

FAITH AND VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



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To Me To Live Is Christ

To me to live is Christ my Lord;
 All else is truly vain;
 Naught else can happiness afford
 Nor give such lasting gain.
 To me to live is Christ; In Him
 I've found my all in all;
 The things of earth have waxen dim
 Since I obeyed His call.
 To me to live is Christ; I know
 This earthly life shall pass,
 And mortals to the grave shall go
 Regardless of their class.
 To me to live is Christ; to die
 No longer do I dread;
 Let death enclose me with her cry,
 I'll live with Him instead.
 My hope is bright for blessings now,
 And future joys unseen;
 To all His blessed will I bow
 With nothing in-between.
 How vain is life without His love!
 How dark its aimless tread
 With nothing drawing us above,
 Destruction overhead!
 All paths of earthly joy but lead
 Down to the cold, dark grave,
 And striving for its woeful greed
 Affords no hand to save.
 In Christ alone is life made sure
 Both now and evermore:
 A way that's straight, a life that's pure,
 A hope worth waiting for.
 To me to live is Christ, what time
 Is left to Him I'll give;
 To die is gain and joy sublime:
 Forever I shall live!

—Leslie C. Busbee

From Rags To Riches

By Sid Souvey

(Continued from last month)

By this time I had reached a state of terrible devil-possession. My mind, no longer capable of dealing with reality, had retreated into a "fantasy world." It was sort of like day-dreaming, except that my fantasy role playing had become a reality to me. I became unable to control my mind, and could not distinguish fantasy from reality. If I was in the fantasy world, a person could slap me, put ammonia under my nose, etc. without my being aware of it. I became "spaced out" and unable to deal with my surroundings. Life had no meaning. I had given up on the world and life, and just lived from one fantasy to the next.

The school counselor at Farmville High recognized my condition, and sent me to a private mental hospital in Danville, VA. I was diagnosed as schizophrenic. Once there, I became more and more erratic, and began to get violent. I would spit on people and get violent at the slightest things, sometimes for no apparent reason at all. Finally, after I tried to hang myself, I was committed by a judge in court to go to the Central Virginia Mental Institution in Petersburg, VA. I will here attempt to describe that place.

First, I went through questioning and a physical and blood test. Then I was led to a room filled with about thirty other insane people, and with evil and unrestrained spirits. There were two or three aides to keep the peace, but the unpredictability of the patients' moods kept me always on my guard and fearful. I never knew when one might come up and start hitting and kicking me for no reason. I could relate many stories of the violence displayed there. Uncleaness, sexual immorality and

homosexuality were openly and unashamedly practiced there. Some patients just sat in a corner somewhere and stared into space all day. Others constantly paced the room. Some continually talked to themselves out loud. There were no activities to break up the day. There was not much to do. The television was usually off, as we rarely agreed on what to watch. Occasionally someone would get violent, and that would break the monotony. There were two restraint chairs, two restraint beds, and two rooms for confinement, referred to as "cubes." One or two of these were usually occupied at any given time. Once every month or so, more restraint chairs or beds would have to be brought in from other wards. Often a violent person was given drugs, which would work on the nervous system and muscles to calm him down. These drugs often had many bad side effects. Night-time was worse than the day, and some patients slept during the day for fear of the night. Screams often awoke me. I had to sleep lightly for fear of being attacked. The dorm area was not monitored, and fear was a strong aroma in the

was damp and musty from years of non-use. A fellow inmate whom we shall call Jack and I decided to play a joke on another inmate named Mark. Mark had two bad problems—he was very paranoid, and he had a strong cigarette habit. Jack and I wanted to see if Mark's cigarette habit was stronger than his paranoia, so we took him to the storage room and told him there was a pack of cigarettes in the room. After a couple of minutes of persuasion, he went in, and we closed and locked the door behind him. Then we got scared because he was threatening to tell, so we decided to just leave him in there and let him die. The building was old and we figured that no one would ever find him there. I was the instigator of the plan and Jack went along with me. For the next three days my conscience smote me mightily. Then, on the third day, Mark escaped from his "cell." My lies and wickedness were exposed to everyone. Mark said that after he had beat on the door for three days he fell down in exhaustion. As he fell he said his hand fell to his breast shirt pocket where he had a small Gideon Bible. That made

***"The dorm area was not monitored,
and fear was a strong aroma in the
night. Nightmares plagued many."***

night. Nightmares plagued many. Homosexual activity was bolder and more manifest then. Fear and tension were well-known states of being. There were few laws or rules which meant anything. Insanity and lawlessness ruled there.

After three months, I was allowed to go outside for one hour. Within my first fifteen minutes of freedom, I tried to climb a water tower with the intentions of jumping off. **The Lord had mercy on me once again**, and I was not successful. Shortly after I was discharged back to my father. That was on a Friday. On the next Friday, I was signing myself back in, after jumping in front of a car. **The Lord had had mercy on me yet once more**, and the car had barely missed me. After another three months or so I was again given outside privileges. I spent my outside time exploring the grounds and discovered an old abandoned building. I broke in and searched the building. In the cellar I found an old freezer room. It had a heavy, thick door with heavy bolts on the outside to lock it. The room was 5' x 8' x 6', and

him think of God, so he prayed, and the door came open on his next push. Then he read in his Bible and it said to forgive one another, so he said he would forgive me and not press charges for attempted murder. **The Lord was having mercy on me yet another time.** I could have been sentenced five to ten years in prison.

After that, I was transferred to the long-term ward. According to the mental institution's system, if a person behaves himself and shows improvement for a period of three years he is transferred to a mid-level ward. If he does well there for three years he is transferred to a low-level ward. After three years of good behavior and improvement there he is placed on a program designed to place him back into the community as a productive member of society. So once a person has been sent to the long-term ward he can expect a minimum of ten years of institutionalization. At that time I was a little over 18½ years old. At the time of this writing I should still be in the mid-level ward with at least five years left to go. One month after being

placed on the long-term ward all the patients had to be transferred to another ward so the first ward could be up-dated on its fire alarm system. During this shuffle I was transferred back to the private hospital in Danville where I was discharged one month later. Once again, the Lord had had mercy on me.

For the next three months or so I roamed the countryside with little purpose in life, and no idea what to do. I ended up in Ohio (via Florida), where I joined the army. I spent about four months in the army, training at Fort Sill, OK. During this time I got into several fights as I was non-submissive to the army's ways. In January of 1985, at the age of 19, I decided again to try to end my life. I went by night to the top of Medicine Man's Bluff, a cliff nearly 400 feet high. As I went I was praying to God that He would give me strength to jump that I might die and go to heaven. This is how deceived I was. I remember that as I looked down the face of the cliff I knew that there was a road and a river at the bottom. As I saw what I thought was the road, it did not seem so high up at all. As my eyes adjusted to the light, though, I realized that I was not looking at the road, but at the river. The road was barely traceable to my eyes, it seemed so small. Then I knew that if I did not jump right then I never would. So I jumped, closing my eyes as I did so. After a minute I wondered why I still felt okay, so I opened my eyes. As I had jumped, the Lord had sent a strong wind which had blown me back into a small cleft about the size of my body. For as far as I could see on either side it was the only cleft on the cliff's face. I had not felt all this happen as the temperature was so cold. I was numb all over. I had fallen some ten or fifteen feet, though, and now I was scared, so I scrambled, (how, I know not) back to the top. Once again, God had had mercy on me.

