

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant

Unto Him shall the
gathering of the
people be.

GOD IS
LOVE

YE SHINE AS
LIGHTS IN
THE WORLD.

JESUS
SAVES

The night cometh,
when no man
can work.

Volume 74, No. 3

74th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

\$1.00 Per Year

May, 1996

The Uncrowned Queen

When God would save a world from sin,
He chose with mothers to begin;
And, through a virgin-mother birth
To bring good will to men on earth.

When Christ the way of life would tell,
A woman listened by a well;
When He was tired and needed rest,
Two women honored Him as guest;
He caused a maid to walk again
And raised a widow's son at Nain.

When Christ was hanging on a cross,
A mother's heart most felt the loss;
Two women were the first to see
At dawn, the empty sepulchre;
The resurrected Christ was seen
At first by Mary Magdalene.

A mother's love will stand by you
When other friends have proved untrue;
She'll round your bed her vigil keep
While other eyes are closed in sleep.
She'll cleave to you till life shall end
And be your faithful, loving friend.

Our mothers steer the ship of state;
'Tis they who make the nation great.
Our nation will be bad or good,
According to its motherhood.
And back of great men is seen
The image of an uncrowned queen.

—Author unknown

The Influence of a Mother's Prayers

(Taken from *Touching Incidents*-adult version.)

More than thirty years ago, one lovely Sunday morning, about eight young men, students in a law school, were walking along the banks of a stream that flows into the Potomac River, not far from the city of Washington. They were going to a grove, in a retired place, to spend the hours of that holy day playing cards. Each of them had a flask of wine in his pocket. They were the sons of praying mothers. As they were walking along amusing each other with idle jests, the bell of a church in a little village not two miles off began to ring. It sounded in the ears of those thoughtless young men as plainly as though it were only on the other side of the little stream along which they were walking.

Presently one of their number, whose name was George, stopped, and said to the friend nearest him that he would go no farther, but would return to the village and go to church. His friend called out to their companions, who were a little ahead of them: "Boys! boys! come back here; George is getting religious; we must help him. Come on, and let us baptize him by immersion in the water." In a moment they formed a circle around him. They told him that the only way he could save himself from having a cold bath was by going with them. In a calm, quiet, but earnest way, he said;

"I know very well that you have power enough to put me in the water, and hold me there till I am drowned; and, if you choose, you can do so, and I will make no resistance; but listen to what I have to say, and then do as you think best.

Mother's Day—May 12

"You all know that I am two hundred miles away from home; but you do not know that my mother is a helpless, bed-ridden invalid. I never remember seeing her out of bed. I am her youngest child. My father could not afford to pay for my schooling; but our teacher is a warm friend of my father, and offered to take me without any charge. He was very anxious for me to come; but mother would not consent. The struggle almost cost her what little life was left to her. At length, after many prayers on the subject, she yielded and said I might go. The preparations for my leaving home were soon made. My mother never said a word to me on the subject till the morning when I was about to leave. After I had eaten my breakfast she sent for me, and asked me if everything was ready. I told her all was ready, and I was only waiting for the stage. At her request I knelt beside her bed. With her loving hand upon my head she prayed for her youngest child. Many and many a night I have dreamed the whole scene over. It is the happiest recollection of my life. I believe, that until the day of my death, I shall be able to repeat every word of her prayer. Then she spoke to me thus:

"My precious boy, you do not know, you never can know, the agony of a mother's heart when parting for the last time, from her youngest child. When you leave home, you will have looked, for the last time, this side of the grave, on the face of her who loves you as no other mortal does or can. Your father cannot afford the expense of your making us visits during the two years that your studies will occupy. I cannot possibly live as long as that. The sand in the hourglass of my life has nearly run out. In the far off strange place to which you are going, there will be no loving mother to give counsel in time of trouble. Seek counsel and help from God. Every Sunday morning, from ten to eleven o'clock, I will spend the hour in prayer for you. Wherever you may be during this sacred hour, when you hear the church bells ringing, let your thoughts come back to this chamber, where your dying mother will be agonizing in prayer for you. But I hear the stage coming. Kiss me—farewell!"

"Boys, I never expect to see my mother again on earth. But by God's help, I mean to meet her in heaven."

As George stopped speaking the tears were streaming down his cheeks. He looked at his
(Continued on page 16.)

Who Shall Be Able To Stand?

By Sis. Fern Stubblefield

"For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Revelation 6:17. In the two preceding verses we have a description given of great and mighty men of the earth seeking to hide themselves from the face of God and from the wrath of the Lamb. Then the question is asked, "...And who shall be able to stand?"

In the following chapter, verses nine and ten read, "After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation [is due] to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb."

What was it that brought about the change that this great multitude was able to stand uncondemned before the throne of God and the Lamb? Revelation 7:14 gives the answer. "...These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white **in the blood of the Lamb**. A songwriter wrote these inspiring words, "What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus; What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. Oh! precious is the flow That makes me white as snow, No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus."

It was truly a great price to pay, but Jesus was willing to shed His own precious blood that we might be able to stand in His presence uncondemned in the last day.

That day will be the day of final separation, and a day of great rejoicing for those whose sins have been washed away by the precious blood of Jesus. For all those who have refused and rebelled, it will be a day of great sorrow and remorse. "And these shall go away into **everlasting punishment**: but the righteous into **life eternal**." Matthew 25:46.

The power of choosing is ours. How will it be with our soul when the great day of His wrath is come? Remember Paul's admonition, "...Behold, **now** is the accepted time, ... **now** is the day of salvation." II Corinthians 6:2.

