

# FAITH <sup>AND</sup> VICTORY

USPS184-660

## Church of God Servant



Volume 68, No. 6

68th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

\$1.00 Per Year

Sept., 1990

### *Shepherd Song*

"Saviour, like a shepherd lead us,  
Much we need thy tenderest care;  
In thy pleasant pastures feed us  
For our use thy folds prepare:  
Blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

"We are thine, do thou befriend us,  
Be the Guardian of our way;  
Keep thy flock, from sin defend us,  
Seek us if we go astray;  
Blessed Jesus,  
Hear, oh, hear us when we pray.

"Thou hast promised to receive us,  
Poor and sinful though we be:  
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,  
Grace to cleanse and power to free  
Blessed Jesus,  
We will early turn to thee.

"Early let us seek thy favor,  
Early let us do thy will;  
Blessed Lord and only Saviour  
With thy love our bosoms fill;  
Blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast loved us, love us still."

—Selected

### **A Refuge In Christ**

In Hebrews 6:13-19 we read that God, when He made promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no greater, He swore by Himself. It goes on down to say that God, willing more abundantly to show unto us, the heirs of His promise, the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath: that by two immutable things (His Word and His oath in Christ), in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast. For us who have fled for refuge in Christ this hope and consolation is an anchor of our souls. It means more to us than anything else in life.

There is a refuge in Christ from the storms, troubles, heartaches, and disappointments in life. This refuge in our blessed Saviour's love and fellowship can be realized and enjoyed despite the sorrows that attend this mortal sphere. We cannot expect flowery beds of ease and everything ideal in this short life. Things will not always work out as we plan. There will be burdens and heavy disappointments that will never seem to go away. Sorrows will come to you unbidden and pain will be our portion at times. But there is a refuge in Christ to which we can always flee and find safety and consolation.

It is a refuge for us to know of the love and care Christ has for our souls. If what we have dreamed and hoped for in the natural realm of life is frustrated or denied us, Christ wants to become so real to us that we can find in Him joy unspeakable and full of glory. Perhaps your husband treats you abusively or your wife proves untrue. These are deep-felt sorrows, each a sharp pain in the individual heart, even though they are common and widespread in our society. Great sorrow and dis-

truss attends these shattered dreams. Perhaps you might long for something better and cherish hopes that someday it will be different. If God's will is that it will be better for you, then we know that He can work out a better situation. But until He does work it out, He is inviting you to a refuge and a shelter of His love and care. He wants to fill the heart that is empty and disappointed. He has a joy and comfort to give you far beyond what any better situation can give. And He can give it to you **now** and He will enable you to soar above your sorrows on wings of faith and trust in Him to a refuge in the clefts of the Rock of Ages beyond the reach of the strife of tongues and the pride of man.

Take courage and look up. Flee to the Rock that is higher and more precious than anything else in this world. Chances are that things will not get much better as far as conditions and situations are concerned. But in the midst of it all we have the privilege of a sweet consolation and refuge in the bosom of our dear Saviour. Through prayer and holding our confidence in Him, we can have the daily strength we need to surmount life's burdens, and we can rejoice in the hope that some sweet day we will be delivered from the bondage of this mortal corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. Dear fellow pilgrim, flee from the sorrows and disappointments of life to the arms of our Saviour, and find in Him the comfort, consolation, and refuge that will atone for life's greatest letdown.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee



## What Christ Means To Us

We receive great comfort when someone tells us, "I understand, I know what you're going through." When we hear these words, we know that that person has gone through something similar. Maybe they will even tell you about their own personal experience and feelings. With this sharing, there is a special bond that will spring up between you. A mutual tie binds your hearts together, and a soothing and healing comfort will reach out and help heal your hurt. How we appreciate their care and understanding! Just knowing that they too have suffered is comfort within itself. God wants us to share our mutual woes as well as our blessings. God wants a close knit people, with Himself as the center. His wonderful plan of salvation has been wrought and especially designed in this way.

Jesus also wanted and needed that special bond and support. While in the garden of Gethsemane, He asked some of His disciples to help pray with Him and share His crushing burden. However, their flesh was weak and they fell asleep.

Listen to Jesus' agonizing cry as He prayed on all alone. He was weeping and sighing and groaning as He uttered these words, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." (Matt. 26:39).

What depth! What meaning in these heart-wrenched words spoken by the Son of God. Herein we can draw much strength and help; and find out what Jesus Christ really means to us. If you are going through something that causes you to feel full of despair and your outlook hopeless; tell your heart that Jesus knows, He cares, He understands! Jesus was mocked, reviled, rejected, and despised of men, and also suffered excruciating pain in His body. He suffered all of this to fulfill the wonderful plan of His Father—our redemption.

Here are some of the most comforting words ever spoken from the blessed lips of our Saviour: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matt. 11:28:30.

These precious Words have the power in them to calm and sooth the most troubled breast. Let your mind visualize Jesus with a loving, compassionate look, and His nail-scarred hands reaching out to draw you near. You will find comfort and strength in His everlasting arms.

Compare the yoke of sin to the yoke of Christ. Sin's yoke has many allurements at first, but oh how galling the yoke when the enticements have ensnared you! The yoke of Christ is easy and light in comparison. However, if we don't love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind, we will pull against Christ's yoke, for His yoke does not have the enticements of the flesh. Jesus was meek and lowly, so when we're yoked up with Him, we must learn to be in submission to God's will, and be willing to wait and trust in God's power. If we're not willing to wait for God's timing, we will be pulling against the yoke of Christ, and the yoke will seem too heavy and hard to bear.

While we are waiting upon the Lord, the Devil never fails to take this opportunity to throw his fiery darts of doubts and fears at us. We must take the shield of faith in the mighty name of Jesus to ward off his vicious attacks.

If you will yoke up with Jesus, "You'll find the heartfelt pleasure your soul has always craved." Here is a portion of a precious song that says so well what Jesus Christ means to us.

(Continued on page 16.)



## A Sure Way



"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,..."  
Matt. 6:19-20.

Just about harvest, I met Mr. Closem in the road, looking over the wall at a fine looking field of wheat belonging to himself. There was a glow on his face which seemed to say, "Ah, sir, that crop will bring me much money next year!"

"Well, Mr. Closem, you have got a fine field of wheat, to be sure!"

"Yes, sir; and it's not the first I have raised, I assure you. My land gives me grand crops of wheat. My barns are more than full of the crops of last summer."

"What are you going to do with it all?"

"Do?" Why sell it, to be sure."

"And what will you do with the money?"

"Why, there's a new trouble. It is difficult to know how to invest it so as to have it safe, and yet yield a good dividend. I must have both."

"I can tell you, sir, where you can do it."

"I doubt it; but let me hear. Will the money be safe?"

"Perfectly so."

"And the interest good and sure?"

"Yes, without fail."

"Well, tell me at once all about it."

"I advise you to invest a part of it in China."

"In China?"

