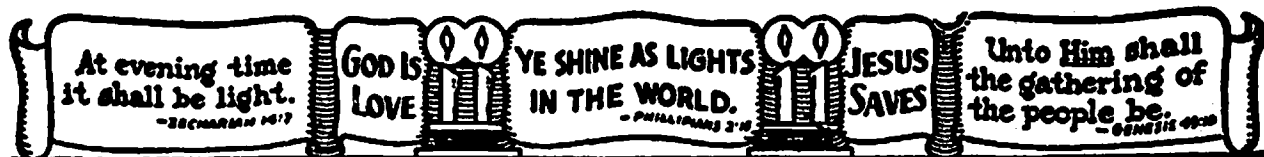


FAITH AND VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



Volume 67, No. 2 67th Year Guthrie, Oklahoma \$1.00 Per Year April, 1989

Give Your Best To The Master

Oh, give of your best to the Master,
 For He gave His all for you;
 And paid your whole debt on Mt. Calvary,
 As never another could do.

We all were poor lost sinners,
 Wandering in grief and despair;
 Far from the portals of glory,
 Yet, no one seemed to care.

We were bound by the sinews of Satan,
 Our poor souls never were blest;
 No earthly power could loose us,
 Nor impart to us freedom and rest.

But one from on high was watching,
 All praises be to His name;
 And seeing our helpless condition,
 Dear Jesus, from heaven, came.

With light to brighten our pathway,
 With LOVE that never will end;
 And mercy without stint or measure,
 And His blood to cover our sin.

Praise God for the day I accepted
 His love manifested to me;
 Praise God for this great SALVATION,
 My soul is now happy and free.

I love Him with all that's within me,
 His service, my sweetest delight;
 Little I can do for my Saviour,
 But I'll do it with all my might.

For soon will this short life be over,
 And we shall be called to go;
 To receive our reward up in heaven,
 For the deeds we have done here below.

May we each give our best to His service,
 (There is power in unity, you know)
 That the enemy may be defeated,
 And souls be made whiter than snow.

—Armilda Abbott

Church Zeal

The Church is not the work of man, but the work of God. He made the Church. He constituted it and put it together. In Matthew 16:18, we have our Lord's promise that He should do this, and if you will look at Acts 2:41, 47 you will see that it was the Lord who prospered this infant Church in Jerusalem by adding to it those who would be saved. In other words, the early Church was spiritually constituted by Christ. It was openly committed to Christ, and was gloriously united in Christ. Above all it was dynamically empowered through Christ.

We have to adopt many things in our lives as a scriptural pattern of the Church. Notice the word together in Acts 2:44. They were different in age, background and temperament, but now having trusted in Christ and been added to the Church, "all that believed were together." They were "all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28). Unless we are in Christ we can not maintain a unity in the Church. That is why so-called "churches" fail in ecumenism. The early Church maintained the unity in diversity. They grew together. They fed upon the Word together. They spent much time together. They remembered the Lord's death together. They prayed together. They shared spiritual and material things together. They rejoiced together. (Acts 2:42-47). It is a pattern for us today. The greatest need today is for God's people to copy the pattern of the early Church.

I do praise the Lord for those who are following the example of the early Church, even in this modern world. But the sad thing about certain churches is that they keep the pattern only inside the church. Therefore the Lord cannot add anyone to the Church. We are not getting new souls born into the Church. Many churches exist because of the biological birth, not by the spiritual re-birth.

Let us go back to the early Church. The record does not end with chapter 2 of the Acts of the Apostles, it goes on to the next chapters. We learn that believers are saved to serve. Their service consists of taking life to lame and helpless humanity. Take a look at the man described in the 3rd chapter. In him we see a picture of humanity without God, for he is lame, he is helpless, destitute and more concerned about material needs than about spiritual needs. He is near the temple but outside it. Peter and John took the gospel and offered salvation to this man. That is the job we have to do. That is the mission of the Church in this world. That is the eternal purpose of the Church. This was Jesus' program (Luke 4:18, 19). It should be ours as well. (John 17:18; 20:21).

"Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying, Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave; Weep o'er the erring one, Lift up the fallen, Tell them of Jesus the mighty to save."

The method of the mission of the early Church was going out and making contact with the world. This was what Peter and John and the apostles did. Jesus' command was to go out to the world. It was a military command. If we are faithful to Jesus, we have to obey this. We are to take the gospel, the message of love and grace of God, to the people where they are. We are made fishers of men. "Fish" do not usually come to the church. Fishermen have to go where there are fish.

My dear friends, let us make a decision that, "I will do my best for the glory of the Lord Jesus and for the extension of His kingdom." If you make this decision you won't have to go alone. The mighty Lord is with you. He assures you that "... All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:18-20.

"Rescue the perishing, Duty demands it, Strength for thy labor the Lord will provide; Back to the narrow way Patiently win them; Tell the poor wand'rers a Saviour has died."

—P. D. Mathunni

When one is truly humble, others will be aware of it. If he is not humble, no matter how many times he may say he is, others cannot see it. Humility means "lowliness of mind" — to have a lowly estimation of ourselves.

—Zella M. Robinson

The Image To The Beast or Some Food For Thought

By Gene Beisly

Dear reader, I'm sure you enjoy pleasant and beautiful things as I do. In this paper there are articles and testimonies which are encouraging and uplifting. We might describe them as "beautiful" because of the blessings and good feelings that come from reading them. But the burden I have in this article is different. Portraying this topic could be likened to an artist painting a picture and using only one color—black. Parts of this subject matter should be seen as they really are: dark, dismal, dangerous, ugly and repulsive. While meditating on this subject, I found my soul crying out for a closer walk with God and seeking Him daily for keeping grace. I know I can't do without that grace. I want and need that grace. I need the strength that only He can give. May God help us.

In Revelation 13:1-15, we read of a "dragon" which gave power to a "beast" (the "first beast") after which a "second beast" comes on the scene and causes an "image" to be made to the "first beast." This "image" is my main concern. What is it, and what effect has it had over the years? This image is just one link in a chain which starts with the "dragon," so we should start there.

Many of us who have studied Revelation will remember the dragon as representing paganism. Paganism was a widespread power in the world at the time of Jesus' birth. John is very clear on this matter when in Revelation 13:2 he tells us the dragon transferred his power and his seat and great authority to the first beast.

The meaning of the word "paganism" as used in this article refers to "idol worship." Paganism has been around for a long time. Aaron made a golden calf for the Israelites when Moses was on the mount. That calf was an idol. It was a copy of an Egyptian god which was an emblem of the productive power of nature. Had these people actually forgotten God's power demonstrated by the plagues in Egypt, the way made through the Red Sea, the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night?

