

FAITH AND VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



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Time And Chance To All

To every man a chance is given
 To gain th' immortal, heav'nly prize:
 An opportunity for heaven
 And endless mansions in the skies.

Too oft man whiles the time away,
 Not knowing of the dreadful cost;
 He wastes the precious hours of day
 Too soon to find His chance is lost.

Not to the skillful or the wise
 Is giv'n the gracious holy call;
 The chance to gain the heav'nly prize
 God offers now to one and all.

To some the chance may seem obscure
 And made available in stress,
 While others have their chance more sure
 Repeated oft, restricted less.

Each must His own great foes surmount
 And overcome what stands between;
 To gain access to Heaven's fount
 Takes courage great, decisions clean.

The gospel opens wide the door,
 And welcome to the soul is given
 To taste of life forevermore
 And gain celestial home in heaven.

But only when a purpose true
 Within the willing heart is made
 To take advantage, faith renew,
 Is gained the hope to never fade.

This chance to win the heav'nly crown
 Can be passed by so easily;
 The dull, gross, careless heart turns down
 The golden opportunity!

Take heed, my friend, along life's way
 To this, your chance to qualify
 For hope of life in that great day,
 And mansions bright beyond the sky!

—Leslie C. Busbee

From Rags To Riches

By Sid Souvey

"As a child I foolishly turned God away,
 Not knowing the heartaches sinners must face;
 But God, in His goodness, has let me return,
 To share with His children this lesson I've learned.

Sin will take you farther than you want to go,
 Slowly but surely taking control;
 Sin will leave you longer than you want to stay,
 Sin will cost you far more than you want to pay."

I am a living testimony to the words of this song. Having been in the country's second best high school, with an almost certain guarantee of a college scholarship, I never dreamed that I would spend over a year in mental institutions. Nor could I imagine that I would finally end up a tramp on skid row. If you get nothing else from this testimony, I pray that you shall realize this fact: the devil is real and sin is real. Neither one is something with which to be played. The scars of sin are many, and they run very deep. Hell is a terrible place to have to live in eternity. The pleasures of sin are but for a moment, and then comes eternity. Oh soul, do not allow a bad attitude, a fleshly pleasure, or someone else's influence or shortcomings to keep you from heaven. If you are in the valley of decision, then as you read this, please note that the way of the sinner is hard, but the gift of God is eternal life, peace and joy through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Rom. 6:23).

About four years ago I "came to myself," and found myself in a desolate state on skid row in Los Angeles. I had squandered my substance on riotous living. I would, like the prodigal son, have gladly eaten carob husks. Since then, the Lord has saved my soul and made me a "child of

the King." He has also given me a complete healing of the mind. Even as God worked a double miracle for the lame man at the gate Beautiful, so He did for me, in healing my mind and teaching me how to act and think like a healthy man. In three years God has taught me much that I should have been taught in my first seventeen years, but wasn't, and every day He is teaching me something new. I thank God for this. Perhaps you have seen men sleeping on

them and your spouse. Hatred is a terrible thing to grow up around and with. The scars run deeper than you could possibly guess.

I was five years old when my father divorced my step-mother, and from that time until his death seventeen years later, he never told me he loved me. He hugged me only twice, both times at my lawyer's request, but could not say, "I love you." He never kissed me. He often called me stupid, klutz, dumb kid, and told me tha^t I

"I was five years old when my father divorced my step-mother, and from that time until his death seventeen years later, he never told me he loved me."

the streets and wondered how anyone could allow himself to get into such a state. Here I shall tell how I came to be in such a condition in the hope that someone will take heed and avoid the snare of the enemy. Perhaps there are those who are depressed, lonely, and wondering if there is any hope, or reason to live. I pray this testimony will be an encouragement to all who read it, and will inspire each one to live for God all the days of their life.

I had a miserable childhood. Separated from my mother at about two years of age, I went to live with my father. My father had never married my mother, but had had two children by her. My sister, who was my father's idol, died at the age of three. After that I became a burden to my father, an unwanted load of responsibility. He married my step-mother shortly after separating from my mother. They were married for one year, which was the happiest year of my childhood that I can remember. When they were divorced I went to live with my step-mother, as my father did not want the burden of caring for me. I hated not being with either of my parents, and aspired to kill my step-mother. One day, after I had been with her for about a year, my grandmother overheard me planning to stab my step-mother in her sleep. I was then sent to spend the summer (1972) with cousins in Colorado. Meanwhile, my grandmother talked my father into taking responsibility for my care. When I returned to Ohio my father, who had picked up a new girlfriend, took her, her son, and me to live in Pinebluff, NC. If you have parents who are still married and still together, who have raised you with love and affection, then count yourself very blessed. The effects of an unstable home are deep and lasting, and very painful. If you have children, be loving to

would never amount to a hill of beans. He beat me often, and forced me to carry an unreasonable work load. When he beat me, he used his belt (or a section of hose, which left less marks), and would, depending on how much I squirmed and cried, either beat me on my buttocks and back sixty-four licks, or until he was too tired to beat me any more. Many times the beatings would last for one or two hours, as often as twice a day. We owned an acre of land, and I had to mow and rake it weekly, and dig out a basement he wanted under the house. In the summer and on weekends, I often worked from sunup to sundown. I remember once I was raking the yard at about 9:00 p.m., and got sick and vomited on myself. I went inside and showed my dad, and he told me I was not sick at all, but just did not want to work, and sent me back out to work more. I worked until midnight that night. I also had the chore of doing dishes after meals. If my father inspected the dishes and found one dirty, he made me take out all the dishes, pots, pans, glasses, silverware, bowls, etc. and wash every dish in the house. (By hand of course.) The purpose of this was not necessarily to get the dishes clean, but to show who was in charge. There was a constant power struggle. My father did all he could to try to dominate me. I in turn would retaliate in any way I could, and so there was always a sense of friction and fear in the air. I obeyed him through fear and not love. On many nights I stood outside his bedroom door, knife in hand, with every intention of killing him. Only the fear of possible failure and of being caught kept me from killing him. He greatly neglected me. He did not teach me or train me in personal or social manners. I did not learn to brush my teeth, and I took baths only weekly or biweekly

as I chose. I was not taught habits of grooming or cleanliness. If he became frustrated or bothered about anything, he would either beat me or send me to my room. I spent countless hours in my room reading books and playing with my few toys. My father did not allow very much interaction with neighborhood children or outside contact. He wanted me wrapped up in "his world." He discouraged me from going to church, teaching me that church was only for weak people, and was bad for me. Twice, because he disagreed with the public school's teachings, he took me out of school for three and four weeks, and had me do all of my book work at home. Because of my lack of training and role models, I made few friends. I was mostly a loner, and an outcast. The other children picked on me a lot, and considered me a misfit. I grew up in a world full of hatred and coldness and little self-esteem. The world constantly said I did not belong in it. I was not wanted by anyone anywhere. I grew to hate all authority (representing my father) and work. If people tried to show me love, I pushed them away. I put up many barriers between me and the world to keep from being hurt any more.