"Yes. We are having the whole of that empire opening its gates to receive our religion, our civilization, and our institutions. Missionaries are wanted there and also in India. Here you can invest, and the principal will be safe, and the income large."

"Do you suppose I am simple enough to believe that money given away is ever to return, or to pay a dividend? Sir! I am not quite a fool."

"I hope you will be able to say that a thousand years hence."

But may I tell you a short story?"

"Certainly, if it be a true one. None of your made-up stories for me. Every word must be true."

"Well, sir, a few days since, I met a gentleman, the owner of large paper mills. He took me through the mills and showed the great vats of pulp, and the great piles of paper ready for the market, and a world of things which I did not comprehend. After seeing all the machinery, and hearing the praises of his men, I said, 'Will you please, sir, tell me the secret of your great success, for you tell me you began life with nothing?'"

"I don't know that there is any secret about it. When sixteen years old, I went to S— to work. I then solemnly promised the Lord that I would give Him one-tenth of my wages, and also that I would save another tenth for future capital. This resolution I carried out, and after laying aside one-tenth for the Lord, I had at the end of the year much more than a tenth for myself. I then promised the Lord, where He gave me more or less, I would never give less than one-tenth to Him. To this vow I have conscientiously adhered from that day to this; and if there is any secret to my success, I attribute it to this. I feel sure I am far richer on my nine-tenths (though I hope I don't now limit my charities to that) than if I had kept the whole."

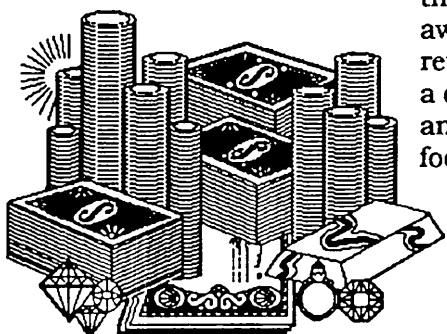
"Now, Mr. Closem, you have heard my story."

"Yes; but what have you told it for?"

"Don't you see? To take away the last excuse that you can make for not setting apart some share of your income and giving it to the Lord, for the benefit of your fellowmen, for whom Christ died. Give, give, my dear sir. God is able to make it up in giving you more wheat, more stock, less sickness in your family, more years to your life, more respect of your fellowmen, more peace of conscience, and a higher hope of heaven."

Mr. Closem said not a word. He turned and left me, looking sober and thoughtful. Were he a young man, I should have great hopes that he would see that this is a sure way of using the means to be blessed. Will young people note this, and act upon the hint growing out of my story?

—Selected



## 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 (USPS 184-660).

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, OK)

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.

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### SUBSCRIPTION RATES



Single copy, one year .....\$1.00  
 Package of 4 papers to one address, one year .....\$3.00  
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This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21, and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ—the same gospel that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for the body. James 5:14-15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: separation from sin 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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### FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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 Office phone: 405-282-1479; home: 405-282-6170.

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Postmaster: Please send address corrections to: Faith Publishing House, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044.

## EDITORIALS

Since there was no August *Faith and Victory* published, it seems a lengthy amount of time has elapsed since the last issue.

History verifies and current experiences establish the fact that God is most willing to impart manifold blessings to His people. We find that the richest vein of His favor is encountered at the foot of the cross. This is where we meet God. Yet there are many things in daily life, and even in the commission of religious living which would draw us away from that sacred spot.

It should often be our habit to assess whether we are still dwelling there, if we wish the continuance of God's favor and blessing. Samuel rebuked Saul, reminding him that when he was young and little in his own sight, he had obtained God's favor. (I Sam. 15:17). Speaking to the church at Ephesus, God said, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." Rev. 2:4. Christ also instructed the disciples, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 18:3). These truths reveal what our relationship with God should be and how it should stay.

Our country is in the process of electing candidates to political office. Someone told me recently that their plans were to vote against every incumbent holding office. There is a reason for such an intent. It often happens that those who are untainted by the political realm and who are full of well-intentioned zeal to serve the people, are elected. After assuming a post, however, officials soon begin feeling pressure from many different interest groups. Sometimes they succumb to the belief that in order to advance in their political career and to climb the ladder of the power structure, they must play politics. Playing politics is contrary to serving the people.

Do we have the same love, concern, and desire to serve others that we did when we were first saved? Or has our experience evolved into something that is self-centered? There is no litmus test like facing death. Our interests at that time will be what we have allowed them to develop into in life. When Christ was facing death, He prayed for His disciples and those who would follow after. When Jacob faced death, he called his sons together and admonished and encouraged them. Shortly before my father's death, (Willie E. Murphey) and after being confined to bed for several days, he inquired concerning the hour. Upon being told that night was approaching, he expressed a desire to kneel and pray. His prayer was not centered upon

himself. His only personal request was for more grace.

Let us who call ourselves Christians stay at the foot of the cross, maintaining a humility and simplicity of spirit which God will favor.

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We wish to thank all who patronized the bookstore during the Monark Springs, MO National Camp Meeting by purchasing literature and giving offerings. Your support meant much to us.

The Monark meeting was well attended by the saints throughout its 10-day duration, and there was quite a bit of altar work in some of the services. Several were also baptized on the last Saturday. A list of quotes from the meeting is included in the meeting reports of this issue.

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As many of our readers may remember, Bro. Byron Pruitt, the husband of Sis. Clarice Harmon (Pruitt) of Loranger, LA, and the son of Uncle Lawrence and Aunt Maybelle Pruitt, was involved in a fatal car/pick-up accident on June 13, 1984. Since that time the relatives of the woman driving the car that collided with Byron's vehicle, brought a lawsuit against Byron's estate. This lawsuit has drug on for several years, finally coming to a jury trial. Those bringing the lawsuit blatantly misrepresented many of the facts concerning the accident, putting the blame for the collision on Byron. The jury ruled in their favor and the judge recently signed a large judgment against his estate.

Sis. Clarice would appreciate fervent prayer from all the saints. This is an unjust burden that weighs heavily upon her. We know that God sees oppression brought about by the unjust (Eccl. 5:8) and your appeals to God in her behalf will be appreciated. An appeal is being considered and Sis. Clarice desires to know the proper steps to take and that some favor might be found with those in authority.

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We are still avidly preparing and printing gospel literature. The letters we have been receiving are a real encouragement to us. Those who simply inform us that the work is in their prayers give us courage to know that God will prosper the purpose of the printed page.

In order to keep the presses going, we recently put in an order for 5,000 lbs. of paper. We were informed that there had been two increases in the price of paper since we last ordered. The cost will now total approximately \$3,500.

We also have sent the reprinted book, *Birth of a Reformation* to the bookbindery. This will pres-

ent another sizable expense for which we need the Lord to supply.

May God be with you all. —Wayne Murphey

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

## Prayer Requests

AR—Betty Gilmore needs prayer for physical problems she is experiencing.

OK—Sis. Cassie Sell has an infection she is looking to the Lord to clear up.