Were the pagans (idol worshipers) uneducated or ignorant people? Not necessarily. Some developed remarkable navigational skills for ships at sea. Some began the study of astronomy by observing the movements of the moon, stars and planets. Some developed the first telescopes. Some developed mathematical ideas that we use today. Some were judges in the courts of law in their day. But pagans would worship things of

nature which they did not understand. Meteors were supposed to be the images of gods sent down. Worshipping meteors soon turned to worshipping just rough stones—then stone columns, then rough pieces of wood, etc.—all these being places wherein the gods supposedly lived.

In those days, the workers with metal had an image of Vulcan in the home or shop. He was the god of fire and metal-working. Vulcan's name is tied in closely with volcanoes. Ceres was a goddess of agriculture. Our word cereal comes from the name. Diana was the moon goddess. Pictures I have seen of her statue are repulsive. (Do you remember Acts 19:28? "Great is Diana of the Ephesians.") Mercury was the "messenger" of the gods. (Paul was called "Mercury" in Acts 14:12). Furthermore, if someone made their living by stealing, they had an image of Mercury around. He was the god of thievery also. In the not-too-distant past and the present, an oil company, a tire manufacturer, and an electrical goods company have borrowed symbols "from the gods" for use as a part of their company's name. At least three, and possibly four, months of the year, along with most, if not all, the days of the week are based on names of gods or goddesses. Then there is an interesting account concerning Dagon, the fish-god of the Philistines. (I Samuel 5:1-4). Please read it. God showed His hatred of idols here, especially Dagon, didn't He? And Molech? Oh, what will people dream up and create to worship? (Leviticus 20:2). My study reveals that Molech's image was a hollow, brass statue built over a firebox. The idol's arms reached out in front of it, palms of the hands turned up in readiness to receive something. The idol was heated to a fiery temperature and then babies were placed in the idol's outstretched hands as a sacrifice. An innocent baby suffering such agony to appease a god which existed only in the imagination doesn't make good sense, does it? The picture is a dark one. It is ugly and repulsive. I hope you are feeling the awful deception that surrounded those people.

We are told the pagan high priest claimed he had spiritual and temporal authority over the affairs of men. He could dictate how you ran your business or family. He dictated who would be the next sacrifice. What awesome power for one person to have over another!

Then there were the Druids. The hours of high noon and midnight were sacred to them. Their worship involved the oak tree, mistletoe and human sacrifices. Someone knowledgeable on the subject recently said the Druids were mentioned as being "worshippers of the dead." Sanheim was their god of the dead. One of their special celebrations was to dress as the dead, go door-to-door seeking someone dressed as San-

heim. When found, those people were given gifts! "Tricks or treats"—in reverse! Does that make you think of Halloween? Incidentally, the man said they did this on October 31. Does this reveal a little of Satan's craftiness and power with which he clouds man's good sense and judgment?

What is our understanding concerning paganism as pictured in the book of Revelation? It is the dragon mentioned in Revelation 13:2 which gave its power, and seat and great authority to the beast mentioned in the same verse. Thus, we have introduced to us one of Satan's masterpieces of manipulation. Satan used the example of Cain's and Abel's offerings to the Lord and caused people to sacrifice to man-made gods. Satan managed to create a "copy-cat" version, a counterfeit, of real worship. In spite of very clear instructions about their true worship, the Israelites fell into idolatry again and again.

Christ's birth presented a real challenge. Satan had much of the world feeling very comfortable in their deception of idol worship which copied the altars, sacrifices, priests and forms of the true worship. Christ came to fulfil all that. Here was a change taking place. Satan would also have to change to continue his sway over the people. Christ talked about true forgiveness of sin. Much attention and activity were centered around Christ. He was a central figure, and quite powerful, Satan no doubt reasoned. Could he set up a central figure (the pope—a counterfeit) and an organization which would satisfy the non-Christian (pagan) world in the face of such sweeping changes?

History relates to us that a pagan temple built in Rome was dedicated in B.C. 27 to all the gods. About 637 years later, a Catholic pope rededicated the same building to "the blessed Virgin and all the saints!" Did the passing of time really make a difference in the people's beliefs and their worship in this temple? No. Only some names were changed. Instead of calling one idol "Jupiter," they called it Paul. Instead of calling another idol "Venus" it was renamed (the Virgin) Mary. The pagan high priest was called Pontifex Maximus. So is the Catholic pope. The pagan high priest claimed to have spiritual and temporal authority over men's affairs. So does the pope. The pagans elevated men to a "god-like" position and worshiped them. So do the Catholics. Did the dragon transfer his power, and seat and great authority to this first beast? Yes! But there is more, and if you haven't heard this before, let this sink in real deep.

One Catholic "fanatic" said, "The Lord omnipotent [all powerful] hath ceased to reign; He has resigned all power to the pope." Listen

(Continued on page 14)

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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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

"There was a man sent from God. . ." John 1:6. This short sentence speaks volumes. As the verse goes on to state, John the Baptist was the man who had a divine call and commission. His life consisted of being a messenger for God and his energy was expended on God's business.

When we read of men like Moses, Aaron, John the Baptist and Paul, we are prone to consider them exceptions in having a particular mission for God. It is not likely that any of us have seen God in a burning bush, received a commission directly from God's lips or had an angel foretell our birth and what our mission was to be, yet it is a truth worth considering that our lives came from God as well as theirs. (Acts 17:25, Ezek. 18:4). Neither has God put us upon this earth just to pass away the time or fill space. Each of us was "sent from God" and should live out God's will and what He had in view when He made us and placed us here. Our aims, talents and thoughts should all be directed towards God's cause upon earth. There are temporal pursuits that are a part of life, but our hearts should be centered around the extension of God's Kingdom. We should ever be ready to join a cause for righteousness as we see the need and feel the leadings of the Lord. We find our work and our mission by simple obedience to God and submission to Him. We can indeed miss our mission, but only by taking our way rather than God's.

Joseph Krutch, who was an agnostic, wrote, "There is no reason to suppose that man's own life has any more meaning than the life of the humblest insect that crawls from one annihilation to another." What a dark view when one has no perception of eternity, for an enlightened Christian life has a much deeper meaning.

I appreciated the significance of the following dialogue which I recently read. "What did God ever make such a world for anyway?" one young person complained, adding, "I could make a better world than this myself." "That," a friend suggested, "is just the reason God put you into this world—to make it a better world. Now go ahead and do your part."

We should be sure that we are sent by God in what we do, and then put our hearts into it. If this criteria is met, God will see to it, one way or another, that our labor will not be in vain.

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We were saddened to hear of Bro. Lewis Williams' death on March 17th. He was one who brought a smile into many people's lives and was very dedicated to the people of God. He will be greatly missed, especially by his wife, Sis. Cornelia.