Two years after moving to Pinebluff my father broke up with his girlfriend, and for the next two years, he had a number of live-ins. After being in Pinebluff for four years, my father met another girlfriend named Jeannie, with whom he lived until his death ten years later. She had a one-year-old son, Michael. My father soon began abusing Michael as well as me.

We moved to Aberdeen, NC when I was thirteen. One afternoon shortly after, he was beating me in the shed, when one of the neighbors got tired of hearing my screams and called

six more months. During this time he switched from physical abuse to mental abuse. He would make me stand in a corner for six or seven hours at a time. He would have me to stand rigidly in a position of attention for four hours at a time. He worked me harder than before, and did not feed me as often. He claimed that all of this was "for my good." He would sometimes beat my head into the wall, careful not to leave many marks. Finally, I could not stand it any more, and took him back to court for mental child abuse. This time, he did not even bother going to court, so I was placed in the custody of the Department of Social Services.

I spent the next two or three years drifting between foster and group homes. I did not spend much time in each, as my rebellious attitudes were more than most people could handle. I professed to get saved during this time, in a Baptist church, but because I did not know one could live above sin, I did not stay saved for very long. I started smoking near my sixteenth birthday, mostly because my father always had smoked, while forbidding me to. It was a "spite move" which I regret ever having done. Six months later I was accepted into the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. This was the second best high school in the nation (second only to the New York School of Arts), and 98% of the students who graduated from there obtained college scholarships, many of which were in ivy-league colleges. I had always been unusually gifted intellectually, and was looking forward to a bright future. I never dreamed then that I would end up on skid row. I had no idea that the next three years would take me so low.

The pace of education at the N.C.S.S.M. was about five times faster than at the regular pub-

"I started smoking near my sixteenth birthday, mostly because my father always had smoked, while forbidding me to. It was a "spite move" which I regret ever having done."

the police. When he was finished an hour later, the police were there. We went to court for about three months to determine my custody. At about this time my father began to seriously take up witchcraft and sorcery. He claimed to have much "spiritual power," and claimed to have out-of-body experiences at will. He tried hard to make up with me, and to tell me he was sorry (something he never could come right out and say, though). I went back to stay with him for

lic schools, and my grades began to drop. I had never had to learn study habits or discipline myself to study, as learning had always come easily to me, since I had somewhat of a photographic memory.

Likewise, at about this time, I fell in love with a fellow student by the name of Sherry. Because of my lack of love in childhood, I had built up many barriers to prevent my being

(continued on page 15)

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, OK 73044 (USPS184-660).

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single copy, one year.....\$1.00
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 Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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

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

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

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

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

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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EDITORIALS

"For my own part, I live every day as if this were the first day I had ever seen and the last I were going to see." These are the words penned by the author William Phelps. It is a thought worth considering as we stand on the threshold of the 1990's.

The past year has brought many changes and more worldwide governmental upheavals since perhaps World War II. Where do we as individuals striving to live for the Lord fit in this era of time, and how do we cope with change in the future? We would do well to observe the signs of the times, however, if we hope to render effective service for God and live a life acceptable before Him, we must learn the secret of focusing our lives on one day at a time. Those who have a fear of heights, when required to ascend to lofty places would do well to always keep their eyes right where they are at. To look down strikes fear, and to look up brings dizziness. God can give us the sustaining grace to overcome every circumstance we meet, but to burden ourselves with the wonderment of the future and the discouragements of the past is enough to depress the stoutest of hearts and stanch the flow of God's abundant help.

A verse of poetry says, "One song leads to another, One friend to another friend, So I'll travel along with a friend and a song." Let us face the future realizing that good things can follow each other, one victory after another, and that God is the One who can make it happen.

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On Dec. 17, Sis. Ruby Stover passed from this life to her eternal reward. Sis. Stover touched many lives as she helped her husband, the late Bro. Ira Stover, labor in the ministry.

Several years ago Sis. Stover wrote a book entitled *Life's Golden Gleanings*, recording her experiences of childhood as well as her years in the gospel work. Her book is available at this office.

If you would like to send a word of condolence to the family, you may do so by sending it to her son, Bro. Bob Stover, 6304 S. 97th West Avenue, Sapulpa, OK 74066.

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

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Aunt Maybelle Pruitt took cold in November and has been unable to overcome its effects. She

is quite weak and unable to come to the office to work. She appreciates all those who have been praying for her and covets a continued interest in your prayers.

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We are completely out of 1990 calendars. We are sorry for any inconvenience to those who have sent orders we were unable to fill.

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Bound volumes of the 11 issues of the *Faith and Victory* paper for the year of 1989 are now available for purchase. The price is \$1.00 per book, plus \$1.25 for postage and handling. Also in stock are 1989 *Beautiful Way* books for Juniors (52 papers for the year) at \$1.00 each, plus 90¢ for postage and handling.

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This January paper is going to press several days early which accounts for the lack of foreign reports and other material which would have otherwise been included.

—Wayne Murphey

Partial List of Items Available

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

Beyond the Tomb by H. M. Riggle. This excellent book of 288 pages deals with man, his present and future, in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00 each.

Christian Baptism, Feet Washing, and the Lord's Supper by H. M. Riggle. This excellent doctrinal book on the three ordinances of the New Testament contains 264 pages in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00 each.

The Christian Church: Its Rise and Progress by H. M. Riggle. Bound in a cloth cover, 488 pages. Price, \$6.00.

Evening Light Songs, shaped notes, with 536 pages in a cloth binding. The right hymnal for the Church of God. Price, \$6.50 each. A 10% discount is granted on orders of 12 copies or more placed at one time.

Birth of a Reformation—Life and Labors of D. S. Warner by A. L. Byers. A reprint with additional pictures of pioneer ministers. Cloth bound, 496 pages. Price, \$6.00 each.

Egermeier's Favorite Bible Stories. Thirty favorite stories with pictures for small children. Cloth bound, 128 pages. Size: 6¼ x 9½. Price, \$8.95.

What the Bible Teaches by F. G. Smith. A reprint of the original 1914 edition, containing 576 pages in cloth binding. This is a book that should be in every home. Price, \$6.00 each.

Holy Spirit Baptism and the Second Cleansing by R. R. Byrum. Consists of 108 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00 each.

A Religious Controversy by C. E. Orr. An 80 page, paper bound book presenting truths in an interesting manner. Price, \$1.00 each.