In February I was given a general discharge from the army. I took a bus to San Diego, CA, where the weather was nice and warm. Within a month, I had squandered my money on riotous living and, not being able to find employment, I became a "transient." I slept in parking lots, parks, under bushes, under bridges, on the streets, in missions or wherever I could sleep without fear of being chased off by a security guard or police officer. I slept with rats, roaches, lice, alley cats, stray dogs and other such forms of animal life. The population of transients is about 90% devil possessed, and I lived among homosexuals, winos, tramps, thieves, murderers, drug addicts and such like. The most common emotion on the streets is fear, and I became well acquainted with it—always looking over my shoulder, seeing and hearing things

which were not there, while seeing some that were. I was alone, forsaken by all, and death itself was evasive. Survival was my only purpose, sleep my only escape, daylight my only friend. It was hard. I worked my way from San Diego to Los Angeles where I joined the spiritual growth program at the Los Angeles mission. It offered the last hope for sanity. I joined the Nazarene church where I attended services for six months. I had not (through ignorance) been as yet delivered from my devil possession, but I had picked up instead several religious spirits, and was very zealous toward religion. After this time I was invited to a Church of God camp meeting where I received some light on God's Church, and on some of His truths, though I behaved myself very unseemly. I was loud, boisterous and fanatical in my religious viewpoints, but I didn't have the life to back my testimony. I went for almost a year in a condition of hypocrisy, professing salvation and sanctification, unable to receive help because of my spirit. Finally, one day I came to the place where I perceived that I needed help. With the aid of my pastor, Sister Beverly Reed, my eyes were opened to my need to be delivered from the spirits which possessed me. After much prayer I submitted to God and became willing and very much desirous to be rid of these evil spirits, and sought God for mercy. Sister Reed and some other ministers then prayed, laying hands on me, and I received deliverance from the devils. I then cried to God for mercy and asked Him to save my soul and to come into my heart to live and reign. God had mercy on me and saved my unworthy soul.

I have here painted a picture of many problems which I had as a result of my upbringing and environment. However, most of my deepest problems came not because of outside forces, but because of the attitudes and choices which I made. I can point to my father and the world around me, but ultimately, the responsibility of my actions belong to me. For example, if I had never decided to accept Satan into my life I would have avoided much mental anguish later on. And yet, while I was in so low and forlorn a condition, God had mercy on me. He looked beyond my faults and saw my need. He loved me when no one else would. I was of all people most unworthy of God's acceptance, mercy and love, yet He accepted me just as I was and saved my poor soul. That love and unconditional acceptance has been what has brought me through the hard times. The comfort of knowing that God cared about me, Sid Souvey, in all my shortcomings, has carried me through many storms in life. As I have submitted myself to
(Continued on page 12)

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 Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, OK 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 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.

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EDITORIALS

Gone To Be With The Lord



On Jan. 9 Aunt Maybelle Pruitt passed from this life and went to be with the Lord. Aunt Maybelle was faithful for many years in a capacity of service to the Lord and to the saints. Most notably she was overseer of the work here at Faith Publishing House for seven years. Her personal concern and dedication will be greatly missed, but God is blessing as the work continues on without interruption. We ask an interest in the prayers of all our readers that this work will be effective and a blessing to all who seek Christ.

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We were saddened by the death of Sis. Dora Lela Beisly who was a former worker of the Print Shop. On Jan. 23 she went to be with the Lord. In 1946, as a young girl, she came to the Print Shop and dedicated four years of service. Then again in 1967 she and her husband, Bro. Gene Beisly, came and spent seven years in the publishing work.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Gene and his two daughters, Marcia Mitchell and Sharon Simpson. Those who wish to send condolences may address their correspondence to: Bro. Gene Beisly, 1704 W. Warner, Guthrie, OK 73044.

Many of our readers desire to know the dates of the Church of God camp meetings scheduled for 1990. In the past we have printed as complete a list as possible in the March issue. To make that issue this year, we kindly request that your information be in this office by Feb. 16.

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We have recently printed in tract form some of the articles which have been published in the *Faith and Victory* paper. These include a 6 page tract, "Who Is That God," by Vesta-Nadine Robertson, a 4 page tract, "Church Zeal," by P. D. Mathunni, a 6 page tract, "Eternal Bliss Versus Eternal Despair," by Joel Kendrick, and an 8 page tract, "Meddling With The Scales," by C. W. Naylor. These may be ordered at the regular tract rate. —Wayne Murphey

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Prayer Requests

AL—"Please pray for my son."

—Jeanette Moony

TX—"I'm better but need complete healing."

—Nellie Lovell

FL—"I need your earnest prayers for my back."

—Sis. Lydia Bennett

MO—"Please pray for my only son; he has had a bad asthma attack."—Sis. Hettie Clements

LA—"I have some urgent requests for prayer."

—Lois Underwood

OK—"Remember my sister and me in your prayers."

—Juliette Lounds

OK—"Pray for us that God can use us in His service and touch our bodies so we can do more for the upbuilding of His Kingdom."

—Bro. and Sis. Virgil Patton

MO—"I would like for you to remember me in your prayers; I have been quite sick."

—Naomi Probst

OK—Sis. Vera Chapel needs prayer for a business deal.

IL—James Robinson is having a severe problem with blood circulation and needs much prayer.

MO—Bro. and Sis. Arthur Johnston have both had the flu and been unable to recover from its affects.

AR—Sis. Nellie Henderson has suffered an attack of a serious nature and needs the support of prayer.

NC—Sis. Bunice Hope is having stomach problems and desires the prayers of the saints.

OK—Sis. Nellie Ott needs the prayers of the saints for an affliction that is causing quite a bit of pain.

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MEETING NOTICES

REVIVAL AT BAKERSFIELD, CA

The saints at Bakersfield, CA, extend a warm welcome to all to attend the annual revival to be held, Lord willing, from Friday night, Feb. 9 through Sunday night, Feb. 18, 1990. In addition to nightly services, plans are for a daytime service at 1:00 p.m. on weekdays, with three services on the last Friday and on each Saturday and Sunday.

Please pray for the success of the meeting. We are expecting the Lord to send ministers of His choosing. The chapel address is 1802 Virginia Ave., phone (805) 395-9314.

For further information, contact Bro. Robert Mays, 421 S. Brown St., phone (805) 325-2730, or Bro. Archie Sherman, Jr., 3400 Rayborn Way, phone (805) 871-1636. —Janice Herring

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

SHREVEPORT, LA REVIVAL

Lord willing, Bro. Toney Samons will be in Shreveport, LA March 7-11 for a revival. There will be emphasis on singing Saturday night, March 10. A hearty welcome is extended to all.

