileged to meet with the saints in the annual Assembly Meeting on the General Southern Campground at Hammond, LA, during the week of Thanksgiving. The meeting was a real spiritual feast and a time of rich fellowship with the precious family of God. Many times our mind went back to the first time I met the saints in that area. That was 35 years ago at the Assembly Meeting at Hammond when Bro. C. E. Orr was the pastor at Hammond.

"Though many years have elapsed and time has changed many people, yet the saints are teaching and practicing the same Bible truths that brought forth this "evening light" restoration, and which resulted in the establishment of the campground, a permanent congregation, and annual general meetings at Hammond more than 55 years ago." —L. D. Pruitt

"The Lord has really been good to me these past two years since I turned my life over to Him. I was so far in sin that I didn't know which way to turn, but God, through His mercy, called, convicted, and gave me a penitent heart." —Ruby Lott

"I have been saved a little more than two years. I was 21, lost in sin and had many sinful habits within when God lifted me out. My wife and I were broken up over this and still I kept on doing it. I even got so bad that one night I gave my coat to get 50¢ for a drink. I sold a lot of things from the house, also. . . . Please remember me in prayer that I will live for the glory of God and help others see the love of God."

—Bro. Jerome Park