Guided by the Unseen Hand by Murphy Allen. An 84 page book bound in a heavy paper cover relating many experiences and inspiring answers to prayer centering around the 44 years of Bro. Allen's ministry. Price, \$1.00.

The Redemption of Howard Gray by Charles Naylor. True experience of a young man seeking and finding the truth of God's Word. Paper bound. 72 pages. Price, \$1.00

Food for Lambs by C. E. Orr. The English version contains 168 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.00. Also available in the German language and contains 127 pages. Price, \$2.00.

Harry the Newsboy and Other Stories by Isabel Byrum. 32 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, 50¢.

Tim and His Lamp re-written by Fern Stubblefield. This excellent booklet of 52 pages for children and young people is bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 75¢.

Heart Talks by C. W. Naylor. Consists of 59 chapters with a different subject treated in each chapter. It contains 280 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$3.00.

St. Paul and His Gospel by G. P. Tasker who was an early-day minister and missionary of the Church of God Reformation. This inspiring book contains 88 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50 each.

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

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

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

Must We Sin? by D. S. Warner. This 24 page booklet records the supposed conversation between Bro. Light and Bro. Foggy on the sin question. Price, 50¢.

Bible Readings for Bible Students and for the Home and Fireside compiled by S. L. Speck and H. M. Riggle. Originally published in 1902, this excellent volume contains 432 pages of Scripture references and comments on many Bible subjects. Nice cloth cover. Price, \$6.00 each.

Personal Experiences of S. O. Susag was written by himself, a Norwegian who had many marvelous experiences and answers to prayer as an early-day minister in the Church of God. 192 pages are bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.50 each.

Emma Bailey Seeks Truth by Mabel Hale. True experiences in "Pentecostalism". Paper bound, 24 pages. Price, 50¢.

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

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

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

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

How John Became A Man by Isabel Byrum. Life story of a motherless boy, especially good for children and young people. Paper bound, 64 pages. Price, 75¢.

The Cleansing of the Sanctuary by D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggle. Reprinted verbatim in 541 pages, cloth binding. Price, \$6.00 each.

Rays of Hope by D. O. Teasley. Encouragement to those accused by the devil. 95 pages in heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00.

A Saloonkeeper's Daughter Saved was written by Bertha Mackey. This 16 page pamphlet is an inspiring, true story. Price, 25¢.

Remember Now Thy Creator, 16 page booklet of a sermon by Ostis B. Wilson, directed especially to young people. Price, 25¢ each.

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

Paula, the Waldensian by Eva Lecomte. A 175 page book relating the touching story of a young girl who went to live with her uncle who was opposed to even the mention of God. Bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.50 each.

Little People Sing Unto The Lord. A songbook composed of 115 songs compiled by Patricia Bell. Although the songs are especially for children, they are favorites that any age would enjoy. Bound in a heavy paper cover, the price is \$2.00 each.

Write for a complete list of other excellent books in stock at this office and ready for prompt delivery.

For postage and handling, add 90¢ for the first dollar and 9¢ for each additional dollar of total order.

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"How heavenly to launch out upon the stream of time and say in our hearts, 'Lord, direct my bark of life whithersoever Thou wilt. All is in Thy hands. I am fully Thine. Cause my bark to turn at the slightest pressure of Thy will. Thy will is my life; my only pleasure is in doing it.' "

—Selected

Prayer Requests

OH—"Pray for my eyes and my right arm; also for my loved ones." —Essie Abbott

GA—"Months ago I had a fall. Please pray for my complete healing." —Mary M. Dorsey

OK—"Please pray for me, I am not well. Also remember my oldest son."

—Sis. Sylvia Abbott

LA—"Please pray for us here at Monroe, LA." —N. P. Futch

OK—Sis. Tillman, of the Green Pastures congregation, has problems with dizziness, as well as other burdens to bear, and desires the prayers of the saints.

MO—"Pray for me. I have high blood pressure." —Laura Jarvis

OH—"Please remember my husband in prayer; he has hardening of the arteries and his mind is confused." —Jesse Garrett

HONDURAS TRIP TEMPORARILY POSTPONED

Bro. Louis Kimble was scheduled to leave on Nov. 29 for Honduras, C. A., but due to political unrest in that country the trip had to be postponed until Jan. 6 or later. There will be more definite plans announced in the paper at a later date.

From The Mailbox . . .

CA—Sis. Maybelle Pruitt and all the workers at the Print Shop: Greetings of love and prayers to the *Faith and Victory* Publishing House. . . . Keep my *Faith and Victory* coming to me. It means so much to me.

All who know the worth of prayer, do remember your 91-year-old mother in Christ. I am saved, sanctified and happy with the dealings of the Lord.

—Sis. Flora B. Davis

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MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings of holy Christian love in Jesus' precious name, the name that brings us salvation. I trust all is going well with all of you there at the Print Shop.

We are doing pretty well and are encouraged in the Lord. The Lord is very good to us and to them that serve Him. I am trying to serve the Lord with a perfect and obedient heart. Pray for me that I will know how to serve in an acceptable way. . . .

I don't know of any work that is so rewarding as the gospel work. We get to enjoy the good things of God here in this present life and then the promise of eternal life with God and the

redeemed of all ages, besides meeting and seeing all the saints of old. I believe there will be a special enjoyment of seeing those whom we have helped to win the crown. I want to be faithful.

Your brother in Christ, —T. V. McMillian

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CA—Dear saints: Greetings of love to all at the Print Shop. My, how time flies by so fast. Another Christmas is here and we wish you a "Merry Christmas."

We are well and very happy. This year we went through a trial, but the Lord was with us to bring us through. Through this trial Elmer, my husband of 65 years, came back to Jesus. Praise the Lord.

I am saved and living for the Lord, also helping as much as I can at the convalescent home.

My health is good at 86 and I have my driver's license for another 4 years.

Pray for us that we will be found faithful in every way to Him who has been good to us all our lifetime.

We have enjoyed the *Faith and Victory* over the many years and read it over and over. Thanks for all your prayers.—Lucille S. Allen

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OK—Dear saints at Faith Publishing House: Thank you for sending me the *Faith and Victory* paper. I thank the Lord for it as it is needful to keep in touch and pass the good news on of what God is doing for each one who is trusting in Him. I could not live without God. He is my joy, peace and strength from day to day. His Word is my shield and buckler, holding me fast. Glory be to God, I shall not be moved.

Pray for me as I also pray for you and the Church of God everywhere.

Love, —Sister Julia Llewellyn

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CA—Dear friend: What a blessing I have gotten from the *Faith and Victory*. I am grateful to the one who had it sent to me. I also thank Sister Carol Cole for the article "The Music Of His Name." It certainly has blessed my soul.

My desire is to serve God and be a blessing to humanity.