Two other workers for God also went to their eternal reward recently. Sis. Grace Roberts passed away on Feb. 27. Then on March 25, her husband, Bro. Leonard Roberts followed her in death. These two traveled many miles and spent much time working for the Lord.

It was also a shock to learn of the sudden death of Bro. Dadie Moore of Sand Springs, OK. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. June, and his children. At times like these, it is a blessing to know the God of all comfort.

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Sis. Maxine Pruitt, Aunt Maybelle Pruitt's daughter-in-law, has graciously offered to help in the work here at the Print Shop. She resigned her job as Purchasing Agent for the city of Guthrie and on March 13, joined the Print Shop family. She has already proven a blessing in several different aspects of this work, and we are truly grateful for her dedication to the Lord.

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There is not a "Question and Answer" column included in this issue due to Bro. Ostis Wilson's busy occupation in holding revival meetings at several different congregations recently.

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We have taken 2,000 copies of the reprinted songbook, Evening Light Songs, to a company in Dallas, TX to have the books bound. The songbook should be finished sometime in April. We are accepting orders now and will fill them just as soon as the books are available.

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We are still in the process of making arrangements for Sis. Ruth Tangunan to come to the United States to attend some of the campmeetings. Plane reservations have been made for her arrival in early May. At this time we have received \$768 in contributions for the plane fare. The total cost will amount to \$1388.

Bro. George Hammond has offered to pay the cost of bringing Bro. Matias Tangunan, Sis. Ruth's father, to the States with her. We are looking forward to their stay here and pray that it will be a blessing to them and the saints there.

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We would like to thank all the saints who have acted upon the burden to support this work. Your offerings have helped us to keep pace with the expenses that are incurred in publishing the gospel. We would like to notify you that all contributions to "Faith Publishing House" are tax deductible.

This is a continual work of faith and we appreciate your interest. May God bless each one.
—Wayne Murphey

Prayer Requests

CA—Sis. Loretta Harmon still needs prayer.

AR—"Please pray for me; my nerves are bad. Also, pray for all my family."

—Pearl Steele

WV—Still remember Bro. and Sis. Earl Tinsley in prayer. Sis. Tinsley's breathing problem is worse; she has other afflictions, also.

TX—"Please pray for my husband, also for me."

—Sis. Louise Strickland

OK—Sis. Mamie Norcutt is sorely afflicted. Pray for her complete healing; she has suffered so much.

WV—Sis. Gladys Morgan needs prayer.

IL—Sis. Wilma Horsley is looking to God for complete healing.

IL—Sis. Nina Champion desires prayer; she suffers so much, also she has an urgent request.

PA—"Pray for me and my husband; he has a heart condition and I have a thyroid condition. Both of us desire healing."

—Sis. Agnes Gaston

IL—"Please remember two very urgent unspoken requests."

—Oma Jean Fairchild

OR—"I am asking prayer for my back; it is giving me trouble. Also, I have arthritis and gout in my left foot. The need is urgent."

—Sis. Grace Jones

VA—"Pray concerning my husband's retirement and that we can work in His vineyard and be healthy, happy and very beneficial. Please also remember one of our loved ones that is in need of a miracle. God still answers prayer and we know it."

—Sis. J. C. H.

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

Bakersfield, CA — August 4-13

Duncannon, PA — August 6-13
 Ensenada, Mexico — August 13-20
 Durham, NC — Aug. 13-20
 Boley, OK — Aug. 20-27
 California State at Pacoima, CA —
 Aug. 25-Sept. 3

GOLDEN RULE HOME ANNIVERSARY

Twenty-seventh Anniversary services of the Golden Rule Rest Home, Shawnee, OK will be held on April 1st and 2nd, 1989. Lord willing, there will be a gospel singing on Saturday night. Sunday there will be dinner and a service at the Golden Rule Home. Everyone is invited to come and spend the week-end with us. Accommodations will be provided for all who come.

For more information, call: (405) 273-7106 or 275-6686. —Sis. Janice Porter

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SAPULPA, OK REVIVAL

Lord willing, we are to start a revival on the 23rd of April. Bro. Ostis Wilson plans to hold the meeting.

We also plan to have a singing on Saturday night, on the 22nd. All are welcome. Dinner will be served on Sunday. —Bro. Richard Madden

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BOLEY, OK SPRING REVIVAL

Lord willing, the Boley, OK, Church of God spring revival will convene April 26-30, 1989.

We extend a warm welcome to all nations to come and be with us. There will be nightly services at 7:30 p.m. with all day services on Sunday.

We are expecting Sis. Beverly Reed to be with us, along with what ministers and workers the Lord may send. We cordially invite all to come with a burden, praying that God will bless with a Holy Spirit meeting and that souls will be saved.

For further information contact Sis. Anna May Thompson, Rt. 1, Box 71-A, Boley, OK 74829, phone (918) 667-3648, or Sis. Katherine Williams, 905 N. E. 15th, Oklahoma City, OK 73104, phone (405) 235-2270.

Prayerfully submitted,

—Katherine Williams

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MISSOURI STATE CAMP MEETING

The Missouri State Camp Meeting held at Myrtle, MO, will begin, Lord willing, on Wednesday, May 3, and continue through Sunday, May 7, 1989.

We invite and urge everyone to attend. If you cannot attend, please pray much for the

success of the meeting. We are trusting the Lord to send ministers of His choosing to labor in this meeting. Pray much that the Holy Spirit will quicken the preaching of God's Word, and that His presence will powerfully anoint each service.

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

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

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CHURCH OF GOD SCHOOL RETREAT

There will be, Lord willing, a Christian school retreat at Myrtle, MO, on May 8, 9, and 10, 1989. This retreat is to provide an opportunity for the saints' children who are attending a Christian school, or who are home schooling, to be together to participate in spiritual and academic activities.

For more information, please call or write: Bro. Toney Samons, P. O. Box 3, Arbovale, WV 24913, phone (304) 456-4679.

Reservations must be confirmed by April 15th.

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HONDURAS, CENTRAL AMERICA

GOSPEL MEETING

On May 17th 1989 a company of called workers are planning to go over to Honduras, C.A. for some old-fashioned gospel meetings, for the salvation of souls, edification of the Church and to strengthen the local believers. The meeting will be held from Thursday, May 17-22, 1989, which will give the company one day to prepare to return home on the 24th of May. We will hold as many services as the Lord permits while there.

Supporters of this great missionary endeavor may reply to Bro. Louis Kimble, P. O. Box 73835, Metairie, LA 70033. We are looking to the Lord to supply the means to meet the needs of everyone that will attend. This company consists of preachers, workers, cooks and helpers to labor in the vineyard of the great Master. Please pray for us.