CA—"I am requesting prayer for my family and some very special prayer requests."

—Doris Pihaylic

MO—"Continue praying for my complete healing and for my unsaved family."

—Lois Metzger

LA—"I need prayer for my eyes."

—Sis. Alta Flynn

WV—Sis. Gladys Morgan has been very sick and desires prayer.

IN—Bro. Grady Dunn is going through a severe time of affliction.

PA—"Please call my son's name in prayer. He has an affliction."

—Sis. Agnes Gaston

AL—"Zelda Hall is in a nursing home with a paralyzed throat after suffering a stroke in December. She needs much prayer."

—Sis. Melonie Whitson

OK—Sis. Lorraine Payne is still battling affliction in her body and desires prayer.

CA—"Please remember my sons and me in your prayers."

—Helen Carson

KY—"Put my children on your prayer list."

—Lola Jones

"I would like a standing prayer request for my institutionalized, schizophrenic son that he will not be released upon the family or society."

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## MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

### DUNCANNON, PA MEETING REPORT

Thanks be to God for the blessings received from His gracious hand during the tent meeting in Duncannon. He supplied all of our needs and gave us much spiritual food. Oh that more souls would be willing to receive it. We continue to pray for lost mankind here and everywhere. We were challenged to "be a salt shaker" and spread the gospel in any way we can as directed by the Holy Spirit, to value the truth of God's Word, and keep the faith regardless of hard tests. The unsaved were invited to taste and see that the Lord is good; may the messages follow after each one who attended. We

appreciate all who gave their support by their presence and prayers.

### WICHITA, KS MEETING NOTICE

The Wichita Fall Meeting has been set for Sept. 14-23. We are looking to God to bless and have His way in all things. All are invited to attend. If you are not able to come, please pray for it. The Devil is loose, but God is still in control and has all power in heaven and earth in His hands. We give Him the glory and we are depending on Him.

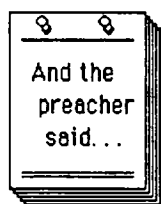
If you need to contact someone in Wichita, you may get in touch with Bro. Raymond Johnson, phone (316) 264-5803 or Bro. Keith Marsh, phone (316) 722-4118. —Submitted by Shirley Knight

### MISSOURI STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Missouri State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God at Myrtle will convene, Lord willing, on Wednesday, Oct. 10, and continue through Sunday, Oct. 14. There will be three services daily: 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

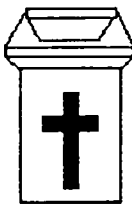
Everyone is cordially invited to attend this meeting. If you can't come, please pray for the meeting. We are expecting the Lord to give us another special visitation this year.

—The Myrtle congregation



### Monark Springs Camp Meeting Quotes

(Transcribed by  
Bro. Ed Wilson.)



"The Devil is doing everything he can, by dashing breakers of sin against us, to steal your testimony."

—Bro. Richard Madden

"God still has business in this world, and He has chosen to take care of that business through His Church (it is) the ministry of reconciliation."

—Bro. Charles Elwell

"If you've got the Holy Ghost and I've got the Holy Ghost, we won't bite one another."

—Bro. Gordon Humphrey

"Oh, listen, my friend, prepare for eternity, because you're going to get there. I'll tell you something about the judgment seat of Christ—it's no place for lawyers. All that'll be there is the Judge."

—Bro. Toney Samons

"We're in a very sensual age, and it's very important for the child of God to keep himself pure. We don't conduct ourselves as the world does when they're courting, but there's an aura of purity and righteousness that should surround us."

—Bro. Keith Fuller

"Dear ones, when (Bro. Fred Pruitt) read that out of the Word of God, and I was hungry and thirsty, it didn't take long to get understanding. He didn't say 'This is my opinion,' or 'This is what the Church teaches.' He said, 'Let's see what the Bible says about it.'"

—Bro. Austin McMillian

"What is my beloved more than any other beloved?" As I look out over your faces, I can see your beloved is very dear to you. Our beloved is the Word of God. He's our guide, He's our Comforter, He's our helper in every way."

—Sis. Margaret Eck

"I had an attack, was slumped over, unconscious, with my spirit in a peaceful place, but saints were gathered around praying. When I revived, I said, 'Oh, Lord, why couldn't I stay in that peaceful place?' and He spoke to my heart, 'I've got to honor my Word.'"

—Sis. Katherine Williams

"We usually value a thing pretty well by what it costs. Well, God put such a value on our souls He paid the greatest cost that could be paid. Since the Lord put such a great value on us, it'd just be good common sense to get acquainted with Him."

—Bro. Vada McMillian

"The way from earth to glory is not a way that we can learn all in one day. Keep encouraged in the Lord. The years soon fly by, and you'll be glad when you look back."

—Bro. Emmanuel Gracey

"The good news I bring to us today is that God's got an experience for us that's victory all the time. Folks say, 'That's not natural!' and I agree, it's not. It's spiritual! The more we can live in the Spirit, the better off we're going to be; and if we don't live in the Spirit, we're not going to make it anyway."

—Bro. Ostis Wilson

"What was between Zaccheus and Jesus? It was flesh, people; big people, little people, skinny people. People can still keep you from seeing Jesus. Yes, the flesh will fall away when I die, but we need to get rid of some of it here."

—Bro. Bob Huskey



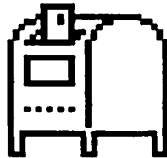
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**From  
The**

**Mailbox . . .**



NC—Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Greetings in Jesus' name. I enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory* so very much. I pray for each request and all your work for the Lord.

I am hoping to be able to be at the camp meeting in Durham, NC, Aug. 12-19. I am not able to get about as I would like to, but I am thankful for what I can do. God has blessed me in a great way. Praise his name. . . .

May God supply every need for you to reach many souls in your work.

Love in Jesus' name, —Sis. Lessie Dixon

FL—Dear Christian Friends: I hope all is well in the Print Shop. I have missed your *Faith and Victory* paper this month, but I am so glad you could be at the camp meetings. I trust that many souls have been won to Christ. We are living in terrible days of wickedness on every hand. Surely the Lord's coming is drawing near.

May God bless you all, —Judith Klokner

IA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in Jesus' dear name: We are sure glad that we got to the camp meeting at Monark Springs, MO. We had the saints pray for us both. My arm and hand are getting better. I can use my hand a little to do things.

We want to make heaven our home. Pray for both of us. . . .

Yours in Christ Jesus,

—Bro. Charles and Sis. Dorothy Mason

TX—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who died that we might live. What a mighty God we serve. He is a most wise God who

can see far ahead to make a way for us to do His will. He made a way for "whosoever will."

Pray for me that I will have strength in the work of the Lord, and to know what to do and when to do it.

My children need prayer for soul and body...

May God bless and keep you encouraged is my prayer.

—Sis. Nellie Lovell

MI—Dear Bro. Wayne: I love to read all the nice things in the good *Faith and Victory* paper. I pray all is going well with all of you in the Lord's work and that each day many souls will be saved.