The Summer Of Life

(Excerpts from a message by Bro. Ed Wilson, Loranger, LA.)

There are four seasons—spring, summer, fall and winter. There is a comparison between these and our life. My burden is that people are too careless with the summer of their life. You can't reverse the decisions made early in life, after you have lived ten years or more and find you made a mistake. You can correct your ways from then on, but you can't undo yesterday.

David, speaking of Solomon, said, "He is yet young and tender." (I Chronicles 29:1.) New life needs to be protected and sheltered. You can put a rock against a sapling and it will knock it down or damage it, causing it to grow crooked. Put the same rock against a mature tree and the damage is hardly noticeable. A tree deformed young has a scar for the rest of its life.

The age of accountability develops, goes through time, and has a period when it descends. Older people lose some accountability.

One older minister said when he was young, he could quote eight to ten pages of the Bible, but not in later years. Old age loses the ability to do many things. You owe the summer of your life to helping others. Set goals early, because it will shock you how fast time flies and is gone. You owe the summer of your life to helping others.

Summer is a time of activity and we can pretty much do as we choose. Around 18 years of age, decision making changes from parent to child. The period of planting is short. So with life; youth passes quickly and you live with what you have planted. Don't wait; overcome yourself and look to the future—be responsible when you don't feel like it and it is hard.

To learn how to live life, you have to dig into the Bible and learn it. Some have the notion that someday they will be spiritual. *There are windows of opportunity in life: they are always moving—never standing still.* You have to seize the moment. There is a time for each person to stand up and take responsibility for themselves. Don't blame faults on parents or background. If we let ourselves be selfish in the summertime, we are teaching the young to be like us.

In depression time, a certain man needed a job, but there wasn't any work. Every day he went out to the job site and worked with whatever he found to do. The boss stopped him, telling him they couldn't pay. He asked to work without pay, so was granted permission. Time went on and one day the boss said, "We need this man," and hired him. Just waiting for better days will let opportunity go by. "He that observeth the wind shall not sow, and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap." Ecclesiastes 11:4. There is no perfect time. If you wait, you will lose your chance. There is no such thing as the Lord saying we are in depression and there is no job for us.

In the summer, we mow, change the oil, take care of the out-of-doors, working and sweating. We keep doing it because we know winter is coming. The common things we take for granted in summer and enjoy, can't be done in winter. Things change in old age. Every life, if permitted to live, has its winter. The ability to drive changes, eyes fail, reflexes are slowed, memory is generally less, and one can't go without effort. What you store in the summer of your life, you will use in your winter. If you are irritable in youth, no one will want to be around you in old age. You are going to live with the kind of person you have made of yourself. Take advantage of your youth, and store up good things for the time to come. Overcome your handicaps, find time to do for others, practice unselfishness, and give of your means as well as your time, for you are laying up a bountiful harvest for the winter of your life.

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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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 50¢ to notify us of each change of address.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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P. O. Box 518, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, OK 73044
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Editorials

A Camouflaged Life

"For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God." Col. 3:3.

No child of God will deny that we are in a warfare. Sometimes the heat of battle can very sorely press the soul. The secret of surviving is in following God's grand plan to be hidden right alongside Christ.

From the time of ancient warfare until modern military campaigns comes the knowledge of the importance of combatants keeping out of sight. Anyone who dares stand out on his own is sure to find himself in the sight of the enemy and but a few moments from death.

Two thousand years ago, the devil waged war against Christ on Mount Calvary and suffered such defeat that he has little interest in repeating the humiliation and mistake, particularly since Christ has taken a seat of eternal power over him. Herein is the importance of being camouflaged like Christ. When you blend in with the life of Christ the devil is greatly disadvantaged. He will not be able to separate you from Christ, and will have little desire for coming close enough to do battle.

A pagan ruler once said to a Christian, "If you do not renounce your faith, I will take away your life." "That you cannot," was the reply, "for my life is hid with Christ in God."

The hidden life is the invisible life, the "I live, yet not I" life, for we are hidden in Christ just as the High Priest was hidden from the sight of the worshippers when in the most Holy Place. (Psa. 91:1.)

In order to obtain this camouflage we must be **willing** to be made invisible. We must not balk at being clothed in humility. Moses could no longer be hidden by his mother because he grew too big. May we never grow so big that we cannot remain hidden. It is when we are little in our own eyes that we are kept out of the sight of the devil. It is good to keep in mind what one writer observed. The only "I's" in the Bible that wear a crown are the small ones—"i."

How do we put on the camouflage of Christ?

First, it is important to find that place at the feet of Christ, right there at the foot of the cross of Calvary, where the blood of Jesus can cleanse the soul and make it white.

The advice in Ecclesiastes 9:8 is, "Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment." To be clothed in white is a symbol of innocence. When a Jewish priest was charged with a crime and brought before the great Sanhedrin, if found guilty, he left the court dressed in black. If declared innocent, he left in white. The devil has no hold on those who are innocent.

Secondly, it is important to clothe yourself with the doctrines of God. Jesus knew the importance of this when He said, "...my doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." John 7:16-17.

The person who has his own doctrines, or his own interpretation of the Word of God, will stand out like army greens in the desert, and fall to the devil's cunning.

There are a lot of advantages to being hidden with Christ in God. For one, it is a joyful life.

A writer tells of walking hurriedly along a country road to catch a train on a cold, drab, gloomy morning. Suddenly a burst of merry singing arrested his footsteps. It was a robin, hidden safely in a hollow tree, protected from the stormy blast, and pouring out its song to the faithful Creator.