A friend and sister in Christ,
—Gladys Newberry

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LA—Dear workers at the Print Shop and saints everywhere: Greetings in the name of Jesus, the One who is so good to all people. We love Him because He first loved us and made it

possible for us to have joy, peace and happiness in this life, and then a home in heaven when this life is over.

I want to let you know how I do appreciate and enjoy reading the little *Faith and Victory* paper. It is like getting a letter from the loved ones of our family. I am acquainted with many of the writers of articles and testimonies, and I love all my brothers and sisters in the Lord, those of all races. Everyone who comes into the world has a soul, and I will the eternal death of none. Jesus made it possible for all to be saved, but only a few are willing to accept the humble way.

The articles and testimonies in the little paper are so enlightening, challenging, and encouraging. I rejoiced when I read Brother Bob Wilson's experience, "A Sweet Rest" in the last paper.

I appreciate our pastor, Bro. Ed. Wilson, who is very concerned about the salvation of souls. Every message is a challenge to draw closer to the Lord, or encouragement to be faithful through hard places, or a warning to be ready to meet the Lord in peace when we face Him at the judgment. That is my goal.

Pray for me, —Myrtis Flynn

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MO—Dear Bro. Murphey and all the saints: I greet you in the lovely name of Jesus. There is something about that name that makes me want to be more like Him. He has been so good to me. I am not ashamed to be called His child, for He is my Heavenly Father. He knows what I need and I call on Him when I need Him; like my children used to call on me when they needed me.

I thank you for your prayers. May God keep you in His loving care.

Keep me on your prayer list.

—Sis. Eathel Hill

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Can.—Dear Sis. Pruitt, Bro. Murphey, and all the workers in the Faith Publishing House: May the good Lord bless you all. Wife and I are still walking in the way of holiness. Every day is a day from the Lord and we are walking by faith. The humble will also have all the grace of God. Therefore my wife and I humble ourselves before the mighty God of heaven. We thank the good Lord for salvation which He has given us through His blood. We also are fully committed to Him soul and body, and have never come short of His love.

Last summer we were able to go to many camp meetings and revival meetings. The Lord gave a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit at

all of them. Perhaps there is a reason for this. We all have to walk more than ever in close unity.

We are thankful for the *Faith and Victory* and the *Bible Lessons*. It is a great blessing to us. We will keep praying for you and the work you are doing for the Lord. Keep encouraged.

In the love of Jesus,

—Bro. George Schroeder

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

GA—Dear Sis. Maybelle: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. God is a present help in time of need and we sure do need Him. I am nearing 86. I had a fall some months ago and need you to pray for my complete healing.

I have been calling for your healing support for 55 years. I have been getting the *Faith and Victory* since 1934. Praise the Lord, He has brought me too far to leave me now. Pray that I will ever hold to His unchanging hand.

May His choice blessings be upon us all is my prayer to God.

Your sister in Christ, —Mary Dorsey

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

WA—Dear Brother Murphey and all the saints at Faith Publishing: Greetings in Jesus' name. I hope all are well and keeping up the fight of faith.

I do not have time to write, but wanted to send a list of subscriptions to the *Faith and Victory* paper. We pray that someone may be saved by reading the truths of God that are printed therein. We get such a blessing ourselves, and look forward to each issue. I usually read the whole paper before I lay it down.

Pray that all our loved ones will be saved.

God bless you in all you do for Him.

Love, —Jim Wilson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OH—Dear Bro. Wayne and others: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I hope this finds everyone well in body and rejoicing in our wonderful Lord and Saviour for His gracious love to us.

Just a few lines to let you know we are encouraged and pressing our way for the Lord.

We appreciate the printed Word of God and carry your burdens in our prayers.

Please pray that we will remain faithful as we surely intend to make heaven our home by His help and grace.

Yours in Christ,

—Bro. Larry and Posie Abbott

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"Christ never makes a person less than he was, but more." —Selected

Testimonies And Answers To Prayer

CA—Dear *Faith and Victory*: I wish to tell how the Lord has opened doors and removed obstacles for me in the hope that it will encourage other young people who may be struggling. Three years ago I left my job and enrolled in school full-time. In August I asked the saints for prayer because I wanted to attend the summer camp meetings here in California, but I could not seem to catch up with my school work. If I did not remove some incompletes by a certain date my registration and funding for my tuition would be halted.

Even though I had not completed any of the necessary course work, I attended a few days of some of the summer meetings after requesting prayer. In those meetings some of the saints told me they had been praying for me and assumed that I had finished my work because I was at the meetings. I told them I had not, but the Lord has lifted the burden. I managed to finish just enough work by the deadline to permit me to enroll in the fall and to continue receiving my tuition.

However, once school started I began to fall behind again. At wits end, I called my program administrator and told him I thought I needed to take a leave of absence to catch up. (The more courses I took, the more work I accumulated). He was surprised when I told him that I needed to take nine more courses. He suggested that I look again at my course requirements because the number of required courses had been reduced by one half since I had enrolled. Although I knew about the reduction, I did not know that it applied to me.

I took the administrator's advice and found that I had completed all my required courses except one! Just knowing that the courses I was currently taking were optional made the load lighter. Thank the Lord, I recently turned in a paper only two days late for one of these classes, whereas, I have been several months late with some of my other course papers. Now that I have only one course left to take I should be able to complete my other backlogged work this coming year with the Lord's help.

From the very beginning the Lord has opened doors for me. The year the school accepted my application the School of Education made its first commitment to find funding for four years for all the students it accepted, thus I have not had to pay any tuition. Furthermore, the Lord has provided me with an assistantship that will fund my fifth year of schooling—a year the school will not fund.

By removing obstacles for me the Lord showed me that He was carrying me through

this experience and I should not boast. In my bleakest moments I have sung, "Take Me Through," with real meaning, because I am often too tired to study or write papers.

One month I did not know how I was going to pay my rent and meet my other expenses too. I was ready to make out a check for the full amount, but the cashier sent me to the bookkeeper to get a statement of how much I owed. To my surprise the bookkeeper asked me if I was paying the next month's rent (two weeks early), because I owed only \$32.00 on the current month. Praise the Lord! Once again He had prepared the way for me and there was no need to fret!

As I come to the final phase of my education, I ask your prayers that I will use this education as the Lord desires.

Sincerely, —Norma Francisco

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MI—Dear Sis. Maybelle: Greetings to all of you in the blessed name of Jesus: I pray all is going well in the dear Lord's work.

I thank the Lord and all of you for your good prayers for me. The Lord has touched me and I praise His precious name. I still have some trouble, but I know God will heal everything soon. I feel so much better!

As Christmas draws nigh, we think of how baby Jesus was born to save lost souls. What a precious gift was given to us.

Praise God for our great blessings. He is so good to us.