I thank the dear Lord for all the blessings He blesses me with. He is so good to me. He has taken such good care of me all through my life, healing me many times. He loves me and He died for my sins. I could never thank Him enough. I owe Him so much!

I thank all of you so much for your prayers for me. I need them and I love all of you as my brothers and sisters in Christ. May God bless each and every one of you richly in soul and body.

—Sis. Olive Getterson

OR—Dear Bro. Wayne and all at the Print Shop: Greetings of love in Jesus' name. Just a few lines to let you know we think of you all and pray for you often.

The "signs of the times" all point to the end of time. The harvest is becoming more difficult and fewer souls have any interest in preparing for eternity. The perilous times described in II Timothy 3 seem to be completely fulfilled at the present time. May the Lord find every one of His children willing to live and testify the gospel as He would have us to, so that all we come in contact with will see the love of God and the "peace that passeth all understanding" in our lives.

Christian love, —Bill and Doris Busch

OK—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings in the name of the blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ, the hope of glory. It is a privilege to speak this name. He said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32. I count it a privilege to know His name and am encouraged to follow the Lord.

May the dear Lord ever bless the Print Shop.

—Bro. Frank Knight

OH—Dear Bro. Wayne and all the saints at the Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I enjoy

the *Faith and Victory* paper so much, especially the good testimonies of different ones He has healed. He has healed me several times too, and I thank and praise Him for it.

Now I have a need concerning headaches and my eyes. And I would like for all the saints to pray for my brother, my sister and children. They all need prayer.

Your sister in Christ, —Sis. Essie Abbott

— — — — —

KY—Dear workers at the Print Shop: In times like these we often wonder about ourselves, God's small creatures, and our universe.

In reading Matthew 10:29, "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father," a thing that happened recently comes to mind.

One morning a tiny robin sat by my kitchen door. Its feathers weren't full and its thin legs were weak. I knew it was prematurely from the nest. It chirped loudly for its mother. But strangely, I heard no answer.

I became concerned, knowing I shouldn't touch the small bird, in fear of keeping the mother away.

Each time I passed my kitchen window I would look out and search the yard for the small robin. Sometimes it would be sitting in the hot sun on a rock that formed a bed for my flowers, and sometimes it would be in the shade of a peach tree. It would chirp loudly, wait patiently, then chirp again.

I walked across my lawn knowing the mother robin, if near, would raise a commotion to distract me from its fledgling. But not a sound did I hear.

Before night covered the lawn with its blanket of darkness, I knew the tiny robin wouldn't be alive in the morning. I, being ignorant in the care of such tiny creatures, left the small brownish blob of feathers in the hands of the great Creator.

The next morning, from my parted kitchen curtains, I saw a small dark hump on the lawn. I knew death had come in the darkness and claimed this tiny victim.

I recalled the Bible verse in Matthew 10:29 and I knew He hadn't died without God knowing and allowing it to happen. I realized how much more mindful God is of His followers, and knows our every move.

I thank God for our Bible which gives us our hope for now and after death. Thank God for sending His Son to die for our sins. Thank God from whom all blessings flow.

God bless you everyone, —Wilma Horsley

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TX—Dear Brothers and Sisters: Please pray for me. I need help and guidance to be right with

the Lord. I have a smoking problem that has been bothering me for at least a year. I pray every day that I will have the strength to quit. I want to be right with the Lord, be saved, baptized and walk with Him every day. I have had cancer twice and it is very important that I quit smoking. Please pray for my health also.

God bless all of you, —Norma Detzel

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CA—Dear Saints: I am sending our love to all, everywhere, and thanking our dear Lord for His mercy, love and longsuffering. He has been so good to our family and answered many prayers in our behalf. I also appreciate the saints that pray with us.

May the good Lord bless you all always in a very special way.

Love and prayers, —Bro. and Sis. Underwood

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LA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings of Christian love to you and all the workers there at the Faith Publishing House: I trust the Lord is blessing richly in all the needs there at the office, with His big hand over every phase of the work. As He guides and directs by His Spirit as to what to print in the paper, I trust it will go out and be a blessing to the thousands who receive it. It is a wonderful way to spread the gospel to all who are hungry to be fed the wonderful truths it contains.

I do need prayer for my eyes. I have been anointed and prayed for twice. Some folks think it is a severe case of allergy. The Lord understands, and I am looking to Him to heal them. . . .

In Christian love, —Alta Flynn

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OH—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings to you and all of the workers there at the Lord's Print Shop. I am writing to let you know how much I enjoy the *Faith and Victory*, *Beautiful Way* papers and tracts that you so faithfully send to me. . . . When I go downtown on the bus, I pass the tracts out. Many people take the tracts and start reading them right away. I have also moved to another apartment and the people in the building seem to like to read the tracts and papers.

We had a very good meeting this summer. I really appreciate the Lord being so faithful in feeding our souls daily. We certainly have an adequate diet spiritually. I appreciate all of God's true ministers.

Please remember me, my children, and other loved ones in prayer. Also please pray for our congregation here in Akron and our Christian school.



I'll be praying for the work of the Lord there in Guthrie and in other places.

With much love, —Sis. Janice Shaw



### Testimonies And Answers To Prayer

SC—Greetings Dear Ones: I think of you there, and pray for you. Thanks for the *Faith and Victory* paper each month. I am still saved and pressing on.

I thank each one who prayed for my sister, Lurline Scott. The Lord answered prayer. She is up now and doing some housework. The Lord sure is good. . . . —Nettie Harbeson



LA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings of Christian love. We are still saved and encouraged in the Lord, though we're still fighting sickness and affliction. We know that when He has tried us sufficiently He will lift us out of our suffering.

Max had a real bad attack on July 6 but the Lord undertook and he has been resting much better ever since. He still cannot get up.

I have had back problems for a couple of weeks but am much improved. My back is still real weak and I have to be very careful in my getting about, but I feel victory is just ahead. 'Mid all this, we are a blessed people.

God is a present help in every time of need. How oft He's proved this to be true. We desire your continued prayers that we will be faithful and a true example of our love and trust in Him.

God bless, —Sis. Lula Williamson



PA—Dear saints at the Print Shop: The dear Lord has answered prayer already concerning my eldest son, Don. He has a thyroid condition but the Lord is blessing him. I pray, and also I am asking all of you to pray, that this will be a means of drawing him closer to God.

We thank and praise the Lord for all that He has done, and all that He is doing, and for all He is going to do. Amen.

Christian love, —Sister Agnes Gaston



LA—Dear Bro. Wayne and everyone: I wanted to let you and the other saints know that I have really appreciated the many prayers that have gone up for me since the later part of May when I re-injured my back.

I first hurt my back while working for my daughter, Sherlene. I was lifting on a heavy piece of meat in an awkward position. This was very

painful. After about ten days Bro. Bob Forbes was here and I was anointed and prayed for. I seemed to get help, but it was a gradual healing.