For further information, call Bro. Jerry Melot, (318) 938-7233, or Bro. Arnett Carver, (318) 635-2214.

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From The Mailbox . . .

MO—I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper. I am grateful for the one who sent it to me. I know not who it was, but we are a sister or brother in Christ.

Pray for my husband. He has cancer, and I am in a wheelchair. The Lord is good to us. He loves us all.

In Jesus' name,

—Sister Noe

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

IA—Dear Bro. Wayne and Sister Maybelle: My husband, Charles, is in bad need of prayer. He fell on the back porch last week when it was covered with snow and ice and hit his side on the porch rail. He broke one rib completely. He had it X-rayed to see what he had done to it, and had it bandaged so it can heal. He can't lay down and sleep. He sits in a rocking chair in the bedroom beside the bed.

He wants you and all the dear saints to pray for him.

I also have many afflictions. I want the dear saints to pray for me.

God bless everyone there. Carry on the good work. We enjoy the paper.

—Bro. Charles and Sis. Dorothy Mason

MI—Greetings in the dear and lovely name of Jesus: I pray all is going well for all of you dear ones. I wish you all a very happy and healthy new year. Another year is gone again and what the new year will bring us God only knows. We pray many souls will be saved. Time is going very fast and the end will soon be here. I thank my dear Lord for all He has done for me through all my life. He is so good to me.

I have some trouble with my back. I am waiting and praying for God to touch me. He has touched my arm and I am so thankful for that. God loves us and He does care when we don't feel well. He is our best friend in all this world. What more could we want? I thank all of you for your good prayers.

All my love, —Sis. Olive Gettersson

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

CA—Dear Sister Maybelle: I was so sorry to hear of your illness. . . .

This year has been a sad one for our family. We have lost three members. But the Lord is so good. I am praying and looking to Him to save the many that are in sin. He says that His grace is sufficient and I have found it to be true. Praise His name. . . .

Much love and many prayers,
—Sis. Ruth Donnelly

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

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne and workers at the Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. This leaves me feeling good in my soul tonight. I woke up this morning with my mind on Jesus walking on the water, and how the disciples were troubled. Peter said, "Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water." And he said, "Come." (Matt. 14:28-29). I am reminded that Peter did really good until he started looking around. Then he began to sink. Jesus reached out His hand and picked him up. Thank God for Jesus. He will give anyone His hand if we will let Him live in our heart. There is no need for anyone to be lost. . . .

Your brother in the Lord,—Leo McIntosh

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

FL—Dear Sister Maybelle Pruitt: We have had severe cold weather here for the Christmas holiday. The temperature has been in the 20's. There was too much of a load on the electric so they had to shut the power off every 15 minutes. For some it was hard to get a dinner together. For me this was no problem, as I was alone. Many here have relatives nearby and they went to them. The Lord is my best friend, and He supplies my needs.

I pray for the work there, trusting that souls will be saved. The *Faith and Victory* paper has

brought me much encouragement. May God be with you and help you this coming new year is my prayer.

With Christian love and God's blessing,
—Judith Klokner

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.

This is 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

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

TX—We really appreciate your paper. A friend sent me the paper last December. It has been a blessing to me. . . .

Please put all of us on your prayer list as there are many needs.

Thank you,

—Rita McCollum

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

GA—Dear saints: I received one of your magazines from a friend. It came at a time when I was feeling low and out of everything. I could not even get a prayer through to God. But I read your paper, and Oh, I read one passage over and over, for it lifted me so much. It brought so much into my life that I can see a different light. . . .

Thank you so much for that change in my life.

Yours in Christ, —Mrs. Marion Chatman

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

CA—Dear Sister Pruitt and staff: I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper so much. Each month it gets better.

This is a wonderful time to be living. If you study the Bible and read the newspaper, you know the end of time is approaching. The 24th chapter of Matthew is so evident.

The devil is surely on the watch, looking and seeking whom he may devour. His chief aim is to destroy God's people and prevent the true gospel from being preached. More and more God is saying, "Don't lay up earthly treasures, seek ye the Kingdom of God and everything else will be given to you." Sometimes it's hard for us to believe that Scripture because of our immediate trials and tribulations brought on by the devil or through our ignorance. . . .

May God continue to bless His work through the staff.

Yours in Christ, —Moslette Kern

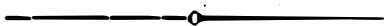


MO—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: I greet you in the lovely name of Jesus. Today is a lovely day for this time of the year. The sun is shining so brightly. It isn't too cold or too hot. It is just right to be comfortable.

I have been having some trouble with arthritis. I was pretty bad for a few days, but thank God, I am doing so much better now. I am trusting God to take care of it all. I know He will do that for me, for He has healed me so many times of other things. There is nothing too big for Him to handle.

Keep me on your prayer list. I will keep praying for you.

Your prayer partner, —Sister Eathel Hill



Testimonies And Answers To Prayer

PA—Dear saints: It has been some time since I have sent a testimony to the paper. Recently I told the Lord I would write one in the paper if He would touch my little grandchild. I have been keeping her for a few months and she had a real bad colic condition. Her mother and I would take turns with her. It was so trying and hard on us.

Bro. Curtis Williams recently came by and held a few nights of meeting. The Lord began talking to me about having her anointed and prayed for. We carried this out and I can report that the Lord touched this little baby. I believe it is all gone. She is 5 months old and a happy, contented baby. All praise be to God. Oh, how I appreciate His goodness to us, and the privilege to carry everything to Him in prayer.

This finds us still encouraged, still pressing on and still in active combat with the enemy of our soul, but counting it all joy. We are going to conquer in spite of all the Devil's attempts to bring us down. He is a defeated foe and we can be the victor. Praise God. Pray for us. We want to be a vessel God can count on.

Christian love, —Sis. Virginia Myers



OK—Dear ones: We send greetings in the name of our Lord, He who is so faithful and so good to us. Even though He sometimes allows things in our path that bring deep hurt to the feelings of our heart, He is still right there, sifting out any harm that would be there. How precious it is that He is a God who can be trusted, not only His power, but His divine wisdom!

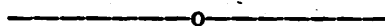
We just wanted to tell a little bit about our experience of Job 1:21, "...The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." On December 4, much to our surprise, we learned that what we thought to be our third child, due to be born in May, was to be a double blessing—twins! In my conversation with the Lord later that day, I remember thinking this was part of my consecration with the Lord some years ago. So I accepted this news as being from the Lord, trusting Him to take care of all the particulars involved. As I yielded to Him the Lord just gave me a special love for our unborn little ones. How we looked forward to their coming! Yes, the Lord was giving us a unique experience, but little did we know that in less than a month He would be taking it away. On December 30, due to uncontrollable complications, our little identical twin sons were born four months premature; naturally and without complications, but too young to live. Yes, the Lord gave, but He also has the right to take away. We've learned this to be an experience the Lord saw good to place in our path. We cannot say that it has not been hard, or that we do not hurt, but we can still say deep within our soul that our consecration remains all on the altar, and "blessed be the name of the Lord"!