I pray all of you will have a real happy holiday season and may your new year be very bright. . . .

All my love and prayers,

—Sis. Olive Gettersson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MS—Dear ones at the Print Shop and elsewhere: In the loving Saviour's name I write these few words, being greatly blessed that I have improved slowly until I can write this well. God's goodness and greatness of love, and its attributes, have brought me thus far. The stroke damaged my brain and voice. I cannot sing with a smooth voice as it strains me.

I am a shut-in, and isolated. I thank and praise God the best I can. Bro. and Sis. Bob Forbes have visited me and I'm hoping for their presence again anytime.

I am praying for complete deliverance and asking the Lord to help me to wait on Him. I am thanking God, you can be sure, for His bountiful blessings thus far. Head pressure is yet my greatest suffering. Keep praying for my healing.

A Christian sister, —Ethel Lowery

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From India . . .

Nov. 18—Dearly beloved Sister Maybelle Pruitt, Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to you all again in the matchless name of Jesus Christ.

Our convention season has already started here and we had a very wonderful convention at Kottarakara last week. We plan to conduct conventions in every local congregation this summer. Our women's meeting is going on at Koottarvila now.

India is going to face the general election on November 25 to find out the future prime minister. We pray for a peaceful election.

Our general convention in January 10-14 will be the Silver Jubilee Convention, and we request your prayers for its blessings. All are cordially invited for this convention.

Yours in Him,

—John Varghese

In Memoriam

Bessie Lillian Bohannon was born on February 26, 1913 and departed this life to be with the Lord on November 22, 1989 in Richmond, VA, at the age of 76 years, 8 months and 27 days. She leaves to mourn her passing one daughter, Barbara Garrett; two brothers, Woodrow and Willie Cooper; two grandchildren, Carolyn White and Buddy Garrett. She was preceded in death by her husband, James Bohannon.

Sis. Lillian was saved several years ago and experienced many victories in her life. She was somewhat isolated in Richmond from a congregation, but when possible went to Green Bank, WV to worship with the saints there.

Bros. Toney Samons and Mancil Doolittle officiated at the services. The funeral was held at the Blyley Funeral Home in Richmond, VA.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Alton Eric Stubblefield, son of Zola and Eric Stubblefield was born March 13, 1918 at Shawnee, OK. He passed on to his eternal reward December 12, 1989. He was born into the Church of God during the National Camp Meeting at Monark Springs, MO in 1939. He was united in marriage to Fern Fortner, January 6, 1946.

Survivors include his wife, of the home; one daughter, Anna June Sisk of Oklahoma City, OK; three grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Funeral services were held in Guthrie, OK with Bros. Carl Shaffer and Leslie Busbee officiating. Interment was in the Fairview Cemetery, Shawnee, OK.

NOTE OF THANKS

Many thanks to the friends and saints who ministered to us in different ways during Alton's illness and passing. We may not acknowledge each one individually, but all were appreciated; the phone calls, cards, letters of encouragement, visits, the flowers and love offerings given. The dinner prepared for the family was also appreciated. May God bless and reward each giver.

—Wife and family of Alton Stubblefield

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Annie S. Esters was born on December 25, 1921, in Manifest, LA, and died November 17, 1989, at the age of 67 years. At the time of her death she was living with her daughter, Sherri Williamson, in Tickfaw, LA.

During the early years of her married life, Sis. Esters was born into the Church of God. She and her husband, Willard, lived and raised a family of five children in Midway, LA. She was faithful to support the work and attend meeting with the saints at Midway. She will be greatly missed by friends and family.

Survivors include her five children, Doris Bjorn of Portland, OR; Gloria Martens of Shreveport, LA; Aliene Dickson of Vinita, OK; Will Esters of Henderson, TX; Sherri Williamson of Tickfaw, LA; one sister and brother, Virginia Coon of Greenwood, LA and Nathan Spain of Houston, TX, ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was conducted by Bros. Bobby Forbes and Richard Madden.

Walking With God



Walking with God in sorrow's dark hour,
 Calm and serene in His infinite power;
 Walking with Him, I am free from all dread,
 Filled with His Spirit, O! softly I tread.

Walking with God, O! fellowship sweet,
 Thus to know God, and in Him be complete;
 Walking with Him whom the world cannot know,
 O! it is sweet through life thus to go.

Walking with God in sorrow's dark hour,
 Soothed and sustained by His infinite power;
 O! it is sweet to my soul thus to live,
 Filled with a peace which the world cannot give.

—Selected

HOME LIFE



Has Your Son A Father?

Has your son a father? This would seem at first glance rather an impertinent question to ask the head of any family, but if it were answered in the spirit in which it is asked many a man would have to say, "I supply my son's temporal needs and give him a lecture if he gets into mischief; otherwise I know little about him."

Clothing, food and shelter are necessary, but your boy could be provided with these if he were an orphan, for they are the things that money can buy. Your boy needs most what only a father can give, loving, thoughtful understanding care and guidance.

What do you know about your boy? Who are his associates and best-loved friends? What is his behavior and standing in school? What are his favorite studies? Has he a natural liking or inclination towards any trade or profession? What books appeal to him most? What kind of books is he reading? What is his moral tone, and what does he think and talk about most? These are simple, practical questions which, it seems to me, every father should be able to answer. Unless a father is well enough acquainted with his son to know something about him, how will he know what to expect of the boy?

What does a boy need in a father? He needs a pattern by which he can fashion his habits and disposition. If your son is to have high ideals, he must find them somewhere; are you the kind of man you want your son to be? Your habits, your manner of speech, your attitude toward your family—all these are telling on the character of your son.

A boy needs in a father someone to whom he can come for counsel and advice and find sympathy and be understood. Your boy will soon be a man, and with manhood will come a man's responsibilities. He has many perplexing problems this growing man of yours has, which a real father can help him to solve. The boy needs in a father one who invites confidence and holds it after it is obtained. He needs to rely safely on you. A boy needs a father that will

watch for the pitfalls that surround him and point them out. A general warning against sin and ungodliness is not sufficient.

A boy needs a comrade in his father. There should be common interests. The boy cannot rise to a man's estate and meet his father on that ground, but the father can go back to the things of boyhood and meet his boy. Your boy is most interested now in the development of his body. He likes to try feats of strength and endurance. He will open his heart and take you in as a full comrade if you will run races with him or other physical enjoyments. While you are being a comrade to the young boy in his boyish fashion, he will be talking out his heart to you, and you will get acquainted with him.

You may give all your time to labor and leave your son houses and lands; or all your time to business and leave him money and stocks and bonds; or all your time to public service and leave him a good name and honor, but none of these are as necessary to a boy's development as a father. —Mabel Hale

Letter Concerning Abortion



(The following is a letter that was printed in the Harrison, AR newspaper.)