It is completely safe to sing the song of the Lamb. (Rev. 15:3.) It isn't the devil's favorite tune and he won't hang around for the enjoyment of it. It can be sung as joyously as the soul desires.

The life hidden in Christ is a comfortable one. In the same sense that a weak chick is tucked safely and securely beneath the warm shelter of a parent bird, a believer is hidden in Christ. (Matt. 23:37.) We can rejoice to have God's protective wing always close by.

This does not mean we are no longer in a battle. Camouflage is not only a defensive tool, but to assist in offense. "(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)" II Cor. 10:4. When you attack the defenses of the devil he will shoot back. But we are to wage a good warfare, knowing that our protection comes from being concealed in Christ.

May 12th is Mother's Day. I realize that the honor of one day a year is inadequate to compensate for the care of childhood and the continued love a mother invests in her children, but

it is a respect that most mothers would undoubtedly appreciate.

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We have reserved airline tickets for Bro. John Varghese of India to come and attend camp meetings here in the States. He is to leave India May 24 and return July 28.

As of this writing we have yet to receive confirmation from Bro. Matias Tangunan, of the Philippines, that he has received a visa for entry into the U.S. Hopefully, the Lord will work this out in the near future.

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Our current supply of the *Evening Light Songs* hymnal is almost depleted. It may be some time before we can replenish the stock, and we regret any inconvenience this may cause.

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We are very grateful for the alacrity with which the city of Guthrie issued us building permits for the new Print Shop facility. The iron building structure has been delivered to the property. Work on the footing and concrete floor is scheduled to begin the first of May.

— — — — —
As is customary during the month of April, it has been a slow month for book orders and income in general. This makes it difficult to meet expenses. Since this work is in God's hands, we look to Him to provide for these needs. We would appreciate your prayers.

—Wayne Murphey

Prayer

Requests



SC—"I have an urgent unspoken request for prayer concerning a matter that is troubling my heart."

—Sis. Judie Crummie

OK—"Please pray for a young man who is married and has three children. For awhile he quit drinking but now he is back at it more than ever. Also pray for my family."

—Sis. Mary Foster

MS—"I have some special prayer requests. I would like for all of you to agree in prayer with me. I have a skin rash on my left leg, below my knee, and on my elbows. Also, I can hardly pick up anything with my left arm.

"Please remember my wife. She has arthritis and can't walk. Also my brother-in-law has gout and rheumatism. Be much in prayer for all of us, as we pray for all of you."

—Bro. Harold Griffin



Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—May 24-June 2
Holly Hill, SC—June 1-9
Tulsa, OK—June 9-16
Jefferson, OR—June 14-23
Green Bank, WV—June 14-23
Loranger, LA—June 30-July 7
Fresno, CA—July 5-14
National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 19-28
Myrtle, MO—July 31-August 4
Ensenada, Mexico—August 4-11
Boley, OK—August 19-25



Meeting Reports and Notices

HOLLY HILL, SC CAMP MEETING

The saints here at Holly Hill, SC need much prayer. Our camp meeting is coming up June 1-9, so pray that we will work together in love and unity for the benefit of God's work.

I want to let everyone know that there will be places to stay on the campgrounds, and some homes will be opened up.

For more information please contact Bro. Utson Platt, (803) 496-5759, or Bro. Alvold Pratt, (803) 492-3366.

Please remember us in your prayers,

—Sis. Judie Crummie



TULSA, OK CAMP MEETING

The time is drawing near when the camp meeting, Lord willing, will be held at Tulsa, OK, 1102 E. Pine Pl. The dates are June 9-16.

All are invited to attend these services. Please come praying that souls will hear and take heed to the Word of God and be saved, baptized and sanctified. Also that people will be healed.

There will be morning and night services, Monday through Saturday at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. There will be an afternoon service on both Sundays.

For further information contact Bro. Charles Lowe, (918) 584-6838, or Bro. Charles Rhoades, (918) 584-8488.

—Sis. Maple Littlejohn

OREGON STATE CAMP MEETING

The Oregon State camp meeting at Jefferson, OR will convene, Lord willing, on Friday evening, June 14, 1996, through Sunday, June 23, 1996.

There will be three services on the first weekend, two services daily during the week, three services Saturday, and the last Sunday there will be two services. We are praying that the Lord will bless us with His chosen ministers, saints and all that have a need in soul and body. If you are not able to come, please be praying for us to have a successful meeting. We anticipate the Lord's blessings to be here for the saving of souls, sanctifying of the heart and healing of the body.

Accommodations will be arranged for all who are in need. RV hook-ups are available on the grounds, as are sleeping quarters. Any need of pick up from airport, train, or buses will be provided. There will be meals provided daily in the dining hall.

For more information you may contact Bro. Cliff Smith, (503) 581-4575, Bro. Jim Linch, (541) 424-5951, or Bro. Rodney Smith, (541) 926-9349.



NORTHPORT, AL REVIVAL

The saints of God in Northport, AL wish to announce a revival meeting to be held on June 27-30, 1996. We extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you who wish to attend.

The meeting will be held on a freewill offering basis. Anyone desiring to help with the expenses may contact Sis. Bernice Petty at 2207 4th St. East, Tuscaloosa, AL 35404. Phone: (205) 553-4450, or Sis. Jessie Shelton at 3940 28th Ave., Northport, AL 35476. Phone: (205) 339-3026.

Services will be held nightly at 7:30 p.m., with day services to be announced.