We had a little graveside service for our sons, Darin Ray and Darik Lee, on January 2. The Lord blessed and it was so precious to us. We appreciate each one that was able to come and share with us. Our hearts have been touched with all the love and support of the people of God. Each token of love and expression of sympathy has helped ease the hurt. We trust the Lord to bless each one, far and near, for all you have done for us.

Even though the Lord did see it best that we lose our boys, He has been faithful to be there with us. Carl desired a son so badly, and to learn that these were boys was quite a disappointment, but the Lord has been with us to bring the comfort and strength we both needed. By the Lord's grace and strength we want to be as King David when he lost his child in II Samuel 12:23, "But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast: can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."

In Christian love,

—Carl and Rebecca Shaffer, and girls



God is displeased with anyone's feeling uncomfortable and unhappy at another's prosperity or success and desiring to out-do them. This is envy, and it will cause one to have emulations and vain, selfish desires to get ahead of that person. —Leslie Busbee

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From Rivers State, Nigeria . . .

Dec. 8—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings to you and the dear ones in the Print Shop through the precious name of Jesus, who has brought us safely to see the light of today. Glory be to His holy name.

The remains of Bro. Taylor were interred on the church premises Dec. 18, 1989, after an all-night sing-song, messages and testimonies. Representatives from Lagos, Umuguma and Owerri attended. Also in attendance was a brother from Benin with whom we hadn't met, but he had heard much about Bro. Taylor; he gave a moving testimony. Present also was Bro. Alphonsus Okwosha and his wife, together with a large number of people from Kwale, in spite of the very high cost of transportation.

The funeral attracted a very large crowd of the Tombia community in and outside, a mark of appreciation for Bro. Taylor's labor. Because of limited time, all those who wanted to give testimony about him could not be allowed. We thanked God for the exemplary life he had lived through Christ and rejoiced that he was gone to heaven, but we could not help rolling out tears for missing his very valuable services.

I thank God for my safe trip to and from a European country for the first time in my life. I was nominated by my company to participate in a one week workshop on shipbuilding organized by the "United Nations Industrial Development Organization" (UNIDO) in Bulgaria. The trip was exciting and beneficial to me in many ways. On the spiritual side, I saw the greatness and goodness of God in reality. Also, an insight of what the saints of old suffered for the sake of souls in bondage.

At Lagos, the capital of Nigeria, the Lord fought many battles for me, without which I couldn't have made the trip. While there for my travel arrangements, I lodged in Bro. Emmanuel Dokubo's house. There I had the opportunity for the first time to listen to the Evening Light songs on tapes and follow them with the song book. They were so inspiring that I regretted that in Port Harcourt we haven't these facilities for use in our worship.

On our way, we crossed the Lybian desert, and the great Mediterranean Sea on which Paul traveled in his journeys. In Bulgaria I saw an old church building in the city of Varna where I visited. When if asked if people go to church someone told me that before communism was introduced people worshiped God. However, the wall of communism is breaking.

Our return trip took us to Malta where we landed at the airport. A girl exclaimed, "This is

where Paul performed miracles," and we agreed that it must be the place. I opened my Bible and *Smith's Bible Dictionary* which confirmed that the Melita in the Bible is the present Malta. We had left Bulgaria under thick snow, but at Malta it was raining heavily with a strong wind from the Mediterranean Sea. This made it impossible for anybody to get out of their car or the plane until it had subsided. I took it that the Lord was witnessing to me what Paul had suffered in those days when he experienced the rain and cold for which they had to warm themselves with fire. When I saw the sun, the snow, the rain and the storm, I thought of what hazards the saints suffered, the fruits of whose labors we are enjoying today. Thanks be to God! We are at an advantage with faster means of traveling, and with better conditions of living to take the gospel to places. May God help us with a vision.

We are now in the dry season, a very appropriate time for open-air activities. We plan to go to my place of birth, called Odioma, many nautical miles from Port Harcourt. We shall be there for some days with the gospel.

May the Lord bless you all for your sacrifice to help us grow and remain firm in the Lord.

Yours in His love's sake,

—F. Naths-Igbanibo

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From Liberia . . .

Dec. 17—Dear Brother Wayne and the saints in the U.S.A.: Greetings once more in the matchless name of Christ, our King.

We just ended a one week pastors' meeting here in Monrovia, Liberia. During this period there was teaching, praying, and preaching. Messages on false religions were brought forth as the Lord blessed. Three precious souls received divine healing, while six souls were baptized in Jesus' name.

During our meeting many from other denominations came around and the truth that was preached had a great impact on them. Lord willing, I hope to conduct another meeting in February 1990.

I will leave to visit with some of our congregations in Karloken and River Gbeh, as I promised them. I have a burden to do more and more for the Lord's work. Please pray for me.

Let's continue in the truth!

—Josiah K. Pah, Sr.

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From the Philippines . . .

Dec. 29—Dear Brother Wayne Murphey, Sister Maybelle Pruitt, Bro. George Hammond and the saints: May the love of Jesus keep you always.

In the Philippines, recent happenings that have troubled the country makes the people worried of what will happen next, especially after the last coup d'état that almost overthrew the Aquino government. But we thank God Almighty for the aid of the U.S. fighter planes which helped the Philippines preserve its liberty and democracy in the East.

The Bible tells that in ancient times the Israelite people with their leaders who didn't forsake worshiping the true God were not defeated in any battle. But those who worshiped other gods failed and were captured by the enemy. I hope that Mrs. Aquino will always be faithful with God in serving the Filipino people. . . .

The brethren, together with the Salvana family, greet you with a happy and prosperous new year in 1990. We praise God and give thanks always.

Yours in Christ, —Bro. Leonardo Salvana

In Memoriam

Charles W. "Bill" Huss was born Sept. 5, 1912 to George W. and Effie Huss in Newport, PA. In 1934 he married Evelyn Cumbler (who preceded him in death) and they lived their lives in the Newport and Duncannon areas of Pennsylvania. He gave his heart to the Lord and worshiped with the Duncannon Church of God congregation until his death. His desire was to see his family members saved. May his prayers yet be answered.

Bro. Bill departed this life on Dec. 21, 1989, at home in his sleep in answer to his prayers, at the age of 77 years. He is survived by two brothers, Donald E. and Richard B. Huss; a daughter, Joyce Houck; a son, Charles L.; seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Curtis Williams. He was laid to rest in the Pine Grove Cemetery at Newport. The family wishes to express their appreciation for the prayers, cards, flowers and expressions of sympathy.

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Annie Bell Allen was born in Hoffman, OK, Nov. 3, 1923. She was the oldest child of Felix and Fannie Taylor. She attended Watson School in Grayson, OK.

As a teenager Sis. Annie Bell gave her heart to God and lived faithful unto her death some 50 years later.

As a child, Annie Bell was very obedient and helpful, displaying motherly, missionary type qualities even then. She taught the other children in the home to pray and took them to Sunday school, thus beginning a Christian foundation in their lives. As a result of Annie Bell's Christian example, her parents and other family members were saved. Annie Bell possessed a deep, strong faith in God and He worked miracles through her.