Yours for souls in C.A.,

Bros. Louis Kimble, H. H. Hargrave,
and company

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A STOP OVER PLACE

Although we do not plan to have a camp meeting this summer at "God's Green Acres," Chehalis, WA, the Lord's property here is open

to any and all that need a stopping or resting place on their travels. Though very humble, there is good water and lots of parking or camping room. It is located just five miles east of I-5 from exit 68 on U.S. Highway 12. Look for the Lord's large sign which He gave us. There is food for the hungry and other help as needed. All feel free to come. We love everyone.

—Bro. Jim Wilson

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From the Mailbox . . .

OR—Dear Bro. Wayne and all at the Print Shop: May the dear Lord bless and keep you and all who are trusting in Him, is our earnest prayer. The God we serve has all power in earth and heaven and His mercy endures forever. He has promised to supply our every need, and the blessings He bestows upon us every day are more than we can number. Praise His holy name.

He has helped us in our bodies and supplies our needs day by day. Pray for us that He will supply our greatest need, which is to live our lives every day doing His will in all that we do. We come to Him each day as needy children to a loving Father who knows how to give good gifts to them that ask; we also ask for Holy Spirit guidance in our lives as long as He gives us life here on this earth. Please pray for us that we may help some needy soul find salvation before it is too late.

My cousin, Wilbert, in Texas, is still in need of prayer. . . .

With Christian love,

—Bill and Doris Busch

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

MO—Dear Bro. Wayne and all: Greetings in Jesus' name! We surely thank our heavenly Father for His many blessings concerning our daily lives. We appreciate our home and family so very much. We are thankful that all our sins and iniquities are washed by Jesus' blood, and we are accepted with the beloved saints. God has been so merciful to me and I thank Him.

I have recently re-read *God's Gracious Dealings*. Surely our heavenly Father cares for every honest soul and guides and helps us to know His will. May God ever guide and bless the work at the Print Shop!

Your brother in Christ, —Leslie Adams

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

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne and workers at the Print Shop: We send greetings of love in Jesus' dear name this beautiful spring-like day. I enjoy the spring, as all nature seems to come with new life. Even the little birds are so happy and sing so sweetly. It reminds me of when I first

got saved. I could sing the beautiful songs of Zion from the heart and enjoyed them. . . .

My vision is fast failing. Please request prayer of the saints there and elsewhere that God will restore it, as I do enjoy reading God's Word, the *Faith and Victory* and other good books. I have had to give up most of my correspondence because of my vision.

With Christian love and prayers,

—Sister. Agnes Huskey

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CA—Dear saints at the Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' name. My husband has been sick with pneumonia, but we thank God he is able to be up in the house and is eating good. I am thanking God that He gave me strength to wait on him.

We are praying each day for you all.

Our prayers and love,

—Sis. Thelma Joiner

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MO—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: I greet you in the holy name of Jesus. Today is a beautiful day. This is the day that the Lord hath made. I will rejoice and be glad in it. I am happy when it is raining, and I'm happy when the sun is shining. I can't be sad when Jesus is with me. . . .

May God bless you and everyone at the Print Shop in everything you do for Him. Thank you for your prayers. Keep my children and me on your prayer list, and I will pray for you and yours.

Your Christian friend,—Sister Eathel Hill

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OH—Dear Sis. Maybelle: Greetings of much love this beautiful day here in Ohio. We thank the Lord for how He has brought us through another winter; it hasn't been a bad one.

We so much appreciate the burden the saints have carried for our son, Jeff. It has meant so much to us. We are sending out another plea to the saints. He is having several bad seizures each month and this has been going on since Thanksgiving. I was listening to an encouraging tape this week on "The Family of God." The minister brought out how we have a family that shares our mutual woes. We believe this and have experienced it, so one more time we ask special prayer for Jeff and will let the saints know when the victory is won.

Christian love,

—Della Gutwein

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

LA—Dear Sis. Maybelle and all: Greetings this cold morning. We are still enjoying the blessings of being saved. God is so good to us all.

Max and I are doing very well at the present. We can't do much as it has been so cloudy and cold, so we stay in most of the time, especially him.

We do enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory* paper so much. It seems like this month's is especially good. We pray for you and the work there daily—that God will bless all and supply the needs to carry on.

As we come to your mind, pray for us. How we do need each other's prayers in these trying times.

God bless now,—Lula and Max Williamson

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MO—Dear saints scattered abroad: Greetings to you in the name of Jesus our Lord, the one "... that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood. And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." Revelation 1:5, 6.

I feel burdened to comment on these two verses, along with other Scriptures also. We notice in this first Scripture that Jesus loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood. In order for us to be recipients of His love, we have to be washed from our sins. In order for us to be washed from our sins, it took a powerful detergent, and also a costly one. It involved the whole God-head: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, to do the work. It took the Father, willing to give His Son; Jesus, willing to shed His blood and give His life for us. In order for Jesus' blood to be acceptable as a sacrifice for our sins, it had to be offered through the Holy Spirit. "For if the blood of bulls and goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" Hebrews 9:13, 14. The body and spirit of Jesus, was offered without spot to God. He had no retaliation when He suffered on the cross. "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. . . ." Luke 23:34.

In offering sacrifices under the Mosaic law, the lamb had to be the best and without blemish. So God loved us so much, He was willing to give the best. Jesus was the only one that was without spot and blemish.

"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29. When Jesus gave Himself for us, He had in mind not only that our sins might be forgiven, but that we might receive "... an inheritance

among all them which are sanctified," Acts 20:32, and that we might be fully cleansed from our sins. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." I John 1:7.

"Ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." I Corinthians 6:20. God had in mind for our bodies to be holy as well as our spirits. In Romans 12:1, Paul beseeches us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God.

In I Thessalonians 5:23, Paul said, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

In Revelation 1:5, 6, we can read about Christ who shed His blood that we could be washed and cleansed from our sins that we might be made kings and priests unto God. We think of a king as one that reigns. By God's grace, we reign over sin, self and the flesh. As priests, we offer the sacrifice of praise to God for what He has done for our souls. Also, we offer our bodies and our lives as a living sacrifice to be used in His service in the way that would be pleasing to Him.

God's grace working in our souls, will enable us to adorn our whole life in a way that will be pleasing to God. We should be careful to seek God that we adorn the outward man as well as the inward man in a way that would be acceptable to God.

This sinful world does not afford a safe pattern for us to go by, for the inward man, nor for the outward man. Everything that flows out of our lives should be holiness unto the Lord. Everything that is defiling to the body should be laid aside. The Bible tells us to "... cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." II Corinthians 7:1. To do this would also include our outer man, as well as the inward man. Many styles of the world today are immodest, and are of such that will attract the opposite sex. Women professing godliness should be careful to refrain from such. Also, brethren should be careful to glorify God in their mode of dress.

