

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



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### I Shall Know Him, I Shall Know Him



When my life-work is ended and I cross  
the swelling tide,  
When bright and glorious morning I  
shall see,  
I shall know my Redeemer when I reach  
the other side,  
And His smile will be the first to welcome  
me.

I shall know Him, I shall know Him,  
And redeemed by His side I shall stand,  
I shall know Him, I shall know Him,  
By the print of the nails in His hands.

O, the soul-thrilling rapture when I view  
His blessed face,  
And the luster of His kindly beaming eye;  
How my full heart will praise Him for the  
mercy, love and grace,  
That prepared for me a mansion in the sky.

O, the dear ones in glory, how they beckon  
me to come,  
And our parting at the river I recall;  
To the sweet vales of Eden they will sing  
my welcome home;  
But I long to meet my Saviour first of all.

Thro' the gates to the city, in a robe of  
spotless white  
He will lead me where no tears will ever  
fall;  
In the glad song of ages I shall mingle  
with delight;  
But I long to meet my Saviour first of all.

—Fanny Crosby

### The Significance of the Open Tomb

"Mr. Wesley, if you knew that you must die at twelve o'clock tomorrow night," once asked a lady, "how would you spend the time between now and then?"

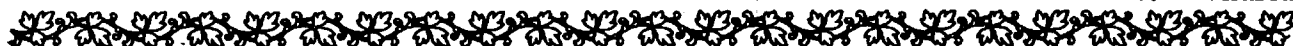
"Why, just as I intend to spend it now," answered Mr. Wesley, "I would preach this evening at Gloucester, as I have appointed; and then again at eight o'clock tomorrow morning. After that I would ride to Tewkesbury, and preach there in the afternoon, and then go to meet the societies in the evening; and then I would go to the house of the friend with whom I am to stay; I would converse and pray with the family as usual; then I would retire to my room at ten o'clock, and commending myself to my heavenly Father, lie down quietly to rest, and sleep, and—at twelve o'clock wake up in heaven!"

#### THE EXPLANATION

With an earnestness becoming the momentous question, we ask: Where can we find the secret of this wonderful calmness? When the house, trembling with age, begins to fall; when beams are cracking and the light begins to shine through, how can the conscious tenant sit still without any sense of fear?

In our imagination we follow the discouraged and heartbroken disciples to the open tomb, and here the mystery begins to unfold. Like beautiful plants and flowers, springing from the earth, thoughts begin to arise from God's deep mysteries, forming themselves into definite proportions, until our questions are satisfactorily answered and our search is rewarded. The open tomb is the explanation. It tells us of one, only one, who had power to liberate Himself from the tomb.

*Why important.*— The mere fact that a man rose from the dead more than nineteen hundred



years ago, would extend but little hope to us in the dying hour were it not for the additional fact that He is the only one among earth's millions who rose from the dead with a glorified body. When we realize who He was and why He arose, we realize, as did Wesley, that death has lost its sting and the grave its victory.

Christ said He had power to lay down His life and power to take it again. (John 10:18). Many heroes have laid down their lives, but when Christ took back His life from the cold embrace of death, He proved His dominion over death.

*It Gives Efficacy to the Atonement.*— "If Christ be not risen," says Paul, "then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." (I Corinthians 15:14). "And if Christ be not raised, . . . ye are yet in your sins." (vs. 17). Without the resurrection, the atonement has no efficacy—the cross is in vain. Faith in the resurrection is essential to salvation. ". . . If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Romans 10:9. We can not preach the atonement without the resurrection. The apostles gave witness of the resurrection with great power. In his sermon on the day of Pentecost, Peter reached hearts when he said, "This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses." Acts 2:32. The Apostle Paul preached the resurrection on various occasions (Acts 17:18, 23:6; I Corinthians 15:1, 3, 4). To the apostles it seemed to be the central doctrine of the gospel. Without it, the atonement was precluded; they would have had no gospel to preach.

*Christ's Resurrection a Pledge of Ours.*— It is this truth, as expressed in I Corinthians 15:19-23, that makes death a victory. That is why a certain minister could say, "I know I am dying; but my death-bed is a bed of roses. I have no thorns planted on my dying pillow. Heaven is already begun. I die a safe, happy death. Thou, my God, art present. I feel that Thou art here, precious Jesus."

Glorious hope! Someday the stones will all roll away and we shall come forth in His likeness. For this hope Paul was willing to count all else but refuse. (Philippians 3:8-11). It is a balm in time of sorrow and pain, an inspiration to holy living, and an anchor to the soul that is both sure and steadfast. This hope has been attacked by great minds of the past, and is still being attacked; but it emerges from each conflict stronger and better qualified to give a reason. This intellectual conflict is not waged by Christians merely in defense of a doctrine made sacred by age, but because of the inspiration

received from the ever-abiding presence of the living Christ. His life is a power in the world, and that is why we are believing in His resurrection and preaching it with unabating energy.

*The Final Resurrection.*— The final resurrection will be universal and instantaneous. None will be exempted, for "all that are in the graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth." (John 5:28, 29).

Immediately following the resurrection will be the final judgment, when "before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats." (Matthew 25:32).

Then all will be rewarded. The reward of the righteous will be the "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (II Peter 3:13). "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." Psalm 9:17.

—O. F. Linn

## How Big Is God's Love?

When we think of God, we think of Him as the Creator and Ruler of the universe; but when we consider **why** He made the world and mankind, then we can understand better the love of God.

Love is complete and satisfied only when it is returned with the same measure of love by volition or choice. The heavenly beings in heaven all loved God, but they had no choice but to love and serve God.

God's capacity to love was so big, deep and wide, that He knew the only way to satisfy that love and longing was to create something in His own image that could have complete freedom of choice to love Him or reject Him. To know that someone loved Him of their own free will, would completely satisfy that love and desire God had.

So with eager anticipation, God made a beautiful world and universe for the sole purpose of mankind. Let your mind dwell on the greatness and the wonders God made.

First, God created the heaven and the earth, but it was darkness and water with no shape or form. Next, He made light and called light day and the darkness night. Then He made the firmament and gathered the waters together into one place and let dry land appear. Now, He was ready to start beautifying the earth. God caused all manner of grass, herbs and trees to come forth from the earth with the full capacity to yield seed after its kind. The earth was then a beautiful place to behold, "and God saw that it was good." God's handiwork was then directed toward the firmament. He made the greater light, the sun, to shine in the day, and the lesser

light, the moon, to shine at night. He also made a vast multitude of stars that sparkle and twinkle throughout the heavens at night.

Then God said, "Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so." Genesis 1:20, 24.

God now had everything in readiness for His chief aim in creation—man. We can see so clearly the love of God manifested in all the greatness, wonders and beauties of the earth that God had made for man to enjoy and appreciate. God had exercised His power and His imagination in creating everything that would please and delight man. God was now ready to make man. I'm sure God put forth His best ingenuity as He began this task.

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Genesis 2:7.