There will be some home accommodations and there are motels within walking distance.

Our souls do hunger and we desire our cups to be filled. We trust the Lord will send what is needed and by whom He pleases.

For more information you may contact Bro. Louis Kimble, 2712 Phoenix Street, Kenner, LA 70062. Phone: (504) 467-9039 or (504) 467-8842.

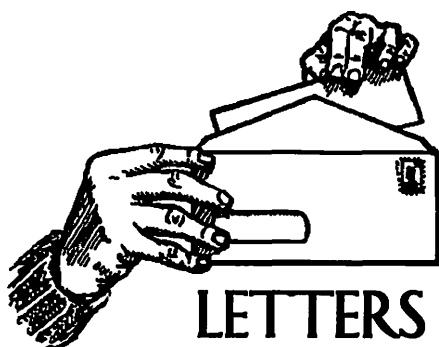
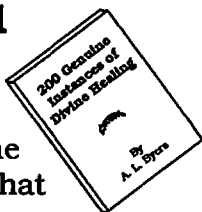
Yours in Christ,

—Sis. Bernice Petty

Book Wanted

If anyone has a copy of the book, "200 Genuine Instances of Divine Healing" by A. L. Byers that you would like to sell, please let me know.

—Sis. Mary Hughes, HC 74, Box 642, Vanceburg, KY 41179



OR—Dear ones at the Publishing House: I would like to tell you how much I enjoy your *Faith and Victory* paper. I have received it for a long time, as my mother and father had it sent to me many years ago. They were Martin and Della Olson....

May God bless all of the workers there at the Publishing House.

I am 82 years young. Pray for me that I can do something for the dear Lord.

—Sister Beatrice Marcum

OK—Dear Saints: Greetings to all my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We are writing this letter to give great thanksgiving for what God has done for us.

Recently, we had a terrible fire that encircled our home in Guthrie. The woods behind our house, and to the side of our house were ablaze; insomuch as the fire eventually encircled our house and burned up to the front door. The only harm done besides burnt grass, trees and shrubs was the melting of the siding on our shop. Our shop is separated from our house, so the house was left unharmed by the fire, for which we give great thanksgiving to God! We want to thank the saints for praying for the safety of our house when we were not at home and unaware of the problem.

The following Sunday morning as I was thanking the Lord, I mentioned how thankful I

was that we were not at home during the fire. Some of the saints wondered why we did not want to be home at this time. We believe in the providence of God. That particular Thursday evening, Jerry, Rhonda and I left around 4:30 p.m. to go on an errand quite a distance away. We were not aware of the fire that would shortly take place. Oh, how wonderful God was to remove us from our dwelling place a few hours to spare us the fear, grief and anguish. Surely, our God is a loving Savior! This, my dear saints, is as outstanding to me as is the fire—to think that all three of us left for the evening during the week, which is a very rare happening. Oh, I praise God for His great love.

When we returned home the woods were still on fire. We could see it from the highway. As we left I-35 on the Seward Rd. exit I wondered how our home was. As we drove up we could see how close the fire had been, even to the door. Praise God! Our home was left unharmed. Let us praise God together for His wonderful goodness.

With love to all,

—Jerry, Marsha and Rhonda Corteway

OH—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in the name of the First and Last, the Lord Jesus Christ.

I wrote to you a couple of months ago from Virginia Beach, VA. Well, I am back in Ohio, visiting my mother, Sis. Tressie Adkins, and will probably be here for awhile.

Thanks, and may the Lord bless you and the saints for all your prayers for my mother and myself, also my three children.

I am prayerfully requesting again that the saints remember to hold my children up to the Lord for salvation, and especially the oldest daughter, Kristy, that the Spirit will move on her heart.

Grace be unto all of you there and across the land, in the name of the Lord.

—Chris Adkins

NC—Dear Ones: I send my love to you. I am thankful for the paper sent out each month. It is awfully lonesome since my husband, Lawrence, passed away. I read of others who are lonely too and I know God is with us, helping us make it through all our heartaches and burdens.

I thank everyone for their prayers for me and my family. We love every one of God's people. Lawrence loved you all so much. After he met

you dear people he never looked anywhere else because he felt right at home.

My love and prayers, —Agnes Burleson
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PA—Greetings to all: I trust the Easter season has again brought more vividly to our minds the great love God has for us, in that He was willing to suffer for the sins of us all. The snow we had here in Pennsylvania on Easter Sunday pointed out that though our sins were as scarlet, He washed them white as snow!...

God's blessings on all;

—Sis. Barbara Campbell
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AZ—Dear Saints: Just a note of thanks for the prayers being sent up in my behalf. I don't know how much Grandma (Lula) Williamson has told you about my situation, but I am starting to have a better outlook on the situation. It is not over by a long ways, but I do feel the prayers are being heard. I also want to ask you to keep me in your prayers. I will write later and update you.

Thanks, —John "Scott" Williamson Jr.
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OK—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings of Christian love to all of you this evening. I trust all are well at the Print Shop. I received my April *Faith and Victory* and enjoyed its contents very much.

The Lord surely is good to me. I had my 94th birthday last weekend (March 30th). I trust all is well with you there. I am getting anxious to see the new Faith Publishing House building starting up....

Love and prayers, —Sister Emma Dilley
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MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings to you in the name of our risen Savior. I hope all is going well with you and the workers there. We are encouraged in our souls and want to fill the little place God has given us. We desire to hear Him say, "Well done."