I was getting pretty well when in the latter part of May I was riding my tractor and hit a bad hole. This started my problem all over again.

This happened about the time of the Guthrie Camp Meeting and Francis Deforth requested prayer for me there. I was also prayed for again by ministers laying on hands.

It was several weeks before I got a whole lot better, but I felt I was gradually improving all along.

The thing that really impressed Marie and I was the way the Lord blessed me in my soul while I was going through the hardest part of this second injury. The good Lord just flooded my soul over and over and I believed this was the effects of the saint's prayers.

Now I want everyone to know that we really appreciate your prayers.

We felt we could hardly bear to miss being with the general assembly of the saints in some of the camp meetings, and we were pressing the Lord about that. Thank the Lord, we have already been to the Loranger meeting and we plan to go to Monark Springs.

At this writing I am not completely well, but greatly improved.

We do not want to fail to mention the nice card sent to us from camp meeting with all the signatures of the saints. It was so nice. We certainly appreciate all the cards and calls. We have had some dark pictures about this affliction, but when we think of all the saint's prayers it gives us faith and victory. —Manuel and Marie Mitchell



OK—To all the saints everywhere: I want to report that the Lord has answered many prayers. He has performed two great miracles on my body. He stopped the hemorrhaging from my affliction after three years, and that is a miracle. Also He hasn't let me suffer any pain and I rest in Jesus' arms. That is the second miracle. He has been so good to me and blessed me all my life. Now I am looking forward to a future home in heaven, just waiting for His call to come home.

The Golden Rule Home has been such a blessing to me. Everyone is so kind and loving. I have never wanted or needed a thing. . . .

With Christian love,

—Lucille (Trimble) Peterson



LA—Dear Bro. Wayne, and all of the workers at the Print Shop: Greetings and our Lord's blessings

be with you all! The Lord has done so much for me. I am still praising Him for the wonderful blessing of healing my eyes and making me able to read again. I know there is no limit to His power, and I am trusting Him for all of my needs. He is so precious to me and I purpose to be faithful.

I still need the saint's prayers. My bone structure is so weak I have trouble walking. Pray that I can keep from falling. I have had many falls and each time get more damage. I thank the Lord I haven't broken any bones.

I thank the Lord for each of you and for the printed page. I do appreciate your labors of love there in the Lord's Print Shop and pray for His continued blessings on you all.

With love and prayers, —Gladys S. Cashio

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CA—Dear Brother Wayne and workers at the Print Shop: Greetings of love to all of you on this beautiful summer day the Lord has given to us....

About two weeks ago the dear Lord protected us. About midnight a car traveling at a high rate of speed missed the bend in the road and came up our driveway. It hit the old Magnolia tree with a loud thud, taking out a chunk of the bark, tore out the snowball, lilac and poinsettia bushes, and five-way sprinkler system with pipe stand, coming within five inches of our bedroom wall where the head of the bed is, then hit the plum tree and finally came to rest in the Nandina and pineapple guava tree hedge. The driver took off.

Two fire trucks, the California Highway Patrol, an ambulance, and tow truck came out. The damage was over \$900 to our property. Elmer and I could have been killed or hurt if the car had hit the wall. Oh, what a mighty God we serve.

Please pray for the healing of my right knee which has arthritis and is giving me some trouble. I am learning to wait on the Lord and am praying for more faith. I have had so many healings and answers to prayer since I was a little girl. Now at 86 God will still heal me in His time.

Thanks for the *Faith and Victory* paper. We have enjoyed it for many years. God bless all of you for your labor of love. —Sister Lucille Allen

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MO—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. Today finds me still healed in my ears. I can hear as well as ever and I sure do give God the glory for all He does for me. I can't love Him enough. He is wonderful.

I thank you for your prayers. We need each other's prayers. Help me pray for my loved ones.

As ever, —Sister Eathel Hill

## FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From Monrovia, Liberia . . .

June 8—Dear Bro. Wayne and saints everywhere: As a report from the foreign field is very important, I am therefore writing early. Of all the political unrest in this country since last year, December up to this present writing, the Lord's work is going very fine. Family and I are sound in body. The revolts attack on this present government of President Samuel K. Doe is very strong and is leading to a defeat. Several thousands are dying day and night. Destruction of property is common. Human slaughter is on the wide-spread in the city of Monrovia. All other efforts by the present government to restore peace is fruitless up to this time. The situation is out of hand, and prayer is the only solution. Please do not forget this bloody land in your prayers. . . .

We are carrying on church activities such as home visitation, Bible studies, and mid-week prayer meetings.

In Christ,

—Bro. Josiah K. Pah, Sr.

Editor's note: Due to the fighting the airport at Monrovia has been closed, preventing any recent correspondence with Bro. Pah. The last we heard from him was via telephone. He indicated that his family and the saints in that area were suffering from hunger. At that time the main revolutionary troops were close to Monrovia but had not completely occupied the town. The situation there needs much prayer.

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From Mexico . . .

June 20—Dear Brother Wayne: We greet you in that name which indeed means everything to those who are saved. Above all the many blessings God gives us from day to day, the blessing of being saved from sin is far greater, and the wonder of being sanctified can't compare with other blessings.

I believe it has been some time now since I have written you. I don't mean to be negligent along this line, but it seems hard to sit down long enough to do it. We have gone to Mexico twice lately. We went to Chapultepec where Brother Mayarino Escobar lives and were in services with them. It was a hard trip on us all because of the long hours to go and come. It is a six-hour trip one way. But it was good to be there with the saints. They seemed encouraged in the Lord. They a big project going. They are building a new chapel and rooms for a dormitory, kitchen, and dining room. Their hopes are to finish this before the August meeting. It seems like a very

big project for such a little time.

We had a good meeting in Mexicali. It is about 3 1/2 hours from our home. But, oh, it is a hot, hot trip. Even through the heat, several came to the meeting. One family was sick and unable to go with us. Down there we gather people along the way and take them all to one place for the meeting. Generally we just visit in the home, sing, testify, or have a service. Several folks still claim to be saved. It is encouraging to see their steadfastness. We hope to go back soon. We have a scheduled meeting July 14, but trust to go sooner.

I must close for this writing. We do appreciate you and all the saints who are faithfully working at the Print Shop. We always remember you in prayer.

Your sister in Christ,

—Sis. Edith Cole Lara and family

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**From Bendel State, Nigeria . . .**

June 28—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and all the saved ones: Greetings in the matchless name of the Lord Jesus; the Sovereign of earth and sky. We bow to His greatness and power.

Our joy is great as the year is bright and beautiful with us, divinely speaking. The Bible is in our hands which has confined us to trail His track unmistakably. Bolts are being drawn back steadily for many to find the open door to Zion; the Kingdom of God's dear Son. We are awake, alive, seeing, and are on the push with the given power and might from above. His peace in our hearts has given adequate protection from being disturbed. Everything essential for pursuit of the Lord's work is in the storehouse of our God, to which we have access by faith. Our faith is active and going up unto Him to take delivery of all He has promised us.