We all have an influence upon others. We should all strive to be a pattern of good works and lead people to God, "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world," Philippians 2:15

Saved by the blood of the Lamb,

—T. V. McMillian

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

LA—Dear saints: We want to thank you each one for the love you have shown by your phone calls, cards, letters, offerings, flowers, food, and most of all your prayers concerning the loss of our baby, JoBeth. The Lord is so good to help us through the things He allows to come our way. . . . There were so many ways in which the Lord did help and answer prayer that we feel assured He worked what was best.

I want to testify to the Lord's goodness to me in healing my body, also. There was concern about my blood pressure being too high. One day I was sitting on the bed and the Lord brought the verse to my mind, ". . . Think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, . . ." I Peter 4:12, and the song, "Standing On The Promises." This all came back to my mind later and was such a comfort and help to me. I was thinking one day about standing on the promises and what some of those promises were. The ones that came to my mind were, "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son," John 14:13, and also, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matthew 21:22. After this I felt a desire to be anointed and prayed for. . . . I felt confident that the Lord had heard prayer and given me a touch from that moment on. When I was checked again the blood pressure was down to a normal rate.

I do thank the Lord for taking the faith that I did have and strengthening and blessing it so I could stand on the promise and pray with faith. There were many times that the Lord answered prayer and touched me during all of this, and even yet a few things need to be completely taken care of.

We desire your continued prayers for us that the Lord will direct and guide us into all truth and guide us with His eye as He has promised.

Our love, —Bobby and Janet Forbes

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

KY—Dear workers at the Print Shop: Webster didn't put words in the dictionary that can convey my thankfulness to God for His goodness. I just don't know how anyone could live without Him. I talk to Him so many times a day that without Him would be worse than dying.

Whenever I need help and whenever I need encouragement I go to the Lord in prayer. The line to my Lord is never busy. His eyes are ever on us and His ears are always open to our cries. How could we not serve Him?

I am waiting on the Lord to completely heal me from a bad sickness. If it is His will, I'll be

healed, if I'm not to be healed, He will give me grace to stand my illness. Whatever pleases my Lord is all right with me. I'll continue to serve Him until my time is come to leave this world.

Pray for my complete healing, and please pray for my family.

A sister in Christ,

—Wilma Horsley

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

OK—Dear Bro. Wayne, Sis. Maybelle, co-workers at the Print Shop, saints and friends: It is with deep appreciation and love of God that we greet all of you in our dear Lord and Saviour's name.

I appreciate all you dear workers at the Print Shop. I appreciate your great sacrifice and hard labor for God to keep the Print Shop open. Do keep encouraged. Keep looking up, for "heaven will surely be worth it all."

I would like to report a trip we made last fall when we visited several isolated saints.

We appreciated Bro. Robert Sherman who used His transportation to take Sis. Ruth Brown and myself around. Traveling through the country was beautiful. We took note of the wonderful handiwork of God. We can say with the poet, "How great thou art!"

We visited the saints in Tuscaloosa, and Northport, AL. We had a few nights meeting with Bro. H. P. Effinger and the saints. Bro. and Sis. David Shelton cared for us in their home. The Lord blessed the meeting. At the close of the meeting we ministered the Ordinance Service. When the brothers separated themselves from the sisters for the feet washing, one of the young sisters had a little son, Larry, who is 4 years old. She told him to go with the brothers. He didn't want to go and he began to cry. We advised the mother, "Oh, let him stay with us. He is just a child." During this time there was such a heavenly and holy conviction in the service. Three souls came to the altar to be saved. When we finished praying with these souls little Larry was standing by the altar. We asked him what he wanted. He said, "I want to be saved." He humbled his little heart, knelt down and prayed, asking the Lord to save his soul. The Lord saved him. Praise the Lord! He got up from the altar and went to where the brothers were and told them, "I went to the altar and got saved. Now I want my feet washed!"

It was encouraging to hear Bro. Effinger testify that he was still saved and standing for the truth. He stated his desire to attend some of the camp meetings and revivals.

We left AL and went to Burnsville, NC to visit the saints there. We stopped in the home of Bro. and Sis. David Lottahall and had a good

service there. The Lord met us there and richly anointed the service. It was so good to be with Bro. and Sis. Lawrence Burlston and others, and to hear their encouraging testimonies. They desire the Lord to send them a minister to feed the flock.

We would like to say to ministers that do not have a pastoral duty, or any other divine call, it would be good to do as Paul and ask the Lord, "What would you have me do?" The harvest is ripe. There is a great need in the work of the Lord. Review your consecration and hasten to the harvest field.

In the month of November the Lord burdened our heart to go to Enid, OK for a few night's meeting. It was a glorious meeting. The dear Lord was so near and dear. We felt His presence in each service. The saints were attentive in all the meeting. It seemed we were drawn closer to each other and the Lord! Praise the Lord! I surely enjoyed being in the home of Bro. and Sis. Leslie Busbee.

On December 4th we took our leave to go to Bakersfield, CA to attend Sis. Mable Carter's funeral. A few days after the funeral, I became seriously ill and suffered greatly. One time the pain was so severe I told the saints, "I've searched my life. I am ready to go or ready to stay. I'm submitted to the will of the Lord. If the Lord would have me to stay (that is live), my desire is that He would remove this sharp pain." The ministers and saints gathered around my bed in a special agreement of prayer that God would remove the sharp pain. Praise God He removed the pain while they were praying! This was a miracle. The Lord blessed me and gave me strength to return home.

I want to thank all the saints for praying for me. It was quite a battle, but Jesus fought it through! Thank the Lord!

I appreciate the ministers and saints that left their homes to come over the miles to help care for me, and for your lovely gifts of flowers, cards, phone calls, love offerings, food and especially your prayers and words of encouragement.

I desire your continued prayers that I'll be faithful to God.

Yours in His great name,

—Katherine Williams

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OK—Dear Sister Pruitt and saints of God: To God be the glory. We cannot thank Him enough for His love, mercy and compassion to us. Thank the Lord, He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

"This poor man cried and the Lord heard him. . . ." Psalm 34:6.

Around ten years ago (1978), the hearing in my right ear began to fail. Hardly any hearing was left in later years. In September of 1988, I had a terrible head and earache on the right side, day and night, for more than a week. The saints anointed, prayed for me, and the Lord healed.

Several weeks later in October while talking on the telephone, I realized I could hear well. My right ear was miraculously healed and I do not know when. The glory and honor is all God's.

"For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard." Psalm 22:24.

Thank God for the saint's prayers and His many blessings to us.