I have finished reading my last issue of the *Faith and Victory*. I really do enjoy it and receive much good from its articles and contents. I trust the Lord to continue to bless those that print it....

Your brother in Christ, —Bro. T.V. McMillian
— — — — —

AL—Dear Ones: We are thankful to still be saved and encouraged to live for the Lord.

We had a wonderful singing in March. We appreciate all the dear saints that came and helped us praise the Lord in song.

We have had a lot of cold weather this year. Now spring is popping out everywhere. God has created a beautiful world for us to enjoy.

"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24.

Christian love, —Betty Herron
— — — — —

CA—Greetings fellow saints: With a grateful heart I am writing to give thanks unto the Lord for His wondrous protection given to my son, Jonathan.

My four older sons went fishing one night. After the boys left, the Lord impressed me to pray for their protection. I did not know of their danger until the next morning.

As Jonathan cast his line, he fell into the water. It was dark and he went down, down, down into the water. It was an eighteen foot drop. The other three sons heard his scream and thought, "Oh, Lord, he is gone."

All of a sudden Jonathan was propelled upward. He thought, "I had better get some air because I am going down again." As he surfaced, something just held him there. It was God, or His angel of mercy.

Oh, God is so good. Jonathan had cuts and scratches and his knee was badly hurt. God spared his life. This son was sixteen years old and not saved. This was a turning point in his life. He repented and gave his life to the Lord. The Lord blessed his knee in a mighty way and everything appears normal. The Lord left a slight pain on the side of his knee when pressure is applied, no doubt to remind this son of His mercies unto him.

A mother's prayer availeth much. Keep your children surrounded with prayers.

—Sis. Lela Hobbs
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WA—Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Publishing House: I have enjoyed reading your *Faith and Victory* paper during the year. When I was a young girl, my oldest sister had a book called, *Touching Incidents*. I have tried hard to obtain a copy since it was given to her by our grandmother through the *Faith and Victory* Publishing House. I am hoping and praying this is the book.

May God keep you and bless you for such a beautiful work! —Sarah J. Gentry
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CA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings to you and all who labor there with you at the Publishing House, in the name of our Lord and Master,

Jesus Christ, whose simplicity and lowliness of mind changed the whole world forever.

He certainly changed my life and has become my life. I am totally satisfied in Jesus. This doesn't mean all goes well with me, but all is well with my soul. When I got saved I had reached the place where I couldn't handle what was happening in my life. Since then I have been able to cope and that was 40 years ago in February of this year. Jesus is to be thanked for this, for there was no other help for me. It was not so much that He lifted me out, but that He lifted me above my troubles. Persecution was my lot and, to this day, still is. I thank the Lord that I can be content in spite of circumstances.

Your brother, —Bob Mickelson

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CA—Dear saints: We miss you all so much.... I want you all to know I have been real sick. I was unconscious for days. My folks rushed me to the hospital and I don't remember a thing, but my husband told me all about it. Oh, how I praise the good Lord. He brought me out.

My youngest son and I are real close. He was real sad during my illness. He said, "Jesus kept Mom alive." He has changed and now talks about Jesus. Pray for him—he is a nice young man. Pray for our other children also.

We sure appreciate the saints. We don't have a church to go to but we are thankful for the books and tracts you send.

With our love and prayers,

—Bro. and Sis. Underwood

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From Mexico...

April 19, 1996—Greetings of love and gratitude from Baja, CA, Mexico. I, with the ministers in Mexico, am so grateful for the prayers and continued support, and especially for the three that the Lord used to be real strong collaborators in the construction of the church house in the capital city of Sinaloa. We are thankful for

the Bibles and large print Testaments and Christmas gift packs that we saved for Sinaloa. They were received with much gratitude.

Pastor Adelfo and Bro. Pancho continued working each morning during the week of the meeting. Mortar was mixed by hand on the same ground where each afternoon benches were set up for study and night services. When I left they were finishing the two outside walls and were to put a steel reinforced beam on top. I have found a simple insulated cement roof system that I have installed on our office here in Baja. It is available there also, and could be something that a small group of young people could do this summer or winter. Some would like to go in the summer, but the winters are cooler and sunny. I have projected to finish the building for under \$5,000. On the two trips that I have made I expended less than half that amount on the building which included plumbing installed in the pastor's house.

My Ranger pickup was the only auto available for transporting those that had difficulty walking home at night. The Lord blessed the little truck, sometimes carrying 15-20 over the rough, rocky hills and crowded streets of the large city. Bro. Adelfo has an old Dodge station wagon but it needs tires, fenders, lights, glass, brakes, suspension and for sure a new battery. Then it would take more to keep it going than to feed the family.

Many came to the meetings and there were seekers at the front each night. I gave several lessons using the blackboard. It was a big help when Bro. Mayarino Escobar came for five days. The Lord blessed him in preaching the truth and teaching how that they can trust in the Spirit to lead the services. Some of the brothers came to talk about the truth that was new to their ears and to help on the building when they could. We were able to visit in some of their homes also.

In the report that I sent March the 23rd, I tried to express what I felt as related to Matthew 9:36, where Jesus said, "The people fainted, and were scattered..." In the 37th verse Jesus says, "...The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few, pray ye..." Then in 26:11, He said, "For ye have the poor always with you;..." Do we see the parallel with Latin America here? Families send their children they can't feed to swim the Rio Grande, or cross the desert to Texas or California. The corrupt officials and presidents send their booty to Zurich. The brainy

go to Spain. Their vine-ripe tomatoes picked by southern Indians go to Chicago. Canadians mine the gold. Japanese are paying \$5.00 a day labor in Tijuana for making TVs that are sold all over the world. For four hundred years the devotion of the masses has gone to Rome. *Newsweek* quotes one Latin American writer: "The Catholic Church risks becoming an empty shell" because it is losing touch with the common people. The scattered sheep need a loving Lord to follow. Who will stand holding the banner high?