God was blessed and completely satisfied with His work. The man, Adam, had ability to reason and think and make choices; and Adam wanted to love God in return for all God had made and done for him.

"And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Genesis 2:15-17.

God still had a completion to make before He was finished with creation. All the grasses, flowers, trees, herbs, fish, fowl, animals and every creeping thing, were made to bring forth of their own kind, but Adam was alone.

No doubt God wanted Adam to realize a need that he had, for he brought "... every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof." Genesis 2:19, 20.

It is hard for us to even imagine how this was done, but I am sure Adam realized even more the omnipotence of God as he saw the great multitude of creatures pass before him as God listened to the naming of every living thing.

However, something was taking place in Adam's heart. A great loneliness for one of his own kind was welling up in his heart. God, who knows all things, understood this completely.

God knew before Adam was even aware of a need, for God had created Adam and put that same desire in Adam's heart that God Himself had—a need to love someone and for it to be returned. "... But for Adam there was not found an help meet for him." Genesis 2:20.

God was now ready to finish His creation, for He knew Adam could now fully appreciate and love what He was about to bestow upon him. A beautiful scene is ready to take place as we see in our mind's eye, God, who is love, going to fulfill Adam's need.

"And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man." Genesis 2:21, 22.

God had created a help meet for Adam that would have all the virtues, womanly attributes, love and tenderness that he would need. God was fully rewarded by Adam's response when He had brought the woman to him.

"And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Genesis 2:23. "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day." Genesis 1:31.

Can we not comprehend more of the love of God? God had made a beautiful world with all manner of life, and then made man and his help meet to enjoy it all. This love knew no bounds or fears, it was perfect. Adam and Eve had a deep, true love for each other and a devoted love for their Maker. What a blissful place! It continued in this state, until, alas, disobedience plunged mankind into a dead state of sin!

God, with such a deep capacity for love, surely experienced the agony of rejection and deep-seated grief and hurt, when Adam and Eve hid from Him in the garden. Their love turned to great fear after they had eaten of the forbidden fruit. Disobedience had severed that sweet fellowship, communion and love they had all been enjoying.

God could have just destroyed the whole world and everything He had made if He had chosen to do so, but His love was so great that He devised a plan to save humanity. To save, did not mean to justify a wrong, but to sacrifice something precious in order to redeem man from his fallen state. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

(Continued on page 13)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## EDITORIALS

Usually Easter is in the month of April, but since it comes in March this year we have devoted some space to this commemorative event in this March issue.

The meaning of Easter is fresh and real in our lives daily as we enjoy the benefits that were purchased for us on Calvary and presented to the world by the evidence of the empty tomb. Quoting from the Psalms, the impact of the fulfillment was made real to the Apostle Paul when he wrote, "When he [Christ] ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men." (Ephesians 4:8). We do not have to be in any kind of sinful bondage. Christ's death broke the seals that bound salvation's plan, and unfolded the gospel story. It rent the vail of legalistic Judaism, making a way for us to enter into a personal relationship with God. It dealt a final blow to sin, death and hell. The darkness of these evils still exist in the world today, but we do not have to be in fear or captivity of them. "Stand fast therefore in the liberty where-with Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Galatians 5:1.

Not only has Christ given us liberty, but He gives us gifts whereby we can enjoy our liberty. There was a difficult transition time in our country for the slaves the Civil War had set free. The slaves had freedom but they were without the means to provide for themselves. The government was not able to provide for all the former slaves, and neither could it protect them from Northerners who came to the South to exploit the conditions. It was a real struggle for them to make it on their own.

Christ's resurrection not only gave us freedom, but many gifts with which to make our freedom enjoyable. He gave the gift of the Holy Spirit that we might have light and understanding to avoid falling back into the deception of bondage, and also that we might appreciate our freedom in Christ and revel in the good things of God. Christ's resurrection paved the way for the Church, the New Jerusalem, to be brought into the very heart of mankind. This is a home for our soul. D. S. Warner penned, "Let us sing a sweet song of the home of the soul, The glorious place of our rest; It is not far away in the heavens untold, But deep in the Infinite breast. We will enter no door that is opened by men Who promise a home for the soul; For in Christ we abide in the Church that will stand While ages eternally roll."

In summary, Christ purchased our freedom from slavish bondage. He then gave us His Word and His Spirit to be a stabilizing force in our lives, and a divinely organized Church to be

a home for our souls. What a wonderful Redeemer we have!

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We have been very busy here at the Print Shop publishing that which we trust will make its way into receptive hearts. The printing of *Evening Light Songs* has been our main project for February. We are trying to get the book assembled and to the bindery as soon as possible.

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A new tract concerning the use of musical instruments in worship will soon be available. If you are interested in this subject, send us a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and we will mail you a free copy. Be sure to ask for the tract, "Man's Worship to God."

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The quantity of printing that we have been doing necessitates placing an order for another shipment of paper in the near future. We desire an interest in your prayers that God will supply for this and other needs of the printing work.

—Wayne Murphey

### Prayer Requests

WV—Sis. Verna Samons has an affliction that needs the earnest prayers of all the saints. Also, her sister, Alieve McCoy needs prayer.

CA—"Rhonda Cutright is only 23 years old and has had Muscular Dystrophy for three years. She is a Christian and trusting the Lord for healing. Pray for Sandra Link, she has severe kidney problems. Pray for me. I have severe hearing problems plus dizziness caused by an inner ear disease."

—Mildred Vaught

MO—"Please pray for some special requests concerning different ones, also for my little great-grandson who has a malignant tumor."

—Mrs. Harry Hansen

AL—"If it be God's will to relieve the tension and pressure in my head, I'll praise Him forever."

—Sis. Leora Frink

OK—Bro. Joe Savage has experienced a very hard trial in his life and is asking for prayer.

OK—"Please remember me in prayer. I am going through a trial."

—Juliette Lounds

VA—"I am still badly in need of prayer, also I have a special unspoken request."

—Lillian Bohannon

VA—Remember Sis. Margreed Withers who has glaucoma.

MO—Bro. Arthur Johnston is having trouble with one eye; please pray for him. Also, pray for Sis. Dollins, and continue to remember me."

—Sis. Hettie Clements

VA—"My husband is having problems—feet swelling and fluid around his heart. Keep us on your prayer list."

—Sis. L. W. Dunman

OH—"Please pray for my husband, and for Sis. Kay Mohas."

—Sis. R. Garrett

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### MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

#### Camp Meeting Dates for 1989

Goulds, FL — April 14-23

Missouri State at Myrtle, MO — May 3-7

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, OK —

May 26-June 4

Jefferson, OR — June 9-18

Tulsa, OK — June 9-18

Green Bank, WV — June 16-25

Oakland, CA — June 19-25

General Southern at Loranger, LA —

June 30-July 9

Fresno, CA — July 7-16

National at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO

July 21-30

Durham, NC — Aug. 13-20

Boley, OK — Aug. 20-27

California State at Pacoima, CA —

Aug. 25-Sept. 3

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#### GREEN PASTURES, OK REVIVAL MEETING

It has been announced that the Green Pastures saints, Lord willing, will be having special services March 8-12. All are welcome to attend. For more information contact the pastor, Bro. Charles Chandler, 740 N. E. 81st St., Oklahoma City, OK, phone (405) 769-7413.