Annie Bell married Warren (Teddy) Allen. To this union one son was born, who preceded her in death. Annie Bell's mother also is deceased.

Well into her twenties she returned to school to complete her high school education. After graduation in 1950, due to compassion for the sick and elderly she began a long mission of teaching, caring for and comforting those individuals that are often neglected and misunderstood. This burden took her to several communities in Oklahoma, Kansas and Ohio.

She became very interested in the spiritual needs of children and became dedicated to an organized and continuing program of Vacation Bible Schools.

Sis. Annie Bell was a real inspiration to all saints young and old. She taught the young people to do many things with their hands: cake decorating, sewing, quilting, and flower making. She also encouraged youth to get their education but put God first.

In 1961 missionary work in Akron, OH led her to become very interested in the plight of deaf and mutes as their needs were clearly evident. She, therefore, became proficient in the learning and teaching of sign language and to a better understanding of the problems of those who are deaf and mute.

In 1968 she founded a county-wide program for the handicapped and retarded adults at Okmulgee, OK. The facility and implementation of the program is known as the "OK (Older Kids) School for the Mentally Retarded." This program has continued.

Sis. Annie Bell has worked closely with several congregations and has labored faithfully in the establishment of the Church of God congregation in Muskogee, OK and in Dallas, TX where she served as pastor from 1978 to her death.

In spiritual stability and in personal contact she has touched a multitude of lives. She was known and loved by many. Her dedication to her God serves as an example to those who knew her.

Sis. Annie Bell departed this life, Saturday, Dec. 2, 1989 in Dallas, TX.

Her memory will linger with those who shared her life, her father Felix Taylor, Sr. of Hoffman, OK; seven brothers, Franky, Lonny and Charles Taylor, all of Wichita, KS, Felix Taylor, Jr., of Lubbock, TX, C. L. Taylor (Mitchell) of Phoenix, AZ, Carl Taylor of Tulsa, OK and Andrew Taylor of Kansas City, KS; four sisters, Lucille Johnson of Muskogee, OK, Josephine Pannell of Morris, OK, Clara Barnett of Okmulgee, OK and Sally Lewis of Hoffman, OK, many nieces and nephews who affectionately called her "Auntie" and a host of relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were held in Okmulgee, OK on Dec. 9 with Bros. Herschel Hargrave and Charles Chandler officiating. Interment was in Grayson Cemetery.

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Ruby Eva Stover was born June 4, 1902 in Elk City, OK and died Sunday, Dec. 17, 1989 in Shawnee, OK, at the age of 87 years, 6 months and 13 days. Sis. Stover moved to the Sapulpa area from Guthrie in 1968. She was a member of the Church of God. She spent many years of her life helping her husband, Bro. Ira Stover, in his ministry. They pastored congregations in several areas of the country and touched many lives.

Sis. Stover is survived by her son, Robert Stover, of Sapulpa, OK; four grandchildren, Michael Stover, Pamela Stover Marler, Donna Stover Gentry and Robert Stover, Jr.; four great-grandchildren, Sherry Marler, Greg Marler, Vanessa Rappaport and Brittany Stover; one nephew, Frank Trimble; three nieces, Barbara Pierson, Dorrothy Addison and Betty Ray.

Funeral services were held in the Sapulpa Road Church of God, Sapulpa, OK, officiated by Bros. Ostis Wilson and Richard Madden. Burial was in the Greenhill Memorial Cemetery, Sapulpa, OK.

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Maybelle (Miles) Pruitt, was born Sept. 14, 1911 to William and Lycenia Miles in Clovis, NM, and passed from this life on Jan. 9, 1990 in Guthrie, OK at the age of 78 years, 3 months and 26 days.

In 1922 she moved with her parents to Corsicana, TX and later to Mexia, TX. Around 1930 the family moved to Monark Springs, MO.

On Nov. 18, 1933, she was married to Lawrence Pruitt. They made their home in Guthrie, OK, and to this union two children were born, Byron Leon Pruitt, Oct. 20, 1934 and Harvey Miles Pruitt, April 14, 1939.

Early in her teenage years she gave her heart to the Lord and much of her life was spent

in doing the work of the Lord. After her marriage she was very faithful in helping at Faith Publishing House with putting out the monthly paper, keeping books, running the mailing list and any other task that needed done. She took an interest in the young people who came from different parts of the country to work in the Print Shop, and was a great help to them.

At the passing of her husband, Lawrence, in 1982, who at that time was in charge of the printing work, she accepted the challenge of seeing the work continue with these words, "By the help of the Lord I mean to pick up the torch and carry on." She did just that.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lawrence, Oct. 4, 1982, and one son, Byron, June 13, 1984, seven brothers and three sisters.

She is survived by her son, Harvey, and his wife, Maxine, of Guthrie, OK; a daughter-in-law, Clarice Pruitt Harmon of Loranger, LA; three grandchildren, Genece (Pruitt) Doolittle of Loranger, LA, Eileen (Pruitt) Dixon of Guthrie, OK, Tracy Pruitt of Guthrie, OK; seven great-grandchildren and a host of other relatives, friends and saints.

Funeral services were held on Jan. 12. Officiating ministers were Bros. Ostis Wilson, Wayne Murphey and Carl Shaffer, with burial in the Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie, OK.

NOTE OF THANKS

Words cannot express the feelings of thanks and humility for the concerns of the saints, friends, and relatives during the illness and passing of our dear mother, Maybelle. We have tried to acknowledge all individually, but because numerous phone calls, cards, letters of encouragement, food, flowers and love offerings, someone may have been missed. We were especially touched by those who were so attentive in sitting up and caring for Mother. The tenderness with which she was attended was such a blessing. And, the dinner that was prepared for the family, "thank you" hardly seems enough. May God bless and reward each and every one of you.—Harvey and Maxine Pruitt, and family

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"We are made light and life only as we come into close touch with God. The Lord hath not pleasure in the wicked. How cold and formal, yea, how lifeless is that soul who does not pray to God! On the other hand, what a sweet heavenly influence emanates from the life of those who are found often in the "inner chamber". "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel; who, in their every day life, prove that they have been with Christ and have learned of Him."

—Selected

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Will you please discuss the matter of God's hardening Pharaoh's heart and how God could do this and why?

Answer: The time of the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt was at hand and the hour of Egypt's judgment was about to strike according to God's promise made to Abraham in Genesis 15:13-16, and God was marshalling the principals into position for the impending drama.

God had arranged for Moses to be spared at the time of his birth even though a decree had gone forth from the king for all male babies born to the Israelites to be slain at birth. Further, God had arranged for Moses to be brought up in the king's court as the son of Pharaoh's daughter and to be learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. Also, he was well trained in the Egyptian army and learned all the arts of war and became mighty in deeds. Further, he was placed as a commanding officer in the army where he learned well the arts and skills of leadership. God had far ranging plans for Moses' life from the start to put him through all this grooming and preparation and now he was God's man and ready to be put in the position of leader and ruler of God's people, Israel.