Dear Editor: There is so much being said about abortions I feel I must write this letter.

I have been a nurse for better than 40 years. I have been with many people when they departed this life. I will never forget an elderly lady who had been comatose for about a week. When she came to the end of her life she left this world screaming, "I am going straight into hell. Abortion, abortion, why did anyone ever tell me about abortions."

Dear friends, God loves you and we love you, but unless you who have had abortions or plan to have abortions repent and make peace with God while you still have time, when you come to draw your last breath it is too late.

Dear friend, during this time of turmoil, "Be not deceived. God is not mocked." He created this universe and still has power to control it. He has said, "My spirit shall not always strive with man." One of the ten commandments is "Thou shalt not kill." 200,000 abortions a year is murder, plain and simple. This is not an unpardonable sin, but it is a sin that is destroying our nation. Stop and think, we are getting in the

same position as Germany was at the time they slaughtered millions of Jews.

Wake up Christian friends, begin praying for our nation and its leaders. Our nation was founded on Christian principles and the Word of God. Unless we return to those our nation cannot survive.

I want to share another wonderful experience in regard to death and dying. There was an elderly minister who had been ill for some time with a heart condition. One night about midnight he called me to his bedside. He asked me to raise him to a sitting position. With my arm around his shoulder I raised him gently off the pillow. He reached his arms forward towards heaven, an angelic smile came over his face. His last words were, "The doors of heaven are open and I can see Jesus. The angels are coming for me." He then fell back in my arms and did not draw another breath.

I hope this will be of help to unconcerned people. —Ridgie Ritter

Excerpted From The Introduction To *Martyr's Mirror*

Published in 1660

"Though the sea rage and roll, so that through its tempest the mountains fall in, Selah! the city of God shall nevertheless remain glad with her fountains, where the holy tabernacles of the Almighty are." This passage, beginning with the preceding verse reads as follows according to the original text: "Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof, Selah. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early."

Who is there so ill versed in the Word of God, as to suppose that he is to understand by the words "city of God" and "the holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High" etc., the city of Jerusalem in the land of Palestine, and the temple which was built in that city? for this city and the temple which was in it, were laid waste and totally demolished and destroyed, first by the Chaldeans, in the time of Jeremiah, and subsequently by the Romans, who conquered the land of Canaan and Jerusalem; so that, according to the prophecy of Christ, not one stone was left upon another. We must, therefore, understand this as relating to the Church of

God, which is called, in the Holy Scriptures, the city of God. Heb. 12:22; for of the same it is said that God is in the midst of her, and that, therefore, she shall not be moved, etc., as shall appear more fully from the following testimonies. Isaiah 2:2: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established . . . and all nations shall flow unto it." It is beyond dispute that here, by the words "the Lord's house" we are to understand the Church of the Lord, unless there be one who holds, with the Jews, that it must be understood as having reference to the house of stone, which, in former time, Solomon built, to the honor of God, on Mount Moriah; which house is now in ruins, but was to be rebuilt. But this cannot be expected, for the prophet Daniel, with respect to this desolation, says clearly that it shall be poured upon the desolate, even until the consummation (that is, the end of the world). Dan. 9:27 compared with Matt. 24:15.

No small proof of this is furnished by the fact that about forty years after the ascension of Christ, this very house was destroyed, demolished and burned by Titus Vespasian, and has not yet been rebuilt, though about 1600 years have elapsed since; and, on account of the continual quarrels of the Palestinian and other eastern rulers, it is, viewing it from a human standpoint, not likely that it will ever be done.

Since it is true, then, that by the words "the house of the Lord," we must understand the Church of the Lord, there follows also what is said in connection with it namely: that the same shall be firmly, i.e., invincibly, established on the mountain, that is, Christ, the immovable foundation.

Besides the adduced prophecy, Isaiah 2:2, showing the firmness and immovability of the house (or the church) of God, which is founded upon the mountain of the Lord—Christ Jesus—the same prophet treating of the durability, glory and divine dignity of this church, under the type of the New Jerusalem, produces various commendatory testimonies for this purpose, saying among other things, chap. 60, verse 11: "Thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day or night."

This is a simile drawn from a peaceful city which has neither fear nor care that enemies will attack her, and, therefore, leaves her gates open by night as well as by day, for the accommodation of the citizens, and the messengers and strangers who are traveling in the night. Thus, he would say, will it also be with the future church of Jesus Christ.

Then, in verse 14, speaking of the enemies of the Church of God, and of those who had slandered her, he says: They "shall bow them-

selves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the Lord, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel."

When a city has become so great that even her deadly enemies who had purposed to lay waste and destroy her, come bending their knees, and, as begging for favor, bow down before her, as is shown here of the enemies of the city and Church of God; there is no probability that such city will easily be conquered, laid waste, or subjugated. So it is, in a spiritual sense, with the city and church of Jesus Christ; for it is this to which this prophecy has reference.

Immediately after, in the fifteenth verse, the prophet declares that God will make this city or church an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations.

And, as though by this the durability and excellency of this city, well-beloved of God, were not yet sufficiently expressed, he adds these words, verse 19: "But the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory."

And, lastly, verse 21: "Thy people also shall be all righteousness; they shall inherit the land forever." Here no further explanation is required.

We then proceed to what Christ, the Son of God, Himself testifies concerning this matter. Matthew 16:18: "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Christ, in another place, speaking by parable of a man who built his house upon the sand, adds the explanation that the same was a foolish man; because such a foundation, and therefore also the building which is founded upon it, cannot stand before the floods, rains, and storms, which beat against it.

On the other hand, He commends him as wise and prudent, who built his house upon a rock; since the same, being well-founded, is able to withstand all dangers.

But the foundation of which the Lord speaks here, that He will build His church upon it, is much firmer than any material rock, for these must pass away with time; but the foundation which is Christ Himself, remains, shall remain, and shall never decay: for "the foundation of God standeth sure." (II Tim. 2:19).

Yet not only the foundation, but also the building of the church shall not decay, though in nature it is otherwise, for a house, church, or tower, resting on an immovable foundation, but being not sufficiently firm or strong of itself, finally decays, yea falls to the ground; but here it stands so that no opposing agencies, not even the devil himself, can prevail against it, which is evident from these words: "And the gates of

hell shall not prevail against it."