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#### WICHITA SPRING MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Lord willing, we plan to have our spring meeting, April 14-23. We are asking God to burden, anoint and send the ministers He desires to bring the Word. We are so wanting the unsaved to be convicted and convinced of their immediate need of salvation. Too many people keep putting it off. A number come to services pretty often but do not seek God for deliverance. Let us pray that the power of the devil will be broken in this meeting and some captives set free.

The chapel is located at 1701 N. Ash. For needed information, you may contact: Bro. Charles Taylor, 2035 E. 16th, Apt. 302, Wichita, KS 67214, phone (316) 267-5197, or Bro. Keith Marsh, 501 Topaz, Wichita, KS 67209, phone (316) 722-8114.

—Sis. Shirley Knight

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## SCHOOL RETREAT

A Church of God school retreat for those attending Christian schools or doing home schooling, is planned for May 8-10. If you are interested in sending your child or children, and would like further information, please contact the below address. This retreat will be for those in other than Church of God schools, also, though Christian. It will be geared for these children to share academic and spiritual insights with each other. For more information, please call or write: Bro. Toney Samons, P. O. Box 3, Arbovale, WV 24913, phone (304) 456-4679.

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## From the Mailbox . . .

NC—Dear friends at the Faith Publishing House: I noticed that my *Faith and Victory* expires June of this year, so I am enclosing a check. Please add another five years to my subscription and use the remainder as you see fit for your work of the Lord.

This is a great little paper and I am blessed each time I receive my copy. May God richly bless you good people there, and say a prayer occasionally for my wife and I.

In God's love, —C. J. Baker, Sr.

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CA—Dear Bro. Wayne and all the workers at the Print Shop: We send you greetings of Christian love in Jesus' dear name.

I thank God this morning that I am saved, sanctified and satisfied with God's gracious dealings.

We are having some real winter weather. I was told that it dropped to 24 degrees one night.

I do appreciate the Sunset Guest Home. I have been here more than 12 years and I enjoy it. God has blessed me in many ways since I came here. Everyone seems so happy and contented here. . . .

Sincerely, —Sis. Agnes Huskey

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o—

NC—Just a few lines to let you know I enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory*.

I am a Christian and I desire healing for my body, not just for myself, but that I may be able to help others. I have five children that are not saved. Pray for them.

May the Lord bless you all is my prayer,  
—Rhoda Blevins

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MO—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Today finds me feeling fine in both soul and body. I thank God for His sweet tender care and for His mercy. I thank Him for all He does for me. He

has been so good to me. We never can thank Him enough.

I thank you and all the saints at the Print Shop for your prayers. Keep me on your prayer list. My children still need prayer, too.

May God bless you as always,

—Sister Eathel Hill

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OH—Dear Sis. Pruitt: Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus. I really thank the Lord for being saved and being a part of the family of God. The world is getting more and more wicked with sin abounding on every hand. I thank the Lord that He said where sin abounds, grace much more abounds. I am also thankful that He said that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. In fact I really appreciate and thank the Lord for all of the Word of God. It is our very life and also our road map to heaven.

I also appreciate the saints there at the Print Shop who so faithfully and diligently get the gospel message out through the *Faith and Victory* and also the books and tracts. I love to go over the old issues of the *Faith and Victory* and I read the tracts over and over again. I enjoy distributing them to others so they can receive a blessing, also. I don't have very many tracts left and I would surely appreciate another supply of them. There are so many souls who are bound by the devil and need deliverance. I want to point them to Jesus who is our only hope. . . .

Continue to pray for me and all of my loved ones, and all of us here in Akron.

With much love, —Sis. Janice Shaw

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CA—My dear Maybelle: Greetings of love in our blessed Saviour's name who never fails His trusting children. I am standing on the promises in all joy and peace. I have been very ill, but praise our Father, I am better.

I was sorry to hear of your brother's passing. May our Father keep us through faith until the storms of life are past.

Remember me in your prayers,

—Melia Viser

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o—

LA—Dear ones at Faith Publishing House: Greetings in Jesus' name! How thankful we are that we know Him and have the blessed privilege of living for Him. He keeps us encouraged and pressing on amidst some trials of faith, but praise the Lord, He gives us the victory. In James 1:3 we read that the trying of our faith worketh patience, in Romans 5:2, "By whom

also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand. . . ." and Romans 5:3, ". . . tribulation worketh patience." So in order for us to bear the graces of God, we must have some trials of faith and some tribulations in our lives. In order for us to be qualified to fill the place God has for us, and to bear the fruit of the Spirit, we must be disciplined through the trials and tests of life. God worked thus in the lives of all the great Bible characters. Abraham, Moses and Elijah were not great in the beginning, but were made great through the discipline of their faith. I am sure that most of us desire more of the graces of God in our lives, but human nature shuns the discipline. . . .

Please help us pray for Sis. Ina Brown who has a bad allergy and is very uncomfortable. Both she and Bro. Brown are in their late 80's and very frail in body. They would appreciate prayer. Also, remember Ben and I when you pray.

We pray for the work there every day and ask the Lord to give all of you strength and courage to carry on. We appreciate all that is being done there and enjoy the *Faith and Victory* and the books we buy there.

—Sis. Sybil Goldsberry

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MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings to you in the name of Jesus, the one that loved us and gave Himself for us. This was both the Father's love and the Son's love.

Trust all is going well with you dear ones there at the Print Shop. We all seem to be doing better here. Some have had pretty hard cases of the flu, but most are over it now.

Bro. Wayne, we have a new pastor here at Neosho. Wife and I felt like it was God's will for us to resign, so on Jan. 15 we publicly announced our resignation. It seemed like God had burdened and prepared Bro. Bob Huskey to take our place. He expressed his burden to the congregation the following Sunday night. The congregation accepted him as pastor and felt all was in order. So we trust that God will lead on from here and bless and prosper both the congregation and the new pastor and his family.

Wife and I desire to finish our course in life and do what little we can in His service. We desire your prayers.

Your saved brother, —T. V. McMillian

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Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa—Dear Christian friends: Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus.

I live in a country where moral conditions are low, though we claim that our country was

founded on Christian principles. About 15% of the population are Christians and the other 85% follow after the devil's ways in their daily activities. Christians, as well as non-Christians, are unconcerned about the moral breakdown in our society. Preachers philosophize their own thoughts and talk politics more than God's Word. What a pity! There is a great need for a nationwide revival or crusade for my country right now. Pray for my country to be saved from sin, because sin is a reproach to a nation.