We trust that the camp meetings currently going on in the U.S. will close with the victory of souls saved. Amen.

Yours in His army,

—Titus U. E. Enu

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**From India . . .**

July 11—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear brothers and sisters: I greet you in the glorious name of Jesus Christ. I am very glad to state that our Lord is so good to us. We are marching forward for His glory and for His kingdom.

We had a very profitable trip to Andhra Pradesh, which is the third state from our state. It took about 16 hours to reach this place. It was by train and was very tedious, but the meetings were very

profitable. Bro. John Varghese came and joined with us. People were very receptive. Twelve persons took water baptism. It was done in a public pond. We went there as a procession, singing songs and reciting Bible verses with a loud voice. It was a strange and new experience in their lives. Now we have a church there at Pakala. Our responsibilities are increased. We have to go there and instruct them in Bible doctrines regularly. When we think about the distance and journey it is so discouraging, but God is encouraging us. Please keep it in your mind and pray.

From June 20-July 1, we had a public Bible teaching ministry at Varapugha. A few came forward and expressed their desire to study the Bible more. We are planning to take a rented building and start a regular ministry of teaching.

Another important thing to invite your attention to is that we have started a new church gathering at Trichur. This is my hometown. I can join with Paul, the great missionary, and say, "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries." I Cor. 16:9. I don't know how we will work it out. The major problem is to find a suitable place for worship together. Since this place is in the town area, it is difficult to get a place. We believe that nothing is impossible to God. We can expect great things from the Lord.

Hope you are all keeping well and happy in the Lord. The Lord is at hand, therefore let us work hard and get ready to receive Him.

With love and prayers, —P. D. Mathunni

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**From Rivers State, Nigeria . . .**

Dear Bro. Murphey and other saints in the Lord's Print Shop: Greetings again in the only dependable name of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, whose precious promises will never fail.

Indeed, it is far more rewarding to be a despised, but faithful slave in the Lord's great harvest of souls than to gain the world's popularity and lose one's own soul. Encouragements do abound in the Word of God so as to enable us to endure unto the end which is fast approaching. May God grant each of us the needed patience.

Our second quarterly revival meeting for this year was held June 20-28. During this period we conducted outdoor public preaching services for four nights under a hired canopy. In one of the nights an unbeliever and indigene of Tombia, a middled-aged man, Melford by name, came forward in response to an altar call. He testified publicly of the miraculous manner in which God had healed him recently through our prayers of faith. Although we glorified God for His healing

grace on Melford's behalf, the need for him to be spiritually healed through the circumcision of his heart was stressed to him from the Word of God as being paramount.

There has been a long-dated land dispute between our town, Tombia, and her neighboring village, Bukuma. This dispute amounted into gun fighting in the disputed bush on Sunday July 1. The gunfiring continued until Monday evening before the police intervened. Several people died and many were injured. As a result of the fighting, both primary and secondary schools were closed. We have been praying to God to have mercy on the two communities and give us a lasting solution and peace through Jesus Christ. None of us were wounded. God preserved our lives because we were not partial in our prayers. Help pray so that peace will be restored between the two communities.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ abide with you all.

Yours in the body of Christ,

—Brother Onimite B. Alalibo

#### From the Philippines . . .

Aug. 3—Our dearest saints in Guthrie: Hello! Greetings of Christian love in the name of our Lord. Sorry I was not able to write you for so long. We are doing all we can with the unfailing presence of the Holy Spirit to live a sanctified life, and to preach the precious salvation to every one. Salvation is so precious, and that is what every soul must know.

We experienced the killer earthquake on July 16. Thank God, we are still living. We only received some slight injuries. Thousands of people were killed and injured, and millions worth of properties and crops were destroyed. Many of our brothers and sisters were much affected, not only their houses, but also their plants. Until now the national road going to the North is closed because of landslides. Some buses, trucks and cars were covered and some bodies are not yet recovered. The house of Brother Revelino Abalos in Puncan Carranglan collapsed. That was the house where the saints there were meeting for worship. The unfinished church building also collapsed. Our four small houses in the farm were covered with landslides. Thank the Lord, the brothers with their families were able to go out from their houses before their houses were covered, but some of their things were left. These brothers live with us in the farm. They were free to plant and harvest for their living. The farm was also destroyed because it is in a mountainous area. All our plants were covered

by landslides and floods of mud coming from the mountains. Many people are hungry. The government can help very little. People flock on relief centers.

Please pray for us.

Your brother in the Lord,

—Matias S. Tanguan

## In Memoriam

**Claude T. Wyatt** was born near Stella, MO, October 31, 1914. He passed away at his home in Kansas City, MO, July 1, 1990. He was united in marriage to Mildred Hague on April 15, 1939. They lived most of their married life in Kansas City. He was employed as a rate clerk for Trans-Con Trucking Co. for more than 25 years.

He had been searching for quite a long while for a satisfied experience with the Lord. He read several good spiritual books and his Bible a lot. He enjoyed reading the *Faith and Victory* paper also. He kept diligently seeking till he found a real born-again experience. He enjoyed his personal contact with God. During his several months of illness, the Lord's presence was near to comfort him. He left a good testimony with all his family. When his time came to go, he just went to sleep, and slipped away to be with Jesus.

He is survived by his wife, Mildred; one son, Richard Wyatt of Kansas City, MO; two daughters, Linda Arndt and Claudia Arndt, also of Kansas City, MO; two sisters, Carrie McMillian of Neosho, MO and Merle Bowers of Monett, MO; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services were conducted by ministers, Austin McMillian and Jacquelyn DeMaters. Interment was in Green Lawn Cemetery in Kansas City, MO.

**Clyde William Bethell** was born the eldest son of Jim and Minnie Bethell on July 25, 1908 in Bristow, OK. In the year of 1930 the Bethell family moved from Oklahoma to the North Santiam Community near Stayton in the Willamette Valley of Oregon. On July 17, 1936, Clyde was united in marriage to Ruth Mildred Trudgeon of Marion, OR.

For a number of years after marriage, the new Clyde Bethell family was engaged in fruit farming in the North Santiam Community. Then, in 1950, Clyde was employed by the Southern Pacific Railroad as a bridge carpenter and spent 23 years in that occupation.

In 1973 Clyde retired from the railroad, and in 1979 he suffered a stroke which left him partially crippled.

Clyde departed this life July 23, just two days short of his 82nd birthday.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth, of the home; one brother, Junior Bethell of Sheridan, OR; and one sister, Hazel Calhoun of Kaiser, OR.

He will be greatly missed by friends and loved ones.

Services were held at Restlawn Funeral Home and interment at Restlawn Memory Gardens, Salem, OR.

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**Daniel Jacob Kroker** was born Jan. 20, 1912 in the city of Inman, McPherson County, KS to parents George F. and Annie (Wiens) Kroker. He departed this life on Monday, July 23, in Bend, OR at the age of 78 years, six months, and three days.