In or under the gates councils were wont to be held; and the gates were the strengths and power of the cities. Compare Zech. 8:16 with Ps. 147:13. Hence, by the words, "The gates of hell," etc., we are to understand the council and power of the hellish fiend. Yet, according to the last mentioned place of Scripture, these shall not prevail against the Church of Christ. If Christ is so firm a foundation that not even the gates of hell can prevail against that which is built upon it, how very foolish, careless and imprudent are they who forsake this foundation, and build upon, and trust in, the vain things of this world! Certainly everything under the sun, yea, all our eyes behold, is vain and transitory. "Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, . . . all is vanity," Eccles. 1:2, understand: earthly things. But how much more vain are the sinful and evil things which God has forbidden, and concerning which He has warned us in His Word, that we should have nothing to do with them! How great will be the fall of those who build upon these forbidden vanities! If we suffer damage, and complain, when a material house or building falls, because its foundation is not firm, how much greater loss will they sustain, and what greater reason will they have to lament, who will fall both soul and body, without ever being able to rise again!

"My Heart Shall Rejoice In Thy Salvation." (Ps. 13:5)

Oh, my Lord, I know of no other element necessary for me to be able to rejoice. I do not have to be on the mountaintop. I do not have to have a cup running over with emotion. I need not experience wave after wave of high feeling. I do not have to have a body free from affliction. I do not need the smile nor approval of the world. It is not necessary that all men be speaking well of me. I do not have to be free of trial. One thing that I must possess, though, in order to be able to rejoice is freedom from sin. Salvation is the fact of being salvaged from the bondage of sin. When that one fact is true in me, it supercedes and overshadows anything and everything else that may touch my life. All the blessing and glory of heaven cannot be attained by mortal man without this fact. The awful punishment and torment of hell cannot be avoided without this fact. The glory of the Lord can never be realized without this fact. Possessing this fact produces a rejoicing that cannot be denied and it provides a pleasure and satisfaction for the soul that has no equal. The heart that is rejoicing in his own salvation is enjoying

an experience that no power or force, known to man, is able to thwart or curtail. He is saved from sin and his spirit will rejoice.

—Bro. C. W. Wilson

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: This is the third and last installment, for the time being, on the subject of teaching, training and caring for our children.

Answer: I am fully aware of the fact that we are somewhat at a disadvantage, even legally, in disciplining our children. The legislators have taken hold of the matter of "child abuse," and in some cases have enacted laws that prohibit parents from using a paddle or switch on their children. I have read where there have been attempts in our congress to enact laws to permit children to bring suit against their parents in court if they do not like the way they have been disciplined. I understand this has been hotly contested and debated on the floors, and in the chambers of congress, but so far as I know has never gotten through, even in any modified form, and I hope it never will. Such would just open the door wide to outright rebellion and anarchy through our children and younger set, and the courts would be hopelessly flooded with such cases because "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child." (Prov. 22:15). Children don't like discipline of any kind at any time. None of them do. They want to be at liberty to go their own way and do their own thing all the time and do not like restraint, especially if you are dealing with a strong willed child. You will be at loggerheads with him or her anytime you try to restrain them in something they want to do.

Notwithstanding all this, saints have God's Word to go by in training, teaching, correcting and disciplining their children, and we can count on God backing us up in it if we pray earnestly to Him, follow His instructions and employ His way in dealing with them. In Proverbs 19:18 we read, "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." This verse seems to teach us that there is a time or period of their lives when our chastening will be to their profit, and we are admonished to not pass that time up, for when it is past there will be no more hope of helping them by that means. Again in Proverbs 13:24 it says, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." It is a perverted sense of love we express when

we are so sympathetic and loving (?) toward our children that we cannot stand to hurt them and hear them crying over a chastisement we are administering to them. The word betimes seems in my mind to mean when it was necessary, administer the discipline and when it is not necessary, don't do it. Proverbs 22:15 says, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." This verse makes it clear that it is common to all children to have foolishness bound up in their hearts, but God Himself has designed that the rod of correction in the hand of a wise and good parent shall be a means of helping to guide them out of their foolishness. Again in Proverbs 29:17 we read, "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul."

Now this is God's instructions for dealing with and training our children, and He will surely back us up in doing this when it is done in the proper way. But let it be hoped that among the saints when it is necessary to chastise our children that we will have them sufficiently under control, and ourselves sufficiently under control, that we won't get into trouble with the authorities and fall under a charge of "child abuse" or unnecessary brutality over the way we did it. There are some cases, and perhaps we all know some, where the parents need to discipline themselves and get themselves well in hand before they even start in on disciplining and correcting their children. The same God who inspired Solomon to write these texts of instruction in the Scriptures in regard to our chastising and correcting our children, also inspired the Apostle Paul to write this warning and admonition in the Holy Scriptures: "And, ye, fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Eph. 6:4. "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." Col. 3:21. Ah, fathers and mothers, let us seek God earnestly to enable us to more clearly and deeply understand the extent and depth of our responsibility and authority with our children, that when it is necessary to chastise them we may do so in the meekness and gentleness of Christ and not in severity and sharpness.

Adam Clarke says in regard to provoking to anger, "if a father punishes his child in severity and sharpness, the child will only be hardened in his sin." One man was whipping his boy in severity and harshness and asked the boy if he knew why he was doing this and the boy said, "Yes, it is because you are mad and you are bigger than I am." Here is a fair example of a child being hardened in his resentment through

his punishment. Sternness and severity seldom work any good purpose with children. There must a lot of meekness and love in our chastisements and corrections if they are to be effective.

I remember a time when my own two boys had been guilty of what to me was a heinous crime of misbehaving and making a disturbance in the worship service at the chapel. I took them both down to the bedroom and talked with them a little about how bad a thing that was and how desecrating that was to the worship and service of God, and that I could not by any means pass over a thing like that. I prayed with them and then soundly spanked them. As soon as I finished with that, I just dropped down between them beside the bed, put an arm around each of them, and broke out crying and sobbing. Both those boys began to love and pat me and say, "Oh, Daddy, don't do that. Don't cry, Daddy. It's alright, we're going to be good boys." Perhaps that little episode did more good for those boys than any other correction I ever gave them.

I can remember my father's dealings with me in the matter of chastisements. He never jumped at me in an agitated way nor approached me harshly or sternly. Sometimes he would pray over it for two or three days. Then he would take me down to the barn and talk to me and pray with me a while, then he would give me a genuinely sound switching. All the time he was just as calm as if he were eating ice cream. There was no trace of agitation, sternness or harshness. I can never remember a time when my father would chastise me that I did not feel closer drawn to him than before.

As your children grow older, be a pal with them. As they show interests and tendencies to certain activities—hunting, fishing, playing ball, etc.—provide them with the essentials and equipment for those activities they are interested in. Provide time on your part to go with them occasionally on outings for hunting, fishing, camping, playing, etc. Let them lead the way in this, for if you don't you may be planning things for them which they have no interest in and do not like. You may not enjoy the particular things your boy or girl does, but that is just one among many points in which you may need to deny yourself and your own likes and dislikes in order to be a good parent to your child.