I have a congregation that is about two years old. It all started with three families (six adults) worshipping together and using the Holy Bible as our only guide. Though we are not claiming to be perfect, we are trying to live and worship God according to Bible standards such as Leviticus 20:7 and I Peter 1:15, 16, among others. Though we receive sharp criticism for our emphasis on sanctification and holiness in the service of God, we have not given up our strongest hold. We continue to pray based on our faith in the Spirit of God despite those who think it is impossible for man to be holy before God in this world.

Through the prayers of faith, God has given us the victory. Some of our very critics are now members of our congregation. They have been convicted by the Spirit of God—I mean unconditional conviction. Our membership has risen from three families to 190 members in less than two years. They want to learn the Word of God. They want to be baptized. Our hearts rejoice daily because the Lord is blessing us with new converts nearly every Sunday. We have grown from the prayer group we used to be to a church now.

Because of the victories God has given us daily through our faith, we thought to call ourselves "Faith and Victory people." And so, on September 1, 1988, we named our congregation "Faith and Victory Church of God." We are now worshipping in a public school building every Sunday and Saturday on which the school is not in session. In addition, we have opened two Sunday schools with the combined enrollment of 700 students, or children whose ages are between six to fourteen years.

You can now see that the harvest in Liberia is great but the laborers are few. Pray with us that God in His own time will find faithful workers for the harvest in Liberia. Our arms are wide open to them from far and near. We need faithful saints from far to teach, direct, guide and supervise us. Especially, "Faith and Victory Church of God" in Liberia needs people who will impart the Word of God to its members.

Presently we have no local affiliation or



foreign board of any group or church. However, we are not discouraged because my God is going to touch the heart of someone right now from somewhere to guide, direct, supervise and be concerned in the work we have begun here in Liberia. **Victory is certain.**

During our campaign for membership, we met a man who wanted to know whether our "Faith and Victory Church of God" was part of any Faith and Victory Church of God elsewhere. We said no, and we did know of any church with such a name as ours. We left the man and never saw him again. A week later, to be exact, on December 23, 1988, we saw in our mailbox a copy of a magazine called *Faith and Victory*, a sixteen page paper. At the top is written, *Faith and Victory*, Church of God Servant. What a coincidence!

Though we did not know who put the magazine into our mailbox, or whether it was mistakenly put there by the mailman, we were more than happy when we saw it. We read it with much joy and its wonderful testimonies inspired and strengthened our faith in the Lord. Because of the demand by members and friends, we made several photo copies of it and distributed it among them. Everyone who got it said, "It is wonderful." We love that. You are really doing God's work. Keep up the good work. Please put us on your mailing list.

With hope for a rewarding and meaningful friendship, I remain, yours in Christ,

—Michael A. Cooper, pastor

### Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

OR—Dear Bro. Wayne and all at the Print Shop: Greetings of love in the name of our dear Saviour. We praise God for victory even in the midst of afflictions, trials and temptations, for we know the promise, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee," is true today and will be throughout eternity.

I have had a touch of flu, and while still afflicted, a water pipe that had frozen and thawed was spraying water under the house. The Lord gave me the strength and ability to get it fixed, and has given me a touch, so I am feeling better than I have for several days. Praise His name. . . .

Yours for Christ, —Bill and Doris Busch

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OK—My dearest Sis. Maybelle: It is with love in Jesus that I greet you. I am so thankful He has, and is, blessing me soul and body. Praise the Lord. I love Him dearly.

I have been very sick, but God in His mercy has touched my body. I am much better. I do

appreciate the prayers of the saints and want to thank each one for the lovely cards and words of encouragement.

The Lord has worked a miracle in my body. I am still looking to Him for complete healing and desire your continued prayers.

We love you and appreciate you in the Lord.  
With love and prayers,

—Katherine Williams

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MO—Greetings to everyone in the precious name of Jesus. I want to thank God, our Father, for saving us when young and for keeping us through the years by His grace. I also thank Him for healing my body and mind at different times.

I can still remember when I was about 17 years old, the deep depression of the mind I had. Some boys at school said some real bad things about me and made fun of a righteous life. The devil used it to affect me mentally. I was prayed for by Bro. Sam Abbott and by my aunt, Leta Sorrell. The Lord brought me out of it.

I could tell of later times how God has healed and helped me and my family. Praise God! The song says, "What a Friend."

Christian love and prayers,

—Thomas and Myrtle Sorrell

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OK—Dear saints at the Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' name. I am sending my testimony. I am saved and I thank the Lord for salvation, and His love and His children.

I want to tell of the Lord's goodness to us and how He has healed my body from time to time. Last year He healed my leg. I fasted and prayed and the Lord healed my leg . . . I thank Him for His wonderful works to His children.

Yours truly,

—Mary Mustin

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

WV—Dear saints: It has been a long time since I have sent in a testimony for the Lord through the *Faith and Victory* paper.

I want you to know I am yet saved, sanctified and satisfied with God's dealings with me. I have not always had a mountain-top experience, but I have found Him in the valleys as well as on the mountain. In fact I believe He feels a little closer at those times.

On November 2, last year, I had been saved for 31 years. I didn't always have the victory, but I never gave up. We have had many experiences with the Lord. He has been precious to me and my family. Sometimes I think I could write a book of all the good things God has done for us. He's never failed us on any line.



We have enjoyed serving the Lord. Sometimes we would get weary in body, but we've never been discouraged to where we would ever want to go back on the Lord.

The saints are so precious to me. I want all of you to know this. You have been a strength to me. The Lord uses His people to help one another.

I have been going through some affliction for a while, but I feel its drawing me closer to God. The saints have been calling to see how I am and sending get-well cards. It brings tears to my eyes and my heart swells with love for each one. I want to thank each one and may God bless you is our prayer.

I was having trouble sleeping a week or so ago and I felt something was cutting my breath off. I had another spell of it at church that night after service. I was anointed and prayed for and the Lord touched me. I slept good that night and haven't had any more problems like that to speak of. It is so wonderful to be able to trust one that knows all about us and has all power to heal and make us well.

I want to thank the Lord for giving me the desires of my heart. I had a desire to go to the Oregon Assembly Meeting and also the Guthrie meeting. God gave me just what I wanted.

I desire each of your prayers that I will be faithful to the Lord to the end. I want to make heaven my home above everything else. I'm striving to keep my all on the altar.

Christian love, —Sis. Verna Samons

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MO—Our dear Sister Maybelle: Greetings of love in the name of our precious Lord who is dear to our hearts. He is a wonderful friend and Saviour!

This is long overdue and I am sorry for being so slow in writing. It seems time slips by so fast that we don't get to do all we have in mind to do. But above all, we do want to please our Saviour in our daily walk of life. It will mean so much to be able to meet Him in peace and hear Him say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant, enter into the joys of thy Lord."

I want to say the Lord has been so good and special to me for the many years I have endeavored to serve Him, and especially since my dear companion left for his restful place. Yes, I miss him, but oh, what the dear Lord has spared him from these five years—many heartaches and heavy burdens. He carried a burden for the saints until his death, and prayed much for them and the work of the Lord. I too, am concerned, and pray the Lord to help us all to be able to stand true to our Lord.