On June 12, 1933, he was united in marriage to Mary Gail Haughey in Wichita, KS.

In 1938 Bro. Kroker attended Pacific Bible College of Spokane, WA, and upon completing his course of study, began his career of pastoring. His first place of labor was a congregation in Orofino, ID. In 1946 the Krokers transferred to Payette, ID, and in 1950 they moved to Los Anamas, CO.

In 1951 they moved to Olathe, CO and in 1953 they arrived in Bend, OR where he pastored the Church of God until 1957. Along with the burden of the pastorate in Bend, Bro. Kroker was employed by Bend Millwork and also labored some as a carpenter. He retired in 1974.

Bro. and Sis. Kroker have been affiliated with the Church of God in Jefferson, OR since 1963.

Bro. Kroker is survived by his wife, Mary, of the home; one daughter, Gracianna Black of Portland, OR; two sons, Donavan E. Kroker of Virginia Beach, VA; and Melvin R. Kroker of West Linn, OR; 15 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren; one brother, Ervin Kroker of Albany, OR; and a sister, Bernice Burright of Las Vegas, NV.

Preceding him in death was a son, Franklin Gardner Kroker, one grandchild, and six brothers and sisters.

He will be greatly missed by friends and loved ones.

Services were held in the Niswonger-Reynolds Chapel in Bend, OR and interment was in Deschutes Memorial Gardens.

The Kroker family would like to thank each and every one for the calls, cards, and thoughtful remembrances of them in this, their time of deep sorrow.

## Question and Answer by Ostis B. Wilson

**Question:** I do not understand Matthew 12:31-32. Please explain.

**Answer:** First I will insert this passage. "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come."

The first question to be determined to intelligently discuss these verses is, "What is blasphemy?" Webster defines "blasphemy" as "to speak in an impious or irreverent manner of; to speak ill or to the prejudice of; to use insulting or abusive language." Further Webster defines blasphemy as "evil or profane speaking and irreverence of God, derogating from His power or claiming His attributes; the expression of defiant impiety and irreverence against God or things held sacred."

Jesus discusses this matter of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit in Matthew 12:31-32, Mark 3:28 and Luke 12:10. The entire context of these Scriptures which is helpful in understanding and would be good for the reader to read in this connection is Matthew 12:22-33, Mark 3:22-30 and Luke 12:10. In all these Scriptures we find Jesus using this language, "He that shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him but whosoever shall blaspheme the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him neither in this world nor in the world to come." We see here that Jesus uses the terms "speak against" and "blasphemy" interchangeably and this corresponds with Webster's definitions given above.

Then, to blaspheme the Holy Spirit would be to speak impiously or irreverently of Him and His power and operations or to hold that attitude towards Him. It is specified in Mark 3:30 that Jesus spake these words "Because they said, 'He hath an unclean spirit,' " thus downgrading and derogating the Holy Spirit and attributing work which could only be done by Him to the Devil. Adam Clarke says that it is evident that this and nothing else is what is meant here. I agree that it is.

Let us keep in mind all the time that we are discussing something very specific here and we should discuss it in a specific way and not in any

general terms. If we speak in reference to "the sin against the Holy Spirit" let us specify it as "blasphemy" with an understanding of what that term means. All unrighteousness is sin and all sin is against the Holy Spirit and is grievous to Him. But the common category of sin such as pride, foolishness, an evil eye, uncleanness, backbiting, malice, evil speakings, tale-bearing, gossip, slander, deceit and all such else as may be mentioned in the Word of God are against Him only in the sense that His nature is that of absolute holiness and consequently all unrighteousness and unholiness is grievous and a vexation to His holy nature.

But blasphemy against the Holy Spirit stands alone in a category all by itself and is declared to be the only unpardonable sin and, therefore, should be referred to in a very specific way and not be mentioned in connection with any of the common catalog of sins mentioned in the Bible. Blasphemous words against the Holy Spirit are the worst kind of sin and are unpardonable. Jesus said, "All manner of sin shall be forgiven unto men." Blasphemy against God, a sin immediately

is the person that blasphemes the Holy Spirit and should therefore be construed in the narrowest sense. This one exception and it a somewhat narrow one is made not because of any defect in God's mercy; not because He does not love those who are guilty of it; not because he who becomes a blasphemer of the Holy Spirit was originally overlooked in the "Whosoever will" invitation; not that he was one singled out by Almighty God as an object of contempt and one to be punished from the beginning; but because to be guilty of it inevitably leaves the sinner in infidelity and impenitence."

But now the question remains, "Why is the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit so eternally fatal when all other blasphemy can be forgiven?" Jesus said, "All manner of sin and **blasphemy** shall be forgiven unto man." Note: This statement of Jesus included all manner of **blasphemy**. But Jesus moved right on to say in the same verse, "But the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men." But why this distinction? The answer is rather simple when we under-

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*"To be guilty of it (blasphemy against the Holy Ghost) inevitably leaves the sinner in infidelity and impenitence."*  
 .....

touching His name and honor shall be forgiven. Words spoken against the Son of man shall be forgiven even as it was to those who reviled Him at His death, many of whom repented and found mercy. "All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men," said Jesus, "But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him in this world nor in the world to come."

What is meant here is the individual who knowingly, with a fixed purpose and full exercise of his own will, maliciously opposes, defiantly blasphemes and speaks impiously and irreverently of and despises the Person of the Holy Spirit and His operations.

Matthew Henry comments on this point: "It is adjudged in our law that an act of indemnity shall be construed in favor of that grace and clemency which is the intention of the act. Therefore the exceptions in the act are not to be extended any further than needs be. The Gospel is an act of indemnity. It is necessarily construed in favor of grace and clemency and its terms are extended as far as they possibly can be without reacting against God's justice and holiness in order to make room for every one possible to be made partakers of its mercy and benefits and the one and only exception

stand the nature of the God-head, the plan of salvation and the unfolding of the Divine revelation of Himself and His truth unto men.

The God-head is a Trinity composed of three in one—God the Father, God the Son, (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit. These three have all cooperated together in the plan of salvation in their various roles and capacities. God devised the plan of salvation and sent His Son into the world to confirm it and then sent the Holy Spirit into the world to execute it. God had a dispensation in which He dealt with men directly and personally. But men in general did not understand God and consequently were not true in their allegiance to Him. Then He dealt with men in a more indirect and impersonal way through the law and the prophets, and in different types, shadows and figures tried to reveal Himself more clearly to men through the types and rituals of the law. But though they did not understand Him and love and serve Him as they should, He was merciful unto them and longsuffering with a purpose to send His Son, Jesus, into the world to reveal Himself fully in Him and perchance men would be convinced of their error and turn to Him. Hebrews 1:3 declares the Son to be the "brightness of His glory and the express image of His person." Colossians 1:15 and

II Corinthians 4:4 declare that Christ is the "image of God." In John 14:9 Jesus said, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." Colossians 1:19 says that all fulness dwelt in Him. Therefore it was a part of the mission of Christ to reveal God to mankind in a full and complete sense and to bring men to God.