This is something I did not do enough of. I found out later, when it was too late to bless the lives of my children, how much I should have done this to keep a hold on my children. Any time I would come along where my boys were playing ball and enter in and throw a few balls, or catch a few, no matter who or how many

other boys were around, my boys would just pull out and start playing ball with me as they did not get to do this very often. That manifested the hunger they had for daddy to share their activities with them. I did not at the time realize the importance of this, but now give this kind of advice and counsel to all parents with young children. In fact, since my children have all been grown and established in homes of their own, I have talked with all of them and acknowledged that I had not been the father to them that I should when they were growing up, in that I did not spend enough time with them and participate enough with them in the activities they were the most interested in, and asked their forgiveness for this shortcoming.

In schools they have a "Father and Son" banquet, and other "Father and Son" activities. They expect the boys to bring their fathers on these occasions. When your boy comes to you and lets you know one of these times is coming up on a certain date, it will make him stand tall and help to create a closer relationship between you and him if you will just say, "Alright, son, you can count on me. I will cancel all plans I have for that evening and be available to you." It makes your son feel important and adds dignity to his life.

Now to use a phrase from the world's vernacular, "Learn to roll with the punches." Change your tactics as your children get older. You cannot deal with them in the same way you could when they were smaller. They are developing and you must develop too if you are to maintain a close relationship with them and keep your hold on them through that period of their lives when they need you the most. Study out different methods of dealing with them, and note carefully which are the most effective. This is the time when you need to develop as close a pal relationship with them as possible. Go places with them, do things with them, and participate in their activities with them as much as possible. Above all else, maintain a good, close relationship with God. Pray much and earnestly for God to give you courage, ability, wisdom, grace and faith to be able to pilot your children through this very difficult and important time of their youth.

From Rags To Riches

(continued from page 3)

hurt emotionally. Because of my lack of ever having had anyone show any kind of interest in me before, I dropped most of my barriers for Sherry. She broke up with me before too long, and I was greatly hurt, and felt forsaken and

crushed. At the time of this writing, it has been seven years since then and I have yet to break down all of these barriers. The feelings of self-pity and depression, as well as the sense of having been forsaken and trampled on caused me to attempt suicide. I saw no reason to keep living—no purpose to life. I drank a sixteen ounce glass of rat poison, and lay down to wait for death. After about three or four hours, I felt no difference in my physical condition, and decided to take a walk to speed up my adrenaline. While walking, I ran across my French teacher who noticed how pale I looked, and, finding out what I had done, took me to Duke University Hospital where my stomach was pumped. **Truly the Lord had had mercy on me.** After that, I was moved to the psychiatric ward at Duke. There I was given many different kinds of psychological tests, and asked a lot of questions. After all was said and done, though, the psychologists could not provide a satisfactory reason for me to live. They could not even help me with my depression.

After about three months, the doctors threatened to send me to Dorthea Dix, a state institution. I had heard many horror stories about that place, and so I "played well" so that I wouldn't have to go there. I went back to another group home, and then another, until I ended up in Lexington, NC, at the age of seventeen. At this time I came to the decision that I had tried God, the world, and my own power and had failed miserably. I decided to try the devil for more power in my life. I held a seance in my room with incense, an altar, and a class ring as a modem for power. I invited the devil and his demons to possess me and give me more power in my life. I was soon possessed, though I never received any "power." That same night I again tried to kill myself by filling a bag with deodorant, glue, and anything I could find which had a strong odor, and tying it to my head. **Again, only the mercies of God prevented me from dying.** After a few minutes, the suffocation effort had had no effect that I could tell, and someone smelled the odor and notified the correct people.

Within a couple of months, I decided to try life on my own. I thought I knew it all. I had obtained part-time employment at a fast food restaurant, a motorcycle, and was to rent a small trailer. I got the courts to release me, and moved out. Within a month I lost my job, my motorcycle burned up, and I was left with almost nothing. The Salvation Army put me up in a "roach motel," and I spent the next couple of months in deep depression. I would sit all day in a corner of my room, crying myself to sleep. I went two and three weeks at a time in this

state—not eating, not moving, just crying. Finally, I called my father (who had by this time moved to Farmville, VA), and he came and got me.

(To be continued next month)

A Bright New Year

Step by step, with silent tread,
The old year slipped away;
Just a minute at the time,
And then by hour and day.
The old year died; it is no more,
Nor will it ever be.
It has joined the years that went before
To a past eternity.
And now a new year shining bright
And clear as the deep blue sky
Is given to this world of ours
From the hand of God on high.
But what it holds within its store,
No human tongue can tell;
The One that gave the year to us,
He knows it very well.
We may not as we desire,
Just quite effect our plans;
But this we know our life and all
Are in His loving hands.
And He will do that which is the best
According to His will;
Although we may not understand,
By faith we'll trust Him still.
And through this year, if we should live,
We trust that we shall be
Directed by His hand divine
In each activity. —Ulysses Phillips

A Vista

Give me a new vision, Lord
Something fresh from thy mind.
A vision to inspire and carry me forth
Across the threshold of renewed time
This New Year you have given me.
There are moments, Lord, that bog me down
Times that try the patience of my soul.
O Lord, give me that freshness
Of thy presence and love.
To carry me through and over and around
These petty, worldly incidents.
I would reach for the grandeur of heaven
The holiness of thy presence, thy glory,
And rest content with the newness of that vision.
Holy peace descend upon me.
My feet still touch the earth. . .
But my soul! —Vesta-Nadine Robertson



Excerpts Taken From
January, 1965 *Faith and Victory*

The December issue of the Spanish paper, *La Luz de Esperanza* (*Light of Hope*), edited by Bro. Clifford Smith, Los Angeles, CA, has been printed and mailed to the Mexico mission workers for distribution to the Spanish-speaking people."

—Lawrence Pruitt

"We have felt for some time that we should write a few words of encouragement through the paper concerning the National Missionary Fund. The Lord bountifully blessed in the tent evangelistic effort this past summer and we are still praising God for how He led in purchasing the house trailer and supplying the means. Some who made it possible have gone on to heaven where they had laid up their treasures. God is not unfaithful, but will reward each faithful servant."—Ralph and Inez Beisly

"I love to see the snow. The other morning I went through the snow up the railroad to the grain cars to put tracts in them. I love to work for Jesus."

—Mary Whitmore

"All here [at the Oregon Assembly Meeting] were so glad to have our Brother Gene and Sister Beulah Harmon with us for the meeting. Also our hearts were rejoiced to have Bro. Ostis Wilson and surely our God used him in a wonderful way to bring precious truth to us. We could see the great power of God and it only made each one feel that the reward will be great to those who are faithful to the end. Bro. H. Probst was used of God also in a wonderful way to exhort the young people."

—Sister Beatrice Spaur