But just so, Pharaoh was God's man as ruler of Egypt for the coming drama. God said to Pharaoh in Exodus 9:16, "And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth." Let us not forget that "the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will." (Dan. 4:25). He brought Pharaoh to the Egyptian throne for this very purpose, and the preceding and facts will prove that He had the right man for the purpose and had made no mistake in His choosing. For all the major events of the Bible God brought forward selected men whose peculiar characteristics and dispositions fitted them for what He wanted them to do in that particular case. It was so here—Moses for the Israelite's leader and Pharaoh for Egypt's ruler.

There was a long line of Egyptian rulers in the Pharaoh dynasty. All of them were not like the Pharaoh of the exodus—strong-willed with an obstinate determination and a bitter, hard, unrelenting disposition—perfectly fitted for the operation at hand. In fact, the ruler just ahead of him was of a mild, generous disposition even toward the Israelites and made their burdens

lighter. God could not have carried out the full scope of His judgments upon the nation of Egypt (Gen. 15:14), and also against all the gods of the Egyptians (Ex. 12:12), upon a ruler like that.

Now let us consider that God was preparing to bring out the Israelites from Egypt and establish them as people for Himself. Let us also consider that the Israelites of that generation were 430 years down the line from Abraham. That generation had come up in Egypt among the Egyptians, and had only a faint knowledge of Abraham's God but were deeply involved with the Egyptian's in the worship of their gods; they were pretty much idolaters themselves. Therefore, it was very much necessary that all the gods of the Egyptians with whom the Israelites were familiar and participated in the worship of be judged and proven to be impotent, powerless, and worthless, and He Himself established in the minds of the Israelites as the true and living God, possessing all power and superior to all other gods.

All the plagues poured out on Egypt were directed against their gods one at a time. The Egyptians worshiped the serpent in the temple of Uraeus. The first miracle was directed against this god—Aaron's rod becoming a serpent. The Egyptian magicians did the same thing, but Aaron's serpent devouring theirs proved their serpent god to be impotent and the true God superior. The Nile River was also held sacred and revered as a god and its fish regarded as holy. When its waters were turned to blood and all its fish died and became putrid and stank, they loathed their god and fled from his banks in horror. The Egyptians also worshiped the frog; unclean mammal that he was. The plague of frogs turned their god into a curse to them. They dared not kill them because they were sacred; hence, they became to them a terror and disgust.

The plague of lice brought to an abrupt end and total halt all of their religious rites for its duration. It was directed against their priests and temples. Their law forbade any priest to approach the altar with this loathsome insect on his body. To protect against any chance accident of this kind, they wore white linen and shaved their heads and bodies every day. But now there was no escape; the lice were everywhere and on the bodies of every Egyptian.

Baal-zebul was the Egyptian god of flies and had the reputation of protecting them from the swarms of flies which, at certain seasons, infest the air throughout all Egypt. The plague of flies proved the inability of this god to ward off the infestation of flies and the inability of the Egyptian magicians to remove the flies

proved the superiority of the true God over their false god or idol.

The plague of rain, hail, thunder and lightning, such as they had never seen nor heard before, was directed against the worship of Isis, as the moon, who controlled the seasons, clouds and weather. When all the prayers to Isis failed to stay the fearful tempest of God's wrath, it surely proved the folly of idolatry and trusting in an idol god that could not protect them against the power of the true God.

The god Serapis was regarded by the Egyptians as their protector against the devastating power of locusts. There was quite an elaborate and sophisticated system of worship to him. The plague of locusts was directed against this idol god and his system of worship and proved his inability to do what they credited him with doing.

The plague of darkness was aimed at the universal worship of Osiris, or the sun. It served to show that the true God was superior to their "lord of the sun" and could veil his splendor any time He chose and for as long as He chose.

The plague of the very grievous murrain upon all the cattle of the Egyptians which produced the death of all their cattle was directed against their system of brute worship. This system prevailed throughout, and they had a large image of the sacred bull at the entrance of some of their temples.

It was customary for the priests at their heathen altars to take some of the ashes of the sacrifice and throw into the air. They believed this would protect them from and ward off any evil. When Moses at God's command took ashes and cast it into the air, it became a very fine dust throughout all Egypt and produced boils on the bodies of all the people of the Egyptians, thus turning what they believed to be their protection from evil into a very painful and grievous torment to them.

Thus the whole idolatrous system of the Egyptians with all of its gods was judged in this operation as well as the nation of Egypt who had oppressed and afflicted the Israelites, being judged and destroyed. At the same time, a separation was made between the Egyptians and the land of Goshen where the Israelites dwelt, and none of these things were happening over in Goshen, but the Israelites were only beholding these things with their eyes. This surely should have confirmed to them that their God was above all other gods and there was none beside Him, and that the true God of their fathers was their refuge, strength, defense and protector.

Suppose this chain of events would have

been interrupted at any point and not have been carried through to its conclusion. There would have been some of the idol gods who would not have been judged, and therefore the Israelites would have come out with perhaps as much reverence for them as the true God of their fathers. Therefore it was absolutely imperative that Pharaoh remain adamant throughout the entire operation and not capitulate at any point.

Therefore, God kept hardening his heart that he would not surrender until God's work was finished and His objectives gained. God had raised up Pharaoh for this special time and purpose. (Ex. 9:16). Again, God said He would have mercy on whom He would have mercy and whom He would He hardened. (Rom. 9:18). But let us not make the serious mistake of questioning God's sovereign rights to deal with every individual as He sees fit, because He is the One who searches all hearts and tries all reins and knows exactly what is in men's hearts, and we don't. And He possesses the power and ability to make even the wrath of men to praise Him, and when He is dealing with someone who is obstinate, rebellious and defiant against Him, He can use him in whatever way necessary to accomplish His purposes and be justified in it.

From Rags To Riches

(Continued from page 3)

God, He has given me grace and power to overcome the flesh and to serve sin no more. I do not say that I have not had temptations, tribulations, or mistakes, for since that time I have had many failings. I had put up many barriers between me and the world to keep from being hurt any more, and I am still trying to break some of these down. The healing process has been slow and hard, but God is with me, helping me. I even still have to work hard, going through many trials and tribulations, as I learn to apply myself to true Bible humility. Many attitudes, much lack of grace, and ways of thinking I have struggled to overcome. The scars of sin were many and deep. I thank God that one by one they are being healed. My mind is being healed more day by day, and Jesus is teaching me how to live. Though I still have many tears and sorrows, I have determined, by the grace of God, to live for Him all the days of my life. Accusations and doubts assail on every hand, but my face is set like a flint.