We feel the enemy is doing all he can to discourage and trip up the saints in any way he

can, to cause us to fall, or fail of the grace of God. He doesn't care how he gets us, so let us be on guard, watchful and prayerful.

The night Murphy passed away, the Lord let me hear the sound of angels' wings and let me know that His angels would watch over me. My soul rejoiced and I felt such a calmness. It was such a blessed experience. Surely the Lord has cared for me. I am sure that Murphy, while sick, had prayed to the Lord to care for me after his passing.

I am so thankful how the Lord has given me better health and strength, and that I'm able to do all that I need to do. Words can never express my deep appreciation to the dear Lord for this. He has made ways when there seemed to be no way. Bless His dear name!

We trust this finds you doing well, and the work going well, too. I do think of you all often and pray for you. I appreciate the *Faith and Victory* paper and most always sit down and read it all before I lay it down. . . .

Pray for me. I want to make it to heaven.  
My love and prayers, —Natalie Allen

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OR—Dear Sister Maybelle: Greetings of Christian love to you and all the saints. I wish to send in my testimony and to tell of God's answer to my prayer in time of need. It has been a long time since I have sent in my testimony.

On Nov. 2 I took two Christian friends shopping in Albany. While driving out of a market and into the street, a car came across in front of me. It was raining and the car was a light yellow in color. Neither of us saw the other in time and I hit the front right fender. No one was seriously hurt. The officer who came made the mistake of citing me for running a stop sign. There was a stop sign behind me, but I had not come through it, so I pled not guilty and paid a bail till I was to be called into court.

My car was out of service for 3 weeks being repaired, so I could not visit shut-ins or take folks to church, etc. For 3 months I waited to be called into municipal court. They only meet on certain dates. I asked the saints to pray that I might not be charged on this error.

When I went into court the judge called my name and I stood up. He smiled and said, "Mrs. Jones, the officer who charged you has not appeared to testify against you, so you are free to go, and this charge will never be brought up against you any more." I said, "Thank you, your honor," and I went out rejoicing.

This Scripture I have carried with me proved true again—Psalm 109:31, "For he shall stand at the right hand of the poor, to save him from

those that condemn his soul." It made me think of how glad I will be when I stand before the judge of all the earth and hear Him say, "I find no fault in you," and can enter into the joys He has prepared for me.

Your sister busy in the Lord's service,  
—Grace Jones

## FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From India . . .

Feb. 2—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and the dear saints in America: Greetings to you again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ.

By the grace of God, our 24th General Convention came to an end with many, many blessings and victories. Many got saved and dedicated, and the Church was edified. Bro. Jerry Gossard was with us for twelve days and he preached several anointed messages in our convention. The attendance was very good this year because of the presence of a "saip" from America. We had Bible studies every morning during the convention. Street meetings and women's meetings were very blessed meetings. Also, we had baptism service and ordinance service.

We are thankful to the saints who prayed for this convention. Lord willing, we desire to work for the Lord more diligently in this new year to win some more souls.

Our jeep is getting old and rusted here and there. It is not running good now. We need your prayers and support to buy a new one.

Lord willing, our next year's convention will be the Silver Jubilee Convention and 1990 will be our Silver Jubilee Year.

Yours in Him, —John Varghese

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From Rivers State, Nigeria . . .

Jan. 29—Dear Bro. Murphey and Sis. Pruitt: Greetings in the dear name of the Holy Child, Jesus Christ, who appeared in flesh for our redemption unto eternal life. We cannot thank Him enough for the wonderful gift of His Son.

Hope this meets you, all the dedicated ones at the Faith Publishing House, with renewed vigor to serve the Lord this new year as you have been doing in the past. We remain indebted to the Lord for the blessings we receive from Him.

Though we had a lot of trials in the past year, we are grateful the Father did not forsake us but was kind to us in all ways, so that we might show forth His praise. We are happy serving the "mighty God" who "led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men [ourselves]."

We have His assurance that we shall live with Him if we are faithful to the end.

We have entered into the summer season. Outdoor activities have already begun with a number of places in view. Pray with us that the Lord will have His blessings on our efforts and give us more zeal and will to do His pleasure.

Your encouraging letter of Nov. 20, 1988 has since been received with thanks. With gratitude to God, we look forward to receiving the books.

Brethren, the Church in Port Harcourt wishes to appeal for financial help from the saints abroad through you. We are sorry that this is going to be another burden to you, but we have been constrained to do this by the prevailing economic hardship which has continued unabated.

To provide residence for resident and visiting ministers and brethren, for local and interstate activities, and even for the saints who might be willing to visit us from abroad, the church decided to embark on a 10 room building. We began with the moulding of blocks early last year as published in the *Faith and Victory* issues, but since that time we have not been able to proceed further due to the financial problems. Some members who could have been in a position to help the church are now looking on her for dependence. This is adversely affecting the church from carrying on this laudable project.

We thank you all once more for your continued interest in our welfare, spiritually and materially, without which things could have been more difficult for us.

May the Lord continue to bless you all in your effort at spreading the gospel of salvation for mankind.

Yours through His grace,

—F. Naths-Igbani

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From Bendal State, Nigeria . . .

Jan. 11—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt and the saved ones: Greetings in the matchless name of the Lord Jesus, the Apostle of the apostles. We are prayerfully wishing the saints everywhere a happy and prosperous new year.

The saints of the Most High here in Africa are thankful unto the Lord for refining us to possess a self-effacing humility, enabling us to lose sight of ourselves in the adoration of our hero, the Lord Jesus, whose love for us brought Him down to earth as our Saviour. He is both our Prince of Peace and Prince of Progress. Praise Him forever! Not we, but Christ be honored, loved, exalted, seen, known, and heard forever and ever. Amen.

Although souls were praiseworthy won who are available in Zion for hand shake with you, yet our major concentration in 1988 was the strengthening of the existing congregations and bringing the doctrine of the Church within reach of the members more understandably and perfectly. We have resolved prayerfully to be fishers of men on a most extensive scale and under divine inspiration gather multitudes into the Church of such as should be saved. Our high courage in an hour of peril is expressed in the lines we often sing: "Where duty calls, or danger, Be never wanting there." Come life, come death, we are bound to Him by a bond of deep and enthusiastic love, ever ready to leave all for Christ, dare all for Christ and die with Christ.

Yours devotedly, —Titus U. E. Enu

## *In Memoriam*

On March 1, 1912, Jefferson Pierro was born to James Curtis and Josephine Pierro, at Luther, OK, and ascended to sit at the foot of our heavenly Father's throne on the morning of December 12, 1988, from the Sunset Guest Home at Pacoima, CA at the age of 76 years, 9 months and 11 days.

Brother Jefferson Pierro, or "Uncle Jack," as his neices and nephews called him, was the eldest of six children, having one brother and four sisters. He first attended elementary school at Slick, OK. The family moved to Newby, OK where he finished elementary school. Thereafter, he attended Bristow High School with his future wife, Geneva Roach, until they both completed the tenth and were promoted to the eleventh grade.