I will be very busy while Charlotte is in Oklahoma for a few more weeks. As soon as I get the inside of our office building finished, I will move in the equipment. We are trusting that the Lord will supply, according to the vision that we have for dedicated workers, part time or full time, writing and publishing gospel literature here in Mexico. I am still teaching in the small Bible School each week. The Lord has blessed us in teaching the whole truth.

Endeavoring to be a good servant,

—Bro. James Huskey

From the Philippines...

March 14, 1996—Dear Brother Wayne and all the workers in the Lord at the Print Shop: Greetings to you once again. I am thankful to God, for early this month I received two envelopes of *Faith and Victory* papers that we have been asking God to send. We are happy for His blessings that encourage souls to draw near to Him.

We know that if we pray earnestly and call upon God's name He will answer. "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." John 14:14. It has taken so long of late to answer your letter because of the lack of a peso to pay the postage, but God is always able to give to His children if we only ask Him.

Although we are only gathering under a tree to study God's words, God is always with us. Every Wednesday evening we have a prayer meeting. We pray for all the prayer requests of our brothers and sisters in Guthrie, as well as those here in the Philippines.

One of our sisters, Guadalupe Balbutiu, has donated 300 square meters of land for us to build a chapel. Please help pray for the building materials.

May God bless each one of you.

Your sister in Christ, —Victoria B. Sahilan



Shepard Floyd Johnson Jr., the fourth son of Shepard Floyd Sr. and Ella Leah Johnson, was born on September 3, 1909, in Minden, Louisiana. He passed away February 29, 1996.

Shepard Jr. came to California and lived with his aunt who was a member of the Church of God under the pastorate of the late Bro. I.C. Chandler. Shepard Jr. was saved, sanctified and baptized and lived until God called him to his reward.

Survivors include his wife, Bertha (Bukus) Johnson; one sister, Christine Tensley of San Diego, CA; two sisters-in-law, Canara Trotter of OK, Inez Threats of Los Angeles, CA; and several nephews and nieces.

The funeral service was held at the Harrison and Rose Mortuary in the View Park Chapel with Bro. Adriel Bowman officiating.

Thank You

Your love and prayers meant so much after his passing, and if we have failed to thank anyone for your flowers, food or love offerings, we express our thankfulness to you now.

—The Johnson Family



In Appreciation

The family of Maurice William Probst extends sincere thanks and appreciation for the many prayers, visits, phone calls, food and remembrances during the time of our recent bereavement. We have felt the love and sympathy of the family of God throughout the days and weeks of Maurice's illness and death.

During the last week of November his condition became critical and was diagnosed as cancer of the esophagus. Maurice was aware that his time was short. God was merciful to give him some time to sort out his thoughts and to commune with his own soul. His favorite songs

were, "Power In The Blood" and "Lord I'm Coming Home."

It is special comfort to the family and to all the saints who have so faithfully prayed for Maurice, that he was able during the time of his sickness to communicate to those around him that his spirit was responding to the call for him to "come home."

The funeral service was at Sapulpa Road Church of God chapel, with Bro. Charles Elwell and Bro. Curtis Williams, Jr. officiating. The graveside service and burial was at the Gibson Cemetery, Neosho, MO. —Sis. Eva Probst

QUESTION AND ANSWER

BY

BRO. OSTIS B. WILSON

Reprint

QUESTION: Please comment on Matthew 5:47.

ANSWER: Matthew 5:47 reads thus: "And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?" Now let us break this verse up a little. The first phrase is "If ye salute your brethren only." The 20th Century New Testament says, "If ye show courtesy to your brethren only." Goodspeed's translation says, "And if you are polite to your brothers and no one else." Phillip's translation says, "And if you exchange greetings only with your own circle." All of these together—"salute," "show courtesy," "you are polite," "exchange greetings"—cover the whole scope of our general association with our fellows. Adam Clarke comments at this place that "brethren" in this text would be properly rendered "friends." Then the whole scope of our association and attitude with our immediate circle of friends is comprehended here and it is altogether congenial.

The second phrase is, "What do ye more than others?" Rotheram's translation renders this "What more than common are you doing?" Waymouth's translation says, "Are you doing anything remarkable?" Olaf Norlie's translation says, "Does that give you any special distinction?"

The last phrase says, "Do not even the publicans so?" Rotheram's translation uses

the term "the nations" instead of "the publicans." The James Moffatt translation says, "Do not the very pagans do as much?" The Centenary translation by Helen Montgomery says, "Even the Gentiles do that, do they not?" Beck's translation inserts "the people of the world" in place of "the publicans."

This seems to me to cover the whole scope of the direct meaning of this text. If we are courteous, polite, exchange greetings, and are congenial and friendly with our friends and brethren only, that in no way distinguishes us from the worldly crowd; because they all do the same. Matthew 5:47 is in a context with a number of verses which begin with verse 43 and continue through verse 48. So let us backtrack a little and consider the whole context and see how verse 47 fits in with the overall discussion of these verses.

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? **And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?** Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5:43-48.