As I look back over my life, I can see where God has had mercy on me time after time. If He had failed one time and had let me go completely my way, I would be dead by now. I would be hopelessly lost without a Saviour. As a

teenager. I never dreamed that I would end up on skid row. I had no idea that the following years would take me so low. The effects of sin and doing things your own way are like that. When you turn yourself over to the devil you take away the power to decide what you will or will not do. "Sin will take you farther than you want to go." Your future may look ever so bright, but if you allow him to, the devil will cause you to stumble and fall. He will promise you riches but give you rags. He will promise you happiness and give you pain, misery and unrest. The devil is real and powerful, and if he can he will try to kill you before you can get to God. He is not a little man in a red suit with horns, running around with a pitchfork and pointed tail, he is a crafty, wily, ruthless spirit who will work on your mind to convince you that its okay to do evil. Hell is a terrible place to be in eternity. Hell is real and the devil will take you there if he can. Only in God is the power of choice fully realized. You say now that you will never reach the depths of sin, but tomorrow you may commit suicide. Nobody ever intends to grow up and be a thief, liar, adulterer, or murderer, but they do because they are under the powers of the world and of Satan. It's a fearful place to be in.

Many, having no guarantee of God's mercy, go on in sin—blinded to the realities of death and the everlasting torment to follow. God gives true happiness, peace and rest. He is the only source of contentment and grace. The world promises much, but provides only heartache and disappointment. In this day of advanced technology man still does not have the answers to life. He can not answer simple questions like, "Why should I continue living?" or, "What is my purpose in life?" Only God has those answers. "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." I Cor. 15:19. Our hope can only be in things beyond this life. "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing?" To be "in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming." (I Thess. 2:19). Our purpose in life is to glorify God. "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." I Cor. 6:20. When we are not fulfilling this purpose we are out of God's element and there is a void within our souls. One may seek professional help, may turn to drugs, alcohol, or any number of sensual pleasures, but without being in the will of God there is no help.

Turn to God, oh soul, while the chance is yours, before the seeds of sin bury their roots deep within your heart. It is better to never realize the agonies of a life of sin. "Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salva-

tion." (II Cor. 6:2). Come out of bondage. The truth shall set you free. Open your eyes, dear reader, and observe your path. It leads either to eternal bliss and happiness or to eternal pain and agony. Which are you choosing? Oh soul, please heed the warning and make the determination to always live for God. It will take a deep humility and great determination to make heaven. It will take long hard work, much prayer and tearing at your heart to undo the effects of sin on your life, but heaven will be worth it all.

On May 7, 1988, my father shot himself in the head with a .22 caliber rifle. Despite all of his claims of power, wisdom and happiness, he died a miserable man. He left this world completely friendless, having few possessions and many debts. He was a lonely and heartbroken man. Let this not be your state, dear reader. Whatsoever you sow, you shall surely reap. (Gal. 6:7-8). Sow good seed. Be not caught up by the world's glory, flashiness, or glamor. They will fail you in the end. Seek God, and fall in love with His ways. He will not fail you, nor forsake you, as long as you humbly walk in His steps. God's way is best. Follow that way, and your final end shall be better than your beginning. Do not try to live out my testimony before deciding to live for God. The best testimony a man can have is that he served God all of his days. Trials and tribulations are hard enough with God. Without Him, they are overwhelming. God be with you all. Amen.

We have this testimony in book form. The book contains 21 pages and is bound in a heavy paper cover. It sells for 50¢ each. Please include 90¢ for the first dollar and 9¢ for each additional dollar of total order for postage and handling.

The Pearl Of Great Price

Jesus spoke in Matthew 13:45-46 that the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. There are many people seeking goodly pearls today. The heart of man is constantly reaching for things to put his heart and affections upon. Every new invention, style, or fad finds some heart to enter.

There is the pearl of fashion. A person thinks that to be in the latest style or mode of life secures for him a place in the honor, esteem and friendship of society and those around him. This is a big thing in many people's lives. One of the greatest and most difficult things to give up would be one's standing with the crowd.

There is the pearl of pleasure. To please the flesh and indulge in activities of sports, recreation and entertainment is the mainstream of many people's lives; that is what they live for. This is another "pearl" that is hard to give up.

A man's religion is a pearl to him. His church, his belief, and what he lives by lies close to his heart. It is deeply rooted in his nature. It is a good thing to be religious, but we must be aware that there is a false religion that a person can have. It is not everyone who says "Lord, Lord," that shall enter the Kingdom of God. It would be wise for us to be very careful and attentive to what we believe and how we worship. The Holy Bible, the Word of God, shows us the true religion and worship of God.

The love of money is another pearl that people seek. To be wealthy is the goal of the majority of our society today. The Scripture declares that the love of money is the root of all evil. (I Tim. 6:10). It dominates the whole life of a person. Money is the lifeline of many, even if they have to steal to get it. They seem to think that the more money they can have, the happier they will be. It really proves to be the opposite. The more money they have, the less happy they are. Yes, this is another pearl that is so hard to give up.

However, all of these pearls and any other treasure that is of this world is nothing when compared with having Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Friend and living to please God in our lives! You really have to turn loose of all of these other "pearls" to be able to possess Christ, the Pearl of great price, but it is well worth the effort. None of these other "pearls" can compare to the "Pearl of Great Price." These other pearls are just for this present fleeting life, and they give no assurance of eternal happiness. They will fade and pass away. But the joy of having Christ as our treasure gets sweeter and richer as time goes by. He is truly the Pearl of great price.

Give up all of these other pearls, my friend. Jesus offers you mercy and forgiveness. He will give you a peace of heart and mind that you never dreamed possible. He will bless you with such happiness and pleasure that never could be found in the vain pursuits of these other pearls. Come to Christ with a godly sorrow for your sins, and look up to Him who sits at the right hand of God in power and love to save your precious soul. When you find Him precious to your heart, you will find a solidness and steadfastness in your life that will help you meet the problems and responsibilities of life with victory and success. The Pearl of great price will help you in every detail of your life, both in soul and in body.

Christ's kingdom is one of love, light, and life. All gloom, despair, bitterness, hatred and strife is dispelled as we follow Him, the meek and lowly Lamb of God. His presence in your life will be the greatest treasure that you will ever have or want. He satisfies. To be saved and safe from the woes of this world and that which is to come is truly the greatest Pearl that one can possess. It can be yours today if you will bow to the Lord Jesus and make Him your all. Turn all of these other vain pearls loose and through faith and obedience to Him gain possession of the greatest treasure man can ever have, the salvation of your precious soul unto everlasting life.

With Christian love, —Bro. Leslie Busbee

Right Now

In our modern world of today, some American stores still have the slogan: "Satisfaction Guaranteed or Your Money Back!" Thus meaning, if you purchase an item you cannot use because it was broken, or it did not fit properly, or it wasn't needed like you first thought, or perhaps you just didn't like it after taking it home—whatever the reason for returning any item back to this store—your money will be cheerfully returned for the item or else you will be able to choose something else in exchange. We all understand this policy very well and often we will save sales receipts because they need to accompany the returned item at the store.

"Satisfaction Guaranteed" can be met with the redeeming of money for the returned item or with an equal trade for another item in exchange. However, there is something in life that you redeem daily but will never have this refundable policy offered with it. In Ephesians 5:16 we read the exhortation to redeem the time. Time is something you are spending **right now** and the time you spend **right now** can not be exchanged for other time. The last moment you just redeemed in your life will never again be yours to spend. It is gone forever.