Growing up, he was a most precious and dear child. His parents testified to the fact that, "He never gave any trouble." He was given much responsibility and seldom required correcting by his parents. On such rare occasions, his father would correct and counsel after calling out, "Come here my little man."

He married Geneva Roach at the Sunny Slope School near Welty, OK on October 28, 1934, a union to which the Lord added sixteen children. In late December, 1938, he moved his family to Leavenworth, KS where they lived until the last day of January, 1939. Searching from church to church, he finally found the Lord when he moved his family to Bakersfield, CA. He remained there until the latter part of January, 1953, when he moved his wife and

their, now twelve children to Allensworth, CA where Brother Jefferson Pierro enjoyed his final years receiving of the Lord, and the rearing of his last four sons.

Bro. Jefferson let his light shine wherever he lived and sought to bring spiritual light to the community where he lived and to provide for a solid foundation and increased spiritual awareness by having Bro. I. C. Chandler to preach to the people of Allensworth.

He was recently instrumental in bringing good drinking water to the community from several miles away. He participated in special conferences with the, then, California governor, Ronald Wilson Reagan, and others, in a successful effort to have the townsite of Allensworth set aside as an historic park of California dedicated to and recognizing and highlighting many contributions to progress made by black Americans.

Above all things, and even to the end, he had an undying faith in the Almighty God. He prayed without ceasing and his prayers were answered by the Lord providing exactly what he and the family needed. He often asked the Lord to "make a way where there is no way." He consistently reminded the saints, "We are to be 'prayer warriors.'" He had unfeigned love which he bestowed upon all he met. He had a special love for all the saints and, towards the end, often declared with emphasis, "I love all the saints: all the saints!" He inspired love in others because he manifestly loved freely. Because of his ability to endure hardship and hardness, he was able to maintain his composure and even give a smile without retaliation in the face of what was sometimes stern criticism. He thus naturally garnered friends and allies wherever he went.

Jefferson Pierro was preceded in death by James Curtis Pierro, his earthly father, by Rosa Etta Tompkin-Wilson, his daughter, and by Rosalie Pierro and Elizabeth "Eleazer" Fuller, two of his sisters. He leaves cherished memories for his most precious and darling wife, Geneva Pierro, of the home, at Allensworth, CA; his loving mother, Josephine Pierro, of Stockton, CA, and recently of the Sunset Guest Home at Pacoima, CA; one brother, Everett Pierro of Stockton, CA; two sisters, Ethel Dillard and Ola B. Breckenridge of Stockton, CA; nine sons: James, of Pacoima, CA, Edward, of Long Beach, CA, David, of Clovis, CA, Alfred, of Allensworth and Bakersfield, CA, Charles of Paradise, CA, Samuel, of Allensworth, CA, Ralph, of Allensworth, CA, Isaac, of Stockton, CA, Jeryl, of Clovis, CA; six daughters, Jefferlene Pierro, of Allensworth and Stockton, CA, Pauline Pierro, of Carmichael, CA, Josephine Pierro, of Allens-

worth; CA, Bertha Pierro, of Allensworth, CA, Sheila Pierro, of Stockton, CA, Gloria Dyer, of Citrus Heights, CA; one son-in-law, six daughters-in-law, thirty-one grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and a multitude of other relatives, saints and friends.

#### NOTE OF THANKS

Each family member thanks you for your many kindnesses and your condolences.

—The Jefferson Pierro family

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

**Ollie Phillips** was born July 4, 1893, to William Riley Phillips and Trophenia Carrainger Phillips, in Graham Co., NC.

She was united in marriage to John Henry Ray, Oct. 12, 1913. To that union four children were born: Hyrum Ray, of Guthrie, OK, Marjorie Haun, of Sweetwater, TN, Madelynne McCurry, of Knoxville, TN, and Beverly Bales of Powell, TN.

The family was mainly reared near Madisonville, TN until the death of the father. Ollie then moved to Knoxville where she attended to putting the girls through business college and nursing school. She was married to Charles Bailey in July of 1951 and they made their home in Hammond, LA until his death in 1965.

She then came back to Knoxville and lived near her daughter, Madelynne, until her late husband's illness. The past four years she has lived mostly with Marjorie and Bill Haun of Sweetwater, TN.

She passed from this life January 25, 1989, at the age of 95 years, 6 months, and 21 days. About 1918, she, with her husband, John Ray, attended a series of revival meetings conducted, by Willis M. Brown and recieved light and knowledge of the Church of God which they accepted with their whole heart. She had many battles and failed for a time. In the end she was fighting a fight of faith for her Lord and Master to the best of her knowledge.

She gave her testimony on her death bed, "There is nothing between me and the Lord." She said the song, "The Old Account Was Settled," was her testimony. While she was recently in the home of her son, Hyrum Ray, during worship she would often lead out on that song. She loved to sing.

We will surely miss her, but we feel our loss is Heaven's gain.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

**Orville Frank Knouse**, a resident of Central, OR for the past 39 years, died at the family home in Bend, OR. He was 69.

Mr. Knouse was born on Nov. 6, 1919, at

Oselo, SD, to Fred W. and Myrtle (Bond) Knouse. Until his retirement he had been a machine operator for Central Cedar Service.

He was a member of the Church of God. We knew Bro. Frank for many years, and were with him a little while before he passed to his reward. He witnessed to many that he was not afraid to die, because he was going home to be with Jesus. We studied the Word with him for a number of years and he gave evidence of being a real child of God.

—Dan J. Kroker

#### Question and Answer Column

by  
Ostis B. Wilson

**Question:** This is a continuation from last month on the subject of **poor in spirit** or **humility** being the way into the Kingdom of God.

**Answer:** In I Peter 5:5-7 Peter said this, "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." Again in Philippians 2:5 we read, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:" The following verses tell of His condescension and humility in emptying Himself of the position, glory and honor He had with the Father in heaven, and condescending to come down to this world of human beings and taking our likeness upon Him and becoming obedient to His Father's will, even to death. Folks, this is great condescension, beyond our comprehension to fathom. But we read in verses 9-11 how God highly exalted Him and gave Him a name which is above every name.

Now to sum up a little to this point: In I Peter 5:5-7, Peter is giving instructions to ministers, pastors, overseers, elders—young and old—and exhorting them to be humble, submissive and subject one to another. Ah, brethren, we are to set the pace and furnish an example to the saints of what we teach them. If we teach them humility, be humble ourselves. Let us teach them by example as well as by precept and instruct them to behave themselves among themselves and get along among themselves just like they see us behaving and getting along among ourselves. The Church of God cannot operate smoothly and function properly outside of this perimeter.