Many were gained and brought to God through His revelation of God to them, but in general they did not understand Him nor believe in Him either. But that was not necessarily fatal, because there was still another who was to come and reveal Christ to them in a full measure and convince them of the error of their ways. This was the Holy Spirit. Jesus said in John 16:14, "He shall glorify me; for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you." Also He said in John 16:8-9, "... He will reprove the world of sin, ... because they believe not on me;" We see here it was the work of the Holy Spirit to reveal Christ to men and convince and convict them that they had missed the mark and erred greatly in not believing in Him.

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity and completes the God-head. This is His dispensation in which we now live and it is the last one. God's Word said in Acts 2:17, "And it shall come to pass in the **last days**, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: . . ." and Peter declared this that happened on the day of Pentecost to be a fulfillment of a prophecy found in Joel 2:28. But the Holy Spirit was to be poured out upon all flesh in the **last days**. Therefore this is the **last days** and the last dispensation of time. There is no other to come after the Holy Spirit to accomplish any thing more in the salvation of men. **This is it!** It is now or never! All who fail to be convinced of their error in rejecting Christ through the convicting power and influence of the Holy Spirit and continue on in their unbelief and blasphemy are now and were then sinning against the last remedy for sin and were left without pardon. The Holy Spirit is the last agent of conviction and the last means of access to God. Jesus said, "No man can come unto me except the Father which sent me draw him." But the Holy Spirit is the agent through which God draws men unto Himself and without His drawing, convicting power we cannot get to God at all.

Since the Holy Spirit is the last remedy for sin and the last means of access to God, to despise and irreverence Him leaves one without any other source of help and means of access to God and is consequently doomed. To blaspheme Him inevitably leaves one in total and permanent impenitence and consequently unforgiven and therefore eternally condemned.

## Home Life



### Declared War On Home Life

The American family is in fact on the endangered species list. Since 1970 the rate of marriages has dropped 30% while the number of divorces is up to 50%. More than 1 million American children witness their parents' divorce each year, and 10 million children now live in one-parent homes. What's more, the illegitimacy rate has doubled; over half of inner-city children are born out of wedlock.

Why?

The answer lies in the "religion" of our world. The worship of secular humanism is fast becoming the national religion of our country and it is designed to tear down every moral standard that God's Holy Word holds sacred. The word "secular" by definition refers to "the temporal rather than spiritual." Humanism is a doctrine centered solely on human interests and values. Therefore, humanism deifies man and dethrones God, or does not even acknowledge God's existence. In short, it is Atheists who believe in secular humanism, and atheism is an ancient evil King David wrote about in Psalm 14:1, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good."

With the elimination of God, no longer are there any absolutes to appeal to. Instead, we live in a secular society that increasingly refuses to recognize "absolute" truth. All truth is now "relative." That means there is no such thing as "the" truth, only "my" truth and "your" truth. In this way Humanists want to take away the sting of guilt that comes with permissive living and loose morals. Their philosophy is if a person is unhappy in one marriage, get a divorce and try again. Or to be freer still, don't marry at all, but live with different ones until you are able to decide which one is best for your personality and goals in life. Of course the "horror" of an unwanted pregnancy is to be considered and there should be "freedom of choice" on the method to best take care of this "problem," so say the freedom of choice organizations. However, America should consider this: Abortion has in the U. S. alone claimed more than 26 million unborn children, which is more than four times the num-



ber of those who died from the unspeakable cruelties of Hitler's death camps.

Just what is our country coming to? One Harvard law professor wrote: "Our whole culture seems to be facing the possibility of a kind of nervous breakdown." Actually it is a moral breakdown. The youth of our land are drunk on music which praises Satan worship, murder, fornication and many other forms of lasciviousness. Broken homes leave children confused, wondering who they are and what will become of them. Teenagers, even children, try to end the emptiness of life. In the past 20 years the suicide rate for children ages 10-14 has doubled and the rate for young people ages 15-19 is three times as high. Then consider the plague of sexual diseases disgracing our society today with over 70,000 deaths in the U.S. already attributed to AIDS, and hundreds of thousands of others already infected. Does our country face death?

The worship of secular humanism has embalmed our country and surely the burning is close at hand. These conditions should grieve our hearts, for God will "set a mark upon the foreheads of the men and women who sigh and cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof." (Ezek. 9:4). These that cry aloud shall receive God's mercy. We must keep ourselves clean from the idol of self wants and pleasures. Following selfish desires, lusts of this world, and vain ambitions will draw one close to the worship of secular humanism.

At an early age, children should be taught that they were made in the image of God and their body is the sacred temple of God. They do not need to be taught the facts of life at an early age as Planned Parenthood so erroneously stresses. The founder of Planned Parenthood, Margaret Sanger, was a friend of Adolf Hitler. She, too, believed that some races were more superior than others, so therefore, "selective" parents should produce a supreme race of humanity to control the universe. Though she is dead today, her false ideas concerning sex education have sprang up in millions of schools across our country. So called medical clinics under the direction of Planned Parenthood teach perverted ways which are a stink in the nostrils of God. As saints of God we should not follow counselors who cross God's laws on holy living and modest speech. In Ephesians 5:11-12, we read: "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret."

May God grant us all wisdom; wisdom that is from above "first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits."

(James 3:17). Other wisdom is "earthly, sensual, devilish and bringeth about confusion and every evil work." (James 3:15). Secular humanism is the most dangerous religion in our world today because anyone who follows after the lusts of their flesh can fall victim to its way of belief.

Marriage is still right. It is ordained of God and the covenant is until death of either one of the couple. The Devil has weakened the marriage vows here on earth, but God still holds them sacred and to be kept. A godly home is the best gift a child can receive. Psalm 127:3 says, "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." Each child is the heritage of God and should be loved as one of His chosen vessels. Godly families are beautiful to behold.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell



## What Christ Means to Us

(Continued from page 2)

Yoke up, yoke up with Jesus!  
And He will give you rest;  
His healing balm will comfort  
And soothe your troubled breast;  
Receive His Holy Spirit—  
He'll guide you in the right,  
For He will be within you  
A glorious shining light.

Yoke up, yoke with Jesus—  
The meek and lowly One!  
Oh, learn the precious secrets  
Of God's anointed Son!  
Great peace have all His children,  
For in God's Word we find,  
They all are taught of God,  
And Christ gives them His own mind.

Hundreds of inspired songs have been written telling what Jesus Christ means to us. Singing uplifts the spirit and helps to put a song in your heart. So when your way appears so dark and dreary, sing a song about Jesus. It will drive the clouds away!

Yours for Christ,

—Carol Cole



We wish to offer our sincere condolences to Sis. Vivian McClain of Clinton, IL, on the death of her 26 year old grandson, Jim Pavlak. Jim was killed in a car wreck on Aug. 18th. We trust the family will feel the sheltering arm of God in their grief.

—Editor