In these verses is described the attitude of God, our heavenly Father, and His generous mercies toward all mankind; both the good and the evil, and how He gives rain and causes the sun to shine on all of them alike. Paul referred to this same disposition of the living God (Acts 14:15) when speaking to the heathens at Lystra in Acts 14:17 where He said that "...He did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." This, then, is the attitude and disposition of God toward humankind—generous and merciful. He has certain mercies that He dispenses to both the good and the evil. Of course, we understand

that He has a special package of mercies which He reserves for His own (the righteous children of God). He enjoins upon us, His children, to be the same. In Galatians 6:10 we read, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto **all men**, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." The law standard said, "Love your neighbour and hate your enemy." However, Jesus came to offer the sacrifice of Himself for sin and to save us from our sins and establish the New Covenant with mankind that demanded a much higher standard of life than the law of Moses afforded. Jesus requires that we love our enemies, bless them that curse us, do good to them that hate us, and pray for those who spitefully use us and persecute us. (Matthew 5:44.) He said we would have to be like this in order to be the children of our Father in heaven. (Verse 45.) The salvation which Jesus estab-

lished and provided is to make us partakers of the divine nature of God (II Peter 1:4) which makes us a partaker of the attitude and disposition toward humankind as is described to us in this group of verses (Matthew 5:43-48). Verse 47 has its setting in this context and teaches us that we must have a generous, kind, benevolent, considerate and courteous attitude and disposition toward all humankind, friend or foe. It forever obliterates clannishness from the hearts and lives of the children of God. To be perfect before God, we must be like this.

The exact same thing is taught in the group of verses immediately preceding this group of verses we have just been studying (Matthew 5:39-42) where it says, "But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue

thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away."

Now let us realize that all Scripture must be interpreted in its proper context. Therefore, the last verse of this group of verses (verse 42) which says, "Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away," must be interpreted in context with the entire group of verses with which it is connected. These verses (38-41) teach us what attitude we

should have toward our adversaries, and how we should respond to those who would oppress us, treat us unjustly and persecute us. We should go all out, even beyond reasonable and required bounds, to give satisfaction to the claims of anyone with whom we

"...we must have a generous, kind, benevolent, considerate and courteous attitude and disposition toward all humankind, friend or foe. It forever obliterates clannishness from the hearts and lives of the children of God. To be perfect before God, we must be like this."

become involved. Then the general thought concludes with this 42nd verse which says, "Give to him that asketh thee,..." In other words; if one of your adversaries—one who has smitten you on your cheek, sued you in the court and gained a judgment against you (justly or unjustly) or has taken undue advantage of you and compelled you to do something he had no right to require of you—needs help and comes to you and asks a gift or help or asks you to loan him something to enable him to meet an emergency, grant him the favor just as you would a friend. Never refuse him a favor just because he has mistreated you. This is exactly the same truth that is taught in Matthew 5:47 and its related verses. God is looking for people who can meet their problems in a different way than the man of the world meets these same situations.



We have been working on putting the entire *Question and Answer* column, written by Bro. Ostis Wilson, beginning in February, 1977, through February, 1993, into book form. It will still be quite some time before we have this book ready to sell. However, since we have it on computer we have decided to make a special offer to our readership. For \$20.00 we will send you this extensive computer file on two 3.5" diskettes. This includes postage and handling.

These writings make an invaluable doctrinal research source.

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Suffering

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience." James 5:10.

Is suffering normal for the Christian? "Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you." I John 3:13. "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." John 15:18-19. Christians are subjects in the kingdom of Christ. The world is the kingdom of Satan. (Matt. 4:8-9.) Christ and Satan have been at war since the creation. For this reason, Christ's followers are not always accepted by those of Satan's kingdom. "...Christ also suffered..., leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." I Peter 2:21. Yes, suffering is normal for a Christian.

Christ learned obedience through suffering. "Christ...offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death,...yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." Hebrews 5:7-9. Christ was born sinless, yet He had to bring His flesh into submission to the Holy Spirit. His body learned this obedience through the things He suffered. How much more shall we, who were born with the nature of sinful Adam and the temperamental weaknesses of our parents and grandparents, need to endure suffering to subdue the flesh's dominion and strengthen the Spirit of Christ in us. God made Jesus, "the captain of their [our] salvation perfect through sufferings." Hebrews 2:10. We must acknowledge that suffering is necessary for perfection.

Many positive character traits can be developed through a willing submission to suffering. Faith, courage, stability, strength, humility, self-confidence and tolerance are just a few. As heat

purifies gold, so suffering can purify character. Can faith be learned without suffering a need? How much stability does a person have who has never overcome the pain of standing alone? Is a child humble who has never been humiliated? Who knows how to forgive unless he has suffered an injustice? "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:4. Patient suffering will develop Christ-like character.

Children are robbed of character development when not allowed to suffer. Back in "the good old days" if a child was disciplined by another reliable adult, he was again disciplined at home. What has happened to the wisdom of those good years? When misunderstood, we must help the child to see the other person's point of view. What seems like an abuse or injustice may not seem so unjust from another view. Instruct the child to forgive, and allow him an opportunity to exercise forgiveness while his mind is pliable and character habits are forming which will cause him much happiness or unhappiness throughout his lifetime. Help him or her to realize that he also may sometimes be unfair and will need forgiveness. Psalms 89:18 says, "...the Lord is our defense." If a child is consistently shielded from suffering, the child will not learn that the Lord is his defense. What will he or she do if the parent is suddenly taken away? How will he or she be able to handle adult problems if we have not allowed them to solve problems during childhood? I know a man over thirty years old, who cannot care for himself because his mother shielded him from suffering during childhood. Are you robbing from your child an opportunity to develop needed character? Suffering is normal for Christians; it is necessary for perfection; it will develop Christ-like character.

"Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin." 1 Peter 4:1.

A Balanced Salvation

By Bro. Ernest Moles

We are living in the last days. Time is running out and there is a lot of confusion, of which the Bible makes mention. "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." Matthew 24:7. This is no time to get confused. We must keep a balanced salvation.

In the world of sports there is the art of boxing. Only one in the contest is judged to be the winner, and that one is he who can keep his balance, take each and every punch his opponent delivers without letting any of them get the best of him. As saved and sanctified people we are in the ring with the devil, and the only way we are going to come out as the winner is to keep our balance. Christ died keeping a balanced attitude and brought this wonderful salvation to us. We are going to have to live and die in the same manner; letting nothing cause us to lose our balance.



A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO LIVE ALONE

I live alone, dear Lord,
Stay by my side,
In all my daily needs
Be Thou my guide.

Grant me good health,
For that indeed, I pray,
To carry on my work
From day to day.

Keep pure my mind,
My thoughts, my every deed;
Let me be kind, unselfish,
In my neighbor's needs.

Spare me from fire, from flood,
Malicious tongues,
From thieves, from fear,
And evil ones.

If sickness or an accident befall,
Then humbly, Lord, I pray,
Hear Thou my call,
And when I'm feeling low or in despair,
Lift up my heart
And help me in my prayer.

I live alone, dear Lord,
Yet have no fear,
Because I feel Your presence,
Ever near.

Spiritual Indigestion

By Bro. James McMurrin

I recently moved out of my parents' house and into my own. As was to be expected, it took awhile to get accustomed to my new place, and used to being by myself. In fact, the first breakfast I had in my house didn't digest too well. It was tight. It had something of a burning sensation, and I knew what was wrong. Physically, I was in perfect health, but mentally I was upset; severely upset, and it was affecting my stomach. Not only was I worrying, but I was now worrying about my worrying—not a pleasant feeling!

The Lord helped and blessed, and within 24 hours of that incident the worst was over. And yet, it illustrated something that I later found to be true in my spiritual life. For years, the routine I had followed with my own devotions followed a pattern that I think most people use. First, you read something out of the Bible. This is supposed to give you an idea, an insight, something to think about. Then, you pray to God about this, and ask Him to guide you into this truth.

Unfortunately, this approach was becoming stale and barren. I was suffering the same sort of "indigestion" on the spiritual scale that I had on the physical one. Spiritually, I was ready, and in fact needy, of God's truth. But mentally, I was unable to take it in. I was bound to my daily concerns and physical cares, and couldn't shake free of them long enough to concentrate on my spiritual feeding and digestion. I am not the only one to have this sort of problem though—"Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." Luke 10:38-42.

Note that Martha's problem was not that she was serving, but that she was "troubled." She, too, had become so bound to her physical cares that she was unable to see the spiritual life that Christ was offering.

I have found a help for my problem. Now I do not start my Bible reading first. First, I stop, and

then I pray. I ask God to remove me from those daily cares, to relieve my subconscious, to let my problems drop out of my mind, to let me be relaxed and ready to listen to His voice, for His teaching is not in the loud, thunderous tones that break mountains.

"And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?" I Kings 19:11-13.

Note that all other disturbances had stopped. There was dead silence. It was then that God could speak to Elijah's heart—and it is then that He can speak to ours.

"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." Psalm 46:10.

After I finish my talk with God in that still place I feel like I am just waking up. The clock again applies to me. But for awhile, I had stepped outside of its time, and had a moment with God that was not bound by my material concerns. It is then that we can digest the spiritual things that God gives us.



The Influence of a Mother's Prayers

(Continued from page 2.)

companions. Their eyes were filled with tears.

In a moment the ring which they formed about him was opened. He passed out and went to church. He had stood up for the right against great odds.

They admired him for doing what they had not the courage to do. They all followed him to church. On their way each of them quietly threw away his cards and his wineflask. Never again did these young men play cards on Sunday.

From that day they all became changed men. Six of them died as Christians, and are now in heaven. George is a Christian as well as his friend, who wrote this account. Here were eight men converted by the prayers of that Christian woman. If we only knew all the results of their examples and their labors, we should have a good illustration of a mother's prayers.



Excerpts Taken From May, 1946 Faith and Victory

"Dear saints: I am thanking God for salvation and His goodness to me. How I thank Him for saving me from sin. I always had a desire to serve the Lord but the devil had me so entangled in sin I could not see how I could give up my bad habits. But, praise the Lord, when I made the start, He came to my rescue and gave me the strength to rebuke the devil." —Mrs. Hazel (Doolittle) Phipps

"I am so thankful to the Lord for salvation and the many blessings He bestows upon us daily. Truly the Lord was merciful to me as I spent the last three years in sin. Without His mercy, I could have been called into eternity unprepared to meet God.

"The Lord had been talking to my heart for quite some time. About two weeks ago I yielded to Him right here in our own home and found Him very precious to my soul. Oh! what a wonderful feeling to have the love and peace of God in our hearts." —Fern (Wilson) Johnson

"We, the young people here at Bakersfield, CA are having wonderful meetings. The Lord is blessing us with a good number of young people who seem to be very interested in working for the Lord.... Our pastor is a faithful young minister, Bro. Isaac Chandler, and he is a great help to both young and old. We need prayer of each and every one because our aim is to help others to come to the fold before it is too late."

—Helen Gaines