There is a certain prescribed kind of humility saints are to have. A genuine lowliness of mind and humility of heart is to characterize the life and behavior of the saints—not a voluntary or “put on” humility which is very distasteful to a genuinely humble person. It is Christ’s humility we are to be clothed with. “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:” Philippians 2:5, which is a lowly mind. (verses 6-8). In Romans 13:14 we are instructed to put on Christ. That is, be clothed with His divine virtue of humility, from which all other graces flow.

But let us make no mistake about it; we are to walk in Christ after the same manner in which we received Him. (Colossians 2:6). The Kingdom of God belongs to humble and lowly people. If, in order to enter the kingdom of heaven, we must become poor and stripped of our resources and drop all our claims to any mercies or favors from God and just recognize ourselves undone and “Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to thy cross I cling,” we must surely maintain our citizenship in the Kingdom of God by the same means. So it can still be said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven,” whether we are just entering in or remaining in. We remain in the Kingdom of God by the same means by which we enter the Kingdom of God.

Since it is Christ’s humility we are to be clothed with, it must manifest itself in the same way in us that it did with Him. In His humility He made Himself of no reputation. (Philippians 2:7). Another translation says, “He emptied Himself.” Then it must work the same way in us. We must empty ourselves of all self-interest, self-promotion, self-advancement, all self-seeking, (I Corinthians 10:24; Philippians 2:4), self-planning, etc. As we empty out of self, we will be more filled with God. In John 3:30, John the Baptist said, “He must increase, but I must decrease.” Oh, what a great truth this is. Christ cannot increase in us until we decrease in our own self life. Christ can only expand in us to the extent we make room for Him. There is an old hymn which I have seen but never heard. It contains four verses, and those four verses tell the whole story step by step. The first verse says, All of self and none of God. The second verse says, Some of self and some of God. The third verse says, Less of self and more of God. The fourth verse says, None of self and all of God. Ah, folks, there you have it; an emptying out of self and a filling up with God; we decrease and God increases in our lives.

Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient. (Philippians 2:8). Genuine humility involves obedience. God’s Word establishes a clear chain

of obedience. This begins in the home. Wives are to be obedient unto their own husbands (Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18; Titus 2:5; I Peter 3:1, etc.). Children are to be obedient to their parents. (Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20). Parents should also teach their children a broader scope of obedience beyond the home; their teachers in school and anyone else who has authority over children and the management of children by reason of the position he holds or the office he occupies which has to do with children. Everybody—husbands, wives, parents, children, teachers, etc.—is instructed to obey the laws and ordinances of men and be law-abiding citizens. In the spiritual realm, saints are instructed to obey their pastors who are in charge and exercise oversight and watch for their souls and spiritual welfare. (Hebrews 13:7, 17). It also teaches ministers of the gospel, including pastors, overseers, elders and of any and all classifications and callings, to be subject one to another. (I Peter 5:5).

Right along with this instruction, Peter admonished all of them to be clothed with humility (I Peter 5:5) and to humble themselves under the mighty hand of God. (vs. 6). God’s plan and arrangement for the Church to operate by cannot possibly function smoothly and effectively without humility on the part of everyone connected with it. God knew all of this, so He set it up to function and be well-lubricated with humility and all of its outflowing graces and virtues. He certainly will not long allow anyone who gets lifted up with pride and personal ambition to be detained in the Kingdom of God. So again, the final conclusion is, “Blessed are the poor in spirit [humble]: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:3.

## How Big Is God’s Love?

(continued from page 3)

The writer of the song, “The Love of God,” so aptly put it when these words were written:

The love of God is greater far  
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;  
It goes beyond the highest star,  
And reaches to the lowest hell.  
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,  
God gave His Son to win;  
His erring child He reconciled,  
And pardoned from his sin.  
Oh, love of God, how rich and pure!  
How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure—  
The saints and angel’s song.

In John 16:27, Jesus speaks to His disciples, “For the Father himself loveth you, because ye

have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God." This verse shows real, complete and fulfilled love, because the redeemed love God in return. Fulfilled love is not one-sided love, but a mutual blending of hearts.

When God's love had been so carelessly cast aside in the Garden of Eden from listening and obeying the tempter, God's great heart was willing to go to the full extent of His love, in order to have His love returned. He was willing to give His only Son.

God's love was further manifested, when He had to **wait** for the proper and **exact** time to send His Son down here. "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law." Galatians 4:4. I'm sure God's loving heart must have yearned within Himself when He had to wait for "the fulness of the time," but this was a **master plan** and would require **exact** timing.

Let's read again Jesus' Word with our heart wide open to His love. "For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God." John 16:27. Is this love enacted in your heart? It is the greatest love ever known.

When we have God's love in our heart, it is going to reach out to others. "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:" I Peter 3:8. The love of God in our heart is going to overflow, and we are going to show compassion toward one another by being long suffering and courteous toward one another—not backbiting or condemning.

"... Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40. If we fail to show God's graces to our brethren, we not only hurt our brethren and ourselves, we hurt God.

Let us strive to please God and feel the warmth and reality of His love. The Apostle Paul was so convinced of God's love, that no matter how great the suffering that came his way, he felt securely enfolded in God's arms of love. In Romans 8:35, 38, 39, Paul very emphatically testifies of God's love to him. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come. Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul comprehended not only the love of God, but the power of God. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that

love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28. God has a plan and purpose for every trial that comes our way if we will just trust His power and great love. God is waiting and eager for you to share your love with Him. That is what love is, sharing and trusting each other. God wants to enfold you to His breast when the storms of life beat upon your soul. So many times we are prone to **struggle** in His arms, instead of **resting**. We must cease our struggling to see and know and understand everything. Instead, take everything to God and envision resting in His arms of love and power. Such a peace will flood your soul! Here is the solution to **any** problem—resting and trusting in the love of God.

The love of God is **measureless**. It not only encompasses and works out every problem, even our **failings**, if we wait on Him; but reaches on out to the endless realms of eternity. God's love is **forever and ever!** Love and trust God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and you shall bask in the sunlight of His love **now** and forever!

Your sister,

—Carol Cole

## HOME LIFE



### "A GREEN SPOT IN MEMORY"

"Home"—that word touches every fiber of the soul and strikes every chord of the human heart with its angelic fingers. Nothing but death can break its spell. What tender associations are linked with home! What pleasing images and deep emotions it awakens! It calls up the fondest memories of life and opens in our nature the purest, deepest, and richest gush of consecrated thought and feeling. To the little child, home is his world. He knows no other. The father's love and the mother's smile throw about him a heavenly halo. Home is the spot where the child pours out all his complaints.

Ask the man of mature years, whose brow is furrowed by care, whose mind is engrossed with business, ask him what is home? He will say,

"It is a place of rest, a haven of content where loved ones relieve the burdens of everyday life." Ask the wanderer as he plods his weary way, bent with the weight of years and white with frost of age. He will say, "It is a green spot in memory, an oasis of the desert. It was once a happy reality, but now it rests only as an image of the mind."