Please continue to pray that this vessel be more humble, and remain true and faithful to God until the end.

Your sister in Christ, —Ruth M. Brown

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MO—Dear saints: I would like to use this means to express my appreciation to the Lord for His many blessings to me and my family.

In January the children and Terry were very sick and I was going to church by myself when I was involved in a car accident. God was so good to me and spared me from being seriously injured and I am very grateful. The Lord is near in the hard times of life as well as when things are going well.

I want all my days to be used of God and be found ready when He calls for me. I want to encourage all of God's people to keep holding on to Jesus and not let anything make us lose our hold on Him. Heaven really will be worth any price we have to pay to get there.

In Christian love, —Nancy Allen

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OK—Dear saints: I am very thankful that the Lord has had mercy on me and touched my body.

The last of January I contacted what was apparently a flu virus. I seemed to recover and went back to work. After four days of work, I took a backset. Several thought it went into walking pneumonia. With the flu and this other I ran a temperature nearly the whole month of February. There was pain in my lungs and I would have hard coughing spells. Through it all I lost about 30 pounds. The Lord has taken care of all these problems. How we praise His name.

We also thank the Lord for keeping Anita from contacting the flu. That is just as much a miracle as my healing. We surely want to give

the praise to whom it is due. Thank the Lord.

I also thank the Lord for being reared in a saint home. When you have been taught to have faith in the Lord and have seen the life lived before you, it makes it possible for your faith to grasp God's promises more easily.

We certainly thank each one that has been praying for us, for their many phone calls and cards with notes of encouragement and support. I have never felt the love of the saints so keenly in all my life. Their love is precious to us.

Christian love,—Daniel and Anita Adams

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From the Philippines . . .

March 9—Dear Brother Murphey: I have just arrived from Manila and I would say that it is very encouraging to preach the gospel there. More and more people are becoming interested to hear the truth. We have many schedules of Bible study in different districts of metro Manila. Oh, the harvest is really plenteous, but the laborers are few! Metro Manila is thickly populated. I was informed that there are now 12 million people here. It is sad to say that many of these people are living in deep poverty, but worst of all is their poor spiritual condition. It seems they are neglected people with no one to care for them. They are living in awful darkness with no direction in life. I am truly burdened as I see their sad condition, and I don't know if I can continue the gospel work in Manila because of financial problems. It is really very expensive to live in a big city, especially for my transportation.

When I was in Manila, false teachers took their opportunity to deceive the saints in Nueva Eoiija. One sect held their gospel meetings in Caridad, near our chapel there. Many people there are being confused because of their cleverness to twist the truth. This sect does not believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is God, but was only a man. They said the Church of God is false. Every time they preached in public they challenged the saints for a debate. When I arrived from Manila the brothers immediately came to me and informed me about their challenge. I told them I did not want to debate. The other day they came again and told me that some of the brothers are being confused, because their ministers said that I am afraid to face them in a debate because I could not prove that the Church of God is the true Church, so I accepted their challenge. I am now waiting for their decision so that we can make the schedule of the debate, and get permission from the town mayor. I do not want a debate, but I must do it.

After the debate, I am planning to hold gospel meetings in Palistina. Some people are desiring to be baptized, but they need more enlightenment. After that, I need to go to Manila to continue our Bible study meetings there. We need a larger place to meet for worship in Manila because of increasing attendance. Please continue to pray for us.

Your brother, —Matias S. Tanguan

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From India . . .

Feb. 27—Dear Sister Maybelle, Bro. Wayne Murphey, each dear one in the Print Shop and the dear saints scattered abroad in America: Greetings to you dear ones again in the marvelous name of Jesus Christ. May God bless each donor for the work in India. I am especially thankful to the brother who gave the money to print our paper in the Tamil language for eleven months. It will take more than one month to get it started. We thank God as He heard our prayers and opened the way miraculously.

Since our General Convention, we have had a few local conventions and will have some more till the end of April. Many are being saved in these meetings. . . .

We have not had rain here for four months, and we will have to wait for another two months before we get any. It is real dry and hot here now.

With prayers and many thanks,

—John Varghese

INDIA NEEDS

Though we are indeed a small congregation, we were further burdened for the work in India after having visited with Bro. John Varghese during the camp meeting in West Virginia this past summer. Bro. Jerry Gossard felt led to go to India in January for their National Convention. As Bro. John indicated when he came here, Bro. Jerry verified that it is not an easy trip due to the long layovers and change in time, along with the difference in foods. We can appreciate those who make the effort to go. Bro. Jerry has shared with us the events of the meetings and the hardships the populace there endures. Those dear souls sit on leaves on the ground, eat off of banana leaves and have only a tabernacle of poles and thatched coconut leaves, which is not waterproof. Still, under these adverse conditions, many people come to hear the gospel. They do not have automobiles to travel by either. Bro. John has one Jeep which is getting old. He sent a list of needs with Bro. Jerry which is shared with you here.

1. A permanent tabernacle to conduct the General Convention every year. Now we build a temporary tabernacle, which we call "panpal," every year with coconut poles and coconut leaves. We cannot conduct meetings if it rains. Three thousand dollars (\$3000) is needed to build a permanent one with concrete poles and thatched with abestos sheets.
2. Monthly support for 20 ministers. (Bro. John told us when he was here that their ministers have no other job. They are like our evangelists. With no vehicles for travel, it takes a lot of time going from home to home or meeting to meeting.)
3. Seventy-five (\$75) per month to print and publish our monthly paper, *Evening Light*, in Malayalam language.

While we have many needs and burdens in our own congregations and throughout our own country, I am sure many will feel that we could do without a lot of things and put aside that money for the Lord's work, be it here or abroad. We may not all be able to go, but we challenge us all to support the Lord's true saints wherever they may be. Purpose in your hearts to set aside each week, month, etc., a certain amount for missions just as you would pay any bill, for we owe it to God to be a cheerful giver.

We pray God's encouragement and blessings to all.

—Duncannon Church of God congregation

[Editor's note: Faith Publishing House sends an offering to Bro. John Varghese on a monthly basis, as well as to other native workers in different countries. If you would like for us to forward your offerings to Bro. John, or to someone in another country, we would be glad to do so. We would like to make you aware of the fact that it is against the laws of India to send foreign currency in cash into that country. If you do so, there is a good chance that it will be confiscated. If you send an offering to Bro. John, be sure to send it in a check.]

In Memoriam

Grace Ellen Roberts was born March 12, 1909 in West Plains, MO, to Mr. and Mrs. Will Barton, and died Monday, February 27, 1989 at home, at the age of 79 years, 11 months, and 15 days. Grace was a homemaker and had lived in Bristow 22 years. She was a member of the Church of God.