Whatever way you spent the previous hour of your life, you can not take that hour back and exchange it because you weren't satisfied with the way that hour was spent. Life does not offer: "Satisfaction Guaranteed or Your Time Back!" Each moment, hour and day that you spend of your life is redeemed into reading time, praying time, eating time, sleeping time, etc., and so life passes into years. If at middle age a person suddenly wishes he would have spent more time reading and praying instead of eating and sleeping, he can not go back to his

youth and change the time around. The time has already been redeemed and there is no refund. No one moves back the hands of time. You must be satisfied with your redemption of time **right now**.

"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." Eph. 5:16-17. When you spend your time **right now** according to the will of the Lord, lifelong satisfaction will be guaranteed and enjoyed **right now**. There will be no need for a refund. Do not be a fool with your valuable time, but spend time wisely, praying continually in your heart for guidance from the Lord.

Either God is receiving benefit and glory from our time, or else we are selfishly wasting it. The devil also knows the great value of your time and he is eager to steal precious moments for the vain pleasures that perish with using. Your idle time will soon become the devil's treasure and you will never have any stolen time returned by that thief. We know that as long as a person lives in sin, he is wasting time that can never be returned to the Lord on the day of his salvation. Sins will be forgiven, but the wasted years have come and gone. No one, not even God, can refund or exchange a person's time because he is not satisfied with past years. Therefore, it is wise to remember your Creator in the days of your youth. (Eccles. 12:1). Lean not unto your own understanding but in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your path. (Prov. 3:5-6). Remember: time is simply not refundable.

We must each one be minutemen, watching and praying lest the enemy of our souls steals away precious time we must spend serving our Lord and Master. There is much work to do because the world is evil. Reckoned time on earth very soon will come to a crashing halt when Jesus comes again in the clouds. Then our short labor of love we have done in this life will be rewarded in the deep fathoms of eternal time.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

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The Bible says, "There is no peace, saith my God to the wicked." Oh, how true this is! But when we come into possession of salvation, we can find everlasting peace. We can be at peace with God and our fellow man. When Jesus was about to ascend to the Father, He said, "My peace I give unto you." We can possess it all the days of our life, and nothing can rend it from us. The foe may be raging on the outside, but when Jesus is enthroned within, peace reigns—the peace that no foe can destroy.—S. Pauley

"Precious In The Sight Of The Lord Is The Death Of His Saints."

Ps. 116:15

These words were impressed upon my heart a night or two after my husband went home to be with the Lord. The thought came, if it is precious in the sight of the Lord then it should be precious in our sight, too. Then the question followed, "Why is it precious in His sight?" My heart was lifted up with joy as I waited for the answer. Different truths began flooding my mind and heart, feeding my soul. John 3:16 reads, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." In God's great love for all mankind He gave His only Son and sacrificed the very best. When a soul has responded to that love by humbling their heart in godly repentance, the suffering of Jesus' death upon the cross has not been in vain and that soul is forever safe. God's plan has been completed in behalf of that soul and therefore the death of that soul is precious in His sight. My soul was made to rejoice, knowing that my dear companion was at rest, no longer suffering, and was happy, blessed and healed.

A little over three months before this time my husband had enquired of the Lord as to what His will was concerning himself. He had been sick for several weeks and wondered whether or not it was God's will to heal him. The Lord gave him the Scripture, "Behold, I come quickly." (Rev. 22:12). He understood that the Lord was soon going to take him home. Later that day as he related this to me, he did so with joy, anticipating the fact that he would soon be going to his eternal home. The dear Lord had been preparing me for this message in various ways for a year or longer. Then right away the thought came that I could enter into and share his joy, or I could take the negative side of thinking of my loss and lamenting it. The Lord helped me and I chose then to share my companion's joy. I told him that I would miss him, probably more than what I could realize right then, but I knew God's way was best.

We did not know just how long "quickly" was to be, but we were both persuaded in our hearts that God knew the very best time for him to take his upward flight, and we prayed together to this end. We planned together and the dear Lord helped me to begin storing up precious memories. The next morning I found him singing the song, "My heavenly Father is caring for me, My bark He is guiding o'er life's raging sea. . . . His child evermore, and He's

with me I know, E'en tho' thro' the valley of death I should go. . . ." —Number 101 in the *Evening Light Song Book*. That song became precious to both of us through the remainder of his affliction and we sang it from time to time.

Two nights before the Lord took him home, my husband told me that he needed to talk with a certain sister. I called her and found that she could not come until the second evening after my call. The day she came he was very low, but was still conscious and able to talk some to her and heard her reply. Then the sister desired to have prayer. We all came back in the room as she led in prayer. That was the last step of preparation needed and it wasn't long until the Lord took him quietly home without a struggle. Yes, I know of a surety that, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."

Oh Lord, "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!" (Num. 23:10).
—Sis. Fern Stubblefield

The Traveler's Petition

O God, I do not ask life's road to always clearly see;

I only ask to know that road doth surely lead towards thee;

And then, tho earthly shades conceal the next step from my sight,

Unwavering faith shall lead me on from darkness into light.

O God, I do not ask to feel the warmth of sunlight's glow

Along the way; I only ask thy promises as mine to know;

And then, however deep the gloom, with penetrating chill,

Thy Word, as light, shall lend me warmth, and comfort blest instill.

O God, I do not ask to know the distance I must tread

Before the end is reached; I only ask thy guiding hand instead;

And then, tho weary be the miles o'er which my feet must roam,

With thee as guide I shall not fail to reach my long-sought home. —Elsie E. Egermeier



Excerpts Taken From

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"The revival [in Las Vegas, Nevada] began Sept. 23, and continued through Oct. 18, 1964, and it was a success. Community interest was good and six souls claimed salvation. Many others were impressed and stirred. Some came to inquire about services after the meeting closed. Even though this is a new field, we are endeavoring to establish regular services there and have made arrangements for at least one minister to be there each Sunday to take care of the services. We hope to have a permanent place of worship as soon as possible and request the prayers of the saints for this work in Las Vegas, Nevada."

—Bro. I. C. Chandler

"I would like to say that the Lord blessed by sending Bro. Roy Harmon and family here for a week's meeting during the Christmas holidays. The preaching was very good. We are yet meditating on the precious Word. This really did encourage and strengthen us here at Phoenix, and how our hearts do rejoice in God that He still cares for the little flock."

—Mrs. Annie Peete

"Our brother-in-law minister of the gospel, Bro. Willie C. Murphey, and his family have begun a missionary radio broadcast called "The Mission Trail" over station XEG, 1050 kilocycles, Monterrey, Mexico, each Friday night at 11:30 p.m. CST. The truth will be presented in message and song, with perhaps some reports of mission work and its activities. The powerful station of 10,000 watts should be heard all over North America." —L. D. Pruitt

"Remember your high calling. You are a Christian. The honor of the most glorious institution, the Christian Church, is in your keeping. Your Master, your Lord, is watching you. He calls you to self-mastery, to the conquest of evil, to the winning of the world. He is ready to give you all needed strength and wisdom. Surely you will not fail Him." —Selected