"Home" is one vision that never fades from the soul. No man in all his weary wanderings ever goes beyond the overshadowing arch of home. Let him stand on the surf-beaten coast of the Atlantic and every dash of the waves, every murmur of the breeze, will whisper home, sweet home. Let him down amid the glaciers of the North, and even there thoughts of home, too warm to be chilled by the eternal frost, will float in upon him. Let him roam through the green, waving groves and over the sunny slopes of the South and in the kiss of the balmy breeze home will live again. Let prosperity reward his every exertion and wealth and affluence bring around him all the luxuries of the earth, yet in his palace will rise unforbidden the vision of his childhood home. Let misfortune overtake him, still in troubled dreams will his thoughts revert to the olden home.

The home is the fountain of civilization. Our laws are made in the home. He who has no home has not the sweetest pleasures of life. He does not feel the thousand endearments that cluster around the hallowed spot. Of all places on earth, home is the most delicate and sensitive. Its fires are kindled with a spark. There is music in the word home. To the old it brings a bewitching strain from the harp of memory, to the middle-aged it brings happy thoughts, and to the young it brings up all that is near and dear to them.

The home may be old and rickety to the eye of strangers; the windows may have been patched long ago, and the floor worn through; but it is still the old home from which we looked at life with hearts full of hope, building castles which faded long ago. If we are to have a true home, we must guard well our thoughts and actions. A little word may disquiet the home for a whole day. But, like unexpected flowers which spring up along our path, full of freshness, fragrance and beauty, so do kind words, gentle acts and sweet disposition make glad the home where peace and blessing dwell. No matter how humble the abode, if it be thus garnished with grace and sweetened by kindness and smiles, the heart will turn lovingly towards it from all the turmoils of this world. And home, "be it ever so humble," will be the dearest spot under the sun. He is happiest, be he king or peasant, who finds peace at home.

—Selected

## Present Conditions

"The burden of Dumah. He calleth to me out of Seir, Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night? The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come." Isaiah 21:11, 12. This passage seems to me to express the burden of the Church crying to the prophets or ministry for a spiritual understanding that pinpoints her current era and the spiritual matters which lie in the immediate future. Just as it was important to the Israelites to have a vision of where God was taking them while they were in the desert, so it has always been important for God's people to understand their dispensation, and so it is now.

In this Scripture, the watchman answered, (and I understand this passage to refer to the time we are now living in) "The morning cometh." Bro. D. S. Warner said of this same point, "From the mountain of pure inspiration, See the gleam of eternity rise," showing that as he stood in deep inspiration of the Spirit of God, he could feel the awesome nearness of "the crashing of ages, When time and eternity meet." Surely we are but a little journey from the final moment of this world! The morning cometh, when all the earth's billions must stand at the judgment seat of Christ! Heaven, eternal glory, joy and blessings forever loom near! Awful doom to the lost is just at hand! Burning fires of hell, brimstone, the horrors of eternal damnation hover over the souls of our unsaved fellows in this world! "Help, O God, thy remnant gleanings, Until time indeed expires!"

"The morning cometh," says the prophet, "and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye." When you ponder the nearness of eternity, and all that our finite minds can grasp of its reality, is there something in you that wants to know of the spiritual matters and of the Lord's dealings that lie upon us now and just before, the better to be able to make certain we "so run, that [we] may obtain"? Had you lived in Jerusalem as a saint of God just before the time of its destruction by the Roman armies, would you have wanted to know the signs that heralded that event?

Thank God that He said, "If ye will enquire, enquire ye"! It has always taken spiritual perseverance to understand God's way, but here is evidence that even in this time we can have a clear vision of where and what God's Church is and how and where He is leading it today. He invites us to enquire into the times, to seek Him for solid truths and understandings that completely free our hearts and minds from any



confusion about the doctrines and standards of His holy temple.

We are living in a time when Satan, knowing that his time is short, has unleashed terrific battle against God's Church. Human reason, "oppositions of science falsely so called," modern communications and inventions, affluence and dereliction of duty by trusted guardians have all been used as tools by the devil to erode our stand for pure, holy living. We are a tiny minority that is fiercely opposed as we defend the precious truths that we possess. It is a time when we need desperately for the doctrines handed down to us by our spiritual ancestors to have been not merely opinion but sound in the principles of the Bible. Let us persevere to "enquire"! Let us pray God to brilliantly enlighten our teachers and leaders with profound understandings to defeat the most insidious of Satan's attempts to penetrate with error! We need no instructions and patterning from false prophets and fallen movements, we need no humanistic education, we need mighty Holy Ghost enlightenment, and praise God, the promise is, "if ye will enquire, enquire ye."

But we, as a city compassed by Gog and Magog, face also the challenge of Satan's seeking to force us to be unbalanced and irrational in our determination to firmly hold to the "old paths, wherein dwelleth righteousness." Without elaborating more on these and many other points of combat with the devil, let me say, beloved brethren, that all is a hellish assault designed to destroy us if possible and failing that, to prevent our being able to reach much into a lost and dying world. Must we be so constrained? Can we not mightily resist the archfiend in all his wickedness, unite our spirits in holy bond, pray God to, even in this sin-darkened world, search out more souls who yearn for His deliverance? Surely it is night; I look for no great reformation, but surely we can have and God wills to us more glory, more power, more unity and victory, that when it is our time to deliver up to Him the works of our lives, (for we watch as they that must give account) that we may do it with joy and not with grief: for that is profitable for you.

Such a time as we are now in is not an inferior time from God's blessings. He would have us insist on and maintain the same powerful victory in our souls and clearness in our teachings that He blessed to our ancestors, for we are a remnant of the same quality.

—Ed Wilson

Remember that there is something to be considered besides pattern in the fabric of life. There is fiber.

—Selected



Excerpts Taken From

March, 1964 *Faith and Victory*

"Here in the village of Santa Catarina [Mexico] and round about we are encouraged in the interest that some are taking. . . . Bro. Thomas and family, Shirley Stice, Virginia Wittenborn, Carrie Sheppard and I took a new road last week and went to a place that we had never been before. The only road went around a very sharp hair-pin curve that went upgrade and it was washed out. As we went around, the left rear wheel of the pickup fell in and nearly turned us over. After working for almost two hours we got out. We had several things almost as bad happen plus getting stuck in the sand many times. . . . As dusk neared, we reached a grade that we were unable to get the truck over, no matter how hard we tried! So we built a fire and stayed all night out in the open. The next day we reached our destination." —Edith Cole

"Dear Sister Marie: We were more than thrilled to receive *The Light of Hope* (the new Spanish paper). We could almost see HOPE light up in their eyes when they read the paper. I know Bro. Clifford [Smith, the editor of the paper] would have been blessed to have seen the people when they received the papers. How great our God is and how much He loves the people of all lands! . . . God called us to go to Rosarita last week. It was raining very hard here and the children had bad colds so you know the devil did everything possible to keep us from going, but we went anyway. Praise His name, the closer we got to Mexico, the better the children were and by the time we got there, they were well. How much He blesses us cannot be told.

—Charlotte Huskey