Grace is survived by her husband, Leonard, of the home; her children, Betty Lou Hensley of Claremore, OK, David Roberts of Claremore, OK, Joan Haven of Chetopa, KS, Patsy Madden of Bristow, OK, Sally Cole of Claremore, OK, Linda Powers of Catoosa, OK and Sonny Roberts of Bristow, OK; 4 brothers, Frank Barton of Kirbyville, TX, Raymond Barton of Sand Springs, OK, Dean Barton and Donald Barton of Tulsa, OK; 4 sisters, Ruby Osborn of Wagoner, OK, Mary Crowell of California, Dorothy Gamble of Webb City, MO, and Ruth Dotson of California; 30 grandchildren; 31 great grandchildren, and 4 great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by one son, Sammy Roberts.

Funeral services were officiated by Bros. Richard Madden and Don McIntosh in the Church of God chapel, Sapulpa, OK. Interment was in the Memorial Park Cemetery, Tulsa, OK.

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Betty Jean Brooks was born April 26, 1926 at San Bernardino, CA, and departed this life February 28, 1989 at Fontana, CA, at the age of 62 years.

She is survived by her husband, Albert; one son, Clifford Smith of Salem, OR; one brother, Warren Coke of San Bernardino, CA; three grandchildren, Julie, Rodney and Michael Smith of Salem, OR; other relatives and many friends.

Betty's family moved to Pomona when she was 10 years old. She attended schools in Pomona, graduating from Pomona High School.

On June 25, 1942, she was united in marriage to Harland Herbert Smith. He preceded her in death in 1968.

Throughout her entire life, Betty loved all living things around her. She was a totally unselfish individual who could sense a friend in need. She frequently would make many personal sacrifices to help others.

Funeral services were held March 4, 1989 in Pomona, CA, with Bro. Charles Elwell officiating. Interment was in the La Verne Cemetery, La Verne, CA.

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Edith Mamie (Queen) Logsdon was born April 23, 1903 in Springfield, MO, and passed away March 2, 1989 in Tulsa, OK, at the age of 82 years, 8 months and 9 days. She was housewife and loving mother, also a member of the Church of God.

She is survived by one daughter, Louise Nevel, Tulsa, OK; one son, Homer Barnett, Tulsa, OK; eight grandsons, six granddaughters, several great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two daughters,

Sdella and Lovella, and her husband, Claude Barnett.

Funeral services and burial took place in Tulsa, OK. Bro. Richard C. Madden officiated.

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Lewis Edward Williams was born April 4, 1912 in Dover, OK, to Green Francis Williams and Daisy Viola (Scott) Williams, and was called home on March 17, 1989 in Wichita, KS.

He lived in Dover the first 10 years of his life and started into school there. He then lived in Omaha, NE, for about 4 years but returned to Dover and grew to manhood there. He married Jimmie Evans in 1932 and they started life together in Dover but then moved to Hennessey, OK, where they lived until 1950 when they moved to Wichita, KS. After 40 years together, Jimmie passed away in 1973. Lewis later married Cornelia Ragsdale and they enjoyed 15 years together until his death.

While in his twenties, he was converted while down on the bank of a river on a fishing trip, thereby becoming a member of the Church of God. He embraced the truth and became a real enthusiastic Christian, going right on until death. God called him to the ministry and he preached the gospel for over 40 years. He had a real burden for souls and wanted to see everyone get saved.

His first position as pastor was at Okeene, OK, which he held for about two years. The Lord then led him to Wichita, KS, where he literally built a church building with the help of the few saints there at that time. He pastored the Wichita congregation for 34 years until bad health overtook him. While pastoring in Wichita, he also pastored the congregation at Tulsa, OK, for about 10 years. He drove the 360 mile round trip from Wichita once or twice a month.

He was a happy saint and noted for his joy in the Lord and oft repeated statement, "There's a message in every song." He loved the Lord and the truth and stood tall for God. He will be long remembered for his happy smile, his willingness to do what his hands found to do with all of his might and for the way he enjoyed the services of God. He was known, loved and respected by many over the nation and will be greatly missed by all.

He leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife, Cornelia; his sister, Marie House and brother-in law, Taft, of Dover, OK; a host of nieces, nephews, saints and friends.

Funeral services were held in the Wichita, KS chapel and officiated by Bros. Calvin Hobbs and Keith Marsh. Interment was in Highland Cemetery, Wichita, KS.

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Blessings in Trials

Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. (Isaiah 53:3). He did not condescend from heaven to frown at the poor and discourage the weak, but He uplifted the oppressed. The Spirit of God, the Comforter, does the same work today. (John 14:26). It encourages to do the right. It strengthens the weak and it draws souls unto God. Those souls born of the Spirit will have the same desire and will work in the same manner. Dissolving identity for God's form of grace, a child of God will attract souls unto God.

Often it is through trials that souls are brought closer unto God. A trial is the time of adversity. King David wrote: "I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities;" Psalm 31:7. So it is, God knows when a trial is afflicting a soul of His, and He cares about that soul. He does not forsake a soul in time of trouble, but He reaches out in mercy. Jesus did so. Jesus still does and the Holy Spirit teaches us to do the same.

The heaviness of the trial may dim the eyes with tears. The devil may pounce and accuse, sinking the heart deeper and deeper into grief. His common lie is: "The Lord has forsaken you now!" But no, it is during the time of trouble when the Lord actually draws souls closer unto Him. If the sorrow of the trial seems too heavy, then look again into God's Word and see His love and mercy.

Last summer and autumn, we were facing a trying time. Our seventh child was to be born at home in January. Our house is cold-natured in the winter, and I was praying and seeking the Lord to give us a warmer winter. My husband, Dwane, put another heater in our bedroom, but still I knew if the winter was as cold as usual, that room would not be warm enough. However, the Lord took care of us. Praise His holy name! He sent us an unusually warm January for Oklahoma. We had record making warm weather in the 80 degree mark right when our healthy son was born. Jonquils bloomed by the side of the house and in my heart a song was singing. The heavy burden, the hard trial I faced seemed to melt away. If God be for us, who (or what) can be against us? Even the sea, wind and weather obey His voice.

Sometimes right in the midst of the trial we become fearful and forget the power of God like the disciples who were in the ship during the storm. They awoke the Saviour and asked Him, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" The Saviour spoke to the storm, "Peace, be still," and He let the disciples know He was caring

for them. (Mark 4:36-41). After the storm and trial had ended, they realized the power of God. "What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry, Everything to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry, Ev'rything to God in prayer."

One Monday evening, when our baby was three weeks old, I was very tired, Dwane was working late, the children were extra active and the baby seemed more fussy than normal. Finally, I slipped away to our bedroom for a word of prayer. I prayed for more patience for me and for the children. The Lord did bless that evening.

Then the next day, our oldest son broke his leg (thigh bone) playing at school. It was a bad spiral, twisted break. I was appalled and grieved. Why did the Lord allow this to happen? It is hard for a ten-year-old boy to stay in bed for a long period of time, not to mention our concern for his leg to heal properly. I had planned to sew summer clothes for the girls and we had wanted to put in another garden this year, but now with extra care for Lyndall, the time would not be available for these things. Why did the Lord allow this to happen?

Calmly, quietly, the Lord's voice spoke to the storm raging in my mind. "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." James 1:2, 3. I had prayed for patience and now a new trial was going to teach me more about it.

One dark day in the trial, the Lord gave me this Scripture: "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." II Corinthians 4:17, 18. This light affliction was but for a moment compared to eternity. All earthly afflictions are but for a moment. And what is the weight of glory? The broken leg (the affliction, the trial) was definitely a weight, but a weight of glory? The broken leg can be seen (temporal) but the eternal work of endurance, patience, etc., cannot be seen with the natural eye.

Through hard trials more is learned about God's law of reproof and about His way of comfort. The Apostle Paul wrote in II Corinthians 1:3, 4, "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of ALL comfort; Who comforteth us in ALL our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are com-

forted of God." Comfort is written five times in this short passage of Scripture. God is the God of ALL comfort who comforts in ALL our tribulations.

The Devil would not like for a soul to feel any comfort during a trial. He wants to multiply grief and eventually sink that soul into hell by whispering lies of self-pity, "No one has ever had it this bad!" or shouting lies of rejection, "God has forsaken you now!" or hinting lies of gossip, "Nobody cares about you at all," or mocking lies of self-defeat, "You will not succeed—you are hopeless!" The Devil works in the depression of a trial and he makes it darker.

By the Holy Spirit, the Lord may reprove and teach through a trial, but He will comfort and strengthen the soul as He works. Blessed be God! As long as we obey only His voice in the midst of the trial then there is victory whether the trial be of short or long duration.

Life has trials and troubles and sometimes a trial comes "that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." When we read the Word of God, we read of the trials, tears and troubles of God's people; we read of their courage and weakness; and we read of their success, joy and victory. The Lord has used these individual's lives for hundreds of years to bless, enrich and encourage other Christians. The Lord does not want His people to live to themselves because in reaching out to others, there are blessings for both sides. There is help and strength in the comforting of others.

Above all, Jesus knows when one of His children faces a trial and He is the best one to carry troubles to in prayer. Then His Holy Spirit, God's witness within the soul, guides, corrects and comforts during any prevailing circumstance. His goal for each soul is that they will be in heaven with Him someday. That was what Jesus' troubles and trials were all about—to set an earthly example that was heaven-bound. Jesus gave His life for others, and He arose in victory.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

The Image To The Beast

(Continued from page 2)

to that! And again, "I will give you letters, all properly sealed, by which even the sins that you intend to commit may be pardoned." By "letters properly sealed," did he mean sealed like in an envelope? No, people of authority usually wore a ring which was symbolic of their office and their letters or documents were sealed by pressing that ring into a blob of melted wax applied at the appropriate place to seal that item. Again he said, "Let him [a parishioner]

for the body, it was physical. God told them not to eat of the "tree in the midst of the garden." This one was physical and spiritual. First, don't eat of the forbidden fruit (a physical action). God knew they would be affected **spiritually**. Which was most important? The spiritual part. Man-rule can affect people physically and spiritually. We find an example of that in what is in the church service and how long or short it is; who does or doesn't do certain things in the services, or, as mentioned before, where church workers live and for how long. This is a physical control of a person, but it can affect the spiritual also. A board's control of a church worker could cause spiritual discouragement of the worker and all whom he or she contacts. God does not approve of man-rule in church related matters.

A greater danger was presented when in the garden Satan beguiled Eve. Satan did not command her or "man-rule" her. He **reasoned** with her. Let me offer this thought. Homes and marriages are broken up when one spouse is beguiled. An example is that "harmless" friendship with the opposite sex; a "harmless" admiration of his or her smile; a "harmless" attraction to that personality, buoyant laugh, or bright outlook on life; that "harmless" lingering in the person's presence whenever possible; that "harmless" emotion so small at first and hidden deep within the breast. . . . It wants **so much** to respond to that basic need to be loved and appreciated. Did I say "harmless?" It is not harmless, not when it can bring such condemnation to at least one, maybe two or possibly many more! Oh, Lord, will you have mercy! The Holy Spirit will warn us: "Flee this thing! There is danger ahead! Run for your life!" But Satan says, "Ha! How can anything so innocent, simple and natural be **dangerous to you**? Go ahead, enjoy life. You won't get so involved you can't control yourself. No harm will be done."

Listen, you let emotions get involved, even to a small degree, and man's good reasoning and sound judgment fly to the wind. Satan knows that. He uses "reasoning," and emotions of the mind to introduce very small, subtle, deceptive wedges so that he can force upon us bondage and destroy us if possible. It takes the **power and mercy** of God and a willingness on our part for Him to do the work in order for us to be delivered. We are talking about something spiritual in nature, a power bent on the destruction of souls! Did you notice the word "power" there? Wasn't there a transfer of power from the dragon to the first beast and on to the second? We have examined **one phase** of this power. However it is manifested, it is bent on the destruction of men's souls!

(To be continued in next issue)



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"The boys who are conscientious objectors to military training and service and classified 1-0 by their draft boards, are required to perform two years of alternate service in work of 'national importance and public welfare,' such as hospitals and charitable institutions. At present a number of C. O. boys have volunteered and are doing their required work in the Kansas City area where they are privileged to worship with the saints of the Church of God in a nice place in the home of the pastor, Bro. Roy Harmon." —Editor

"There will be a work day for the purpose of general cleanup at the Monark Springs, MO Campgrounds. Bring rakes, shovels and willing hands to work. The grounds need to be rewired for electricity, a new stairway built for the women's dormitory, painting of buildings, a better public address system for the tabernacle and dining hall, and construction of a place to baptize on the spring-fed creek nearby."

"Bro. and Sis. Sam Abbott of KY, just closed a good and profitable meeting at Hammond of one week's duration, February 23 to March 1. Wonderful truths were brought out from His Word which was rich to the hungry soul. Praise His dear name! They left March 2 for a meeting in KY, we understand, and we pray God to make them a blessing there and wherever they go.

"I tell the saints here we should be fat and flourishing and grow up as calves of the stall as we've had so much good preaching down here. But alas! I fear some take all this for granted. But I'm sure many are profiting thereby." —Sis. Katherine Key